

Sambatra Kezia Rakotomanga is an Agricultural Economist and the Country Representative of YPARD (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development) in Madagascar which is a country implementing partner of the Global Programme for Small-scale Agroecology Producers and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation (GP-SAEP) with the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS). She is also the Agriculture and Food Security working group Thematic Facilitator for the UNCCD Youth Caucus (the official youth constituency of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification). Holding a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, she is pursuing a Master's in Agricultural Economics at the University of Antananarivo, *Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Agronomiques* (ESSA), Madagascar. She has volunteered at the IUCN's Global Youth Summit and the 2021 Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) Africa Digital Conference with a focus on Drylands. She was also a GLF/YIL Young Africans in Landscape fellow for 2022, and is part of the knowledge committee preparing GLF Nairobi in 2023 and 2024. Sambatra Kezia is the co-founder of the Malagasy Youth Alliance on Biodiversity, Climate and combatting desertification (AIKA) which supports and facilitates of youth and youth organizations engagement with the Rio Conventions in Madagascar. Kezia was selected as one of the 50 participants from the Global South for the Oxford SCENE Summer School (Sustainability, Climate & Environmental Education). Being a YOUNGO member and delegate, at a UNFCCC subsidiary meeting (SB52), she had been following international policies and negotiations touching on food systems and climate finance at COP. She was a participant at the national workshop on the integration of biodiversity in the agricultural sector and the workshop on the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative in Madagascar. Her other areas of expertise include SDGs implementation, African regional integration and development, international youth engagement and environmental policies.