The Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) is an Africa-owned and Africa-led response to the continent’s expressed need to reduce its vulnerabilities to climate change and accelerate adaptation. African leaders have asked for this program and have endorsed the design of the AAAP. The Chair of the African Union, President Félix Tshisekedi, endorsed the program at the largest gathering ever of African Heads of State and Government solely focused on adaptation in April 2021. President Ali Bongo of Gabon, the African Union Champion for Adaptation, praised the AAAP for actualizing the vision of the Africa Adaptation Initiative. No other adaptation initiative has achieved this level of consensus in the continent. AAAP is the Program that Africa wants.

As the global solutions broker on adaptation and resilience, the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) has joined forces with the African Development Bank to raise the climate adaptation challenge of the region and develop effective solutions with African countries and partners. Unlike other adaptation plans in Africa, the AAAP is a comprehensive adaptation program that addresses the nexus of climate change, Covid-19, and the economy. The AAAP will support all African countries in designing and implementing transformational adaptation of their economies and post-Covid recovery development paths.

2. What will the AAAP do?

The speed and scale of adaptation action in Africa are grossly insufficient to meet urgent needs. What Africa requires are actions that bring adaptation to the space and scale needed by overcoming
current blockages and using the untapped potential of the continent. Through broad consultation with African countries and regional institutions, four critical areas for urgent action at scale have been identified:

- Climate-Smart Digital Technologies for Agriculture and Food Security
- The African Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator
- Empowering Youth for Entrepreneurship and Job Creation in Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Innovative Financial Initiatives for Africa

3. What are the financing needs of the AAAP?

The AAAP aims to mobilize $25 billion over five years ($5 billion per year). The African Development Bank has committed to reaching half of the target, $12.5 billion, by 2025. This funding is expected to be mobilized through different financial instruments, such as grants, loans, guarantees, and risk-sharing mechanisms. The AAAP will mobilize and deploy new climate finance instruments to de-risk and crowd in additional private finance.

Even at this level of financing, the AAAP is only the first step to cover Africa's adaptation financing gap. Adaptation will cost roughly $331 billion through 2030, based on estimates from the nationally determined contributions of 40 African countries. African countries expect to contribute around $66 billion (or $6.6 billion annually) from their national budgets. Donors and domestic and international financiers must meet the gap of $265 billion (or $26.5 billion annually). Just over $6 billion per year was provided for 2017 and 2018, and the Covid-19-linked economic crisis may have reduced this amount. If this trend continues through 2030, total finance would only amount to $66 billion, far short of the $265 billion expected from donors and financiers. Adaptation flows to Africa must increase from
$6 billion to $26.5 billion per year. The AAAP is the floor, not the ceiling, of adaptation financing.

4. How will the AAAP be implemented?
The AAAP will be implemented through two mechanisms. First, an upstream facility at the country level, which will provide research and policy support, and monitor progress to apply lessons at the regional level. Second, an investment facility to finance the projects and programs developed under the four pillars of the AAAP, bringing in multiple financing sources through innovative financial instruments.

The upstream facility will be housed and implemented by the GCA. The GCA has a unique role in the global climate architecture, given that it is the only institution uniquely focused on adaptation. With its research and policy capabilities, program design expertise, and unique global and regional partnerships, the GCA will bring the best science and resilience practice to support national and regional adaptation plans, programs, and projects in Africa. The resource envelope required for this Facility is $250 million for the first five years.

The investment facility is being developed by the African Development Bank under the direct leadership of Bank President Akinwumi A. Adesina. The facility is expected to raise $12.5 billion which, together with the $12.5 billion African Development Bank capital, will complete the AAAP investment envelope of $25 billion for the first five years. The facility will use these resources to unlock financing from African national governments, impact investors, foundations, and other innovative sources, such as resilience bonds and debt for climate adaptation swaps, in a coordinated program. Official development assistance in the form of grants, credit, loans, and guarantees will be an indispensable element of the AAAP financing facility to unlock all other sources. The investment facility is expected to become operational within the first half of this year.
5. Are there other ways donors and partners can contribute to the AAAP?

The AAAP welcomes donors and investors interested in supporting adaptation at scale in Africa. This support needs **robust coordination platforms at the national and regional levels**. Fragmented action with overlapping areas of work drains the limited resources of African nations and institutions. The AAAP is designed as a welcoming platform, and the GCA and African Development Bank will support African countries taking the leadership of active and decisive coordination of related programs. The AAAP upstream facility intends to support these coordination efforts and provide the analytical and policy basis for African countries to make informed decisions on the transformational climate-adapted development paths that are most appropriate for their societies.

6. How does the AAAP respond to Africa's adaptation needs?

In designing the AAAP, extensive consultations with African countries identified key areas where action was most needed and investments in adaptation and building resilience could yield high dividends. The need for the AAAP to launch the Africa Adaptation Initiative came out clearly. Consequently, the Global Center on Adaptation signed an agreement with the Africa Adaptation Initiative as its implementing partner. Through the Leaders’ and Partnership Forums, the AAAP continuously receives feedback from Africa's leadership, other stakeholders, and partners. This serves as a reality check to ensure the AAAP responds to the needs of Africa.

7. Is there political support for the AAAP?

The AAAP was launched at the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021 and endorsed at the Leaders’ Dialogue on the Africa Covid-Climate Emergency in April 2021. This was the largest gathering ever of African Heads of State and Government solely focused on adaptation. More than 30 African heads of state and other global leaders rallied behind the bold new Africa Adaptation
Acceleration Program. The Chair of the African Union, President Tshisekedi, endorsed the Program as addressing Africa's adaptation needs and priorities, while US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, speaking on behalf of US President Joseph R. Biden, congratulated the GCA and the African Development for establishing the AAAP and pledged his support to the program. President Ali Bongo of Gabon, the African Union Champion for Adaptation, praised the program for actualizing the vision of the Africa Adaptation Initiative.

8. How does the AAAP ensure African ownership?
African ownership is central in the design and development of the AAAP, enabled through extensive engagement with African stakeholders. The AAAP is Africa's plan for adaptation. In addition, the AAAP will continue to respond to the evolving African context, initiatives and priorities. The AAAP will maintain this responsiveness through partnerships with regional bodies, such as the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, and other transnational forums such as the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, and the African Ministerial Council on Environment, as well as thematic groupings such as the African Agriculture Adaptation Initiative.

The implementation of specific projects is also done in a way that ensures African ownership. Importantly, the AAAP builds forward on African initiatives and plans. By doing this, the AAAP allows the spreading of African best practices. By working with African implementing partners and experts, and by mainstreaming locally led adaptation and stakeholder consultations in activities, the AAAP ensures African ownership at the leadership level, and in communities.

9. What is the linkage between AAAP and the Africa Adaptation Initiative?
The AAAP builds on the vision and work plan of the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI). During the April 6th 2021 Leaders’ Dialogue on the
Africa Covid-Climate Emergency organized by the GCA, African Development Bank and AAI, the AAAP was endorsed in a communiqué by African leaders as a vehicle to implement the vision of the AAI. GCA's role as lead coordinating partner of the AAI is crucial to further ensure this strong linkage between the AAAP and the AAI in the implementation of the AAAP. The complementary mobilization and implementation focus of GCA will help deliver the high-level political vision of AAI. In its role as solutions broker, GCA can support African regional and national entities through technical expertise, knowledge, and innovative solutions in support of AAI objectives. This role allows the GCA to fully align its work program with the priorities of the continent. The African Union AAI Champion, Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Republic of Gabon, is a GCA board member and provides strategic oversight and guidance to the AAAP.

10. **Is there a priority list of countries to be supported by the AAAP and what are the criteria?**
The AAAP will support all African countries in their efforts to adapt. The design and implementation of the AAAP is primarily demand-led. However, currently demand far outpaces the AAAP's ability to respond. First consideration will be given to the most vulnerable in the least developed countries and small island developing states. The AAAP prioritizes specific activities and locations for its initiatives; in doing so, it applies relevant selection criteria. Specific selection criteria thus differ, but include the following: expressed demand for support/action; climate vulnerability; adaptive capacity; political leadership; and where strong opportunities exist for collaboration with other partners.

11. **How can the international community support the delivery of the objectives of the AAAP?**
Africa neither cannot bear the burden of adapting to climate change alone; nor should it. Support from the international community is crucial to deliver on the objectives of the AAAP. The AAAP is not an
exclusive partnership between the GCA and the African Development Bank. Partnerships at all levels are at the core of the AAAP’s theory of change. The efforts of the continent and the international community need to be scaled up. Global leaders and key development institutions must come together under the AAAP to raise the urgency of adaptation action for our collective present and future. Only then, will the finance needed for its implementation be unlocked. The engagement of the international community is crucial to allow both south-south and north-south learning. The Africa State and Trends in Adaptation 2021 Report, written in collaboration with many partners from Africa and beyond, makes this remarkably clear.

12. How will the AAAP's performance on the ground be evaluated? The evaluation of the AAAP’s performance on the ground will be done through the implementing partners of specific projects. An overall results framework and monitoring system developed by the GCA will guide the reporting requirements of implementing partners to ensure that the performance of the AAAP can be evaluated in a similar manner in all projects. The sustainability of the projects and their outcomes will be taken into consideration.