

# YOUTH STRATEGY FOR AFRICA

Environmental  
sustainability for  
socioeconomic  
empowerment

**2019-2022**



## Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME PROGRAMME.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN AFRICA.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME YOUTH STRATEGY FOR AFRICA.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Goal of the Youth Strategy for Africa.....	5
Objective of the Youth Strategy for Africa.....	5
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT MODELS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>HART'S LADDER OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SUSTAINABILITY BUSINESS MODEL CANVAS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>THE CROSS CUTTING CONCEPTS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
THE GREEN ECONOMY:.....	9
BLUE ECONOMY:.....	9
CIRCULAR ECONOMY:.....	9
<b>INSTRUMENTS OF INTERESTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>FOCUS AREAS OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME YOUTH STRATEGY.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CROSS CUTTING AREAS OF FOCUS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>References.....</b>	<b>22</b>




## INTRODUCTION

Sixty percent of Africa's population is currently aged twenty-five years and below, making Sub-Saharan Africa the youngest region in the world. By 2030, the Continent's working age population is set to increase by two thirds, from 370 million adults in 2010 to over 600 million in 2030. Those aged between 15 and 24 years will have increased to 331.4 million or 19.7 per cent of the Continent's population that is, more than one-quarter of the world's total under-25 population. Over this period, the region is projected to expand the size of its workforce by more than the rest of the world, forming over forty percent (40%) of the world's labour force overtaking both India and China, with its young population, the best-educated and globally connected the continent has ever had (World Economic Forum)<sup>i</sup>. 46 per cent of the 1.3 billion increase in Africa's labour force over the period 2015-2063 will be young people aged 15-34, averaging 12.1 million a year (Africa Union Commission)<sup>ii</sup>.

**60%**  
**AFRICA'S**  
**POPULATION**  
 **25yrs**  
**AND BELOW**

The twenty first century is host to the largest generation of youth in human history. Africa leads. Not only is it home to the world's youngest population but it is the only Continent with a

**By 2030**   
**# OF THOSE AGED**   
**15 - 24yrs**   
**WILL HAVE**  **20%** **AFRICA'S**  
**INCREASED TO** **POPULATION**

growing youth population. Africa is the world's second largest continent after Asia, with a total surface area of 30,365,000 km<sup>2</sup>, including several islands. It is home to 54 sovereign countries (48 mainland and 6 island States). It is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Red Sea to the northeast and the Indian Ocean to the east. Africa's population was estimated at 1.26 billion in 2017 (UNDESA 2017)<sup>iii</sup>.

These glaring statistics bear evidence that the young African plays a critical role in shaping the Continent's present development targets and is indispensable to the its future prosperity. In recognition of this abounding and emerging resource, the Africa Union has since launched a road map on harnessing the Continent's demographic dividend through Investments in Youth. The Road Map was launched at the tail end of the African Youth Decade (2009–2018) themed "Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development." Indeed, the Road Map is a demonstration of the Continent's commitment to the African youth agenda as well as an illustration of the member states dedication to the realization of the goals signified both the Continent's Agenda 2063 as well as the Global Agenda 2030, the latter being popular for its inclusivity mantra "leaving nobody behind".



Nevertheless, as the young African emerges as the pulse of the African Continent, its heart remains intricately woven and intrinsically inseparable from its rich biodiversity, a magnificent home for the Continent's flora and fauna. Indeed, for centuries the Africa's environmental resource has been central to the social, economic and political way of life of its people and in the latter centuries has extensively contributed to the growth and development regional and global economies. The UN Environment Programme is therefore convinced that through innovative and interactive socioeconomic models that not only create sustainable value for the individual, the society and the environment, but further appeal to the enthusiasm and ambition of the younger generation, the youth will remain lifelong partners and key contributors to the UN Environment Programme's delivery of sustainable development as a shared prosperity for all with Africa's youth as beneficiaries, contributors and custodians of the Continent's natural capital.

## **UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME PROGRAMME**

UN Environment Programme is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Our work includes assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends; developing international and national environmental instruments; and strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment. Our mission is therefore to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

## **UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN AFRICA**

The UN Environment Programme Africa office supports African governments to translate decisions and statements made on natural resources into practical actions and innovative solutions at regional, national and local levels, for the benefit of their population, with the intended goal of wealth and job creation, revenue generation, food security, social equity and a healthy environment.

In order for Africa to reap the economic and social benefits inherent in this natural wealth, it is necessary to urgently address such issues as the management, economic, environmental and social impact of their sustainable use. The UN Environment Programme Africa office therefore supports African governments to translate decisions and statements made on natural resources



into innovative solutions and practical actions at regional, national and local levels, for the benefit of their populations.

At the fore front of this Agenda is the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which recognizes that natural capital underpins the Continent's economy, and that affirms the sustainable use Its natural capital as a gateway to investments and wealth creation that will propel the Continent towards the achievement of the global Agenda 2030, on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the AU Agenda 2063, through financial, economic, social and environmental contribution.

## **THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME YOUTH STRATEGY FOR AFRICA**

This Strategy is dually informed by a regional survey on youth voices in environment and secondly, by youth sentiments expressed during the first of its kind, Africa Youth Conference that convened in Nairobi, Kenya in 2018. Together with other UN Agencies and in the spirit of the UN Youth Strategy, UN Environment Programme joins the rest of the Continent in its endeavour to harness Africa's youth dividend, in order to contribute towards the realization of Agenda 2063 as well as the global Agenda 2030.

More so, the Youth Strategy is aligned to the 2019-2022 focus areas of UN Environment Programme Africa region namely, waste management, natural resources and energy with climate change as a cross-cutting factor. The Strategy is designed to contribute towards the transition from the age-old protectionism approach to a sustainable and inclusive approach, propagated through identified socioeconomic empowerment models that promote environmental sustainability, employment creation, enterprise development, social impact, cohesion and integration as well as principles of good governance at community, national and regional level.

The Strategy therefore aligns with UN Environment Programme's Medium-Term Strategy and the Programme of Work, which acknowledges the integrated nature of the diverse societal challenges for example, gender inequality, inadequate infrastructure, youth unemployment and environmental degradation to mention but a few. Cognizant of the fact that sustainable environmental goals can only be efficiently and effectively realized through mutually beneficial partnerships that embrace economic value, social impact and environmental sustainability, through this Strategy, UN Environment Programme commits to the adoption of inclusive and sustainable approaches that embrace and encourage investment in skills development,



employment creation, enterprise development, good governance, and poverty prevention and alleviation.

The Strategy has further been crafted and meticulously positioned as a vehicle to realize global and regional commitments on environment by partnering with the youth in the development of environmentally sustainable socioeconomic models that “capture economic value while creating, maintaining or regenerating natural, social, and economic capital.” (S. Schaltegger et al 2015)<sup>iv</sup> Therefore building on the UN’s global convening role and the principles of the UN Youth Strategy and the African Union Road Map on Harnessing the Youth Demographic Dividend, the UN Environment Programme Youth Strategy for Africa is committed to the realization of both the global and regional sustainable development agendas.

### **Goal of the Youth Strategy for Africa**

To advocate and action environmental sustainability through socioeconomic empowerment

### **Objective of the Youth Strategy for Africa**

Structured, Sustainable, and Meaningful youth engagement through socioeconomic models that espouse economic development while creating, maintaining or regenerating natural, social, and economic capital.

## **SOCIOECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT MODELS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

The strategy adopts evidence-based, inclusive and interactive approaches that intrinsically promote youth engagement and empowerment. It is poised to respond to the global Agenda 2030 call of leaving nobody behind, whilst realizing the economic transformation and environmental sustainability goals of the Africa Union Agenda 2063.

Africa’s youth continue to enthusiastically demonstrate their commitment to environmental sustainability and have as such, adopted holistic and innovative environmental models especially those championed through the green, circular and blue economies.

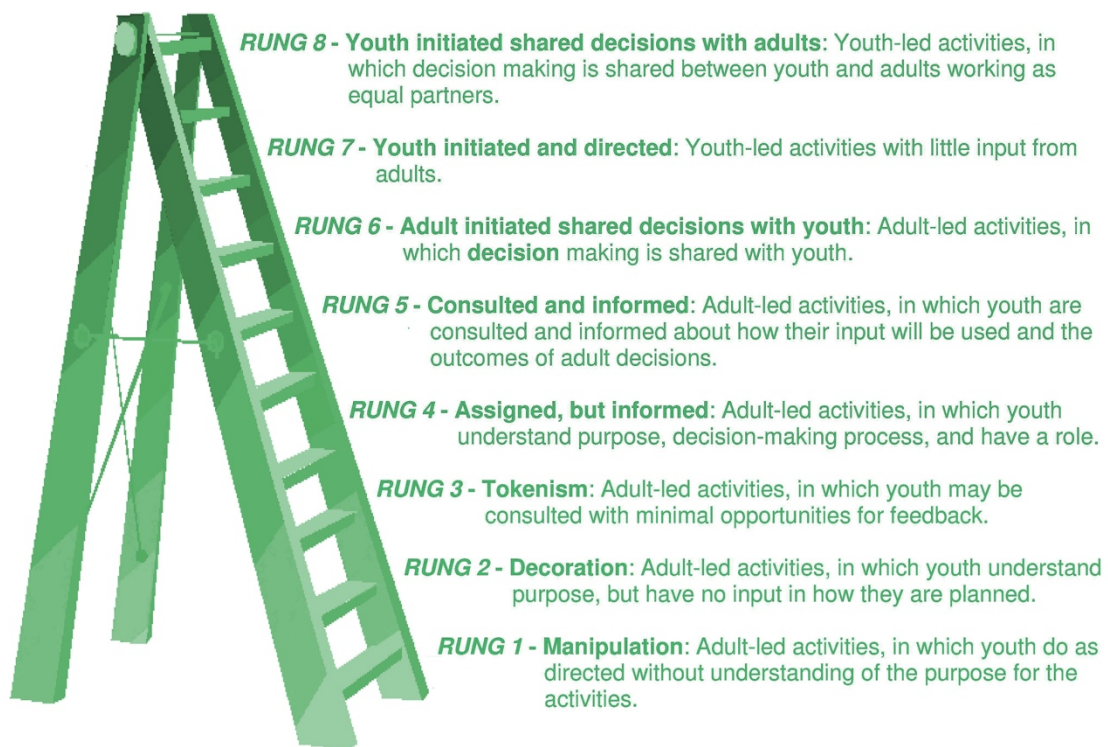
The proposed models therefore offer the youth unlimited opportunities to innovate products and services, advocate for policies and instruments that transform communities, countries and the whole continent at large.



## HART'S LADDER OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Hart's ladder of participation is a tool used to evaluate and recognize the participation of young people mainly within environmental development, community planning youth work to mention but a few. The tool was invented by Roger Hart and its goal is to screen existing and planned activities and measure them against the same. The visual appearance has been considered easy appealing and attractive to its users both during the evaluation and proactive planning. More specifically and in the context of this strategy it means the involvement of the youth in its formulation and implementation as pertains to socioeconomic empowerment and environmental sustainability.

### ROGER HART'S LADDER OF PARTICIPATION



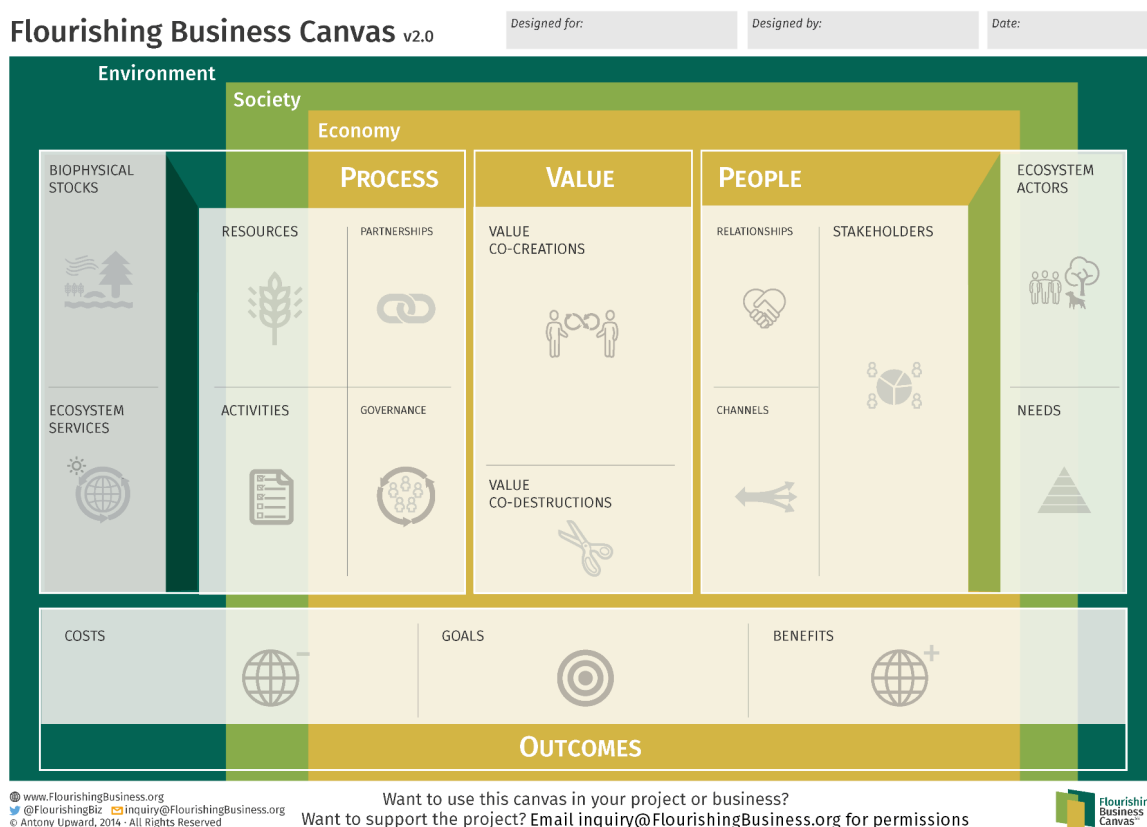
Adapted from Hart, R. (1992). Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship. Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, as cited in [www.freechild.org/ladder.htm](http://www.freechild.org/ladder.htm)



# SUSTAINABILITY BUSINESS MODEL CANVAS

Among other partners, UN Environment Programme envisages to partner with the private sector to engage and partner with the youth whilst jointly championing and supporting the creation of innovative socioeconomic solutions that simultaneously increase in economic value and reduce the negative and degenerative effects of industrialization on both society and the environment.

One of the most widely-used tools for innovations and start-up enterprises is the Business Canvas Model originally developed by Osterwalder and Pigneur and serves to visualize and analyse business models. Sustainability versions of the canvas model have since been developed and are widely used across the development sector to encourage the development of sustainability-oriented socioeconomic models that are both inclusive and interactive. One of the favourable models is the flourishing business canvas which integrates the environment, society and the economy.



In the context of this Strategy the sustainability business model canvas shall be used as an interactive tool by all contributors and stakeholders to ensure meaningful interactions in the formulation of holistic strategies through the identification and provision of financial and non-





financial resources critical to the symbiotic relationships of the market place, society, wellness and environmental sustainability. These include skills development, re-tooling, mentorship/apprenticeship, access to business development services, financial inclusion, leadership, governance, management, teamwork, environmental regeneration, access to markets among others.



## THE CROSS CUTTING CONCEPTS

### THE GREEN ECONOMY:

“One that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.” (UNEP 2010)<sup>v</sup>.

“The Green Economy is one in which the vital linkages among the economy, society, and environment are taken into account and in which the transformation of production processes, and consumption patterns, while contributing to a reduced waste, pollution, and the efficient use of resources, materials, and energy, will revitalize and diversify economies, create decent employment opportunities, promote sustainable trade, reduce poverty, and improve equity and income distribution.” (UNEP 2010)<sup>vi</sup>

### BLUE ECONOMY:

The Blue Economy espouses the same desired outcome as the Rio +20 Green Economy initiative namely: “improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities” (UNEP 2013)<sup>vii</sup> and it endorses the same principles of low carbon, resource efficiency and social inclusion, but it is grounded in a developing world context and fashioned to reflect the circumstances and needs of countries whose future resource base is marine.

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY:

The circular economy emphasizes keeping resources in use for as long as possible through re-use, recycling and recovery of materials. The circular economy is defined as an economy in which wastefrom one production/consumption process is circulated as a new input into the same or a different process. It is one of the approaches to a green economy. (UNEP 2012)<sup>viii</sup>



## INSTRUMENTS OF INTERESTS

Green economy policy measures have been discussed at length at various global international negotiations. Some of these include:

**UNCED Rio Declaration:** Principles promoting the internalisation of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments as well as eliminating unsustainable consumption and production.

**Agenda 21:** The development of national strategies for sustainable development, incorporating measures for integrating environment and development, providing effective legal and regulatory frameworks, making effective use of economic instruments, market and other incentives, as well as establishing systems for integrated environmental and economic accounting.

**The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI):** Recognized the need to change the way societies produce and consume, and called for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production.

**The First (Marrakech, June 2003) and Second (San Jose, September 2005) International Expert Meetings:** Emphasised the need to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of the environment, de-link economic growth and environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes, and reduce resource degradation, pollution and waste

**The Rio Conference 1992:** UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which has involved prolonged debate regarding potential economic, regulatory and market-based measures to address climate change

**UNEP Green Economy Report:** flagship report released by UNEP in 2011 under its Green Economy Initiative and prepared in partnership with think tanks and commercial actors (including financial institutions), therefore lending credibility to its economic analyses. It is also home to the frequently cited working definition of 'green economy'.

**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment; Sixteenth session; Ministerial segment; Libreville, 15 and 16 June 2017**

- To develop and strengthen gender-responsive policies to empower women and men to engage in sustainable, affordable and clean energy development, access and utilization, to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and to access finance and markets across the value chain in the energy sector;



- To agree to take action and create enabling conditions including by formulating enabling national policies to empower youth in Africa, in order to develop environmental innovations and resilience and to create green jobs and wealth;
- To support the development of business models for enhancing access to financing in order to enable investment in clean energy, rural electricity transmission, and energy entrepreneurship among women and youth.

**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Seventh special session, Ministerial meeting, Nairobi, 19 September 2018**

- To agree to develop and strengthen gender-responsive policies to empower African women and youth to engage in innovative solutions to access affordable and clean energy and address environmental and sustainable development challenges, to create jobs and wealth;

## **FOCUS AREAS OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME YOUTH STRATEGY**

The Focus areas of the Strategy are aligned to the Focus Areas of the UN Environment Programme Africa Office Strategy 2019-2022, towards the realization of the larger mandate of UN Environment Programme. As mentioned earlier, all focus areas are aligned to Global United Nations Youth Strategy, African Union Agenda of Road Map of harnessing the youth demographic dividend as well as youth areas of focus highlighted in the outcome of the 16th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

The Strategic Focus Areas are Natural Resources, Waste Management and Energy with climate change as a crosscutting issue. In the context of sustainable socioeconomic empowerment models UN Environment Programme endeavours to advocate and action the strategy's socioeconomic agenda to unlock socioeconomic value for Africa's youth while realizing the Continent's environmental and other sustainability targets. In line with the participatory approach, UN Environment Programme will pursue partnerships with relevant stakeholders to ensure that their concerns and priorities are reflected in the implementation of the Strategy.

Each Focus Area gives a brief definition and background of the area, a summary description of the potential economic and social value of the Focus Area as well mention some of the socioeconomic opportunities that the youth can innovatively plug-in to for and create sustainable value for themselves, society and the environment.



## Climate change

### FOCUS AREA: NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources such as land, water, timber, minerals, metals and oil are vitally important sources of livelihoods, income and influence for countries and communities around the globe. There is consensus that natural resources, especially those of land, soil, water, forest, plant and animal diversity, vegetation, renewable energy sources, climate change and ecosystems services are fundamental for improving livelihoods and achieving sustainable development in Africa. Without greater resource efficiency, Sustainable Development Goals will not be attained. Efficiency in the way resources are extracted and manufactured, used and re-used or recycled and disposed is essential.

### FOCUS AREA: WASTE MANAGEMENT

Traditionally, proper solid waste management has been advocated to protect human health and the environment, however, the global waste sector is undergoing a paradigm shift from "waste" to that of "secondary resource" within the vision of a circular global economy. The circular economy emphasizes keeping resources in use for as long as possible through re-use, recycling and recovery of materials. This is because waste has the potential to generate income from direct employment for both men and women, through reuse, recycling and recovery. Waste prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery also has the potential to address national and global resource depletion. It is therefore be considered as resource and further be incorporated into the African development agenda.

### FOCUS AREA: ENERGY

Sustainable energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, social equity, and a climate and environment that enables the world to thrive. Africa is endowed with a diversity of both non-renewable and renewable energy resources UN Environment Programme located across the continent. Non-renewable energy sources refer to those that cannot be replenished in a short time period while Renewable energy, which are theoretically inexhaustible energy sources

### Socio Economic opportunities for Natural resources, Energy, Waste Management

Value addition  
Industrialization  
Technological Innovation  
Knowledge transfer  
Eco Tourism  
Sustainable Fashion  
Creative Economy  
Local Supply Industry  
Advocacy and awareness creation  
Skills development/ retooling and Capacity building  
Mentorship and Apprenticeship  
Climate Smart Agriculture  
Innovative Volunteerism  
Waste recycling into valuable assets, job creation, enterprise creation

### Environmental Impacts

Reduce natural resource use  
Improve water utilisation  
Energy efficiency  
Increased afforestation  
Improved water catchment areas  
Restored ecosystems  
Healthy ecosystems

## CROSS CUTTING AREAS OF FOCUS

<i>Area of Action</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Result areas</i>
<i>Entrepreneurship</i>	Improve the ecosystem for youth enterprise and sustainability	Map the current status of youth entrepreneurship and address any gaps or weaknesses in support to youth enterprises
<i>Enhancing Sustainable entrepreneurship education and skills development</i>	Build the capacity of young entrepreneurs to succeed in green, blue and circular economies	Support the development of entrepreneurial skills, attitudes and experience through education and training
	Link education and training to green, blue and circular economies strategies	Ensure young women and men develop the skills and experience for entrepreneurship in the green, blue and circular economies.
<i>Facilitating technology exchange and innovation</i>	Promote innovation through local, indigenous and private sector knowledge systems	Work with local civil society, businesses and grassroots organisations to identify, share and build on local knowledge and experience.
<i>Improving access to finance</i>	Provide access to enable young people to innovate	Public private partnership funding schemes for blue, green and circular economy
<i>Promote awareness and networking</i>	Raise awareness about entrepreneurship opportunities for young people in the green, blue and circular economies	Draw attention to projects that provide a tangible and motivation to boost young green, blue and circular entrepreneurs.
	Integrate with educational Programs	Education and skills development provide the opportunity for awareness raising among young people
	Strengthen networks of green, blue and circular entrepreneurs	To support nascent young entrepreneurs and encourage the creation of new business models, products, services and practices.
	Support youth networks	Deepen engagement with existing youth networks and ensure these are closely aligned with all efforts aimed at promoting youth entrepreneurship in the green, blue and circular economies.

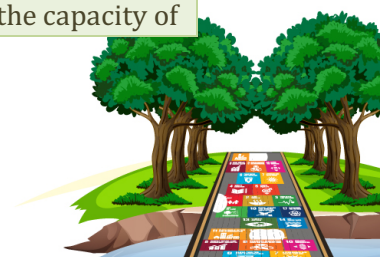


Promote young role models	Provide platform for the youth to engage as influencers
Support mentoring networks	Connect the youth with experienced business people who can provide practical advice, support and encouragement.

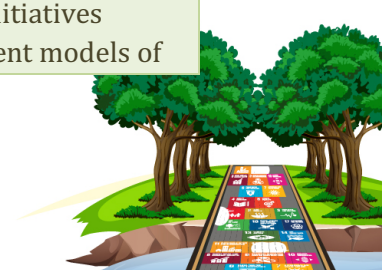
*(Adapted from the Commonwealth, Youth Entrepreneurship for the Green and Blue Economy Policy Toolkit, 2018)*

**Interface: UN Youth Strategy and UN Environment Programme Youth Strategy for Africa**

UN PRIORITY AREA	UN ACTIVITY	UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ACTIVITY
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>		
<i>The UN will support youth leadership across the organization and build staff awareness and capacity on youth-related issues.</i>	<p><b>Youth engagement platforms:</b> Consider putting in place mechanisms, such as e.g. youth advisory boards, within each relevant UN entity, to provide a channel for input and feedback from young people on UN work. This should be done in ways that reflect the diversity of young people and their organisations</p>	<p><b>Youth engagement platforms:</b> Consider putting in place mechanisms, such as e.g. youth advisory boards, within each relevant UN entity, to provide a channel for input and feedback from young people on UN Environment Programme’s work. This should be done in ways that reflect the diversity of young people and their organisations</p>
	<p><b>Dialogue opportunities:</b> Establish regular online and offline engagements between young people and UN Senior managers, including the Secretary-General.</p>	<p><b>Dialogue opportunities:</b> Establish regular online and offline engagements between young people and UN Environment Programme senior managers, including the Secretary-General.</p>
	<p><b>Capacity building:</b> Provide orientation briefing on youth issues to Resident Coordinators, UN Entity representatives, and other senior management positions. Build the capacity of staff to understand and</p>	<p><b>Capacity building:</b> Provide orientation briefing on youth and environmental sustainability issues to Resident Coordinators, UN Entity representatives, and other senior management positions. Build the capacity of</p>



	address youth needs including by exploring the integration of training and capacity building components into existing training and capacity building programmes across the UN system.	staff to understand and address youth interests and needs including by exploring the integration of training and capacity building components into existing training and capacity building.
<i>A Knowledge and Innovation Pioneer:</i>		
<i>The UN will strengthen knowledge production and management systems; become a credible source of expertise on youth development and engagement; and facilitate evidence based global awareness on the realities and needs of the world's young people.</i>	<b>Analysis:</b> Establish a streamlined approach to country-level youth situation analysis and youth-specific indicators as part of the UNDAF/UNSF/Common Country Assessments and national development frameworks, and explore regional and global youth reporting that connects these national youth situation analyses.	<b>Analysis:</b> Establish a streamlined approach to regional and country-level youth situation analysis and youth-specific indicators as part of the UNDAF/UNSF/Common Country Assessments and national development frameworks, and explore regional youth reporting that connects both regional and national youth situation analyses.
	<b>Common research agenda:</b> Identify subjects of common interest and new joint and forward-looking research, including under-recognised challenges and potentials of young people.	<b>Common research agenda:</b> Identify subjects of common interest and new joint and forward-looking research, including under-recognised challenges and potentials of young people aligned to the environmental agenda
<i>An Investment and Solution Catalyst:</i>		
	<b>Results-based communications:</b> Adopt a system-wide results-based communications approach for donors to clearly see the impact of their investments.	<b>Results-based communications:</b> Adopt a system-wide results-based communications approach for donors to clearly see the impact of their investments on environmental sustainability and the socio-economic empowerment of the youth
	<b>Solution-based partnerships:</b> Develop pilot initiatives exploring different models of	<b>Solution-based partnerships:</b> Develop pilot initiatives exploring different models of





	shared responsibility and actions between the UN and young people. This could include co-conducting evaluations with young people.	shared responsibility and actions between UN Environment Programme and young people. This could include co-conducting evaluations with young people.
	<b>Youth participation funding:</b> Identify ways to ensure dedicated funding for youth participation in all relevant UN entities and at all levels.	<b>Youth participation funding:</b> Identify ways to ensure dedicated funding for youth participation on Environmental Sustainability
	<b>Joint Programmes:</b> Mobilize greater resources at the country level by strengthening and expanding UN joint programmes on youth	<b>Joint Programmes:</b> Mobilize greater resources at the country level by strengthening and expanding UN joint programmes on youth

*Priority Areas of the UN Youth Strategy*

*Engagement, Participation and Advocacy- Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world*

**Mainstream:**  
Incorporate across all entities of the UN and work relating to all UN pillars, the need to meaningfully and sustainably engage and partner with young people and their organizations, networks and movements, through formal and informal mechanisms and platforms to realize universal rights-based youth participation.

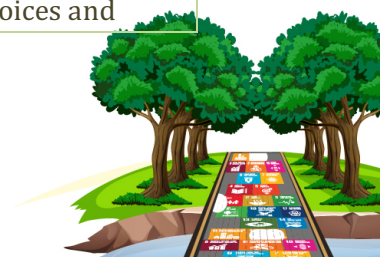
**Expand:**  
Review, improve and widen existing UN modalities for cooperation, dialogue and partnerships with youth-led organizations, networks and movements, as well as young people outside of organizations, with a view to ensure concerted efforts to engage those representing

**Mainstream:**  
Incorporate across all departments of the UN Environment Programme and work relating to all UN pillars and Regional departments, the need to meaningfully and sustainably engage and partner with young people and their organizations, networks and movements, through formal and informal mechanisms and platforms to realize universal rights-based youth participation.

**Expand:**  
Review, improve and widen existing UN and UN Environment Programme modalities for cooperation, dialogue and partnerships with youth-led organizations, networks and movements, as well as young people outside of organizations, with a view to ensure concerted efforts to



<p>most marginalized young people, at international, regional, national and local levels.</p>	<p>engage those representing most marginalized young people, at international, regional, national and local levels.</p>
<p><b>Engage:</b> Advocate for expanded and meaningful youth participation in intergovernmental forums at the global and regional levels, particularly those related to the SDGs, including through extensive and streamlined support to youth delegates and representatives.</p>	<p><b>Engage:</b> Advocate for expanded and meaningful youth participation in intergovernmental forums at the regional levels, particularly those related to the SDGs, including through extensive and streamlined support to youth delegates and representatives.</p>
<p><b>Set standards:</b> Advocate for governments to transform the way in which they engage young people nationally and locally, and apply the principles of meaningful and sustainable youth participation.</p>	<p><b>Set standards:</b> Advocate for governments to transform the way in which they engage young people nationally and locally, and apply the principles of meaningful and sustainable youth participation.</p>
<p><b>Connect:</b> Enhance how the UN reaches out, communicates with, listens to and responds to young people, including through a strategic use of its convening capacity and partnerships with tech and communications companies for expansion of large-scale, multi-media outreach and campaigns relevant to young people</p>	<p><b>Connect:</b> Enhance how UN Environment Programme reaches out, communicates with, listens to and responds to young people, including through a strategic use of its convening capacity and partnerships with tech and communications companies for expansion of large-scale, multi-media outreach and campaigns relevant to young people</p>
<p><b>Amplify:</b> Partner with young people who globally, nationally or locally advocate for the values of the UN to amplify and reinforce their voices</p>	<p><b>Amplify:</b> Partner with young people who regionally, nationally or locally advocate for the values of the UN to amplify and reinforce their voices and</p>



	and increase the reach and impact of global youth movements they are building, including in the context of major UN Summits such as the HLPF under the General Assembly, the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, the 75th anniversary of the UN in 2020 etcetera	increase the reach and impact of global youth movements they are building, including in the context of major UN Summits such as the HLPF under the General Assembly, the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, the 75th anniversary of the UN in 2020 etcetera
<i>SECOND PRIORITY: Informed and Healthy Foundations - Support young people's greater access to quality education and health services</i>	<b>Advocate for quality education:</b> Engage Member States and other partners to ensure universal access to quality education; develop and deliver quality and inclusive education for young people that is learner-centred, adopts a lifelong learning approach, is relevant to their lives and the social, economic and environmental needs of their communities, and promotes sustainable lifestyles and sustainable development.	<b>Advocate for quality education:</b> Engage Member States and other partners to ensure universal access to quality education; develop and deliver quality and inclusive education for young people that is learner-centred, adopts a lifelong learning approach, is relevant to their lives and the social, economic and environmental needs of their communities, and promotes sustainable lifestyles and sustainable development with special attention to Environmental Sustainability.
	<b>Promote non-formal education:</b> Support and advance youth policy frameworks that include support to non-formal education and its role in the development of young people's knowledge, skills and competencies.	<b>Promote non-formal education:</b> Support and advance youth policy frameworks that include support to non-formal education and its role in the development of young people's knowledge, skills and competencies that align to the UN Environment Programme mandate
	<b>Ensure accessible and youth-responsive health services and healthy environments:</b> Incorporate an approach that is inclusive of young people in the UN's support to	<b>Ensure accessible and youth-responsive health services and healthy environments:</b> Incorporate an approach that is inclusive of young people in the UN's support to



	strengthening national health systems, and promote efforts to provide universal health coverage while addressing social determinants of young people's health and wellbeing.	strengthening national health systems, and promote efforts to provide universal health coverage while addressing social determinants of young people's health and wellbeing.
<i>THIRD PRIORITY: Economic Empowerment through Decent Work - Support young people's greater access to decent work and productive employment</i>	<b>Uphold global commitment:</b> Renew and strengthen efforts toward decent work for young people by focusing on evidence-based, scalable and innovative solutions and alliances, that translate into positive outcomes for all, locally and globally, including in fragile situations.	<b>Uphold global commitment:</b> Renew and strengthen efforts toward decent work for young people by focusing on evidence-based, scalable and innovative solutions and alliances, that translate into positive outcomes for all, regionally, nationally and locally including those in fragile situations.
	<b>Guide and support:</b> Support Member States and other partners in their efforts to create youth enabling employment and self-employment ecosystems and to develop and operationalize strategies that prioritize the improvement of both the quantity and quality of jobs for young people through, e.g. public and private investments, economic and labour market policies, skills development, transition to the formal economy, social protection, youth rights at work, and active youth engagement.	<b>Guide and support:</b> Support Member States and other partners in their efforts to create youth enabling employment and self-employment ecosystems and to develop and operationalize strategies that prioritize the improvement of both the quantity and quality of jobs for young people through, e.g. public and private investments, economic and labour market policies, skills development, transition to the formal economy, social protection, youth rights at work, and active youth engagement.
	<b>Foster a just transition to a low-carbon and green economy:</b> Engage Member States and other partners to accelerate	<b>Foster a just transition to a low-carbon and green economy:</b> Engage Member States and other partners to accelerate



	<p>the transition towards green and climate friendly economies through mitigation and adaptation strategies that improve energy efficiency and limit greenhouse gas emissions; and similarly, support Member States and other partners in enhancing the capacity of the green economy to create more and better employment opportunities for young people, in wage and self-employment.</p>	<p>the transition towards green and climate friendly economies through mitigation and adaptation strategies that improve energy efficiency and limit greenhouse gas emissions; and similarly, support Member States and other partners in enhancing the capacity of the green economy to create more and better employment opportunities for young people, in wage and self-employment.</p>
<p><i>FIFTH PRIORITY: Peace and Resilience Building – Support young people as catalysts for Peace and Security &amp; Humanitarian Action</i></p>	<p><b>Promote an enabling environment:</b> Recognize young people’s important and positive contribution to peace and security, prevention of violence, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and climate action, and foster and protect an environment conducive to young people’s actions (including through reintegration, recovery and resilience activities for youth affected by conflict)</p>	<p><b>Promote an enabling environment:</b> Recognize the place of environmental sustainability and the young people’s important and positive contribution to peace and security, prevention of violence, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and climate action, and foster and protect an environment conducive to young people’s actions (including through reintegration, recovery and resilience activities for youth affected by conflict)</p>
	<p><b>Promote safe public spaces:</b> Ensure young people have physical areas to gather to live, learn and work, especially in conflict situations, informal settlements, slums, and refugee camps</p>	<p><b>Promote safe public spaces:</b> Ensure young people have physical areas to gather to live, learn and work, especially in conflict situations, informal settlements, slums, and refugee camps</p>
	<p><b>Reinforce capacity:</b> Reinforce the capacity of youth-led organizations</p>	<p><b>Reinforce capacity:</b> Reinforce the capacity of youth-led organizations</p>



<p>involved in peace, security, humanitarian and climate action to increase the impact of their work and their organizational sustainability, as well as reinforce capacity of institutional actors to work with young people</p>	<p>involved in peace, security, humanitarian and climate action to increase the impact of their work and their organizational sustainability, as well as reinforce capacity of institutional actors to work with young people particularly on matters that promote environmental sustainability directly or indirectly.</p>
<p><b>Expand opportunities:</b> Create spaces for young people to contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace through participation in intercultural and interreligious dialogue to prevent conflict. Create and promote opportunities for young people to use their skills and networks to develop and foster counter-narratives to messages of violence, extremism and radicalization</p>	<p><b>Expand opportunities:</b> Create spaces for young people to contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace through participation in intercultural and interreligious dialogue to prevent conflict. Create and promote opportunities for young people to use their skills and networks to develop and foster counter-narratives to messages of violence, extremism and radicalization</p>



## References

- 
- <sup>i</sup> World Economic Forum, The future of jobs and Skills in Africa, Preparing the Region for the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- <sup>ii</sup> Africa union Commission, 2017, AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth,
- <sup>iii</sup> UNDESA, 2017, World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, Key Findings and Advance Tables. Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP/248. [https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017\\_KeyFindings.pdf](https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_KeyFindings.pdf)
- <sup>iv</sup> (S. Schaltegger, E. Hansen, and F. Lüdeke-Freund , 2016, Business Models for Sustainability: Origins, Present Research, and Future Avenues, Organization & Environment 2016, Vol. 29(1) 3–10 © 2015 SAGE Publications)
- <sup>v</sup> <http://wedocs.unep.org>
- <sup>vi</sup> ibid
- <sup>vii</sup> ibid
- <sup>viii</sup> ibid





United Nations  
Environment Programme