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Concept Note - Climate Adaptation and Artificial Intelligence

Format	Roundtable discussion with keynote address and use-case presentations
Duration	Approximately 105 minutes – 7 th July between 11:15am to 1:00pm
Session Room	TBC
Theme	Climate Adaptation & Artificial Intelligence
Convener	• Igasitech • Plan Adapt • Info Gain Consulting
Speakers	• Igasitech - Jacklyne Iminza - Co-founder - Moderator • AgriScan AI - Elizabeth Mwashuma - Founder - panelist and use case • Info Gain Consulting - Shadrack Kioko - Director Consulting and Delivery - panelist • Invhestia – Wilfred Mworio – Chief of Staff – Panelist • Plan Adapt – Martin Rokitzki – MD - panelist • ADAPTA Climate Facility - Madleine Mwithiga, - Managing Director • Hatch Blue – Shamim Nyanda – Africa Community Manager – panelist

1. Executive summary of the session:

Africa stands at the intersection of two powerful forces: the accelerating impact of climate change and the rapid rise of artificial intelligence. Across the continent, smallholder farmers, coastal communities, urban planners, and financial institutions are confronting climate risks that demand faster, more precise, and more scalable responses than traditional tools allow.

Artificial Intelligence (AI), climate data systems, and digital infrastructure are rapidly reshaping how Africa responds to climate vulnerability, adaptation financing gaps, and resilience planning challenges. Across sectors including agriculture, water management, insurance, disaster preparedness, and SME financing, AI-powered tools are increasingly supporting predictive analytics, climate risk modeling, resource optimization, and adaptive decision-making

Despite growing interest, significant barriers remain to scaling AI-enabled adaptation solutions across Africa. These include fragmented climate datasets, limited digital infrastructure, financing constraints for adaptation enterprises, weak interoperability between systems, insufficient localized AI models, and uncertainty around governance and investment readiness.

This session convenes innovators, financiers, and policy enablers to examine how AI is already being deployed in climate adaptation across Africa — and what it will take to scale these solutions. Through a short keynote, real-world use cases, and a structured roundtable, participants will interrogate current applications, examine policy considerations, identify opportunities for scaling adaptation innovation, barriers, and financing pathways that determine whether AI becomes a genuine accelerator of climate resilience on the continent.

The session is designed to generate actionable insights and catalyze connections between technology innovators, adaptation finance providers, and enabling institutions.

2. Session Goal:

To explore how artificial intelligence can accelerate climate adaptation across Africa — and to identify concrete steps that investors, innovators, and policymakers can take to deploy AI-enabled adaptation solutions at scale.

3. Session objectives:

By the end of the session, participants will have:

- Examined the current landscape of AI applications in climate adaptation.
- Reviewed concrete use cases from companies actively deploying AI tools in climate adaptation contexts in Africa.
- Explored the policy and regulatory enablers and blockers affecting the responsible deployment of AI in climate-sensitive environments.
- Identified the financing gaps and investment barriers that constrain the growth of AI-powered adaptation enterprises.
- Discussed models for blended finance, impact investment, and technical assistance that can de-risk and accelerate AI-enabled climate solutions.
- Built actionable relationships among innovators, investors, and ecosystem enablers present in the room.

4. Session outputs and outcomes:

The session is expected to produce the following outputs and outcomes:

Immediate outputs:

- A shared understanding among participants of the AI-climate adaptation landscape in Africa and its financing needs.
- Documentation of key insights, use cases, and recommendations from the roundtable for inclusion in summit proceedings.
- Identified pipeline opportunities for further engagement between innovators and investors present.

Short-term outcomes:

Increased awareness among financial institutions and investors of investment-ready AI adaptation enterprises in the KCV pipeline.

Long-term outcomes:

- Increased capital flows to AI-enabled climate adaptation enterprises in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Strengthened cross-sector collaboration between the technology, climate finance, and development communities.
- A contribution to an emerging African narrative on AI for climate resilience — one grounded in local innovation and local capital.

5. Session agenda

Time	Activity	Lead
11:20 am - 11:35 am	Keynote address: AI as an accelerator of climate adaptation in Africa — framing the opportunity and the challenge	Opening remarks – Jacklyne Iminza - Igasitech
11:35 am – 11:50 pm	Use-case presentations: Companies deploying AI in climate adaptation contexts (1 company - 20 min each)	• Agriscan AI
11:50 pm – 12:50 pm	Roundtable Discussion: Artificial Intelligence as a Climate Adaptation Accelerator — interrogating current applications, unlocking investment, and charting pathways to scale across Africa."	Moderated by Jacklyne Iminza - Igasitech
12:50 –1:00 pm	Synthesis and close: Key takeaways, next steps, and follow-on engagement pathways	Jacklyne Iminza, Igasitech

6. Participants

The session brings together a deliberately curated mix of innovators, investors, and enabling institutions:

Organisation	Role in Session
Plan Adapt	Programmatic Practitioner voice — climate adaptation planning and implementation using data-driven approaches
invhestia	Investment lens — deal flow, investment criteria, and risk appetite for AI-climate enterprises
Adapta climate facility	Financial systems lens — how AI intersects with financial inclusion, climate risk, SME finance, deal flow, investment criteria, and risk appetite for AI-climate enterprises
Info Gain Consulting	Technology perspective – Climate data systems, implication use cases.

Organisation	Role in Session
Agriscan AI	Entrepreneur perspective
Hatch Blue	Perspective on policy, financing, ecosystem development, and AI-enabled applications in fisheries and aquaculture

7. Proposed Discussion Areas to guide the questions below:

AI Applications in Climate Adaptation

- Climate forecasting and predictive analytics
- Agricultural resilience and food systems
- Water and resource management
- Climate-sensitive infrastructure planning
- Disaster preparedness and early warning systems

Data Infrastructure & Governance

- Availability and quality of localized climate datasets
- AI governance and responsible deployment
- Digital public infrastructure
- Cross-border interoperability
- Public-private collaboration

Financial Systems & Investment

- AI for climate risk assessment
- Adaptation finance intelligence
- SME financing and embedded finance
- Monitoring, reporting, and impact measurement
- Investor readiness for AI-climate enterprises

Scaling Challenges & Ecosystem Gaps

- Infrastructure barriers
- Limited technical capacity
- Financing gaps
- Talent and skills development
- Commercialization challenges for adaptation SMEs

8. Session questions

The following questions are proposed to guide the roundtable:

- Where is AI already delivering measurable impact in climate adaptation in Africa — and what conditions made that possible?
- What are the most significant barriers to scaling AI-enabled adaptation solutions: data availability, talent, regulation, or capital?
- How should impact investors evaluate and price AI-climate enterprises given their dual risk profile (technology risk + climate risk)?
- What role can blended finance and technical assistance play in building investable AI-climate pipelines?
- What enabling policies or digital infrastructure investments would most accelerate AI adoption in climate-vulnerable sectors?
- How do we ensure AI tools for climate adaptation are appropriate for and accessible to the communities most affected by climate change?

9. Technical needs required

- Projector & Screen for presentations, visuals, and case study display
- High-quality Sound System including speakers and amplifiers for clear audio across the room
- Wireless handheld microphones (for audience questions and answers)
- Chairs for the roundtable.
- Clicker/Remote for slide control during presentations at the keynote if required.

10. Room configuration/set-up

The room setup will include a raised stage or designated front area for the keynote and chairs organized in a circle for the round table. There will be need for microphones, and water for each speaker. Audience seating will follow a roundtable layout with roaming mics for questions and answers.