



Africa Philanthropy Network

Voice and Action for African Philanthropy

JUNE 2023

AFRICA PHILANTHROPY NETWORK

AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY PRACTICE IN THE
AGE OF ONGOING CLIMATE CHANGE



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2023 APN ESSAY CONTEST



James Lihawa

Tanzania

Winner of APN 2023
Essay Contest

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2023 APN ESSAY CONTEST



Fernando Bwalya

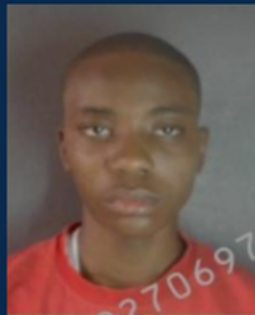
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Dabeluchukwu
Onwuka

Nigeria

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Adekunle Olajide

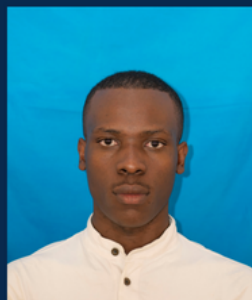
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Marcel Simbila

Tanzania

4th Runner Up of
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The APN Essay Contest was created to give a platform for African youth perspectives. As we work towards (re)shaping the narratives around African giving, it is imperative that youth voices are centred. Our first APN Essay contest was hosted in 2021 and focused on drawing inspiration from Africa's youth on the power of African philanthropy in championing social change. The 2nd APN Essay Contest was in 2022, and we focused on the theme "the role of African philanthropy in addressing community challenges." The theme for the 3rd APN Writing Contest: "African Philanthropy Practice in the age of ongoing Climate Change," has yielded the most engaging essays yet.

Climate change is currently one of the biggest global health threats in the world. Although Africa contributes to only 2%-3% of global greenhouse emissions, the continent is disproportionately affected. A main takeaway from the 2022 APN Annual Assembly was the idea that meaningful philanthropy needs to simultaneously address current issues, as well as alleviating any future impacts that may hold back our growth. Efforts to mitigate the effects of Climate Change on the continent need to embody this exact outlook. As the threats that climate change posits for our communities worsen, it is imperative that we are proactive in building awareness and mobilising effort and resources to support those most affected. We want African youth to take the reins on thought leadership around this global crisis. What is the role of African philanthropic practises amidst the current and future effects of climate change?

This booklet is a consolidation of five of the most impressive essays we received. They cover the most recent and immediate climate crises we've witnessed in Southern Africa as well the less visible ongoing effects recorded over years. They interrogate local, regional and global policies alike, and highlight the communities being disproportionately affected. Ultimately they contribute to the knowledge production processes needed for the mitigation of this global crisis.

Stigmata Tenga
Executive Director

HARNESSING PHILANTHROPY FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

by Fernando Bwalya

Zambia

Climate change poses significant challenges to the world, with African communities being disproportionately affected due to their inherent vulnerabilities and limited adaptive capacities (IPCC, 2014). As the effects of climate change continue to escalate, the need for coordinated and effective responses becomes increasingly urgent. Philanthropy can play a vital role in addressing these challenges by supporting innovative solutions, promoting policy change, and empowering the most affected communities.

To maximise the impact of philanthropic efforts, it is crucial to understand how they can best help to address climate change in African communities. This requires examining the effectiveness of existing policies, identifying uniquely affected population groups, and proposing innovative strategies to support those most impacted. Furthermore, it is essential to consider the diverse contexts and experiences of African communities, taking into account their varying socio-economic, cultural, and environmental circumstances. By adopting a comprehensive and context-specific approach, philanthropy can contribute to building resilience and fostering sustainable development in the face of climate change.

The Effects of Climate Change on African Communities:

African communities are experiencing severe consequences of climate change, including erratic rainfall patterns, droughts, floods, and increasing temperatures (Nielsen et al., 2019). These phenomena exacerbate existing development challenges such as food insecurity, water scarcity, and health issues. Climate change is also accelerating desertification and biodiversity loss, leading to land degradation and undermining the livelihoods of millions of people (UNCCD, 2017).

Additionally, climate change-induced extreme weather events are causing significant damage to infrastructure, homes, and public services, disrupting economic activities and exacerbating poverty and inequality (World Bank, 2018). Moreover, climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and the elderly, who often have fewer resources and capabilities to cope with its impacts (Dankelman, 2010). As a result, climate change is not only a pressing environmental issue but also a critical social and economic challenge that threatens the well-being and future prospects of African communities.

African Communities' Responses to Climate Change:

Despite their limited resources, African communities have demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of climate change. They have mobilized to adapt or mitigate its effects through traditional knowledge systems and practices, as well as innovative grassroots initiatives. Examples include agroforestry, rainwater harvesting, and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) (Paavola, 2008). Furthermore, African governments and regional bodies have developed various policies and strategies to address climate change, such as the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC).

In my country Zambia, the government has taken a proactive approach to addressing climate change by creating the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment. This ministry is responsible for ensuring that Zambia conforms to international guidelines on climate change policies and emissions reductions. The Zambian government has developed the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS), which outlines key actions and interventions to promote climate-resilient development and low-carbon growth (GRZ, 2010).

Philanthropic Actors' Responses to Climate Change in African Communities:

Philanthropic actors have increasingly recognized the urgent need to address climate change in Africa. They have supported various initiatives ranging from renewable energy projects, climate-smart agriculture, capacity building, and community-based adaptation programs (Buchner et al., 2017). For instance, the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities initiative aims to help cities in Africa and beyond develop resilience strategies to withstand climate change impacts (Rockefeller Foundation, 2019). Philanthropy has been playing an essential role in

supporting Zambia's efforts to address climate change. International and local philanthropic organizations have been partnering with the Zambian government, civil society organizations, and communities to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. For instance, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has supported the Community Forests Program (CFP) in Zambia, which aims to reduce deforestation and forest degradation while improving livelihoods through community-based forest management (USAID, 2017). Another example is the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project, "Strengthening Climate Resilience in the Kafue Sub-basin," which focuses on enhancing the adaptive capacity of communities and institutions in the Kafue River Basin to cope with the impacts of climate change on water resources and food security (GEF, 2014). Philanthropic organizations have also been instrumental in supporting research and capacity building initiatives to enhance climate change knowledge and skills in Zambia. Moreover, philanthropy has helped to raise awareness about climate change issues in Zambia by supporting public education campaigns and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders. This has contributed to the development of an informed and engaged citizenry that is better equipped to participate in decision-making processes related to climate change and sustainable development.

Effectiveness of Existing Policies in Tackling Climate Change:

Although African governments and regional organizations have made progress in formulating climate policies, implementation remains a challenge due to capacity constraints, inadequate financing, and weak institutional frameworks (UNECA, 2016). Foreign policies, such as the Paris Agreement and the Green Climate Fund, have provided some support but often fall short of delivering the necessary resources and technologies for effective climate

action in Africa (Bodansky, 2016). Many African countries have developed National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, outlining their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change (UNFCCC, 2015). However, these policies often lack clear implementation strategies and face challenges related to technical expertise, data availability, and policy coherence (Ford et al., 2015). To enhance the effectiveness of existing policies, it is crucial to invest in capacity building, improve monitoring and evaluation systems, and ensure that climate policies are integrated into broader development planning and budgeting processes (Biermann et al., 2010).

Enabling Policy Environment for Climate Change and Sustainability:

Creating an enabling policy environment for climate change and sustainability in Africa requires addressing the gaps in existing policies and strengthening collaboration among governments, regional organizations, and non-state actors. Philanthropic organizations can contribute by advocating for more ambitious climate commitments, supporting policy research, and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop and implement effective climate policies at national and regional levels. Additionally, philanthropy can help enhance the transparency and accountability of climate governance by supporting the development of robust monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems and facilitating the participation of civil society organizations in policy processes (Harmeling & Eckstein, 2012). It is also important to promote policy coherence and integration across different sectors, such as agriculture, energy, water, and infrastructure, to ensure that climate change considerations are mainstreamed into all aspects of sustainable development planning (Leal Filho et al., 2019). By addressing these challenges and fostering an enabling policy environment, philanthropy can

contribute to more effective and equitable climate action in African communities.

Uniquely Affected Communities and Population Groups:

Certain communities and population groups in Africa are particularly affected by the impacts of climate change due to their geographical location, socio-economic conditions, and cultural practices. Examples include coastal communities exposed to sea-level rise and storm surges, pastoralist communities affected by drought and resource conflicts, and smallholder farmers facing crop failures and food insecurity (Adger et al., 2003). Women, children, and the elderly are often the most vulnerable due to their limited adaptive capacities and socio-economic marginalization (Dankelman, 2010).

Innovative Solutions to Support Affected Communities:

To effectively support communities most impacted by climate change, philanthropy should invest in innovative, locally-driven solutions that enhance resilience and promote sustainable development. These solutions can leverage technology, harness traditional knowledge, and empower marginalized groups. Here are some promising approaches:

- **Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA):** CSA practices can improve agricultural productivity, enhance climate resilience, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (FAO, 2013). Philanthropic organizations can support the adoption of CSA techniques, such as agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and precision farming, by providing training, technical assistance, and access to credit for smallholder farmers.

- **Renewable Energy Access:** Expanding access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy is crucial for sustainable development in Africa. Philanthropic actors can invest in decentralized renewable energy solutions, such as solar microgrids and biogas systems, to promote energy access in remote and underserved communities (Szabo et al., 2011). Some companies making an impact are SolarAid, and Little Sun, solar-powered LED lamp designed by artist Olafur Eliasson and engineer Frederik Ottesen distributes solar-powered lamps to off-grid communities.
- **Community-Based Climate Adaptation:** Empowering communities to implement their own climate adaptation strategies can foster local ownership and long-term sustainability. As the proverb goes "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." This principle underscores the importance of building self-sufficiency and knowledge transfer among communities facing climate change challenges. Philanthropic organizations can support participatory planning processes, capacity building, and knowledge sharing among communities, researchers, and practitioners, enabling them to develop effective adaptation strategies and pass on the knowledge to others (Ayers & Forsyth, 2009).
- **Digital Technologies for Climate Resilience:** Innovative digital technologies, such as mobile apps, remote sensing, and big data analytics, can help African communities monitor and respond to climate risks more effectively. Philanthropy can facilitate the development and dissemination of these technologies, as well as support digital literacy and infrastructure to ensure their equitable use (Carrasco et al., 2020).
- **Climate Finance for Vulnerable Groups:** Access to finance is a critical barrier for many African communities in adapting to climate change. Philanthropic actors can establish climate-resilient funds,

provide microcredit, and support innovative financing mechanisms, such as climate risk insurance and green bonds, to address this gap (Buchner et al., 2017).

Conclusion:

Addressing climate change in African communities requires a multifaceted approach that recognizes the diverse challenges and opportunities they face. Philanthropy has a crucial role to play in promoting innovative solutions, advancing policy change, and empowering the most affected communities. By investing in locally-driven, context-specific interventions, philanthropic actors can contribute to building a more resilient, sustainable, and just future for African communities in the face of climate change.



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AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY PRACTICE IN THE AGE OF ONGOING CLIMATE CHANGE

by Marcel Simbila

United Republic of Tanzania

Climate change is one of the leading human and environmental crisis of the 21st century. It is defined as significant changes in the average values of meteorological elements, such as precipitation and temperature, for which averages have been computed over a long period (Malhi et al., 2021), Climate change is obviously one of those challenges that crosses both national and discipline boundaries. Climate variability and change have resulted to various effects on almost every sphere of life such as health (D'Amato et al., 2020), Social (Schilling et al., 2020; Mason & Fritsche, 2021), political (Chomsky & Pollin, 2020) and economic (Khan et al, 2021). Climate change is best viewed as a threat multiplier that exacerbates existing trends, tensions and instability.

Globally, half the population is highly vulnerable to the risks of climate change, which pose a severe threat to development gains and economic prosperity, through the potential for significant damage to lives, livelihoods, human health, culture, nature and biodiversity, among others (IPCC, 2022). The rapid increase of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere has warmed the planet at an alarming rate resulting in extreme weather events (Storms, floods, heavy snowfalls and drought to name a few).

Africa is highly susceptible to climate change, and the impact of severe weather events such as droughts and hurricanes is becoming more frequent. Drought-related hazards have resulted in half a million deaths and more than \$70 billion in economic losses over the past five decades. By 2030, around 250 million and 700 million people could be displaced by water stress and disrupted rainfall, respectively. Pastoralist societies, subsistence farmers, fisheries, women, youth, older adults, and minority groups are most vulnerable. Women, in particular, face unequal consequences such as more unpaid care work and higher rates of waterborne illnesses.

Climate change disproportionately affects African communities, particularly those living in low-income areas with limited access to resources. The impacts of climate change on African communities manifest in various ways, including food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, forced migration, and increased poverty levels.

Food insecurity is a growing concern in several regions of Africa, such as Ethiopia, Somalia, Southern Madagascar, and parts of Kenya. This dire situation has been exacerbated by severe drought, leading to

soaring food prices and leaving over 58 million people in a state of acute food insecurity. Shockingly, by 2022, more than 1.6 million individuals were reported to be consuming a mixture of white clay and tamarind as a means of coping with the famine in Madagascar.

The Horn of Africa, which includes Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia, is currently grappling with drought and famine, largely due to conflict and inflation in the area. This has resulted in a significant increase in food prices, making it difficult for many individuals to access basic necessities.

The situation in the Horn of Africa is dire, with millions of people facing starvation and malnutrition. The United Nations has declared a state of emergency in the region, and aid organizations are working tirelessly to provide food, water, and medical assistance to those in need. However, the scale of the crisis is overwhelming, and more support is needed to ensure that everyone has access to the basic necessities of life. In addition to providing immediate relief, we must also address the root causes of the crisis, including conflict, climate change, and poverty. Only by working together can we create a sustainable future for the people of the Horn of Africa.

Moreover, the Parukayo Pastoralist society of the Maasai community in the Ngorongoro Conservation area of Tanzania has been compelled to relocate to Tanga due to the adverse effects of drought in the region. This has resulted in the displacement of approximately 2400 households and their livestock from the area that they have legally occupied since the early 1990s. Consequently, conflicts have arisen, and the government has resorted to extreme measures to enforce the relocation.

Furthermore, the relocation of the Parukayo Pastoralist society has not only affected their livelihoods but also their cultural practices.

The Maasai community has a deep connection to their land and their way of life revolves around their livestock. The forced relocation has disrupted their traditional way of living and has caused a loss of cultural identity. This highlights the need for sustainable solutions that take into account the cultural and social aspects of the affected communities.

Additionally, the increase in temperature in northern Tanzania has led to a higher rate of glacier reduction on Mount Kilimanjaro, as well as on Mount Rwenzori in Uganda and Mount Kenya. This has had a significant impact on Tanzania's tourism sector, which estimates an annual revenue loss of approximately 1 million USD.

On the other hand, extreme weather events such as Droughts and floods recently in Malawi are among the most pressing concerns facing Africa. Over the past five decades, drought-related hazards have resulted in the loss of over half a million lives and economic damages exceeding 70 billion USD in the region. Additionally, more than 1,000 flood-related disasters have been reported, resulting in over 20,000 fatalities across Africa during this period. Unfortunately, the situation is expected to worsen, with climate impacts projected to cost African nations a staggering 50 billion USD annually by 2050.

It is imperative to address these issues with urgency and sensitivity to ensure the well-being of the affected communities and the preservation of the natural resources. Collaborative efforts between the government, local communities, and relevant stakeholders are necessary to find sustainable solutions that mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and promote socio-economic development.

Adaptation and mobilization are critical strategies for Africans to cope with the adverse effects of climate change. Africa has made significant investments in

innovative agricultural practices, water management, and ecosystem restoration to mitigate the impact of climate change, just like other parts of the world. These efforts have been facilitated by mobilization, which has promoted knowledge sharing, capacity building, and collaboration among African countries. As a result, sustainable development practices, technologies, and policies have been adopted, such as the banning of plastic bags and carriers in countries of East Africa, including Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Additionally, minimizing the use of wood fuel in East Africa and enacting policies that promote climate mitigation and enhance the capacity of institutions to manage climate risks have been instrumental in mitigating the effects of climate change.

The adoption of these measures has been critical in ensuring that Africa is better equipped to deal with the challenges posed by climate change. By investing in innovative agricultural practices, water management, and ecosystem restoration, Africa has been able to mitigate the impact of climate change on its people and the environment. Furthermore, the adoption of sustainable development practices, technologies, and policies has helped to promote a more sustainable future for the continent.

The formulation and implementation of policies to mitigate climate change in Africa require political will. Policymakers across the continent have been promoting sustainable development by investing in green energy projects, recycling, waste management practices, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris Agreement in 2015, followed by the Glasgow Framework for Implementation and the current steps adopted in Egypt, have been agreed to by 33 African member states out of 54, which is approximately 60% (Naidoo & Gulati, 2022).

However, the challenge for Africa lies in the implementation of policies for climate change mitigation, such as promoting green energy and

environmental conservation, which requires monetary support. The African Development Bank's (AFDB) agenda is to secure access to climate finance for low-income African countries, reporting that the region needs about 250 billion USD each year for the past 15 years (Lasse, 2022). This is an enormous amount for most African countries, especially those in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite being the least responsible for causing climate change, African countries are the most vulnerable to its effects. While other parts of the world have experienced the effects of climate change, Africa cannot neglect its responsibility to do all it can to get the situation under control. It is a global problem that should be perceived as such. Africa needs a comprehensive strategy based on the continent's interests, priorities, and consistent with African nations' sustainable development plan.

To combat the effects of climate change, Africa needs to find new streams for finance and increase private capital access, which is currently at 14% in Africa. This strategy must be implemented with a professional tone of voice, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and cooperation among African nations and the international community. By working together, we can mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

A fundamental objective of this kind is to ensure that Africa is able to thrive and win this war against climate change by utilizing all means available to her. Not only must Africans rely on grants and funds from Europe, Asia, and America to achieve this objective, but they also must recognize the efforts of philanthropic practices and activities, especially those from within Africa. Throughout the history of philanthropy, the philanthropic practice has contributed to achieving important national social and economic development goals in Africa by providing funding, supporting initiatives,

and volunteering for causes that result in community beautification projects (Never et al., 2022), whether those projects take place locally, regionally, or internationally. There have been many African philanthropists who have taken part in the fight against climate change and its effects. For example, the Aiko Dangote Foundation has reportedly donated about 1.2 billion Naira in Nigeria and Tanzania to support a variety of sustainable practices in Nigeria and Tanzania, including planting trees as well as finding sustainable technologies for running various industries throughout Northern and Eastern Africa.

As part of their ongoing effort to ensure sustainable water availability in Tanzania rural areas, the Mo Dewji Foundation has donated an unspecified amount of money to fund 300 water projects. Among the 600 scholarships offered by the school, approximately 200 of them are directly related to environmental sustainability, such as the research and innovation unit which recycles plastics materials and emphasizes the use of alternative energy sources.

As a member of the African Community and Conservation organization, the IPP media company is committed to ensuring the preservation of Africa's wildlife by raising awareness and funding for key conservation projects as well as transformative community programs throughout Africa. During the past five years, they have been able to successfully fund conservation projects in Tanzania, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, which is estimated to be worth about 50 million USD in total. In partnership with ACCF, African foundation in South Africa have been able to benefit approximately 5000 community members through the planting of trees, the protection of water sources, and the preservation of wildlife areas in order to minimize the negative effects of climate change on the continent.

In conclusion, African philanthropy activities that promote sustainable development, green energy, environmental conservation, and climate change adaptation can help stop the effects of climate change in Africa. Governments should support, acknowledge and ensure that policies are implemented to address the causes of climate change while also providing support to populations already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Both local and regional philanthropists should explore new ways of safe and secure giving to build on current levels of generosity and increase the engagement of more youths in philanthropic activities. A comprehensive approach is necessary to mitigate climate change's adverse effects while supporting economic growth and human development in a sustainable manner.



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AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY PRACTICE IN THE AGE OF ONGOING CLIMATE CHANGE

*Written by James Lihawa
United Republic of Tanzania*

“Climate change is a global challenge that requires global solutions,” said Ban Ki-moon. Indeed, his words ring true now more than ever, as the devastating impacts of climate change continue to ravage the world. But they are especially devastating in developing regions like Africa due to our reliance on natural resources for survival. The effects of climate change in Africa are numerous and far-reaching, from droughts and desertification to flooding and sea-level rise (Ajayi & Fagbola, 2017). For example, in Ghana, the rising sea level has caused the displacement of more than 5,000 people living in coastal communities in the past decade. These effects are not only threatening human health and well-being but also undermining socio-economic development and exacerbating poverty. It has resulted in the loss of biodiversity, desertification, water scarcity, and displacement of communities (WHO, 2018). According to the World Bank, climate change could cause up to 43% of the African continent’s GDP to be lost by the end of the century (World Bank, 2021). The situation calls for urgent action, and African philanthropy has a crucial role to play.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of philanthropy in Africa. African philanthropy is on the rise, with local giving by

individuals, foundations, and corporations estimated to be over \$19 billion annually. This figure is expected to grow as the continent’s economies continue to develop, creating more wealth and opportunities for giving. Additionally, Africa has the highest growth rate of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) in the world, which suggests that philanthropy on the continent could increase even further in the coming years (Ajayi & Fagbola, 2017).

This essay explores the practice of African philanthropy in the age of ongoing climate change, focusing on the effects of climate change on African communities, how communities have mobilized to adapt or mitigate these effects, how philanthropic actors are responding to the increasing effects of climate change, and the effectiveness of existing policies in tackling the effects of climate change. It also considers what a more enabling environment for policy change on climate change and sustainability would look like, which communities/population groups have been particularly/uniquely affected by the effects of climate change, and what supporting communities most impacted by the effects of climate change would entail.

Climate change has numerous and far-reaching

effects on African communities, including ecological, social, and economic effects (Adger, et al., 2009). Ecological effects include changes in rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, desertification, and loss of biodiversity. 257 million Africans are undernourished, and the number is expected to increase due to climate change (Mawere & Nhemachena, 2018). These effects have serious consequences for agriculture, food security, and water availability. For instance, droughts and desertification have caused crop failures, famine, and water shortages, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions like the Sahel region in 2018, the Horn of Africa in 2011 and continuously on the lake Chad Basin. Social effects include the displacement of people due to environmental degradation like in Somalia, the prolonged drought has led to the displacement of over 2.6 million people since 2017. Conflicts over resources in Nigeria climate change has contributed to the ongoing conflict between farmers and pastoralists over land and water resources in the middle belt region.

The spread of diseases, for example, in Kenya, climate change has been linked to the increase in cases of malaria in the highlands, where the disease was previously not common. Economic effects include reduced productivity in agriculture, reduced tourism, and increased costs of adaptation and mitigation measures (Akpan & Obok, 2020).

African communities have mobilized to adapt or mitigate the effects of climate change through various strategies, including traditional knowledge systems, innovative technologies, and collective action. For example, in Tanzania communities have adopted traditional farming practices that are resilient to changing climate conditions, such as crop diversification, water harvesting, and soil conservation. We have also embraced innovative technologies, such as drought-resistant crops, solar-powered irrigation, and weather forecasting systems. Additionally, communities have formed collective

action groups to promote sustainable land use, manage natural resources, and engage in environmental conservation. However, these efforts have been constrained by inadequate resources, limited access to finance, weak governance systems, and insufficient technical knowledge.

Other communities are using renewable energy sources to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. In Kenya, for instance, the Maasai community has installed solar panels to power their homes and reduce their carbon footprint. In Nigeria, some communities have established community-led renewable energy projects, such as solar-powered water pumps (Bahri & Jacobs, 2017). African philanthropic organizations have played a crucial role in supporting community-led initiatives to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. For instance, the African Women's Development Fund has supported women's groups in Ghana to develop sustainable agriculture practices and access to clean energy. The African Climate Foundation has supported renewable energy projects in South Africa and Zimbabwe (Bealey, Grant, & Rao, 2018).

Philanthropic actors are responding to the increasing effects of climate change on African communities through various initiatives, including funding research, supporting community-led projects, and advocating for policy change. For instance, the African Climate Foundation (ACF) is providing grants to support community-led climate action projects (African Climate Foundation, 2021). The African Development Bank (AfDB) is investing in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate-smart infrastructure (African Development Bank Group, 2019). Other philanthropic actors, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, are funding research on climate change adaptation and mitigation, while the Rockefeller Foundation is advocating for climate-resilient policies and practices (World Bank, 2021). However, some philanthropic organizations have been criticized for not prioritizing the needs of African communities. Some critics argue that philanthropic

organizations often focus on technological solutions, such as carbon capture and storage, which may not be relevant or accessible to African communities (Adebayo, 2019).

Existing policies to tackle the effects of climate change at the national, regional, and foreign levels have been inadequate, fragmented, and poorly implemented. National policies on climate change have been weak, with limited budgetary allocations, inadequate institutional frameworks, and lack of budget and coordination (Climate Policy Initiative, 2021). Regional policies, such as the African Union's Agenda 2063 from the African Climate Policy Center and the African Renewable Energy Initiative, have been ambitious but have faced implementation challenges due to limited financial resources and weak governance systems (African Development Bank Group, 2018). Foreign policies, such as the Paris Agreement, have not provided enough resources for African countries to adapt to the effects of climate change. The Paris Agreement has a goal of limiting global warming to below 2°C, but even if this goal is achieved, African communities will continue to face the effects of climate change for many years (Climate Action Network, 2021).

Creating an enabling environment for policy change on climate change and sustainability in Africa requires several key actions. These include increasing public awareness and education on climate change, strengthening institutional frameworks and governance systems, enhancing financing mechanisms and resources, promoting regional cooperation and integration, and embracing innovative technologies and solutions. For example, governments and civil society organizations can work together to raise awareness on climate change and the need for sustainable development through education, media campaigns, and community engagement. They can also strengthen institutional frameworks by establishing dedicated climate change units, developing climate action plans, and

mainstreaming climate change into sectoral policies and programs.

Another critical aspect of creating an enabling environment for policy change is engaging local communities in decision-making processes. Community-led initiatives have been shown to be more effective than top-down approaches in addressing the impacts of climate change (World Bank, 2016). Therefore, African governments and philanthropic organizations should prioritize community-led initiatives and provide resources and support to help them develop and implement their ideas.

Communities and population groups particularly and uniquely affected by the effects of climate change in Africa include rural and indigenous communities, women, and children. Rural and indigenous communities are particularly vulnerable due to their reliance on natural resources for their livelihoods, limited access to finance, and weak governance systems (Mawere, 2020). In Tanzania, for instance, the Hadzabe people, who are hunter-gatherers, are facing food shortages and displacement due to deforestation and the encroachment of agriculture on their lands. Women are also disproportionately affected by climate change, as they are often responsible for food production, water and firewood collection, and other activities that are directly impacted by climate change (IPCC, 2014). Additionally, children are at increased risk of malnutrition, disease, and mortality due to the effects of climate change on their health and well-being (FAO, 2016). In some African countries, climate change has also led to conflicts over resources, resulting in the displacement of communities.

Supporting communities most impacted by the effects of climate change in Africa requires a comprehensive approach that addresses their diverse needs and challenges. This approach should include measures such as enhancing access to

finance and technology, building resilience through climate-smart agriculture and water management, promoting renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure, and strengthening social protection programs (Mawere & Nhemachena, 2018). For example, providing smallholder farmers with access to finance, extension services, and climate-smart technologies can enhance their productivity and resilience to climate change. Additionally, promoting renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure can reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and promote sustainable economic growth (Yanda & Abebe, 2020). For example, the use of solar-powered water pumps can help communities access clean water in areas with water scarcity. Philanthropic organizations can also play a vital role in supporting communities most impacted by climate change by providing resources and technical assistance. For example, the Rockefeller Foundation has supported the development of drought-resistant crops in Africa, while the Gates Foundation has invested in renewable energy projects.

Innovative solutions to supporting communities most impacted by the effects of climate change in Africa include the use of mobile technology, blockchain, and artificial intelligence. For example, mobile technology can be used to provide farmers with real-time weather information, market prices, and access to finance. Blockchain technology can be used to enhance transparency and accountability in climate finance and carbon markets. Artificial intelligence can be used to develop predictive models for climate change impacts, assess risks, and inform decision-making. These solutions can enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Lastly, “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.” Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity, and its effects are felt worldwide.

Seven of the ten countries most affected by climate change are in Africa. While the world’s largest emitters of greenhouse gases bear the greatest responsibility for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change, African philanthropy has a significant role to play in ensuring the earth we borrowed is returned intact. Traditionally, philanthropy in Africa was communal, based on the principle of Ubuntu, which emphasises the interconnectedness of all people. Today, African philanthropists are increasingly focusing on environmental issues and are driven to give back more than ever, so as to return the borrowed earth of our children. This isn’t possible without acting against the devastating effects of climate change instantly.



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AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY PRACTICE IN THE AGE OF ONGOING CLIMATE CHANGE

Written by Onwuka Chiemelie

Nigeria

Climate Change in Africa : A Tale of Stray Bullets

On the 21st of July 2022, a young student identified as Sadiat was hit and killed by a stray bullet from the Nigerian police force while they were in hot pursuit of a wanted cultist in Ogun state[1]. Now, while this story may have nothing to do with climate change and its devastating effects, it may not be too far from context to perhaps identify Africa as Sadiat, who, being neither police nor cultist, save for her presence in that location, paid for a cause she had little knowledge about.

Yuval Noah Harari stated in his book 21 Lessons for the 21st Century that “when it comes to climate, countries are not sovereign. They are at the mercy of actions taken by people on the other side of the planet.”[2] Africa at present proves the validity of this statement. With a total of 3.8% global carbon emissions[3] as a continent compared to 27%[4] from China, a single country, one may find it difficult to deny the negligibility of Africa’s contribution to climate change. Yet, she seems to be the sole offender as she has received, and going by predictions, will continue receiving bumper harvests of the adverse and deleterious effects of climate change if the trend continues as it is.

It is also of no doubt that on climate change issues, African philanthropy has helped us keep our head above the waters-- as seen in the provision of relief materials and shelters on the occasion of flooding, droughts, cyclones, and others—but only just. This study seeks to not only enable African philanthropy to give respite on the issue of climate change but, if possible, provide sustainable solutions to aid Africa in navigating her way through the turbulent and perilous seas of climate change.

A Disturbing Picture:

Africa has had its share of destabilizing mishaps. From violent conflicts and wrangling economic, food, and health crises to a somewhat strange consistency in churning out successive corrupt governments that tend to exacerbate rather than abate her disturbing challenges. Presently, a fresh contender has made it to the ring for a fight Africa seems to be too worn out for; climate change. The deleterious effects of climate change on Africa can be described as nothing short of crippling. To begin with, the humanitarian crisis in the aftermath of climate-related disasters is quite appalling, with events like the flood in Nigeria and cyclone Idai affecting over a million[5] and 3 million[6] people, respectively, to mention a few.

In addition to these incidences, mortality rates are overwhelming as well, as nearly 50,000 individuals were presumed to have lost their lives to the drought that has plagued Somalia for over four years, with 50% of them believed to be children under five. Also, since Somalia has been identified as a terrorist hotspot, the US government is quite strict with rules on providing philanthropic aid to the region for fear of terrorist groups getting their hands on the relief funds[7]. Moreover, these events have served as precursors to a myriad of health challenges that have recently troubled Africa with outbreaks of diseases like cholera, diarrhoea, anthrax, meningitis and yellow fever on the rise.

Furthermore, for a continent that is more technologically relegated than her contemporaries with a poorer population than the rest of the world, and an economy heavily dependent on agriculture, climate change may soon tow along proverbial lines to become the last straw that breaks the camel's back. Increasing temperatures have decreased agricultural productivity by 34% since 1961, far more than any other region in the world. Maize yield is expected to decline by 9% in West Africa and northern and southern Africa may witness a decline in wheat production by up to 20-60% [8]. These would further lend wheels to the already growing food insecurities in the region.

In addition, it has hampered and even reversed the progress made in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa, most especially the commitment to end zero hunger and malnutrition by 2023 (SDG 2) and the realization of healthy life targets (SDG 3)[9]. Climate change seems to have joined a long list of life's dilemmas as its trends, adverse effects and hazards are quite unpredictable. It also does not affect those directly responsible, instead, its repercussions are distributed randomly and unevenly and more so, to unsuspecting, less responsible and ill-equipped regions.

In these dark and trying enclaves of climate change, the candle of philanthropy in Africa seems to burn brightest. Individual philanthropic acts—a hallmark of African living—were prominent as people provided the basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to victims of climate-related disasters that had lost all. Institutions like churches and mosques also played a significant role in housing and feeding the victims of flooding in Nigeria. Similar activities were also encountered across Africa, such as the actions of the Islamic Relief in Mozambique in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai[10]. International bodies also did their part, including the SEDRP[11] project in Somalia and many other projects scattered across Africa by other philanthropic institutions.

However, with all due respect to candour, most of these benevolent acts can only provide temporary respite from climate-related disasters since they are usually rendered in the aftermath of a climate-related disaster. It would be extremely beneficial to harness and channel philanthropic activities into creating an environment well-structured to adapt to, manage, and, when possible, prevent climate change effects on the African continent.

Targeting Philanthropy for Strategic and Sustainable Development:

There is a need to harness philanthropy to mitigate the effects of climate change in Africa. A measured, strategic, and persistent approach is required to duly combat this menace.

To begin with, early warning technology should take precedence in providing lasting solutions to climate change. According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), household surveys carried out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) discovered that developing and broadening access to early warning systems by simple methods such as text or voice messages has the potential to reduce the threat of food insecurity by over 30%[12]. The United

Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), has made appreciable steps in achieving this goal with the establishment of a Climate risk and early warning systems (CREWS) initiative, active in countries like Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia; and the Risk-informed early action partnership (REAP)[13]. These initiatives work in synergy with national and regional governments to improve infrastructure for early warning technology together with anticipatory actions by philanthropic organisations. However, coverage across Africa is currently estimated to be at 40% and even the ones available are plagued by poor quality and maintenance problems[14]. Collaborative efforts between national governments and humanitarian organisations are necessary to facilitate funding of this initiative and increase the reach of early warning systems across Africa. Furthermore, this collaboration would further improve protocols and resources for anticipatory actions to facilitate swift and effective interventions in the wake of climate change disasters.

There would be no better way to preserve and increase agricultural production in Africa than the adoption of climate- smart agriculture (CSA). CSA aims to increase production, adapt to climate change effects and while doing so, mitigate greenhouse emissions as keeping to the Paris Agreement. A myriad of initiatives have been birthed across Africa in collaboration with the World Bank to implement CSA. The Morocco Green Generation Program-for- results is achieving CSA by increasing precision agriculture and the participation of its young population in agriculture and the country's economy. The West Africa agricultural productivity program (WAAP), develops and distributes climate-smart breeds of staple crops such as rice, and technologies like smart water harvesting systems, improving food security for about 50 million people [15]. While these efforts are laudable, they are not sufficient. Training more farmers on CSA, especially smallholder farmers is of great importance. Philanthropic organisations can assist by funding and providing training to

achieve this goal. Collaboration with the national governments would help with bureaucratic and policy reforms that would enable swifter implementation of CSA across Africa.

With Africa needing about \$4 trillion [16] to combat climate change and its effects, it needs to make efforts to improve its financial channels. Philanthropic organisations can educate African businesses on novel opportunities such as those that were discussed under the African continental free trade area (AfCFTA). This would enable them to harness the opportunities the AfCFTA provides to handle the effects of climate-related disasters and benefit the economy of Africa. Furthermore, South Africa being the only country implementing carbon taxing in Africa does not bode well for a continent grappling with climate change challenges [17]. More African countries should be encouraged to implement carbon taxation on carbon-emitting companies to further generate funds for combating climate change effects in Africa. In addition, philanthropic organisations can work with financial institutions to provide and increase the accessibility of soft loans for small and micro businesses affected by climate change; and since these businesses control a major percentage of Africa's economy, this move will positively affect the economic fabric of the continent.

The need for adequate infrastructure for combating climate change in Africa cannot be overemphasized. For instance, the economic and flood-preventing potential of the uncompleted Dasin Hausa dam in Adamawa state, Nigeria, is an open secret. It was proposed as a sister project to the Lagdo dam in Cameroun, to contain the water released from the Lagdo dam while providing 300 megawatts of electricity for the country. The Nigerian government have, however, dragged its feet on its completion, putting its citizens in locations such as Kogi and Jigawa in jeopardy[18]. an open secret. It was proposed as a sister project to the Lagdo dam in Cameroun, to contain the water released from

the Lagdo dam while providing 300 megawatts of electricity for the country. The Nigerian government have, however, dragged its feet on its completion, putting its citizens in locations such as Kogi and Jigawa in jeopardy[18]. Philanthropic organisations need to collaborate with institutions such as the Program for infrastructure development in Africa (PIDA) to galvanize the Nigerian government to honour her end of the agreement and complete the construction of the dam. On the other side of the continent, governments of cities such as Cape Town, Durban and Mombasa are making efforts to incorporate grey and green infrastructure to combat flooding in their regions[19]. Inasmuch as this project seems to be in its latent stage, other African governments should endeavour to emulate it for the preservation of the life, properties and economy of their citizens.

Conclusion:

Professor Petteri Taalas, secretary general of the World Meteorological Organization, rightly inferred that “Although climate change is a global phenomenon, its impacts are felt at the regional and local levels, and it is at these levels where actions to adapt to it and mitigate its effects are required.”[20] Philanthropy has shown the tenacity to go as low and as deep as required to take the actions that will mitigate the effects of climate change in Africa. It is of great importance that we make the most of it.



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AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY PRACTICE IN THE AGE OF ONGOING CLIMATE CHANGE

Written by Adekunle Olajide

Nigeria

African philanthropy is characterised by diverse mechanisms for distribution and accountability that reflect its commitment to communal giving. For example, Harambee in Kenya means "all pull together", and it has become synonymous with the practice of communal giving in Kenya[1]

Similarly, Susu, also known as Tontine, Ajo, and Adaj in various parts of West Africa, embodies the value of cooperation and trust among community members who pool their resources to achieve common goals like starting a business, buying property, or paying for education or healthcare expenses[2]. In South Africa, "Stokvel" promotes financial stability and security among its members through regular saving and investment[3].

African philanthropy also includes modern forms of philanthropy such as corporate social responsibility, impact investing, and diaspora giving[4]. However, Giving in African societies is not merely an act of kindness; it is a moral obligation, a social responsibility, and a demonstration of our humanity. Communal giving and philanthropy are deeply rooted in the philosophy of African culture, extending beyond individual charity. It is based on the belief

that communities should support one another and share resources to achieve collective well-being[5].

This tradition is particularly important as we Africans face disproportionate impacts from climate change that threatens our livelihood and survival. As the climate crisis continues to worsen, there is a pressing need to elevate the practices of African philanthropy and harness the potential of African youth to drive transformative change.

Climate change affects food security, water availability, health, and livelihoods, which has disproportionately impacted vulnerable groups like women and children. To protect and preserve African communities, it will require our collective efforts as Africans. By this, we mean engaging in *philanthropy for Africa and by Africans*.

Through a coordinated and accountable approach, African philanthropy can create a sustainable future for the continent and inspire a new generation of philanthropists to continue this rich tradition and make a positive impact on their communities. This is the driving purpose behind my essay.

Unravelling the Puzzle of Climate Change Injustice in Africa, Piece by Piece:

Climate change is an existential threat, and Africa, a continent rich in culture, history, and natural resources, is facing devastating impacts from climate change, despite contributing only 2%-3% of global greenhouse emissions. Greenpeace's recent report titled "Weathering the Storm: Extreme weather events and climate change in Africa," highlights the immediate and real consequences of climate change on the continent, including longer and more severe heatwaves, unpredictable rainfall, droughts, and the extinction of indigenous species. These impacts are leading to food insecurity, water scarcity, conflicts over resources, and health issues[6].

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has detailed how excessive rainfall over desert regions in Kenya has led to the worst locust swarms in 70 years and prolonged periods of high temperatures causing heat-related health issues and fatalities[7].

Communities in arid and semi-arid regions, coastal areas, and low-lying regions prone to flooding are particularly affected by climate change. Mozambique experienced two severe tropical cyclones, Idai and Eloise, within a span of two years (2019 and 2021), causing extensive damage to infrastructure, homes, and livelihoods[8]. Flash floods in the Central African Republic in 2019 affected thousands of people, causing severe damage to homes, infrastructure, and crops[9]. Kenya also faced a massive locust infestation in 2020, causing significant damage to crops and food security[10].

Additionally, pastoralist communities in Mali, Niger, and the Maasai community in Kenya and Tanzania have suffered from food insecurity and poverty due to droughts[11]. According to the United Nations, over 50 million people in Africa face food insecurity due to climate change, and this number is expected to rise

in the coming years[12].

The Lake Chad region in West Africa has been experiencing a prolonged drought since the 1970s, leading to conflicts over water resources, loss of fisheries, and displacement of communities. Climate change is affecting Ethiopia's coffee production, which is a vital source of income for millions of small-scale farmers, while South Africa is experiencing more frequent and severe heatwaves, affecting public health and increasing the risk of wildfires. The city of Cape Town experienced a severe drought in 2018, leading to water scarcity and rationing. The 2019-2020 drought in Zimbabwe caused crop failure, leading to an estimated 5.5 million people requiring food aid[13].

Small-scale farmers in Kenya are particularly vulnerable to unpredictable weather patterns caused by climate change, with billions of dollars in damages occurring each year. The use of fossil fuels is accelerating climate change in Africa, leading to a predicted increase of 3°C to 6°C in temperature by the end of the century. These effects are projected to result in a 30% decrease in food harvests in some parts of the continent over the next decade, with some areas already experiencing temperatures above the 1.5°C global benchmark[14].

The situation is dire, and immediate action is required to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change in Africa. African world must take climate action to ensure a sustainable future for the continent and its people.

Assembling the Climate Puzzle: Solutions for a Sustainable Africa:

Unlocking Africa's climate resilience potential hinges upon the pivotal role of national and regional policies. Across the continent, a multitude of African nations have rallied behind visionary strategies and action plans focused on low-carbon development and

climate resilience; a prime illustration is Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan[15].

At the regional level, the African Union's Agenda 2063[16] and the African Renewable Energy Initiative[17] promote sustainable development and address climate change impacts.

Internationally, African countries participate in global efforts through agreements like the Paris Agreement, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming[18]. However, challenges such as limited resources, institutional capacity, and coordination hinder the effectiveness of these policies.

The impact of climate change is profoundly affecting Africa, where droughts, floods, and extreme weather patterns are exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. Philanthropic organizations and individuals are stepping up to address the challenges posed by climate change on the continent.

One promising approach is to implement climate-smart agricultural practices, which can include using drought-resistant crops and improving irrigation systems, to help farmers adjust to changing weather patterns.

Another viable solution is to invest in renewable energy projects, such as solar power and hydropower, to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and decrease carbon emissions. Equipping communities with climate information services and promoting sustainable water management practices can also help alleviate the challenges of climate change.

Moreover, nature-based solutions, like reforestation and soil conservation, can aid in mitigating the impacts of climate change while promoting biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration. Technology is also playing a crucial role in

addressing climate change, as seen in the Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC)[19] and the use of blockchain technology to track transactions and ensure proper fund utilization.

Collaboration between local and international organizations is fundamental in mobilizing African communities to adapt to climate change. This includes supporting education and training, promoting gender equality, and ensuring that vulnerable populations are included in decision-making processes.

Overall, supporting communities most impacted by the effects of climate change will require a combination of innovative technological solutions and a comprehensive approach that addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by these communities.

The Potential of the African Youth as the Key Piece in Climate Change Responses:

The vibrant and energetic African youth represent a powerful force in the fight against climate change on the continent. Their active participation in philanthropic efforts is crucial for the long-term sustainability of these endeavours. With approximately 60% of Africa's population under the age of 25, the youth demographic holds immense potential for innovative and creative contributions to address climate change[20].

African youth are already leading the way in tackling climate change within their communities. Noteworthy examples include the "Greening Schools for Sustainable Communities" initiative, a collaboration between the African Union, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other stakeholders[21]. This initiative aims to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices in schools across Africa. African youth have played a pivotal role in its implementation through activities

like tree planting, waste management, and the formation of eco-clubs.

The "Youth Climate Movement" in Nigeria, founded in 2019 by a group of young activists, stands as a prime example of youth-driven climate advocacy[22]. This movement raises awareness about climate change and advocates for policy changes in Nigeria. Through protests, social media campaigns, and public awareness events, they emphasize the urgency of addressing climate change and inspire action among their peers and the wider community.

African youth are making remarkable contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation through entrepreneurial ventures. For instance, the "African Clean Energy (ACE)"[23] company was established by a group of young entrepreneurs in Lesotho. ACE produces affordable clean energy products such as solar-powered cookstoves and lighting systems, addressing energy poverty in rural areas. Such initiatives contribute to sustainable energy use and showcase the innovative potential of African youth.

Involving African youth in philanthropic efforts to address climate change is paramount for long-term sustainability. Their potential and innovative contributions must be harnessed to ensure a sustainable future for the continent. To overcome challenges such as limited access to funding, institutional support, and representation, it is crucial to prioritize the inclusion of African youth. Initiatives like the "African Youth Climate Hub," launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) [24], provide a platform for youth engagement in climate action and support youth-led initiatives.

By empowering African youth and incorporating their voices in decision-making processes, philanthropic organizations can drive meaningful social change and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the continent.

Final Thoughts:

Africa's climate crisis knows no bounds, yet hope blossoms within the untapped potential of its youth. Philanthropy serves as the catalyst, igniting their innovative spirit, surmounting obstacles, and fostering unity. Technological marvels stand tall as beacons, illuminating the path towards impactful solutions.

Together, let philanthropy mould a brighter future, while Africa's youth shape a legacy of sustainability. Collaboration between philanthropic organizations, governments, and stakeholders is an undeniable imperative, it even surpasses our funding and coordination challenges.

Embracing renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate-smart technologies, philanthropy emerges as the vanguard of change. Through strategic endeavours, African philanthropy propels social transformation and curbs the impact of climate change.

Undoubtedly, unwavering support for the African youth and their noble endeavours in combating climate change stands as the linchpin in forging a sustainable future for Africa.



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