



### **Dear Friends & Family,**

We're happy to share that applications are now open for the 2026 Climate Change Photo Essay Prize, and this edition's Overall Winner will receive **\$2,000!**

Now in its third edition, the Prize is Africa Soft Power and African Women on Board's flagship storytelling initiative within the *Road to 100 Million Climate Soldiers in Africa* programme. It exists because climate change is often framed in contexts that don't reflect African realities. Melting ice caps and disappearing polar bears feel distant to communities facing flooding, failed harvests, conflicts, food insecurity, or water scarcity closer to home. Building real climate literacy starts with relatable stories, and who tells those stories matters. Photography does that work well: it connects policy to people, and statistics to lived experience.



### **This Year's Theme**

#### **Lines of Survival: Living, Adapting, Imagining Tomorrow**

This year's theme invites young photographers from Africa and the global African diaspora to document the environmental shifts unfolding around them and the ways communities are responding.

We're looking for stories that explore:

- How people are living with climate change
- The inventive and resourceful ways communities are adapting
- What resilience looks like in practice
- How imagination can help shape the possibilities of a more sustainable future

At a time when adaptation, climate justice, and just transition remain global concerns, the Prize places young African climate storytellers at the centre of the conversation.

## Who Can Apply?

Applications are free and open to:

- Young photographers aged 18–30
- Applicants from Africa and the global African diaspora
- Emerging photographers, visual storytellers, artists, students, and creative practitioners

Entrants are to submit an original photo essay consisting of three to five images.

## What You Could Win

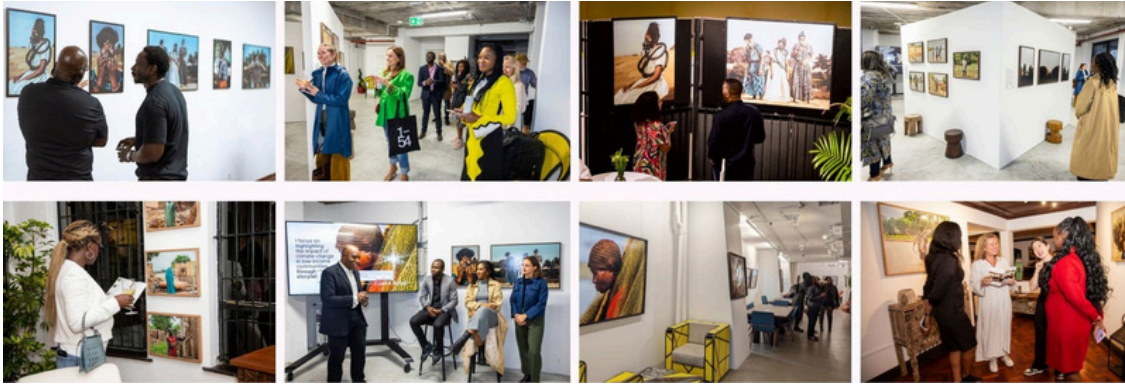
- **Overall Winner:** \$2,000, the title of Climate Storytelling Fellow, and the opportunity to join our global exhibition tour
- **Up to four Finalists:** \$500 each, with exhibition opportunities of their own

In previous editions, finalist and winning works have travelled to audiences across Africa, Europe, and North America, helping bring African climate stories to new communities and global conversations.

**Applications close July 17, 2026.**

# Apply Now

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## Why Photography?

Photography has a unique ability to make complex issues personal. It can connect policy to people, statistics to lived experience, and global conversations to local realities.

Through this Prize, we invite young creatives to document climate change as they see and experience it. Because climate action doesn't only require better policies, it also requires better stories.

## Know Someone Who Should See This?

You don't need to be a photographer to help us find one. If a young creative, student, or storyteller in your network comes to mind, forward this on – sometimes that's exactly the nudge someone needs to apply.

## Building This With Others

Beyond entrants, building a richer climate narrative requires a much wider ecosystem – one we are building with organisations, institutions and individuals across climate, media, energy, education, policy, the arts, culture, philanthropy, finance and youth development. If that's you, and you're curious about partnering with us on the Prize, its exhibition tour or our broader climate programming, write to us at [asp@theafricasoftpowerproject.com](mailto:asp@theafricasoftpowerproject.com)

Thank you.

**ASP Team**