



Running Like a Cheetah



I have been deeply engaged in the organisation of the [African Climate Summit](#), serving on its Advisory Council while wearing multiple hats. As Chair of the African Climate Foundation, I worked closely with colleagues to ensure African priorities are coherently framed. At the same time, in my capacity as Special Envoy of the Brazilian COP30 Presidency for Africa, I carried the responsibility of connecting the outcomes of Addis Ababa with the global process that will culminate in Belém. This intersection of roles has been demanding, but it also makes visible how African agency in climate diplomacy is no longer peripheral—it is central to shaping the global narrative. The task ahead is to transform the Summit's political energy into tangible shifts in climate finance, resilience, and just transitions.



I have played a role in convincing the African Union to endorse the ["Correct the Map" campaign](#), led by Africa No Filter, which I have been supporting since its early stages. The initiative has since gained remarkable momentum, with mainstream media outlets and international organisations giving it wide visibility—so much so that the World Bank was compelled to explain its use of distorted mapping. The next step is even more ambitious: an AU Summit decision that would call on international organisations and national education systems to adopt accurate representations of Africa. I have given numerous interviews on the subject, underscoring that correcting the map is not cosmetic—it is about reclaiming narrative and agency.

My latest contributions

THE CONVERSATION

The Conversation

My article for The Conversation on ["Africa's Opportunity: Reshaping Global Power Amid Shifting International Order"](#), continues to resonate widely. It has now been republished eight times across different outlets and translated into [French](#), extending its reach far beyond the initial platform. The piece argues that Africa is not a bystander in today's turbulence but stands at the center of redefining how power is exercised globally. The response confirms how timely and urgent this message is, as the continent navigates between competing blocs while asserting its own agency.

Development Policy Review

Development Policy Review

My latest article, ["When Empathy Fades: The Collapse of Humanitarian Responsibility in a Structurally Broken World"](#), was published in Development Policy Review on 21 August. It examines how the global humanitarian system is eroding—not only because of funding shortfalls, but due to the deeper retreat of solidarity and the rise of selective compassion. The argument is that what is collapsing is not logistics or institutions alone, but the very willingness of societies to extend empathy beyond borders. This structural fracture leaves the most vulnerable exposed, while powerful actors redefine humanitarianism through the lens of security and self-interest.

My Videos and Podcasts



Carlos Lopes, na Grande Reportagem, RDP África, 5 August

Watch Now



Africa's next move: Shifting agency on a changing global order, SAfm, 12 August

Watch Now



Copyright (C) 2025 Africa Cheetah Run. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Africa Cheetah Run, Nelson Mandela School, University of Cape Town, Linkoping House, 27 Burg Rd Rondebosch, WC 7700, South Africa

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)