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# **Ethiopian Youth Environmental Awareness (EYEA)**

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## **Empowering Youth for Climate Resilience**

### **EYEA Case for Support 2026-2030**

Public Knowledge Edition



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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Public Edition presents the 2026–2030 strategic vision of Ethiopian Youth Environmental Awareness (EYEA), titled Empowering Youth for Climate Resilience.

The document outlines the environmental context shaping Ethiopia's development trajectory, the strategic imperative for youth-centred climate empowerment, and the institutional framework through which EYEA seeks to deliver measurable and accountable impact during the 2026–2030 period.

The strategy is grounded in three core principles:

- Structured youth engagement as a driver of environmental resilience
- Institutional governance and accountability
- Sustainable, capacity-linked growth

This edition is designed for partners, supporters, institutions, and stakeholders seeking a clear overview of EYEA's priorities, programme architecture, implementation model, and long-term outlook. It provides strategic clarity while maintaining accessibility.

A more detailed technical framework, including monitoring tools, indicator matrices, and operational methodologies, is maintained internally and may be shared with institutional partners where appropriate.

The 2026–2030 strategy reflects EYEA's commitment to disciplined institutional development, ethical environmental action, and the cultivation of informed youth leadership capable of contributing to climate resilience beyond individual project cycles.

## **2. ETHIOPIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT AND STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE INSTITUTIONAL POSITION**

### **2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES**

Ethiopia is experiencing increasing environmental pressure. Climate variability, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and rapid urbanisation are reshaping both rural and urban realities. Recurrent droughts, flooding, ecosystem degradation, and waste accumulation directly affect livelihoods, food systems, and public health.

Urban expansion often outpaces environmental planning, contributing to solid waste challenges, plastic pollution, and declining green space. In rural areas, climate instability and environmental degradation continue to strain agricultural systems and ecosystem resilience.

These pressures are not abstract future risks. They are current and compounding challenges requiring structured community-level engagement.

## 2.2 YOUTH DEMOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITY

Ethiopia is one of the youngest countries in Africa. Youth represent a significant share of the population and therefore a decisive force in shaping the country's environmental trajectory.

However, demographic weight does not automatically translate into structured participation. Access to environmental education, civic engagement platforms, and leadership pathways remains uneven. While environmental awareness may exist in fragmented forms, opportunities for sustained participation and measurable action are limited.

Without structured investment in youth capacity, environmental governance risks remaining top-down. Youth-centred engagement is therefore not only a social priority but a strategic environmental necessity.

## 2.3 WHY YOUTH-CENTRED CLIMATE ACTION MATTERS

Environmental resilience depends on informed citizens capable of understanding environmental challenges, adapting behaviours, and contributing to sustainable solutions.

Youth-centred environmental action generates long-term benefits:

- Increased environmental literacy
- Strengthened leadership pipelines
- Community-level ownership of initiatives
- Sustainable behavioural change
- Constructive participation in environmental dialogue

Investing in youth capacity today strengthens resilience for future generations.

## 3. EYEA'S INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY

### 3.1 WHO WE ARE

Ethiopian Youth Environmental Awareness (EYEA) is a legally registered non-profit organisation headquartered in Paris, France, with operational coordination in Ethiopia. Established in 2021, the organisation was created to strengthen youth participation in environmental sustainability through structured education, practical community action, and informed dialogue.

EYEA operates under a formal governance structure composed of a General Assembly, a Board of Directors, an Executive Bureau, and thematic committees. This structure ensures accountability, transparency, and institutional continuity.

The organisation positions itself as a structured youth-centred environmental institution rather than a short-term project implementer.

### 3.2 DIASPORA-ETHIOPIA BRIDGE MODEL

EYEA operates through a diaspora-Ethiopia bridge model that connects international exposure and local implementation.

This model enables:

- Knowledge exchange and expertise transfer
- Access to global environmental discourse
- Strengthened credibility and partnerships
- Resource mobilisation beyond national boundaries

Programme ownership remains rooted in Ethiopia. The diaspora dimension strengthens institutional systems while maintaining local relevance and leadership.

### 3.3 ALIGNMENT WITH CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT PRINCIPLES

EYEA's strategic approach aligns with internationally recognised principles of climate empowerment, particularly those emphasising education, training, public awareness, public participation, and access to information.

Through structured programming, the organisation translates these principles into locally grounded action, strengthening environmental literacy and informed civic engagement.

## 4. STRATEGIC APPROACH (2026–2030)

EYEA applies an integrated and interconnected model of environmental engagement.

Rather than delivering isolated activities, the organisation:

- Builds environmental knowledge
- Translates knowledge into practical community action
- Develops youth leadership capacity
- Connects engagement to green skills pathways
- Encourages informed participation in environmental dialogue

This structured pathway ensures continuity from awareness to measurable impact.

The strategy emphasises depth before scale. Growth is linked to institutional capacity, governance readiness, and monitoring systems. Expansion is deliberate, not rapid.

## 5. PROGRAMME ARCHITECTURE

EYEA's operational work is structured across six complementary programme areas.

### 5.1 YOUTH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This foundational programme strengthens environmental literacy and structured participation through eco-clubs, workshops, and youth leadership initiatives. It moves youth from awareness to organised community action.

### 5.2 WASTE REDUCTION CAMPAIGNS

This programme addresses urban waste and consumption challenges through awareness initiatives, recycling campaigns, and behavioural change activities that promote responsible environmental practices.

### 5.3 CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Focused on tree planting, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity awareness, this programme combines environmental action with stewardship education to strengthen ecological resilience.

### 5.4 URBAN COMMUNITY GARDENING

Urban gardens serve as practical learning spaces that integrate environmental education, food security awareness, and urban greening while strengthening community cooperation.

## 5.5 NETWORKING & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

This programme connects environmental engagement to mentorship, green skills development, and exposure to sustainability-related career pathways.

## 5.6 ADVOCACY & POLICY DIALOGUE

Through structured dialogue platforms and awareness initiatives, youth are supported to engage constructively in environmental governance processes.

Together, these programmes operate as an integrated architecture reinforcing literacy, action, leadership, and participation.

## 6. WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE (2026–2030)

Between 2026 and 2030, EYEA seeks to expand structured youth engagement and community-based environmental action across selected regions of Ethiopia.

The organisation aims to:

- Directly engage thousands of young people in sustained environmental education and leadership development
- Strengthen eco-club networks across priority areas
- Support conservation, waste reduction, and urban greening initiatives
- Facilitate structured public dialogue platforms
- Contribute to measurable improvements in environmental literacy and sustainable practices

Targets are reviewed annually through structured Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning systems. Where feasible, data is disaggregated by gender, geographic location, and engagement level to promote inclusiveness and accuracy.

## 7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

EYEA applies structured Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning systems to ensure that activities translate into measurable outcomes.

Baseline measurements are established at the beginning of each strategic phase to enable accurate tracking of progress. Both quantitative and qualitative methods are used to assess participation, behavioural change, and community impact.

Governance oversight mechanisms support transparency, internal review, and continuous improvement.

Institutional discipline and ethical safeguards remain central to programme integrity.

## **8. LONG-TERM OUTLOOK**

By 2030, EYEA aims to consolidate its position as a structured youth-centred environmental organisation rooted in Ethiopia, strengthened by diaspora-supported expertise and aligned with climate empowerment principles.

The long-term ambition is sustained, credible, and ethically grounded environmental leadership driven by informed youth – not rapid, unverified expansion.

Environmental resilience requires generational commitment. The 2026–2030 strategy is designed to build that foundation.

## **9. CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

This document is the Public Knowledge Edition of EYEA's Case for Support 2026–2030.

Detailed technical documentation, monitoring frameworks, and partnership discussions are available upon request for institutional stakeholders.

## **ETHIOPIA YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

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