



Accelerating Youth Action Towards Africa's Greener Future



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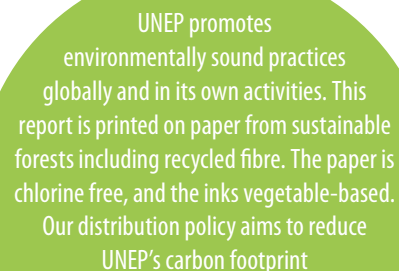
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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABET	Adult Basic Education and Training
AEETAP	Africa Environmental Education and Training Action Plan
AEO	Africa Environment Outlook
AU	African Union
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AYEN	Africa Youth Environment Network
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
EE	Environmental Education
EETU	Environmental Education and Training Unit
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GUPES	Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MTS	Medium Term Strategy
MESA	Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities
ODA	Official Development Assistance
QA	Quality Assurance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Training
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WEEC	World Environmental Education Congress

Foreword



With almost 200 million people aged between 15 and 24 representing 20% of the population, Africa has the fastest-growing and most youthful population in the world as chronicled in various reports. It is generally estimated that over 40% are under the age of 15. The number of young people in Africa will double by 2045 and if this trend continues, the continent's labour force will be 1 billion strong by then, making it the largest in the world.

This Africa's youth population is not only growing rapidly, it is also getting better educated. It is estimated that 59% of 20-24 year olds will have had secondary education in 2030, compared to 42% today. But this African youth is less employed than their parents. Many African young people are neither employed, nor studying, nor looking

for a job eventually. Due to their sheer numbers, these young people have the potential to nurture Africa's sustainability quest. But if we fail to create sufficient economic and employment opportunities to support decent living conditions for this important group, our youth can present a significant risk to social cohesion and political stability.

Africa has become an important player within the global economic system, and continues to record strong economic growth despite the weakened global economic environment with six of the world's ten fastest-growing economies located in Africa. But this economic growth has been non-inclusive.

How do we ensure that Africa benefits from the swiftly increasing reservoir of human capital? How committed are we as policy makers to listening to and including our most precious resource in policy decisions? And how committed are Africa's youth to unleash their creativity and capacity so that it can be harnessed and channelled towards the productive sectors of the sustainable development?

These are some of the key issues that prompted the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to position the youth as a priority in its agenda, in line with its constitutional mandate to strengthen the participation of youth in sustainable development activities.

The participation by young people in sustainable development is the foundation of Africa's greener future, and a vibrant factor of its successes today. This is why the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which serves as the secretariat to AMCEN has developed and is implementing its Tunza strategy in Africa, that seeks to enhance, inspire and enable the involvement of children and young people in environmental activities, with a vision to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens and leaders, capable of positive action to promote sustainable development.

In fully endorsing the outcomes of the International Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), concerning the children and the youth, African ministers of the environment commit to active involvement of young people in decision-making processes as the issues we are addressing have a deep impact on present and future generations.

The post 2015 development agenda gives us a momentum to reset the policy agenda of our governments towards an inclusive, employment-creation and sustainable growth strategy that would address the special needs of our young people.

This publication which casts an eye on the past in order to draw vital lessons that inform the way forward lays out a roadmap that will accelerate youth action towards Africa's greener future is meant to guide us on this journey.

Hon. Dr. Binilith S. Mahenge,
President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,
and Minister of State–Environment, Tanzania

Mounkaila Goumandakoye,
Director & Regional Representative,
Regional Office for Africa (ROA)

Executive Summary



This paper retraces the path that UNEP has travelled in its dealings with African youth. The paper casts an eye on the past in order to draw vital lessons that inform the way forward. It discusses and lays out a roadmap that will accelerate youth action towards Africa's greener future. The roadmap uses the core competencies and attributes of African youth, which include: high demographics, enthusiasm, technological savvy and professionalism.

The post-2015 agenda presents a new set of opportunities for African youth to seize so that they can play a decisive role in Africa's quest for sustainable development and poverty eradication. These opportunities are discussed within the context of a green economy that will inform and catalyse youth action.

Green economy underpins the post-2015 agenda and is therefore a mainstay of this paper. Proposed strategies for accelerating youth action are consequently anchored in green economy. This is in line with UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for 2014 – 2017, which directs that green economy should be integrated into all Subprogrammes. In addition, UNEP's Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues ranked green economy as the second most critical issue of our times.¹

The paper further illustrates how youth action towards Africa's greener future can be further accelerated through a tripartite approach that will activate, train and equip.

Activation will trigger the latent energies in already existing youth initiatives and channel them towards green economy projects that will contribute to a greener Africa. TunzAfrika¹ is in essence an activation platform for youth networks and organizations in Africa to nurture sustainability on the continent and eradicate poverty.

As the global voice and leader of the environment, UNEP has a myriad of invaluable environmental initiatives and publications that address wide-ranging sustainability issues. This rich experience will inform TunzAfrika's initiatives. In this regard, TunzAfrika will not reinvent the wheel but will draw insights from UNEP's extensive environmental experience. It will also be a distribution framework for UNEP's publications as this will enhance informed lobbying of policymakers and informed local level action.

Activation assists youth to be action-oriented in working towards a greener Africa. This matters because regional youth

action in Africa has traditionally centred on lobbying other third parties to take action. This paper discusses a strategic shift that will activate youth to take action towards a greener Africa; an approach that heeds Mahatma Gandhi's call to 'be the change you want to see in the world.'

As used in this paper, training refers to targeted impartation of requisite sustainability skills and not generic education. This can be done through education for sustainable development coursework in institutions of higher learning or through customized forums, like workshops and on-the-job training.

The Rio+20 Outcome placed a strong emphasis on training. It called on the international community to 'enhance international cooperation in support of capacity-building and training programmes.' It also resolved to 'enhance agricultural research, extension services, training and education to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability.' In addition, the Outcome document encouraged 'extension training programmes and scientific studies and initiatives aimed at deepening understanding and raising awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of sustainable land management policies and practices.'

Training is therefore a cornerstone of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and needs to be part of UNEP's work with African youth. UNEP's Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues also found that a green economy cannot be realized unless human capabilities are transformed. Training is indeed a critical platform of transforming human capabilities.

As regards equipping, this paper proposes equipping African youth with tangible tools that will help them to tap into the green economy and pursue sustainable development. In the spirit of UNEP's results-based management, these tools should enhance activities that lead to concrete deliverables. In this regard, each section in this paper contains a 'Takeaway' segment that spells out sustainability opportunities for youth and the tools needed to tap into those opportunities.

Tied closely to the whole notion of equipping youth, the paper proposes to set up a Green Africa Youth Fund. This fund will be used to provide financial, material or technical resources for equipping youth with tangible tools that will enable them to popularize and utilize a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Annexed to this paper are innovative recommendations on the methods, mechanisms and actions that can be taken to enhance strategic youth action towards a greener Africa that prospers through sustainability.

¹ TunzAfrika was founded in 2013 and is UNEP's multi-tier platform for engaging African youth.

Introduction



Africa is the most youthful continent. Seven out of ten Africans are aged below 35 years. At least 200 million of these are between 15 and 24 years of age. By 2020, it is projected that three out of four Africans will average 20 years old. Due to their sheer demographic size, these young people will either nourish or decimate Africa's sustainability quest.

Great ideas are produced by people who are linked to one another.ⁱⁱ For more than a decade, UNEP's Tunza Programme² facilitated networking among African youth and with youth from around the world. This networking resulted in great ideas that informed a variety of environmental youth initiatives across the continent.

Tunza's early years were mainly fuelled by the Global Tunza International Youth Conferences that took place every biennium. During these conferences, young people elected Regional Advisors from each of UNEP's six sub-regions to the Tunza Youth Advisory Council. However, this representation did not always translate into effective youth mobilization and action on the ground. This was partly because of communication breakdowns between elected advisors and the youth constituents they represented.

Nevertheless, the upshot of this individual representation lay in the competitive manner in which the regional advisors were elected during global Tunza youth conferences. For two years, elected Tunza Youth advisors gained invaluable experience and exposure that catapulted many of them to environment-related studies, careers and leadership positions.

Subsequent transitions of Tunza's network in Africa were both strategic and tactical. The Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) for youth project mobilized youth action through integrated environmental assessment. This project was succeeded by Africa Youth Environment Network (AYEN) which replicated the Tunza Global Network at the regional African level. This enabled it to focus more on African issues and initiatives. AYEN was later succeeded by TunzAfrika which has positioned itself as an action platform with a vision of national chapters in every African country.

This metamorphosis of Tunza's Africa initiatives bears testimony to the challenges and opportunities of regional youth action. Substantive youth participation will have to be drastically scaled up so that youth can play a key role in the post-2015 agenda.

At the heart of Africa's envisioned greener future is the green economy. African youth action must therefore shift from activism-oriented to green economy-centred. This will require strategic youth action in natural capital components like agriculture, fisheries, water and forests. Also critical are the sustainability strongholds of renewable energy as well as resource efficiency, and their potentials to drive greener; manufacturing, cities, waste, buildings, transport and tourism.

The post-2015 agenda will present a new context and set of imperatives for African youth action. Although the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were the most successful global anti-poverty push in history,ⁱⁱⁱ they also had shortcomings that the proposed SDGs will seek to address decisively. Similarly, African youth and their partners must learn from previous shortcomings even as they build on their strengths.

Indeed, youth need to anchor themselves in the three basic interlinkages that underpin the cohesiveness of the SDGs and are likely to be used as a 'filter' to assess the completeness and robustness of the future goals, targets and indicators. These interlinkages are: Leave no one behind and provide a life of dignity for all; Achieve greater prosperity in an inclusive manner within the capacity of the earth's life support system; Increase capital to achieve greater resilience and secure future generations' livelihoods.

As the MDGs come to an end in 2015, African youth are reinventing their environmental strategy and initiatives. This reinvention is rooted in UNEP's Tunza Youth Strategy and takes cue from UNEP's 2014-2017 Medium Term Strategy. It also draws insights from other key documents including the Rio+20 Outcome and '21 Issues for the 21st Century,' which is the outcome of UNEP's Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues.

The reinvention coalesces into eleven concrete and innovative recommendations that are contained in the annex.

² Tunza is UNEP's programme for children and youth, aimed at creating environmental awareness, building capacity and youth participation in decision-making processes.

A man and a woman are smiling and holding a large, leafy green plant in a wooden basket. They are standing in a field with other trees and plants in the background. The man is wearing a dark blue jacket and light-colored pants, while the woman is wearing a yellow polo shirt and dark pants. The text "UNEP Youth Work in Africa" is overlaid on the image in blue with a white outline.

UNEP Youth Work in Africa

Tunza

Tunza is UNEP's programme for children and youth, aimed at creating environmental awareness, building capacity and youth participation in decision-making processes.

UNEP launched the Tunza Youth Strategy in 2003. For the rest of the decade, UNEP implemented this strategy and further revitalized youth environmental action across Africa and elsewhere in the world. Every biennium, UNEP organizes Tunza International Youth Conferences that keep the sustainable development discourse among young people alive. These conferences provide a platform for youth to converge, network, learn, brainstorm and issue conference declarations.

Tunza conferences give African youth a chance to interact with fellow environmental youth leaders from all over the world and discuss pertinent issues like: sustainable consumption and production; climate change; technological input into environmental issues; social impacts of environmental degradation and regional distribution of environmental threats on vulnerable communities.

The conferences play a pivotal role in mobilizing youth towards environmental action while providing a regional support structure for such action. Lobbying decision-makers is central to this action.

The climax of Tunza conferences is the election of new TUNZA Youth Advisory Council Members, and youth declarations on prevailing environmental issues of the day. Elected Council members advise UNEP on better ways of engaging young people and representing youth in international environmental meetings. Apart from the global event, UNEP also organizes regional and sub-regional conferences for young people in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa.

Tunza Takeaway

Tunza's International Youth Conferences have provided opportunities for hundreds of young environmentalists from all over Africa to network with youth from other parts of the world. TunzAfrika should translate these opportunities into strategic and mutually beneficial youth partnerships that document and learn from global youth best practices.

Africa Environment Outlook for Youth

During UNEP's Global Youth Retreat in 2003, the African youth caucus endorsed the idea of building an integrated environmental assessment youth network. This idea later materialized and resulted in the Africa Environment Outlook for Youth, a youth led project that engaged young people from 41 African countries in authoring a youth version of the first Africa Environment Outlook Report (AEO-1).

During a two-year period, African youth submitted creative features, photos, poems, proverbs and even songs. An editorial team comprised of youth from ten African countries worked with UNEP to compile selected pieces into a publication entitled, 'Africa Environment Outlook for Youth: Our Region, Our Life.' The Report was launched during the eleventh African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) session in Congo Brazzaville in 2006. Youth versions of AEO-2 and AEO-3 were never produced because focus shifted away from this mode of specific youth engagement to more general networking.

Africa Environment Outlook for Youth Takeaway

AEO for Youth had a clear concrete deliverable – the AEO for Youth Publication. This singular focus enabled it to establish National Focal Points in 41 African countries and hold six sub-regional meetings whose end products were hundreds of youth contributions on the State of the Environment in their respective countries. The lesson

from this experience is that youth initiatives need to have specific, concrete deliverables that will then galvanize deliberate and organized youth action.

The transitioning of AEO for Youth into AYEN did not have to result in the demise of the AEO for Youth network. It is therefore critical for TunzAfrika to tap into this dormant AEO for Youth Network and produce youth versions of AEO-3 and other relevant UNEP publications.

Africa Youth Environment Network (AYEN)

Also launched at the eleventh AMCEN session, and inspired by the AEO for Youth project, was AYEN. This initiative was envisioned as a broader network that



would go beyond integrated environmental assessment and deal with diverse environmental issues. Six young people from Africa's six sub-regions were elected to constitute a Regional Advisory Council that provided leadership for the new youth network.

Several months later in November 2006, AYEN members set up the Africa Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC), which was launched during the twelfth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Conceived by Togo's Young Volunteers for Environment one year earlier, AYICC found its momentum after this launch. It has since expanded participation and recognition for African youth in climate change activism globally.

UNEP organized several AYEN conferences that provided opportunities for African youth to interact on Africa-specific issues. The conferences also served as preparatory meetings for the Tunza International Youth Conferences.

AYEN Takeaway

For the six years that AYEN was in existence between 2006 and 2012, it organised meetings for dozens of young people in different parts of Africa. One such meeting was held ahead of the UNFCCC COP 17 in Durban, South Africa. It was jointly organised by UNEP's Tunza



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Programme and Generation Earth, a South African NGO founded by a young South African lady. The meeting exemplified AYEN's achievement – unifying young Africans in a common quest for Africa's sustainability. This intense pan-Africanism should be replicated in the TunzAfrika platform. However, AYEN lacked strategic direction together with concrete deliverables and hence did not fully leverage its pan-African strength into national initiatives.

TunzAfrika

Tunzafrika evolved from AYEN. Unlike AYEN, which had strived to be an umbrella network of youth environmental networks and organizations in Africa, TunzAfrika is a platform for youth organizations and initiatives to converge and synergize. It is a multi-tier platform that will integrate diverse tiers of youth initiatives like Green University Networks. In this regard, it is UNEP's one-stop platform for engaging African youth at different levels and in different ways. TunzAfrika similarly serves as an interface between young people and development partners, plus other public and private sector stakeholders.

UNEP organised the inaugural TunzAfrika meeting, in partnership Togo's Young Volunteers for Environment, and with support from the Government of Togo. During the meeting, which was held in Lomé, Togo in 2013,

young people from 21 African countries elected an interim committee comprised of: two previously elected Tunza Youth Advisors for Africa; one youth representative from each of Africa's geographical sub-regions; and a representative of children and the handicapped.

This committee was mandated to: market TunzAfrika; conduct outreach; represent TunzAfrika at the subsequent AMCEN event; provide editorial coordination for all TunzAfrika documents and organise a General Assembly for the election of a permanent TunzAfrika Committee. Delegates endorsed TunzAfrika as the main and official platform for environmental youth action in Africa.

TunzAfrika Takeaway

As a convergence platform, TunzAfrica will seek to unify environmental youth efforts on the continent. To do this, it needs facilitation to conduct a comprehensive audit of Africa's environmental youth initiatives using the age-old journalistic guideline of '5Ws and How.'

Who is doing what – find out about current and previous youth initiatives in Africa. What is the nature

of these present and past initiatives? What were their activities? When did these activities take place? When were environmental youth organizations active? When did they wither or thrive? Why were they successful or unsuccessful in their respective environmental initiatives? Where were these initiatives? Where were the youth organizations based and where did they work from? How were the initiatives executed? How were the youth organizations led? How was their work financed? How effective or ineffective were the UNEP Africa youth initiatives – Africa Youth Caucus, AEO for Youth and AYEN? What were their respective strengths and weaknesses?

A professional and comprehensive audit based on these '5Ws and How' will help TunzAfrica to gather invaluable data that will be compiled into a database of environmental youth initiatives in Africa. TunzAfrica will use the database to leverage the full strength of youth initiatives in using green economy as a tool of achieving sustainable development and accomplishing poverty eradication.

To be an effective platform of convergence and synergy, TunzAfrica will need adequate financial, material and



technical resources. The proposed Green Africa Youth Fund can be a tool to deliver the necessary financial and material resources. But in order to exploit its full potential, an innovative strategic plan needs to be prepared for TunzAfrika.

Africa Environmental Education and Training Action Plan (AEETAP)

The proposed Africa Environmental Education and Training Action Plan of 2015 – 2025 was a direct response to the AMCEN Arusha Declaration (Sept 2012). It seeks to promote capacity in environmental education and training (EE&T) in Africa through formal education, training, lifelong learning, and capacity building. It will also focus on technology-enhanced learning and information networking.

The collaborative process was initiated by UNEP-AMCEN Secretariat, in partnership with the UNEP Education and Training Unit (EETU) and other stakeholders. It will focus on five regional flagship programs (RFPs) to address poverty and livelihoods and integrate the African partnership for capacity

building and technology transfer. The 5 RFPs are: African Green Economy Partnership; Land degradation, Desertification, Biodiversity and Ecosystems based Adaptation; Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production; Africa Sustainable Energy Development Programme; and Africa Integrated Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Development.

The proposed plan has four priority areas: formal education; training of public sector officials; promotion of technical and vocational education training (TVET) centres; and capacity building, networking and social learning.

AEETAP Takeaway

As an essential education and training platform, the proposed action plan will seek to promote and unify environmental education in AMCEN countries with endorsement from national environment and education ministries. The AEETAP is to be presented to African Ministers during the AMCEN meeting (September 2014) for comments and approval. There is urgent need to: fast-track national green growth in curriculum development and institutional support; contextualize and





develop learning materials with current and projected environmental concerns affecting the continent; ensure quality assurance (QA) systems of environmental education (EE) issues in the relevant disciplines; establish a baseline of EE training needs for stakeholders; develop and implement a African Sustainable Development Leadership Training Programme for key target groups; monitor impacts of EE training programs within communities; enhance the capacity of vulnerable groups; develop and implement regional media education programmes and documentaries; maximize green growth innovative grant opportunities and develop a African Technology Award (South-South cooperation); and develop an e-learning platform with regional hubs within universities across Africa.

Green University Networks

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 2012) affirmed the importance of all levels of education and training to re-orient towards a more sustainable model of development (Agenda 21). Through emphasizing education, training and public awareness, Agenda 21 indicated that all sectors of society should be involved in a lifelong learning process oriented towards sustainable development. The Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES)'s Green University Toolkit

(launched during the Seventh World Environmental Education Congress (WEEEC7) in June 2013, aims at inspiring, encouraging and supporting universities to develop and implement their own transformative strategies for establishing green consumerism, resource-efficient and low carbon campuses as a means of lowering universities carbon footprint through national and regional Greening University Networks. The networks will incorporate environment, low carbon-climate resilience development strategies and sustainability aspects in their education, training, campus operations and management, and student activities. At present, four Greening University Networks are being developed for Kenya, Uganda, Morocco and Western Africa.

Green University Networks Takeaway

The Greening University Networks have four objectives: develop green campuses that will see to the shift to low carbon universities; mainstream green curriculum to engender an environmentally conscious generation; promote green training within and beyond the network; and encourage student engagement through enhanced collaboration among universities locally and internationally on sustainability challenges, solutions and community outreach.

Global and Regional Processes



SDGs/Post-2015 Agenda

The Rio+20 Outcome encouraged all countries 'to consider the implementation of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in a manner that endeavours to drive sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and job creation, particularly for women, youth and the poor.'^{iv}

In this regard, the role of youth in fostering the green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication is a crucial component of the Post-2015 Agenda. The proposed SDGs are a key part of this Agenda. Their integrated approach suits young people well because most problems affecting the youth, like unemployment and poverty, do not occur in isolation.

The poverty trap has been particularly daunting for young people, repeatedly pushing them to practices like unsustainable charcoal harvesting and illegal fishing. In the post-2015 dispensation, African youth will transition from unwitting perpetrators of environmental degradation to custodians of natural capital. Such a changeover will potentially result in sustainability benefits like green jobs. Thus substantive youth participation in the post-2015 sustainability quest will be motivated by the twin benefits of environmental sustainability and human well-being.

Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was largely left out of the MDGs, is proposed to feature prominently in the SDGs, a fact that African youth will embrace as they position themselves to play a substantive role in the SDGs implementation. As Africa's most populous group, young people will use sustainable consumption as a tool of inducing green production. Such immense youth potential for triggering societal change needs to be captured in the SDGs. This will equip youth with legislative ground to unleash the full extent of their potential.

SDGs/POST-2015 Agenda Takeaway

Young people have considerable social capital, which places them on the threshold of playing a defining role in the nurture of natural capital.^v Given young people's demographic dominance, innovation capacities and social capital, SDGs should recognize youth as primary pillars of society, and not just vital members of the Major

Groups. This recognition will enable youth to play an integral part in the quest for sustainable development.

The Rio+20 Outcome expressed 'deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, and note the need for sustainable development strategies to proactively address youth employment at all levels.' As noted, sustainable development must be responsive to the employment needs of youth. Green jobs present a perfect opportunity for this responsiveness and are therefore an agenda that youth will spearhead in the post-2015 agenda.

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

UNEA was one of the epochal outputs of Rio+20. It infused a universal mandate into UNEP's status as the leading authority in setting the global environmental agenda. African youth will play a vital role in this agenda through a well-positioned and strategically inclined TunzAfrika.

The overarching theme of UNEA's first-ever session was 'Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including sustainable consumption and production.' As the continent most vulnerable to environmental change and with the youngest population, the post-2015 development agenda is particularly pertinent to Africa. African Youth were therefore fully represented in UNEA, as part of the major stakeholders that joined the 193 United Nations Member States and Observer States to make decisions on issues that affect the state of the environment and global sustainability.

It is telling that out of the 90 key environmental goals agreed by governments over the past 40 years, only four show significant progress and far too many are off-track and heading in the wrong direction.^{vi} To change this direction, decision-making must be coupled with dedicated implementation, and this is where Africa's youth can play a big role. They have traditionally been active in lobbying policymakers to make the right decisions. UNEA presents them with a new opportunity to devise a follow-up framework of holding policymakers accountable once decisions have been made.



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UNEA Takeaway

UNEA is the only UN General Assembly subsidiary assembly of a United Nations fund or programme. UNEA is the coming of age of the environment as a world issue, as it places environmental concerns on the same footing with those of peace, security, finance, health and trade for the first. The new elevated status of environmental matters needs to be leveraged at national and local levels in Africa to unlock sustainable development.

After contributing to UNEA's decision-making process, African youth should participate in the implementation of arising decisions at the country level. This will mark a departure from previous youth engagement in the then UNEP Governing Council that emphasized youth representation *before* and *during* Governing Councils but not after. Although it is the responsibility of governments to implement policies, citizens have a duty to hold governments accountable concerning the speed, quality and commitment of policy implementation.

The proposed TunzAfrica strategic plan³ will contain elaborate tactical approaches for the post-UNEA follow-up action. TunzAfrica, AEETAP and Green University Network national chapters will be the main pillars of this strategic plan. They will mobilize widespread national

³ A TunzAfrica strategic plan is one of the recommendations contained in this Paper's annex.



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level youth action for governments to implement UNEA decisions. Regionally, TunzAfrica will work closely with AMCEN and the African Union (AU) on a similar quest with AEETAP and Greening University Networks working closely with UNEP-EETU.

Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

AMCEN has been leading environmental governance in Africa since its establishment in 1985. This three-decade experience gives it a central role in environmental governance and sustainable development issues. Part of its mandate is to ensure that basic human needs are met adequately and in a sustainable manner. African youth, through TunzAfrica, should be key partners in the pursuance of this mandate, mainly because as the continent's largest demographic, they stand to gain or lose the most from AMCEN's work.

Substantively engaging youth through TunzAfrica will strengthen AMCEN's participatory decision-making. Such quality youth participation has a long history within the United Nations. Back in 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child stated that participation is a substantive right of all children and young people. Participation helps young people to partake in and sway processes. This participation should

however not just be at the tail end, but from the very inception of processes through to their conclusion.

AMCEN Takeaway

The Lomé Declaration of the first ever TunzAfrika conference seeks official AMCEN recognition of TunzAfrika. The requested recognition should establish a collaboration framework that will clearly spell out the roles of TunzAfrika in furthering AMCEN's mandate, especially in relation to decision-making. Indeed, the absence of youth perspectives in policymaking at all levels has consistently militates against AMCEN's best interests.^{vii}

However, skillful negotiation is the currency of most decision-making processes. It is therefore important for TunzAfrika leaders to be duly trained in skillful negotiation so that they can effectively negotiate for youth interests before, during and after AMCEN sessions. Indeed, young people are part of the solution to the difficulties they face, not merely a problem to be resolved by others.^{viii} AMCEN should therefore use the full weight of its experience, authority and resources to support TunzAfrika.

African Union (AU)

The African Union is 'guided by the common vision of a united and strong Africa and by the need to build a partnership between governments and all segments

of civil society, in particular women, youth and the private sector, in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion among our peoples.' AU seeks to build strong partnerships with the civil society, including the youth. These partners are expected to add value to AU's sustainable development policy and action.

In the post-2015 dispensation, there will be need for vibrant AU partnerships with the civil society; particularly with partners that will contribute strategically to the implementation of the proposed SDGs. TunzAfrika has a regional sustainability mandate, continental presence, proposed AMCEN partnership and UNEP support. It is thus best placed to spearhead sustainability-related youth partnership with the AU. UNEP can further strengthen youth participation in the AU by cultivating partnerships that focus on specific AU departments like the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture.

African Union Takeaway

The proposed SDGs will present a golden opportunity for TunzAfrika to position itself as a key youth partner to the AU. However, TunzAfrika's work with the AU should be directly tied to its proposed partnership with AMCEN. Since AMCEN already has a defined role within the AU, TunzAfrika should primarily seek to add value to this AMCEN role, particularly within the SDG context. This AU platform should therefore be duly captured in the proposed collaboration agreement between AMCEN and TunzAfrika.





**Green Economy
and Youth**



African youth will use the green economy as the main means of fostering sustainable development and leading Africa to a greener future. For the youth, green economy is not a hazy ideological argument but a concrete tool that they can use to usher transformative change into their lives. As a tool of actualizing sustainable development at national and local levels, the green economy is particularly relevant to young people. However, youth efforts need full support from enabling public policies and efficient private investments.

The private sector benefits from the green economy in a variety of ways, including though: more resilient supply chains; increased consumer demand for sustainable goods and services; sales growth and duration of sales; training and job creation; reduced dependency on natural resources and mitigation against the negative financial risk from environmental impacts.^{ix} Youth will therefore engage the private sector in a manner that helps them to meet the triple bottom line and realize green economy benefits.

The principles, practices and case studies of the green economy are prime tools that African youth need to be equipped with through relevant training sessions both online and offline. Comprehension and utilization of green economy will set them firmly on the path of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Fundamentally, green economy will aid them to search for or create green jobs that will empower them economically. In this context, it is proposed for UNEP and other partners to support the young generation of green economy champions across the region through their existing and new programmes.

According to UNEP, the green economy 'results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.' Such a green economy presents a multitude of opportunities for youth action. Because it is low carbon, the green economy will replenish ecosystems; because it is resource efficient, it will ensure sustainability of Africa's resources; because it is socially inclusive, it will guarantee youth a share of any economic gains resulting from ecological replenishment.

The green economy report (UNEP 2011) identifies 10 key sectors considered to be driving the defining trends of the transition to a green economy. Across many of these sectors, greening the economy can generate consistent

and positive outcomes for increased wealth, growth in economic output, decent employment and reduced poverty. The onus is on the youth to find the green economy niche spots in their respective countries and fully capitalise on them. These sectors are listed below:

Green Agriculture

Agriculture accounts for 34 per cent of the GDP of Sub-Saharan African countries and employs about 70 per cent of the population.^x Many young people are smallholders who earn their living from agriculture.

Aware of agriculture's pivotal role, the African Union set aside 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa. Back in 2003, African Heads of State reaffirmed agriculture's importance in the Maputo Declaration when they pledged to implement as a matter of urgency the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). This Programme's overriding goal is to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty through agriculture.

Since then, CAADP has revitalized and catalysed effective agricultural policy in Africa. In Ghana, CAADP gave farmers' associations and private sector federations a seat at the policy table where they contributed formally to policymaking.^{xi} This approach of participative policymaking needs to be integrated into the process of green agriculture policy enactment.

Green agriculture ought to be a key pillar of Africa's green economy because agriculture already plays a huge role in the continent's economy. Green agriculture involves scaling up farming practices that maintain the resource base on which smallholders depend, so that it continues to support food security and rural development into the future. A greener agricultural system should be based on and bring about competitive economic returns, the supply of essential and life-supporting ecosystem services, decent jobs and livelihoods, a smaller ecological footprint, increased resilience to climate change, and enhanced food security.^{xii}

Most of the agricultural practices in the region are predominantly organic, due to their limited dependence on chemical inputs. This makes it more suitable to increase the yield and benefit through the application of sustainable agricultural practices.



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In Western Kenya, Shirombe Self-Help Group has 1,500 members that grow groundnuts in their small farms then pool the nuts and process them into organic peanut butter. Most of these group members are youth. Groups like this need to be part of UNEP's circle of youth engagement through the proposed national chapter of TunzAfrika in Kenya. Similar approaches of identifying and co-opting active youth groups into TunzAfrika should be used in other countries.

Green Agriculture Takeaway

UNEP's Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues ranked 'Challenges for Ensuring Food Safety and Food Security for 9 Billion People,' as a top issue of this century. Green agriculture will play a critical role in meeting these challenges of food safety and food security head-on. Working closely with AMCEN, African youth need to partner with the AU and add value to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). This will give them a regional footing for local level agricultural action. This approach will also give TunzAfrika a strong foothold in the AU.

Fisheries

Fisheries provide employment for over 4 million Africans with an additional 150,000 employed as fish farmers.^{xiii} Most of these 4 million are young people who have inherited the fishery craftsmanship from



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their parents. Unfortunately many have also inherited unsustainable fishing practices that leave them increasingly impoverished.

Factors that negatively impact the livelihoods of fishers include: fluctuating prices both locally and globally; illegal fishing that threatens mid and long-term sustainability of stock; and overfishing that thins popular species. Such are the challenges that can be tackled through greening of the fisheries sector through interventions like rebuilding diminished stocks. The Rio+20 Outcome addressed green fisheries when it reaffirmed 'the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically viable.'

Fisheries Takeaway

In order to address food safety and food security challenges, UNEP seeks to leverage the best available science and cooperate with other UN Agencies. One science frontier in fisheries that can address both food security and green jobs for youth is aquaculture.⁴ As

⁴ FAO defines aquaculture as the farming of aquatic organisms: fish, molluscs, crustaceans, aquatic plants, crocodiles, alligators, turtles, and amphibians. Farming implies some form of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, and protection from predators.

far back as 2005, aquaculture provided 244,435 direct and 342,209 indirect jobs in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the spirit of delivering as One UN, UNEP can partner with FAO to scale up aquaculture amongst African youth, starting with a pilot phase that will adhere to sustainable aquaculture certification guidelines.

Water

Despite being the most basic and vital human need, water continues to be undervalued and misused. It is estimated that by 2030, global demand for water could outstrip supply by over 40 per cent if no changes are made.^{xiv} In light of this, maximising water use efficiency is a challenge that young people need to take up because they are the largest domestic water consumers in Africa.

Water contributes principally to agriculture and the consequent food security. It must therefore be conserved at all costs and used in a sustainable manner. Irrigated land produces about 40 per cent of the world's food. Irrigation is however still quite minimal in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 95 per cent of agriculture is under rain-

fed cultivation. This extreme dependence on rain-fed agriculture has resulted in severe famines whenever rains fail. However, the same rain can be better utilized through low-tech ventures like rainwater harvesting.

Water Takeaway

The Africa Water Vision for 2025 identified youth participation in water issues as one of the ten key challenges. Youth participation can be upscaled through activities that directly impact water conservation and preservation in their communities. Key amongst these activities is rainwater harvesting, an area where UNEP has extensive experience. Youth from severely water scarce areas should be facilitated to harvest rainwater.

At the sub-regional level, there should be strong youth participation in conservation of select transboundary freshwater resources, through activities like data collection. This data will contribute to Integrated Water Resource Management. Africa has more than 50 major watersheds, river basins and lakes whose conservation would benefit from such data.^{xv}



Forests

Forests in Sub-Saharan Africa contribute 6 per cent to its GDP. Most countries in Central Africa rely heavily on their forests, which contribute as high as 13 per cent to the GDPs of some countries in this region. A country like Cameroon earns approximately US\$2.9 million a year from its medicinal plants exports. In South Africa, informal trade in medicinal plants is valued at US\$75–150 million per annum. Shea butter is the third most important crop in Burkina Faso and provides income to about 300,000–400,000 women.^{xvi} Young people are direct beneficiaries of these forest products since they often participate in both collection and processing of the products.

The economic value of forests is therefore indisputable. But even more valuable are the ecosystem services of forests. Kenya's montane forests ecosystem services include: local climate regulation; water regulation; erosion regulation; water purification and waste treatment; natural hazard regulation and disease regulation. Some of the economic sectors that benefit indirectly from these services are agriculture, fishing, electricity and tourism.^{xvii}



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Forests Takeaway

Forests are a critical link in the transition to a green economy. African youth should therefore be fully integrated into forest financing programmes like UNREDD and REDD+ so that they can contribute directly to conservation of the region's estimated 674 million hectares of forest cover.

In light of the immense value of forest ecosystems to African societies and economies, young people should also popularise The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB) as an instrument that is contemporary and fashionable. They need to make use of their regional presence and sensitise communities across Africa on natural accounting and valuation. These campaigns will show why forests are more valuable alive than dead. The campaigns will be geared towards changing societal mindsets and achieving behavioural change of communities to embrace responsible stewardship of forests.

Alternative and Sustainable Clean Energy Solutions

Africa hosts nearly half of the 1.3 billion people in the world without access to electricity and one-quarter of the 2.6 billion people relying on the traditional use of biomass for cooking.^{xviii} Opportunities abound therefore for African youth to create green jobs by manufacturing sustainability products like clean cookstoves, solar lanterns and biomass briquettes.

'Providing sustainable energy for all could be the biggest opportunity of the 21st century. Sustainable energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, social equity, and a climate and environment that enables the world to thrive.'⁵

Renewable energy at both domestic and industrial levels is yet to take firm root in Africa. While this is unfortunate, it presents an opportunity for Africans as a whole and youth in particular to mainstream renewable energy at their local levels. Indeed, a defining feature of renewable energy in the African context is its local energy generation, with its limited requirement for transmission and distribution infrastructure. This

5 Excerpt from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's speech in September 2012 during an event for his *Sustainable Energy for All Initiative*.

capacity will enhance climate resilience and low carbon growth, especially if renewable energy spreads to most of Africa's rural homes.

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, led by the United Nations Foundation, seeks to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat climate change, with a goal of spurring the adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels in 100 million households by 2020.^{xix} African youth should be on the forefront of learning, adopting and spreading such sustainable clean energy solutions.

African governments also have a wide array of renewable energy policy options to explore and enact. Algeria and Mauritius are already taxing fossil fuels to fund renewable energy. On a global level, financing mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund must play a more prominent role in financing renewables in Africa. Notably the Climate Investment fund for renewable energy has facilitated geothermal and wind power energy development in Kenya and Ethiopia.

Well financed, legislatively anchored and professionally executed renewables will go a long way in helping Africa to meet the energy needs that will power sustainable development.



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Renewable Energy Takeaway

The UNEP Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues identified, 'Accelerating the Implementation of Environmentally-Friendly Renewable Energy Systems' as one of the top ranked issues of this century.

Every year, there are 3.5 million premature deaths globally, caused by household air pollution that is mostly caused by the burning of solid cooking fuels. Healthier and more sustainable cooking alternatives include solar power, biogas, ...? pellets and charcoal briquettes. These alternatives are part of the greener Africa that UNEP envisions and therefore present an opportunity for collaboration with young people.

In this regard, African youth will execute a twin-pronged strategy where they create green jobs through clean cooking and lighting technologies and create awareness on the health benefits of these technologies. Such a strategy would be in line with UNEP's third edition of the Africa Environment Outlook Report which focused on the health angle of Africa's environment. Youth innovation is truly an asset to renewable energy and will be fully tapped into through the creation and implementation of such concrete renewable energy interventions, particularly those that create green jobs for youth.

Manufacturing

Substantial alteration, renovation or reconstruction of goods is generally considered to be manufacturing.^{xx} These goods can be basic like cooking pans or luxury jewellery. They are altered, renovated or reconstructed mechanically in factories or manually by hand.

Global demand for such goods is so high that manufacturing is a multi-billion dollar industry that accounts for 23 per cent of global employment.^{xxi} Africa however has a minimal share of this employment because manufacturing is not a significant revenue base for the continent. This offers Africa an opportunity to leapfrog dirty manufacturing for green manufacturing.

Green manufacturing reduces the quantity of natural resources needed to produce finished goods. It accomplishes this through more energy- and materials-efficient manufacturing processes that also reduce the negative externalities associated with waste and pollution.^{xxii}

Although mainstream industries like steel and aluminium have experienced exponential growth over the last two decades, Africa as a whole and African youth in particular, have not benefitted much from the manufacturing boom. Green manufacturing however, presents low-hanging manufacturing fruits that youth can pluck. They include recycling and agro-processing.

Green Manufacturing Takeaway

Mainstream manufacturing is capital intensive and beyond the reach of most youth. However green manufacture of sustainable products in the cosmetics, construction and food sectors is within reach of youth. Basic processing of fruits into juice is common but can be undertaken more sustainably through better processing, more effective storage, improved marketing and advanced distribution. In the cosmetics sector, youth opportunities are exemplified by manual processing of natural products like bamboo into handicraft and ornaments.

Even as they engage in green manufacturing, African youth must lobby vigorously for government support of locally manufactured products. In order to equip young people with the skills needed to power local manufacturing, governments should review secondary and post-secondary curricula to include increased, relevant and hands-on technical skills.

Local manufacturing is so weak in a region like East Africa that Kenya is responsible for only seven per cent of the products that circulate this sub-region. This means that Kenya only gets a seven per cent share of the US\$11 billion East African market. Increased local manufacturing will therefore result in multiplied revenue, increased employment and environmental benefits since products will travel lesser distances to their destinations.

Waste Management

Youth are comparatively innovative, and hence have the creativity that recycling requires. On many occasions, young people have been able to turn used material into valuable feedstock that they transformed into valued products. Such youth efforts should be facilitated further through policy interventions both upstream and downstream.

Thousands of young people across Africa already earn livelihoods as scrap metal collectors. They however often work in inhumane conditions and sell their scrap metal at throwaway prices. It is important for relevant legislation that protects and rewards their efforts to be enacted in order to maximize the national benefit through their integration into the formal economy and provision of institutional and technical support for further value addition.

The scrap metal is just part of the 11.2 billion tonnes of solid waste collected worldwide every year. Thousands of African youth utilize part of this waste when they use old car tyres to make sandals. However, while their products are sustainable, their business models are not. Just like the scrap metal dealers, they also need legislation that will inject sustainability into their business models.

Consumer awareness on the economic and environmental benefits of recycled products is vital. Informed consumers will demand greener products which will in turn lead to increased recycled products.

Waste Management Takeaway

Recycling is the low hanging fruit that young people should be facilitated to pluck. Using recycled material as feedstock saves both energy and natural resources. Resultant products must nonetheless be responsive



to market needs. The process itself must also be low-tech and labour intensive so that as many young people as possible can benefit. Examples of products that meet this criterion are furniture and electricity poles manufactured from recycled material.

Buildings

Buildings consume so much energy that approximately one third of global energy end use takes place within buildings. Apart from energy, other unsustainable building aspects include: inefficient water distribution and storage; unsustainable construction materials; deficient air ventilation; inadequate natural lighting and poor waste disposal.

Since at least 700 million Africans are aged 30 years and below, young people mostly inhabit these buildings. As the largest consumers of the building sector, they have the numbers to sway buildings towards green architecture through increased consumer demand for green buildings.^{xxiii}

With urbanization spreading rapidly across Africa, manual construction jobs are the most readily available for many young Africans. In Kenya, 13 per cent of the total workforce is employed in the construction sector. They are paid anywhere between US\$1 - 4 per day, with long working hours. This does not conform to the triple bottom line of people, planet and profits. Just as the building sector has the greatest potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it also has great potential to offer sufficient remuneration to the young Africans that construct Africa.

Green Buildings Takeaway

Africa is experiencing a construction boom. Cities across the continent are expanding to accommodate increased investments and growing populations. Africa's youth constitute most of the continent's construction sector workers and are also the largest consumers of this sector. They are therefore well suited to influence the integration and mainstreaming of green principles in the sector. But for them to do this, they need support to sensitize consumers to the advantages of investing in green buildings. Beyond awareness creation, young construction sector professionals like architects, engineers and quantity surveyors, can be engaged in the design and construction of innovative green buildings

and green public spaces. They can be incentivized through non-monetary sustainability awards and through affirmative action that is enshrined in public policy.

The TunzAfrika network will therefore contain a tier for young professionals in the green building sector. This will help in sharing best practices and allow for the networking of these young professionals who will have periodic goals of either influencing or leading innovative green building projects. Finally, African youth should also be represented and actively participate in existing UNEP Green Buildings programmes, such as the Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative.

Transport

When Africa phased out leaded gasoline, benefits amounting to US\$92 billion per year were realized as a result of reduced child development risk, improved productivity and reduced health cost. This proved that green transport had both environmental and economic benefits. These benefits should be communicated to the public through widespread awareness raising and outreach, an area where youth are well suited to participate. Such awareness raising can be even more powerful if youth embrace cycling as a viable means of regular transport. Cycling is the preferred means of transport for more than a quarter of all journeys in the Netherlands. It may take time for Africa to reach such cycling levels but youth can take the lead in this endeavour.

Green Transport Takeaway

Youth may not be policymakers with the power to enact green transport policies, but they are populous consumers with the power to shun or embrace unsustainable transport means. They should embrace energy efficient multi-modal transport systems and shun inefficient and unsustainable transport systems. Even when pragmatism does not allow them to avoid the latter, they should still engage in public awareness that focuses more on what they are for, than what they are against. Central to this campaign will be cycling and walking. Youth will be cycling ambassadors with a clear-cut message that the bicycle is the coolest, cleanest, healthiest and most sustainable mode of both urban and rural transport. This campaign's goal will be to inspire behavioural change so that an increasing

number of people can embrace active travel and multi-modal transport systems that promote non-motorised transport. This will eventually pressurize the government to construct cycling lanes and more footpaths.

TunzAfrika will inject youth action into UNEP's *Share the Road* initiative that seeks to increase investment in walking and cycling infrastructure.

Tourism

Africa has hundreds of cultural and natural attractions that make it a tourism powerhouse. It is no wonder then that Africa increased international tourist arrivals by an estimated 6 per cent in 2012, the second fastest growth by region after Asia and the Pacific.^{xxiv} This translated into tourism revenues of US\$34 billion. Unfortunately, tourism growth often comes at a cost to the environment – tourism contributes at least five per cent to global GHG emissions, not to mention other forms of unsustainable practices embedded in the lucrative sector.

While it is not clear how African youth have benefitted from tourism growth in Africa, it is evident that tourism,

especially green tourism, can create green jobs for youth and enhance livelihoods in their communities. Green tourism results in these benefits due to its emphasis on preservation of pristine natural resources, and because of its efficiency improvements in areas such as energy and water.

Green Tourism Takeaway

Green tourism protects natural resources, benefits local communities and embraces ethical business practices. Youth will partake in conservation of designated natural resources that are major tourist attractions. Amongst the youth tasks in this conservation effort will be data collection that will help measure the worth of those natural resources.

Tourism contributes to about 8 per cent of employment globally, with half of this workforce aged 25 and below. Greening of tourism is expected to create additional tourism related jobs, thus benefitting more young people. African youth, whose unemployment rate is already high, will therefore be direct beneficiaries of green tourism.





Cities

African cities are growing at a rapid rate. By 2040, Africa will be 50 per cent urbanized.^{xv} Growing cities are envisaged to lead Africa to higher economic, social and technological levels. But enmeshed in these burgeoning cities are millions of disillusioned and unemployed young people.

Even in relatively prosperous African countries like Morocco, many urban youth with relatively high education feel alienated and frustrated. They perceive emigration to Europe as a survival strategy to escape the high rates of unemployment prevailing in urban centres at home, which, at just over 35 per cent, are significantly higher than the average nationwide 9.5 per cent.^{xvi}

UNEP's Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues ranked 'Boosting Urban Sustainability and Resilience' as one of the top, defining environmental issues of this century. Urban Sustainability will be greatly enhanced if African youth are integrated into the vital process of greening African cities.



Green Cities Takeaway

Youthful populations are the hallmark of African cities and can play a pivotal role in greening these urban centres. Their immense labour force and colossal consumer base can accelerate the greening of African cities. But for this to happen, they need to be strategically engaged. Critically, policy support to African governments to green their cities should be coupled with government guarantees for youth participation in execution of those policies. For instance, young people should be the guaranteed jobs in construction of cycling lanes, designing of green spaces, city beautification programmes, street lighting and sustainable urban planning. If this is not done, youth will be detached from the greening of cities and their youth bulge will then tilt towards social unrest.

As has been noted in the 'State of African Cities, 2014 Report', 'stimulating youth involvement in urban agriculture, is perhaps one of the most neglected opportunities in African cities, largely practiced by the informal sector without the explicit support of city governments and the state.' Youth should therefore be sensitized and facilitated to practice urban agriculture as it will enhance their livelihoods and increase urban food security.

Cross-cutting Issues



Higher Education

A greener Africa needs an abundance of green skills that will spur on a green economy. Higher education should be responsive to this reality. Africa's high unemployment rate may also be due to a skills mismatch – the educational system produces skills that are not demanded by employers or unlikely to be needed in the future. In a sense, the educational system is based on irrelevant curricula and inappropriate pedagogy.^{xxvii}

Africa's higher education institutions should therefore play a major role in transforming capabilities of young people to meet the needs of the 21st century. The need to move towards a green economy is especially pressing and must be met through specialised training. The Rio+20 Outcome captured this need; 'we underscore the importance of supporting educational institutions, especially higher educational institutions in developing countries, to carry out research and innovation for sustainable development, including in the field of education, to develop quality and innovative programmes.'

Higher Education Takeaway

Africa's Greening University Network should work symbiotically with TunzAfrika to build capacities of select African universities so that they can develop courses that will equip students with the sustainability skills needed to steer Africa along necessary sustainability pathways. These can be full degree courses or customised, shorter courses that would be particularly beneficial to many African youth who are not in universities but have post-secondary qualifications.

The degree courses can entail a systemic integration of contemporary sustainability into a wide range of disciplines, faculties, programmes and courses in universities, as well as integration of these priorities into University policies, management practices and student activities.⁶

Green Jobs

Although youth constitute about 37 per cent of Africa's labour force, they account for about 60 per cent of total unemployment in Africa.^{xxviii} It is therefore highly likely

that the preoccupation of the majority of unemployed youth is to find employment. While this unemployment is unfortunate, it necessitates inventions that are found in green jobs.

Green jobs are not the silver bullet of Africa's chronic youth unemployment, but they do offer concrete livelihood opportunities. In Uganda, the fishery industry employs over 700,000 people involved in various activities, ranging from: fishermen, fishmongers, fish transporters and boat builders.^{xxix} South Africa expects to create 462, 567 green jobs within a span of eight years, mostly in renewable energy generation, resource efficiency, emissions and pollution mitigation and natural resource management.^{xxx}

Most beneficiaries of these expected green jobs in Africa will be young people because they are more adept at learning new skills and undertaking relevant sustainability studies.

Green Jobs Takeaway

Youth employment is a cross-cutting and high priority issue that needs to be addressed within the framework of an interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder approach.^{xxxi} The green economy presents this broader context within which green jobs can be created and sustained. In light of this, it is important for African governments to enact green jobs legislations that will spur growth of green jobs on the continent. It is therefore critical for African youth to engage in concerted and consistent lobbying for green jobs legislation in their respective countries. For increased productivity, they will need training in parliamentary lobbying.

Africa youth are resilient, energetic and ambitious. If the right enabling conditions are put in place, they will find and create the green jobs necessary to spur the region to a higher level of development. They are Africa's greatest resource and should be engaged intelligently.

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

Sustainable consumption and production is one of the critical issues that was addressed in the first session of UNEA. SCP is the custodian of natural capital and is one of the few areas where virtually everyone can play a role. Erosion of natural capital through unsustainable

⁶ This is the approach that was used by the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability into African Universities (MESA) initiative.



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consumption leads to decreased productivity, which further heightens poverty. Africa's youth risk being caught in this downward spiral of slimming natural capital, low productivity and biting poverty.

AMCEN's Arusha Declaration resolved to operationalise the 10-year framework of programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns (10YFP). This key framework had already been adopted at Rio+20 and should be integrated into national development plans as a matter of priority. Apart from such policy action, SCP can be promoted through economic and voluntary instruments, including formal and informal education. These instruments will reduce environmental risks and instead capitalize on environmental opportunities.^{xxxii}

Sustainable Consumption and Production Takeaway

Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa will maintain, sustain and even increase natural capital on the continent. The 200 million Africans who are aged between 15 and 24 represent a large consumer base that can greatly influence SCP patterns through strategic and consistent awareness raising. Additionally, universities

should facilitate young scholars to undertake more in-depth studies on sustainable production and use of water, energy and waste disposal. If undertaken as formal research, such studies will earn credits and contribute to an area that still requires more research.

Green Human Behaviour

Africans are stewards of their continent's natural capital. Their behaviour towards it will determine whether it will be depleted or replenished. Human behaviour is so critical to sustainability that UNEP's Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues identified it as a critical emerging issue.^{xxxiii} Behavioural transformation ensures longevity of a societal shift to sustainability. Indeed, crucial sustainability issues like consumption and production are direct beneficiaries or victims of human behaviour.

Because they are more impressionable, young people need to adopt a sustainability mindset that will push them to the forefront of green behaviour that nurtures sustainability. Such youth efforts should be supported by the entire society through a raft of sustainability legislation. In order to be as effective as possible,

green behaviour legislation should be participatory in formulation and innovative in execution. It should clearly address targeted behavioural change and show the societal and environmental impact that will result.

Waste separation and recycling, particularly in urban centres, is an area that will benefit immensely from such public policy and massive awareness campaigns. African youth can play a role in lobbying for public policy change and spearheading awareness campaigns, especially through online social networks and learning institutions.

Green Human Behaviour Takeaway

What will happen if deforestation continues sprinting like a cheetah across the African continent? How will our grandchildren be affected by depletion of ground water? If elephant populations continue to dwindle, how will the wider wildlife population and adjacent communities be affected? How will the industrialization that Africa aspires to affect sustainability? How will growing African cities impact the ecosystems that sustain them? Answers to these questions constitute early warning messages.

However, early warning is impotent if it does not reach communities. Early warning should inform action at the tripartite levels of State, Community and Business. As the most populous cohort and largest consumers on the continent, African youth are uniquely qualified to be messengers of early warning messages to their peers and communities. When heeded, early warning will have a direct impact on human behaviour and steer it towards sustainable stewardship of natural resources.

Because education influences behaviour, African youth should also be facilitated to lobby vigorously for environmentally conscious education. The African Environmental Education and Training Action Plan (AEETAP) recommends incorporation of ecological literacy in Early Childhood Development (ECD), Basic Education, Further Education and Higher Educational programmes and curricula.

Environmental Governance and Youth Participation

Environmental governance determines whether ecological foundations will buttress sustainable production or not. It determines whether sustainability

will be the driver of development or just a hapless passenger.

Citizens rectify bad governance by electing new leaders. But the environment is essentially a 'silent' victim of bad governance. It only 'speaks' when destructive consequences of environmental degradation directly impacts human well-being. Given their demographic dominance, Africa's youth add immense value to UNEP's role as the voice of the environment.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 presents a roadmap that youth can follow in order to articulate their messages on Africa's environment. Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 of the fourth strategic goal is particularly relevant to young people. It talks about the 'restoration and safeguarding of the ecosystems that provide essential services for human health and livelihoods.' This targeted restoration and safeguarding considers the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Environmental Governance Takeaway

Target 14 will be the focus of youth action on environmental governance. Other legislations like the Doha Amendment to The Kyoto Protocol will still be open to African youth action, but Target 14 is the flagship African youth action area in environmental governance. TunzAfrika will consult widely and pinpoint specific ecosystems that youth can play a strategic role in safeguarding. They should be equipped with the tools they need to undertake identified ecosystem safeguarding. This approach is in tandem with UNEP's MTS Strategic focus on Ecosystem Management. In addition, the approach ensures that African youth will play a clearly defined role in the top ranked environmental issue of Aligning Governance to the Challenges of Global Sustainability.

African Youth and Gender

The youth population is on an upward trajectory with 42 per cent of Africans aged below 15 years and at least 200 million aged between 15 and 24. However, the gender dynamics of this youth bulge are hazy but it is clear that the ecological footprints left by young women differ from those left by young men. While the ecological footprint of all African countries increased by 240 per cent between 1961 and 2008,^{xxxiv} there is scarcity of data on the varying contributions of young men and women to this increment. However, evidence shows that women

in developing countries are affected more severely by climate change and natural disasters.

African Youth and Gender Takeaway

TunzAfrika should be equipped with gender analytical tools that will assist in the generation of youth-specific gender data and information. TunzAfrika will subsequently use the generated data and information to mainstream gender into the conception, management and implementation of its activities.

Financing Green Youth Action

Youth financing is often viewed as subordinate to other funding needs. Consequently, environmental youth action ends up with minimal impacts that barely make a dent in poverty eradication. Results-based management requires the scaling up of environmental youth action so that young Africans can achieve tangible, optimal results in the post-2015 era.

African youth action in implementing the proposed SDGs will need to be undertaken in a well-defined and innovative manner, through holistic financing. Ambiguous youth financing will lead to ambiguous youth action that will do little to advance sustainability in Africa. Indeed, if African youth are to play a substantial, sustained and strategic role in the post-2015, sustainable development agenda, then they need to partake in the US\$17 trillion that is needed for sustainable development.

The Rio+20 Outcome clearly stipulated that, 'we recognize that greater coherence and coordination among the various funding mechanisms and initiatives related to sustainable development are crucial. We reiterate the importance of ensuring that developing countries have steady and predictable access to adequate financing from all sources to promote sustainable development.'

Financing environmental youth action in Africa therefore needs to be approached in a coherent and coordinated manner.





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Financing Green Youth Action Takeaway

Green youth action will find more direction, impetus and success through a Green Africa Youth Fund that can be modelled, albeit at a smaller scale, after existing environmental funds like the Green Climate Fund.

Founded at UNFCCC's COP 16, the Green Climate Fund exists to channel new, additional, adequate and predictable financial resources to developing countries. It contains a quadruple quality that can be infused into the proposed Green Africa Youth Fund – *new, additional, adequate and predictable* financial resources. The Green Africa Youth Fund can source funds from new sources such as: small and large individual donations; corporate

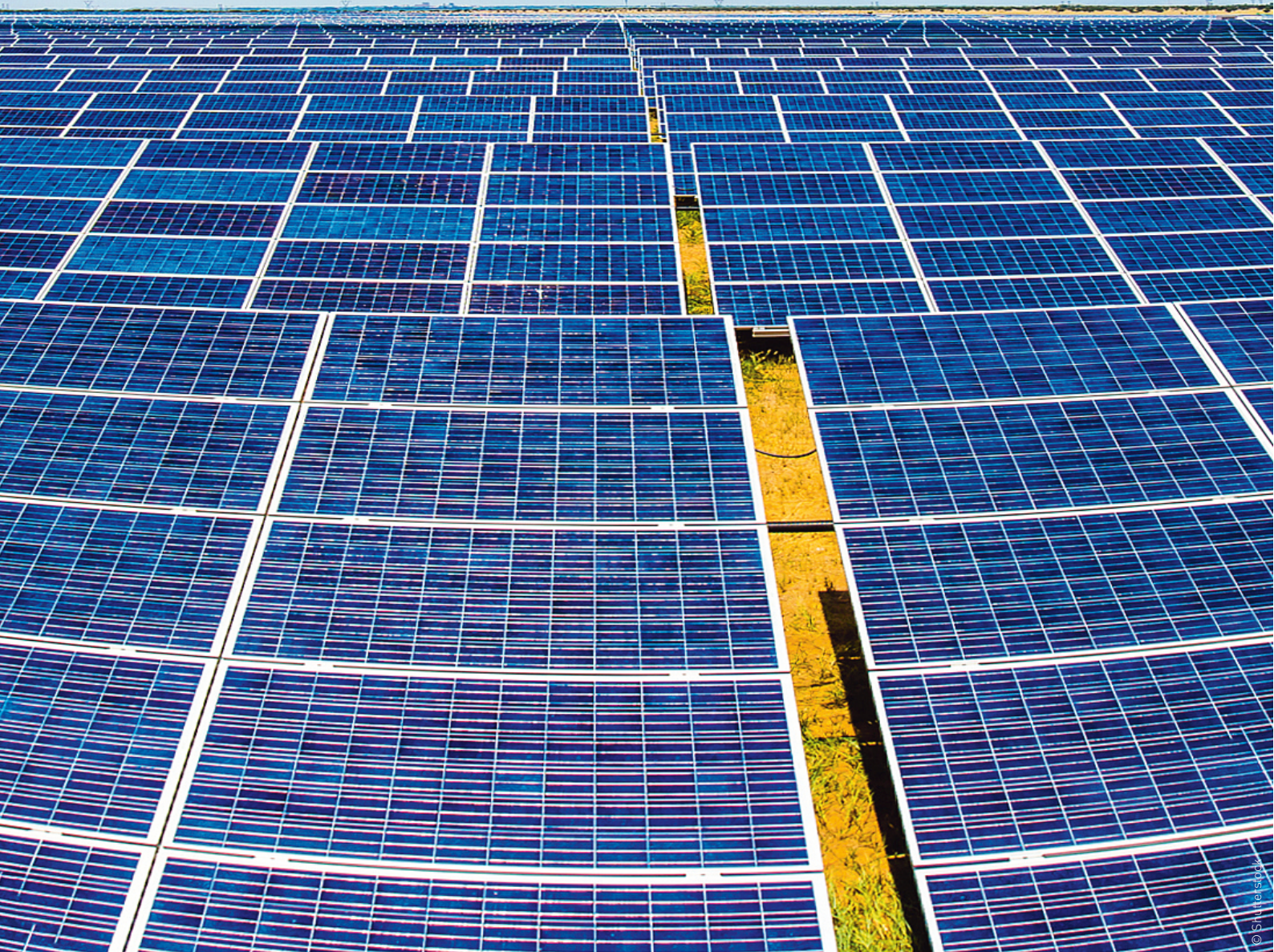


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donors, including SMEs and multinational corporations; foundations; bilateral, multilateral and public funding from national governments. A possible route to take for the official donor funding is for a small percentage of the 0.7 per cent of GDP for ODA to be injected into the Green Africa Youth Fund. Although this route is fraught with bureaucratic and political roadblocks, it points to the direction that emphatic and innovative youth funding should take.

A well-funded, well-run Green Africa Youth Fund will galvanise strategic environmental youth action in Africa and ensure substantive youth participation in the post-2015 agenda.

Conclusion



Africa's young people stand at a crossroads. They can continue with the status quo of sub-optimal action or they can take strategic, decisive and innovative action that will result in a greener Africa. The green economy has presented them with a platform for diverse, yet related green activities.

The green economy's potency lies in the fact that it is not demanding totally new action; rather it is proposing better, greener ways of approaching many traditional human endeavours. For instance, young smallholders have the opportunity to farm in a better, more productive and sustainable way. On the policy front, green economy presents policymakers with a set of opportunities to enact newer, greener policies on issues like urban planning.

As a platform, green economy is a golden opportunity for African youth to undertake revamped activities that will lead to a greener Africa. Accelerating this youth action requires a mix of tools that will further activate environmental youth initiatives at local, country and regional levels. Youth will also be trained in specialised green skills that will vastly enhance their relevance and productivity in the post-2015 agenda and equip them with the resources they need to execute a green strategy.

TunzAfrika is the multi-tier platform that will enable African youth to execute a green strategy towards a greener Africa. TunzAfrika is an outcome of UNEP's Tunza Youth Programme and was birthed through the coordination of UNEP's Regional Office for Africa. As it takes action towards a greener Africa, TunzAfrika will remain rooted in UNEP's mission and mandate.



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Annex

Recommendations on Methods, Mechanisms and Actions to Enhance Environmental Youth Action in Africa

These recommendations draw lessons from the past but are not limited by it. They anticipate a future where Africa's youth rise to the occasion and take decisive, strategic and innovative action that leads to a greener Africa that fosters sustainable development and eradicates poverty.

TunzAfrika Audit

TunzAfrika is still new and therefore has relatively few youth organizations that subscribe to it. The TunzAfrika platform is however a culmination of more than a decade of youth action across Africa. The audit will delve back into this decade to reveal the history, extent and impact of environmental youth action all across Africa. Guidelines for this audit are contained in **item 4.4.1** of this paper. The audit will result in a well-populated, credible and searchable database on Africa's past and present environmental youth initiatives and the lessons therein.

TunzAfrika National Chapters

National chapters have already been established in Togo, Liberia and Ethiopia. They should spread to other African countries in a qualitative, not quantitative manner. Guidelines for composition and operations of national chapters will be developed by TunzAfrika through further consultation with youth. The national chapters will primarily be national platforms of youth convergence and synergy. They will also conduct a national chapter audit that will reveal the extent, history and impact of environmental youth action in respective countries. As per guidelines that will be prepared, national chapters will identify youth groups and networks that are already active, and then enlist them.

TunzAfrika Strategic Plan:

A detailed TunzAfrika Strategic Plan will be prepared. It will contain elaborate strategic directions and tactical approaches. The plan will build on this paper's recommendations along with the Lomé declaration and factor in lessons from the audit. It will look at the short, mid and long term, and then plan accordingly. Further to this, the Strategic Plan will explain activities and their

expected accomplishments. The Strategic Plan will be TunzAfrika's detailed roadmap and will articulate tools for navigating this roadmap successfully. They include ICT tools, creative arts tools, performance arts tools and fashion tools. The Strategic Plan will also spell out strategies of ensuring full participation of marginalized youth like handicapped youth and youth in conflict regions. Further to this, the strategy will build bridges with: youth initiatives in other UN Agencies like UNDP, UNESCO and ILO; youth initiatives in international organizations like IUCN; and youth initiatives with other pan-African organizations like AMCOW.

UNEA

UNEA is a very big deal that has moved environmental issues to the very centre of the global stage. It has catapulted environment to the same plane with peace, security, finance, health and trade. TunzAfrika will strategize and position itself to reap the benefits of this elevation. Since UNEA has placed environmental issues at the heart of the global agenda, African youth, through TunzAfrika, should place them at the heart of their national, institutional, workplace and local agendas.

In line with this, Nigerian youth would place green cities, not oil at the heart of Nigeria; South African youth would place renewable energy, not gold at the heart of Johannesburg's agenda; Kenyan youth would place green smallholder agriculture, not perennial politicking, at the heart of Kenya's agenda. It will be self-defeatist for the environment to be elevated globally yet remain on the peripheries locally. Youth will be able to spotlight local green issues through elaborate, yet organic awareness campaigns and action.

UNEA engages TunzAfrika in participatory decision-making that will extend to decision-monitoring at the country level.

AMCEN:

As explained in **item 10.1** of this paper, and as requested in the Lomé Declaration, official AMCEN recognition of TunzAfrika will embolden youth action on the continent. A key proposal is for TunzAfrika leaders to be present in all AMCEN sessions and for national TunzAfrika Chapters to work closely with national environmental ministries in monitoring implementation of AMCEN decisions, particularly those that affect youth and communities directly.

Target 14

As explained in Item 15.1 of this paper, the Target 14 youth initiative will be the flagship TunzAfrika action in environmental governance. Discussions with relevant stakeholders will pinpoint specific ecosystems that youth can play a strategic role in safeguarding. Young people will be equipped with the tools they need to undertake identified ecosystem safeguarding. This approach is in tandem with UNEP's MTS Strategic focus on Ecosystem Management. In addition, the approach ensures that African youth play a clearly defined role in the top ranked environmental issue of Aligning Governance to the Challenges of Global Sustainability.

Lobbying and Advocacy

Lobbying and advocacy will target national legislations in areas with direct impact on youth livelihoods. They include green jobs, green cities, youth affirmative action, smallholder agriculture markets, aquaculture markets, recycled products markets and financing green youth action. The goal of the lobbying and advocacy will be for these issues to be legislated accordingly at the national level. In cases where desired legislation has already occurred, the lobbying and advocacy will shift to swift and quality implementation of the legislation.

The lobbying and advocacy will be professional, consistent and strategic. Where possible, it will be done within the framework, or with the backup of AMCEN. For increased efficiency and impact, there will be training in parliamentary lobbying and advocacy.

Public Awareness Campaigns

Public awareness campaigns will focus on specific targets that hold special resonance in Africa. They include: sustainable consumption and production; green jobs; forest ecosystem services; environment is a big deal (taking cue from UNEA); green transport, green and healthy cooking technology and green human behaviour. The goal is to maximize impact by focusing the awareness campaigns on specific issues and not every green issue. Campaigns will be done professionally, yet organically.

Print and Electronic Publications

Decisions should be made concerning necessary publications that TunzAfrika youth can co-author with editorial coordination from UNEP. Possible publications include: TunzAfrika quarterly magazine; Recycling Guide for African Youth; Youth version of AEO-3 – Our Environment, Our Health; and Case studies of successful environmental youth initiatives in Africa. Publications are concrete deliverables that have the potential to galvanize and sustain TunzAfrika.

TunzAfrika Film

Film is one of the most powerful communication mediums. Hollywood exported American pop culture in a way that no number of pop culture workshops could have managed. Similarly, Al Gore's climate change film, 'An Inconvenient Truth' went a long way in spreading the climate change message. A low-budget short film capturing the social dangers, economic upheavals and environmental opportunities of Africa's youth should be produced and distributed widely for maximum viewership.

Financing TunzAfrika

TunzAfrika should be financed holistically and strategically through the **proposed Green Africa Youth Fund**. Fragmented funding through disparate resource mobilization activities may result in equally fragmented environmental youth action that will have minimal impact.

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