

AFRICAN CLIMATE LEADERS FELLOWSHIP 2024



Overview

The **African Climate Leaders Fellowship**, an initiative of **Greenlead** is a **free capacity-building programme** that equips young Africans aged 18-35 with the knowledge and skills necessary to influence climate action. The fellowship, launched in May 2024, is committed to connecting young people on the continent of Africa to address climate problems in their communities through education, internships to gain practical skills, and community projects.

The Cohort 1 of the African Climate Leaders Fellowship (ACLF) brought together leading experts and climate professionals across the globe. It also covered topics such as Climate Science, Food-Energy-Water Systems, Waste Management, Climate Policy and Governance, Climate Advocacy and Communication, Community Engagement and Partnerships, and Project Management.

We received 628 applications from 32 African countries for our first cohort, demonstrating a great interest and need for effective youth capacity building programmes. Out of these numbers, 203 were selected to participate in the first Cohort.

Our Team

Our small but mighty team that executed this project include;

- [Mercedes Rowe Asamani](#), Founder and Executive Director
- [Bernard Abakah](#), Co-Founder and Partnerships and Finance Officer
- [Thamar Victoria Afedu-Annan](#), Chief Programmes Officer
- [Patrick Owusu Ansah](#), Assistant Programmes Officer and head of Research
- [Josceline Arthur](#), Publicity and Communications Officer
- [Simon Selasie Azanu](#) and [Christian Ahlidjah](#), I.T Officers.



Meet Our Team



Mr. Bernard Abakah
Co-Founder/ Partnerships and Finance Officer



Miss Thamar Victoria Afedu-Annan
Chief Programmes Officer



Mr. Patrick Ansah
Assistant Programs Officer



Miss Josceline Arthur
Publicity and Communications Officer



Mr. Simon Selasie Azanu
IT Officer

About Greenlead

Greenlead is an environmental sustainability-focused NGO dedicated to building the capacity of the next generation of African Climate Leaders and influencing key sustainability policies through research, innovation and consultancy towards building a sustainable Africa.

Our mission is to equip the youth across the Africa continent with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to drive impactful climate initiatives and foster inclusive, sustainable communities.

Greenlead envisions a future where young Africans are at the forefront of the global climate movement, creating resilient communities that thrive sustainably. We provide comprehensive climate science, policy, and advocacy training programs, enabling



young Africans to effectively address climate challenges. Our training programs, workshops, and conferences focus on practical skills such as project management, leadership, and community engagement, ensuring participants

can translate knowledge into action. We also provide expert consulting on environmental and energy sustainability policies and programmes as well as conduct research on same.

We also support young climate innovators and entrepreneurs by offering mentorship, funding opportunities, and platforms to showcase their climate solutions. Greenlead amplifies the voices of African youth in global climate discourse, advocating policies that reflect their perspectives and needs. We also engage with relevant stakeholders and collaborate with local communities to develop and implement climate resilience strategies, ensuring inclusivity and long-term sustainability.

Our Partners for ACLF Cohort 1

For our first Cohort, Greenlead partnered with reputable local and international organisations including;

- i. The Center for Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainability (CENS AFRICA)
- ii. B.Inspired with Stories from Africa (B.ISA)
- iii. Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO)
- iv. Clean Recycling Initiative and
- v. AImpactful



Participating Countries

The 32 participating African countries included Ghana, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, DR Congo, Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Cameroon, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Benin, Lesotho, Senegal, South Africa, Liberia, Morocco, Somalia, Mozambique, Egypt, Algeria, Guinea, Ethiopia, Togo, Chad, Comoros, Burkina Faso, and Niger.

Our Fellowship Ambassador

In enhancing the influence and reach of the Fellowship on the media front which already lacks adequate climate reporting, we also engaged [Mrs. Cynthia Tima Yeboah](#), a climate change enthusiast and a media practitioner as our Ambassador.



Our Module Instructors

We were honored to have the expertise of the following speakers on board:

- Prof. James Kinter: Prof. of Climate Dynamics & Director, Virginia Climate Center.
- Prof. Mark Rouleau: Program Director, Environmental & Energy Policy, Michigan Technological University.
- Ambika Chawla: Cities & Climate Change Professional & Journalist.
- Portia Adu-Mensah: Coordinator, Ghana Reducing our Carbon & CEO, Dream Hunt.
- Clement Abaidoo: Executive Director, CENS Africa.
- Nyasha Milanzi: AGU Voices of Science Fellow, GRA Michigan Technological Uni.
- Branislava Lovre: Co-Founder AImpactful, AI Ethicist, and Journalist.
- Esther Agyapong: Community Engagement Officer, B.ISA.
- Jemima Babirye Kasibbo: Partnership & Engagement Officer, GAYO.
- Christopher Yalley: Policy Analyst and Sustainability Advocate.



Inclusivity

Our fellowship believes in open-access and inclusion. Hence, this fellowship was made completely free for all Fellows and recordings made publicly accessible.

Fellowship's Key Outcomes

At the end of the Fellowship, the modules and capstone project enabled Fellows to;

- Understand the fundamentals of climate science, climate adaptation, and mitigation strategies.
- Analyze Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Systems and how they are impacted by climate change.
- Build Skills in Waste Management and Plastic Waste Management Techniques.
- Have a fair understanding of international climate policymaking and governance.
- Have a fair understanding of justice and equity issues in climate change and environmental sustainability issues.
- Develop capstone projects addressing local climate challenges.
- Engage communities and build partnerships to foster climate resilience.
- Advocate for climate justice using media and storytelling.
- Build knowledge and skills in leveraging AI for climate communication.
- Critically assess the efforts of various stakeholders, the legitimacy of their commitments, and influence climate action.

The Research team of Greenlead is also conducting a survey to assess the knowledge and perception of young Africans on Climate Change and environmental issues and their government's commitment to policy development and climate action. The subjects of this research are participating fellows from 32 African countries.

Some Success Stories

Some of the success stories shared by some reputable organisations and Fellows are highlighted here:

"While the Virginia Climate Center focuses to support the adaptation and planning of communities and partners across the Commonwealth of Virginia, adapting to climate change is a challenge faced around the world. This week, VCC Director, Dr. Jim Kinter had the opportunity to give the inaugural presentation of the African Climate Leaders Fellowship Program. Thank you for leaders such as Afia (a Fellow) who are participating in this program and are committed to climate action!" – as published by the official page of the Virginia Climate Center.

"This fellowship has not only broadened my understanding but also forged unbreakable bonds with like-minded champions of the planet. Together, we'll rise to the challenge, crafting a sustainable future for all" – Afia Agyapomaa Ofosu, Ghanaian Science and Green Tech Journalist and an ACLF Fellow.

"The fellowship has been an incredible journey of growth, learning, and connecting with like-minded changemakers across Africa." – Alamin Lawal, Nigerian and a Climate Activist, and an ACLF Fellow.

"I've had the opportunity to dive deep into climate science, explore sustainable development models, and understand how policy and advocacy can drive meaningful change." – Gideon Darko, Research and Teaching Assistant and ACLF Fellow.

"Since I joined this journey, I have gotten to understand the overall climate change situation particular the role of community engagement and the use of AI tools for climate communication and climate justice advocacy as well as international climate governance" – Vanny Kasajhi, Climate Justice Advocate from Zambia and an ACLF Fellow.

Some Challenges Faced:

Prominent amongst the challenges faced in our first cohort are:

- i. Time zone coordination: Managing a fellowship across multiple African time zones presented challenges in ensuring full participation.
- ii. Virtual engagement: While the virtual format allowed broader participation, maintaining consistent interaction and engagement was occasionally challenging.
- iii. Internet Connectivity Challenges: The challenge of internet connectivity stability on the continent is one that is known. This made delivery of modules from Instructors on the continent and the engagement on Zoom with Fellows very challenging.
- iv. Financial Incentives Request: We also had several requests from some Fellows to support them with some allowances to enable them purchase data bundles to ensure their continuous connectivity.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The African Climate Leaders Fellowship Cohort 1 successfully met its objectives by empowering young Africans with the knowledge and skills needed for climate action. For future cohorts, Greenlead could:

- Explore more localized or in-person engagement opportunities.
- Strengthen mentorship and internship programs to provide ongoing support to fellows' post-fellowship.
- Further develop partnerships with global climate organizations to increase the fellowship's impact.
- Provide Stipends for Fellows to support their continuous engagement.

Conclusively, over 200 fellows from 32 countries are now better equipped to lead

climate initiatives in their communities, making ACLF an important contribution to the global climate movement.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Highlights
Week 1 (Aug 16)	Climate Science	Basic Science of Climate Change, Global and Regional Impacts, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.
Week 2 (Aug 24)	Sustainable Development and Green Economy	Food-Energy-Water Systems/ Plastic Management
Week 3 (Aug 31)	Climate Policy and Governance	International Climate Agreements. The Role of the UNFCCC and COP. Climate Justice and Equity.
Week 4 (Sept. 7)	Climate Advocacy and Communication	Storytelling Techniques. Leveraging social media for Action. Advocacy Strategies and Campaign Planning.
Week 5 (Sept. 14)	Community Engagement and Partnership Building	Principles of community engagement. Building trust and relationships within communities. Identifying and engaging stakeholders. Creating and sustaining partnerships.
Week 6 (Sept. 21)	Project Management and Resource Mobilization	Basics of project management (planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation). Setting SMART goals and objectives. Developing project timelines and budgets. Risk management and mitigation strategies. Resource mobilization techniques. Writing grant proposals. Financial management and accountability.
Week 7 (Sept. 28)	Capstone Project Presentation	

Social Media Handles:

LinkedIn Profile for Greenlead: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/greenleadacrf>

LinkedIn Profile for African Climate Leaders Fellowship: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/african-climate-leaders-fellowship>

Email: info@greenleadacrf.org

Website: www.greenleadacrf.org

