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THE YOUTH CAFE

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Supporting the  
Youth in  
Achieving  
Climate Action



 Our Website



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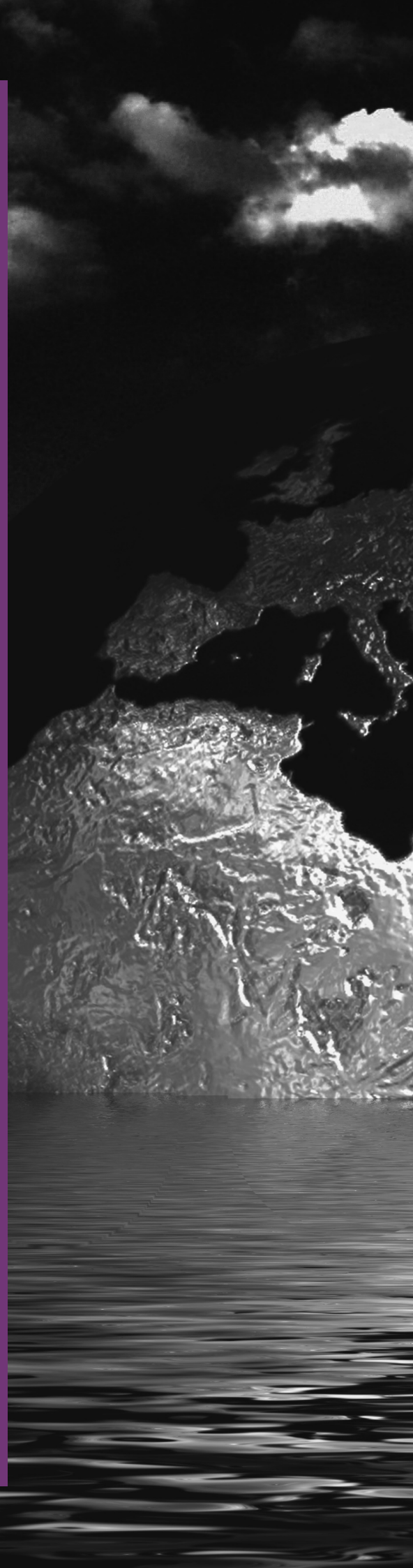
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# 1

# Executive Summary

The National Geographic Society defines climate change as a long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns. The scientific discovery of climate change began in the early 19th century when ice ages and other natural changes in paleoclimate were first suspected, and the natural greenhouse effect was first identified. In the late 19th century, scientists first argued that human emissions of greenhouse gases could change Earth's energy balance and climate. Many other climate change theories involving forces from volcanism to solar variation were advanced. In the 1960s, the evidence for the warming effect of carbon dioxide gas became increasingly convincing. Some scientists also pointed out that human activities that generated atmospheric aerosols (e.g., "pollution") could also have cooling effects.

Over the past few decades, climate change has adversely affected both physical and biological systems in most continents across the globe (Rosenzweig et al., 2007). According to Porter et al. (2014), in the past 30 years, climate change has contributed to global agricultural production declining by 1-5% per decade.

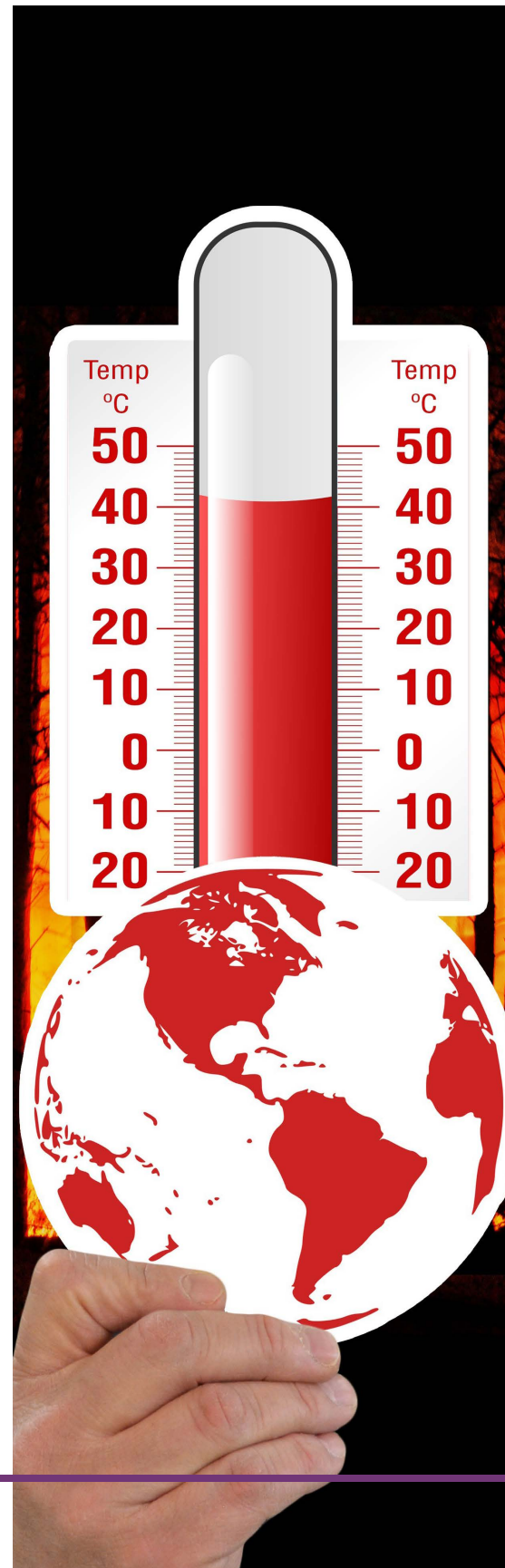
The global mean temperature is about 1.15 [1.02 to 1.28] °C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.

The UNEP states that there is inadequate progress on climate action. This lack of progress leaves the world hurtling towards a temperature rise far above the Paris Agreement goal of well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C. As things stand, The 1.5 degrees celsius warming threshold could be reached as early as 2030.

Since 2012, The Youth Cafe has been working with Young men and women in Kenya and around Africa in the fight for climate justice and environmental preservation.

Our plan contains interventions in the areas of Renewable Energy, Agroforestry, Education and public awareness, Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Resources conservation and the anticipated impacts. The goals of the plans are to promote cooperation between all stakeholders in the promotion of Sustainable development and Environmental conservation.

Some of our cross-cutting themes regarding climate change are; Education and public awareness, Advocacy, Storytelling and Innovations and Lab Academy.





# 2

## Context

Climate change is an international crisis that refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in the solar cycle.

Nevertheless, since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. The consequences of climate change now include, among others, intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity. Several pieces of research indicate that climate change severely threatens youth's health and livelihoods, so they need to be active in the fight for climate justice.

The United Nations further identifies climate change as a significant threat to international peace and security because the effects of climate change can heighten the competition for resources such as land, food and water. Despite their awareness of changing weather patterns, African people are particularly misinformed about global climate change. The low level of awareness of climate change across sub-Saharan African countries is attributed to limited awareness campaigns on the one hand and the fact that African countries have got too many problems ranging from poverty to political

conflicts on the other hand, hence climate change is never a priority issue. (UNFCCC)

The African Union also recognises Climate Change as a great hindrance to achieving Sustainable Development and has, in turn, developed a comprehensive strategy to address Climate Change. The strategy aims to develop resource-efficient industries and make critical sectors such as agriculture and food systems, water resources, energy, infrastructure and transport more climate-resilient.

The East African Community views climate change as a massive threat to the region's socioeconomic development, negatively affecting livelihoods and economies. These are evidenced through extreme weather phenomena (droughts and floods) that are occurring with greater frequency and intensity and result in: food insecurity, energy insecurity, land degradation, reduced revenue from tourism, increased pest and diseases, rise in sea level, and water scarcity, among others. Moreover, has developed a climate change policy framework to address climate change.

In Kenya, the National Climate Change Response Strategy seeks to implement robust measures to address most, if not all, of the challenges posed by climate variability and change. The

NCCRS was developed through consultative meetings held countrywide. The Kenya Vision 2030 seeks to strengthen the institutional framework for drought management, To develop an integrated drought, climate and food security information system and a harmonised data gathering & processing mechanism. This will help build climate resilience which is key to achieving sustainable development.

The Kenya School of Government, in partnership with Adaptation Consortium, launched the County Climate Change Fund, which consists of climate legislation enacted by county governments and a county-controlled fund that finances climate projects identified and prioritised by local communities. Originally designed by a multi-stakeholder coalition with the aim to increase capacity for local development planning and climate change.

Despite having all these initiatives at the local, national and regional levels regarding climate change, there is still a gap in youth involvement in the fight for climate justice. Hence, there is a need for prompt action to increase their involvement.



# 3

# Mission and Vision



## Vision

Our mission in the climate change agenda is to amplify the voices of young people as active and influential stakeholders for climate justice in Africa and globally.



## Mission

To harness youth dynamism, a future-oriented outlook, and a sense of responsibility necessary for combating climate change by creating multidisciplinary synergies among existing and future youth networks and stakeholders.





# 4

# Overall Objective

To advance climate action by leveraging the power of four key thematic areas towards a Universal Climate Citizenship: Education for Climate Action, Sciences for Climate Action, Culture for Climate Action and Communication and Information for Climate Action.

## Other Objectives

1. To promote cooperation between and foster multidisciplinary youth-led climate action and research for promoting sustainable development and Environmental conservation.
2. To foster accountability among local, regional and national leadership structures by providing viable, sustainable and ethical issues that need addressing for climate justice.
3. To build a network of the local youth and community workforce to engage in environmental preservation and climate justice.
4. To promote innovative, creative, and eco-friendly sustainable solutions through climate change resilience mapping and economic growth, resulting in green jobs for the youth.
5. To develop the capacity of the youth in water and forest conservation to improve the quality and quantity of water and forest resources





# 5

## Climate Change And Young People

Climate change impacts human lives in many ways. It affects the economy, our social lives and even the health and general well-being of the people. Youth and children, in particular, are among the population that will be most affected by climate change due to health complications that may arise from lack of safe drinking water, increased frequency of floods and droughts, extreme heat, and infections that originate from bacteria. On top of these direct effects, there is also the threat of social problems that may arise during the resulting unrest and conflict over remaining natural resources, such as water and arable land.

Climate change is of the most significant concern for youth since it is their future at risk, but some experts argue that the youth are also “crucial stakeholders” in the movement for climate change action.

According to the World Health Organization, between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress globally. Every year there is an approximation of 5000 deaths resulting from the effects of climate change in Africa. Kenya accounts for around 450 deaths per year. All

stakeholders can prevent and reduce these deaths with the necessary action.

While no one is safe from these risks, the most vulnerable people are those who contribute least to its causes and are least able to protect themselves and their families against this crisis—people in low-income countries and impoverished countries and communities. One hundred sixty-nine million youths live in extreme poverty worldwide, making them very vulnerable to the detrimental effects of the climate crisis.



# 6

# Climate Change And SDGs

Climate change affects the attainment of all sustainable development goals since they are interrelated. According to the Food Agricultural Organization (FAO), Climate change threatens our ability to ensure global food security, eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activity and livestock are a significant driver of climate change, trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere and triggering global warming. Climate change has direct and indirect effects on agricultural productivity, including changing rainfall patterns, drought, flooding and the geographical redistribution of pests and diseases. The vast amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by the oceans cause acidification, influencing the health of our oceans and those whose livelihoods and nutrition depend on them. FAO is supporting countries to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through a wide range of research-based and practical programmes and projects as an integral part of the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The inability to ensure global food security results in poverty and hunger, which makes it hard to achieve the other SDGs. Climate change also leads to the expansion of inequalities, stifling economic growth and even causing conflict.

According to the UNFCCC, Climate change will have an impact on all countries around the globe. Developing countries are much more vulnerable to climate change than the developed world. Climate change aggravates the effects of population growth, poverty, and rapid urbanisation, and this hinders the achievement of SDGs.

Africa has the world's lowest per capita greenhouse gas emissions but is one of the hardest-hit continents regarding climate change impacts. Africa's poorest communities are often powerless in the face of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, while the famine and the livelihood insecurity that ensue are frequently catastrophic. The effects of climate change make it harder for Africa as a continent to attain the SDGs.



Kenya's economy largely depends on tourism and rainfed agriculture, both susceptible to climate change and extreme weather events. FAO in Kenya outlines that Agriculture is key to Kenya's economy, contributing 33 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and another 27 per cent of GDP indirectly through linkages with other sectors. The sector employs more than 40 per cent of the total population and more than 70 per cent of Kenya's rural people. Tourism in Kenya contributes to the GDP an average of 160-200 Billion annually.

Climate change has a huge and negative impact on Kenya's economy by lowering Agricultural productivity and the income generated from domestic and foreign tourism. With the economy lagging behind, it is hard to attain all the SDGs.

Climate change also has an impact on education as it leads to; irregular school attendance by learners, school dropouts, distorted education calendar in the affected areas, early marriages, airborne diseases in affected areas, the children in the affected areas unable to get the minimum qualifications for decent jobs and this leads to continued poverty cycles among the people living in these areas



# 7

## Importance Of Contributions Of The Youth To Climate Change

<b>1. POPULATION</b>	The population of youth in the world is approximately 1.2 Billion. There is more than 800 million youth in Africa. This population is too big to ignore in the climate justice discussion.
<b>2. VIBRANCE AND INNOVATIVENESS</b>	The youth are the most innovative and vibrant people, and their contributions can significantly shape the future concerning climate change. The youth have tremendous unrealised potential in the energy transition sector. They are well positioned to play a significant role in the energy transition by contributing innovative solutions and pursuing jobs focusing on decarbonising the industry.
<b>3. VULNERABILITY</b>	800 million people are vulnerable to climate change impacts. A large population of youth live in extreme poverty conditions due to high unemployment rates and underemployment. This makes them vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis as they are unable to protect themselves and their families. Therefore, they must be actively involved in the fight for climate justice.

<p><b>4. EDUCATION</b></p>	<p>1 out of 2 young people express feelings of eco-anxiety. We work to promote; sustainable and inclusive economic growth and decent jobs for the youth. We work to increase climate change literacy programs while advocating for creating more green jobs for young people.</p> <p>We have worked on Changes for Climate, designed to inspire and mobilise young Africans (aged 13-18) around the concept of the circular economy – a new way to design, make and use things that can help us address significant challenges like climate change, waste, and pollution.</p> <p>The circular economy represents a massive opportunity for Africa, especially for young people whom the effects of climate change will most impact. As the recent Footprints report on Africa puts it, ‘African countries have the opportunity to break a pattern that is not working to everyone’s benefit and to develop technology and business models adapted to specific African realities and needs.</p> <p>TYC has published resources for educators to use in the classroom and self-paced resources for students to do independently. You can find out more here. Participants have an exciting opportunity to win prizes and are involved in the World Circular Economy Forum side events, where the design challenge winners are announced.</p>
<p><b>5. ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH</b></p>	<p>We advocate through a collaborative platform and digital media spaces where young people can actively engage and amplify their voices on environmental challenges nationally, regionally and internationally.</p> <p>The Youth Cafe co-creates and convenes national and global activities like Workshops, Youth Dialogues and Forums, and Roundtables meant to Develop Visions of a Climate Resilient and Carbon Emission Free Future. We participated in The recent Conference of Parties (COP 25, COP26, and COP27,0 which was created through an international collaboration between academics and citizens, aimed to strengthen evidence-based climate resilience, create sustainable solutions and widen benefits and impact to support climate action.</p> <p>Similarly, TYC has supported the creation and dissemination of data and evidence -drive knowledge. For instance, we published The African Youth and Climate Change Policy Brief, which was developed in light of COP27. more of our Research Outputs, Position Papers Outcome Documents, Declarations, How-To-Guides, Voices of Youth Reports, and Publications on climate change are available here</p> <p>The Youth Cafe is a revered member of global networks and coalitions like the Global waste Cleaning Network, UNESCO Climate Action Network, and Youth Engagement to UN processes on sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), among others. In addition, TYC is a member of the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), which is a space for children and youth to contribute to and engage in specific policies and processes at the UN regarding climate change. We give our input through written submissions on environmentally sustainable practices.</p>

<p><b>6. STORYTELLING</b></p>	<p>We have the Hii ni Story Yangu project, which is focused on providing a platform that elicits youth conversation and action to address climate change, providing targeted and accessible information for informed choices. Our program aims to raise climate change awareness through our multi-disciplinary team that creates animation and podcast series. The project helps in increasing climate change literacy, visibility and opportunities to collaborate, advocate for the creation of more green jobs through our podcast series, and creation of a collaborative platform where young people will actively engage and participate in finding solutions to environmental challenges, such as investing more in the blue economy and helping achieve the SDGs.</p>
<p><b>7. SCIENCE INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY LAB</b></p>	<p>In 2020, The Youth Cafe launched the Youth Climate Innovation Labs and Academy in Africa, which provided young people with training and tools to develop solutions to various climate change challenges. The Climate Innovation Labs is a fast-paced three-day online event that brings together selected youth participants and climate technology experts within the selected sectors and technology fields in the region to explore innovative design thinking tools, flexing their entrepreneurial muscles and creating solutions for enhanced climate action. At the end of the Climate Innovation Labs, the selected participants are provided follow-on funding and in-kind support to implement and scale selected solutions through a 6-8 week Climate Innovation Academy Programme delivered by The Youth Cafe technology partners.</p>







# 8

## Focus Areas, TYC Interventions And The Anticipated Impacts

FOCUS AREA	INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
RENEWABLE ENERGY	As The Youth Cafe, we commit to tapping the potential of the youth by continuing our climate literacy programs and partnering with the relevant stakeholders to provide materials like solar panels, micro hydropower systems, small wind electric systems among other renewable energy gadgets to individuals and groups, especially in SMEs sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Reduced greenhouse gas emissions</li><li>-Increased Diversification of energy supply and reduced dependence on imported fuels</li><li>-Created more economic development and jobs in manufacturing, installation, and more.</li><li>- Stabilised energy prices</li><li>-Improved public health resulting from lesser global warming.</li></ul>

FOCUS AREA	INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
AGROFORESTRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-We intend to partner with interested stakeholders to provide rural communities with economically productive tree seedlings that will not only help them economically but also conserve the environment</li> <li>-Provide financial incentives to rural youth to encourage tree planting and conservancy.</li> <li>-promoting the capacity of the youth to conserve forest resources by organising them in Community Forest Associations (CFAs) where they can develop Forest management plans to protect, conserve and manage forests. In the CFAs, they can access funding to conserve forest areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increased agricultural productivity.</li> <li>-Reduced hunger and poverty.</li> <li>-Increased support for biodiversity.</li> <li>-More enrichment for soils and increased water availability.</li> <li>-Better counteraction to global warming.</li> <li>- increased resilience and microclimate regulation</li> <li>-Increased high-quality forest cover.</li> </ul>
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mainstreaming climate change awareness in all programmes and projects undertaken by The Youth Cafe.</li> <li>-Encouraging individual voluntarism in raising climate change awareness.</li> <li>-Ensuring youth voices are heard by participating in high-level climate events and dialogues</li> <li>-Creating climate change masterclasses, training material and programmes for target stakeholders and specific groups, i.e. women, men, children, youth, people with disabilities, religious groups, and more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increased involvement of local communities in on-ground climate change actions</li> <li>-Increased capacity building and community ownership of the climate change projects</li> <li>-Additional Innovations coming from the members of the community</li> <li>-More networking opportunities with other youth organisations</li> <li>-Amplified messaging and delivery from youth feed into other processes within Governments, the United Nations, etc.</li> </ul>

FOCUS AREA	INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE (CSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-We intend to partner with interested stakeholders to help the local youth acquire smart agricultural gadgets such as smart greenhouses, farm remote sensors etc.</li> <li>-Help interested local youth groups gain Smart Agriculture skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increased ability of communities to adapt to climate change and increased resilience to climate variability and extreme weather events</li> <li>-Improved soil health and water conservation, reduced soil erosion and nutrient runoff, and increased efficiency of inputs used.</li> </ul>
WATER RESOURCES CONSERVATION	<p>We intend to develop the capacity of the youth in water resource conservation by organising them in groups where they can come up with Participatory Water Management Plans and facilitate them get funding from water resource conservation funding organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased participation of the youth in matters of water resources conversation</li> <li>-Improved the quantity and quality of water resources for enhanced livelihoods.</li> <li>-Improved ability of the catchment and riparian areas to provide hydrological services.</li> </ul>





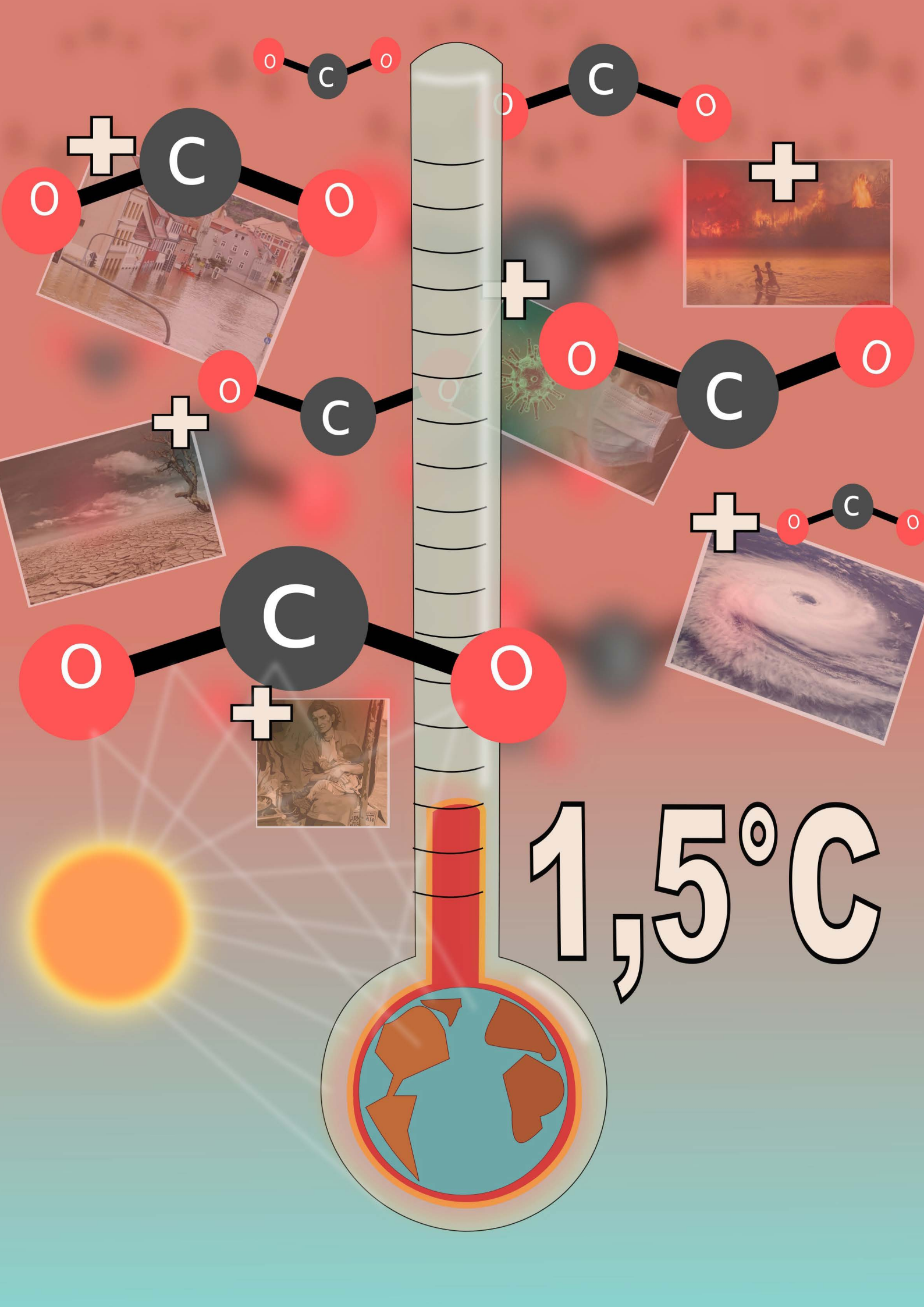
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# Partnerships and Beneficiaries

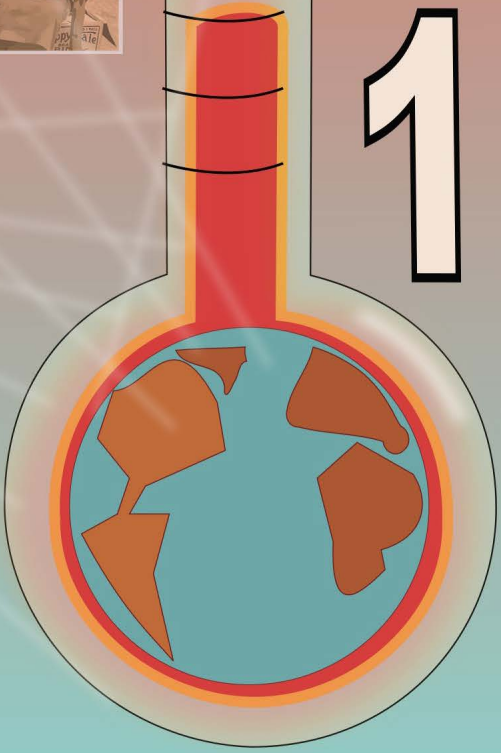
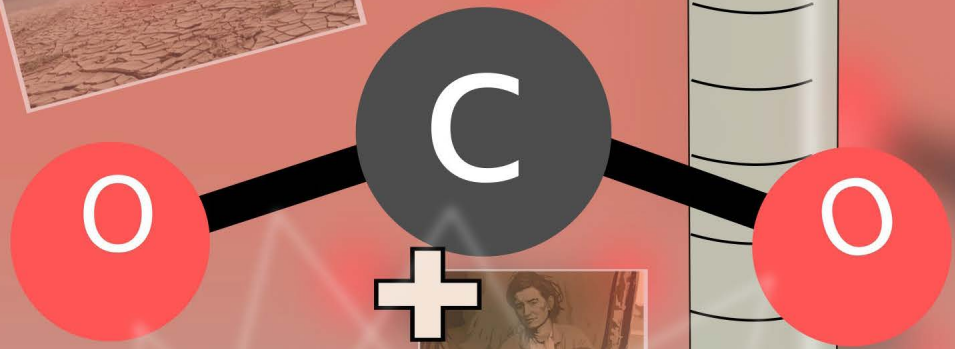
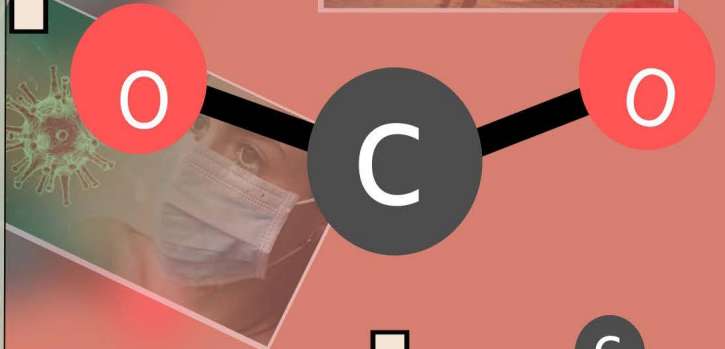
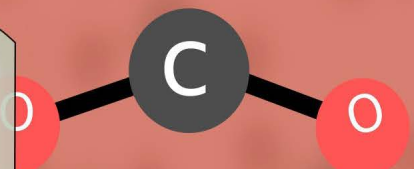
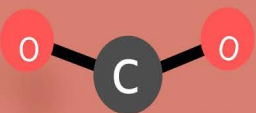
<p><b>PARTNERS</b></p>	<p>We involve Local communities in building climate resilience measures and integrate their input and contributions in all the interventions. We also work with Local governments to develop frameworks to address climate change and involve the communities. Our other partners are; Non -profit organisations, Youth organisations and Community-Based Organizations we make use of the strengths of these organisations to build climate resilience. We also work with International Organizations like United Nations, The World Bank, and Master Card Foundation, among others, to build climate resilience.</p> <p>We work with High Net-worth individuals who are willing to contribute to the success of our climate action interventions.</p> <p>We also work with Development Finance Institutions, which major in directly financing interventions that work towards the realisation of SDGs. We receive support from Bilateral and multilateral donors for our climate action interventions.</p> <p>Our other partners are Faith-based Organizations whom we work with for community development and to build climate resilience.</p>
<p><b>BENEFICIARIES</b></p>	<p>The groups that will benefit from our climate resilience interventions include Youth from low-socioeconomic backgrounds because these areas with very little financial, educational, social, and health resources are most affected by the adverse effects of climate change, and hence they will benefit from our interventions</p> <p>The other group is the Youth and communities living in informal settlements because they are more susceptible to the negative impacts of climate change including floods and drought and hence they will benefit from climate action interventions.</p> <p>Other beneficiaries include Communities living in hunger-stricken areas, including refugee camps. They will benefit because we will have a key focus on those areas to ensure they are cushioned from the adverse effects of climate change.</p>

## Some of Our Partners





1,5°C



# 10

## About The Youth Cafe

The Youth Cafe is Africa's largest convening community of professionals harnessing youth advocacy, policy, and research for social impact, with over 3,500 member organisations and over 947,000 individual members aged between 18 to 35 virtually from every country in Africa. We have a monthly digital reach of 1.4 million across our platforms and engage monthly through over 260,000 touchpoints. The Youth Cafe headquarters in Kenya serves as the regional office for sub-Saharan Africa (RO SSA), project implementation, coordinating sub-granting in the region, and developing new partnerships, innovative programs, and local

engagement with strategic partners and young people. The office works with grassroots, national, regional, and global stakeholders. Our strength lies in the unrivalled diversity of our team, comprising a group of highly talented, determined, and enthusiastic people who come from all backgrounds and think that genuine change is possible. Environmental conservation and climate change are among our eight focus areas. Our motivation is driven by the fact that there is more than 845 million youth in Africa today, and therefore, we have 845 million reasons to work with them! The Youth Café

works with young men and women in Kenya and Africa to foster community resilience, propose innovative solutions, drive social progress, influence youth empowerment and inspire transformative climate and environmental change. Young people are a tremendous and essential asset worth investing in. We hope to open the door to a remarkable multiplier effect as our message spreads. The community of youths has the vision and capacity to originate and lead climate change and environmental conservation through storytelling which is integral to this project.







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