



YOUNG AFRICAN LANDSCAPE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

CONCEPT NOTE



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Youth are not a monolith but a diverse group of rural and urban, formally educated and not, privileged and underprivileged young people. As such, they have a shared interest in ensuring the health and sustainable use of landscapes and seascapes. Young people are harnessing technology, utilizing science, Indigenous and traditional knowledge, participating in policy making, leveraging networks and taking action beyond silos and across scales to guide society towards the paradigm shift needed to achieve environmental and social justice.

To support healthy and equitable landscapes for current and future generations, we must embody and practice landscape leadership: collaborative leadership that cares for people and their livelihoods, values ecosystems and facilitates action that goes beyond business as usual. In the context of complex intergenerational challenges such as the climate crisis, it is increasingly important for all sectors and levels of decision making and practice to actively engage with and foster the meaningful participation of youth in the designing, implementation and evaluation of projects and decision-making processes.

The Young African Landscape Leadership Program is designed to connect promising young innovators, practitioners, scientists and activists across Africa, support their capacity development, spark conversations for action and integrate young leaders from Africa into all GLF events of the year. The program includes youth-led regional dialogues, networking meetings, a monthly email with regional job opportunities, participation in the GLF Africa 2022 digital conference, a Landscape Leadership Workshop, and many other opportunities.

AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY & SPECIAL BENEFITS

Centering community and friendship within the program, we will create a WhatsApp group chat to facilitate communication among peers. Participants in the program will also have access to regular updates with regional job vacancies, updates and reminders about GLF activities on African landscapes (GLF Africa, GLF Lives, webinars, etc.) as well as receive free tickets for all the digital GLF events in 2022. Furthermore, participants who actively participate in and attend 80% of engagements will receive a participation certificate and a voucher for a relevant massive online open course (MOOC) hosted by the Landscape Academy.

REGIONAL DIALOGUES

GLF and YIL will organize a series of online intergenerational regional dialogues in collaboration with other Africa-based youth organizations, which are expected to take place in July and August 2022. During these dialogues, we will discuss and explore a range of topics that are deemed important by regional youth, especially in light of the upcoming UN COP27 climate summit in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022.

NETWORKING MEETINGS

Over the course of the networking meetings taking place throughout the year (tentatively scheduled for May, October and December 2022), participants will have the opportunity to get to know each other and exchange experiences, expectations and wishes within the sustainability sphere. Most importantly, we hope that we will all get to make new friends across Africa through these meetings.

LANDSCAPE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

The Landscape Leadership Workshop will provide students and young professionals with the tools to build activities and projects that can bring transformative change towards sustainability across the landscapes in Africa.

By taking part in the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Build relationships and share knowledge, ideas and feelings with a cross-cultural and cross-sectoral community of peers and professionals working towards sustainable landscapes across Africa;
- Build upon and obtain new skills to create and lead sustainable landscape projects across Africa.

The workshop will be developed in collaboration with the 2022 Africa Regional Project Team, the Youth in Landscapes Intern for Africa, and partners from across Africa. A detailed agenda of the workshop is expected to be released later this year.

