

Connecting Youth Connecting Africa (CYCA) is a dynamic youth-led, non-profit organization headquartered in Tanzania, driving the next generation of African leaders to the forefront of climate action, environmental conservation, and sustainable development. CYCA works across borders to amplify youth voices, equip them with skills, and connect them with opportunities to influence policy, implement impactful projects, and shape Africa's green future. Our programs bridge the gap between local realities and global environmental goals, making us a recognized force in climate leadership and community transformation.

The Go Green, Serve Nature Campaign is CYCA's flagship, high-impact initiative designed to mobilize youth, communities, and partners into tangible climate solutions. It integrates large-scale tree planting, seagrass and forest restoration, ecosystem conservation, and waste management innovations with eco-tourism activities like Mount Kilimanjaro cleanups and heritage trail conservation. Beyond grassroots action, the campaign influences climate policy and fosters international collaboration, positioning local conservation efforts within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Go Green, Serve Nature is not just an environmental project — it's a movement inspiring behavioral change, building climate resilience, and creating green economic opportunities across Africa.

On behalf of CYCA and our Go Green, Serve Nature Campaign, we commend your leadership in advancing the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T. We value the inclusive and transparent approach you have adopted to mobilize ambitious, accessible, and equitable climate finance for developing countries.

#### **(a) Short- and Medium-to-Long-Term Priorities**

##### *Short term*

Direct financing for grassroots, youth-led climate initiatives, including afforestation, reforestation, and ecosystem restoration.

Capacity building for climate project development and funding access at the community level.

##### *Long term:*

Structural investments in green jobs, climate-smart agriculture, and clean energy for youth and women in rural areas.

Stronger national climate finance frameworks that embed youth perspectives and local solutions.

#### **(b) Scaling Adaptation Finance in Vulnerable Regions**

We recommend:

Establishing youth-targeted climate adaptation innovation grants.

Expanding community-based adaptation funding within existing multilateral climate funds.

Supporting climate education hubs to localize solutions and enhance adaptive capacity in vulnerable regions.

### **(c) Innovative Financing and Expanding Fiscal Space**

To achieve the \$1.3 trillion target, we propose:

Deploying green bonds and climate risk insurance to support community-led adaptation projects.

Supporting non-debt climate funds that promote conservation-based entrepreneurship and circular economy models.

Mobilizing resources through climate-tourism initiatives, exemplified by our Go Green Campaign, which combines tree planting, mountain cleanups, and sustainable tourism.

### **(d) Key Actors and Partnerships**

*We urge:*

Greater involvement of youth-led organizations, Indigenous communities, and local authorities in decision-making and resource allocation.

Leveraging platforms such as the UN Joint SDG Fund, Global Youth Climate Networks, and faith-based development organizations.

Strengthening partnerships with regional climate finance bodies like the African Green Facility and the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism.

Through the Go Green, Serve Nature Campaign, CYCA has mobilized thousands of youth across Tanzania and the broader region to restore degraded landscapes, advocate for green finance, and promote climate-resilient tourism. We are committed to advancing the Roadmap to 1.3T and ensuring no one especially no youth is left behind.