



## Youth Climate Action Fund

"Climate change is a challenge that requires everyone's participation. In this, it is absolutely critical that the youth generation, who are the most vulnerable, contribute to leading the way."

We are pleased to inform you that Gampola has joined a global cohort of 300 cities worldwide that partnered with the **Youth Climate Action Fund** in 2026 to strengthen how cities collaborate with young people to develop local climate solutions. Through this program, over 300,000 young people aged 15 to 24 will come together to tackle global climate challenges. This initiative sets the stage to elicit new ideas from youth, support them with **Microgrants**, and develop the capacity of cities to engage youth in driving forward local climate priorities. Under this scheme, project proposals will be called from youth groups in the city, and funding will be provided to implement the selected proposals.

### Program at a Glance:

|                                                          |                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Participating Cities</b>                              | <b>Six continents across 300 cities DOCX</b> |
| <b>Funding Received per City</b>                         | USD 40,000 per city                          |
| <b>Financial Grants per Project</b>                      | Up to a maximum of USD 5,000 per project     |
| <b>Number of Projects per City</b>                       | 8 youth-led climate projects                 |
| <b>Participating Youth Cohort</b>                        | Between 15 - 24 years of age                 |
| <b>Total Timeline (Call for Proposals to Completion)</b> | From July 27, 2026, to April 15, 2027        |

Gampola, a city frequently subjected to the impacts of climate change and disasters, has experienced numerous catastrophic events, including the recent dual disaster. Although we, as the Gampola Urban Council, along with the government, have focused on short-term and long-term solutions to ensure the safety of Gampola's environment, human life, and property, we firmly believe that you, as a community, also possess creative and practical solutions. Since the youth community in particular holds the most innovative ideas, being able to turn them into



reality will be a great strength in achieving our collective dream of a beautiful and secure Gampola.

Accordingly, youth project proposals can be submitted under the following themes identified in the "Climate Change Action Plan" of the Gampola city:

- **01. Landslide and Flood Risk Mitigation:** Developing localized early warning systems, risk mapping, and nature-based resilience projects to protect our vulnerable hill-country terrains and river basins.
- **02. Urban Greenery and Heat Mitigation:** Expanding urban green spaces and tree cover to combat the growing urban heat island effect within our town center, creating a cooler, more resilient built environment.
- **03. Sustainable Waste Management:** Introducing innovative circular economy models, reducing single-use plastics, and improving organic waste recycling to minimize environmental degradation.

Use the following link to access the complete plan:

[https://gampola.uc.gov.lk/pdf/Gampola%20Urban%20Council\\_CAP.pdf](https://gampola.uc.gov.lk/pdf/Gampola%20Urban%20Council_CAP.pdf)

## Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF) Microgrant Projects

### ➤ What is a YCAF Microgrant Project?

These are financial grants that support youth-led climate projects aligned with your city's priorities. They are designed to elicit new ideas from young people and provide them with the opportunity to take action within their communities.

### Requirements to be met by a Microgrant Project:

- Must be proposed, designed, and led by at least two young people between the ages of 15-24.
- Must align with Gampola's climate priorities.
- Must be completed before Thursday, April 15, 2027.
- Must operate within a budget of \$1,000 to \$5,000, utilizing approved expenses only.
- Must focus on youth leadership and action; equipment and infrastructure costs must not exceed 50% of the total project budget.



### Project Examples:

| Project Example                                                     | Output Example                               | Outcome Example                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Organizing a series of city park clean-ups</b>                   | Number of youth-led clean-up events          | Number of trash bags collected                    |
| <b>Starting a newsletter on climate-related council meetings</b>    | Number of youth signed up for the newsletter | Number of youth attending public council meetings |
| <b>Creating and distributing indoor rain garden kits to schools</b> | Number of rain garden kits distributed       | Number of rain gardens planted                    |
| <b>Starting a food waste composting cooperative</b>                 | Amount of compost produced                   | Amount of food waste diverted (in pounds)         |

### ➤ Who can receive Microgrants?

Although projects are led by young people, funds must be disbursed to registered organizations. Eligible organizations include:

- Youth-led organizations (e.g., youth clubs or groups).
- Youth-serving organizations (adult-led organizations that support youth).
- Sponsor organizations (e.g., city agencies, schools or other educational institutions, or community organizations).

*\*Private companies, individuals, political parties, or organizations affiliated with political parties are not eligible.*

### ➤ Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

#### Eligible Expenses:

- Project supplies and materials (rental or purchase of equipment, tools, art supplies, or technical devices).
- Costs of organizing community events, workshops, or educational sessions (venue rental, printing costs, basic refreshments).
- Costs for permits required to execute the project in compliance with local regulations.



- Reasonable travel expenses of youth participants or team members directly involved in the project (public transport, taxis).
- Promotional materials to build awareness about the project (photography, videography, editing support).

**Ineligible Expenses:**

- Services/expenses already covered by existing municipal programs.
- House rent or utility bills (electricity, water, etc.).
- Registration fees for non-profit organizations/NGOs.
- Lecture honorariums or speaker fees.
- Scholarships or direct financial assistance provided to individuals/families.
- Political campaigns, fundraisers, or partisan political contributions.

**Application Process:**

If you are a youth group meeting the above qualifications, please fill out the project proposal form available on Gampola's official portal and send it to [ycafgampola@gmail.com](mailto:ycafgampola@gmail.com). Alternatively, you can hand-deliver it to the Main Office of the Gampola Urban Council.

**Project Timeline:**

- Commencement of accepting applications: July 27, 2026.
- Deadline for accepting applications: September 07, 2026.

The evaluation of projects and the selection of 8 projects eligible to receive microgrants will be carried out by an independent evaluation board appointed by the Gampola Urban Council under the guidelines of the Youth Climate Action Fund. The decision of the board shall be final.

**For Inquiries:** Pahani Fernando — 077 973 3139.