

EMPOWERING

# YOUTH

MAXIMIZING IMPACT

Youth empowerment as a building  
block for effective climate and  
biodiversity action







# FES VIETNAM

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# GREEN YOUTH LABS

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## Our objective

Make young people care about energy issues and engage in the socially equitable energy transition in Vietnam.



## Target audience

Young people from 16 to 35, who are interested in issues related to climate change, energy and environment.



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

DIRECT  
BENEFICIARIES  
FROM FACILITIES,  
TRAINING, AND  
COMMUNICATION  
INCLUDE:

**62.190**  
students/children



**21**  
authors/  
artists



**847**  
youths



**570**  
residents



**33**  
PROJECTS





# CHANGE STORY: CON SON COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

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## •Challenges Addressed:

- Rising tides, erosion, and lack of public lighting in Cồn Sơn.
- Farmers eager to learn new ecological farming techniques.

## •Green Youth Labs' Contributions:

- Technical and financial support for the "Energy-Saving Homes and Gardens" initiative.
- Positive feedback from the local community, including improved public lighting and energy-saving solutions.

## •Personal Development:

- Participation in the 2022 Green Youth Labs training, gaining skills in proposal writing, project measurement, and understanding energy transition.
- Represented Vietnamese youth as part of the Green Youth Labs open letter author group.

## •International Engagement:

- Participation in international forums, including a field trip to Berlin.
- Inspiration and motivation from global energy transition leaders to continue advocating for sustainable energy in Vietnam.

## •Future Goals:

- Conducting research to promote sustainable energy transition in the Mekong Delta.



*The project has brought light to the people, which is greatly appreciated*

— Ms. Bả, Agricultural Advisor of the Cồn Sơn Tourism Cooperative



# CHANGE STORY: VU KHANH LINH

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“I am a true GYLER! I like to call myself that because I have spent three years exploring and actively participating in activities related to Energy and Energy Transition organized by Green Youth Labs. “



- **Three-Year Journey with Green Youth Labs:**
  - Participated in activities related to Energy and Energy Transition.
  - Developed skills in communication, planning, risk management, and leadership.
- **Personal Growth:**
  - Gained confidence and became proactive in connecting with others.
  - Overcame setbacks in project implementation, leading to valuable lessons in collaboration.
- **Key Achievements:**
  - Participated in the Future Generation Forum in Korea, sharing opinions on an international stage.
  - Discovered a talent for communication and led a team to organize events for GreenUni.
- **Future Aspirations:**
  - Continue community projects focusing on sustainable energy.
  - Further develop skills in interpretation within the energy sector.

# OPEN LETTER ON YOUTH & JUST TRANSITION

Originating from the activities of the Green Youth Labs program, 11 outstanding alumni have been selected to become Key authors of an Open Letter to collectively reflect on issues related to the Energy Transition, particularly the involvement of youth in this process.

Addressed to government agencies, international organizations, universities, the private sector, and youth both within and outside of the country.

A basis for sharing, discussion, and developing strategies for cooperation, creating opportunities, and promoting the involvement of youth and marginalized groups in the future energy transition process.





# CONTACT US

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## **IKI Brown Bag Lunch**

# **EMPOWERING YOUTH – MAXIMIZING IMPACT**

**Youth empowerment as a building block for  
effective climate and biodiversity action**

**3 September 2024**

**Verania Chao, Global Inclusivity Advisor, UNDP Climate Hub**

# INVESTING IN YOUTH IS KEY

## UNDP's work on, with, for youth & climate

**UNDP adopts a multidimensional and human rights-based approach to youth empowerment in climate action.**

We advocate for inclusive policies, invest in youth leadership, and promote global collaboration, meaningful participation and green jobs, leveraging UNDP strong presence in **170 countries and territories and 5 regional hubs**

Our approach is based on three pillars:

Technical, Policy &  
Programmatic  
Support

Inclusive Partnerships,  
Coalitions & Networks

Capacity Building

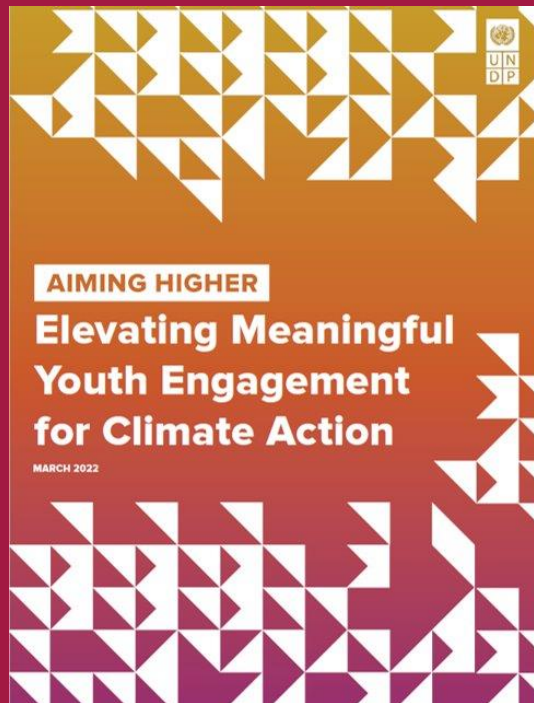
UNDP implements several global, regional and local programmes supporting youth engagement in climate action:

E.g.: UNDP supports youth leadership and participation in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) through the **Climate Promise**.





# WHAT IS MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE ACTION?



Aiming Higher: Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement in Climate Action (UNDP 2022):

**“Meaningful youth participation describes a broad array of mechanisms of participation to influence climate change governance where youth share power to steer the process and outcome of their participation.”**

We need to enlarge the space in climate action where youth can participate in different roles and their participation is enabled and supported through different mechanisms.

# Six steps for youth engagement in NDCs ON EQUAL TERMS

1. **POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT:** Governments take the political decision to invite young people to co-shape actions, strategies, decisions and outcomes of the NDC process and allocate the necessary financial, logistical and technical resources to support these efforts.
2. **MAPPING:** By mapping youth organizations engaged at country level, governments can identify underrepresented and particularly vulnerable groups and offer them a seat at the table. This can lead to a more inclusive and representative structure for youth engagement.
3. **DISSEMINATION:** It is essential that governments and other actors employ outreach strategies that meet young people where they are, in all the languages of a country or territory, in different formats, online and offline. Young people can co-create this process.
4. **CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING** are essential for improving the quality of young people's participation in both the formulation and implementation of NDCs.
5. **INCLUSIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY:** The trust and active participation of young people in NDC consultations depend on their ability to influence the agenda and select representatives equally with organizers. Meaningful consultations allow governments to gain unique insights and foster mutual trust by engaging youth perspectives.
6. **OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** Involving young people in monitoring NDC implementation enhances transparency, accountability, and ownership. They can help define key performance indicators and report irregularities or share success stories, with protections against retaliation for their input.

## ON EQUAL TERMS

A checklist for decision  
makers & practitioners  
on a youth-inclusive  
NDC process

OCTOBER 2023





# Country examples



The establishment of a dedicated Climate Change Academy for Young Leaders (Panama) has empowered the next generation of climate champions with the tools they need to drive change.



Youth considerations have been better reflected and strengthened in the LT-LEDS, NAPs, and NDCs processes, ensuring an inclusive approach to climate planning and amplifying their influence on climate policy (Lebanon LT-LEDS Ecuador NDC, Thailand NAPs/NDCs,)



In Belize, the first-ever Youth Declaration was signed between youth leaders and the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and National Disaster Risk Management as part of the Climate Week. This event included a mock COP where young leaders assumed roles as part of party delegates attached to negotiating blocks and representing different countries.



Two Youth Hubs were established in Skopje and Ohrid, along with an online youth platform set to launch in September 2024, providing easier access to climate-related information and fostering youth participation in climate discussions (North Macedonia)

# Examples of global support



Through the Climate Promise, UNDP provided technical and financial support for the participation of 9 youth delegates in COP28 from different regions, representing YOUNGO (the children and youth constituency of UNFCCC) and Indigenous youth organizations from Latin America and Asia-Pacific to join COP28 in Dubai.



UNDP co-organized with YOUNGO a webinar to unpack the Global Stocktake and better understand the negotiation process and the implications for young people in the lead up to COP28 (Nov. 2023).



Since 2020, UNDP has hosted several online youth consultations, surveys and polls on climate action in collaboration with youth organizations and different UNDP teams and offices, leading to the publication of several knowledge products (e.g. Aiming Higher 2022, On Equal Terms 2023, The Peoples' Climate Vote 2024, etc).



UNDP co-organized a capacity building session in SB60 in Bonn (June 2024) to unpack the NDC enhancement process and discuss the entry points for meaningful youth engagement, in collaboration with UNFCCC and YOUNGO NDC working group.



# KEY

# RECOMMENDATIONS



- Encourage and support the institutionalization of mechanisms of youth participation.
- Promote and support inclusive procedures that ensure representativeness.
- Promote operationalization of intergenerational equity.
- Ensure availability and access to networking opportunities, reliable information, knowledge, and financial resources for youth participation.
- Ensure gender, age and culturally sensitive participation interventions.
- Promote interconnectedness of climate with other development issues in youth initiatives.

CLIMATE  
PROMISE



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