



3 E'S 4 AFRICA E.V. 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD OF THE CHAIRPERSON



*„We believe in
African innovation
for global impact.“*

Dear readers, dear supporters,

2025 was a special year for us. We celebrated the fifth anniversary of 3 E's 4 Africa. What began as an idea has grown into a vibrant organisation with a dedicated team, solid structures, and a clear mission: African innovation for global impact.

Over these five years, we have implemented 16 projects with a combined volume of €200,000, reaching over 500 young people across Africa and the diaspora. We are proud of this – and motivated to achieve even more.

2025 was also a strong year in terms of substance. Students and doctoral researchers implemented projects on climate adaptation, sustainable road construction, and flood management – in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Kenya. The African Climate Innovation Challenge opened to francophone countries, attracting 776 applications from 40 countries. Five start-ups from Togo, Morocco, Nigeria, Uganda, and Kenya each received USD 10,000 in seed funding to scale their solutions. The African Students Day in Krefeld brought together 140 people and demonstrated clearly: the diaspora is ready to take responsibility.

The growing external recognition of our work – through awards such as the Benedikt Prize and invitations to international conferences – reinforces our direction.

This report shows what becomes possible when young people take the initiative and receive the support they need. True to the spirit of "Action is the best call to hope." Thank you for your trust and support – over the past five years and beyond.

Sincerely yours,

Contimi Kenfack Mouafo
Chairperson, 3 E's 4 Africa e. V.



DISCLAIMER



We are a non-political association. Our instruments for change are the promotion of education, sustainability, self-determination, and progress in Africa. We are not an association that focuses on anti-racism education in general, or in Germany in particular.

However, as an association of the African diaspora—though not exclusively, but above all because of our strong African identity—we are always anti-racist. That is beyond any doubt.

We are an association that values plurality and diversity; for that reason, our members do not turn a blind eye to the issue of racism. On the contrary, many of us have already had numerous, often painful, experiences with this structural ill. We therefore engage with it actively—both the BIPoC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) members and our white members.

In addition, we have an Anti-Racism Officer within the association, Wilfriede Ayodele, who is also a co-founder of the [Autonomous BIPoC Office at the University of Cologne](#).

As soon as we notice that we are confronted with clearly identifiable postcolonial thinking or strong racist prejudices, we reserve the right to discontinue communication and any potential cooperation.

We are convinced that this will not be necessary and already look forward to getting to know you.

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OUR APPROACH



EDUCATION



EMPOWERMENT



ECOFRIENDLINESS



VISION

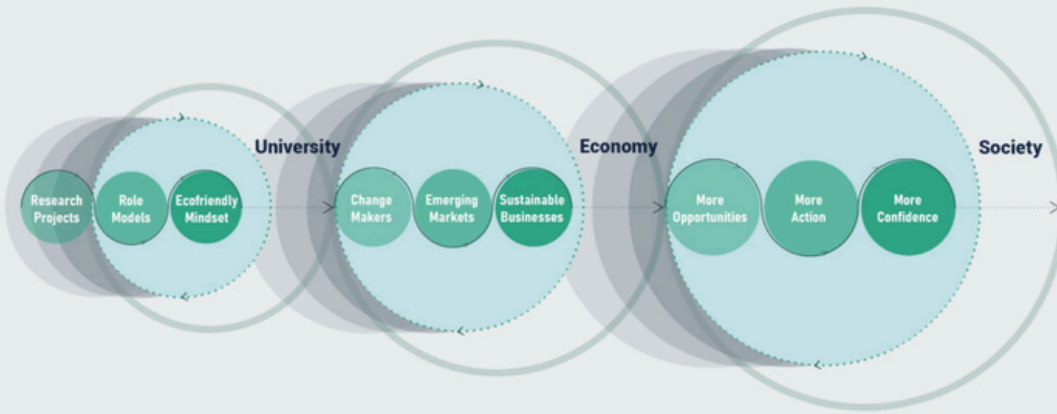
African innovation for global impact. We believe in a world in which the innovative ideas of young Africans are visible, valued, and strategically supported. In this way, their solutions can effectively address both local and global challenges of the climate crisis. Our vision is brought to life in our image film: *Perspectives – African Changemakers*.

IMPACT

To communicate the impact of our initiative more clearly, we developed the 3E4A Impact Cycles. The overall system of these three cycles—each oriented toward higher education, business, and society—serves both as a manifestation of our vision and as a source of motivation and guidance.

It is a self-reinforcing system. The initial impetus must come from the African students and doctoral candidates themselves. Our role is to make their work tangibly easier.





UNIVERSITY LEVEL

The impact begins with African students and doctoral candidates at universities in Africa. Through our support, they are able to translate their ideas into practice. As all projects have a clear focus on climate change adaptation or mitigation, this simultaneously strengthens an eco-friendly mindset. Through their projects, we place the students and doctoral candidates in the spotlight.

ECONOMIC LEVEL

As role models who bring innovative ideas to life, students and doctoral candidates in Africa become changemakers. They move from the academic sphere into the economic sector—either as employees or as social entrepreneurs with their own solutions. In doing so, they carry the ecological focus of their research directly into the economy.

SOCIETAL LEVEL

At this level, new perspectives emerge. Students and doctoral candidates in Africa inspire the African youth to take action. By founding start-ups with sustainable business models, they create new jobs and opportunities for development. Young people come to realize that economics and ecology can be considered together. The result is engaged and empowered societies that address challenges proactively, implement innovative ideas, and protect nature as a central foundation of life.

THE 3 E'S EXPLANATION



EDUCATION

E



Problem

Only **3.8%*** of global funding for climate change research is allocated to topics that specifically or substantially concern Africa. Given the scale and intensity of climate-related impacts on the continent, as well as the associated risks, Africa would deserve a central place in global climate research.



Solution

With our approach, we aim to ensure that **innovation in the African context** is deliberately promoted through education and research. For this reason, we work primarily with students and doctoral candidates at African universities.

*Overland et al. (2022) Funding flows for climate change research on Africa: where do they come from and where do they go? Climate and Development, 14:8, 705-724, DOI: 10.1080/17565529.2021.1976609





EMPOWERMENT



Problem

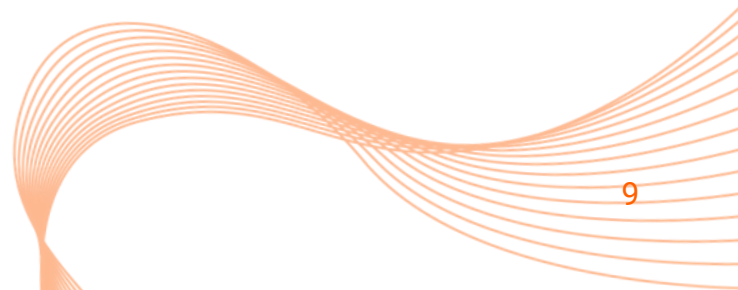
To this day, a **predominantly negative image and narrative** of the African continent remains widespread. This narrative reinforces feelings of hopelessness and a lack of future prospects among young people on the ground.



Solution

We seek to counter this by conveying to African youth that they can—and should—develop the solutions to their own challenges. They understand local problems best and should therefore be the ones to design appropriate solutions. We provide them with the means to implement their ideas while presenting them as changemakers. By making their work visible, we promote an **authentic and innovative image of the continent**.

E





E

ECOFRIENDLINESS



Problem

Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change. An estimated **43 million people*** in Africa will be pushed further below the poverty line by 2030 if climate change is not effectively addressed. This places considerable strain on the continent's development.



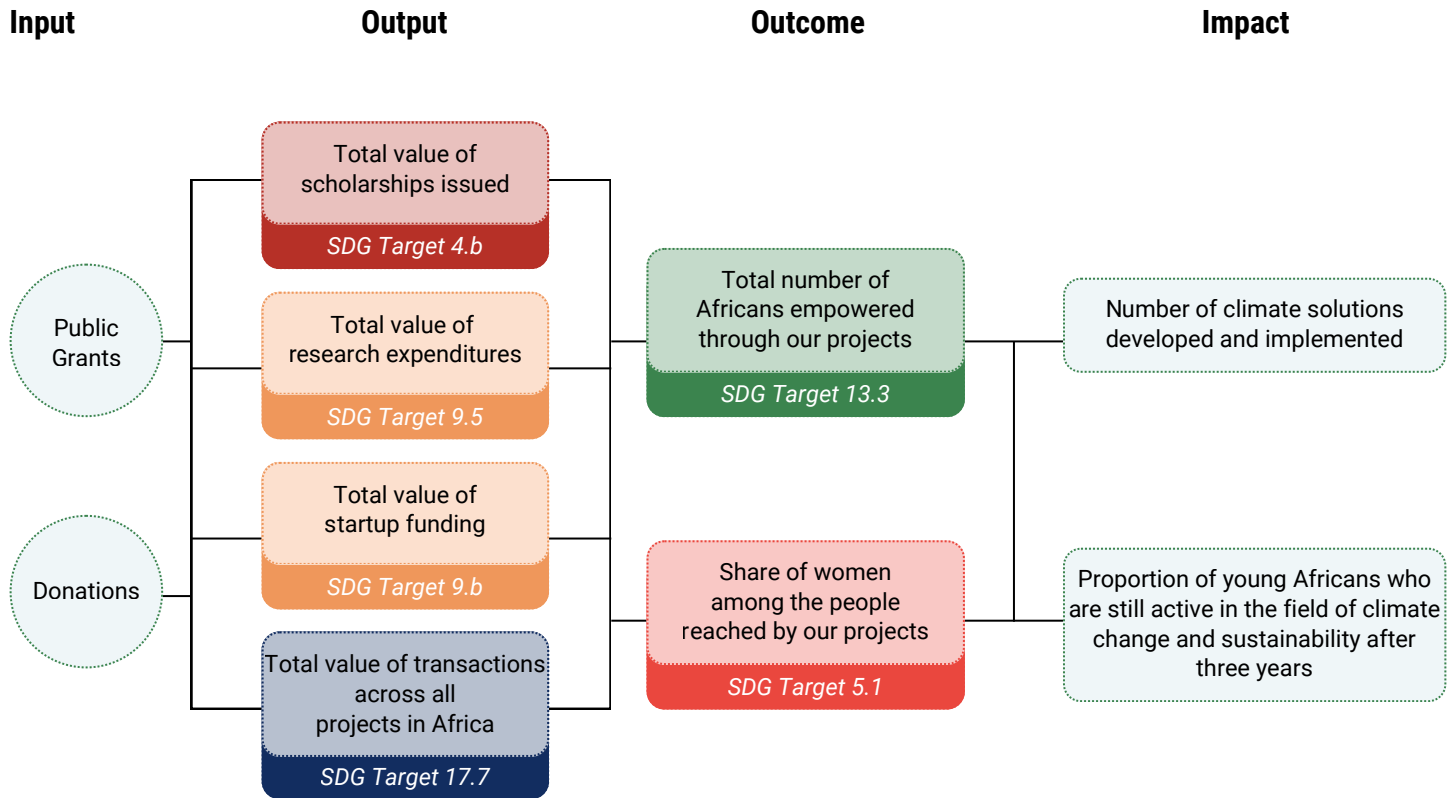
Solution

To actively counter climate change and its consequences, the projects we support focus on developing **new concepts and solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation.**

*World Bank Group (2020) Africa Climate Business Plan 2020-2026
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/africa-climate-business-plan>









OBJECTIVES AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT



Our impact measurement is based on a selection of the United Nations' 17 global Sustainable Development Goals, as well as indicators derived from them.



SDG	Indicator	Value 2020/07/01 - 2025/12/31
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	Total value of scholarships issued (Target 4.b)	€24,998
	Share of women among the people reached by our projects (Target 5.1)	47 %
	Total value of research expenditures (Target 9.5)	€61,098
	Total value of startup funding (Target 9.b)	€41,428
	Total number of Africans empowered through our projects [1] (Target 13.3)	397
	Total value of transactions across all projects in Africa (Target 17.7)	€144,650

[1] Number of Africans who are directly and positively impacted by our work. This includes participants in research projects, attendees of educational events, and individuals who have received mentoring or financial support as part of an ideas competition. The respective number of participants is recorded for this indicator upon completion of each project.



FULL TEXT OF THE 17 GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Link SDG metadata repository: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>



Target 4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Target 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Target 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

Target 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Target 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed



OUR PROJECTS



Through our work and different project formats, we reach three target groups:

RESEARCHERS

Research projects on climate protection and adaptation are at the core of our work. We support African students and doctoral researchers at African universities in turning their own ideas into solutions for local challenges. Over the course of approximately one year, we accompany teams with financial and substantive support whilst raising visibility for their work. The aim is tangible results with a direct benefit for local communities.

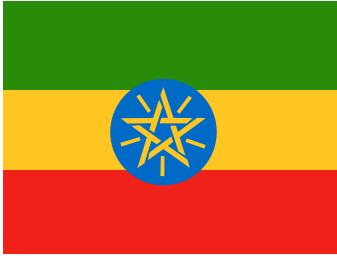
ENTREPRENEURS

The African Climate Innovation Challenge is our annual ideas competition for young entrepreneurs (18–35) across Africa. Through an online curriculum, teams participate in workshops and coaching sessions on climate adaptation, entrepreneurship, and digitalisation. The highlight is a pitch event before a jury, followed by an implementation phase in which the winners use their prize money to expand their start-up.

DIASPORA

Young members of the African diaspora understand both continents – and are therefore well placed to build bridges between them. At the annual African Students Day, held at German universities, we inform, connect, and inspire participants on topics related to development policy. Community members share their experiences and encourage others to find their own way of engaging with their home continent.





COMPLETED PROJECT

ETH-001

Development of multi-stress-resistant Sorghum Plants

A team of four doctoral researchers in molecular biology from Ethiopia set out to develop new sorghum genotypes through mutation breeding, with resistance to climatic stress factors and improved yields. Their research successfully identified resistant elite lines, which are now to be made available to farmers and local communities. The project thereby makes a significant contribution to food security, sustainable agriculture, and climate change adaptation in Ethiopia.

FACTS

Country	Ethiopia
Duration	May 2024 – December 2025
University	Addis Ababa University & Samara University
Partner	TaYA Ethiopia (former Talent Youth Association)
PhD students	4 (including 2 women)
Supervisor	Prof. Tileye Feyissa
Budget	€12,000
Funders	Cordes & Graefe Stiftung, Innovation Zukunft Stiftung

IMPLEMENTATION

The project was carried out as part of the doctoral research of the four team members. During the preparatory phase, 200 genetically distinct seed lines were created through mutation breeding. In the project phase described, these lines were sown and subsequently subjected to a systematic evaluation of growth performance under various stress conditions.

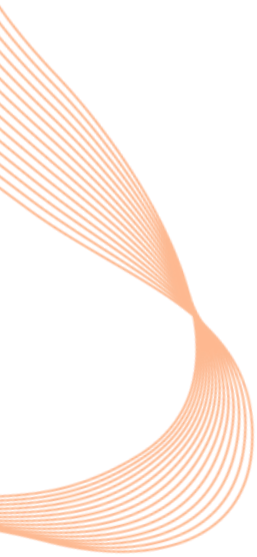


Sowing took place across three sites with distinct climatic conditions, yielding valuable insights into genotype-by-environment interactions.

Following sowing, the plants were continuously monitored and phenological data – including plant height, leaf count, and flowering time – were systematically recorded. To standardise the measurement of stress resistance, drought stress and Striga infestation were artificially induced, and plant responses to water deficit and disease pressure were documented. After harvest, the team and field assistants determined grain yield and biomass production for all 200 mutant lines at each site. These two parameters served as the primary criteria for selecting the elite seed lines.

The data collected on plant growth and stress responses were statistically analysed using ANOVA and GGE biplot methods. This analysis identified 15 drought-tolerant lines, characterised in particular by rapid seedling establishment and vigorous early growth. A further ten lines were found to exhibit near-complete resistance to Striga infestation. From these elite lines, six so-called dual-elite lines were ultimately selected, combining consistently high biomass and grain yields, minimal Striga infestation, and strong drought tolerance. Compared to conventional sorghum control plants, the dual-elite lines achieved approximately twice the yield.





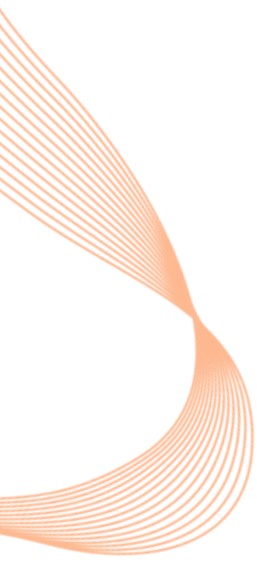
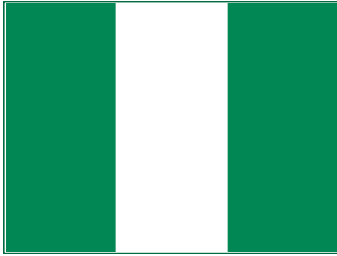
IMPACT

The intended impact goals were achieved and supported by empirical evidence: climate-resilient seed lines were successfully developed and identified, significantly outperforming conventional comparison lines in stress-condition trials. The next project phase will focus on the regulatory approval, distribution, and scaling of the improved sorghum varieties. Given the determination and professionalism demonstrated by the team throughout, there is well-founded confidence that these steps will also be carried out successfully, and that the elite lines can be established in mainstream agriculture – making a meaningful contribution to food security in Ethiopia.

With regard to commercialisation, it is recommended that the seed lines not be patented, but instead made available to farmers at cost price only. Seed stability is also considered an important criterion, to avoid creating dependency through the need for repeated repurchase. The team shares this position and has stated explicitly that it acts in the interest of the local population.

Points for critical reflection include the limited English proficiency of some team members – with the exception of the supervisor – which led to occasional misunderstandings. In addition, the project duration was exceeded by six months, due to delays in identifying a suitable laboratory for DNA sequencing as well as the parallel academic commitments of team members. On a positive note, several team members were able to complete their doctoral degrees in the course of the project and are now contributing as highly qualified professionals to Ethiopia's continued development.





COMPLETED PROJECT

NGA-001

Biotransformation of Flare and Landfill Gas to Green Plastic

This project aimed to produce compostable plastic from recycled methane, thereby transforming a harmful greenhouse gas into a valuable product suitable for applications such as food packaging, whilst making an additional contribution to reducing environmental pollution. In the course of the project, a device for capturing methane at landfill sites was successfully developed and built. Using the gas collected, initial bacterial cultures were cultivated for use in the production of bioplastic.

FACTS

Country	Nigeria
Duration	July 2024 – November 2025
University	University of Nigeria Nsukka
Partner	Stand Out For Environment Restoration Initiative
Students	6 (including 4 women)
Supervisor	Dr. Chioma Onyetugo Amadi
Budget	€7,000
Funders	Cordes & Graefe Stiftung, Innovation Zukunft Stiftung
Video	https://youtu.be/QTSb9IGHh5Y?si=BsRVctD-7fbx0QsZ

IMPLEMENTATION

Nigeria ranks among the ten countries with the highest gas flaring rates in the world. Gas flaring involves the burning of natural gas produced as a by-product of oil extraction, with serious consequences for public health and the environment. The team's goal is to process this flare gas together with landfill gas into polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB) – a biodegradable bioplastic synthesised through bacterial fermentation processes.



As a first step, the team sought access to flare gas. To this end, discussions were held with the relevant environmental authority and the process of obtaining an appropriate licence was initiated. As this process proved lengthy and a decision is still pending, the team in the meantime focused on developing a device for capturing methane at landfill sites, which was successfully completed after several iterations.

In parallel, a laboratory was set up at the university with the necessary equipment, including chemical containers, a microscope, and consumables such as compressed oxygen and culture media. Following an experimental phase, the team successfully cultivated PHB-producing microorganisms in the culture media. To optimise bacterial growth, improvements were made to the gas transfer technique through which methane is supplied as a nutrient source. As no rotary shaker was available for the continuous mixing of samples, this process was replaced by daily manual shaking.



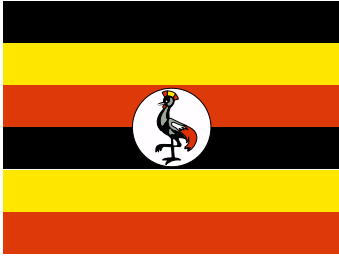


IMPACT

The primary goal of bioplastic production was not fully achieved within the project timeframe. Nevertheless, the team has all the essential prerequisites in place to continue pursuing this independently: a fully equipped laboratory has been established, promising progress has been made in cultivating PHB-producing bacteria, and a dedicated landfill gas collection device has been developed to ensure access to recycled methane. In addition, Africa Insight Communication conducted a media campaign that has increased the project's reach and visibility in support of its further development. The team continues to pursue its goal of founding a start-up that produces bioplastic from recycled methane, thereby contributing to Nigeria's sustainability objectives.

The team's communication with project coordination was a point of concern: deadlines and required documents had to be requested repeatedly, and submitted reports frequently fell short in quality. That said, taking into account the challenging conditions under which the project was carried out, the results achieved are nonetheless worthy of recognition. The team was repeatedly required to develop independent and creative solutions in the face of limited infrastructure and equipment. Furthermore, individual members worked under personally demanding circumstances, yet maintained the commitment to research solutions for public health and to build a social enterprise. The team is wished every success in achieving its goals and making its solutions available at scale across Nigeria.





COMPLETED PROJECT

ACIC-2025

African Climate Innovation Challenge 2025

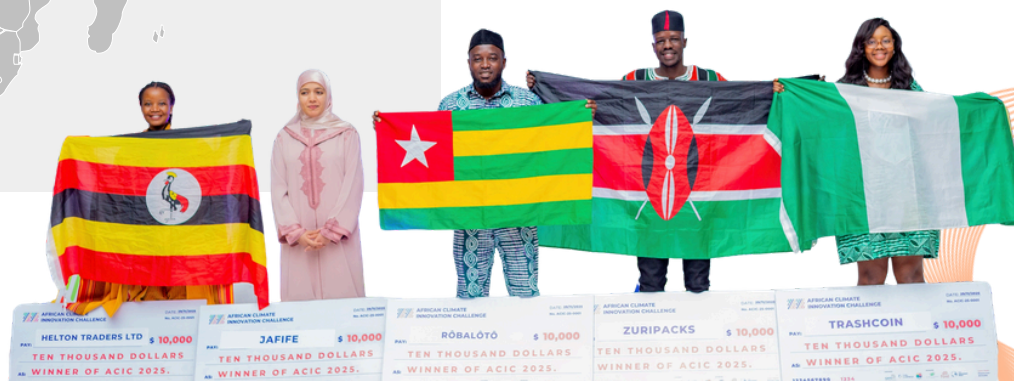
The ACIC is an ideas competition that challenges young entrepreneurs to develop innovative and environmentally friendly solutions. It supports them in turning these ideas into concrete action by equipping them with the entrepreneurial skills and seed funding needed to bring their solutions to life and help African communities adapt to climate change.

FACTS

Applications	Entire Africa (English- and French-speaking)
Pitch	Kampala, Uganda
Duration	August 2025 – December 2025
Curriculum	2 weeks, 8 lectures, 8 experts
Partner	GAYO, Start.Up Lounge
Participants	109 (including 57 women) in 35 teams
Budget	USD 115,000 (incl. funds provided by partners)
Prize money	USD 50,000 (5x 10,000)
Funder	Cordes & Graefe Stiftung
Video	https://www.youtube.com/live/xlHXfcdfgko?si=qJrJW6fZK3vgoldd

IMPLEMENTATION

Preparations for the ACIC began in early 2025. In order to include francophone African countries, which are frequently excluded from international events due to language barriers, the call for applications was published in both English and French and opened to all African countries. Within just two weeks, 776 applications were received from 40 countries – 53% of applicants were female, and more than a third of the teams were female-led.



Selection favoured concepts in the areas of climate mitigation and adaptation that could already demonstrate initial results. The focus was on existing start-ups, as experience has shown that the programme achieves its greatest impact with this group. Additional criteria included the quality of applications, team size, and the age and gender of participants, with younger teams and those with a higher proportion of female members given preferential consideration.

The online curriculum comprised eight workshops on social entrepreneurship in the environmental sector and was delivered separately in English and French. Each workshop included a mentoring session in which participants could discuss their specific situations with experts and receive individual guidance. Ten finalists were subsequently selected to travel to the pitch event in Kampala, Uganda. Selection was based on video presentations in which teams outlined a business plan for the use of their prize funds.

The pitch event formed the highlight of the ACIC. Prior to the event, finalists received intensive one-to-one coaching to refine their concepts and presentations. At the event itself, pitches were assessed by a six-member jury comprising experts in African and international climate policy as well as entrepreneurs in the environmental sector.





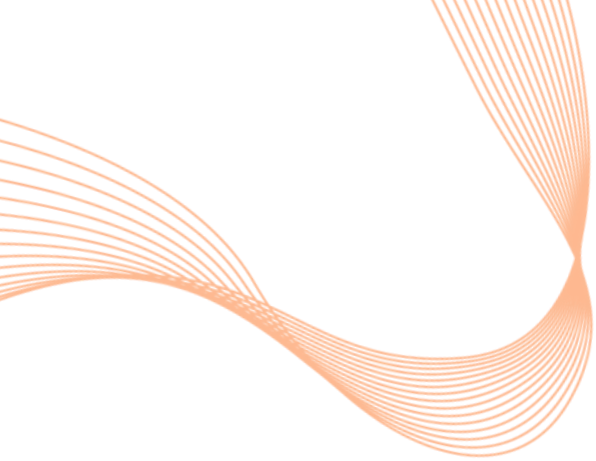
Among the guests of honour was the UNDP Representative in Uganda, Nwanne Vwede-Obahor, whose keynote address highlighted, amongst other things, the importance of independent revenue generation for the long-term sustainability of the teams. Panel discussions with experts and decision-makers shed light on the crucial role of African youth in developing climate solutions.

IMPACT

The five winners – each awarded USD 10,000 – are:

- **Rôbalôtô, Togo:** Building a circular waste system using smart bins, school clubs, and local recycling into solar bags. The solution reduces plastic pollution, prevents toxic burning, and strengthens climate-conscious engagement in communities.
- **Jafife, Morocco:** Deploying smart solar dryers to extend food shelf life, digitalising supply chains, and connecting farmers with processing businesses. This reduces food waste and strengthens climate resilience in rural areas.

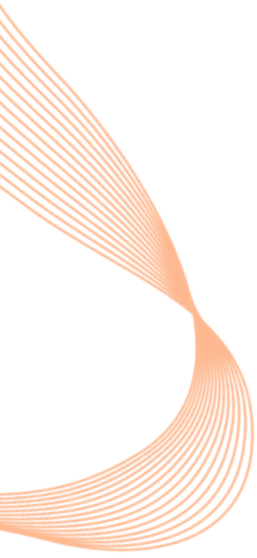




- **Trashcoin, Nigeria:** Users are rewarded with digital tokens for collected plastic waste. The system has already diverted over 2.5 million kilograms of plastic, prevented emissions from open burning, and created green jobs.
- **Helton Traders Limited, Uganda:** Recycling plastic waste into durable building materials such as paving stones and tiles. With over 12,000 kg of recycled plastic, the initiative promotes a circular economy for climate-friendly urban development.
- **Zuripacks, Kenya:** Producing sustainable, plastic-free packaging alternatives to reduce emissions and pollution risks in climate-vulnerable cities.

The work of the winning teams illustrates the concrete outcomes of the ACIC. The awarded start-ups now have the resources needed to scale their projects and address key climate and environmental challenges. The programme's sustained focus on innovation, collaboration, and capacity building positions the ACIC as an important driver of Africa's journey towards greater climate resilience. Engagement with the participating teams, and in particular the winners, will continue in order to support their development and evaluate the programme's long-term influence.





COMPLETED PROJECT

ASD-2025

African Students Day 2025

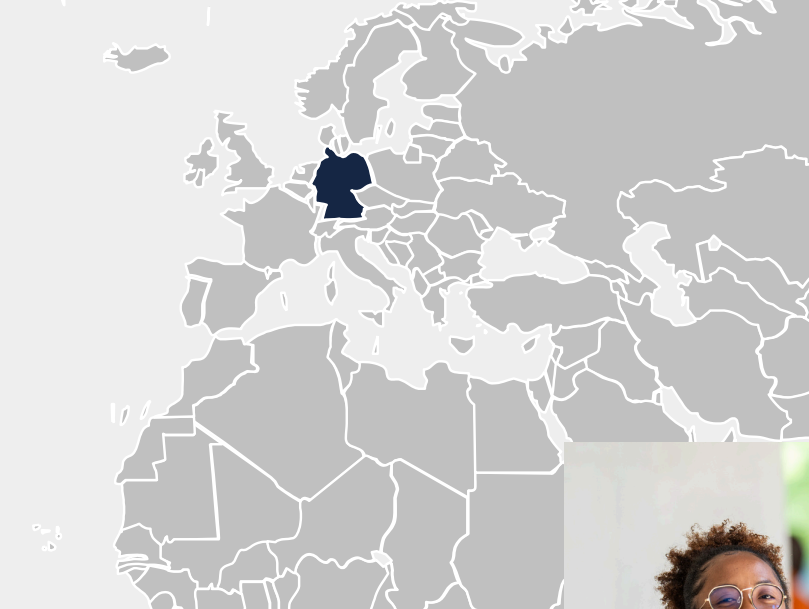
The African Students Day is a platform for young people from the African diaspora who want to take responsibility and actively contribute to the development of their home continent. At its core are dialogue, critical reflection, and practical inspiration for civil society engagement. The event brings together personal experience and professional expertise, fostering concrete approaches to action. Its aim is to make visible and strengthen the role of the diaspora as a shaping force in development cooperation.

FACTS

Location	Krefeld, Germany
Time	May 2025 (one-day event)
Speakers	12
Partner	Hochschule Niederrhein, VKII Ruhrbezirk e.V., AfroPlus
Participants	110 (incl. 60 women) from the African diaspora
Budget	€17,235
Funders	Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung, Enhance Alliance

IMPLEMENTATION

The event was opened by moderator Liz Shoo (Deutsche Welle) and the organising team, followed by a welcome address from Hochschule Niederrhein Rector Dr. Thomas Grünwald, who expressed the university's commitment to providing the African diaspora with a space to connect, collaborate, and shape solutions for a sustainable and inclusive world. The opening was concluded by a keynote from Junior Tagne, a board member of an African organisation promoting political engagement among young people. He highlighted the potential of the African diaspora to serve as a bridge between Europe and the continent, and emphasised the urgency of taking action rather than waiting for better circumstances: "Even the smallest action has the power to trigger an avalanche. Every effort to help others matters."



The first panel discussion explored the many ways in which the diaspora can invest in Africa – far beyond financial means. Panellists, all of whom lead organisations dedicated to Africa's development, argued that "investing" can take many forms: engagement, entrepreneurship, volunteering, knowledge transfer, or networking. Each member of the diaspora can find a personal path that suits them. The speakers also pointed out that the diaspora as a whole is Africa's largest source of funding, for instance through financial support to family members. They suggested that if even 10% of these short-term transfers were redirected towards social projects or business development, the impact on societal progress would be enormous. The discussion closed with an open question: what if investment success were measured not in returns, but in lives improved, potentials unlocked, and systems transformed?

The second panel examined research and innovation in Africa. African researchers described the structural barriers that hinder their work – from a lack of equipment and funding to the prohibitive cost of accessing academic journals, with individual papers sometimes costing over €100. They argued that this creates a knowledge divide, restricting access to the latest research to wealthier nations. Furthermore, only work published in expensive, predominantly Western journals is considered internationally credible. Calls were made for equal research partnerships between Europe and Africa, open access to knowledge, and a redefinition of what research means when it is conducted for Africans, by Africans, and about Africa – decolonising not only research systems, but also mindsets.



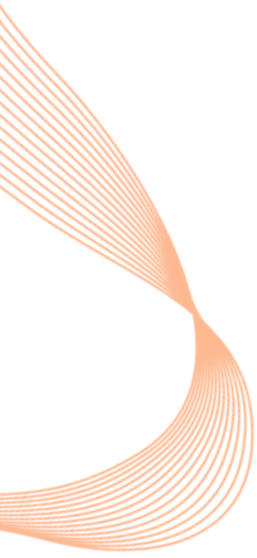


In the third panel, young leaders from the European African diaspora shared their personal journeys and the organisations they have built. By presenting their stories, they served as tangible role models and underlined that change must be generated from the ground up – by communities organising themselves and simply taking the first step. Alongside the panel discussions, the organising team and partner organisations presented their initiatives in detail, offering participants further concrete examples of how to engage with their home continent. This generated a lively exchange with attendees eager to learn more. An African buffet provided a fitting close to the event, creating space for networking and for continuing the conversations in a relaxed atmosphere.

IMPACT

The African Students Day brought together 140 people – 110 of whom belong to the core target group of young people from the African diaspora – and was met with a strong response. There was considerable interest, questions, and contributions from the audience, which sparked further conversations throughout the event. Taken together, the discussions and initiatives presented were not isolated but carried a common thread: the vision of an Africa that owns and shapes its own narrative, that builds bridges and takes action – wherever in the world its people may be. The message to participants was clear: you are not too far away, not too small, and not too late. You are already part of the change. Many participants were reluctant to leave even after the event had ended, reflecting the sustained engagement and sense of momentum in the room.





ONGOING PROJECT

CMR-005

New Streets from Old Tires (Phase 2)

This team is developing a novel construction material that enables the use of recycled car tyres and plastic bottles in road building. As part of the project, material properties are being determined through laboratory testing, a test road section is being laid, and a life cycle analysis is being conducted. The approach aims to address the problem of plastic waste pollution in Cameroon whilst simultaneously contributing to the conservation of fossil resources.

Funding	€12,000	(100 %)
Disbursements	€7,226	(60 %)
Progress	Q2/Q4	(50 %)

FACTS

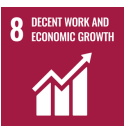
Country	Cameroon
Duration	May 2025 – June 2026
University	Université de Yaoundé
Partner	Association pour le Développement Durable
Team	3 Master-Studierende (davon 2 Frauen), 1 Bauingenieur
Supervisor	Dr. Deodonne Kunwufine
Mentor	Dr. Isidore Mbenkoue Mbida
Budget	12.000 €
Funder	Cordes & Graefe Stiftung



DESCRIPTION

Plastic waste and, in particular, the burning of refuse represent a significant environmental and public health problem in Cameroon. Plastic entering the environment and agricultural land uncontrolled blocks channels and waterways, and encourages the formation of breeding grounds for pathogens, with far-reaching health consequences for both the population and wildlife. Developing applications for recycled plastic could make a substantial contribution to addressing this problem.

The first project phase was carried out in 2023 and focused on laboratory tests using a hydrocarbon binder. The results demonstrated mechanical properties comparable to, and in some respects superior to, conventional bitumen. All activities were documented in a scientific research report, and a patent was filed for the novel process.





In the first quarter of the second project phase, all necessary materials and tools for the production of further samples were procured. In parallel, the team began planning the test road section and held discussions with the municipal authorities, who granted approval for the construction of a 500-metre test section in the Yaoundé 6 district. Final laboratory tests were carried out in the second quarter. Construction of the test section was delayed due to the presidential elections, meaning that the road construction and life cycle analysis are now scheduled for the third and fourth quarters.

IMPACT GOALS

1. The creation of a new field of application provides incentives to increase plastic recycling in Cameroon and beyond.
2. Climate, environmental, and public health protection are advanced by reducing the burning of waste and its uncontrolled release into the environment.
3. Fossil resources are conserved by substituting bitumen – a petroleum product – with recycled materials in road construction.
4. Lower road construction costs enable improvements to the country's infrastructure, which is currently in significant need of repair, thereby contributing to the country's overall economic development.
5. The team is empowered to develop innovative solutions to local challenges, to grow professionally, and to inspire others through their commitment.





ONGOING PROJECT

KEN-001

Evaluating Flood Management in Flood-Prone Areas

Through the analysis of existing protective measures and the development of new ones, an integrated flood management system is to be established that combines indigenous knowledge with modern technologies. The aim is to strengthen the resilience of the flood-prone region around Lake Victoria and, for the first time, to actively involve local communities in the solution process, fostering their autonomous participation.

Funding	€8,500	(100 %)
Disbursements	€6,312	(74 %)
Progress	Q2/Q4	(50 %)

FACTS

Country	Kenya
Duration	April 2025 – April 2026
University	Pioneer International University
Partner	Organization of African Youth Kenya
Students	5 (including 1 woman)
Supervisor	Dr. Natariana Kilonzo
Budget	€8,500
Funder	Cordes & Graefe Stiftung



DESCRIPTION

The residents of Budalangi in western Kenya are regularly affected by flooding, leading to considerable human suffering, displacement, and crop losses. Progressive soil degradation further undermines soil fertility and hinders the development of the region. The intensity of flooding has increased continuously over the past 25 years.

The project was preceded by a comprehensive review of existing literature. The first quarter served as an exploratory phase to assess the situation on the ground, establish contact with relevant stakeholders, and test the research instruments and methods. In the second quarter, two extensive field studies were conducted in the villages of Rukala and Musoma, which form the primary focus of the project. The observations and data gathered provide the foundation for the subsequent analysis and development of solutions. In the third and fourth quarters, the collected data will be evaluated, graphs and reports produced, and recommendations for action formulated for the relevant government authorities.





IMPACT GOALS

1. Concrete support and new perspectives are provided to those whose livelihoods are existentially threatened by increasing floods.
2. The causes of flooding and their effects on the population and regional development are systematically researched and documented.
3. Existing flood protection measures and their implementation are analysed for effectiveness, and gaps are identified.
4. The findings are published and shared with relevant decision-makers through workshops.
5. On this basis, an integrated flood management system is to be developed that combines indigenous knowledge with modern technologies, strengthens regional resilience, and contributes to sustainable development.
6. The team is given the opportunity to engage practically with the global consequences of climate change as young researchers, laying the groundwork for a future career in climate research and activism.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2025



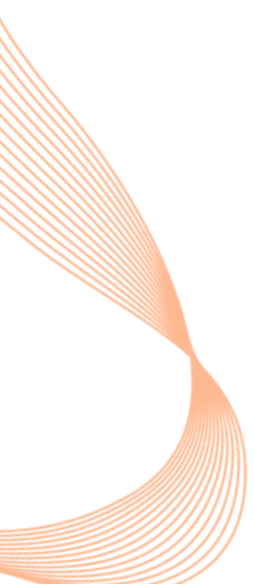
Inflow (<i>grants, donations, membership fees</i>)	€43,984
Expenses (<i>association costs, events, visibility</i>)	- €3,522
Expenses (<i>projects</i>)	- €40,392
Annual delta	€70
Opening account balance (<i>as of 01/01/2024</i>)	€43,864
Closing account balance (<i>as of 31/12/2024</i>)	€43,934

Figures may vary slightly due to rounding

Because sustainability is also important to us in the financial sector, we have chosen to hold an account with GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG, 44774 Bochum. Among other things, customer deposits there are used to finance projects in the field of renewable energy. This explicitly does not constitute advertising; it is intended solely to provide information to you as a potential donor and to ensure the greatest possible transparency.

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NEW PARTNERSHIPS



Association pour le Développement Durable (ADD) – Cameroon

ADD is a pan-African think-and-action tank led by young Cameroonians that combines theoretical research with practical implementation. Its aim is to develop solutions to complex social, political, and environmental challenges, and to contribute to the development of Cameroon and Africa as well as the empowerment of young people.

As a new partner, ADD supports the delivery of research projects in Cameroon: by providing access to the relevant target group, channelling project funds to the teams, and offering advisory support on country-specific matters alongside expert guidance drawn from its own work.

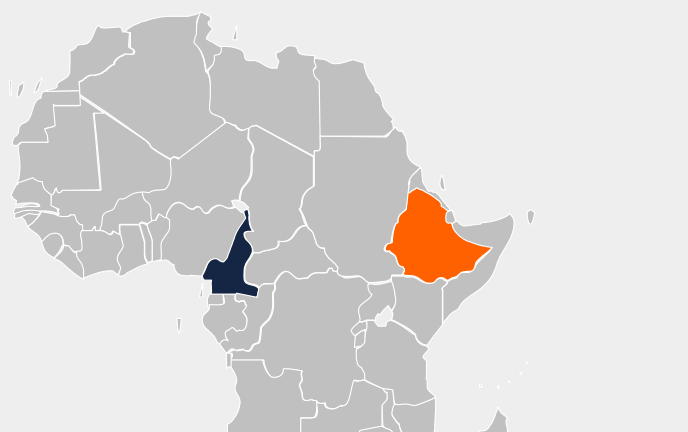
Organization of African Youth Kenya (OAYouth Kenya)



OAYouth Kenya is a non-profit organisation that empowers young people as agents of social, political, and economic change in Africa. As part of the umbrella organisation "Organisation of African Youth", it provides young people with a platform for innovative initiatives and, through structured programmes, supports young leaders in the areas of environmental sustainability as well as social and economic development.

Within the framework of the research project in Kenya, OAYouth Kenya acts as a local project partner, contributing its expertise to support the development of a sustainable flood management system for the affected population.

OUTLOOK



ETH-002

DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-STRESS-RESISTANT SORGHUM PLANTS (PHASE 2)

This project is a continuation of ETH-001 (see "Completed Projects"). In the first phase, sorghum seed lines were developed with significantly improved resistance to drought and disease, intended to make a substantial contribution to food security in Ethiopia under the conditions of climate change. In the second phase, the identified lines are being verified through further testing. The seed lines will subsequently be approved and scaled in collaboration with government institutions and seed companies, with the aim of making them widely accessible to the agricultural sector.

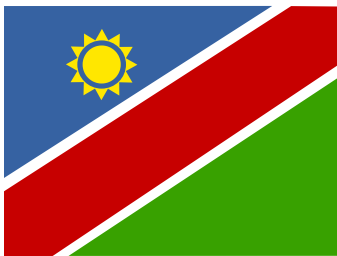
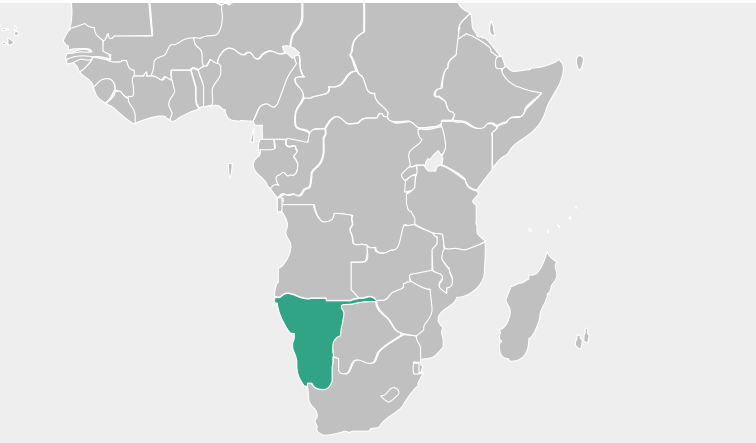


CMR-006

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON POLLINATION ACTIVITY IN CAMEROON

A researcher at the University of Buea is planning research into plant pollinators on Mount Cameroon, with the aim of investigating changes in insect behaviour under rising temperatures and deriving recommendations for adaptation in local agriculture. The studies will be conducted across the different climatic zones of the mountain and carried out by four master's students, who will thereby collect systematic data on this topic in Cameroon for the first time.

OUTLOOK



NAM-003 & NAM-004

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TO SECURE WATER FUTURES IN NAMIBIA

In collaboration with the National Commission on Research Science and Technology (NCRST), two projects are being launched to investigate the use of AI in improving water supply in Namibia. The first project uses AI for data-driven site identification for new wells, balancing social and ecological considerations. The second project applies AI to detect anomalies in water quality and predict seasonal and anthropogenic influences on groundwater. Together, both approaches aim to achieve a holistic improvement in water supply for the population.



ACIC-2026

AFRICAN CLIMATE INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2026

The annual ideas competition will again take place in 2026, supporting young African entrepreneurs with training and seed funding to turn innovative ideas into sustainable and viable businesses. The programme continues to be open to both francophone and anglophone participants and will be offered in both languages. The aim is once again to equip promising start-ups with the resources needed to act as catalysts for climate change adaptation across Africa. The venue for the final pitch event is yet to be confirmed.

OUTLOOK



ASD-2026

AFRICAN STUDENTS DAY 2026

The African Students Day 2026 will take place at Hochschule Düsseldorf in cooperation with seven German universities – a reflection of the growing institutional support for the format. Panel discussions will focus on the themes "Climate Change in Africa and the Role of the Diaspora in Fostering Resilience" and "How Global Media Coverage Shapes the Narrative of Africa". The keynote speaker will be Dr. Karamba Diaby, who in 2013 became the first Black politician born in Africa to be elected to the German Bundestag, where he served as a member until 2025.

ASSOCIATION AND EVENTS



The organisation's fifth anniversary was recognised as a special milestone at the annual general meeting. The continuity of the organisation and the dedicated work of its volunteer members form the foundation for the many meaningful projects realised together over this period. The growing external recognition of the organisation's work is reflected in the receipt of awards and invitations to professional conferences.

JUNIOR-BENEDIKT PRIZE

In July, our founder Contimi Kenfack was awarded the Benedikt Prize of the city of Mönchengladbach – as one of three recipients. The award recognises extraordinary civic engagement and serves as both public acknowledgement and encouragement: "The courage to get involved. The courage to make a difference. The courage to do good – even when it is sometimes uncomfortable."

The prize was presented by Lord Mayor Felix Heinrichs and association board member Professor Harald Vergossen, who in his address highlighted the strong determination of young people to take on responsibility as a reason for confidence and optimism.





AFROTOPIA? VISIONS OF A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

In October, our chairman Contimi Kenfack was invited to speak at the event "Afrotopia? Visions of a Sustainable Future" in Zurich, organised by GreenBuzz and inspired by Felwine Sarr's work of the same name, which calls for a fundamental decolonisation of Africa. Together with other thought leaders, Contimi discussed how Africa can forge its own path towards sustainable development – from aid to investment, from deficit to potential, from external determination to self-determination. The invitation to the event reflects the mission of our organisation: to empower Africa's young generation to actively shape their own future.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE RURSEE

The fifth anniversary of the organisation was celebrated with a weekend at the Rursee near Aachen, which also provided an opportunity to welcome new members who had joined following the African Students Day in May. During the general meeting, the organisation reflected on its history to date: 16 projects implemented with a combined volume of €200,000, and over 500 young people reached across Africa and the diaspora. Vinley Orutwa was also elected to the board as the successor to Jesus Olujobi, and substantive discussions were held about the future direction of the organisation.

Beyond the official programme, the weekend offered plenty of space – in glorious sunshine – for volleyball, swimming in the lake, and barbecuing, making it feel very much like a little summer holiday.





ASSOCIATION MEETING IN AACHEN

A second organisational meeting took place in November in Aachen. Following a shared breakfast and time for personal catch-up, the focus turned to project planning for 2026: submitted project proposals were reviewed, discussed in terms of content, and assessed against available funding and coordination capacity. As a result, four research projects were selected to be implemented alongside the existing ASD and ACIC projects. The official part of the meeting was rounded off with a game of volleyball and a shared Chinese buffet.



THANK YOU!



Without you—our current and future supporters—and without you—our current and future members and 3E4A ambassadors—Contimi’s original idea would still be nothing more than a concept. Our changemakers, especially the students in Africa, would have had one important opportunity fewer to put their knowledge into practice through sustainable, applied research projects and to lead by example.

For this, we would like to express our sincere thanks. This shared journey has been, and continues to be, deeply enriching and inspiring for us. We very much hope to have you by our side in the future as well.

The 3E4A Team





3 E's 4 Africa e.V. is a registered non-profit association based in Aachen. Purpose of the association according to its statutes:

- The promotion of education, popular and vocational education, including student support (cf. German Fiscal Code (AO) § 52 para. 2 no. 7)
- The promotion of development cooperation (cf. AO § 52 para. 2 no. 15)
- To increase the degree of autonomy of Africans, in particular young people in an academic environment, and to empower them to find solutions to social and ecological problems

As a registered non-profit association, 3 E's 4 Africa e. V. is exempt from corporate income tax pursuant to § 5 para. 1 no. 9 KStG and provisionally exempt from trade tax pursuant to § 3 no. 6 GewStG under tax number 201/5908/4540, as determined by the Aachen tax office.

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AFRICAN INNOVATION FOR A GLOBAL IMPACT



Editorial

3 E's 4 Africa e.V.

Postal address

3 E's 4 Africa e. V.
Am Klösterchen 2
D-52134 Herzogenrath

Email

info@3e4africa.org

Register of associations

Aachen | VR 6057

VAT identification number pursuant to §27 a German Value Added Tax Act

DE201/5908/4540

Authorised board members

Contimi Kenfack Mouafo

Chairperson

Soukaina Skribbe

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Lukas Klapheck

Secretary

Vinley Orutwa

Treasurer