



IMPACT REPORT

2019 - 2020

Published: January 2021

THERE IS NO 1.5 WITHOUT NATURE
THERE IS NO 1.5 WITHOUT YOUTH

LETTER FROM THE TEAM

No 1.5 without nature, no 1.5 without youth.

This has been a guiding phrase for us at Youth4Nature, since we first launched in May, 2019. Conversations about the climate crisis are so often siloed and incomplete, missing the voices of young people and the role of nature. We wanted to address *both* of these gaps.

As we set out to do this, we quickly realised that there is so much more to this story. There is a general knowledge gap about the intersections of both the ecological crisis and climate crisis, and how solutions to both are rooted in human rights and justice. There is a lack of accessible platforms available for young people to share their stories and amplify their voices, in their own words and languages. There is a false scarcity of opportunities and resources for youth to build their capacities as leaders.

One of our greatest successes as a global youth team has been our ability to recognise these gaps and respond. In less than two years, we have revised our underlying mission and vision statements, refined our guiding values, and developed new internal ways of working that are horizontal and consensus-based. All this, while managing the challenges of a global pandemic and also delivering on our goals: we launched two global Storytelling Campaigns, hosted Global Youth Delegations at high-level decision-making events, and developed virtual workshops and webinars that have reached thousands across the world. We've also scaled up from two part-time staff to 11 paid staff and over 30 actively engaged volunteers representing over 20 countries, all of whom are under 30 years old.

We are proud of this work. And as we look to 2021 and beyond, we are excited to stand firmly on the foundations we have built and deliver work that will extend globally and locally. Our plans include building a Global Storytelling Community, developing a new Microgranting Programme for young storytellers, and launching new knowledge-sharing projects that will engage youth leaders from each of the global regions we work in. In advance of key upcoming events, including CBD COP15, IUCN WCC, and UNFCCC COP26, we will advocate loudly for solutions to the ecological and climate crises that are grounded in science and justice, and that uplift youth.

It's become clear, for us and for the world in general, that we cannot address climate crisis and ecological crisis apart from each other, and that we cannot build the future that we want, and deserve, without youth. Pathways forward must include youth leadership and collaboration in all spaces, from global decision-making to community-level implementation. We could not have accomplished the work laid out in this report without the incredible support of our intergenerational network of partners, mentors, and funders, and we are grateful for their trust, guidance, and for many, their friendship.

Youth4Nature has quickly emerged as an organization able to bridge movements and build communities. We will continue to play this vital role as organizers, advocates, amplifiers, and supporters, in the years to come.

With love and solidarity,
The Youth4Nature Team

OUR STORY SO FAR



OUR MISSION

- **Mobilize** decision-makers to take ambitious action for nature and climate by 2030, that create co-benefits for social and human well-being;
- **Elevate** the voices of youth by providing a platform to share their stories and have them be heard; and,
- **Build** a bridge for youth action between the biodiversity and climate movements, while building their capacity as stewards for nature and climate.

OUR GUIDING VALUES

We:

- Are **solutions-orientated**
- Empower **youth**
- Centre **people, equity, and justice**
- Commit to **learning**
- Uphold our **autonomy**
- Change **decision-making structures**
- Focus on **systems-thinking**



WE ENVISION A
WORLD WHERE
COMMUNITIES
THRIVE WITH
NATURE ACROSS
GENERATIONS

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

**STORIES
COLLECTED**

90

Youth stories collected

35

Countries represented

**COMMUNITY
BUILT**

30

Active team members

20

Countries represented

**DIGITAL
CONNECTIONS**

1+M

Reached on socials

5K

Newsletter opens

**FUNDS
RAISED**

\$300K

Raised by youth,
for youth

+85%

Going directly to youth
labour + expertise

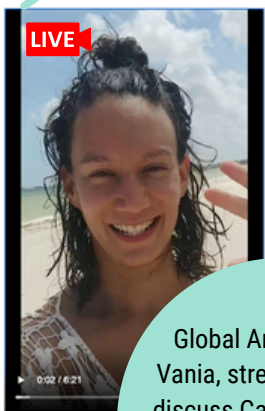
GLOBAL REACH LOCAL IMPACT

Youth4Nature is an international organization.

The rapid loss of biodiversity, increasing degradation of nature, and worsening climate crisis are global challenges. We believe that young people are better positioned to catalyse transformative, systemic change if we are working together across borders. That is why we have a global team, working in six geographic regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and West Asia. Working globally enables us to develop and deliver programming that is specific to regional contexts, while also coordinating with each other when advocating on global stages.



Our 2nd Global Youth Delegation, attending COP25 in Madrid, Spain



Global Ambassador, Vania, streaming live to discuss Caribbean Dune ecosystems. Turtle nests and succulents vs. hotels and sandbags!



"This was a very interactive, inspiring and educating webinar with amazing experts/speakers around nature based solutions and regenerative agriculture that show us the key to Africa's vast culture and the advantages around us."

- Ibrahim Inusa,
Webinar attendee

Climate Resiliency in the Arctic: Webinar

Join us to hear from Arctic youth and Polar scientists.

June 29, 4pm GMT.

STUDENTS ON ICE FOUNDATION · FONDATION Arctic Youth Network

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Webinars

EL LADO SOCIAL DE LAS SOLUCIONES BASADAS EN LA NATURALEZA: CONFLICTO, GOBERNANZA Y ARTE

- **Maria Eugenia Rinaudo**, Coordinadora de Sostenibilidad de la Universidad Ean
- **Rocío Córdoba**, Presidente Comisión de Gestión de Ecosistemas de la UICN para México, América Central y el Caribe
- **Diwigdi Valiente**, Guerrero Climático y joven líder indígena Guna

Fecha: Jueves 23 de abril 2020
 Time: 10:00 (Hora Colombia, GMT-5)
 Plataforma: Zoom
 Idioma: Español

www.youth4nature.org | @Y4Nature

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Languages

WEBINAR

Indigenous youth and their fight in times of COVID-19

Youth representatives of the communities who protect the tropical forests of Indonesia, Mesoamerica, Brazil and the Amazon Basin in a Q&A with Xiye Bastida and Isaias Hernandez on how the COVID crisis has impacted indigenous and local communities and their fight for Mother Earth.

JULY 20th 2020 6PM PST 8PM CDT 10PM BRT

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE @GuardianesdelB @Y4Nature

MODERATORS

Xiye Bastida Isaias Hernandez

AREAS OF WORK

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Youth are experts. Time and time again, youth are leading the charge on knowledge in new and innovative ways, whether that be within communities or classrooms. We work to elevate these youth experts and create spaces for peer-to-peer learning. We also work to decrease the knowledge gaps about the nature-climate nexus. This reflects back on our mission to bridge nature and climate silos. This pillar of work aims to connect youth to youth and non-youth experts and knowledge-holders so they can build holistic understandings of these connections for their work today and tomorrow.

Topics we've covered include:

- Climate resiliency in the Arctic
- Social impacts on Nature-based solutions in Latin America
- Nature-based solutions in Russia and Eastern Europe,
- Intergenerational approaches for nature and climate in Africa
- Bats, Zoonotic diseases, and COVID-19

Partners we worked with:

- Nature-based Solutions Initiative
- The Global Indigenous Youth Caucus
- IUCN Young Professionals Network
- Arctic Youth Network
- Guardians of the Forest
- Students on Ice

Learn more about and view our past webinars at

www.youth4nature.org/knowledgesharing.

← This was our most popular webinar at 2.5k views!

AREAS OF WORK STORYTELLING

Youth all over the world are taking action on nature and climate, in their communities, right now. Through storytelling, we provide a platform for these youth leaders to tell their stories, in their words, about the work they are leading. We amplify these stories digitally and together with storytellers at high-level decision-making events, creating spaces that showcase the ambitious and tangible work youth are leading.

"RAISE YOUR VOICE" CAMPAIGN (2019-2020)

Our 2019 campaign, "Raise Your Voice", was an incredible success. We received 92 stories representing 34 countries, and led large storytelling events at the UNSG Climate Action Summit and the UNFCCC COP25. We learned that youth are looking for platforms to amplify their voices, and that this leads to increased confidence and capacity to scale up work.

"[By submitting my story] I was invited to share my story on global platform, and establish a network and friendships with other young actors, media, and organisations at COY15 and COP25. I also published an Op-Ed [...] and got to share my story at a couple of virtual convening, following recommendations by Y4N." - 2019 Storyteller

"YOUR STORY OUR FUTURE" CAMPAIGN (2020-2021)

"Your Story, Our Future" will be accepting stories from youth leaders throughout 2021. We will also be launching a Global Storytelling Community for the youth storytellers to connect and access resources, and be piloting a Micro-Granting Programme for storytellers in to put funding in the hands of youth leaders and enable them to scale their work.

Find out more about our storytelling work at www.youth4nature.org/storytelling.

Our rotating, 3-day Storytelling Exhibition at the UNSG Climate Summit in New York had 250-400 visitors a day!



*"Being able to share my story on the Y4N storytelling map helped me to access a network I would not have otherwise had access to. From this, my work received media attention and I have been able to scale up my work in 2020."
- 2019 Storyteller*



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Global Youth Delegations



33

Distinct speaking opportunities



7

Youth-facing workshops

AREAS OF WORK

CAPACITY BUILDING

In addition to sharing knowledge and providing platforms to tell stories, we are actively building the capacity of youth to both advocate for solutions rooted in nature and justice, and to be involved in the planning and implementation of solutions themselves. So far, this has taken the shape of two Global Youth Delegations, one to the UNSG Climate Action Summit and one to COP25.

UNSG Climate Action Summit and Youth Climate Summit New York, 2019

- Delegation: **12** youth leaders, 9 countries, 5 regions
- **3** youth-facing workshops and one press conference
- **3**-day rotating Storytelling Exhibition
- **13** distinct speaking opportunities, reaching thousands (including: at UN Youth Climate Summit and NbS Track meetings at UNSG Climate Action Summit)
- **1** viral video

UNFCCC COP25 Madrid, 2019

- Delegation: **8** youth leaders, **6** countries, **4** regions
- **4** youth-facing workshops, reaching over **250** people
- Over **30** distinct speaking opportunities, reaching thousands
- Connected with government officials from over **9** countries:
 - Mexico,
 - Panama,
 - Costa Rica,
 - Honduras,
 - Canada,
 - Nigeria,
 - Kenya,
 - the United Kingdom,
 - the European Union

"The Y4N delegation is a beautiful example of the power of social media bringing people of unimaginably different backgrounds together to celebrate our shared passion and protect what's of utmost importance."

- Emma Thornton,
Y4N Delegate

IT TAKES TEAM WORK TO MAKE THE DREAM WORK

We firmly believe that the only way we will achieve our vision of a future where communities and nature are able to thrive across generations is if we do it together. During the last two years have been just as busy with collaborative projects as we have with our own initiatives. Here are just a few of the collaborations we've been proud to be a part of:

NATURE'S CLIMATE HUB

When: September 2019
With: Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Nature4Climate, The Nature Conservancy, UNDP



UN NATURE FOR LIFE HUB

When: September 2020
With: UNDP, UNEP, Conventional on Biological Diversity



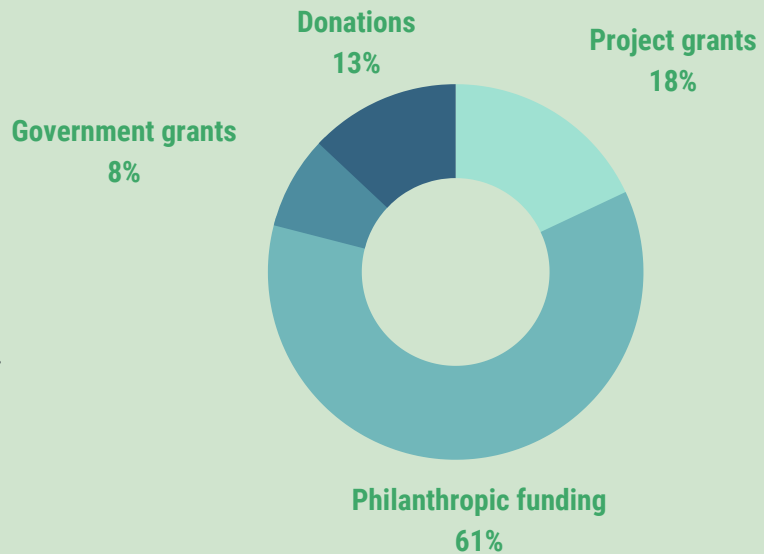
BIODIVERSITY: A DIGITAL JOURNEY

When: September - October 2020
With: Youth in Landscapes Initiative, Global Landscapes Forum, Wageningen Centre for Development and Innovation

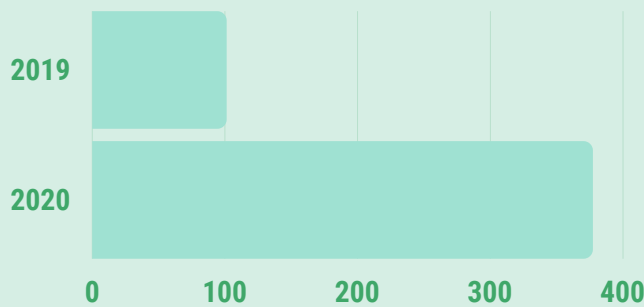


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial resources are often the primary barrier to meaningful youth engagement in nature and climate action. Despite being critical components of the solution, youth are often unpaid or underpaid, and youth-led work is often unfunded. The result of this is a loss in the potential and the impact of youth-led work, and the overwork and burnout of youth leaders. This is intergenerational injustice. When youth are funded, we are able to build our own capacities to build and support movements that create meaningful change.



Organizational budget increase (USD, thousands)



Fundraising is challenging for all NGOs, but it is especially challenging for youth-led NGOs that face additional barriers including a lack of trust simply for being young, and a lack of existing financial capital to kick-start work and support unfunded labour.

Despite these challenges, Y4N has secured almost \$400K in our second year of operation, an increase of over 300% from our first year.

Almost all funding Y4N receives goes directly to support youth. This enables us to achieve our mission while also addressing intergenerational injustice by redistributing financial resources to youth leaders.

98%

of all funding goes directly to programming and supporting youth leadership for nature and climate, including funding youth work.

THANK YOU

Securing funding for youth-led work is a challenge. We are especially grateful to our funders for putting their trust in us and for understanding the value of youth-led work for nature and climate. This support has enabled us not just to deliver projects that have on-the-ground impact, but also to support the growth and development of ourselves as an organization and as individual youth leaders. Thank you!



We could not do what we do without the support of our intergenerational network of partners:

