



URBAN NATURAL ASSETS FOR AFRICA
Resilience & restoration *for* life

Preserve, Conserve and Tinker: *Rethinking our future through a youth lens*

Preserving, conserving, and tinkering offers us a fresh perspective on our future, one seen through the eyes of multiple stakeholders, including the youth and children, as the custodians and future decision makers of our cities and natural assets. It proposes a future desired by a younger generation, as well as the potential realities they might face in their urban environment. Through a photographic exhibition, this event aims to share knowledge, foster understanding, and showcase ideas about safeguarding urban nature. Participants are invited to explore images and drawings produced by residents in Bo City and Cape Coast, and the youth in the cities where the UNA Resilience project has been active over the last three years. **The goal of the exhibition is to emphasise the importance of preserving what we have, conserving that which takes care of our needs, and tinkering towards a more resilient future.**

In April 2023, photovoice workshops were conducted in Cape Coast, Ghana and Bo City, Sierra Leone under the auspices of the [Urban Natural Assets programme](#) (UNA). These workshops involved community and stakeholder groups visually documenting their environment through photography, capturing current challenges, potential solutions, and the benefits and ecosystem services associated with their cities' urban natural assets. This community-first research approach allows stakeholders to express what they perceive as important and in need of care. Additionally, youth workshops were held, where young people gathered to collectively imagine the future they envision for their city and its natural assets. They translated their aspirations into colourful drawings, blueprints and maps, offering a glimpse into their visions of a better future. The outputs of this exercise emphasises the importance of preserving and conserving urban natural assets and can be seen throughout the exhibition. This exhibition combines the insights gained from these community- and youth-oriented workshops, while also exploring the possibilities of tinkering with the future potential of our urban natural assets.

This exhibition serves as a platform for visual knowledge sharing, a space for learning and for envisioning the future. It is an opportunity to reflect on the current state of urban nature in our cities and the power of our actions to safeguard these assets now and for the future.

Join us to Preserve, Conserve and Tinker for better cities! Together, we are shaping a resilient future. Get involved now by sharing your reflections and making commitments to nurture the nature in your city!