

# The science of youth engagement in sustainable development and green economy in Zimbabwe

World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)

Pan African Youth Strategy on Learning for Sustainability Launch

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# I. Overarching questions in youth discussions

1. How do we fully engage /empower the young people?
2. What can be done to step up efforts that target youths?
3. What are the limitations of the approaches to engage/empower /involve young people?



## II. Current frameworks for the youth dimension / perspective

1. **Progressive (developmental)** - young water professionals, agricultural research for development, learning for sustainability, champion leaders)
2. **Research-oriented** - innovators, knowledge brokers, grand challenges, philosophical)
3. **Technological** - public health, engineering, big data and supercomputers)
4. **Education and psychological** - adult-learning, drama / theatre and visual arts - including photography, client-focused advisories)
5. **Open movement** - bloggers, freelancers, citizen journalists, netizens)



## **III. Central theses for youth inclusion**

- Positive management of the energy and creativity of young people (e.g. centers of excellence, incubation models, hubs, training and mentoring)
- Activism (e.g. giving a voice to young people, policy dialogues, community outreach)
- World outside the box (e.g. entrepreneurial, internet based technologies such as social media)
- Information and dissemination (e.g. complementary and alternatives to rural and advisory services /extension)
- Functional funding strategies and mechanisms (e.g. grants and projects)



## IV. Key Lessons

- Critical to tailor programmes that empower youths to access to resources and opportunities.
- Document the spontaneous think and approaches everywhere.
- Improved standards enhance youth engagement / interaction.
- Mentorship and training is critical (e.g. competence and higher education).
- Interdisciplinary is not a substitute for discipline-specific interactions, though interdisciplinary is key to managing career and discipline risk in the future.

