



# What If Climate Adaptation Were Local?

Exploring the Future of Just Green Transitions in Africa



Nuweiba, South Sinai, Egypt  
November 18-22, 2022

In partnership with:



Kingdom of the Netherlands

# 01 The Futures Lab

On the heels of the high-level COP27, join us for a Futures Lab to imagine: "What If Climate Adaptation Were Local? Exploring the Future of Just Green Transitions in Africa." At the Futures Lab, you will join a diverse cohort of participants working on localized climate adaptation in several African countries. Using a "futures thinking" approach, the Lab engages its participants to construct hopeful future scenarios for localized climate adaptation beyond just carbon emissions to support the health of the planet, people, and societies. During this Lab, you will:

## IMAGINE

multiple possible futures for localized, climate adaptation, and green transitions

## THINK

more creatively and optimistically about your role in shaping the future for the better

## ELEVATE

your work through storytelling sessions and opportunities to engage wider audiences

## CONNECT

with a diverse community of young people working on green transitions across Africa

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## 02 Theme: Localized Climate Adaptation



Local actors, and collaborations between them, are indispensable in the global fight against climate change. Despite minimal contributions to global carbon emissions, much of Africa is disproportionately impacted by climate change, as evidenced by increased land degradation, extreme weather, and alarming water scarcity. Meanwhile, the funds and technologies to mitigate or adapt to these impacts remain largely out of reach.

Yet local entrepreneurs, climate enthusiasts, and researchers are making great strides in harnessing cutting-edge innovations and working towards localized climate adaptation. Sensors, robotics, and AI, for example, are being used to decarbonize economic sectors and increase resource efficiency. In turn, green transitions present novel business opportunities and avenues for creating decent local jobs.

## 03 Who

Futures thinking works best collectively and by engaging a diversity of perspectives. This Futures Lab will convene a selective cohort of pioneering entrepreneurs, scientists, climate enthusiasts, techies, investors, civil society members and more. Lab participation will be limited to 30 participants.



## 04 Where

The Futures Lab will convene at the beachside Crazy Horse Camp in Nuweiba, in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt, ~1.5 hours from Sharm El Sheikh International Airport. All airport transfers and transportation during the Futures Lab will be provided.

## 05 Program

A mix of intensive sprints and periods of slowdown, Lab activities include future imagining sessions, networking and exchanges, storytelling, and creating action plans to work towards localized green transitions and climate adaptation. The Lab program will also include physical activities, opportunities to explore the surrounding area, and a learning visit to Habiba, a nearby ecofarm. We will send a detailed program closer to the Lab dates.

# 06 Frequently Asked Questions

## What is futures thinking?

“Futures thinking” refers to established methods and tools for imagining multiple, possible futures and understanding the assumptions behind these imagined futures. Grounded in exploring over prediction, and possibility over certainty, futures thinking asks what COULD happen, not what will happen. By articulating a range of possible futures, futures thinking helps us to identify the transformational processes behind future outcomes and identify our roles in the present in bringing about the desired futures which we imagine.



## What is the Futures Lab designed for?

Using a futures thinking lens, this Lab asks what COULD happen, not what WILL happen. The Lab is designed for us to:

- Interrogate our assumptions about the future
- Imagine multiple possible futures by asking what could happen, not what will happen
- Examine system-level forces to imagine beyond problem-solutions, i.e., “band aid” approaches
- Develop future visions which transcend stale scenarios and future tropes, such as utopia, dystopia, and techno-optimism

# 07 Team



## **Katie Bentivoglio**

Katie Bentivoglio manages New Silk Roads' futures thinking programs. She has spent nearly a decade working at the intersections of program design, community building, and creative expression in the Middle East and Africa. She has previously designed and facilitated futures thinking and strategic planning sessions for local innovators in Tunisia, Egypt, and Iraq. Katie has been living between Egypt and Tunisia since 2013.



## **Dalia Said**

Dalia Said is the CEO and Learning Director at El Rehla. Dalia studied adult development and group collaboration during her master's degree at the Harvard School of Education. Since then, she has worked with El Rehla to build its educational curriculum. Dalia has 14 years of experience delivering multi-day conferences and retreats in Egypt, the UAE, and the US. She has also developed curricula for clients such as AIESEC, Namaa's School for Sustainable Development, and EIMashrou3.



## **Evert Faber van der Meulen**

Evert Faber van der Meulen is an institutional fundraiser. He contributes to New Silk Roads' futures thinking programs by facilitating processes to spark collective imagination drawing from Islamic history, German philosophy, Catholic mysticism, and rugby. Or darts. He also specializes in designing and facilitating trainings in fundraising, theory of change, and impact evaluation. Evert was previously a lecturer at Leiden University.



## **Sara Ibrahim**

Sara Ibrahim is the Operations Director at El Rehla. During her travels in 2012, Sara first became interested in merging self-discovery, networking, and developing unique experiences. This passion led her to co-found El Rehla in 2013. Alongside building El Rehla, Sara also leads educational retreats for partners such as CARE International.



## **Safa Omrani**

Safa Omrani manages New Silk Roads' communication for its futures thinking programs. She also has experience managing communications for small businesses with an emphasis on eco-friendly initiatives in the arts and craft field. She has contributed to the previous Futures Labs in Tunisia and helped organize the Futures Talks series.



## **Muhammad Nagi**

A serial entrepreneur, mentor, and facilitator, Muhammed is the founder and CEO of MQR, one of leading coworking spaces in the MENA. Muhammed has over 8 years of experience leading and increasing growth in small and medium-sized businesses. Muhammed has been facilitating with El Rehla since its start in 2013.



## 08 Conveners

New Silk Roads offers a range of futures thinking programs focused on collectively imagining preferred futures and producing bold, innovative future scenarios. For over ten years, New Silk Roads has been working with a range of clients, including international organizations, multinational companies, and creative enterprises.

El Rehla ("the journey" in Arabic) hosts unconventional retreat experiences across Egypt. Since 2013, El Rehla has provided retreat participants with the opportunity to connect, reflect, and build trust. By engaging participants on a personal and professional level, El Rehla helps to create stronger communities to support collective action, collaboration, and peer-to-peer learning.

## 09 Partners

This Futures Lab is convened as part of the Hivos GreenWorks Alliance, with support from the Challenge Fund for Youth Employment (CFYE) and with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Implemented by an alliance led by Hivos, GreenWorks contributes to climate change mitigation by creating sustainable business and job opportunities in North Africa's green economies.

The CFYE aims to create a prosperous future for 200,000 young women and men by supporting youth employment initiatives, in partnership with the private sector, in the Middle East, North Africa, the Sahel, West Africa, and the Horn of Africa. The CFYE is managed by Palladium, VSO Nederland, and Randstad.

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