

NOTE TO MEDIA: Questions can be directed to the coalition members. Youth4Nature: rachel@youth4nature.org, GYBN: gybnsteeringcommittee@gmail.com, and YOUNGO: heeta.lakhani@unmgcy.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Youth Coalition Releases First Ever Global Youth Position Statement on Nature-based Solutions

- More than 1000 youth from 118 countries shared their views about nature-based solutions to co-create a Global Youth Position Statement on NbS
- The first youth-led Global Youth Position Statement on NbS will be presented to global leaders and decision-makers from all over the world at the UNFCCC COP26 on November 6, 2021
- Young people are excited about the potential of NbS discussions to lead to bold and true action to address the twin climate and biodiversity crises, but at the same time they are also concerned that “NbS” will be used as another greenwashing tool and an excuse to evade decarbonization of our economy
- Youth are calling for all NbS discussions to be rooted in justice, and for strong safeguards that prioritize biodiversity and human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to their territories.

Decisions about Nature-based Solutions (NbS) will not be made without us.

On November 6, 2021, team members from the Global Biodiversity Youth Network, Youth4Nature, and YOUNGO will present the official **Global Youth Position Statement on NbS** to decision-makers and policy-makers at the UNFCCC COP26 in the Nature Zone.

The statement, **which represents the input of over 1000 youth from 118 countries**, is the result of a 5-month campaign to build a united youth voice, across both the climate and biodiversity movements, that clearly outlines how the global youth community understands NbS, and what is acceptable and not acceptable within NbS approaches, both in policy and on-the-ground action.

While many people in the climate and biodiversity spaces have turned their attention to NbS in the last three to four years, different perspectives have emerged across different groups. While many groups are promoting NbS as an exciting and necessary approach towards addressing our twin climate and biodiversity crises, many others are also opposing it, citing serious and important concerns about how, where, and by whom the term is being used. Among all of this, **no one has made room to meaningfully engage the global youth community in these conversations** - conversations about *our* future and the planet *we* will inherit. So we decided to take control of the situation.

“We’ve connected with more than 1000 young people around the world and what we’re hearing loudest is concern. Concern that we are being excluded from the spaces where decisions are

being made about *our* future. We refuse to stand by as discussions about us happen without us. We are leaders for climate and nature. We *will* be at the table.”

Following the release of an **information brief** titled “What are Nature-based Solutions? Risks, concerns, and opportunities” and hosting an **open discussion** with NbS experts in an effort to provide accessible information to youth about the current landscape of NbS, our coalition launched a **by-youth, for-youth survey** in three languages to gather the ideas, perspectives, and understandings about NbS from youth around the world.

The survey’s results were used to create the Global Youth Position Statement, which will be shared with youth as a resource to support young people’s nature and climate advocacy efforts globally, to further connect youth across biodiversity and climate movements, and to help us create spaces for ourselves within global nature and climate decision-making. We are bringing the youth’s perspective to the newly popular concept of Nature-Based Solutions, pushing it in a direction that benefits both people and nature.

More information about the Global Youth Position Statement on NbS can be found on [our website](#).

About our coalition:

Two of the largest global youth environmental networks, the [Global Youth Biodiversity Network](#) (the youth constituency for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity) and [YOUNGO](#) (the youth constituency for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), and [Youth4Nature](#), a global, youth-led non-profit organization founded to provide youth with resources and platforms to address both climate and nature together, are partnering to co-develop a nuanced, critical, and inclusive youth perspective on nature-based solutions.



**Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network**

YOUNGO
OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC

**YOUTH4
NATURE**