

DESIGN THINKING FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS PROGRAMME

Using Design Thinking to Create Innovative Solutions for Climate-Related Issues in South Africa

SUMMARY

The African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) together with the Hasso Plattner School of Design Thinking at UCT (d-school Afrika) and the Bertha Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship are publishing a call for Expression of Interest from organizational teams working in the climate change space. Teams will participate in a bespoke programme integrating Design Thinking and Systems Innovation for practitioners. The programme includes a 5-Day Design Thinking in Practice workshop with the aim of co-creating human-centered innovative solutions that address real life climate-related issues of your choice. Some teams, where deemed suitable will be selected for the Systems Entrepreneurship Incubation Track in which they learn more about embedding a solution in society.

WHY?

Design Thinking (DT) is a methodology which provides an innovative solution-based approach to solving problems. It's extremely useful for tackling complex problems that are ill-defined or non-apparent because it serves to understand the human needs involved, reframe the problem in human-centric ways, create numerous ideas in brainstorming sessions and adopt a hands-on approach. The DT approach will work well for climate change challenges because, as landscapes and natural conditions change, practices will need to change as the old ways of doing may no longer work.



During the first phase the ACDI, through the South Africa / Flanders Climate Adaptation Research and Training Partnership (SAF-ADAPT) Project ran 1-day workshops across the country, the aim of which was to expose those working on climate-related issues to DT. During the workshops participants worked in teams on a hypothetical climate related challenge. It soon became apparent that the DT method had the potential to help practitioners and researchers turn their ideas into actions and come up with innovative solutions to some of the climate challenges facing South Africans.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

A programme comprising an in-person Design Thinking in Practice workshop, including systems innovation coaching. The programme is designed for practitioners working on solving climate-related issues in South Africa and will be offered to teams of between 5-12 people. Based on the outcomes of this workshop teams may be offered our additional Systems Entrepreneurship Incubation Track. The hosts will arrange for the programme to take place in different locations around South Africa.

DESIGN THINKING IN PRACTICE

In this current, second phase, we will be offering four teams the opportunity to practice the DT method, over a longer 5-Day workshop, to solve a climate-related challenge of their choice. In parallel to the workshop, teams will engage with systems innovation practitioners to learn more about contextualizing specific challenges, generating problem domain insights and crafting deep leverage points.

Participants can look forward to practicing DT, and through this become more familiar with the process, mindsets, and tools. In addition, participants will learn to approach challenges through a wider system thinking perspective, problem solve through a human-centered lens, explore new ways of collecting and using information, turn ideas into tangible solutions and test solutions with users.

A selected number of teams, evaluated against certain criteria, will have the opportunity to undergo additional training and incubation in which they will learn to further validate and embed their solutions in society.

SYSTEMS ENTREPRENEURSHIP INCUBATION TRACK

Selected teams will engage in one two-day session and two separate 1 day working sessions, along with support from a systems entrepreneurship and incubation coach in between sessions for a discrete number of sessions. The objective is to guide teams with tangible and tested prototypes from the Design Thinking workshops to developing pathways for catalyzing and convening the integration of team's prototypes into broader socio-economic settings/environments. Thematic topics covered in the systems entrepreneurship incubation track include Business Model Innovation, Market Creating Innovation, Climate Innovation opportunities and financing, value network analysis and impact evaluation with a systems lens.

WHO IS IT FOR?

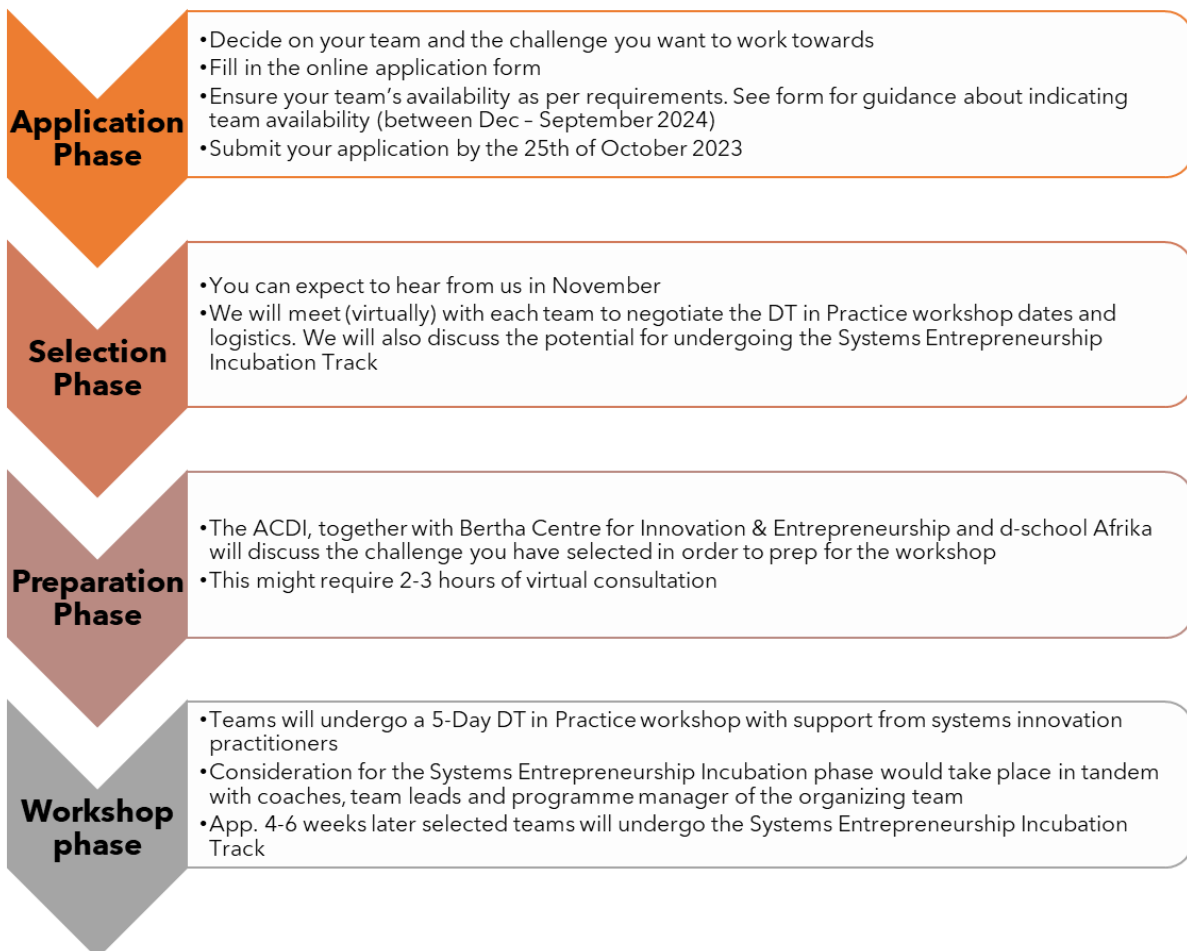
- Those interested in using a human-centered approach to find innovative solutions for climate related issues. Teams may also have ideas that they're looking to turn into a reality and want to explore further.
- Teams interested in new creative and collaborative ways to understand issues and co-create tangible and testable solutions.
- South African based teams working on solving a local climate related challenge, either in practice, education and awareness, policy, or activism. This includes teams from private and public sector as well as those within NGOs/NPOs and academia.
- Teams with between 5 -12 people, in a range of fields or disciplines, with potential developments ranging from products to pathways.
- Teams must be available for a 5-Day in-person DT in Practice workshop and for the potential the Systems Entrepreneurship Incubation Track (approximately 4-6 weeks after the completion of the DT in Practice workshop).

WHAT WILL BE COVERED?

1. The full cost of a tailored Design Thinking in Practice workshop hosted by d-school Afrika along with support of an experienced DT coach and systems innovation practitioners throughout the duration of the programme.
2. The full cost of a tailored Systems Entrepreneurship Incubation Track session for selected teams.
3. A dedicated working space for the duration of DT in Practice workshop and in-person sessions for the Systems Entrepreneurship Incubation Track session. This includes workshop materials, meals, and snacks.
4. The cost of local travel to and from the venue will be covered as the programme will be hosted in a location where the team resides.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the online application form (<https://forms.office.com/r/epTMZ4W3bR>) by the 25th of October 2023





SAF-ADAPT

South Africa / Flanders
Climate Adaptation
Research and Training
Partnership



ACDI

African
Climate &
Development
Initiative

HASSO PLATTNER

d-school

AFRIKA



Please contact Lavinia Perumal (Lavinia.perumal@uct.ac.za) for any queries regarding the application process or general queries about the *Design Thinking for Climate Solutions Programme*

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- [SAF ADAPT](#)
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- [d-school Afrika](#)
- [Bertha Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship](#)