



United Nations
Climate Change



RCC West and Central Africa
Collaboration for Climate Action



Youth Climate Action Webinar Series

Youth and Climate Finance: Unlocking Finance for Youth-led Climate Action in West and Central Africa

UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centre for West and Central Africa (RCC WACA)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Official Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC (YOUNGO)

Webinar for West and Central Africa

Date and time: 9 October 2025 (TBC) from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM (UTC+00) in English

and 2:30 PM to 4:00 AM (UTC+00) in French

Platform: MS Teams

Portuguese and Spanish speakers are free to join any of the two segments at their convenience.

I. Background

Young people in West and Central Africa are at the forefront of climate action—mobilizing communities, developing and implementing innovative solutions, and advocating policy change. However, despite their potential and demonstrated commitment, access to climate finance remains a major barrier for youth-led initiatives. Many youth organizations face structural and financial obstacles (e.g., limited access to information and awareness due to socioeconomic disparities, technical jargon and complexities of application requirements, etc.) that limit their abilities to secure resources from national, regional, or international climate funds¹.

To address this gap, the third part of this webinar series hosted by the UN Climate Change Secretariat's Regional Collaboration Centre for West and Central Africa ([RCC WACA](#)) is dedicated to youth and climate finance with the aim to exploring the intersection between youth and climate finance, identifying both challenges and opportunities for scaling up youth-led climate solutions through enhanced access to funding and investment mechanisms.

This session is co-organized by [RCC WACA](#), [UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa](#), [UNICEF WCARO](#), and [YOUNGO](#).

II. Objectives

The main objective of this session is to:

¹ <https://www2.fundsforgos.org/articles/barriers-to-youth-access-to-grants-challenges-and-solutions-in-developing-countries/>



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BOAD



Strengthen the ability and capacity of youth in West and Central Africa to access and influence climate finance flows, including through national climate investment plans and international mechanisms.

Specific Objectives:

- Highlight current barriers youth face in accessing climate finance (e.g., eligibility, technical capacity, scale).
- Present good practices and models of youth-led projects that have successfully accessed funding.
- Explore entry points for youth in national climate finance frameworks, including **NDC financing strategies, Article 6, and green entrepreneurship schemes.**
- Facilitate dialogue between youth and key stakeholders (governments, climate funds, philanthropic foundations, private sector, MDBs) on co-designing inclusive financial mechanisms.

III. Structure & Language

The webinar will be delivered in **two sessions** to ensure accessibility across the region’s linguistic diversity: one English session and another session in French. Each session will last 90 min, combining expert presentations, youth-led reflections, and interactive discussions.

IV. Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness of existing climate finance opportunities for youth
- Clear recommendations on how to improve youth access to national and international funding
- Identification of case studies, good practices and models or partnerships of successful youth-led projects that have accessed funding
- Sharing of resources, and knowledge on climate finance for youth-led organizations in West and Central Africa

V. Target Audience

- Youth-led organizations and entrepreneurs
- Climate finance institutions (e.g., GCF, AfDB, BOAD, national funds)
- Government agencies (Ministries of Environment, Finance, Youth)
- UN system partners, development agencies, private sector actors
- Academia and civil society

Duration	Topic	Speakers
5'	Welcome Remarks	Walters Tubua, Regional Lead, UNFCCC RCC WACA
Moderator: Marcelle KPETO, Admin and Project Assistant, UNFCCC RCC WACA		
10'	<u>Keynote Presentation</u> <i>Framing the issue: The current landscape of youth and climate finance in West and Central Africa</i>	Bernardin Uzayisaba, Regional Carbon Market Programme Specialist for Africa, UNDP



10'	Interactive Q&A session	Marcelle KPETO
Moderator: Christella Igiraneza , Regional Youth Engagement Specialist, <i>UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa</i>		
20'	<p>Panel Discussion: Bridging the Gap – From Policy to Funding</p> <p><i>Multi-stakeholder panel exploring challenges and opportunities for youth in climate finance.</i></p>	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thelma Ntow, <i>YOUNGO Rep.</i> - Jane Bevan, <i>Chief WASH, UNICEF Nigeria Country Office</i> - Koffi Fabrice Djossou, <i>Senior Expert – Head of Innovation, West African Development Bank (BOAD)</i> - Salem M. Ayenan, <i>Africa Regional Committee Member, Youth Climate Justice Fund (YCJF)</i>
10'	Interactive Q&A session	Moderator: Christella Igiraneza
Moderator: M'koumfida Bagbohouna , <i>Senior Climate Change Specialist, UNFCCC RCC WACA</i>		
20'	<p>Youth Lightning Talks (4 youth speakers)</p> <p><i>Short interventions (3–5 min each) by young innovators or community leaders sharing success stories or challenges in accessing finance for climate initiatives</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ezekiel Nyafor, <i>Executive Director, Liberian Youth for Climate Action</i> - Esther Ehindero, <i>Co-founder & CEO, Trekk Mobility, Nigeria</i> - Lyzianah Emakoua, <i>Founder & CEO, Centre for Community Impact & Sustainability, Sierra Leone</i> - Miriam Agbo, <i>CEO & Founder Anatsor Ltd, Nigeria, Youth4Climate Awardee</i>
10'	Interactive Q&A / Open Discussion	Participants
5'	<p>Closing Remarks and Next Steps</p> <p><i>Present available Knowledge sharing platforms for youth-led organizations on climate finance in West and Central Africa</i></p>	<p>Nadine Rugwe, <i>Governance and Peacebuilding Advisor and Team Leader, UNDP Sub Regional Hub for West and Central Africa</i></p>