



NESTAFRICA
AI Innovation Lab

Impact by *Ingenuity:*

Building Africa's AI Future from the Ground Up

2025

Annual Impact Report





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GLOSSARY & ABBREVIATIONS

AI - Artificial Intelligence

AI-IWD - AI Integrated Workforce Development

AICT - Artificial Intelligence for Community Transformation

AIPIP - Artificial Intelligence Powered Information Integrity Platform

AgeMole AI - “The World is Bright” Artificial Intelligence

CCAI - Climate Change Artificial Intelligence

CJID - Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development

CLIC - Climate Innovation Conference

COP - Conference of Practice

DCC - Department of Climate Change

FME - Federal Ministry of Environment

GPSDD - Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

MDC - Multi Dynamic Concept

NAAIIL - Nest Africa Artificial Intelligence Innovation Lab

NCC - Nigeria Communication Commission

NDC - Nationally Determined Contribution

NITDA - National Information Technology Development Agency

SBI - Subsidiary Bodies of Implementation

SPID - Sustainability Participatory Development and Climate Resilience Initiative

UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

WAIGF - West African Internet Governance Forum

WSSD2 - Second World Summit for Social Development

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement

Dear Partners, Community, and Friends,

Africa stands at a critical inflection point in the era of artificial intelligence (AI). As AI rapidly reshapes economies, governments, and societies, the continent has a unique opportunity and responsibility to ensure these technologies are developed and applied in ways that reflect our realities, address our priorities, and create lasting public value. Yet too often, AI systems, policies, and innovations that affect Africa are designed elsewhere, without sufficient local context, ownership, or accountability.

At Nest Africa Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Lab (NAAAIL), we believe this must change.

We exist to harness artificial intelligence, data, and emerging technologies to solve Africa's most pressing challenges through locally grounded research, responsible innovation, and strategic partnerships. Our work is guided by a simple but urgent principle: Africa must not only participate in the AI revolution, we must shape how it advances climate resilience, strengthens public institutions, and accelerates sustainable development.

In 2025, our first full year of operations, we focused on proving what was possible. Operating without external funding, we laid the foundations of an organization committed to translating AI into real-world impact. During the year, we trained and engaged more than 300 young people in applied AI, reached 20 communities, and established partnerships with over 18 organizations spanning government, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

One of our defining milestones was the launch of AyeMọlẹ AI, Africa's first multilingual Climate AI assistant. Designed to make climate information more accessible and actionable, AyeMọlẹ AI has already reached 500+ users and 48,743 people through digital and community engagement, providing localized weather insights and climate education in formats that are practical, inclusive, and rooted in local realities.

We did not wait for ideal conditions. We built with what we had.



Yazid Salahudeen Mikail
Founder & Executive Director

Our commitment to innovation also extended to research. We published a hybrid AI and Physics model for rainfall prediction in semi-arid regions, demonstrating how locally developed approaches can improve forecasting accuracy in data-constrained environments and contribute to the next generation of Climate Intelligence Systems.

Beyond technology, we recognized that Africa's AI future depends equally on strong institutions and responsible governance. Throughout the year, we contributed to conversations on responsible AI, digital governance, and public innovation while building partnerships that strengthen Africa's growing AI ecosystem and ensure emerging technologies serve the public interest.

These achievements are not isolated projects. Together, they laid the foundation for the strategic direction that now defines Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab through three interconnected portfolios: Climate AI Systems; Policy, Governance & Public Innovation; and AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships. Together, these portfolios enable us to develop practical solutions, strengthen institutions, and empower communities to harness AI for inclusive and sustainable development.

As we move into our next phase, our focus is clear: transforming early innovation into lasting public impact.

This means advancing Climate Intelligence Systems that strengthen resilience, supporting governments in building trustworthy and responsible AI ecosystems, expanding flagship initiatives such as AyeMole AI, AI-Powered Information Integrity Platform, AI Integrated Workforce Development, and the AI for Community Transformation Fellowship (AICT Fellowship), among others and deepening partnerships that prepare Africa's next generation of AI leaders and innovators.

We are under no illusion about the complexity of this mission. Yet our first year reinforced a belief that continues to guide us: meaningful progress does not begin with perfect conditions, it begins with clarity of purpose, disciplined execution, and the courage to build solutions that endure.

Africa's future will not be shaped by technology alone. It will be shaped by how we apply technology to strengthen communities, improve governance, expand opportunity, and solve the challenges that matter most.

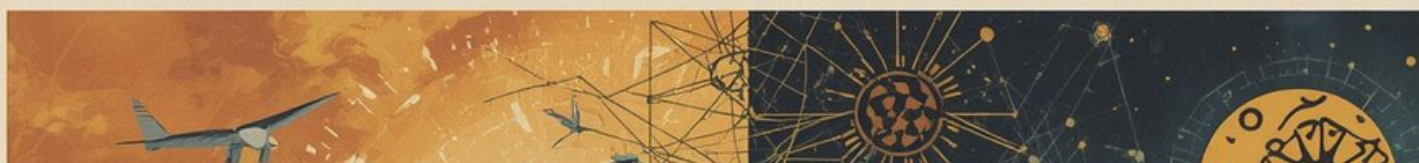
This is the journey we have begun. We invite partners, funders, researchers, innovators, and communities to join us in building an Africa where artificial intelligence is trusted, inclusive, and creates lasting public value for generations to come.

With gratitude and determination,

Yazid Salahudeen Mikail

Founder & Executive Director

Nest Africa Artificial Intelligence Innovation Lab.



Executive Summary

Africa is entering a defining moment in the adoption of artificial intelligence. As the continent confronts accelerating climate change, rapid digital transformation, and evolving governance challenges, there is an urgent need for locally developed AI solutions that are responsible, inclusive, and designed to address Africa's realities. Yet significant gaps remain in climate intelligence, digital governance, and equitable access to AI knowledge and innovation.

Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab was established to help close these gaps by developing AI-powered solutions, strengthening public institutions, and building innovation ecosystems that create lasting public value. Through our three strategic portfolios, **Climate AI Systems; Policy, Governance & Public Innovation; and AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships**, we translate research into practical solutions that strengthen climate resilience, inform public policy, and expand opportunities for communities across Africa.

2025 marked our first full year of operations and an important milestone in our institutional journey. Operating without external funding, we demonstrated that locally led AI innovation can deliver meaningful impact while laying the foundation for long-term growth and scale.

Among our most significant achievements was the launch of AyeMole AI, Africa's first multilingual Climate AI assistant, designed to provide localized weather insights and climate education in accessible local languages. We also published applied research demonstrating a hybrid AI and Physics model for improving weather prediction in semi-arid regions, reinforcing our commitment to advancing next-generation Climate Intelligence Systems that support evidence-based climate action.

Beyond technology development, we contributed to emerging conversations on responsible AI, digital governance, and public innovation through policy engagement, research, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. At the same time, we invested in developing Africa's AI ecosystem by building partnerships, strengthening local capacity, and creating opportunities for young people to apply AI to real-world challenges.

Across our programmes, we trained and engaged more than 300 young people in applied AI, reached 20 communities, established partnerships with over 18 organizations, delivered 10 workshops and webinars, and reached over 50,000 people through community engagement and digital platforms. Our work gained international recognition through showcases at the Global NDC Conference (Berlin), UNFCCC SB62 (Bonn), the Climate Innovation Conference (Morocco), and COP30 (Belém), reflecting growing global interest in locally led AI innovation from Africa.

As we look ahead, our focus is on transitioning from early innovation to sustainable scale. We will continue strengthening AyeMole AI, AI-Powered Information Integrity Platform (AIPIP) (AI-PIP), AI Integrated Workforce Development (AI-IWD), and the AI for Community Transformation Fellowship (AICT Fellowship), among others to equip the next generation of African AI leaders and innovators.

While our first year demonstrated what is possible, it also reaffirmed that lasting impact depends on collaboration. We remain committed to working with governments, development partners, academia, civil society, and the private sector to build AI systems, institutions, and partnerships that advance climate resilience, strengthen governance, and accelerate sustainable development across Africa.

OUR WHY

Africa stands at the intersection of two defining transitions: the accelerating impacts of climate change and the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence. Together, they present an unprecedented opportunity to improve lives, strengthen institutions, and accelerate sustainable development. Yet they also expose a critical challenge: while AI is transforming how societies solve complex problems, Africa remains underrepresented in the data, technologies, policies, and innovation ecosystems shaping that future.

Across the continent, climate risks are intensifying, affecting agriculture, water resources, public health, infrastructure, and livelihoods. At the same time, governments, researchers, and communities often lack access to locally developed data, AI-powered decision-support tools, and the institutional capacity needed to respond effectively. This challenge extends beyond climate. Across many sectors, there is a widening gap between technological innovation and the ability of institutions and communities to adopt, govern, and apply AI responsibly.

This imbalance is reflected in how knowledge and technology are produced. According to IPCC, between 1990 and 2020, an estimated 78% of climate research funding intended for Africa was awarded to institutions outside the continent, limiting opportunities for locally led research, innovation, and ownership. Similarly, many AI systems used across Africa are developed elsewhere, often without sufficient consideration of local languages, contexts, governance systems, or community needs.

The consequence is a series of interconnected gaps:

- Between climate risks and informed decision-making.
- Between data availability, Institutional collaboration and actionable intelligence.
- Between technological innovation and responsible governance.
- Between AI's potential and equitable access to its benefits.

Closing these gaps requires more than new technologies. It requires building the systems that enable AI to create lasting public value, through locally relevant innovation, evidence-based policy, strong institutions, and inclusive partnerships.

This is why Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab exists. Through our three strategic portfolios: Climate AI Systems; Policy, Governance & Public Innovation, and AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships, we develop AI-powered solutions, advance applied research, strengthen governance, and build the partnerships and talent needed to ensure artificial intelligence is designed, governed, and deployed for Africa, by Africans.

Our ambition is not simply to build better technologies, but to help build an Africa where AI strengthens resilience, improves public decision-making, expands opportunity, and drives sustainable development for generations to come.



About Us

Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab is a nonprofit research and innovation organization building Africa's AI infrastructure for public impact. We develop AI-powered solutions, advance applied research, strengthen policy and governance, and foster strategic partnerships that enable governments, communities, and institutions to make informed decisions and accelerate climate resilience, inclusive development, and sustainable transformation across Africa.



Our work sits at the intersection of artificial intelligence, research, public policy, and sustainable development. We translate emerging technologies into practical solutions, generate evidence through applied research, strengthen governance systems, and build partnerships that enable responsible, inclusive, and impactful AI adoption across Africa.

We operate through three interconnected strategic portfolios: Climate AI Systems; Policy, Governance & Public Innovation; and AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships. Together, these portfolios connect research, technology, policy, and community engagement to ensure AI solutions are locally relevant, institutionally adopted, and capable of creating lasting public value.

Rooted in the principle of **"For Africa, by Africans,"** we are committed to strengthening agency and local ownership of knowledge, innovation, and decision-making while positioning Africa as a global leader in responsible, inclusive, and context-driven artificial intelligence for sustainable development.



Our Vision

An Africa where locally built, responsibly governed AI systems drive climate resilience, strengthen institutions, and enable sustainable development for all communities.



Our Mission

To develop AI-powered solutions, advance applied research, strengthen governance, and foster strategic partnerships that enable responsible, evidence-based decision-making and accelerate climate resilience, inclusive development, and sustainable transformation across Africa.



Our Core Values

Agency & Local Leadership: We believe Africa must shape, not simply adopt the future of artificial intelligence. We champion African leadership, local ownership, and the capacity of people and institutions to design, govern, and deploy AI solutions that reflect our realities and aspirations.

Responsibility & Ethics: We are committed to the responsible design, governance, and deployment of AI systems that are transparent, inclusive, accountable, and aligned with human rights and societal values.

Impact-Driven Innovation: We develop practical, scalable, and evidence-based solutions that address real-world challenges and create measurable, lasting public value.

Collaboration & Ecosystem Building: We believe transformative change happens through partnership. We work across sectors and disciplines to strengthen Africa's AI ecosystem and co-create solutions that benefit communities at scale.

Excellence & Integrity: We uphold the highest standards of quality, professionalism, and ethical conduct in our research, partnerships, and operations, building trust through rigor, accountability, and continuous learning.

From Innovation to Systems Change:

STRATEGIC SHIFT

In our first year, Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab focused on demonstrating what was possible. Operating without external funding, we proved that locally led AI innovation can deliver meaningful impact through applied research, technology development, capacity building, policy engagement, and strategic partnerships. Along the way, we gained valuable insight into where our work creates the greatest value and where Africa's needs are most urgent.

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly embedded in development, governance, and climate action, it is clear that lasting impact requires more than innovative technologies. It requires locally developed solutions, strong institutions, responsible governance, and collaborative ecosystems that ensure AI is applied in ways that are inclusive, practical, and aligned with Africa's priorities.

This understanding has shaped our next phase of growth. Beginning in 2026, Nest Africa is sharpening its focus around three interconnected strategic portfolios: Climate AI Systems; Policy, Governance & Public Innovation; and AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships. Together, these portfolios enable us to connect research with implementation, technology with governance, and innovation with measurable public impact.

Our Climate AI Systems portfolio develops AI-powered climate intelligence, forecasting tools, and decision-support systems that strengthen climate resilience. Building on flagship initiatives such as AyeMole AI and our applied climate research, we are advancing locally developed Climate Intelligence Systems that support communities, governments, and institutions in making better-informed decisions.

Our Policy, Governance & Public Innovation portfolio strengthens responsible AI through policy research, institutional capacity building, regulatory engagement, and evidence-based public innovation. We believe that effective governance is essential to ensuring AI is trusted, inclusive, and aligned with Africa's development priorities.

Through our AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships portfolio, we invest in people, partnerships, and collaborative innovation. From talent development and ecosystem building to flagship programmes such as the AI for Community Transformation Fellowship (AICT Fellowship), this portfolio ensures that AI creates opportunities for communities while strengthening Africa's innovation ecosystem.

This strategic shift is about focus and long-term impact. Rather than pursuing disconnected initiatives, we are concentrating our efforts on building solutions, institutions, and partnerships that reinforce one another and create lasting public value.

We are no longer only demonstrating what is possible, we are building the systems that make responsible AI work for Africa.

Our Strategic Portfolios

To maximize our impact and respond to Africa's evolving opportunities and challenges, Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab organizes its work around three interconnected strategic portfolios. Together, they enable us to translate research into practical solutions, strengthen institutions, and build partnerships that ensure artificial intelligence creates lasting public value. While each portfolio has a distinct focus, they are designed to complement one another, connecting innovation, governance, and implementation to accelerate climate resilience, inclusive development, and sustainable transformation across Africa.

Climate AI Systems: We develop AI-powered climate intelligence, forecasting tools, and decision-support systems that help governments, communities, and organizations better understand climate risks, strengthen resilience, and make informed decisions.

Our work includes localized climate forecasting, Climate Intelligence Systems, earth observation and geospatial applications, climate risk modelling, and user-centred digital tools that translate complex climate data into practical insights. Through flagship initiatives such as AyeMọlẹ AI and applied climate research, we are making climate information more accessible, actionable, and relevant to African communities.

Policy, Governance & Public Innovation: We strengthen responsible AI adoption by advancing evidence-based policy, institutional capacity, and governance frameworks that enable emerging technologies to be deployed safely, ethically, and in the public interest.

Our work spans policy research, regulatory engagement, government advisory, multi-stakeholder dialogue, and public sector innovation. By supporting institutions to develop context-driven governance systems, we help ensure AI strengthens public decision-making while promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusion.

AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships: We build Africa's AI ecosystem by investing in people, partnerships, and collaborative innovation that expands access to AI and accelerates its positive impact across communities.

Through capacity-building programmes, ecosystem partnerships, applied AI initiatives, and flagship programmes such as the AI for Community Transformation Fellowship (AICT Fellowship), we empower individuals and institutions to develop, adopt, and scale AI solutions that address real-world challenges and contribute to sustainable development.

SDGs Alignment



2025

Impact in Numbers

300+

Youth trained in applied AI, data science, and responsible automation.

Partnered with

18+

Organizations across government, civil society, and academia.

10

Capacity-building workshops, webinars, and learning programs delivered across Kaduna, Abuja, internationally and online delivered.

48,743

people reached across our media platforms.

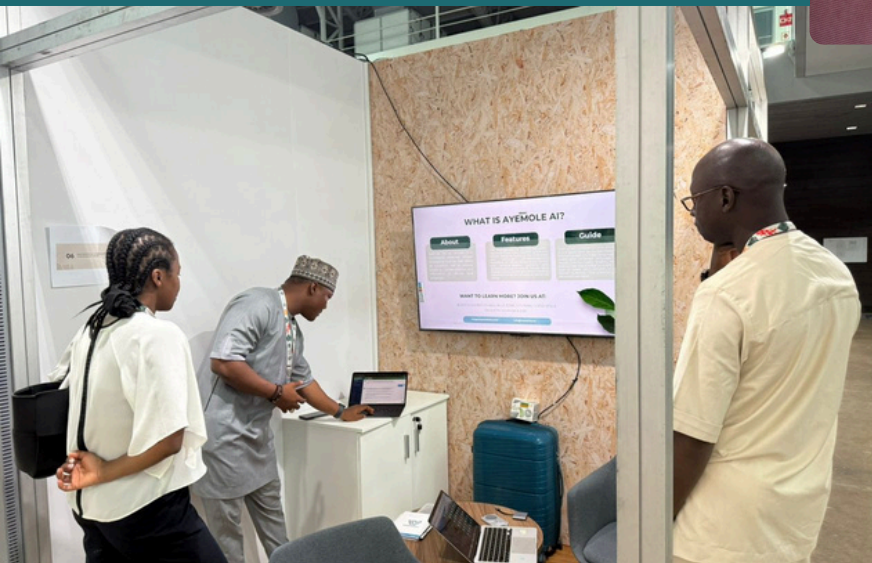
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Communities reached.

In 2025, Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab focused on moving from concept to execution, demonstrating how locally built AI systems can address climate and governance challenges in real-world contexts. Our work across three strategic portfolios reflects an integrated approach to building climate intelligence and AI governance infrastructure in Africa.



Portfolio Performance



AyeMole AI 1.0

AyeMole AI is our flagship climate intelligence platform, designed to provide localized, accessible, and actionable climate insights for communities, researchers, and decision-makers. The platform integrates artificial intelligence with climate data to support climate prediction, interpretation, and communication in ways that are inclusive, context-aware, and responsive to local needs.



AyéMole AI

What AyeMole AI Does



Localized weather and rainfall insights

AI-powered rainfall and seasonal insights tailored to local conditions



Conversational Education

AI-driven climate education in local languages



Multi-Language Inclusion

Delivered in local languages for universal accessibility



Early-stage tools for carbon footprint calculation

AI-powered carbon footprints calculator for transportations using distance .

On 10th July 2025, Ayemole 1.0 was officially launched via a virtual event hosted on Zoom. The launch brought together a diverse group of participants, including **farmers, extension workers, AI experts, government institutions, researchers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), journalists, and AI enthusiasts**, reflecting the platform's interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder focus. The session also highlighted Ayemole's future development roadmap, outlining plans to expand its predictive capabilities, improve localization, and strengthen partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders.

Measurable Impact



10,000+

Reached via social media platforms

150+

Registered to participate in the official launch of the AyeMole AI

50+

Joined and participated in the official launch of the AyeMole AI

500+

Current Users of the AyeMole AI and its features.

20+

Local farmers communities engaged with the AyeMole AI for weather information and climate education.



1500+

People reached through community engagement and awareness and showcasing across states in Nigeria, Doha, Morocco, Germany and Brazil

“ This tool can help us move from guesswork or spectator-informed farming decisions to data-driven and weather informed farming” - **Local farmer from Zabi Community.**

“This is something we have never seen before. To have a platform that delivers weather and climate information in local languages with such accuracy will change how we as policymakers and government provide information to our communities” - **Top executive at Nigerian Meteorological Agency during SB62 in Bonn.**

- Expand accessibility and inclusion by increasing support for additional African, local languages ensuring broader reach across diverse communities and speech-to-speech systems tailored to African linguistic and accent diversity.
- Deepen community integration by strengthening community-driven engagement, awareness, and capacity building around climate information and responsible AI use.
- Strengthen institutional partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and development actors to support adoption, integration, and long-term sustainability.
- Ensure local relevance and ownership through continuous collaboration with communities in the design, testing, and refinement of platform features.
- Launch AyeMole AI 2.0, delivering improved performance, expanded functionality, and increased scalability for real-world deployment across sectors.
- Launch of LDN-Ai; the first domain-specific application built on the AyéMole framework, specifically designed to support Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) decision-making in Nigeria.

Future Outlook

Applied Research: Climate Modeling and Forecasting

Publication: **"Comparative Evaluation of Data-Driven, Physics-Based, and Hybrid Models for Daily Rainfall Prediction in Semi-Arid Katsina, Nigeria."**

To address the challenge of limited and unreliable climate data in semi-arid regions, we conducted applied research to improve daily rainfall forecasting using a combination of data-driven and physics-based approaches.

Objective: The study evaluated three approaches—data-driven models, physics-based models, and hybrid models—to identify the most effective method for accurate rainfall prediction in data-scarce environments.

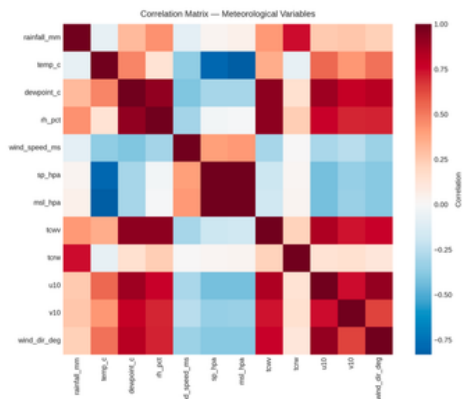


Figure 4: E4: Correlation heatmap among base meteorological variables and derived physics proxies.

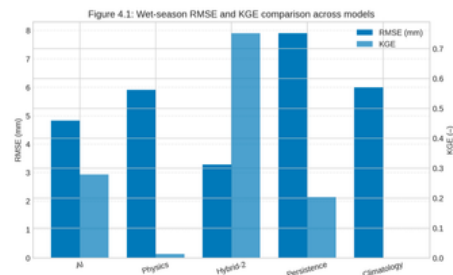


Figure 6: Wet-season RMSE and KGE comparison across AI, Physics, Hybrid, and baseline models.

Key Findings: The hybrid model (feature augmentation approach) significantly outperformed standalone data-driven and physics-based models. Achieved high predictive accuracy with an RMSE of 1.88 mm and R^2 of 0.77, maintaining strong performance even during peak rainfall periods. Demonstrated that combining scientific domain knowledge with data-driven methods improves reliability in low-data contexts.

Why This Matters: This research provides a practical pathway for improving climate forecasting in regions where traditional data systems are limited. The findings can be directly applied to: Early warning systems for floods and droughts, Agricultural decision-making, including planting cycles and risk planning, Climate advisory tools for farmers and local governments

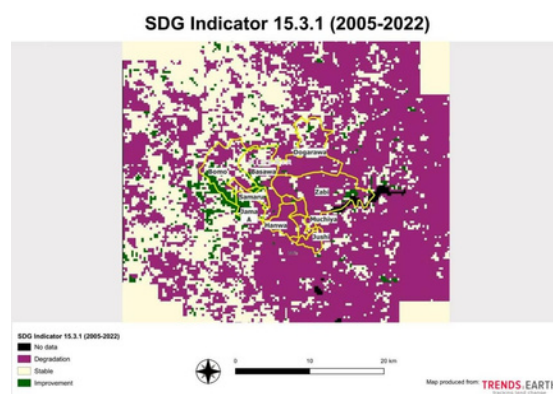
Impact and Next Application : The study establishes a scalable foundation for improved climate forecasting models that can be integrated into climate intelligence platforms and decision-support systems. It also directly aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) by advancing data-driven approaches to climate adaptation and disaster preparedness.

"This work is important for Improved forecasting accuracy in regions such as the Sahel strengthens climate information systems—reducing risk, enhancing resilience, and enabling more effective decision-making across communities and institutions."

- Expert reviewer

Data Systems for Climate Governance (SPiD Partnership)

To address the gap between community realities and climate policy implementation, we partnered with the Sustainable Participatory Development and Climate Resilience Initiative (SPiD) to design and deploy a data-driven framework for participatory climate governance in Sabon Gari LGA, Kaduna State. This work focused on generating high-quality, community-level evidence to inform inclusive climate decision-making—bridging the disconnect between national policy frameworks and local implementation.



Sabon Gari Land Degradation Map



Dashboard Analysis of Data Collected from communities

We developed and operationalized a comprehensive data system combining:

- Household surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews.
- Digital data collection and management using KoboToolbox.
- Spatial and environmental analysis, including land degradation mapping and water system assessment.

This integrated approach enabled the collection and analysis of 360+ data points, capturing climate impacts, governance gaps, and community knowledge systems.

Findings from the study revealed critical structural challenges:

- **High climate exposure and vulnerability:** Communities face increasing risks from flooding, crop losses, and environmental degradation, with limited economic resilience.
- **Awareness–action gap:** While 80% of respondents are aware of climate change, only 41% have adopted risk management practices, highlighting a gap between knowledge and practical adaptation.
- **Governance gaps:** Despite national frameworks such as the Climate Change Act (2021), community participation in climate planning and budgeting remains limited.
- **Underutilized local knowledge:** Indigenous practices and community insights are not systematically integrated into formal climate governance processes.
- **Land and environmental pressure:** Analysis shows shifts in land use and emerging degradation patterns, with cropland declining and artificial surfaces expanding between 2015 and 2022.



Interviewing farmers Association Leader

Impact and System Contribution: This work demonstrates how structured data systems can strengthen the connection between communities and climate governance processes. It establishes a replicable model for community-led, data-driven climate governance, enabling: More inclusive participation in climate decision-making. Better alignment between policy and local realities. Stronger accountability and monitoring of climate interventions.

“Our partnership with Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab significantly strengthened the quality and depth of our climate governance work in Sabon Gari. Their support in designing and implementing data systems enabled us to generate credible, community-driven evidence that directly informed our analysis and engagement with stakeholders. Beyond the research, AyeMọlẹ AI played a critical role in raising awareness—translating climate information into accessible insights for communities and helping bridge the gap between knowledge and action. This collaboration demonstrates the importance of combining data, technology, and local engagement to drive inclusive climate solutions.” - **Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable Participatory Development and Climate Resilience Initiative (SPiD).**

Portfolio Future Outlook: Climate AI Systems

Building on early traction, our focus is to scale climate intelligence systems from pilot-stage solutions into widely adopted tools for decision-making.

Key priorities include:

- Expanding AyeMọlẹ AI into a robust, multi-functional platform with broader geographic and language coverage.
- Developing African context AI solutions to solve Africa’s most pressing issues that align with the sustainable goals.
- Integrating applied research into deployable climate policies, advisory and early warning systems.
- Strengthening data pipelines and community-driven data systems to improve accuracy and relevance.
- Establishing partnerships with local communities, governments, NGOs, and development actors to support institutional adoption.
- Through this portfolio, we aim to transition from localized deployments to scalable systems that support climate resilience across multiple regions and sectors.

Portfolio 2: Governance, Policy & Public Innovation

In 2025, Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab strengthened its contribution to responsible AI, digital governance, and public innovation by engaging policymakers, researchers, civil society, and technology leaders across national and regional platforms. Our work focused on ensuring that the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence is matched by strong governance systems, evidence-based policies, and inclusive institutions that enable technology to serve the public interest.

Recognizing that innovation alone cannot solve Africa's development challenges, we worked to bridge the gap between emerging technologies, policymaking, and implementation—laying the foundation for governance systems that are practical, locally relevant, and responsive to Africa's evolving needs.

Policy Engagement and Convening:

Throughout the year, we actively contributed to national and regional conversations shaping the future of AI and digital governance in Africa. Our engagements included participation in the West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), where we contributed to discussions on national digital policies, startup ecosystems, and responsible innovation. Beyond convening spaces, we engaged governments, researchers, development partners, civil society organizations, and ecosystem actors to promote dialogue on AI governance, data governance, public innovation, and the role of evidence in shaping effective digital policies. We also amplified youth and locally grounded perspectives to ensure policy conversations reflected the realities and aspirations of African communities.



Stakeholders at NAAIIL Workshop on "National AI Policies and Startup Ecosystems in West Africa: Bridging Governance Gaps for Innovation and Growth" at WAIGF 2025.

Key Contributions and Outcomes: Our work during the year generated several important outcomes. We identified critical policy and institutional gaps relating to responsible AI adoption, data governance, regulatory readiness, and innovation ecosystems. These engagements strengthened Nest Africa's position as a trusted contributor to governance discussions while creating new opportunities for collaborative research, policy advisory, and institutional partnerships. They also reinforced the importance of locally led organizations in shaping Africa's digital future through evidence, dialogue, and practical implementation.

Portfolio Outlook: Policy, Governance & Public Innovation

As this portfolio evolves, our focus is expanding beyond policy engagement to designing practical governance solutions that strengthen public institutions, improve decision-making, and build trust in the digital age.

Our priorities include advancing policy research and advisory support for governments and regional institutions; promoting responsible AI, data governance, and digital rights; strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration; and developing public-interest technologies that translate policy into measurable impact.

A key priority is the development of our AI-Powered Information Integrity Platform (AI-PIP), a flagship initiative that will use AI to strengthen information integrity, support fact-checking and verification efforts, combat misinformation and disinformation, and improve access to credible information for governments, media, civil society, and citizens.

Through this portfolio, Nest Africa is transitioning from contributing to governance conversations to building the policies, partnerships, and digital innovations that enable responsible AI adoption and strengthen democratic and public institutions across Africa.



NAAIIL Contributing to FME, DCC Engagement on Digital & Environmental Sustainability for Green Economy.



NAAIIL at National AI Governance Stakeholders Roundtable in Abuja.



Stakeholders at NAAIIL Workshop on "National AI Policies and Startup Ecosystems in West Africa: Bridging Governance Gaps for Innovation and Growth" at WAIGF 2025.

Portfolio 3: AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships

AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships brings together our workforce development programmes, collaborative initiatives, and strategic partnerships that expand access to AI and translate innovation into real-world impact. Through this portfolio, we equip young people, professionals, entrepreneurs, institutions, and communities with the skills, networks, and opportunities to harness AI responsibly while fostering collaboration across government, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

Rather than operating as standalone initiatives, these programmes complement and reinforce our core portfolios by developing local talent, piloting practical AI solutions, strengthening institutional partnerships, and building the ecosystem needed to scale responsible AI across Africa.

StartUp Incubation: CleanUp MDC

We signed a partnership to Incubate CleanUp MDC through our incubation pipeline, strengthening the integration of data-driven approaches into waste management systems. Key expected outcomes include, Enhanced operational efficiency through improved routing and predictive planning, Support for a network of 1,000+ waste collectors and Contribution to a system that has facilitated over ₦10 million in disbursements.



Founder of Nest Africa AI LAb and CleanUp MDC shaking hands after signing the MoU

“This partnership marks one of our most important milestones. With Nest Africa’s support, we are strengthening our operations with data-driven systems that will improve efficiency in waste collection and recycling, from Zaria to Lagos and beyond. It also positions us to expand into Kaduna and Ondo States with stronger digital infrastructure and data partnerships.”

— Yahuza Salihu, Founder, CleanUp MDC

Capacity Building and Talent Development

2-Day AI Automation Training in Kaduna: Empowering Youth with Practical AI Skills

Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab partnered with Build Nigeria Initiative, YandyTech Community, and Smart Aid Initiative to deliver a transformative 2-day AI Automation Training in Kaduna in November 2025. This hands-on workshop targeted youth, young professionals, and community innovators, focusing on practical AI tools for automation in business, community projects, and daily workflows. With over 20 participants, the training bridged the gap between AI theory and real-world application, fostering skills for Nigeria's digital economy.



Key Achievements and Milestones

- **Curriculum Delivery:** Covered Prompt Engineering, AI workflow tools, and ethical AI integration through interactive sessions, practical coding exercises, and group projects.
- **Hands-On Projects:** Participants built AI agents for task automation, data processing, and community solutions, with live demos showcasing immediate applications.
- **Capacity Building:** Provided mentorship from Nest Africa AI experts, equipping attendees with resources for ongoing self-learning and project implementation.
- **Partnership Synergy:** Joint facilitation by partner organizations amplified reach, with YandyTech handling tech support and Smart Aid focusing on community impact modules.
- **Networking:** Facilitated peer networking for future collaborations.

Measurable Impact

20+

Youth and professionals trained

70%

Reported confidence boost in AI tools (Prompt Engineering, AI Automation, and Networking)

4

Groups automation prototypes projects completed

35%

Increase in AI interest via social media, Kaduna wide youth network

Interncademy Workshops

NestAfrica AI Innovation Lab partnered with Interncademy as an AI Innovation Partner for the Interncademy Career Accelerator Summit 2025, themed “Future of Work: Decade of the Disruptors.” This collaboration was designed to promote innovation, employability, and applied learning in Artificial Intelligence for Nigerian students, fresh graduates, National Youth Service Corps members and early-career professionals, by combining both organization’s youth-focused capacity-building platform with NestAfrica’s expertise in AI, automation, and locally relevant technology solutions.



Measurable Impact

20+

students, fresh graduates, National Youth Service Corps members and early-career professionals engaged at the summit.

55%

increase in AI interest via social media.

3

virtual internship slots to standout participants.

2

interactive AI sessions plus a dedicated hands-on workshop.

Portfolio Outlook: AI For Good and Ecosystem Partnership

Building on our initial collaborations, this portfolio will focus on expanding equitable access to AI through workforce development, strategic partnerships, and ecosystem-building initiatives that translate innovation into meaningful social and economic impact.

Key priorities include:

- Expanding AI workforce development programmes such as the AI Community Transformation (AICT) Fellowship, AI Integrated Workforce Development (AIWD) initiative, and AI for Growth, equipping young people, professionals, entrepreneurs, and small businesses with practical AI skills for employment, entrepreneurship, and leadership.
- Strengthening strategic partnerships with governments, universities, innovation hubs, civil society organizations, development partners, and the private sector to co-design and implement AI for Good initiatives across Africa.
- Developing talent and innovation pipelines by supporting mentorship, communities of practice, internships, fellowships, and collaborative learning opportunities that prepare the next generation of AI practitioners and changemakers.
- Supporting mission-driven organizations to responsibly adopt AI through technical assistance, collaborative projects, and ecosystem partnerships that improve organizational effectiveness and community impact.
- Fostering cross-sector collaboration to pilot, refine, and scale practical AI solutions that address local challenges while ensuring innovation remains inclusive, ethical, and locally driven.

Through this portfolio, Nest Africa will continue building the people, partnerships, and implementation ecosystem needed to accelerate responsible AI adoption and ensure that the benefits of AI are accessible to communities across Africa.

Nest Around The Globe 2025



AyeMole' AI in WSSD2 Doha, Qatar



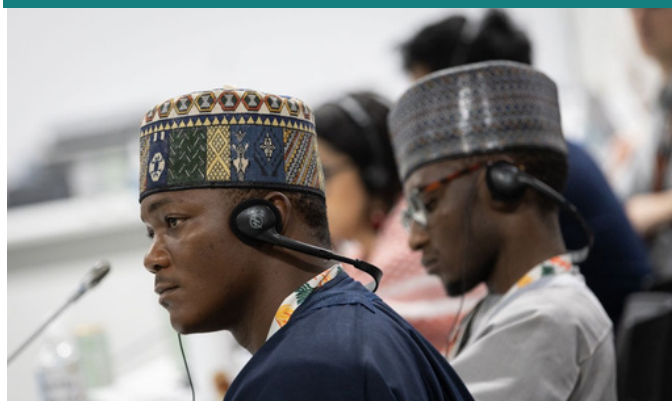
AyeMole' AI in SBI Bonn Germany



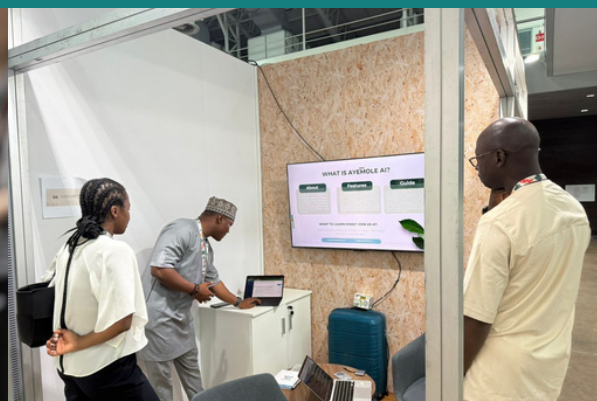
AyeMole' AI in Morocco



AyeMole' AI in Germany At SB62



NAAIIL at COP 30



AyeMole AI at COP 30



AyeMole AI at COP 30



NAAIIL at COP 30

Our 2025 Social Media Performance

Overview

Throughout the reporting period, our digital platforms continued to play a vital role in amplifying our mission, engaging diverse audiences, and strengthening our online community. The metrics below provide an overview of audience growth, content performance, engagement, and platform reach across our social media channels.

Engagement Highlights

Total Impression



48,743

Total Interaction

2,405



Channel Performance

LinkedIn

Total Audience:

1114

Instagram

Total Audience:

160

X(Twitter)

Total Audience:

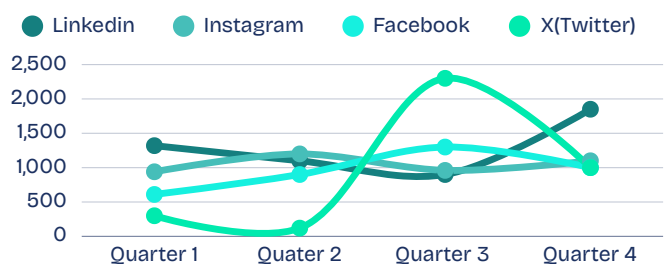
94

Facebook

Total Audience:

62

Audience Growth



Total audience increase

↑ 1500 new followers

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab is supported by an advisory board composed of experienced and accomplished professionals across technology, governance, research, and development practice, with over 60 years of cumulative experience. The board provides strategic guidance, oversight, and sector expertise to strengthen the Lab's work in applied AI, climate resilience, and youth-centered innovation.



CEO OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Aidan ✓
Eyekuze



POLICY OFFICER, GPSDD

Fatuma ✓
Farah



FOUNDER, YANDYTECH COMMUNITY

Mohammed ✓
Bayero Yayandi



FOUNDER, GRAFFITI INTEGRATED SERVICES AND DIGITAL SKILLS AND GENDER INCLUSION LEADER

Aisha ✓
Sani



POLICY AND COMMUNICATION EXPERT

Seyifunmi ✓
Adebotes

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR AND BOARD MEMBER

Serving on the Board of Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab has reinforced my belief that Africa's greatest AI advantage does not lie solely in technology itself, but in the ingenuity, resilience, and creativity of our people. This year's theme, "Impact by Ingenuity: Building Africa's AI Future from the Ground Up," captures the essence of our journey and our unwavering commitment to developing AI solutions that are rooted in local realities while contributing to global innovation.

Throughout 2025, the Lab has continued to demonstrate that meaningful AI innovation begins with people, communities, and practical problem-solving. By investing in emerging talent, supporting applied research, fostering entrepreneurship, and strengthening partnerships across sectors, we are helping shape an AI ecosystem that is ethical, inclusive, and capable of addressing Africa's most pressing development challenges.

As a Board, our responsibility extends beyond governance; it is to ensure that the organisation remains mission-driven, accountable, and positioned for sustainable growth. I am proud of the strategic progress achieved over the past year and the dedication of our leadership, staff, partners, and innovators who continue to transform ambitious ideas into measurable impact. Artificial Intelligence presents Africa with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to accelerate economic growth, improve public services, create quality jobs, and strengthen resilience across our communities. However, achieving this future requires intentional investment in local capacity, responsible AI governance, and collaborative ecosystems that place African voices at the centre of innovation.

As we look ahead, I remain confident that Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab will continue to catalyze responsible AI adoption, talent development, and home-grown innovation. Together, we are not simply preparing Africa for the AI era—we are actively shaping an African AI future built on ingenuity, inclusion, and impact.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our Executive Director, fellow Board members, partners, supporters, and the growing community of innovators whose commitment makes this vision possible. I look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.

Mohammed Bayero Yayandi

Director & Board Member, Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab

MEET THE TEAM



FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Yazid ✓
Salahudeen Mikail



ADMIN & HR

Rabiyaat ✓
Husseini Yahaya



TECH AND AI RESEARCH LEAD

Alamin ✓
Musa Magaga



CAPACITY BUILDING ASSOCIATE

Victoria ✓
Chinekwu Enem



PROGRAM & OPERATIONS LEAD

Bashir ✓
Abdulraheem



AI & CLIMATE LEAD

Abubakar ✓
Isa-Abubakar



COMMUNICATIONS LEAD

Muhammed ✓
Sani Kabir



FINANCE ASSOCIATE

Oluwunmi ✓
Ibukunoluwa Deborah



PROGRAMME ASSOCIATE

Nomsa ✓
Khumalo



POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC INNOVATION ASSOCIATE

Ameerah ✓
Adamu



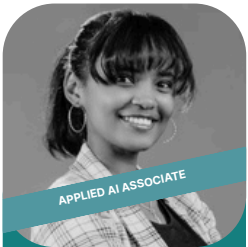
OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE

Nusaiba ✓
Harun



AI RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Daberechi ✓
Okorie



APPLIED AI ASSOCIATE

Meron ✓
Abate



AI/ML ASSOCIATE

Akanbi ✓
Daniel



TECHNICAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE

Nimatallah ✓
Masuud



COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

Sa'adatu ✓
Yusuf Jumare

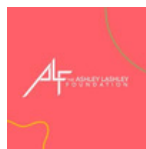


COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

Thelma ✓
Osatohanmwon

Thank You

To our partners for your incredible support and collaboration throughout the 2025 season. You are a vital part of our success and we look forward to achieving more together!



Conclusion

The past year has been one of growth, learning, and laying a strong foundation for the future of Nest Africa AI Innovation Lab. What began as a vision to harness artificial intelligence for sustainable development has evolved into a growing platform for innovation, research, policy, and capacity building, driven by the belief that Africa should not only adopt AI but actively shape its future.

Despite operating as a young, self-funded organization for much of the year, we expanded our reach across communities, built meaningful partnerships, trained hundreds of young people in applied AI, and introduced innovative solutions that demonstrate the potential of locally developed technologies to address African challenges. These milestones reflect not only what we have accomplished, but also the collective efforts of our team, partners, advisors, volunteers, and the communities that continue to inspire our work.

As we look ahead, our focus is clear. We will deepen our work across Climate AI Systems, Policy, Governance and Public Innovation, and AI for Good & Ecosystem Partnerships, while investing in the people, partnerships, and technologies that will drive responsible AI adoption across Africa. Through initiatives such as AyeMole AI, the AI-Powered Information Integrity Platform (AI-PIP), the AI Community Transformation (AICT) Fellowship, and our growing ecosystem of collaborations, we are building practical solutions that improve lives, strengthen institutions, and create opportunities for communities that have too often been left behind in technological transformation.

This report marks the end of our first chapter, not the destination, but the foundation upon which we will continue to build. We remain committed to advancing responsible, inclusive, and locally driven AI that serves the public good, and we invite governments, researchers, civil society, development partners, businesses, and communities to join us in shaping a future where artificial intelligence contributes to a more resilient, equitable, and prosperous Africa.

Together, we are not only preparing Africa for the age of AI we are helping Africa lead it.



Thank You



YEAR OF REPORT 2025



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