



Climate Challenge Leadership Programme

Impact Report, November 2023

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Summary

This Climate Challenge Leadership Programme is a collaboration between Common Purpose and Africa Finance Corporation (AFC).

The need

The combined climate and biodiversity crises are highlighting the very practical challenges of bringing about the transition to a sustainable way of life. One of the most important issues that must be resolved is the dissonance between the positions and perspectives of those in the global North and those in the South.

This programme aims to respond to this by strengthening the capacity of a cohort of dynamic emerging leaders who, as they progress in their careers, will build bridges between the global North and South and find new ways to address the environmental crisis.

The Pilot Programme

This was launched in 2023 and brought together fifty dynamic emerging leaders from eighteen countries across Africa, the wider global South and the global North. The objectives were to:

- Build links and understanding across the global North and South.
- Develop the participants' ability to lead across boundaries.
- Generate new ideas and approaches to a climate challenge.

The feedback clearly shows that alumni have increased both their understanding of, and ability to, work across the global North and South. They presented six ideas at the end of the programme and the indications are that they are inspired to push even harder for climate solutions.



...an eye opener into how people from diverse backgrounds, who are not directly involved in climate change, can work together to make a positive impact on the world's climate related challenges.

97% feel better prepared to have a greater impact in their organisation/community

92% feel better prepared to be a bridge builder between the global North and South



"In the Climate Challenge Programme, I've found more than just a platform to address climate issues; I've discovered a community of visionaries. Together, we're not just talking about change — we're building it, one sustainable idea at a time."

Yitemgeta Fantu Golla, Chief Technical Officer,
TM Geothermal Operations Plc

At a glance

50

participants

18

countries

92%

feel better prepared to be a bridge builder between the global North and South

95%

would recommend the programme to another person

97%

feel better prepared to have a greater impact in their organisation/community

"The Climate Challenge Leadership Programme organized by Common Purpose and Africa Finance Corporation is an excellent platform for developing leaders that will drive impact on a global and local scale. Your mindset will be transformed, your beliefs will be respectfully challenged, and you'll learn to express your authentic self and be safe within a cohort of excellent minds!"

Sylvia Sampong Ekremet, Manager, Sales, Ecoligo Ghana Ltd

The Programme

Ran over a two-month period in September and October 2023 and had two parts:

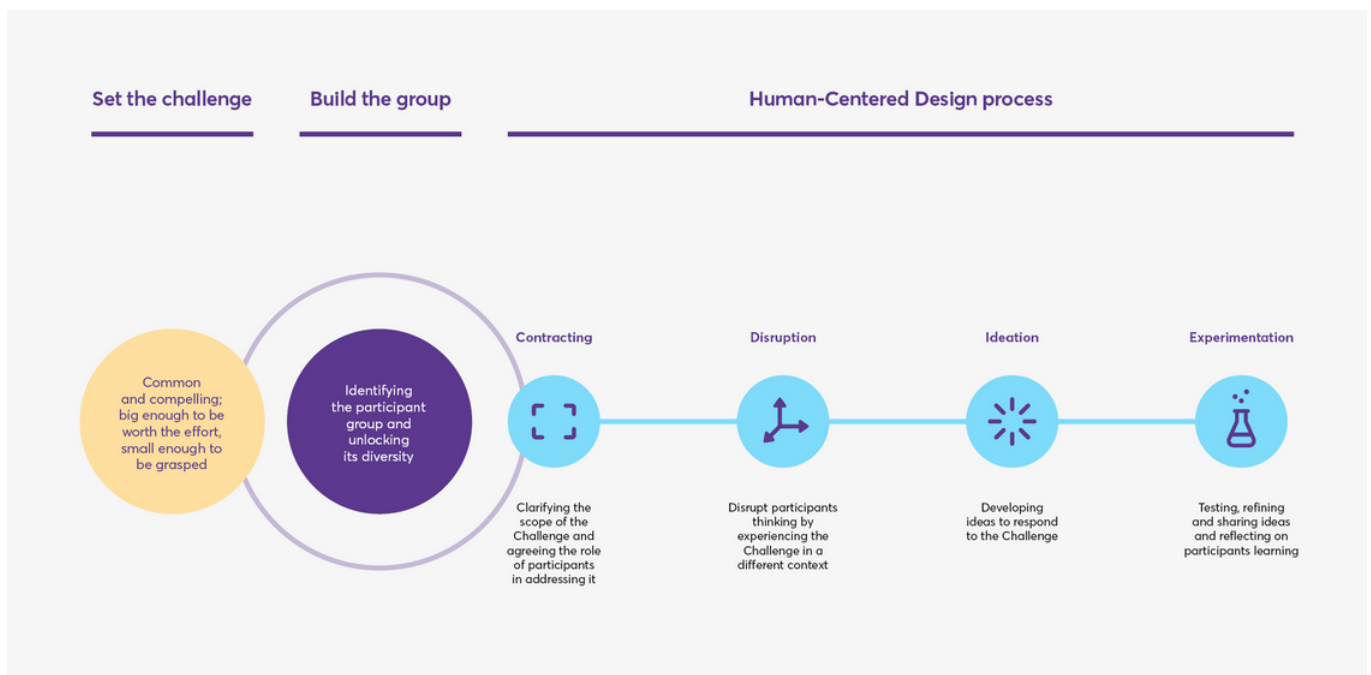
Leading Beyond Authority:

Participants were introduced to the Common Purpose thought leadership of 'Leading Beyond Authority' - the ability to cross boundaries and deliver results outside of your direct circle of control. Essential to tackling any complex challenge.

Climate Challenge:

'With its abundant natural resources, dynamic people and other valuable assets, Africa can seize the moment to create local circular economies to address global climate challenges. How can the world work together to make this a reality?'

After a grounding in Leading Beyond Authority participants worked on the challenge using the Common Purpose Innoventure process based on Human Centred Design.





One of those rare and much needed programmes that shift the discourse from “Africa needs help” to “Africa can provide the solutions”, where candid conversations meet bold thinking.

We’ve had such insightful and inspiring conversations about building a circular economy in Africa.

Iulia Lumina, Student, Innovation and Public Policy,
University College, London



Objectives

- Build links and understanding between emerging leaders from the global South and their peers in the North.
- Develop the next generation of leaders and equip them to Lead Beyond Authority, to work across boundaries; a pre-requisite to solving any complex problem.
- Generate ideas and identify new approaches to meet this hugely important challenge.

95%

recognise the value of bringing in wider perspectives when making key decisions

95%

feel better prepared to adapt to new environments

“People do not realise that Africa holds many solutions in the climate change space, and this is also true for much of the global South. There’s a lot of perceptions that have not been fully explained, and so, with better collaboration with the global North, we can change our views – and disrupt the thinking that is holding us back. We must unlearn biases. By doing this, the global North and the global South can combine the essential resources they both hold to create these solutions together.”

Winnie Tubey, Doctor of Philosophy in Project Planning and Management, Technical University of Kenya

Outcomes

Build links and understanding

A key objective was to increase understanding and dialogue between the emerging leaders taking part, and build relationships that can continue beyond the programme experience.

95%

say that their colleagues on the Climate Challenge Leadership Programme will help them make a more positive contribution to tackling the climate/ environmental crisis

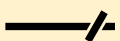
92%

feel better prepared to build strong working relationships.



Isn't it phenomenal when people from different walks of life can come together! I only met my brilliant colleagues 2 months ago, yet, we were able to bond, share ideas, learn from each other and be sources of inspiration to each other. It just shows the immense potential for the continent through collaboration if we remain committed, open, and prepared.

Marian Alkali, Architect (RIBA Part 2), Atkins SNC Lavalin



Outcomes

Develop the next generation of leaders

We wanted to equip the emerging leaders taking part with the leadership skills to tackle complex challenges by developing their ability to 'Lead Beyond Authority'.

90%

feel better prepared to thrive in complexity

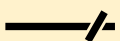
92%

feel better prepared to influence beyond their circle of authority



While we advance the campaign for the reduction of global carbon emissions, there is a need for climate leaders to lead beyond authority and understand the various ways collaboration can be established. My experience in the program has helped open my eyes to ways collaborations can be made between the global North and global South as well as increase my network with various climate change leaders across the globe.

Ude Chiziterem, Founder and CEO, For1e Ltd



Outcomes

Generate Ideas - the Challenge

Participants were invited to address the challenge:

With its abundant natural resources, dynamic people and other valuable assets, Africa can seize the moment to create local circular economies to address global climate challenges. How can the world work together to make this a reality?

The challenge process based on human centred design asked participants to work together on a complex problem. The aim is to increase their understanding and appreciation of what is needed to tackle this kind of challenge – some ideas may be developed beyond the programme but our primary aim is to develop their leadership learning through this process.

Solar Supply Chain Governance

A toolkit to support Solar PV developers to access funding and gain visibility within global supply chains. The toolkit will address the governance of solar PV supply chains in Africa, unlocking finance to scale energy access and fostering local capacity for circular economy. It will also enhance transparency in solar supply chains by harmonising regional initiatives to establish a Global Solar Supply Chain Sustainability Protocol, which will include market-based mechanisms that discourage modern slavery/forced labour and support local capacity for solar e-waste cycling.

ClimaVest

Unlocking Capital for Africa's Future. ClimaVest is an online platform which will facilitate the flow of financing options in the climate change finance landscape in African countries. It will bridge the financing gap for projects on the continent by gathering investors and investees to a single marketplace. It will include a range of financial instruments provided by investors and financial intermediaries, and provide advisory services to qualifying projects in need of funds.

Circular Economy Literacy Programme

An applied learning programme designed to tackle the limited awareness, uptake and ownership of circular economy practices in Africa. With an emphasis on youth and female entrepreneurs, the proposed programme will tap into local knowledge and empower 'Circular Citizens' through applied learning programmes for primary and secondary school students; bootcamps for SMEs and masterclasses for government officials.

Increasing Access to Climate Financing

A series of policy changes, programmes and investments, to be adopted by both private and public organisations to simplify and diversify funding sources, increase collaboration between government and international organisations and increase transparency and accountability.

Implemented through an online platform of sustainability stakeholders and an advocacy group including youths, community leaders, farmers and heads of civil society organisations, that addresses and champions interventions in areas of critical climate issues.

Waste to Currency

A model that turns the global waste crisis into a world of opportunity. In treating waste as a valuable asset and a form of currency, it can be processed for resource recovery, such as extracting metals from electronic waste or converting organic waste into biofuels. The Waste Currency model uses waste as a form of currency - 'waste credits' - which can be traded for essential services or goods.

Field Lab for an Urban Waste-to-Value Model

A technological solution that employs a process to collect waste from communities and develop biochar and other recycled products. The process involves Waste Generators (households, restaurants, companies), Waste Aggregators (women in local communities) and Waste Processors (biochar producers, recyclers etc.) who, through smart technology, community connections, and sustainable business practices, collaborate and create a scalable marketplace to ensure waste is converted to valuable products.



"Armed with the tools and networks from this program, I sense we the class of 2023 are all poised to CONTINUE to tackle these challenges head-on with a focus on tangible solutions. We recognise major necessary shifts in local capital investment and a coordinated strategy on climate adaptation, transition and resilience. Appreciative of the opportunity and geared up to continue to make a positive impact!"

Lye Ogunsanya, CoFounder COO, FieldLab+



Participants

Abbas Agbaje, ImpactCrest Consulting
Abdullahi Lawal, Petrostuff Nigeria Limited
Alexia Tata, University of San Francisco
Basil Ogbunude, Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company
Benjamin Okpara, PwC
Benjamin Annan, Green Giraffe Advisory
Briguetta Basson, FirstRand Bank South Africa
Chiamaka Anorue, Terragon
Chitundu Malunda, Development Bank of Public Zambia
Christian Ouolo, Global Green Growth Institute
Deirdre McArdle, Trócaire
Ebelechukwu Nwinyi, United Bank for Africa Plc
Eberechi Madubuike, ZKJ Energy Partners Limited
Elizabeth Maina, Aga Khan Foundation
Emirjeta Adhami, Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania
Emma Greer, Climateflux
Fahd Isa Baba, Nigerian National Petroleum Company
Fakhriyyah Hashim, Africa Leadership Centre, King's College London
Fred Wanyonyi, Rural Empowerment Development Organisation (REDO)
Genevieve Rattray, Belle Isle Conservancy
Helen Titilola Olojede, National Open University of Nigeria
Henry David Bayoh, Trócaire Sierra Leone
Iulia Lumina, University College London
Ivana Korn Varga, Global Water Partnership, Central and Eastern Europe

Iyanujesu Oguntunji, Olaniwun Ajayi LP
Jack Agola, Rural Empowerment Development Organisation (REDO)
Jeridah Sinange, Union for Ethical BioTrade
Jimengi Asan, Greenvest Environmental Initiative
Joseph Ugwu, S&P Finance
Khadija M-Williams, RACV
Livingstone Odero Sichonjo, Terragon
Lye Ogunsanya, FIELDLAB+
Maphela Maepa, Gauteng Health
Marian Alkali, Atkins SNC Lavalin
Marvin Bell, Meridiam SAS
Matija Vajdic, Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar
Maya Terro, FoodBlessed
Ndetu Shamaki, Dechomai Limited
Nevana Srikiissoon, eThekweni Municipality
Nicole Manu, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation
Olu Omoyele, Chemonics
Olusegun Michael Otitoju, Family Homes Funds Limited
Princewill Dagwa, Optimal Greening Foundation
Sharmita Paul, Terragon
Sylvia Sampong Ekremet, Ecoligo Ghana Limited
Ude Chiziterem, Forle Limited
Winnie Tubey, The Technical University of Kenya
Yaquta Fatehi, Impact Measurement Specialist
Yejide Abifarin, The Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance
Yitemgeta Fantu Golla, TM Geothermal Operations Plc



The Partners



Common Purpose

Common Purpose is a leadership development organization that specializes in cross-boundary leadership. A not-for-profit, we run programmes in over 100 cities worldwide. Founded in 1989, we have over 115,000 alumni globally. Our leadership development programmes inspire and equip people to work across boundaries. This enables them to solve complex problems in organizations and in society.



Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)

AFC was established in 2007 to be the catalyst for private sector-led infrastructure investment across Africa. AFC's approach combines specialist industry expertise with a focus on financial and technical advisory, project structuring, project development, and risk capital to address Africa's infrastructure development needs and drive sustainable economic growth.

Sixteen years on, AFC has developed a track record as the partner of choice in Africa for investing and delivering on instrumental, high-quality infrastructure assets that provide essential services in the core infrastructure sectors of power, natural resources, heavy industry, transport, and telecommunications. AFC has 42 member countries and has invested US\$12.7 billion across Africa since inception.



commonpurpose



Instrumental Infrastructure.
Instrumental Africa.