



YOUNG FUTURE GENDER AMBITION INCLUSIVITY  
CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION COLLABORATION  
GOVERNANCE COORDINATION PARTICIPATION  
INTERSECTIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ACCOUNTABILITY

# Youth Climate Champions Programme

Empowering the youth as drivers of change

## CLIMATE AMBITION TO ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT



Co-funded by the European Union



# Climate Ambition to Accountability Project

- A partnership between WWF South Africa, the South African Climate Action Network (SACAN) and the Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ)
- co-funded by the European Union
- 4-year project: 2021 – 2025
  
- *It aims to empower youth and civil society organisations to engage in climate policy.*
- *Mainstream cross-cutting issues in national climate policy – human rights, gender equality, climate equity and economic justice*





# Why Youth Climate Champions Programme

- Youth in SA operates at the margins of climate-policy processes
- Youth engagement has been largely fragmented
- Lack of access to climate policy processes
- Limited access to resources, knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- It was our future at risk





# Youth Climate Champions Programme

## Objectives

- Empower a cohort of youth climate champions to engage strongly with climate action and in climate policy processes.
- Capacitating the next generation of climate activists and policy advocates through a range of activities which motivates future involvement.
- Provide knowledge, training, mentorship and access to policy participation that is empowering of, and co-designed with, youth themselves.

## Target

- 18 – 35 years
- Youth interested in climate change

## Outcome

- A cohort of well-capacitated youth climate activists
- Strong youth engagement with climate policy processes and implementation.



 LIVE



**Khulekani  
Magwaza**

SAYCCC



**Michelle  
Mhaka**

AFRICAN CLIMATE  
ALLIANCE



**Bulelwa  
Ngewana**

OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS FOR SA



**Crispian  
Olver**

PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE  
COMMISSION



**CLIMATE AMBITION TO  
ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT**



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Play (k)

**Youth Climate Champions Launch: Beyond Youth Tokenism**



0:03 / 2:28:25



Youth Climate Champions Launch: Beyond Youth Tokenism



# Youth Climate Champions Steering Committee

- Steering committee is made up of South African youth with experience in climate action and youth mobilizing.
- The YCC Steering Committee will provide guidance advise direction on the YCC programme
- Ensure we don't duplicate existing efforts
- Ensure relevance of our work to South African Youth
- Ensure we are adding value to the South African Youth Climate Action Movement





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# Youth Climate Champions Podcast

- Podcast on climate policy in South Africa hosted by youth.
- A total of 24 episodes in years 2 and 3
- Season 1 is out
- Season 2 greatly being planned – COP27





## Youth Climate Bootcamp

- To empower and train youth leaders, particularly those from low-income communities in order to ensure youth engagement in climate action and policy processes.
- 75% from low-income communities, maintain gender balance and ensure 50/50 split between youth already involved in organisations and youth that apply independently
- Social media training
- Host “Youth Parliaments” as part of the climate bootcamp.
  - Role-play exercise, understanding of national policy process.

## LOOK: WWF South Africa hosts successful Youth Climate Champions Boot Camp



Picture: WWF South Africa

Published Oct 19, 2022





## Youth Climate Internship

- Employ Six youth champions internships within applicant organisations
- Internships to provide work experience and mentorship within the host organisations to build future climate activists and analysts





# Youth Engagement with Presidential Climate Commission

- Since the launch of the YCC Programme we have been engaging with Presidential Climate Commission
  - Two learning session held in partnership with the PCC
  - Youth consultation on the JETP. The dialogue was aimed at unpacking the initial proposed interventions of the JETP, provide progress update and solicit views on JETP Investment plan, as guided by the recently adopted Just Transition Framework.
  - Supporting youth delegates to attend COP27
  - Other plans in the pipeline

The PCC invites South African Youth to a Learning Network Webinar on the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)

## “Towards a just and inclusive Investment Plan”



As part of our continuing dialogue and building a social compact for the Just Transition, The PCC invites you to a Learning Network Webinar on the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP).

The Workshop will address the emissions trajectory and its implications for JETP, the just transition and how it should be financed, and the conditionalities and financing issues related to the JETP.

**3 August 2022 - Wednesday**  
Time: 2PM CAT

Perspectives and insights on the basics of climate finance and investment mobilisation.



**JUST ENERGY TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP**

## YOUTH CONSULTATION

Live on Zoom and Facebook  
Wednesday 10 August 2022  
15h00 - 17h00  
Register here: [bit.ly/JETP\\_Youth\\_Consult](https://bit.ly/JETP_Youth_Consult)




**JUST ENERGY TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP**

## YOUTH CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION

Live on Zoom and Facebook  
Monday, 12 September 2022  
15h00 - 17h00  
Register here: [https://bit.ly/JETP\\_YOUTH\\_CAPACITY\\_BUILDING](https://bit.ly/JETP_YOUTH_CAPACITY_BUILDING)





# Energy Transition is inevitable. Justice is not.

- The energy transition must be just and equitable; redressing past harms and creating new relationships of power for the future through reparations.
- Must enhance decent work opportunities, with a strong focus on localisation, innovation, and development in the context of South Africa's history.
- Social inclusion, and the eradication of poverty.
- It needs to prioritise skills development and education (both basic and higher) to equip school leavers for the jobs of the future.
- Energy Transition must be at the heart of meeting the Paris Agreement goals – reduce carbon emissions





# Just Energy Transition concerns

- Income losses
- Community Displacement
- Loss of revenue for towns/cities
- Energy Security
- Energy equity – will it available, accessible, affordable for everyone?
- Climate Change





## Nothing about us, without us

- Youth engagements should include all youth (rural communities, urban areas, informal settlements and communities immediately at-risk in the transition)
- Consult youth meaningfully
- Youth should play a central role in innovation and implementation, developing sustainable solutions, establishing national centres of excellence, and training centres for renewable energy jobs.
- Capacity building of youth to ensure broad buy-in to the transition
- Youth want a seat at the table and to be part of the discussions with other social partners
- Be part of implementation.



# THANK YOU

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