



The Gifts of Africa Conference

- ▶ Youth Initiative Africa
- ▶ 23-28/09/2025
- ▶ Vikindu



Navigating Anthroposophy Through African Culture as Our Compass



INTRODUCTION

3

ARRIVAL & OPENING

7

ROOTS & IDENTITY

10

LEADERSHIP & IMPACTS

13

TRADITIONAL HEALING

15

CREATIVITY & EXPRESSION

19

REFLECTION & DEPARTURE

26



3

Introduction

The Gifts of Africa Conference took place in 3 segments;

1. Introduction and Knowledge deepening of Anthroposophy hosted by Janet Manoni and Nathaniel Williams
2. Anthroposophic Career Awareness hosted by Sebastian Billbao and Maria
3. African Culture Integration to Anthroposophy hosted by Stephen Chambo , Asili Academy Staff and The Organizing Team

➤ **Introduction and Knowledge deepening of Anthroposophy.**

➤ This aimed at getting an insightful awakening on Anthroposophy and directly framing it in an African context.

➤ Hosted by ;

Janet Manoni : General secretary of the Anthroposophic Community in Africa ❖

Nathaniel Williams: Head of the Youth Section at the Goetheanum ❖



A picture of Nathaniel Williams and Janet Manoni giving a session on Inner Development

➤ **Anthroposophic Career Awareness.**

- This aimed at giving knowledge to the Youth on how to Integrate Anthroposophy with other Careers.
- Hosted by ;

Sebastian Bilbao : General Secretary of the Anthropological Society in Canada ❖

Maria : A representative from Freunde Waldorf Freiwilligendienste ❖

- ✓ Maria gave a workshop on Volunteering opportunities for African youth in Germany

A picture of Sebastian Bilbao giving a workshop on Communal Economy



➤ African Culture Integration to Anthroposophy

➤ This aimed at practically showcasing where Anthroposophy meets African Culture

➤ Hosted by ;

Stephen Chambo : A Teacher at Hekima Waldorf School and member of the Anthroposophic Community in Africa ❖

Youth Initiative Africa Organizing Team , Asili Academy – Mwanangu Staff and Locals ❖



A picture of Members dancing to a Swahili Traditional celebration called Dufu

A picture of Stephen Chambo giving a session on African Story Telling and Swahili Dance (Dufu)



Arrival and Opening

- Arrival , Registration and other Logistics including Food and Accommodation were coordinated by the Youth Initiative Africa.
- A Campus Tour in form of a Treasure hunt and Icebreakers in order to familiarize members with the area and each other
- A tour around Vikindu village which included The local Market , Bus Terminal and Local food tasting was done .
- Closing the night with Cultural celebrations including Songs and Drumming .

*A picture of Stacieva Mbuguni ,
President of Youth Initiative
Africa (YIA) giving an Opening
Speech*



*A picture of members
of the Conference on
a delicious Lunch
Break*





*A picture showing the
Camping Area*



*A picture of Jeremiah , a member
of the conference carrying Tents*

Roots and Identity

- **Who Am I ?**
- This question was facilitated by Janet Manoni and Nathaniel Williams giving an Anthroposophical perspective to the Answer .
- Tracing ancestral Roots



A picture of Janet Manoni Telling an Indigenous story

A picture of Kampala International University Medical Students that were able to attend the conference



Traditional Dance at the Shikome



Leadership and Impact

- We opened up about different ways on how young African leaders can tap in into the communal economy.
- Through starting a village community based bank
- In order to develop the economy of the community as a unit.





A picture of members in a small group discussing about the concept of communal economy

Traditional Dance (Dufu)

Dufu is a traditional Swahili coastal (especially Zanzibari) ritual practiced mainly within Sufi Islamic orders. It involves rhythmic dhikr (recitation of God's names), accompanied by dufu drums—tambourine-like instruments that give the ritual its name. Participants chant in unison while performing gentle, synchronized body movements, which may look like dance but serve a spiritual and meditative purpose rather than entertainment. Dufu is commonly performed during religious occasions such as Mawlid and other Sufi gatherings, playing an important role in both the religious life and cultural identity of the Swahili coast.



Traditional Healing

- An Introduction to Anthroposophic Medicine
- Relationship between Anthroposophical Medicine and African Traditional Healing
- Medicinal plant walk



A picture of Stacieva Mbuguni giving an introduction to Anthroposophic Medicine



A picture of Abdul-Rahman explaining about benefits of Moringa Tree



A picture of Moringa Leaves



A picture of an organizer explaining about the benefits of a Banana Tree



A picture of a Mango Tree



MCHAICHAJ
LEMONGRASS
CYMBOPOGON
CITRATUS.

A picture of Lemongrass



ALOVERA
ALOE VERA
ALOE VERA.

A picture of Aloe Vera

Creativity and Expression

This involved;

- Bead work.
- Knitting
- Drawing
- Painting
- Crochet

It was facilitated by Gabriel Chakoka – A core organizer



A picture of members doing bead work



Pictures of members doing bead work and Drawing

*A picture of
members knitting*



*A picture of members
doing Bead work and
Drawing*



*A picture of members
Drawing*



Genius Loci





Reflection and Departure





The next Youth Anthroposophical Conference will take place in **Kenya** from **21st to 25th September 2026**, hosted by **Youth Initiative Africa**.

The theme is “**Deepening Our Anthroposophical Journey in Africa.**”

We will dive deep into Rudolf Steiner's text **Knowledge of the Higher Worlds**, reflecting on how its insights can guide our inner development and service in Africa.

The gathering will offer space for study, conversation, artistic work, and shared African experiences as we deepen our understanding of anthroposophy in our own cultural context.