

Impact Report



2025



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61%

of our surveyed Fellows had never
ventured into entrepreneurship before
beVisioneers, yet now they are building
and leading with courage

01.

Letters from Leadership & our Donor

Letters from Leadership

Our program is born from the recognition that, although talent is distributed equally around the world, opportunities to make use of talent remain confined - and that we need all the talent possible to overcome current and future environmental issues and to imagine what a more sustainable future could look like. Over these next pages, we share a snapshot of what has been made possible through an unprecedented and pioneering donation from Mercedes-Benz, which compelled us to ask: How might we leverage untapped global, intergenerational talent to accelerate planet-positive innovation and entrepreneurship?

The nearly 3200 aspiring innovators and mentors, 1650 partners and champions who have joined our community across 55+ countries since 2023 are determined to protect nature through new business approaches that serve local contexts and realities.

We know that first-time entrepreneurs evolve their business ideas multiple times before they settle on a winning endeavour, and our community is set up to fast-track that process. 92% of our Fellows rely on the community for support and resilience and 94% have gained confidence and capacity to lead through our program. Given our community's diversity, our long-term aim is to support more effective, representative, and localized innovation – offering great innovation talent to compete for private and philanthropic funding to further grow promising pilots into flourishing services and products. This Impact Report demonstrates that we are well on that path.



Mariah Levin
Executive Director

Vision for the Future

Over 1 billion young people¹ are entering the workforce this decade. We already know that over 150 million will not be absorbed by labour markets². Staggering youth unemployment in certain countries and AI disruption will further impact the start into adult life for many young adults around the globe. In this reality, we need a new kind of education. The kind beVisioneers: The Mercedes-Benz Fellowship is modelling.

In the coming years, thousands of young innovators will learn what it takes to build and launch a solution whilst DOing it, following the 1500 Fellows who have already engaged in our program. We see that this hands-on approach enables young people from all walks of life to find their path and collectively impact millions of people in their communities.

As the Fellowship continues to grow, it will not only serve as a dynamic launchpad for environmental innovation, but also as a catalyst for long-term systems change. Our vision is to build a digital global community strengthened by local hubs in cities around the globe. This community not only includes the young innovators but experts, mentors, investors, philanthropists, and fellow changemakers.

By strengthening and scaling these networks, beVisioneers will support the development of thousands of initiatives that contribute to the regeneration and protection of our planet. Through this collective effort, we aim to accelerate a just and sustainable future – powered by the ingenuity, courage, and collaboration of a next generation that feels empowered, heard and seen.



Katherin Kirschenmann
(Founder)
The DO & The DO School
Fellowships



Florian Hoffmann
(Founder)
The DO & The DO
School Fellowships

¹ <https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025/>

² <https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025/>



Letter from our Donor

beVisioneers: The Mercedes-Benz Fellowship aims to create a meaningful impact, one that benefits its young participants, their local communities and the environment. We are deeply impressed by the courage, creativity, and dedication of the Fellows who develop concrete solutions to the most urgent environmental and social challenges of our time. As part of our corporate citizenship strategy, we are very proud to fund this unique initiative, which empowers a new and diverse generation of innovators.

Alongside numerous colleagues at Mercedes-Benz, I also support this initiative by mentoring Fellows, which is an experience that's both beneficial and deeply rewarding. This collaboration demonstrates just how much can be achieved when commitment meets support. It is far more than a funding relationship – it is a shared commitment to sustainable change.



Renata Jungo Brüngger
(Member of the Board of
Management of Mercedes-Benz
Group AG. Integrity, Governance
& Sustainability)



Global Summit 2024



02. Who We Are

83%

of Fellows who finished Year 1
of the Fellowship are
“ready to launch” their projects

beVisioneers: ☺
The Mercedes-Benz
Fellowship was launched in
👉 January 2023,
implemented by ⚙️
The DO School Fellowships
👉 and supported by
ongoing donations
from Mercedes-Benz.
This Fellowship was
designed to ⚡ empower
young 🌱 eco-innovators
aged 16–28.

In the first year of the Fellowship, we started with 100 of the most motivated and promising young minds in eco-innovation. In our 2nd year, we scaled up to 500 and from our 3rd Cohort onwards, we will be bringing up to 1000 Fellows into our community each year.



Our Mission

beVisioneers: The Mercedes-Benz Fellowship is a global Fellowship that equips innovators aged 16 to 28 with the training, support system and resources to bring their planet-positive ideas to life.

Our Vision

A global community of innovators and contributors building a more sustainable future.



Abie Franklin & his Mentor Antje Busch



Regional Summit Europe, 2023

>57%

of our Fellows come from
economically disadvantaged
backgrounds

03.

Scaling Change, Breaking Barriers

beVisioneers:

The Mercedes-Benz Fellowship addresses barriers to three types of access

Social Capital

Fellows join a powerful ecosystem of support, gaining access to a dedicated Venture Coach, online masterclasses with global and local experts, guidance from dedicated Regional Program Managers, mentorship from a network of 1650 seasoned professionals, and peer-to-peer support and exchange with 1500 Fellows.

Knowledge Capital

Our program equips Fellows with the skills to turn ideas into viable ventures and projects: from defining problems and co-creating with communities to testing, prototyping, and launching. Alongside venture-building, Fellows access modules on leadership and wellbeing—because we believe environmental sustainability and personal sustainability go hand in hand.

Financial Capital

We provide financial assistance to those who would otherwise not be able to participate in their first year. Fellows can also apply for Project Scholarships for up to €20,000 EUR to implement their learning and develop their projects further.

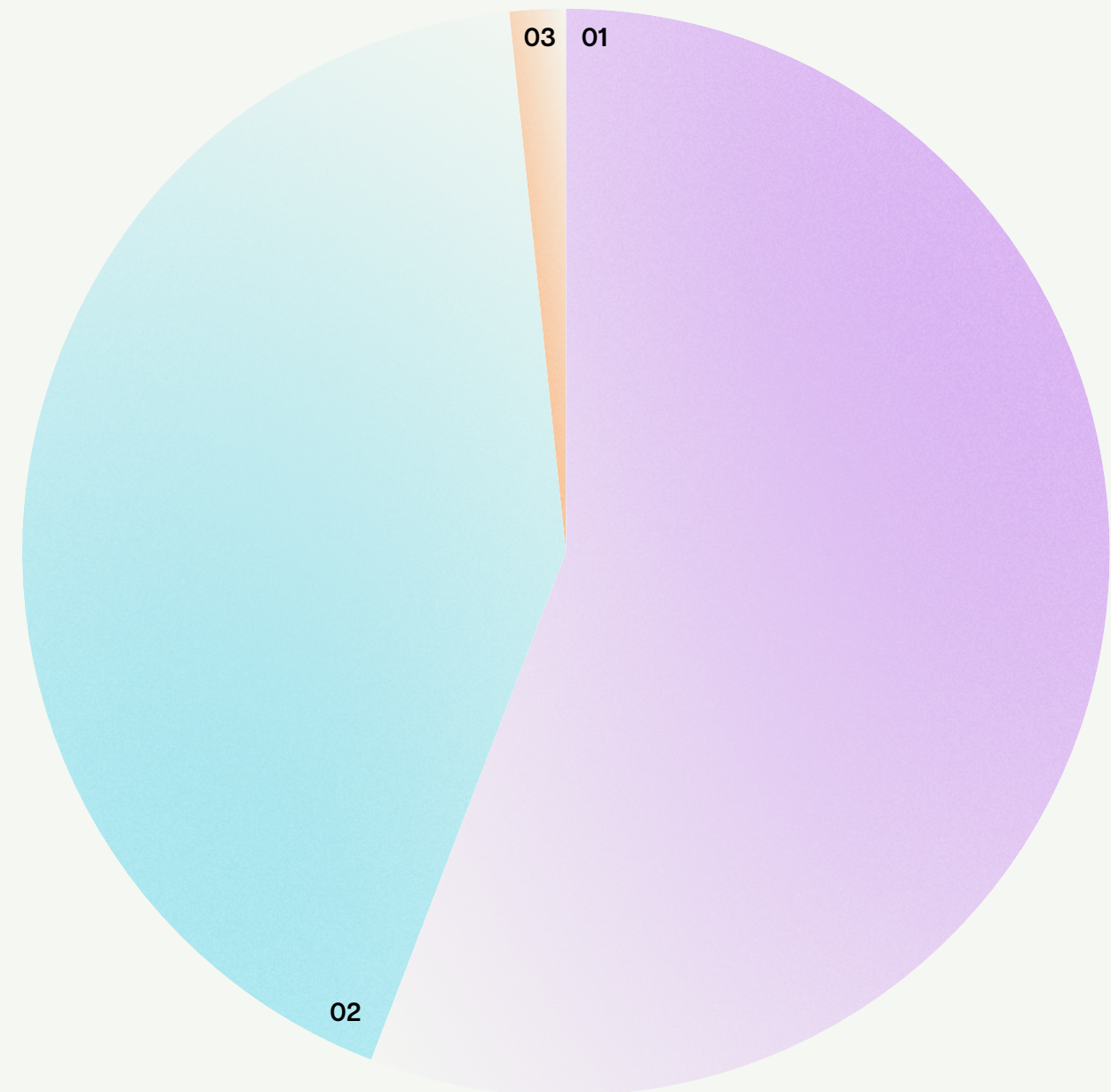
We allocate 40% of our budget directly to our Fellows—covering Financial Support, Project Scholarships, travel, and materials. The remaining 60% powers our multi-year hybrid learning program, expert mentorship, leadership training, a global network, and wellbeing support. It's a model that ensures young innovators are not just supported but they're also set up to lead.

We are committed to being one of the largest, most financially-inclusive, Fellowships of our kind and each year we consistently surpass our targets.

Fellows (1500 Fellows)

- 01 56% Female
- 02 42% Male
- 03 2% Non-Binary

We are dedicated to gender diversity amongst our Fellows and each year we maintain that standard with a target of at least 50% of our Fellows being female or non-binary



Ensuring accessibility

No one should be excluded from co-creating the future based on their financial or living situation. At least 50% of our Fellows each year to come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and provide them with the support they need to participate in the Fellowship.

We understand that participating and staying engaged in the global online program and community means having reliable access to a computer, the internet, and enough time for learning and development.

In order to be as inclusive as possible, we offer financial assistance during the first 12 months of the intensive learning program to Fellows who face financial or logistical barriers.



Regional Summit Europe, 2023



Regional Summit South Africa, 2025



Regional Summit Europe, 2025



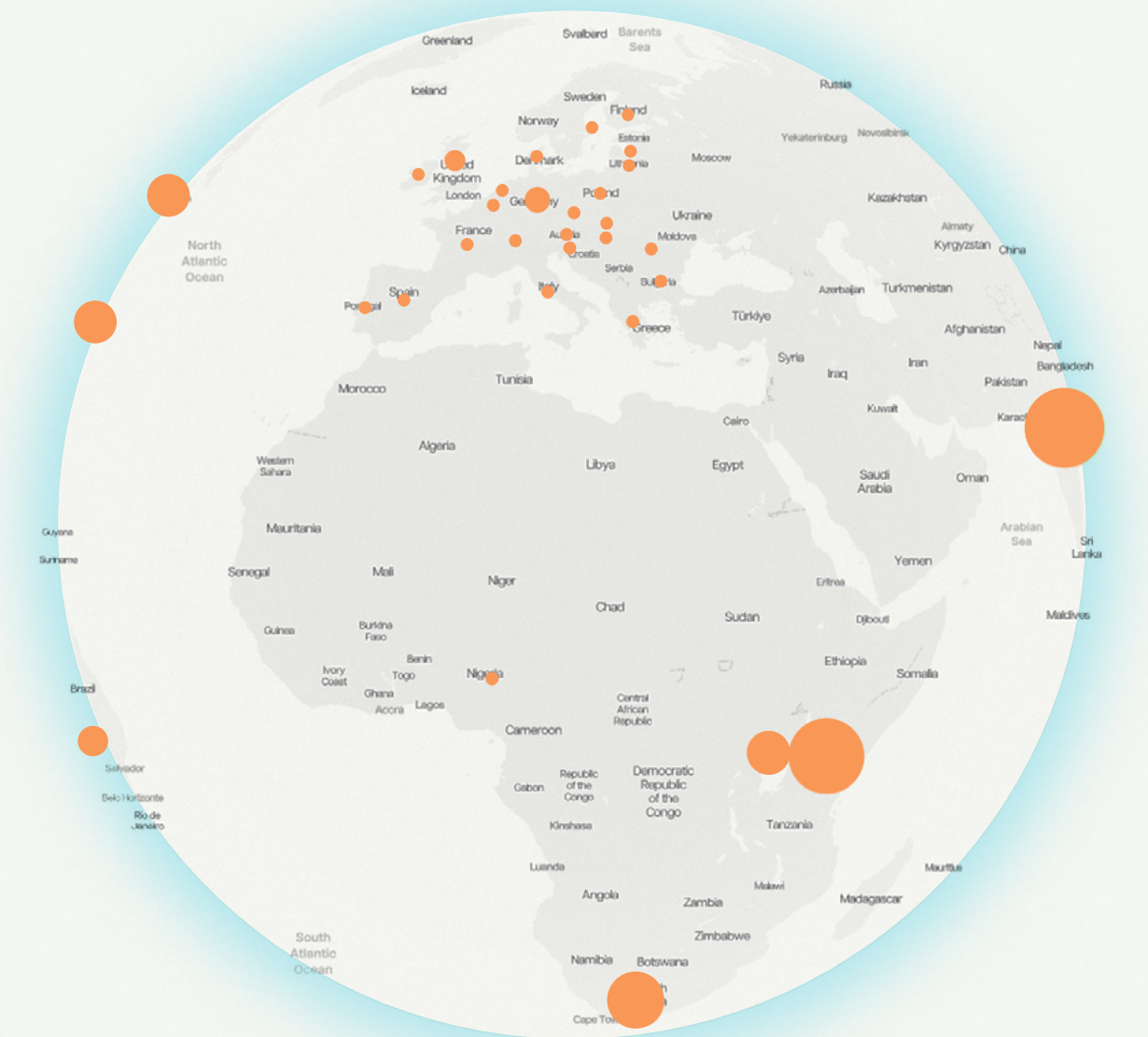
Regional Summit Mexico, 2024



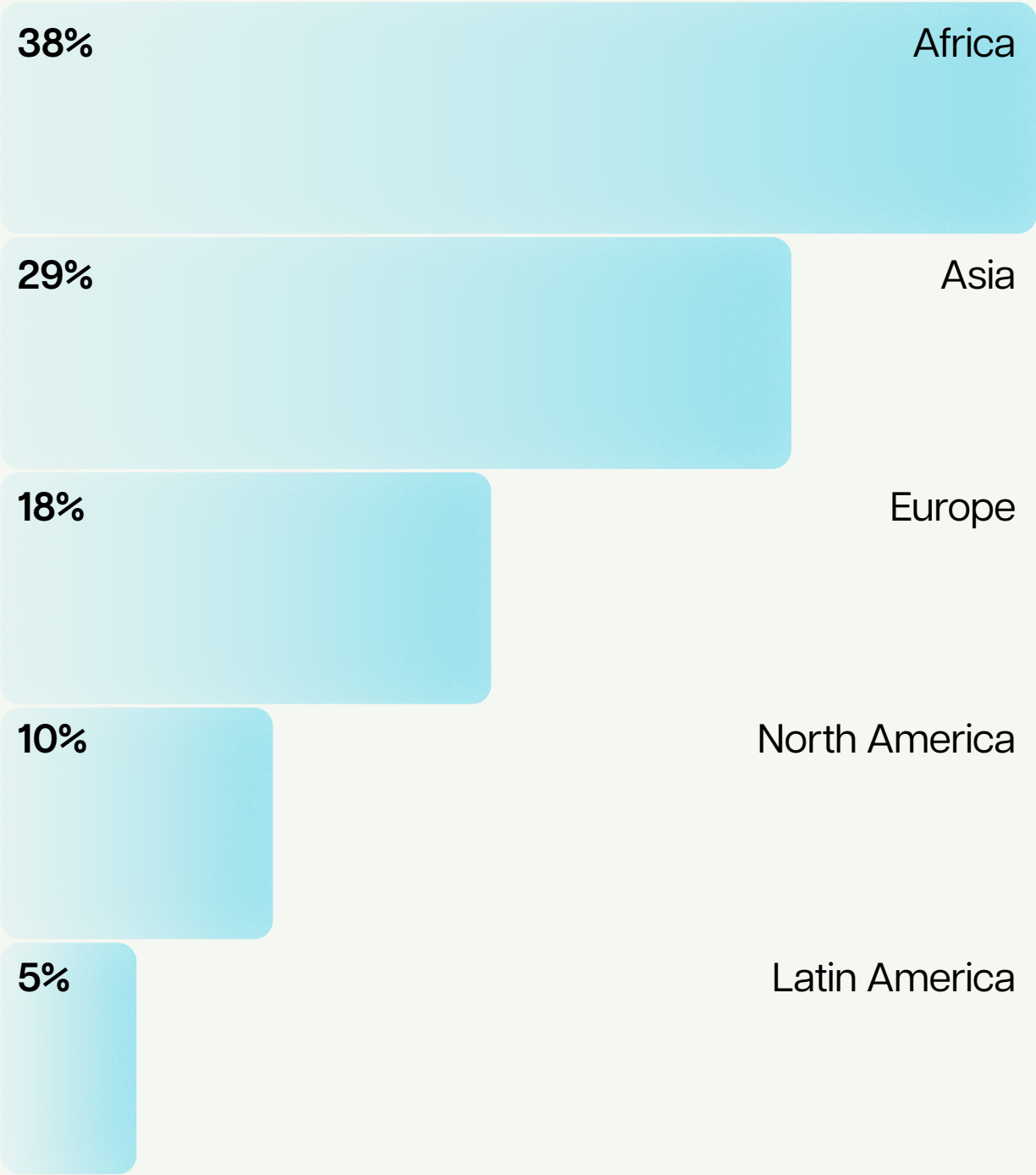
Local Impact, Global Network

We build eco-innovation communities locally to drive global impact. Our Fellow-led Local Hubs convene 10 – 20 Fellows, Mentors, and partners each quarter for project showcases, skills-building, and collaborative workshops – catalyzing deeper learning, stronger leadership, and greater collective impact.

We have created 79 Local Hubs in 22 countries, serving a community of 1500 Fellows already.



Active Fellows per Region



04.

Fellows in Action

78%

of our Fellows had been told they
lacked experience to create change
before joining beVisioneers

Every Fellow comes to the Fellowship with a unique story.

☀️ Some are high school or university students taking their first bold steps into

the world. 🌐 Some are young parents balancing work, family, and big dreams. 🌊

All are united by one thing: the determination to make a difference. ➡️ We are committed to breaking down barriers so that all young people—no matter their starting point—can step into their full potential. ☺️

Each Fellow carries deeply personal reasons for joining: some want to improve the quality of life in their local community. Some have inherited a deep love for nature from their parents. Some are driven by the fierce desire to protect our planet for their children and generations yet to come.

Our mission is to ignite this passion and transform it into action—equipping the next generation with the tools, skills, and confidence to create projects that leave a lasting mark.

Through the program, every Fellow experiences a transformation—emerging as leaders in their communities and taking bold strides toward their visions.



Meet some of

(P.26)



Buyiswa Twala
(Cohort 1 Fellow)
South Africa

(P.29)



Piyush Jha
(Cohort 1 Fellow)
India

(P.32)



Shannen Henry
(Cohort 2 Fellow)
USA

(P.35)



**Thabo Blessing
Mngomezulu**
(Cohort 1 Fellow)
South Africa

(P.39)



Marta Agueda Carlero
(Cohort 1 Fellow)
Spain

our Fellows

Buyiswa Twala

2023 Fellow



“I learned how to look for partners that have the same vision and goals that I have, how to work together and use negotiating skills to secure partnerships.

Buyiswa Twala

Food waste is responsible for ~20% of global methane emissions³ and ~8-10% of global CO2 emissions⁴. In South Africa specifically, it accounts for ~40% of methane emissions⁵ and ~4% of CO2 emissions⁶. Meanwhile the organic and agricultural waste management markets are rapidly expanding—valued at \$16-41 billion USD today⁷ and projected to exceed \$26-58 billion USD over the coming decade—but with over 68.8% of bio-waste left uncaptured in South Africa⁸, the business opportunity is both timely and essential. Buyiswa recognized this and founded Agrigreat Solitech.

When Buyiswa joined the Fellowship she had dropped out of university due to a lack of funds. As a result, she took a job in construction to try and raise financing for her project before becoming a teaching assistant.

“Thanks to the Transformative Partnerships module we were able to create bigger partnerships. I learned how to look for partners that have the same vision and goals that I have, how to work together and use negotiating skills to secure partnerships. For example, we partnered with one of the biggest banks in Africa to establish an agricultural festival in South Africa.



Where she is now?

At just 24 years old, Buyiswa is transforming lives and landscapes. Through her business, Agrigreat Solitech, she processes five tonnes of bio-waste every month, turning what was once discarded into resources that nourish communities and strengthen food security in Alexandria—one of Johannesburg’s most vulnerable areas.

Her unwavering dedication and vision have not gone unnoticed. While beVioneers was her first opportunity, she has since earned a place among News24’s illustrious Young Mandelas of 2025, an honour reserved for 30 young South Africans who are reshaping the future with purpose, passion, and principle. She was also recognized as one of the #MG200 Young Award Winners in the Agriculture category—a testament to her role as a force for change in the fight for a more sustainable, equitable future.

3 <https://www.ccacoalition.org/short-lived-climate-pollutants/methane#:~:text=1.5%C2%B0C,-Emissions,%2C%20open%20dumps%2C%20and%20wastewater>
4 <https://unfccc.int/news/food-loss-and-waste-account-for-8-10-of-annual-global-greenhouse-gas-emissions-cost-usd-1-trillion>
5 <https://www.climate-transparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CT2022-South-Africa-Web.pdf>

6 https://wasteroadmap.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/51-UKZN-Final-Conference_Trois_Policy-2423_Sardinia.pdf
7 <https://www.360iresearch.com/library/intelligence/agricultural-waste-management>
8 <https://sajs.co.za/article/view/12652>

94%

of Fellows feel more confident in taking leadership roles in their communities



Piyush Jha

2024 Fellow



“beVisioneers was the first platform that saw potential not just in my solution, but in me as a changemaker.



“beVisioneers was the first platform that saw potential not just in my solution, but in me as a changemaker. I grew up in the slums of Mumbai where I experienced the devastating impact of waste water in my community and on myself. I suffered through critical diseases like dengue, malaria and typhoid, all three at once, but now I want to present a solution to this \$300 billion problem, as a Visioneer.

80% of the world's wastewater is untreated, jeopardizing human health and our biospheres⁹. Piyush is taking on this urgent challenge in an expansive arena: His BioElectro Cell Technology uniquely bridges these two high-growth markets by transforming polluted water into clean energy—both electricity and green hydrogen. The prospective market for his work is strong: The global water and wastewater treatment market¹⁰ is projected to reach nearly USD 600 billion by 2030, while the clean hydrogen sector¹¹ is surging—expected to triple to over USD 15 billion by 2032. By deploying a real-world pilot aiming to treat 10,000 liters daily, he's proving that integrated, sustainable innovation can simultaneously tackle environmental degradation and renewable energy generation—positioning himself at the forefront of impact-driven entrepreneurship.

When Piyush joined the Fellowship he was trying to get his venture off the ground but was operating with very limited resources, applying for grants, experimenting in makeshift lab setups, and trying to connect with potential industry partners. He had applied to several programs and competitions but was often rejected—mostly because his idea was considered too early-stage or lacked formal institutional support.

- ⁹ <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/protect-water-and-land/land-and-water-stories/wastewater-pollution/#:~:text=Wastewater%20is%20a%20major%20threat,blooms%20that%20suffocate%20aquatic%20life>
- ¹⁰ https://www.bccresearch.com/market-research/environment/water-and-wastewater-treatment-technologies-global-markets.html?srltid=AfmBOoqiEBHfTqMwIhbb_RvIKVNWwXc-8qqRCtSflmExQj-vXoh2sCiX&
- ¹¹ <https://www.coherentmarketinsights.com/market-insight/clean-hydrogen-market-5941>



Piyush Jha

Where is he now?

Piyush is redefining what’s possible at the intersection of clean water and clean energy. With his innovative BioElectro Cell Technology, he is tackling wastewater pollution while simultaneously generating valuable by-products—electricity and green hydrogen. By the end of 2025, his bold goal is to treat over 10,000 litres of water every single day in a real-world pilot, bringing both hope and tangible solutions to communities in need.

Before joining beVisioneers, Piyush had never been part of a Fellowship program. Since then, his project, Vasudeva Innovations, has taken flight—earning him a place in an academic research study led by faculty from Harvard University and the University of Toronto,

exploring the real-life journeys of social entrepreneurs across the globe. He is also partnering with another beVisioneer Fellow to accelerate his project.

His leadership and vision have caught the attention of world-changing platforms. He has been invited to join the World Economic Forum’s Global Shaper Community, honoured with The EarthON Changemakers Award, and named the Young Entrepreneur Award recipient by the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers. Alongside receiving our Pioneer Project Scholarship, he secured a grant under the prestigious MeitY TIDE 2.0 scheme and earned acceptance into the University of Oxford School of Climate Change.



Global Summit 2025

Shannen Henry

2024 Fellow



“We’re making chocolate but we have all this waste that’s just being dumped, so why don’t we turn that into something useful?”

Shannen Henry



Fast fashion is one of the world’s most polluting industries, responsible for around 10% of global carbon emissions¹², 20% of wastewater¹³, and 92 million tons of textile waste each year¹⁴ – equivalent to dumping a full garbage truck of textiles every second for an entire year. Polyester—used in around 60% of garments¹⁵—drives much of this impact, fueling both carbon-heavy resources and microplastic pollution. With the fast fashion market valued at over \$150 billion USD in 2025 and projected to nearly double by 2032¹⁶, the need for sustainable alternatives is urgent. The global cellulose fiber market¹⁷ alone is projected to reach \$60-70 billion USD by 2030, reflecting rising demand for biodegradable materials.

Shannen had completed her undergraduate studies in biology in California, and had moved to Paris to pursue a graduate degree in International Business Management with a minor in Sustainable Development when she joined the Fellowship.

Where she is now?

Driven by a vision to address fast fashion, champion circularity, and create new income opportunities for cocoa farmers in the Caribbean, Shannen is rewriting the story of fashion and agriculture. Her project CocoaFiber harnesses a proprietary cellulose extraction process to transform agricultural waste into spin-ready fiber—a next-generation alternative to polyester that bridges the worlds of farming and fashion.

“Within the beVioneers community, this idea of shared knowledge and collaboration has continued to grow. The Local Hubs showed me how important it is to be part of each other’s ecosystems.”

Making use of all beVioneers support systems including mentoring, a Project Scholarship and a thriving online community, Shannen is advancing CocoaFiber beyond the prototyping stage, raising a pre-seed round, and seeks co-development partners for her groundbreaking manmade cellulose fiber innovation.

Her momentum has been gathering more and more steam. From the UN Fashion and Lifestyle Network to the Sustainable Design Impact Hub, and even the global stage of Cannes Lions as part of the Fusion Fashion Tech Society, Shannen is already shaping the next chapter of sustainable fashion.

“My grandparents emigrated from a tiny island in the Caribbean called Grenada. I got to visit my grandfather’s cacao farm and the environmental scientist in me thought ‘OK, we’re making chocolate but we have all this waste that’s just being dumped, so why don’t we turn that into something useful?’. So I envisioned a circular economy.



Global Summit 2025

51%

of Fellows receiving funds to execute their projects are female or non-binary

12 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fast_fashion

13 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fast_fashion

14 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fast_fashion

15 <https://unric.org/en/from-petroleum-to-pollution-the-cost-of-polyester/>

16 <https://www.uniformmarket.com/statistics/fast-fashion-statistics>

17 <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/cellulose-fibers-market>

Thabo Blessing Mngomezulu

2023 Fellow



“I grew up in a very small village in South Africa, where access to affordable, convenient and clean burning sources of energy continues to be a challenge.



“I grew up in a very small village in South Africa, where access to affordable, convenient and clean burning sources of energy continues to be a challenge. In my research there are 532 peri-urban areas that have the same struggle, that is about 21.7 million people - 35% of South Africa.

Energy poverty in South Africa remains a pressing challenge, with around 2.5 million households still lacking electricity and more than 4 million relying on unsafe fuels like paraffin and wood for cooking, leaving an estimated 21.7 million people—or 35% of the population—affected¹⁸. At the same time, the biogas market¹⁹ is rapidly expanding—valued at \$857 million USD in South Africa in 2023 and projected to grow to \$1.25 billion USD by 2030, while globally²⁰ it is set to rise from \$68 billion USD in 2024 to nearly \$97 billion USD by 2032. Thabo’s venture, Kasi Gas, sits at the heart of this opportunity: by turning organic waste into clean, affordable biogas and producing fertilizer that boosts crop yields, he is tackling both energy and food insecurity. With growing recognition and support, his solution has the potential to uplift millions while driving a more sustainable and circular energy future.

Thabo was a gospel singer looking to help his community find a reliable energy source when he joined beVioneers. Energy poverty remains widespread in South Africa. Around 60% of rural households²¹ still do not have access to electricity, while most low-income urban communities lack access to renewable energy solutions. Even among households connected to the national grid, more than 40% are considered energy-poor, spending over one-fifth of their monthly income on electricity.



¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa

¹⁹ <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/horizon/outlook/biogas-market/south-africa>

²⁰ <https://www.maximizemarketresearch.com/market-report/global-biogas-market/29082/>

²¹ <https://www.climatecorecard.org/2025/06/approximately-60-of-rural-households-in-south-africa-lack-access-to-electricity>

Thabo Blessing Mngomezulu

Where is he now?

Kasi Gas is on a mission to transform the way rural South Africa powers its homes and grows its food. Through the power of biogas, they provide a safe, clean, and affordable energy source for townships—replacing hazardous and costly fuels like LP gas, wood, and paraffin. But their impact doesn't stop there. The organic fertilizer, a natural by-product of their biogas process, enriches the soil and boosts crop yields, empowering local farmers to cultivate not just food, but a more sustainable future for their communities.

With the guidance and support of the Fellowship, Thabo has scaled Kasi Gas, expanding his renewable energy network to reach more townships and uplift more lives across South Africa. His exceptional work has also earned him national recognition, being named a Young Mandela 2025 by News24 and a recipient of the Siemens Energy Youth Award 2025.

Today, Thabo stands tall as a leader—thriving, innovating, and inspiring others. From local townships to international stages, he shares his expertise at energy conferences and events, proving that with passion, vision, and purpose, one person can help power a nation's future. To date, he has also secured \$38,000 USD in follow-on funding to expand his impact, further strengthening his ability to train, employ, and empower communities.



Global Summit 2025

60

cumulative hours of high quality pitching presentation preparation was provided to Fellows.

Global Summit 2024



Marta Agueda Carlero

2023 Fellow



“One of the biggest challenges I’ve faced is to accept the unknown. Because I’m an architect and a designer, I never thought about being an entrepreneur.”

Marta is tackling plastics pollution through eco-friendly sports equipment: the global climbing gear market²²—currently estimated at around \$2.17 billion USD in 2025 and projected to soar to \$6.1 billion USD by 2034. The specific climbing holds sector²³ also presents substantial opportunity, valued at \$7.8 billion USD in 2024 and expected to reach \$12.2 billion USD by 2030. Beyond climbing, the broader eco-friendly sports equipment market²⁴ is booming—valued at \$16.5 billion USD in 2024, with a forecast to nearly double to \$32.8 billion USD by 2032. But the potential of her innovation stretches far wider: the world produces over 400 million tonnes of plastic every year, much of which ends up in landfills, oceans, and ecosystems.

Mycelium-based biomaterials like those Marta is developing are being explored as sustainable alternatives to plastics, leather, and packaging — offering circular, biodegradable solutions with cross-industry potential. Marta’s venture, MAD, stands at the convergence of these trends, starting with climbing holds but pointing toward a much larger ambition: reimagining the everyday materials we rely on.

With prototypes, industry partnerships, media acclaim, and a presence at the 2024 Paris Olympics under her belt, her solution is not just innovative—it’s aligned with multi-billion-dollar markets actively seeking sustainable change

When she applied for the Fellowship, Marta was enjoying the nature of New Zealand. She had graduated as an architect but struggled to adapt to office life and was looking for something bigger; to explore, to discover new ways of living, doing, experimenting, and creating ways to live more sustainably.



“I love climbing but I’m also an architect and I wanted to combine those two passions. One of the biggest challenges I’ve faced is to accept the unknown. Because I’m an architect and a designer, I never thought about being an entrepreneur. One of the biggest things I love about beVisioneers is not only do they help you set up your whole project but also figuring out where your passion is coming from.”

²² <https://www.businessresearchinsights.com/market-reports/climbing-gear-market-102554>
²³ <https://www.verifiedmarketresearch.com/product/climbing-holds-market/>
²⁴ <https://www.futuredatastats.com/eco-friendly-sports-equipment-market>

Marta Agueda Carlero

Where is she now?

Marta is the visionary CEO of MAD, a venture on a mission to revolutionize the climbing industry through bio-based materials and a circular economy. What began as a bold idea to craft climbing holds from mycelium-based materials has evolved into an ambitious quest to replace everyday plastics altogether, reimagining what's possible for sport and sustainability.

With the support of our Pioneer Project Scholarship, MAD has been able to create working prototypes, forge partnerships within the industry, and move toward launching a product that could transform the sports world into a more sustainable arena.

Marta's work has captured international attention—featured in Climbing Magazine and the BBC, and showcased on the world stage at the 2024 Paris Olympics, where she demonstrated the power of her innovation. She has earned a place in the prestigious European Institute of Innovation and Technology Jumpstarter program, been invited as an expert speaker at INAM – Innovation Network for Advanced Materials, and triumphed in pitch competitions at MotionLab Berlin and Viva Technology.



Global Summit 2024



Regional Summit Mexico, 2024



05.

Impact Goals & Progress

>50%

of second year fellows have won
awards or secured follow-on
funding within 18 months

10,000 global 🌐
planet-positive ⚡ innovators
and champions 🇳🇦
by ➡ 2030



Regional Summit Europe, 2023

What Progress was made towards our North Star?

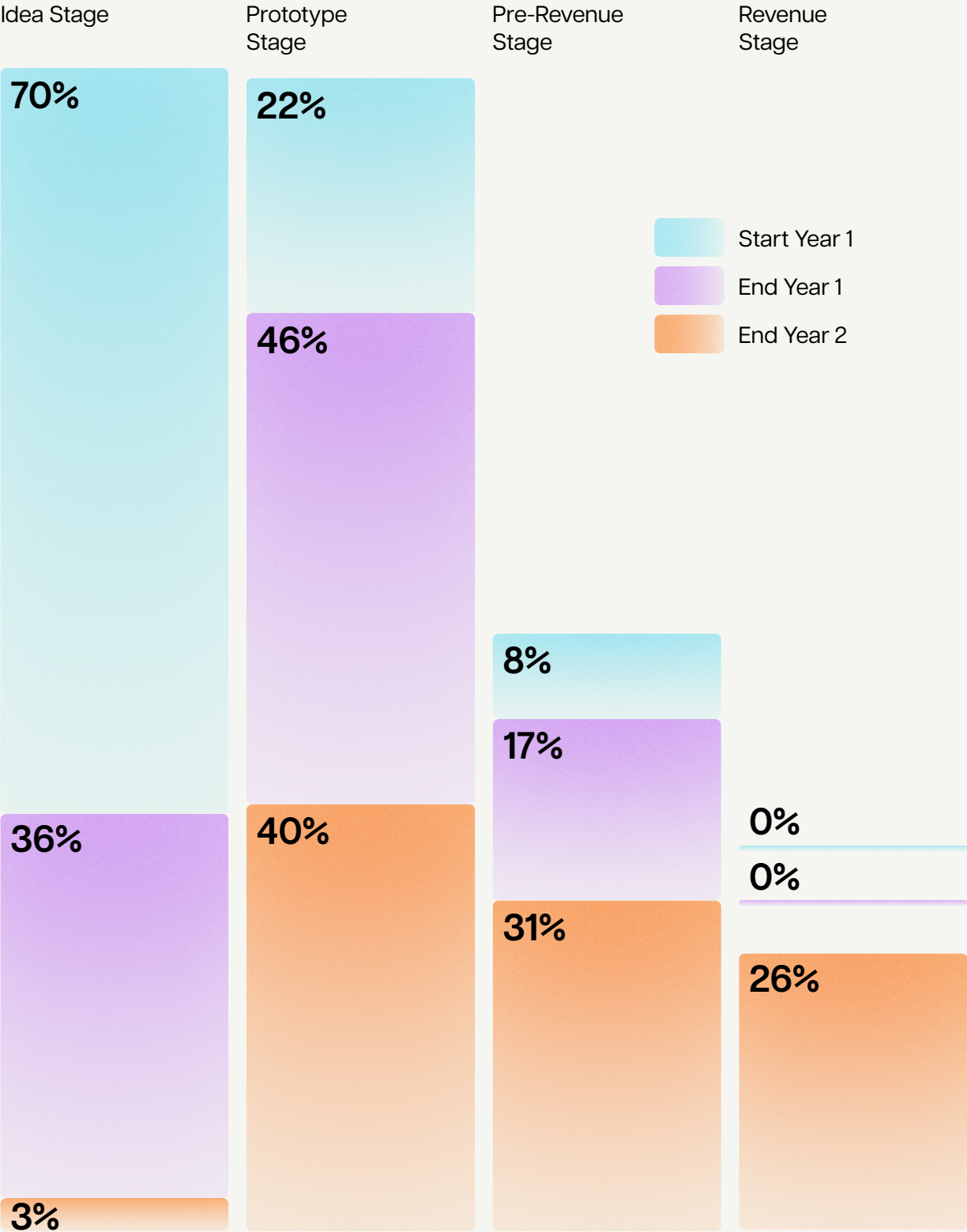
As Fellows move from the foundational year and into a second year of entrepreneurial support, we can see that they become more confident in assuming leadership roles within their community and launching their project to have local and global impact.

1500
rising innovators

514 projects
launched

>70 ventures
generating revenue
since 2023

Significant Progress from Idea stage to Revenue Generation



From ideas to action

At the start of year 1, 70% of projects were still in the Idea Stage. Just two years later, only 3% remained there – a dramatic 67 percentage uptick in projects advancing out of the Idea Stage.

Prototyping momentum

In the first year alone, the share of projects with a working prototype more than doubled. By the end of Year 2, 40% of Fellows had tangible solutions ready for testing.

Approaching market readiness

Projects are increasingly moving towards revenue generation to nearly 1 in 3 by the end of year 2.

Breaking into revenue generation

None of the projects were earning revenue at the outset. Two years later, over a quarter were generating income – including some that had already reached full financial sustainability.

Unusually fast progress

This transformation – from early idea to revenue-generating venture – happened in just 24 months.



Regional Summit Mexico, 2024

70%

of Project Scholarship recipients
are economically disadvantaged.



A snapshot of 40 fellow projects indicates the impact potential our rising entrepreneurs have on their communities and the planet.



Regional Summit Europe, 2023



Environmental Impact

1761 Hectares of Land

impacted (reclaimed for planet positive projects)



Equivalent to about
2,515 football fields

67,320 Kilos of Waste

impacted (collected, reduced, tracked)



Equivalent to about
the weight of 10 elephants

51,105 kWh of Energy

impacted (generated)



Equivalent to about the yearly power
of 10 households in Germany

Social Impact

112,391 people benefiting

impacted through trainings, education, customers, users

42 jobs created

by Fellows' projects through long and short term opportunities

37% increased opportunities

(awards/funding, joined other networks, incubators or venture programs)

79% leveraging the bV community

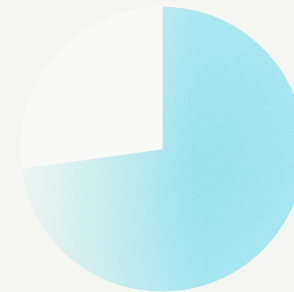
(collaborations, knowledge exchange, personal support)

Post-foundation year, our initial results show real promise in entrepreneurial growth



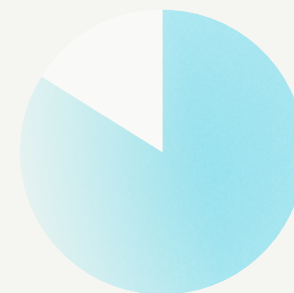
58%

of Fellows built external partnerships and collaborations



73%

of Pioneer recipients registered project as a legal entity



84%

of Fellows progressed in their Project Stage



35%

of projects are generating income

06. Our Ecosystem

56k+

followers and subscribers are
part of our online community

Part of our lasting legacy is about strengthening the environmental 🌿 ecosystem through the transformative ⚡ power of our program that creates a talent pipeline of young innovators.

The partners we are already working with include:



Bringing Our Ecosystem Together

We bring our network of partners, young innovators and experts together for multiple events a year including:

The beVisioneers
Global Summits

New York Climate Week

The DO Summit



The beVisioneers Global Summits

Every year, our community of Fellows, Experts and Mentors come together for an intergenerational gathering, filled with connections and knowledge-sharing, all with the goal of shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future. In the inaugural Summit, we brought together 154 attendees over 3 days, 55 Fellows across 10 different countries. In 2025, we expanded our vision for these Summits by exploring the theme of Shared

Agency and what it means to take collective responsibility for a sustainable future. The event became a dynamic showcase of youth-led innovation, bringing together 250 attendees, including 130 Fellows from over 30 countries, alongside social entrepreneurs, business and philanthropic leaders, and global ecosystem partners.



Global Summit 2025



New York Climate Week

New York Climate Week has become a cornerstone in our ecosystem—an annual moment where we convene our community to spotlight the incredible pipeline of young eco-innovators emerging through beVisioneers. These gatherings are not just about showcasing bold projects; they are about building bridges—connecting Fellows with partners, investors, and ecosystem builders who can help transform early-stage ideas into scalable, impactful ventures.

Hosted by beVisioneers: The Mercedes-Benz Fellowship and The DO School Fellowships alongside visionary co-hosts such as the Villars Institute in 2024 and the Global Impact Investment Network in 2025, our Climate Week events have established themselves as a launchpad for collaboration. Last year's gathering brought together 500 global eco-innovation leaders at Rockefeller Center, where Fellows and allies shared their ventures and celebrated the official launch of beVisioneers in the Americas.

This year, under the theme “Generation Innovation,” we return to Rockefeller with an even bolder ambition: to convene top investors, business leaders, accelerators, and ecosystem shapers to explore a holistic capital model—one that moves beyond silos and ensures that the next generation of eco-entrepreneurs has the support they need at every stage of the venture journey.



“ Being part of Phumla’s growth is a huge privilege for me and a definite highlight on this journey was witnessing the moment she discovered what she is seeking for is within her already, leading to clarity and confidence on the path ahead.

Nadine Kamineth,
Mercedes-Benz (on her mentee
Phumla Makhoba)

The DO Summit

The DO Summit is an exclusive, invite-only gathering organized by The DO, bringing together approximately 100 influential participants—including business leaders, sustainability and innovation experts, and ambitious young impact entrepreneurs—for immersive and collaborative dialogue. Designed not as a traditional conference but as a meaningful exchange platform,

the Summit aims to explore what's truly working (and what isn't) in driving transformation toward tomorrow's economy. This unique co-creative experience is shaped by the DO Community and features high-caliber agenda-setters spanning corporate changemakers to social innovators, all convened in Berlin for purposeful connection and action.



“ I do believe that the Fellowship program and Mercedes-Benz match perfectly together. Why? Because the young people at the beVisioneers and Mercedes-Benz, they want to create something sustainable and they want to create the future.

Franz Reiner
(Chairman of the Management Board, Mercedes-Benz Mobility AG)

Media Partnerships

As well as events, we platform our Fellows by securing international media opportunities.

Our Fellows have been featured in 140 publications, such as Reuters, Forbes, The Times of India and CNN with a total reach of over two billion readers.



New York Climate Week 2024

Our Mentors Who Guide the Fellows on Their Journey

A key component of the program is the 1:1 mentoring each Fellows receives. To support Fellows across their innovation journey, we invite volunteer Mentors to accelerate a young innovator's personal and leadership

growth and share their expertise to turn impactful ideas into real-world solutions. Mentors come from diverse backgrounds and bring different expertise but all of them help guide our Fellows to success.

84%
of Mentors confirm increased awareness of planet positive action



“ He inspired me with his passion, with his happiness and it was really fruitful. I'm not in my daily problems now. It's bigger now.

Patrick Höfer
(Managing Director,
Aerodynamic Department of
Mercedes-Benz, bV Mentor)



Abie Franklin & his Mentor Antje Busch



Luis Borja Garcia Gimeno & his Mentor Christine Packenius



Fellow Henri Chikuru with Mentor Patrick Höfer



Tanya Haralampieva & her Mentor Melanie Platz

50%
of existing Mentors choose to return for the next Cohort

Two-way Intergenerational Learning

Our Mentorship program embodies our value of shared agency;

Mentors not only give but also gain valuable insights and new perspectives from their exchanges with Fellows.

90%

of Mentors reported to gain skills, knowledge and network that improved their leadership and/or professional capabilities.



“As a first generation entrepreneur, I struggled for guidance. I don’t want any entrepreneur to face a similar situation and feel lost without anyone to discuss and seek guidance from. As a Mentor, I embrace continuous learning. Being tuned into your mentee’s particular industry domain and sharing new developments is important.

Sridhar Chakravarthi
(Startup Coach and bV Mentor)

A selection of our beVisioneers Advisory Board

A globally diverse group of leaders in environmental innovation, sustainability, and social impact.

They bring strategic oversight, domain expertise, and global perspective, with members spanning regions from South Africa to Europe.



Bilha Ndirangu,
Co-Founder Jacob's ladder



Krithi Karanth,
Chief Conservation Scientist
Centre for Wildlife Studies



Michael Norton,
Founder CIVA / Michael Norton



Rowan Spazzoli,
Founder Accendio



Shivi Dwivedi,
Youth Engagement & Partnerships
Lead Climate Champions



Tilmann Stolte,
CEO Future Leaders Global

92%

of Fellows and Mentors would
recommend the Mentorship program

07.

Shape the Future
With Us

Join the beVisioneers' Community 🍀

We are on a bold mission ▲ to build the 🌐 world's largest pipeline of eco-talent 🌱 – a global force of exceptional young innovators ready to tackle the planet's most urgent ➡ challenges. But to help them reach their ⚡ full potential, we need partners who share our ❤ belief in their power and promise.

With the right support, these Fellows can take their ventures to the next level, amplifying their impact—transforming not just their local communities, but the world.



“ We are seeking global programming partnerships that will accelerate Fellows' venture building and expand their networks.

Eva Vander Giessen,
Ecosystem Impact Director



 Join our community

We're seeking
partners to ♥ support
our Fellows through ➡

Impact Acceleration

International networks of investors, funders, and incubators for early-stage for-profit or nonprofit ventures.

Bootstrapping Support

Organizations offering mentorship, resources, and networks to help Fellows grow with minimal external funding.

Investors

Angel investors, venture capitalists, and accelerators providing financial backing.

Philanthropy

Foundations, government grants, and charities funding mission-driven, eco-preneurship, and youth-led initiatives.

Showcasing Fellows

Conferences, media outlets, and platforms to amplify Fellows' work and expand their reach.

Green Careers

Skills-building partnerships that provide credentials and job opportunities in the sustainable sector.



Thank you

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz for their unwavering support of beVisioneers. Your commitment makes it possible for young changemakers worldwide to bring their planet-positive ideas to life, and to scale solutions that create real impact for people and the planet.

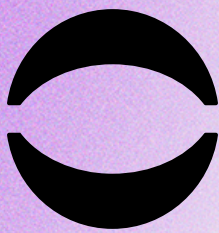
The impact data shown on this report are self-reported by beVisioneers fellows and derived from internal monitoring and estimation methods. They have not been subject to independent verification or assurance. As such, they should be considered indicative only and may be revised over time.



beVisioneers: The Mercedes-Benz Fellowship

Impact Report 2025

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