



APA Seasonal School, 2026

Theme: Artificial Intelligence for Climate Action

Background

The ACTS Pathways Academy (APA) is a learning ecosystem that integrates multiple capacity strengthening modalities to deliver transformational experiences for professionals, researchers, and leaders in Africa, Asia and Latin America. APA builds on the rich heritage of the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), a pioneer in science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development in Africa since 1988.

The APA Seasonal School 2026 is an initiative committed to advancing capacities on sustainability research and innovation by harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to tackle climate change. By aligning with SDG 13: Climate Action, the initiative empowers participants with practical knowledge and tools to design AI-driven solutions that strengthen resilience, enhance adaptation, and reduce vulnerabilities to climate risks.

Through a blend of collaborative learning, real-world application, and cross-sector engagement, the APA Seasonal School bridges the gap between researchers, policymakers, industry, and communities. Participants gain hands-on experience in applying AI to climate challenges ranging from early warning systems and climate-smart agriculture to low-carbon energy transitions.

The APA Seasonal School creates transformative pathways for innovation, equipping participants not only to respond to immediate climate challenges but also to lead in building a more sustainable and climate-resilient future. In addition, the APA will offer a **5-Month Virtual Sustainability Fellowship Program**, to equip learners with practical skills that build on the knowledge and discussions for the APA Seasonal School 2026.

Key Features of the APA Seasonal School

The APA Seasonal School is designed to provide participants with practical skills, collaborative opportunities, and long-term value that extend beyond the program itself.

- **Hands-On Learning and Application:** Participants will engage in applied AI projects that address real-world challenges in sectors such as agriculture, education, and retail. Through practical training in AI tools, machine learning, and data analytics, they will gain skills that can be immediately applied in their institutions and communities.
- **Collaborative Problem-Solving:** The program fosters cross-sector collaboration by connecting participants with practitioners, innovators, and policymakers. This approach enables the co-creation of affordable, scalable AI solutions tailored to the realities of the Global South.
- **Inclusive and Diverse Learning Environment:** By encouraging participation from underrepresented groups and early-career professionals, the APA seasonal school ensures that diverse perspectives inform discussions, leading to more ethical, fair, and context-relevant AI innovations.
- **Networking and Long-Term Partnerships:** Participants will build lasting professional networks across regions, opening opportunities for future collaborations, joint research, and career development in the global AI ecosystem.

Methodology

The APA Seasonal School will adopt a methodology that moves beyond theory, enabling participants to actively practice, critically reflect, and collaboratively innovate. By combining structured learning with applied experiences, the APA Seasonal School positions participants to actively contribute to inclusive, participatory, and ethical use of AI.

The APA Seasonal School combines formal practical inputs with progressive, practice-oriented learning that moves seamlessly from theory to application. By integrating expert lectures, participatory dialogue, and immersive hands-on engagement, the program equips participants with a solid conceptual foundation while enabling them to apply Artificial Intelligence (AI) to real-world innovation challenges. The approach emphasizes collaboration across academia, industry, policy, and community stakeholders, ensuring that learning is both technically rigorous and socially relevant. The following components anchor the learning journey:

- **Lectures (LE):** Expert-led sessions introducing conceptual frameworks, frontier debates, and emerging trends in the ethical and innovative use of AI.
- **Case Studies (CS):** Real-world examples drawn from diverse sectors and participants, highlighting successes, failures, and key lessons in AI-driven innovation.
- **Group Discussions (GD):** Peer-to-peer dialogues where participants co-create solutions, share experiences, and test ideas in a collaborative environment.
- **Panel Discussions (PD):** Multi-stakeholder engagements that bring together thought leaders, practitioners, and policymakers to interrogate opportunities and challenges of AI for sustainable development.
- **Marketplace Approach (MA):** A dynamic forum for participants to showcase ongoing projects, pitch innovative solutions, and exchange knowledge, catalyzing future collaborations.
- **Excursions (EC):** Immersive field visits to coastal communities to contextualize AI within cultural, social, and environmental realities, ensuring grounded and inclusive innovation.
- **Events (EV):** Informal gatherings including cocktail dinner, cultural exchanges, sports, and networking receptions to strengthen professional connections and foster cross-cultural understanding.

Through this integrated methodology, the APA Seasonal School ensures participants move beyond passive learning to active creation, engaging critically with theory, experimenting with practice, and reflecting on outcomes. This holistic design positions participants not only to deepen their expertise but also to become ethical innovators and collaborative leaders in the global AI ecosystem.

Venue

Diani Reef Beach Resort & Spa is ideal for the APA Seasonal School, offering flexible conference venues, modern facilities with advanced technology, and reliable support services. Its beachfront setting on Diani Beach blends productivity with relaxation, complemented by dining, wellness, and leisure options. With international conference experience and convenient airport access, the resort ensures a seamless balance of functionality, comfort, and hospitality.

Date

The APA Seasonal School is scheduled for 23-30 August 2026 providing 7 days dedicated to learning, skill transfer, and engagement with industry experts.

Target Group

The Seasonal School is designed for researchers, innovators, policymakers, students and entrepreneurs working at the intersection of artificial intelligence and climate change. It welcomes participants eager to apply AI-driven solutions to advance climate resilience, sustainability, and low-carbon innovation.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Practical AI Solutions:** Participants will design and pilot AI applications addressing real challenges in agriculture, health, education, and retail within the Global South.
- ii. Enhanced Capacity:** Graduates will acquire hands-on expertise in AI tools, machine learning, and data analytics that can be directly applied in their projects and communities.
- iii. AI Talent Pool:** The program will contribute to building a pipeline of skilled AI practitioners from the Global South, strengthening local innovation ecosystems.
- iv. Sustainable Networks:** Participants will establish cross-regional partnerships that foster future collaborations, joint research, and scalable innovations.

Payments

The participation fee for the 7-day Seasonal School is USD 2,200, which covers accommodation, meals, ground transfers, and a full day excursion. Please note that flight costs to and from your country are not included; however, we can assist you in arranging your travel if needed.

Participants will also have the opportunity to join the APA 5-Month Sustainability Fellowship Program, which equips them with practical and soft skills to conduct and promote sustainable research. Participants are required to complete payment by February 28, 2026. Cancellations made by May 1, 2026 will qualify for an 85% refund of the participation fee.

Registration

To secure your spot, please complete your registration by January 31, 2026. You can register easily by clicking on this [link](#).

Contact Person

Monroe Ouma; mouma@acts-net.org; African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS).





Contact Us

The ACTS Pathways Academy

2nd Floor, Konza Technopolis Complex

P.O. Box 45917 - 00100

Nairobi- Mombasa Road,

Konza, Kenya.

Email: jambo@actsacademy.africa

www.actsacademy.africa

LinkedIn: ACTS Pathways Academy