



THE CLIMATHON SERIES

“CLIMATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SOCIAL IMPACT”



In partnership with
ECOLOTRIP

4 - 5 April 2025
Dakar, Senegal

SUMMARY

In April 2025, Professors Without Borders, in partnership with Ecolotrip, delivered a dynamic two-day programme in Dakar, Senegal, as part of Ecolotrip's "Climathon Series." This initiative brought together 50 young students and aspiring entrepreneurs to explore how climate challenges can be turned into business opportunities.

Led by climate entrepreneurship expert Nadine Minampala, the hybrid programme combined online learning with an in-person hackathon. Students were introduced to the fundamentals of green entrepreneurship and design thinking, equipping them with tools to ideate, prototype, and pitch sustainable business solutions. Emphasis was placed on leveraging local resources, circular economy models, and user-centered innovation.

The programme culminated in the presentation of eight project pitches, with three standout ideas selected for their relevance, feasibility, and impact. Participants gained valuable skills in business modeling, pitching, and collaborative problem-solving, all within the context of climate resilience and community empowerment.

By nurturing climate-focused entrepreneurship, this programme equipped the participants with the ability to troubleshoot challenges in their ventures, fostering a new generation of changemakers ready to drive sustainable transformation from the ground up.



Nadine Minampala facilitating a social entrepreneurship workshop.



Nadine Minampala (2nd left and Constance Deguenon - Ecolotrip Programmes Manager (Far right) with Ecolotrip volunteers and programme participants.



REFLECTIONS

Anonymously collected from programme participants

I particularly appreciated the clarity of the explanations and the way the topics were presented progressively, allowing for gradual assimilation of knowledge. The well-organized course structure facilitated my progress and allowed me to master the essential concepts.

This programme helped me understand that empathy is essential for balancing a project. It allowed me to think from this perspective to have more impact with my project.

"The programme was rich in learning and knowledge sharing. This will allow me to have optimal management of my green project."

"Overall, the programme allowed me to readjust the foundations of my social project. I really enjoyed the different themes in the course."

Participating in this programme has given me a clearer understanding of the field of entrepreneurship. The courses will help me avoid the risk of getting stuck.

"This programme allowed me to understand the flaws in my current project and to gradually correct them"

"This programme was a good opportunity for us young people involved in waste management and the environment in general.

This programme introduced us to several entrepreneurial concepts that were previously inaccessible to us. This will allow me to move forward with my ideas. I feel ready to take on the world of entrepreneurship.

The overall dynamic of the programme was very positive, with strong participant engagement. The training sessions were well received, and the participatory methodology encouraged active interaction with learners. A warm welcome and smooth general logistics contributed to the successful implementation of the mission.

Nadine Minampala

