

CONCEPT NOTE

Title of the session:

Breaking Barriers: Empowering African Women Green Entrepreneurs

Location: Zoom

Date: 06.09.2024

Time: 15:00 – 16:15 PM (CET)

1. Present key findings of the Analysis of the Gender dimension in Green innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa
2. Create awareness of the key actors' roles and contributions in driving female green entrepreneurship in Africa
3. Highlight the existing gaps and opportunities for strengthening the empowerment of women entrepreneurs in Africa's green transformation
4. Identify the key ways and strategies to effectively support female green entrepreneurs in Africa for tech hubs, policymakers, and donor communities

Speakers:

- *Nambula Kachumi - CEO at Women Entrepreneurship Access Centre*
- *Karnika Yadav- Director at Intellectap*
- *Urban Benywanira -UNFCCC Article 6 & Carbon Pricing Specialist*
- *Elizabeth Pollitzer- Co-founder of Portia*

Moderated by: Flaubert Mbiekop- Senior Programme Specialist at IDRC

Description of the session:

This session is part of the Greenovations seven-part webinar series, which examines three thematic domains of gender, enabling environment, and emerging issues within Africa's green innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. This session falls under the gender theme and convenes experts in gender, entrepreneurship, and green growth to catalyze collective action towards gender equality in Africa's green transitions. This session brings together experts, policymakers, innovators, industry leaders and entrepreneurial support organizations to foster dialogue, share knowledge, and inspire action towards creating a more robust, sustainable, gender-responsive green innovation ecosystem across Africa.

In Africa, women constitute 58 % of the continent's self-employed population, yet they make less profits than their male peers. Research by McKinsey Global Institute, 2021, revealed that empowering women in the green economy is smart economics. Many actors such as investors, policymakers, and women-focused tech innovation hubs entrepreneurs have emerged with various practices and mechanisms to drive female green entrepreneurship in Africa. However, women entrepreneurs face challenges as institutional structures and social constructs that hinder their visibility, recognition, and effective support.

The African continent stands at a critical juncture in its pursuit of sustainable development and economic growth, such that recognition and supportive provisions for women green entrepreneurs are pertinent to

catalyze the transition to green transformation, it is essential to effectively address the constraints women entrepreneurs face across their business entrepreneurial journeys and create a conducive enabling environment that accelerates female green entrepreneurship. It is pertinent for Africa to make sure that women entrepreneurs in emerging markets are recognized, empowered, and supported to enter green sectors and create relevant and inclusive solutions to the climate challenges in their local communities.

The webinar aims to comprehensively review the key support needs and existing practices and mechanisms supporting female green entrepreneurs in their business journeys in Africa. It also aims to explore the effective roles donors, policymakers, and tech hubs can play in supporting and empowering female green entrepreneurship in Africa.

Format:

The session will take the format of a presentation followed by a plenary session with experts online that will engage in a discussion of the forms of challenges women entrepreneurs face, review and reflect on their existing support mechanisms and practices, and review existing gaps and opportunities to empower and support female green entrepreneurship in Africa effectively.

Session Objectives/Deliverables:

1. Present the result of the Greenovations project study on the structural and cultural challenges facing female green entrepreneurship in Africa
2. Strengthen understanding of the role and contribution of key actors in supporting female green entrepreneurship in Africa
3. Highlight the existing gaps and opportunities for accelerating female green entrepreneurship
4. Highlight the existing gaps and opportunities for strengthening the empowerment of women entrepreneurs in Africa's green transformation

Speakers:

- *Nambula Kachumi - CEO at Women Entrepreneurship Access Centre*
- *Karnika Yadav- Director at Intellectap*
- *Urban Benywanira -UNFCCC Article 6 & Carbon Pricing Specialist*
- *Elizabeth Pollitzer- Co-founder of Portia*

Moderator: Flaubert Mbiekop

Contact persons:

- UNU-ViE: Dr. Erick Tambo- tambo@vie.unu.edu ;
- Kanyepi, Tarisai -kanyepi@vie.unu.edu

Logistics and Platform:

Please log on at least 30 min before the start of the session to ensure a smooth start of the event.

You will be asked to enter your name, and the technical host will accept you to join the meeting but will mute and disable your video as you enter the meeting screen. The Moderator will see that you have joined the meeting and when it is your time to speak, you will be asked to turn on your camera and microphone.

Promotion:

We ask for your help in promoting your involvement in this event through your communications team

Run of Show:

Time	Description	Speaker
3 min	Welcoming: The Panelists and audience	Moderator .Flaubert Mbiekop
15 mins	Presentation by Nambula	Nambula Kachumi
40 mins	Moderated panel discussion Panellists 1.Nambula -Women Entrepreneurship Access Centre, 2. Karnika Yadav-Intellectap 3.Elizabeth Pollitzer -Portia 4.Urbans Benywanira. UNFCCC 1 Question for each speaker (two rounds of 3 mins each for the response)	
15 mins	Q & A: From the audience or moderator	Moderator and any team assistance
2 mins	Wrap up and closing	Moderator

Guiding Questions:

1. Nambula Kachumi -Women Entrepreneurship Access Centre,

- As a tech hub dedicated to supporting women entrepreneurs, what strategies have you implemented to tailor your training programs to meet their support needs? Can you share any key success stories?
- What management and operational strategies should inclusive tech hubs adopt from women-focused hubs such as WEAC, to effectively enhance female green entrepreneurship?

2. Karnika Yadav - Director at Intellectap,

1. What are Intellectap’s primary roles and contributions in supporting and empowering African women innovators and entrepreneurs within Africa’s entrepreneurship ecosystem?”
2. _How can funding models be adapted to better meet the needs of women entrepreneurs, particularly in underserved communities, and how has your initiative “Business Acceleration through Gender Mainstreaming” factored this concern into your initiative?

3. Elizabeth Pollitzer -Co-founder of Portia

1. What is Portia's organization and what has been your primary role and contributions in driving the empowerment of African women innovators and entrepreneurs within Africa’s entrepreneurship ecosystem?”

2. What best advocacy strategies and partnerships has your organization implemented to ensure you effectively promote women's entrepreneurship or address women's support needs?

4. Urbans Benywanira- UNFCCC Regional Lead for East and Southern Africa

1. What is UNFCCC's primary role and how can green women innovators/ Greenpreneurs benefit from Article 6?
2. What innovative approaches or partnerships have been most successful in advancing the accessibility of opportunities from Article 6 for green innovators and entrepreneurs in Africa, could you share any success stories?

Bonus Questions for Panellists

Nambula Kachumi - Bonus Question

- From your experience in the green entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa, what significant challenge faced by women entrepreneurs/innovators is often overlooked by entrepreneurial support organizations (ESOs)? and donors? Can you name two actors who could drive action to address this challenge?

Urban Benwaynira -Bonus Question

- Based on your experience, what overlooked challenge/issue facing green innovators should policymakers and enterprise support organization prioritize in their future initiatives to effectively support female green entrepreneurs to access opportunities related to Article 6?

Karnika Yadav- Bonus Question

- Based on your experience in Africa's green entrepreneurship ecosystem, what major challenge faced by women entrepreneurs and innovators is often overlooked by policymakers and entrepreneurial support organizations (ESOs)? Can you name two actors who could drive action to address this challenge?

Elizabeth Pollitzer -Bonus Question

- Drawing from your experience in Africa's green entrepreneurship ecosystem, what significant challenge faced by women entrepreneurs and innovators remains overlooked by research centres and policymakers? Can you name two actors who could drive action to address this challenge?