BACKGROUND

Africa now faces the dual onslaught of climate change – currently estimated to cost between $7 billion and $15 billion each year – and Covid-19, which has claimed over 211,000 lives. The African Development Bank estimates that the impact of climate change on the continent could rise to $50 billion each year by 2040, with a further 3% decline each year in GDP by 2050. Nowhere are the challenges of achieving sustainable development in the face of a changing climate more acute than in Africa – seven of the top ten most climate vulnerable countries in the world are in Africa. A rapidly warming planet, devastating impacts of climate and extreme weather events alongside an evolving COVID-19 crisis are creating conditions that require urgent action.

Cognizant of the urgent need for action, the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) in partnership with the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) have developed an ambitious and bold initiative – the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) – which aims to mobilize $25 billion to scale up and accelerate climate adaptation actions across Africa.

On 6 April 2021, during a virtual Leaders’ Dialogue on the Africa Covid-Climate Emergency, convened by the African Development Bank, the Global Center on Adaptation and the African Union’s Africa Adaptation Initiative, more than 30 heads of state and global leaders rallied behind the bold new Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program. It is built to address the impacts of Covid-19, climate change, and the continent’s worst recession in 25 years. This is why the unprecedented show of support for the financing of African adaptation is so significant.
THE AAAP COMPRISSES FOUR INNOVATIVE FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS:

- Smart Digital Technology for Agriculture and Food Security
- African Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator
- Innovative Financial Initiative for Africa
- Empowering Youth for Entrepreneurship and Job Creation in Climate Adaptation and Resilience.

AAAP YOUTHADAPT FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

The overarching objective of AAAP’s YouthADAPT flagship program is to promote innovation on climate adaptation and resilience in Africa by empowering young entrepreneurs and creating jobs through social and sustainable enterprises.

It aims at preparing a new generation of African youth for the transition towards green and climate resilient development, as well as to combat poverty and improve the quality of life for youth in Africa. Young people are not only victims of climate change. They are also valuable contributors to climate action - as agents of change, entrepreneurs and innovators. Youth across the continent are scaling up their efforts and using their skills to accelerate climate action. It is for this reason, that one of the pillars of the Youth Adapt flagship program aims at scaling up promising and transformative youth innovations for climate action through working with youth-led and owned enterprises (50% women MSMEs). To this end AAAP has launched the African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge (YouthAdapt Challenge). The challenge encourages young entrepreneurs, innovators from micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and other youth-led and youth-owned enterprises in Africa, to implement solutions for building resilience and adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change.
**AAAP’S YOUTHADAPT CHALLENGE**

The YouthADAPT Challenge is an annual competition and awards program jointly organized by GCA and the African Development Bank (AfDB). It aims to strengthen inclusive growth and broaden investment and economic opportunities for youth in Africa. With a strong focus on youth and gender, winners of the YouthAdapt Challenge will be awarded business grants of up to $100,000 each and the opportunity to participate in a 12-month business accelerator program to help them scale up their businesses, deepen their impact and create decent jobs. In addition, the winning youth-led enterprises will be provided with mentorship and support to expand partnerships, knowledge sharing and learning through a network of young entrepreneurs in climate adaptation. The first edition of the awards was launched on 06 September 2021.

Winners of the inaugural YouthADAPT Challenge will be announced at COP26, during a dedicated Award Ceremony for Challenge.

The YouthADAPT challenge is supported by funding from the African Development Bank’s Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multidonor Trust Fund (YEI MDTF).

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**Prizes for the winners**

- **Seed funding**: Financial support to help develop and upscale projects up to 100,000 USD
- **Training**: Development of project proposals and business plans
- **Incubator**: Tailored support according to the needs of the project
- **Networking**: Opportunities to connect with relevant partners and organizations

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COP26 High-Level Award Ceremony for the YouthADAPT Challenge
YOUTHADAPT AWARD CEREMONY AT COP26
05 NOVEMBER 2021 | 11:00 – 12:30 GMT

In the run up to the award ceremony, twenty youth-owned/led businesses will be shortlisted from a pool of 2000+ applications from across Africa and invited to submit their business plans and a three minute video providing a clear value proposition to scale up their enterprises for greater social impact and to create specified decent and direct adaptation jobs. They will also participate in a one-week bootcamp to sharpen their pitches, undergo background checks and due diligence to ensure the best enterprises are selected.

Submitted applications and videos will be screened by a high-level jury (see annex 1) and the ten finalists will be announced and showcased at COP26.

OBJECTIVES OF THE AWARD CEREMONY

- Successfully deliver on awarding winners of the inaugural African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge (YouthADAPT Challenge)
- Amplify the voices of African youth as valuable contributors to climate action - as agents of change, entrepreneurs and innovators
- Showcase the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program’s (AAAP) pioneering youth program that is helping youth accelerate their efforts and deliver innovative adaptation solutions at scale through multi-stakeholder partnerships
PROGRAMME

Award Presentations/Recognition by:
- Dr. Akiwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank
- Prof. Dr. Patrick, CEO, Global Center on Adaptation

Expected high-level participants expected include:
- Heads of State and Government of African nations and regional partner governments
- Heads of major international and regional organizations supporting climate change adaptation action in Africa
- Special envoys on Youth affairs and African Youth Entrepreneurs

Event Name:
GCA - AfDB YouthADAPT Award Ceremony

Date & Time:
05 November 2021 | 11:00 - 12:30 GMT

Venue:
Africa Pavilion

Organisers:
African Development Bank | Global Centre on Adaptation

Moderator:
Alan Kasujja, BBC Journalist
## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11.05</td>
<td>Welcome by Moderator</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11.10</td>
<td>Overview of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) and the YouthADAPT Pillar</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:10 – 11:15</td>
<td>Speech by Dr Akinuwmi Adesina, President African Development Bank.</td>
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<td>11:15-11.20</td>
<td>Speech by Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO Global Centre on Adaptation</td>
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<td>11:20 – 11:25</td>
<td>Overview of the YouthADAPT Challenge 2021 by representative of High-Level Jury</td>
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<td>Video “entrepreneurial spirit of African youth in driving climate action”</td>
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<td>11:25 – 12:25</td>
<td>Unveiling the YouthADAPT 2021 Winners by High Level Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:25-12:30</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Wrap-up by Moderator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-event</td>
<td>Group Photo</td>
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<td>Media Interview of Winners and Conveners of YouthADAPT 2021 Challenge</td>
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