

Context

In Benin, the effects of climate change are already experienced daily: waste accumulation, extreme heat, heavy rainfall, flooding, degradation of school environments, and challenges faced in local markets. These hurdles call for concrete, accessible, and locally adapted solutions.

The Climate Innovation Lab offers a civic innovation approach that enables young people and field actors to leverage real-world problems to design, manufacture, and test useful solutions. The goal is to bring forth objects, equipment, space arrangements, kits, devices, or methodologies that can be hosted and trialed by a real-world institution.

The project is designed with the support of the European Union through the Youth Empowerment Fund, in partnership with the Global Youth Mobilization (GYM), and is anchored within Ibudo's open innovation ecosystem.

Who is the organizer?

Ibudo Hub is a Beninese open innovation platform and community that creates spaces for interaction, learning, and collaboration among youth, institutions, organizations, businesses, and engaged stakeholders.

Ibudo draws upon concrete experience in talent mobilization and innovation event management. The team hosts the largest innovation festival in Cotonou and developed, as early as 2020 and 2021, the precursor to this initiative: the Ibudo Solve Challenge. These editions brought together 122 participants and advanced 22 teams or projects to the finals.

The Climate Innovation Lab

This lab mobilizes young Beninese citizens aged 16 to 35 with complementary backgrounds: artisans, students, teachers, shopkeepers, community groups, entrepreneurs, municipal staff, designers, repair technicians, and anyone with direct experience of the challenges addressed.

Teams will be encouraged to emphasize local know-how, accessible materials, repairability, inclusion, and the ability to rapidly test solutions in field conditions.

How to participate?

To join the Challenge, you must form a team of at least 3 and at most 6 members and select one of the four proposed challenges. Over a five-day period, you will develop an innovative solution using the resources, methodologies, and tools provided on Collab.

Publish your project on the platform no later than September 25. The challenge is an intensive, action-oriented experience focused on producing tangible outcomes. Top projects will receive awards, and the winning solution will be deployed on the ground.-