



IMAGES Initiative

2023 SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT

<http://imagesinitiatives.org>



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About IMAGES Initiative

The Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation, think-tank, and registered as an incorporated trustee. It aims to catalyse and help create transformational partnerships to encourage actions that reflect integrated approaches of the three pillars of Sustainable Development - Social, Economic, and Environment - through circularity. We advance the course of the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa Agenda 2063 through Research, Advocacy, Field Trips, Conferences, Seminars, Policy Roundtables, Workshops, Symposia, Summits, Exhibitions, and Communications through Policy Briefs, Communiqués, Newsletters, and Social Media Platforms.

We have four programme areas and two networks as follows:

1. Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP)
2. Africa Green Innovation School Programme (AGISP)
3. Carbon Offset Programme - Africa (COP-Africa)
4. Household Empowerment and Livelihood Productivity Systems (HELP)
5. Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network (ACERPiN)
6. Africa Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Network (Africa-RAIN)

The Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network, and Africa Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Network are based on membership. Please visit website for details: <http://imagesinitiatives.org/acerpin> & <https://imagesinitiatives.org/africa-rain>.



Acknowledgements

We like to express our profound appreciation to all our strategic partners, collaborators, esteemed participants at our annual Circularity Africa Conference, mentors of the Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP), and guest speakers at our monthly and specialized webinar series.

We also like to express our esteemed gratitude to our Chairman, Grand Patron and Patron as well as the members of the Board.

Thank you all for your unflinching support, and contributions to the successes and achievements of 2023.



Introduction

The IMAGES Initiative Sustainability Report 2023 highlights the organization's activities and achievements across six pillars: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, Partnerships, and Publications. It underscores IMAGES' dedication to sustainable development through impactful programs, community engagement, and strategic collaborations.

IMAGES hosted the 4th Circularity Africa Conference, drawing 150 on-site and 100 online participants. The Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) attracted 152 applications, with 32 fellows selected and 22 completing the program. Seven public webinars engaged 240 participants, covering topics on sustainability. Additionally, 73 applicants competed for the IMAGES Awards, while two new staff/volunteers joined, and six team members received promotions or new opportunities.

IMAGES managed 3.5 million naira worth of projects, funded by 1 million naira each in grants and donations, alongside 750,000 naira in in-kind contributions. It provided 1.5 million naira in grants and donations and 450,000 naira in in-kind support, fostering financial and community empowerment.

The initiative enhanced environmental conservation by planting 12 fruit-bearing trees of seven species and establishing a 0.5-acre garden featuring vegetables like jute leaf and okra. These efforts supported biodiversity and sustainable food systems.

IMAGES carried out two courtesy visits to organizations such as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and held a circularity tour and picnic for 18 participants to promote awareness about the circular economy. Online, LinkedIn posts achieved 495% impression growth, 1,536 engagements, and attracted 464 followers, while its YouTube channel added 93 subscribers.

Four new partnerships were established, including collaborations with IITA and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Two partnership events, such as the Circularity Africa Conference in Nigeria and a workshop in Ghana, bolstered IMAGES' role in advancing sustainable development.

The AGMCP Cohort 4 mentees submitted 14 abstracts to notable conferences, resulting in five publications, showcasing IMAGES' contribution to sustainability knowledge and scholarship.

IMAGES Initiative's 2023 achievements reflect its commitment to sustainability through people-centered programs, environmental conservation, and strategic partnerships. Its impactful work spans local communities, digital engagement, and academic contributions, advancing Africa's circular economy and sustainable development goals.

1.0 People

150

Number of on-site participants at Circularity Africa Conference

There were 150 participants on-site

100

Number of on-line participants at Circularity Africa Conference

There were 100 participants on-site

152

Number of applications received for the Africa Graduate Mentorship & Coaching Programme (AGMCP)

The AGMCP received 152 applications for its latest cohort.

32

Number of on-line participants at Circularity Africa Conference

32 fellows were selected to participate in the intensive mentorship

22

Number of fellows that successfully completed the AGMCP

22 fellows successfully completed the full program this year.

7

Total number of public webinars organised

Across our various programmes and initiatives a total of 7 public webinars were organised. The breakdown of these webinars across our various programs is as follows: AGMCP organized 3 webinars, ACERPiN organized 1 webinar, HELPS organized 1 webinar, COP-Africa organized 1 webinar, and Africa-RAIN organized 1 webinar.

240

Total number of persons that attended public webinars

These webinars had a combined attendance of 240 participants from around Africa and beyond.



Participants from the 4th Annual Circularity Africa Conference



Graduates of the Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP)



Winners from the IMAGES



2

Number of new staff/volunteers

Two new staff/volunteer positions were filled last year - the Vice President for North Africa and the Coordinator for the HELPS programme.



6

Number of staff/volunteers that got new opportunities, promotions or appointments

In addition, 6 existing staff and volunteers received new opportunities, promotions or appointments in recognition of their contributions.

2.0 Prosperity

In the fiscal year under review, this organization made efforts in promoting prosperity by receiving and also giving back through various projects:

3.5 M

Total amount of project executed

The total project engagement by IMAGES Initiative amounted to 3.5-million-naira worth of projects executed, which showcases the active role we play or get involved in initiatives that contribute positively to the betterment of the society.

1 M

Total amount of grants received

This organization was successful in securing a total of 1 million naira in grants, which shows the confidence the funding parties have in the capabilities and importance of IMAGES Initiative.

1 M

Total amount of project executed

We received contributions from donors who generously donated a total of 1 million naira to our cause.

750 K

Total (equivalent) amount of in-kind support received

We received valuable in-kind support worth a total amount of 750,000 naira, which played a critical role in facilitating our projects and activities during the year without direct financial expenditure.

1.5 M

Total amount of grants/donations given

1.5-million-naira worth of grants and donations were disbursed by IMAGES Initiative, demonstrating our commitment to giving back to the community and supporting other sustainability initiatives.

450 K

Total (equivalent) amount of in-kind support given

In addition to financial support given to others in terms of grants and donations, IMAGES Initiative also provided in-kind contributions and support worth a total of 450,000 naira.

3.0 Planet

Our commitment to the planet is reflected in our environmental achievements. Trees and plants were planted across different locations such as Abadina Grammar School and Abadina College situated at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State,

12

Total number of trees planted

A total of 12 trees were planted during the Carbon Offset Programme - Africa (COP-Africa), contributing to Carbon sequestration and enhancing local biodiversity.

7

Total number of tree species planted

We planted 7 different tree species to ensure diversity that supports various or different wildlife.

12

Total number of fruit trees planted

All 12 trees planted are fruit-bearing, promising future sources of food for the community as well as the wildlife. This aligns with the goal of sustainability benefitting both people and wildlife.

0.5

Total land area of garden established

We established a total of 0.5 acreage of garden across different locations, planting 4 different vegetable species like Corchorus Olitorius (also known as Ewedu or Jute leaf,, Amaranthus viridus (also known as Efo tete), Ugwu and Okra. It has aesthetic value as well as being an habitat for various plant species.

4

Total number of plant species planted

In total, 4 species of vegetable plants were introduced in the gardens enhancing botanical diversity.



Pictures of Trees and garden planting exercise at Abadina Grammar School and Abadina College situated at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State.



Picture showing different Species of Trees to be planted



Picture showing the tree planting exercises



Picture showing the garden planting exercise on vegetable beds

4.0 Peace

2

Number of advocacy and courtesy visits

The organization's advocacy and outreach efforts have resulted in a total of 2 courtesy visits to DDG International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and IITA radio. These visits have helped to raise awareness about the Sustainability Framework and strengthen partnerships for sustainable development.



18

Number of participants at Circularity Tour and Picnic

The circularity tour and picnic event saw a total of 18 participants. The event was aimed at promoting the principles of circular economy and sustainable consumption among the local community. The high turnout demonstrates the interest and engagement in these important sustainability topics.



Pictures from the circularity tour of Fanmilk, Ibadan Oyo State



2

Total number of posts on LinkedIn Platform

The Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) has actively engaged its audience on LinkedIn, posting 2 updates and content pieces on the platform. These posts have helped to share the initiatives, and learnings with the online audience.

495%

Total number of reach/impression on LinkedIn Platform

The posts have a 495% reach in impressions in the space of four (4) months. This extensive reach has allowed the organizations to effectively disseminate their messages and engage a wider audience online.

1,536

Total number of engagements on LinkedIn Platform

On LinkedIn, the Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) posts and updates have generated a total of 1,536 engagements, including likes, comments, and shares. The level of engagement indicates a strong interest and support from the organizations' online community reaching a wider audience.

464

Total number of followers on LinkedIn Platform

The Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) a Mentor-Mentee network and Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network (ACERPIN) facilitated by the Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative have collectively amassed 464 followers. This growing follower base indicates an increasing awareness and support for the organizations' sustainable development efforts.

93

Total number of subscribers on YouTube Platform

The Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative has built a strong following on YouTube, with a total of 93 subscribers. This subscriber base allows the initiative to effectively share educational videos, training content (e.g webinars) and project updates with a wider audience.

5.0 Partnerships

4

Total number of new partner organisations established

IMAGES Initiatives established partnerships with a total of four (4) organizations in the year 2023. These include the **International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)**; focusing on increasing food security and availability, increasing profitability of foods, feeds, and other agricultural products, and, sustainable management of natural resources; **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)** centred on Ideas for a prosperous Africa, **African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium (AGRODEP)** aiming to position African experts as leaders in the study of strategic development issues in Africa and the broader agricultural growth and policy debate and **Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT)** a not-for-profit organization with a goal to alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Kenya and other African countries through supporting dissemination of information and knowledge on appropriate technology to improve human, animal, plant, and environmental health.



Logos of Partner Organizations

2

Total number of partnership requests and invitations received

A total of two (2) organisations requested collaborations with IMAGES Initiatives. These organisations are United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT).



Total number of new partner organisations established

2

Total number of partnership requests and invitations received

IMAGES INITIATIVES organised two (2) events with partner organisations. The first was the 4th Circularity Africa Conference in Nigeria and the second, a training workshop on Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) in Ghana.



Pictures from the 4th Annual Circularity Africa Conference



Training workshop on Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) in Ghana

1

Total number of special invitations/awards/recognitions received

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) invited IMAGES INITIATIVES for a training workshop on Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) in Ghana.

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Date: 22 August 2023
Ref: MGD/DPS2201-2-4-1

Dear Dr. Olawale E. Olayide,

Subject: Interest in Partnership on Development Planning and Training in Africa

On behalf of the Macroeconomics and Governance Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), I have the honour to express our interest in collaborating with the Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiatives on development planning and training in Africa on a cost neutral basis.

Letter of Invitation from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

6.0 Publications

14

Total number of abstracts submitted for conferences through the AGMCP

A total of fourteen (14) abstracts were submitted for conferences by Cohort 4 mentees of the Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP). The abstracts were submitted for conferences such as the 4th Circularity Africa conference, International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) conference, Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (University of Ibadan) and the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference

5

Total number of publications that emerged from the AGMCP

Five (5) publications emerged from mentees in the Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) 2023. A few of these publications can be seen in the Journal of Cleaner Production.

95

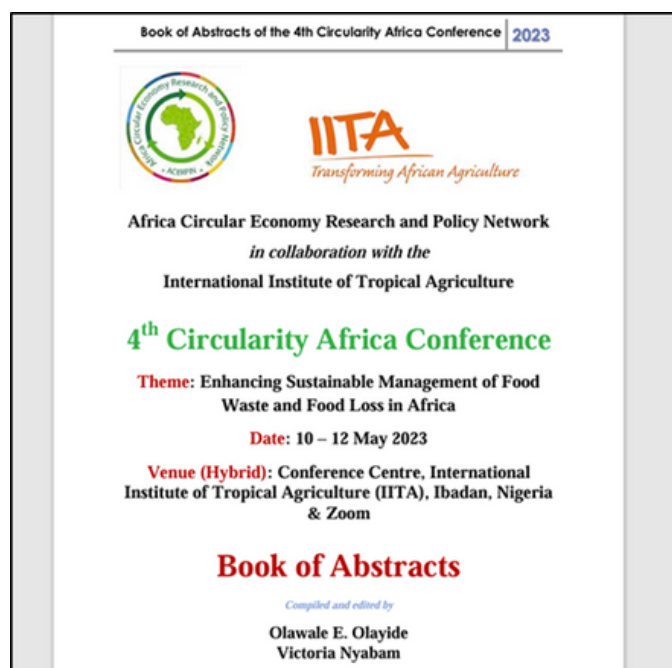
Total number of abstracts received for Circularity Africa Conference

A total of Ninety-Five (95) papers were received via an online submission for publication in the 2023 Circularity Africa Conference. These papers were centered on six research sub-themes.

95

Total number of papers published in the proceedings of Circularity Africa Conference

A total of Ninety-Five (95) papers were published in the proceedings of the 4th annual circularity Africa conference that was held in 2023. These papers were presented either onsite or online during the course of the conference.



Front Page of the Book of Abstracts of the 4th Circularity Africa Conference

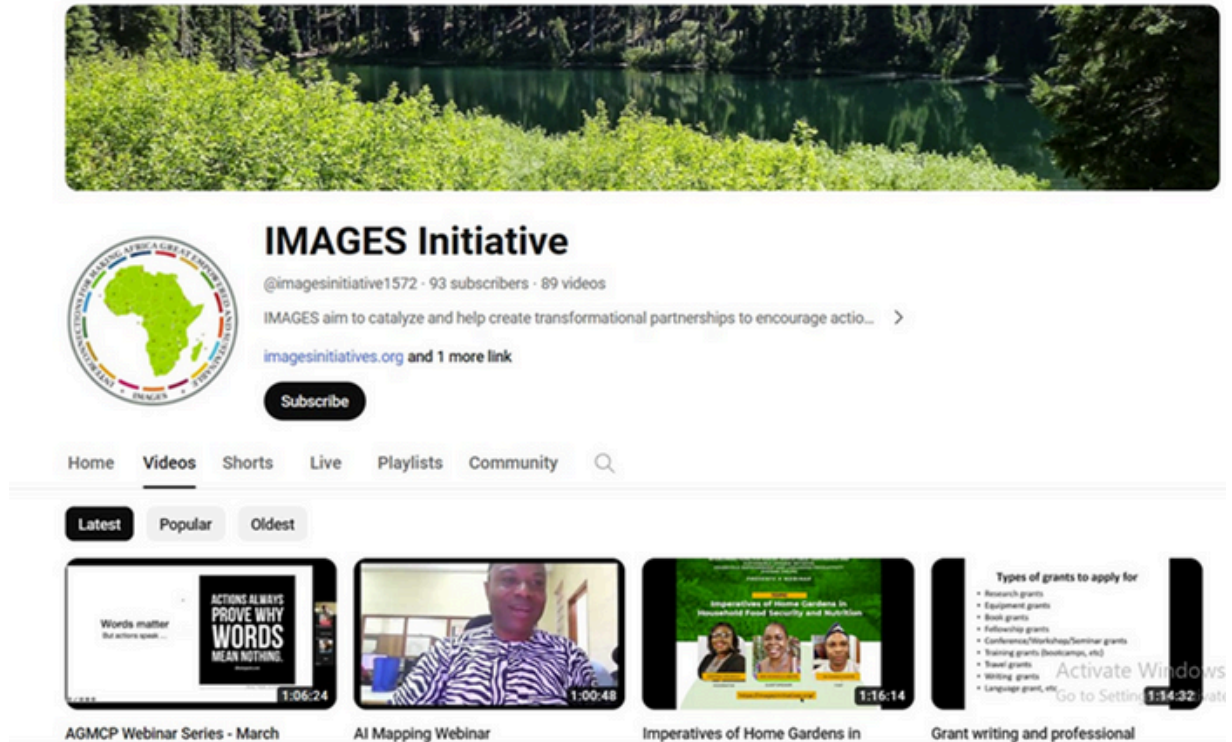


Picture showing total number of abstracts submitted at the 4th Annual Circularity Africa Conference

19

Total number of videos on YouTube

A total nineteen (19) videos were uploaded on the Youtube channel during the course of the year. These videos have a breakdown of fourteen (14) full videos and five (5) shorts, which are videos of 10 minutes or less. The videos uploaded on the channel are centered on workshops, conferences and webinars hosted by the different segments in IMAGES Initiatives.



Picture showing overview of IMAGES Initiatives' YouTube Channel



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