



Climate change is one of the defining stories of our time. The narratives we choose to tell, and the perspectives that shape them, play a vital role in how the world understands its impact.

The **AWB & ASP Climate Change Photo Essay Prize** exists to create a platform for young African and Diasporan photographers and visual storytellers to document climate change through their own experiences, communities, and perspectives.

As applications enter their final days, we're delighted to introduce the distinguished panel who will review this year's submissions.

Meet the Judges



Polly Irungu is a photographer, photo editor and founder of Black Women Photographers, a global network of more than 2,700 creatives across 60 countries that champions representation and opportunity in the visual industry. She previously served as Official Photo Editor to Vice President Kamala Harris and as an Official Photographer in the Biden-Harris Administration. Through her photography, leadership and advocacy, Polly has become a driving force in shaping a more inclusive future for visual storytelling.



Bernard Kalu is a visual artist and official Fujifilm Global X-Photographer whose work explores humanity through powerful documentary storytelling. His practice combines artistic vision with a deep commitment to preserving contemporary narratives, earning international recognition through exhibitions, global assignments and accolades including first runner-up at the National Geographic Portfolio Review. A certified Canon Miraisha Master Storyteller and VII Academy Foundry alumnus, Bernard is also dedicated to nurturing emerging talent as the convener of ECHETA.



Gaëtane Verna is an internationally respected museum curator and arts leader whose career has spanned some of North America's leading cultural institutions. She has led major contemporary art institutions, including The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto as its first female director, and the Wexner Center for the Arts.

A champion of contemporary artists and global cultural exchange, she was named a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Embassy in Canada in recognition of her significant contribution to advancing the arts internationally. She also serves as curator of the Canadian Pavilion for the 60th Venice Biennale.

Together, they bring expertise spanning documentary photography, journalism, curation and cultural leadership ensuring this year's entries will be considered through multiple perspectives on storytelling, creativity and impact.

Apply Now



Five Days Left to Apply

Applications for the 2026 Climate Change Photo Essay Prize close in **five days**.

This year's theme, **Lines of Survival: Living, Adapting, Imagining Tomorrow**, invites young photographers (18 - 30) from Africa and the global African diaspora to document how communities are experiencing, responding to and imagining life in a changing climate.

The Overall Winner will receive **\$2,000**, the title of **Climate Storytelling Fellow**, and the opportunity to be featured in an international exhibition tour. Up to four finalists will each receive **\$500**, alongside exhibition opportunities. Entry is free, and terms and conditions apply.

Learn More & Apply

Know Someone Who Should Apply?

Perhaps you're not a photographer but someone in your network might be.

If you know a young photographer, visual storyteller, student, or creative whose work deserves a wider audience, we'd love for you to share this opportunity with them. Sometimes the right recommendation is all it takes for someone to put their work forward.

Applications close 17 July 2026.

Thank you.

The ASP Team