MBOA IN THE LOOP EVENT

"The Loop runs through Home."

Event Report

MBOA IN THE LOOP

A Destiny Cultural Event

Held on 17th April 2026 at the Goethe-Institut Kamerun, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Organised by

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Acknowledgement

We are grateful to our speakers, panellists, storytellers, moderators, and the organising team (see Appendix A) for their engagement and contributions, which made the event possible. We are equally grateful to all participants for their time and active involvement. Our appreciation also goes to the Wellcome Trust for funding the DESTINY project, to our consortium partners, and to the Goethe-Institut Kamerun for hosting the event. Finally, our thanks go to the team at eBASE Africa and to the youth of iCODE Abakwa for their work in shaping the day.

1.0 Introduction

This report presents the proceedings, key discussions, and outcomes of MBOA in the LOOP, a one-day cultural and scientific event held on 17 April 2026 at the Goethe-Institut Kamerun in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The event was organised by eBASE Africa in collaboration with the DESTINY Consortium.

Cameroon is highly vulnerable to climate-related risks. The International Monetary Fund has projected that, without accelerated adaptation, climate impacts could result in a GDP loss of 4 to 10 per cent by 2050 (IMF Article IV Consultation, 2024). The effects are already visible across the country: farmers in the Far North face declining yields and food insecurity, families in Douala and Yaoundé are displaced by floods and exposed to cholera outbreaks, and fishing communities in Kribi and Limbe lose land and livelihoods to coastal erosion. Health challenges run in parallel. Infectious diseases such as malaria, cholera, and tuberculosis continue to strain health systems; non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and cancer are rising; and air pollution in Yaoundé is recorded at 7.5 times WHO standards.

These pressures demand decisions that are timely and informed by the best available evidence. Yet the evidence that could guide such decisions is scattered across thousands of studies, hidden in academic journals, and difficult for policymakers, clinicians, and practitioners to access in usable form. This is the gap the DESTINY project was created to address.

The DESTINY project (Digital Evidence Synthesis Tool Innovation Yielding Improvements in Climate and Health) is a four-year global initiative funded by the Wellcome Trust. It builds AI-powered digital evidence synthesis tools that make climate and health evidence faster to find, easier to use, and continuously updated. These tools are designed to support decision-makers responding to urgent challenges such as floods, droughts, food insecurity, and pressure on health systems. eBASE Africa is the Cameroonian institution within the DESTINY consortium, leading on transferability research and youth engagement through its iCODE Abakwa initiative.

It was within this context that MBOA in the LOOP was convened. The event brought together sixty-four participants from across Cameroon's health, climate, research, media, and youth sectors to engage directly with the DESTINY platform and the questions it raises.

The name carries deliberate meaning. 'MBOA' is a word drawn from the Cameroonian cultural lexicon, meaning 'home', 'country', and 'community'. It carries a sense of rootedness, belonging, and collective identity that is widely understood across Cameroon's linguistic and regional diversity. 'In the LOOP' refers to the core design principle of the DESTINY platform: human-in-the-loop artificial intelligence, which ensures that automated processes are not permitted to operate without human oversight, validation, and contextual judgement. The event tagline, 'The Loop runs through home', signals that Cameroonian researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and youth are part of how the platform is shaped and used.

The objectives of the event were to:

- Showcase the DESTINY project, its vision, and its activities through presentation and storytelling.
- Present the first version of the DEST transferability tool in real time.
- Demonstrate how AI-powered evidence synthesis can transform scattered research into living, usable knowledge.
- Engage practitioners, researchers, medical students, activists, coders, and policymakers in dialogue around evidence-informed decision-making in Cameroon.
- Position Cameroon visibly within global climate and health evidence innovation.

Through these activities, the event was expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Greater awareness of DESTINY's role in addressing Cameroon's climate and health challenges.
- Strengthened collaboration among interest holders.
- Practical understanding of how DEST tools can support decision-making on floods, droughts, food insecurity, and health system pressures.
- Visibility for Cameroon as a hub of innovation in AI-powered evidence synthesis.

The event was scheduled during the week of Pope Leo's visit to Cameroon. Despite this overlap with a major national event, sixty-four participants attended, indicating strong interest in the subject across Yaoundé's professional and youth communities.

2.0 Overview of the Participants

Participants were invited based on their relevance to climate and health decision-making, evidence use, and youth innovation in Cameroon. They included senior decision-makers, researchers, health practitioners, youth advocates, and media representatives. A total of sixty-four participants attended.

Institutions represented included the Directorate of Climate Change of Cameroon, the Central Hospital of Yaoundé, the National Forestry School, the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), the Observatoire National sur les Changements Climatiques du Cameroun (ONACC), the Institut de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (IRGM), the Institut des Relations Internationales du Cameroun (IRIC), Cochrane Cameroon, AYSA Africa, HOBISH, HOFA, Great Feel Health Promotion, CRTV, the Guardian Post, eBASE Africa, iCODE Abakwa, and the Goethe-Institut Kamerun. See Appendix B for the full list.

A notable share of attendees registered after seeing the event announcement on social media, particularly LinkedIn, indicating that the event reached beyond pre-existing eBASE Africa and DESTINY networks into Yaoundé's wider youth and professional communities.

Workshop Proceedings

This section summarises the key issues raised throughout the day (*see Appendix C for the programme).*

3.0 Key Takeaways from the Welcome and Opening Session

The event opened with a welcome address from Mr. Jules Kotche of the Goethe-Institut Kamerun, who acknowledged eBASE Africa's presence and noted that artificial intelligence is here to stay; the question is not whether to engage with it, but how.

Miyaka Kinlabel, software developer at eBASE Africa and Team Lead at iCODE Abakwa (Intentional Coding for Development), then opened the substantive session by naming the gap that would anchor the day's discussion: the disconnect between knowledge and action. Evidence exists, and research has been conducted, but it rarely reaches decision-makers in time, in a usable form, or in a language that speaks to the realities they face. DESTINY, she explained, was built to close this gap.

A video message from Andrew Harvey of the Future Evidence Foundation followed. Speaking from New South Wales, Australia, he drew a direct line between the floods and droughts experienced in his own region and those affecting Cameroon's Far North, noting that climate change and its health consequences connect communities across borders. He explained that while research on climate and health exists in abundance, it sits scattered across thousands of PDFs that no decision-maker has time to read, and that DESTINY exists to change this. He closed by pointing to Miyaka's work on the transferability tool, positioning her as a builder of DESTINY's core tools rather than a recipient of its outputs.

The audience response was immediate. Questions began before the formal question period had been opened, including:

- What is evidence synthesis?
- How is DESTINY different from using ChatGPT?
- Can policymakers actually use this, or is it a tool for researchers?
- Is it a more sophisticated Google Scholar?

These questions reflected both the depth of interest in the room and the novelty of the DESTINY concept for audiences encountering it for the first time.

4.0 Key Takeaways from the DESTINY Project Presentation

Miyaka Kinlabel presented an overview of the DESTINY platform. The repository currently holds 21.7 million total records, 492,648 included studies, and 5.3 million recently published items updated to 2026. The platform's LLM Query Enhancer allows users to search in plain English by describing what they are looking for, rather than constructing the Boolean queries that conventional academic databases require. The system enhances the input behind the scenes, returning targeted results without demanding technical search expertise from the user.

The repository is described as 'living', meaning that it is continuously updated as new research is published, distinguishing it from a conventional systematic review that produces a static snapshot at a fixed point in time.

Miyaka also introduced her own work within the project: the transferability tool, which uses AI to assess whether evidence generated in one context can meaningfully inform decisions in another. The tool evaluates five predictors for any given intervention: relevance to the target context, complexity of implementation, cost, importance to decision-makers, and evidence-based impact.

Key points from the presentation included:

- DESTINY makes climate and health evidence searchable in plain language, accessible without specialist expertise.
- The platform is updated continuously, providing decision-makers with the most recent available evidence.
- The transferability tool is designed to address a specific gap: whether evidence from one setting applies to another, which is particularly relevant for African policymakers working with evidence generated elsewhere.

5.0 Panel Discussion

The panel was composed of:

- Dr Jan Minx, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- Professor Pierre Ongolo Zogo, Director, Central Hospital of Yaoundé
- Mr Bedes, Programme Manager for Health, eBASE Africa
- Ms Miyaka Kinlabel, eBASE Africa and iCODE Abakwa

The discussion centred on the question: how can AI and evidence better support real-world decision-making in climate and health in Cameroon?

The panel addressed the following key questions:

- What are the main opportunities AI brings to evidence work?
- What are the main challenges that prevent evidence from reaching decision-makers in Cameroon?
- How can trust in AI-assisted evidence tools be built among policymakers and clinicians?
- What is the role of young people in shaping how evidence is produced and used?
- How can evidence-based decision-making work in low-resource and remote settings?
- What does responsible AI use look like in this context?

5.1 Key Takeaways from the Panel Discussion

On the opportunities AI brings to evidence work

- AI can improve access by enabling comprehensive, continuously updated repositories that serve as single reference points, reducing the time researchers spend searching across scattered sources.
- AI can improve discoverability by creating richer metadata and standardised vocabularies in fields, such as climate, where these have not previously existed.
- AI can improve scalability by handling repetitive tasks such as data extraction, allowing evidence syntheses to move from dozens or hundreds of studies to thousands.

- AI can improve transferability, enabling evidence generated in one place to inform decisions in another. This is the area in which eBASE Africa is making a particular contribution within DESTINY.
- Together, these advances make evidence synthesis faster, cheaper, and continuously updated.

On trust as the central challenge

- AI is not a magic bullet. The new frontier in evidence work is not technology, but trust.
- An AI-powered evidence system must earn user confidence and remain demonstrably trustworthy. This requires finding the right balance between human judgement and machine capability.
- Responsible use of AI requires human oversight at every stage, including verification of what enters the repository.

On the role of young people in evidence systems

- Youth are too often seen as users of systems rather than co-creators. This framing should be reversed.
- Cameroonian youth bring a different lived reality to the evidence systems being built, and that reality must be brought into the design space.
- Within iCODE Abakwa, three of the nine team members are youth actively building solutions, demonstrating that youth contribution is operational, not symbolic.
- Cameroonian youth need access to the conditions that make local AI development possible, including computing power, model training capacity, and forums like this event for raising these questions.
- The DESTINY project itself reflects this principle: Cameroonian voices shape what the project means in the Cameroonian context.

On evidence in low-resource and remote settings

- Communities in low-resource settings have always relied on evidence; otherwise they would not survive.
- Evidence is not only what is generated through trials or formal research. The lived experience of human beings, including how they describe problems and explain reality, is itself evidence that should be captured and used.
- Locally generated solutions, drawing on local data and lived experience, often work better than imported solutions because communities trust them.

- The Ubuntu principle that 'it is not about me, it is about us' is relevant: collective and tacit knowledge belongs in the evidence base
- Values matter to decision-making. AI evidence systems must capture not only clinical or scientific data but also the values that different communities, whether religious, generational, or cultural, bring to decisions.

On the way forward for climate policy and evidence

- Climate is a relatively young policy field, but several decades of policy experience now provide thousands of evaluations that AI can help make accessible.
- Living evidence, continuously updated and available when needed, is a real opportunity for climate decision-making.
- Contextualisation and integration with local knowledge are essential. Without these, AI scaling does not produce useful evidence.
- The urgency is real: resources cannot be wasted, and decisions on emissions reduction and climate adaptation must draw on the best and most recent evidence.

On the way forward for evidence governance

- Evidence must be contextualised, with planetary health understood as a connected system: deforestation increases flood risk, which drives hunger and disease, which strains maternal health and other services.
- Evidence systems should serve the real-time information needs of institutions such as the Observatoire National sur les Changements Climatiques du Cameroun.
- Building the next generation of evidence-literate decision-makers requires investment in critical thinking, evidence governance literacy, and an understanding of the political dimensions of evidence use. As the political science adage goes, politicians do n the light, they feel the heat.

On responsible AI use

- Responsible use of AI is as important as building the tools themselves.
- AI systems can produce hallucinations, presenting confident answers that are not grounded in evidence. Users must not trust AI outputs blindly.
- The best safeguard is the human in the loop: verifying what enters the system, checking outputs, and bringing contextual judgement to bear at every stage. This is the principle DESTINY is built on.

6.0 Storytelling Session: Voix de Terrain

A storytelling segment titled Voix de Terrain (Voices from the Field) was performed by five storytellers from eBASE Africa: Fonjang Mekano, Jumwoh Miguel, Fri Chanice, Leonel Ayafor, and Boudan Yolange. The session combined slam, poetry, music, and live painting on a shared canvas that grew across the performances. Its purpose was to connect the day's scientific content to lived experience.

The performances followed a single arc. Fonjang Mekano opened by naming the tension at the heart of the day: that Cameroon has mastered survival, adjusting to floods, heat, and overstretched hospitals, without being given the tools to ask why or to act before damage is done. Jumwoh Miguel followed with the story of a grandfather who read the sky for weather signs without technology, and of a generation that inherited powerful tools but forgot what they were for. Fri Chanice told the story of the same character reimagined as an AI developer whose poorly designed system caused harm, illustrating what happens when AI operates without context, evidence, or human oversight. Leonel Ayafor intervened at the canvas to make the point explicit: like any AI system, the painting was a layered and living work that required human hands to complete. Boudan Yolange closed in French, tracing the journey from manual evidence work to AI-assisted synthesis, and the union of human and machine intelligence across South Africa, Germany, and Cameroon.

The session was grounded in eBASE Africa's Evidence Tori Dey methodology, which holds that evidence travels through two channels, science and story, and that neither alone reaches everyone.

7.0 Live Demonstration: The DEST Transferability Tool

The day's final substantive session was a live demonstration of the DEST transferability tool, led by Miyaka Kinlabel.

7.1 The DESTINY Workflow

When a new study enters DESTINY, identified by its DOI, it passes through a pipeline that extracts key metadata, enhances its abstract, and runs it through two classifiers: a relevance classifier that determines whether the study falls within the scope of climate and health evidence, and a taxonomy classifier that categorises it by health outcome, population, intervention, and study design. Combined with the LLM Query Enhancer, this allows users to search in plain English and receive relevant results without needing to construct technical queries.

7.2 The Transferability Tool

The tool is designed to answer a single question: can what worked somewhere else work here? Many interventions perform well in one setting but do not translate to another, because contexts differ in population, resources, systems, and environment. The tool addresses this by analysing the five predictors mentioned earlier, and producing a value for each, with a written justification. The version presented on the day represents the first iteration. The next phase will introduce the CART algorithm, a machine learning decision tree that will use the predictor values to produce a structured binary classification: transferable or not transferable.

In its current form, the tool already embodies the human-in-the-loop principle. Every output is presented with reasoning that a human user can examine, question, and override, ensuring that the final judgement on transferability rests with the decision-maker, not the machine.

7.3 Live Exercise

Miyaka presented a real study from the DESTINY repository, a paper on mental health interventions in the United Kingdom (OpenAlex: W3199620450), and read out the title and abstract. Participants quickly agreed that the study would not be transferable to the Cameroonian context. When the tool ran, the outputs confirmed this: relevance was flagged as false, cost and complexity were rated high, and impact and importance were rated low. The alignment between the audience's judgement and the tool's output was an effective illustration of the human-in-the-loop principle in practice. The humans in the room had reasoned their way to the same conclusion as the AI, through their own contextual knowledge, before the system ran.

8.0 Outcomes and Impact

The MBOA in the LOOP event produced outcomes across four areas: institutional engagement, national media reach, sectoral interest, and cross-sectoral convening.

8.1 Institutional Engagement

The most direct institutional outcome was a formal invitation from Mbock Germain, Director of the National Forestry School, for a dedicated follow-up demonstration of DESTINY for his institution's faculty and students. This represents a clear pathway into the forestry and land-use sector, where evidence-informed decision-making on climate adaptation has direct operational relevance.

The Observatoire National sur les Changements Climatiques du Cameroun (ONACC), whose attendance had not been formally anticipated, also engaged substantively with the platform and the panel discussion, opening a line of contact with Cameroon's principal climate change observatory.

8.2 National Media Reach

CRTV, Cameroon's official national broadcaster, invited Miyaka Kinlabel for a full interview about DESTINY, which was broadcast on the 7:30 PM news edition, one of the most watched news slots in the country. This level of national exposure carried the conversation about DESTINY, evidence synthesis, and human-in-the-loop AI well beyond the room at the Goethe-Institut and into households across Cameroon.

8.3 Sectoral Interest from the Health Community

Health sector organisations including HOBISH, HOFA, and Great Feel Health Promotion expressed interest in how DESTINY could support their evidence needs, with conversations continuing beyond the event through direct follow-up contacts. These engagements suggest a clear demand among Cameroonian health civil society organisations for accessible, reliable evidence tools, and they offer entry points for future demonstrations and partnerships.

8.4 Cross-sectoral Convening

The event brought together, in a single room, decision-makers and practitioners who rarely share a common space: the Director of Climate Change of Cameroon, the Director of the Central Hospital of Yaoundé, the Director of the National Forestry School, representatives from MINEPDED and IRGM, researchers from Cochrane Cameroon and eBASE Africa, and youth advocates from AYSA Africa and iCODE Abakwa. The conversations that took place across these sectoral lines, between climate scientists and clinicians, between policymakers and youth innovators, between national institutions and civil society, are themselves an outcome. They establish a shared point of reference and a network of contacts that can be drawn upon as DESTINY moves into its next phase of work in Cameroon.

9.0 Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

MBOA in the LOOP brought together sixty-four participants from Cameroon's health, climate, research, and youth sectors for a day of dialogue, demonstration, and exchange around the DESTINY platform. The day made clear that the demand for accessible evidence tools in Cameroon is real and cuts across sectors. Clinicians, climate scientists, policymakers, students, and youth innovators each found something in DESTINY worth engaging with, and they did so thoughtfully, raising substantive questions and offering valuable feedback.

Next steps include follow-up engagements with the institutions that requested them, continued development of the transferability tool, and ongoing communication of DESTINY's work to Cameroonian audiences.

The event marks a meaningful starting point for DESTINY's work in Cameroon, and a foundation on which to build.

Appendix A: Speakers, Panellists, and Organising Team

Speakers

Moderator: Dr. Tangang Andrew Tangang

- Mr. Jules Kotche, Goethe-Institut Kamerun (welcome address)
- Mr. Andrew Harvey, Future Evidence Foundation (video message)
- Ms. Miyaka Kinlabel, Software Developer, eBASE Africa, and Team Lead, iCODE Abakwa
- Dr. Alang Ernest, eBASE Africa (closing remarks)

Panellists

- Dr Jan Minx, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- Professor Pierre Ongolo Zogo, Director, Central Hospital of Yaoundé
- Doc Ngem Bede Yong, Programme Manager for Health, eBASE Africa
- Ms. Miyaka Kinlabel, eBASE Africa and iCODE Abakwa

Storytellers (eBASE Africa)

- Mr. Fonjang Mekano
- Mr. Jumwoh Miguel
- Ms. Fri Chanice
- Mr. Leonel Ayafor
- Ms. Boudan Yolange

Organising Team

eBASE Africa, in collaboration with the DESTINY Consortium.

Appendix B: List of Organisations and Institutions Represented

- Directorate of Climate Change of Cameroon
- Central Hospital of Yaoundé
- National Forestry School (École Nationale des Eaux et Forêts)
- Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)
- Observatoire National sur les Changements Climatiques du Cameroun (ONACC)
- Institut de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (IRGM)
- Institut des Relations Internationales du Cameroun (IRIC)
- Cochrane Cameroon
- AYSA (African Youths Sports Academy)
- HOBISH (Holy Family University Institute for Business and Biomedical Sciences)
- HOFA (Hope For All Association) Cameroon
- Great Feel Health Promotion
- CRTV (Cameroon Radio Television)
- The Guardian Post
- Cameroon Tribune
- eBASE (Effective Basic Services) Africa
- iCODE Abakwa (Intentional Coders of Abakwa)
- Goethe-Institut Kamerun

Appendix C: Programme

Time	Session	Speakers
09:00 to 10:00	Arrival, registration, and networking	-
10:00 to 10:30	Opening and storytelling: testimonies of youth involved in DESTINY through iCODE Abakwa, on lived experiences and opportunities created by the project	Miyaka Kinlabel
10:35 to 11:00	Presentation of the DESTINY project: overview of the project, its rationale, approach, and relevance to Cameroon	Andrew Harvey (video) Miyaka Kinlabel
11:00 to 11:20	Coffee break and networking	-
11:20 to 12:20	Panel discussion: AI, evidence, and decision-making in Cameroon	Miyaka Kinlabel Prof. Pierre Ongolo Zogo Dr Jan Minx Mr Bede
12:25 to 12:55	Live demonstration: the DEST Robots, with interactive exploration of evidence access and use	Miyaka Kinlabel
12:55 to 13:10	Break and networking	-
13:10 to 14:20	Creative performances: Voix de Terrain, slam, poetry, music, and artistic performance grounded in lived experience and community realities	Fri Chanice Fonjang Mekano Boudan Yolange Jumwoh Miguel Leonel Ayafor
14:20 to 14:50	Open discussion: participatory session for reflections, questions, and contributions	All participants
14:50 to 15:10	Networking and stand exploration	-
15:10 to 15:30	Closing: synthesis of key takeaways and next steps	Miyaka Kinlabel Alang Ernest

Appendix D: Gallery












Appendix D: Gallery









"The Loop runs through Home"

MEET THE CONSORTIUM

DESTINY

PIK

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Destiny is supported by the Wellcome Trust [313586/Z/24/Z]

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