

Vol. #YourStoryOurFuture
DOUBLE ISSUE 2&3: October-December 2021

A Storytelling Magazine

PolleNectar

Buzzing Climate Clicks & Biodiversity Beatz

Cover picture: Menabe-Antimena Protected Area, Madagascar,
by Tahina Roland Frédéric, 2019 & 2021 Y4N Storyteller



COP26 EDITION



All about the 26th annual international climate negotiations by the United Nations!

The information, the personal stories, the opinions & the fun!

Venture into the climate and biodiversity of Africa and West Asia, including key facts & challenges!

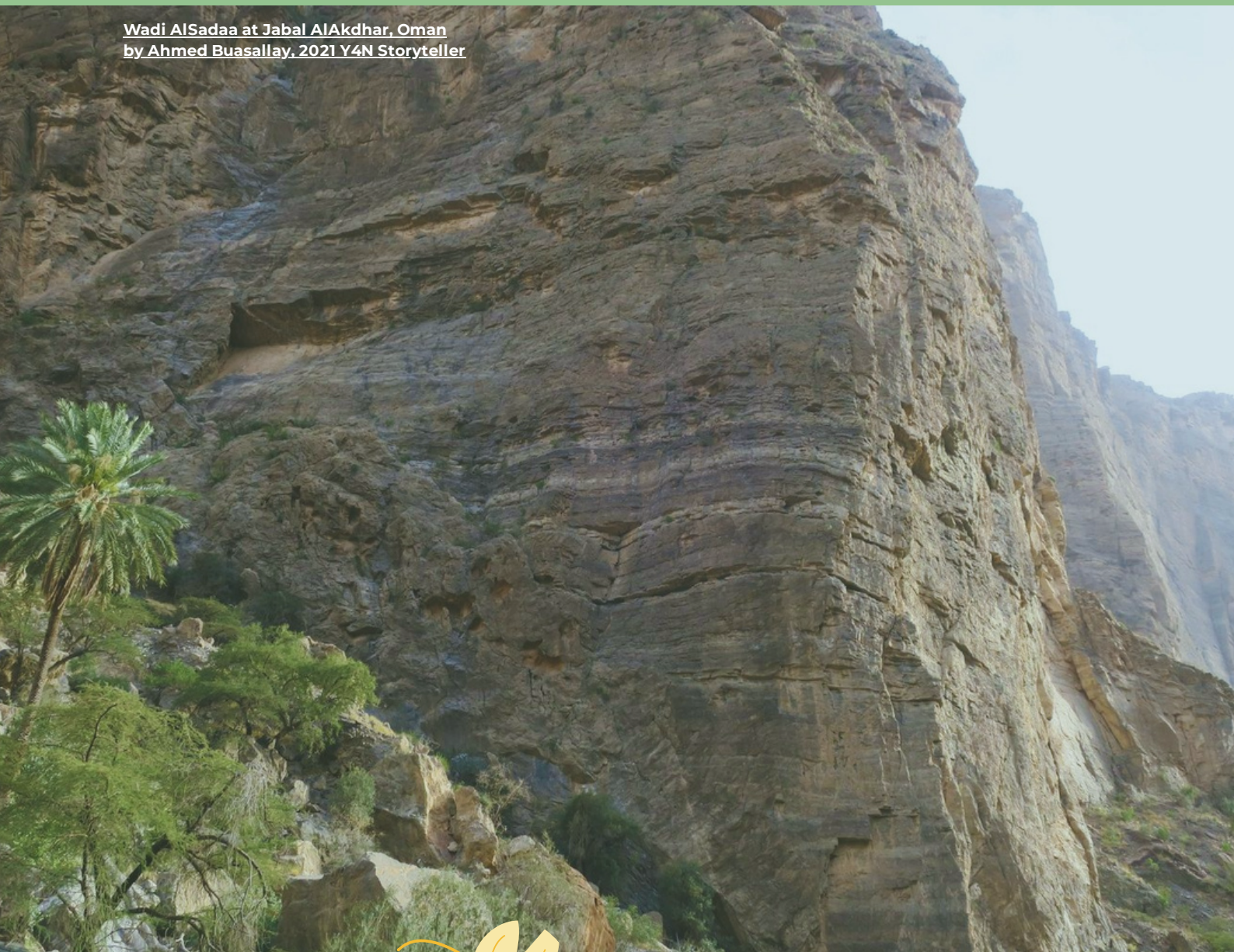
PLUS, TWO FEATURES IN GLOBE IN A HONEYSPOON!

AND...

- >> Round up of 2021's key environmental events
- >> Y4N on-the-ground activities!
- >> Volunteer with Y4N!

Curious about the background image?
Check p. 11 to find out!





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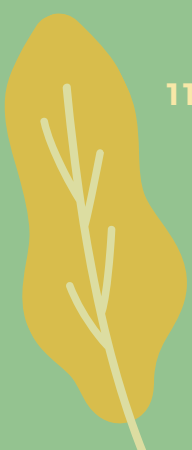
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#YSOF II & III

END OF 2021'S CLICKS & BEATZ



THE SUMMITRY SEASON!

BY AIITA JOSHUA APAMAKU

IUCN World Conservation Congress (3-11 September 2021)- Marseille, France

Held every four years, the IUCN WCC took suit in September 2021 over a 10-day period following postponement in June 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This conference saw several thousands of leaders and decision-makers tune in from all over the world to deliberate on concerns and harness the solutions nature offers to the global challenges.

Exclusive to the IUCN WCC was the first-ever virtual session IUCN Global Youth Summit, a convention of thousands of youths from all over the World- coming together to build synergies share experiences stories of conservation within their local settings and learn from each other's actions through the 10-day IUCN One Nature, One Future Global Youth Summit from 5th-16th April 2021.

Youth4Nature was present at both the IUCN Global Youth Summit as well as the IUCN World Conservation /congress in Marseille, running several events and sessions on people and justice, the private sector, and debates around nature-based solutions.

Our message has always remained clear- on the need to centre justice and indigenous rights when implementing nature-based solutions. Decisions for nature-based solutions will not be made without out us: youth need to be brought to the table.

UN Food Systems Summit (23rd September 2021), New York

The United Nations Food Systems Summit, held during the UN General Assembly on September 23rd 2021 in New York saw over 50,000 people from about 193 all over the world tune in all set and ambitious to tackle the twin biodiversity and climate crises as a means to address challenges associated with the Global Food Systems for sustainable transformation.

The summit aimed to address a wide array of cross-cutting issues, including but not exclusive to generating significant action and measurable progress towards the 2030 agenda, raising awareness and elevating the public discussion, developing principles to guide governments and other stakeholders, creating a system of follow-up and review to ensure that the Summit's outcomes continue to drive new actions and progress. As put by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres: "inclusive and transformative food systems nourish progress to achieve zero hunger".

As we enter into the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals, the world's food systems have been notably fragile, owing to disruptions and alterations by climate change and biodiversity loss. Moreover, the devastating COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect most, especially vulnerable communities with poor socio-economic & health conditions.

UNFCCC COP26 (28th October- 12th November 2021), Glasgow, United Kingdom

Just as many other challenges affecting global health and economic systems, the climate crisis has been no exempt; impacts getting worse each other day evident in several poor and vulnerable communities around the globe.

The UNFCCC COP26 provided an opportunity for World leaders, civil society, private sector, indigenous people and Local Community representatives (IPLC) and Academia to convene to set straight the ambitions in the fight to halt global average temperatures rise above 1.5 degrees.

Hosted by the United Kingdom in Glasgow, COP26 ran through over 2 weeks; from 31st October to 12th November. Prior to COP26, from 28th-31st October was, COY16 (Conference of the Youth) organized by YOUNGO. It saw several youths from all over the world come into a shared space to discuss, brainstorm and share their stories and insights from their work on the ground, develop outcome statements so to influence key policy outcomes from the 2-week climate discussions.


At COY16 and COP26, Youth4Nature participated in multiple events; speaking at events, hosting sessions, interviews among others. Most significantly was the launch of the Global Youth Position on Nature-based Solutions led by Y4N in collaboration with GYBN and YOUNGO. The months-long consultation contains the views of over +1000 youth across the world on NbS.

CBD COP15 (October 2021- May, 2022). Kunming, China

Despite ongoing efforts around the world, biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide and this decline is projected to worsen with business-as-usual scenarios. The UN's Convention on Biological Diversity's 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) aims to convene governments from around the world to agree to a new set of goals to halt this. for nature over the next decade.

The COP15 is expected to review the outcomes and delivery of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. There also is an anticipation that the final decision on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be taken, alongside decisions on related topics including capacity building and resource mobilization. With the first phase of the conference taking place virtually last October, the second phase of is set to convene world leaders and key actors in Kunming, China, to lay strategies for action.

The post-2020 framework focuses on the implementation of a shared vision of living in harmony with nature fulfilled by 2050. The first draft was shared last August, setting out four long-term goals for 2050, each with interim milestones, to determine progress at national, local and regional levels. It also acknowledges the need for appropriate recognition and inclusion of youth engagement, gender-responsive approaches, and indigenous peoples's views.



Read more at:
<https://www.nbsyouthposition.org>

COP26 DIGEST: GROUND VOICES IN GLASGOW

BY CESAR MONTES FIGUEROA & EMILY BOHOB0 N'DOMBAXE DOLA

Under a mantra of inclusivity, the UK Presidency made efforts to engage civil society, youth & indigenous peoples in COP26 preparations. Disruptions and let-downs were expected given the shadow of a global pandemic, and the high expectations placed on heavily-contested topics. While mediatic attention has since focused on the eventual underwhelming resolution and discontent with the annual international climate negotiations, the personal stories insights of diverse attendees can help to fill in the gaps of why, what, who and how things happened for those present at the "most exclusive" COP last November in Glasgow, Scotland.

NOTE: Quotes in this section are extracted and cleaned-up from short interviews on the ground with delegates in Glasgow inside the COP 26 Blue (Negotiations) Zone, carried out in November 2021. The photographs shown belong to Emily Bohobo N'Dombaxe Dola / Youth4Nature.

ON THE JOURNEY TO COP



"WE ARE HERE TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT THAT WE DO. THE EMISSIONS OF PALESTINE, AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY, ARE VERY LOW YET WE ARE HIGHLY VULNERABLE. THE HEATWAVES, THE FLOODS, THE WATER AVAILABLE, THE HIGH TEMPERATURE, THE DEFROSTING... [PLUS] THE OCCUPATION EXACERBATES THE PROBLEM, SINCE IT HAS THE AUTHORITY & CONTROL OVER THE LAND, OVER THE WATER, OVER EVERYTHING.

WE ARE HERE TO RAISE OUR VOICE, TO BE PART OF THIS WORK AND TO LET THE WORLD UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES THAT PALESTINE FACES REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS POLITICAL SITUATION."

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY, STATE OF PALESTINE DELEGATION

Leading
Climate Actions
Together

ON PERSONAL PURPOSE
& EXPERIENCE

"FOR ME, THIS IS THE PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO EXCHANGE THEIR MINDS. SOMETIMES THERE WILL BE INSIGHTFUL THINGS THAT THEY WILL ADD UP TO ME RIGHT AWAY AND THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO APPLY IN INDONESIA.

THE THING IS WE ARE HERE TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE, SO DO YOUR PART. IT DOES NOT NEED TO BE A REALLY SOPHISTICATED THING, JUST START WITH THE SMALL STEPS.

I THINK THAT THIS COP THING IS AIMING NOT ONLY FOR THE COUNTRIES AS STAKEHOLDERS TO WORK TOGETHER BUT ALSO FOR THE COMMUNITIES, FOR PEOPLE."

**QINTHAR AGHBIA AUDIWARMAN,
STUDENT & DELEGATE**

ON YOUTH AND CLIMATE ACTION

"THE FUTURE IS THREATENED AND FOR THIS TO CHANGE IT IS IMPORTANT TO SEE MORE YOUNG [PEOPLE] INVOLVED AND PUSHING THE DECISION-MAKERS TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS. OTHERWISE THESE PEOPLE ARE BENDING YOUR FUTURE, AND MAKING YOUR LIFE MORE DIFFICULT. THIS IS WHY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO BE COMMITTED FROM NOW AND FOREVER."

KOSSIVI NEVAEME ADESSOU, TOGO AND CIVIL SOCIETY DELEGATE

ON THE HOT TOPIC: CLIMATE FINANCE

"I THINK THERE IS FUNDING, THE ISSUE IS ACCESSIBILITY. HOW DO THESE FUNDS TRICKLE DOWN TO THE MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES FACING CLIMATE CHALLENGES OR CLIMATE IMPACTS? THIS PROCESS NEEDS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO HAVE AN ACTUAL IMPACT ON THE GROUND."



THERE'S FUNDING AVAILABLE, BUT HOW DO WE GET IT? IT'S NOT REALLY ACCESSIBLE AT THE MOMENT. WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THIS FUNDING IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND THERE IS TANGIBLE DEVELOPMENT. HOW DO COMMUNITIES UNDERSTAND? THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE THAT WE SPEAK HERE, THEY ONLY UNDERSTAND TANGIBLE DEVELOPMENTS. GO BEYOND JUST TALKING AND SOLVE ACTUAL ISSUES WITH OUR PROJECTS. THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD AIM TO DO."

KIM & SHARON, SOLOMON ISLANDS AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA DELEGATES

ON THE NEGOTIATIONS' OUTCOME

"I'M STILL REALLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE RESULTS BECAUSE IT WAS REALLY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN ANYTHING, SOMETIMES EVEN JUST TO BE LISTENED TO. [...] I THINK THE LEARNING PROCESS AND THE DEEPENING OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROCEDURES OF HOW NEGOTIATIONS WORK AND THE PEOPLE YOU MEET HERE ARE WORTH IT, EVEN IF SOME THINGS DON'T REALLY GO AS YOU WISH."

VLADISLAV MALASHEVSKYY, YOUTH DELEGATE





ON THE LINKS
BETWEEN ART
& POLICY

"BRINGING CLEAR MESSAGES, THAT'S WHAT ART CAN BRING TO COP. CLARIFYING THE MESSAGES. THE PIECE THAT WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON HOPES TO BRING CLARITY ON WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING INSIDE THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE SAYING NOTHING HAPPENS IN NEGOTIATIONS AND FROM WHERE WE STAND, A LOT HAS BEEN HAPPENING, A LOT OF DISCUSSIONS. WHETHER IT'S A SUCCESS OR NOT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL, BECAUSE SUCCESS IN THIS CASE IS NOT JUST ONE YES OR ONE NO. IT IS JUST A LOT OF NEGOTIATIONS."

CECILE & LISA, ARTISTS & CIVIL SOCIETY DELEGATES

COP26'S STATE OF ACTION: VERDICT FROM YOUTH ON THE OUTSIDE

BY IBRAHIM INUSA, PETER BULIMO, LEONARD IYAMUREMYE, ZAKIRA BAKHSHI &
ABBY BOSIBORI

NOTE: Quotes in this section are extracted and cleaned-up from short interviews carried out by Unit members in their home countries and local communities, including interviewees from Nigeria and Kenya.

THEIR BEST IS NOT ENOUGH

"CLIMATE CHANGE HAS BEEN A MAJOR PROBLEM IN NIGERIA ESPECIALLY THE NORTHERN PART OF NIGERIA, WHERE FARMLANDS HAVE BEEN LOST TO DESERTIFICATION. THERE IS ALSO AN EARLY DECREASE IN RAINFALL, WHICH HAS ALSO RESULTED IN FOOD SHORTAGES, POVERTY HUNGER.

THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS A GOVERNMENT THAT IS ENRICHED WITH DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTAL PARASTATALS, AND IN THE BOOK, THEY ARE DOING WELL. BUT IN REAL LIFE, I THINK THEIR BEST IS NOT ENOUGH. THERE HAVE TO BE SOME POLICIES THAT ARE IMPLEMENTABLE, THAT CAN PUSH THE CAUSE OF GREEN ENVIRONMENT, GREEN SOCIETY, GREEN EVERYTHING."

IBRAHIM, NIGERIA

WHETHER WE ARE OR NOT CONTRIBUTING

"I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, AND IT LEADS TO A CONCERNING TOPIC. WE SURELY HAVE TO PUT OUR HANDS TOGETHER TO COME UP WITH LASTING SOLUTIONS.

IN KENYA, WE HAVE SEEN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT COMING UP WITH AN INITIATIVE TO PLANT MORE TREES, AS FORESTS ARE AN IMPORTANT CARBON DIOXIDE FILTER. BUT APART FROM THAT THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH THAT HAS BEEN DONE IN TERMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY OR THE LAWS MADE BY THE PARLIAMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE.

WHETHER WE ARE OR NOT CONTRIBUTING TO IT, FOR AS LONG AS WE ARE IN THIS WORLD, WE ARE EXPERIENCING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. IT IS UP TO KENYA TO FIRST COME UP WITH A CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY, AND INCREASE BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS."

HARRISON, KENYA



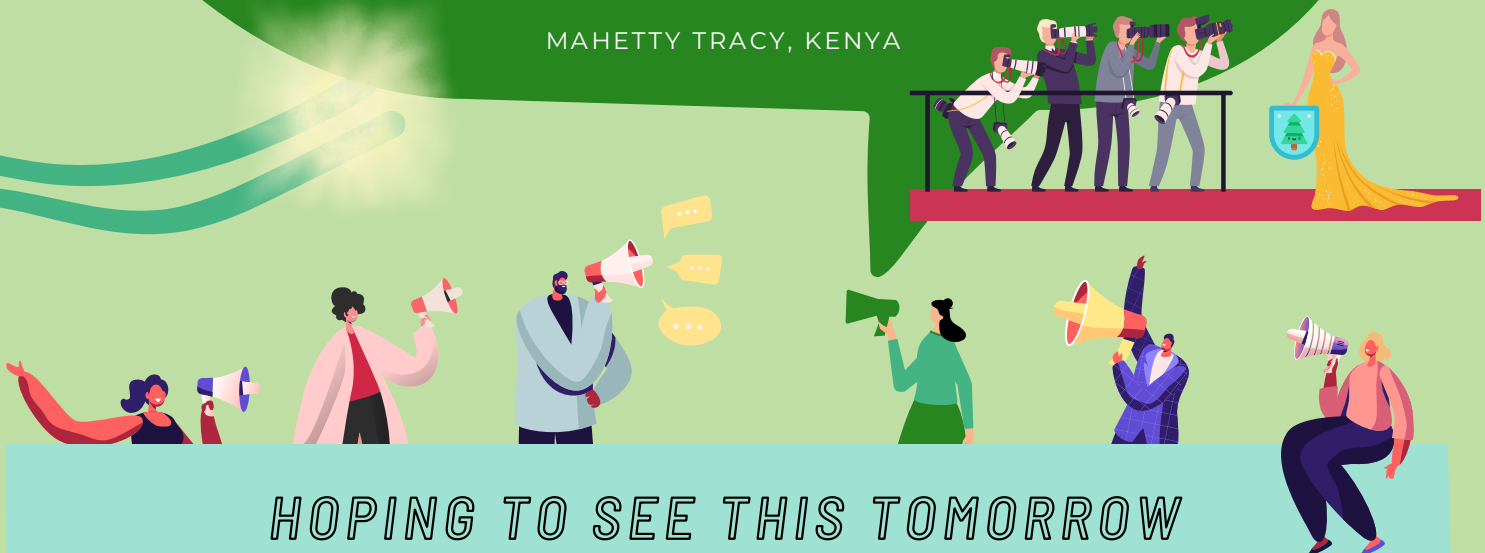
ENVIRONMENTAL CELEBRITY

"IT IS QUITE ADMIRABLE THAT A LOT OF YOUTH ARE INTERESTED IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND TO BE PART OF THE CLIMATE ACTION MOVEMENT AND THE NUMBERS ARE GROWING BY THE DAY. MY ADVICE TO THEM IS THAT THEY NEED TO STEP BACK AND LEARN MORE.

MOST YOUTH HAVE A MASSIVE VOLUME AND THEY WANT TO JOIN IN FROM AN INFLUENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CELEBRITY POINT OF VIEW, RATHER THAN ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT STANDS FOR.

AS YOU REALIZE, WE HAVE COME TO A POINT WHERE THE YOUTH VOICES ARE VERY DEPENDENT UPON BY THE REST OF THE VAULT. HENCE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE THEY GIVE THE FACTS AND UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING BEFORE THEY SET OUT TO BE SOCIAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES."

MAHETTY TRACY, KENYA



HOPING TO SEE THIS TOMORROW

"YOUTH ARE THE BACKBONE OF ANY DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD. WITHOUT US, NOTHING WILL BE ACHIEVED. THAT'S WHY YOU SEE MOST OF THE ACTIVITIES AND MOST OF THE PRESSURE COMING FROM YOUTH ACTIVISTS. WITHOUT YOUTH, THERE IS NO WAY FOR US TO SAY THAT WE ARE GOING TO CHANGE BECAUSE IT'S OUR GENERATION THAT ARE THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW, A SAYING FROM THE ELDEST.

SO TO THIS DATE, WE ARE NOT SEEING THIS HAPPENING TOMORROW, BUT WE ARE STILL HOPING TO SEE THIS TOMORROW,

THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, IS EACH AND EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY WHICH IS A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY. YOU CAN NOT SAY THAT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT CAN COMMIT TO IT, WE THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND WE THE PEOPLE OF THE NATION, WE NEED TO STAND AND THEN SHOW OUR EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE SITUATION."

MUHAMMED MUSA, NIGERIA



THE ATTENTION OF FINANCE POLICYMAKERS

"I FEEL THAT MUCH HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE IN FUNDING CLIMATE ISSUES. IN MY VIEW, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ISSUES THAT AFFECT THEM DIRECTLY SUCH AS HEALTH, FOOD SECURITY, HOUSING, PEACE, STABILITY, SECURITY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT. OVER TIME, THIS FOCUS HAS DIVERTED THE ATTENTION OF FINANCE POLICYMAKERS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE.

I WOULD RECOMMEND MORE PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND INVOLVEMENT OF NGOS IN CLIMATE ISSUES. THROUGH SUCH PARTNERSHIPS AT A GLOBAL LEVEL AND, EVEN AT LOCAL LEVEL, FUNDING FOR CLIMATE WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM."

WAWILA OWEN, KENYA

IT STARTS WITH THE LEADERS

"ONE THING I WOULD LOVE TO PUT ACROSS TO WORLD LEADERS IS THAT CITIZENS BEHAVE IN THE WAY THEY SEE THEIR LEADERS BEHAVING. IF THE LEADERS ARE NOT TAKING ANY ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE, THEN CITIZENS WILL NOT TAKE ANY ACTION EITHER.

IF ALL LEADERS DO IS SIT ON A TABLE, DISCUSS AND LEAVE IT AT THAT, THEN THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT CITIZENS WILL DO AS WELL. IF THE LEADERS JUST SHARE TO THE WORLD "WE DISCUSSED THIS, AND THESE ARE THE THINGS WE COME UP WITH AND THIS IS WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO" AND THEN THEY DON'T DO IT... DEFINITELY THE CITIZENS WILL NOT DO IT EITHER.

SO, IT STARTS WITH THE LEADERS, THE LEADERS SHOULD BE THE FIRST PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION, CITIZENS WILL THEN IMITATE WHAT THEY DO."

NELLY SHALLON, KENYA



ACCOUNTS IN HIGH-LOW- DRY-WET-LANDS

BY RAYAN KASSEM

While most of West Asia's land ecosystems are predominantly deserts, mediterranean forests, grasslands, woodlands and savannas do exist. Marine and freshwater ecosystems rich in mangroves, coral reefs, springs, lakes, mudflats, marshes and seagrass beds compliment the diversity of ecosystems located in the region. At the same time, a differentiation between three climates is found in West Asia. A Mediterranean climate surrounds the Eastern Mediterranean spanning over Lebanon and parts of Syria and Palestine. A semi-arid climate exists in the north eastern parts of Iraq and south west and east of The Arabian Peninsula. The remaining parts of West Asia have desert climates.

The Arabian Peninsula hosts over 58% of endemic vertebrates that are restricted to The Arabian Hotspot Area, compared to a global figure of 42%, and over 77% of these endemic species occur there. The Arabian Hotspot Area is located to the south west of the Arabian Peninsula and includes the mountainous region and coastal areas in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Oman. Two of the 34 global hotspots have parts in the Arabian Hotspot; the Horn of Africa and the Eastern Afromontane. In fact, Western Asia is part of 2 additional global biodiversity hotspots. These include the Iran-Anatolian region with parts in Iraq and the Mediterranean Basin with parts in Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon.

Did you know that...

- 9 out of the 10 most water stressed countries in the world are countries in the MENA (Middle East & North Africa) region.
- If the MENA region faces a 2 °C increase, wildfires will cause the loss of 87% of its forests.
- In June 2021, Kuwait recorded a temperature of 53.2 °C! Oman, the UAE and Saudi Arabia all recorded temperatures over 50°C.
- West Asia is experiencing its most severe drought in 900 years!
- Major changes likely to be faced in West Asia due to climate change include sea level rise, sea temperature rise, increasing water scarcity and groundwater salinity, and desertification



Cover picture unhidden! Panoramic view of the outskirts of Jericho, Palestine, often regarded as the oldest city in the world!

THE MANY SIGHTS OF CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY BY WEST ASIAN YOUTH

BY THE UNIT

At Youth4Nature we aim to mobilise, empower and educate youth to be leaders for climate and for nature. However, there are numerous barriers and challenges in our way, with some too deeply entrenched and dangerous for us to handle as a singular organisation. Still, if we didn't try to address them, we would just be perpetuating the system of ignorance and "easy-ways" we want to transform.

In West Asia particularly, ongoing conflict and displacement interact with climate and environmental change to exacerbate structures of inequality and violence. At the same time, discussions abound in global green spaces about "climate refugees", "natural resource wars", and "floods and storms in refugee camps". While it is much welcome how the links between environmental and social issues are growing stronger, who is actually being represented and heard in these global narratives of highly localised issues?

West Asian voices like those of Arab youth, remain heavily underrepresented in the youth, and wider, climate and biodiversity movements. This prevents youth in the region from fully taking their rightful place in the climate-nature scene. Challenges like "inaccessibility" and "language barriers" could be blamed for this, but a lack of effort, care or consideration from the media and from the movement's side is also to blame.

Recently, a Y4N team member visited a migrant camp in a war-torn country within West Asia to amplify this situation and came back to us with two powerful messages from youth and their communities in the camp.

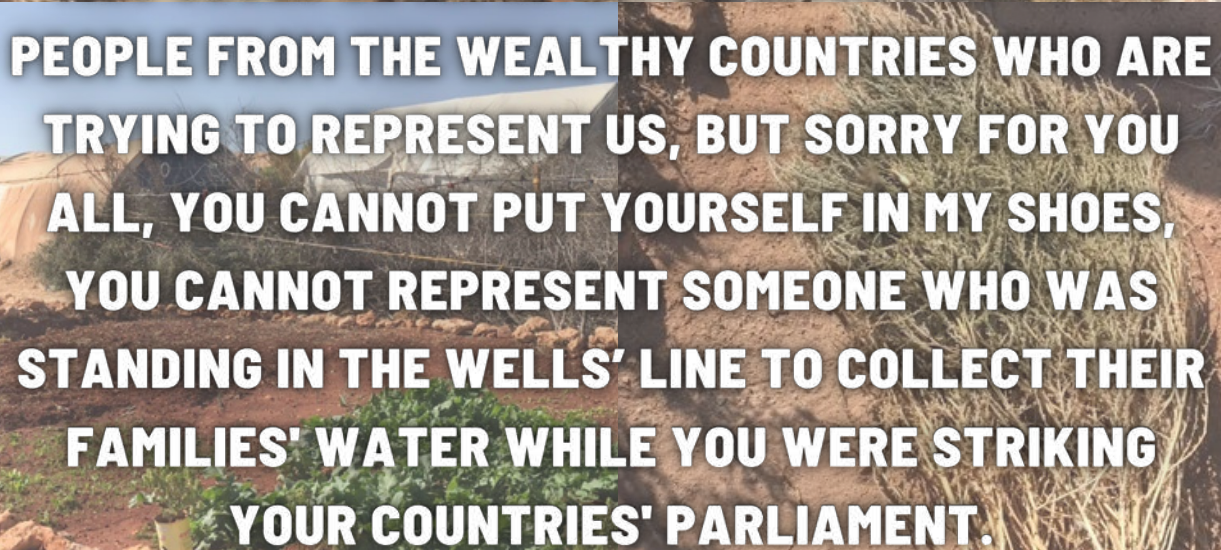
Firstly, displaced and migrant/refugee populations don't necessarily need to be "educated" by outsiders like us to understand the importance and science of climate-nature action. Given the absence of the internet and other technology, residents had built a close relationship with their natural ecosystem, surviving and meeting their basic needs through traditional ecological and community-held knowledge.

Seasonal local-staple agriculture to beat hunger, plant-based equipment to clean tents, fences from mud, straw and limestone to built ventilated & insulated shelters for sheep... Led by women members, these displaced communities have been able to adapt to their difficult conditions and showcase an incredible level of nature-supported resilience.

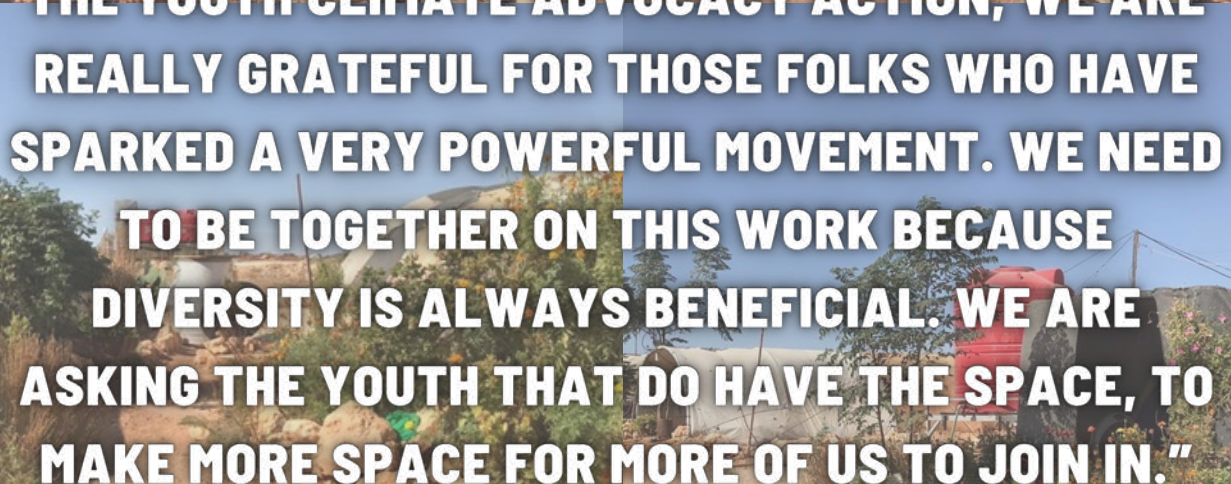
Secondly, the determination displayed by migrants and the displaced should not be taken for granted or romanticised. Youth in the camp remain vocal about the unfair and harsh conditions they experience, particularly those seeking to be adequately listened to and viewed within the climate justice movement. In their own words:



"WE ARE ASKING FOR THE VERY BASICS OF JUSTICE. WE ARE ASKING FOR A MOVEMENT THAT DOES NOT EXCLUDE US. WE ARE ASKING FOR FREE SPACE TO CO-LEAD THIS MOVEMENT FROM - THIS MOVEMENT FOR SAFETY, FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, FOR NATURE AND CLIMATE, FOR OUR FUTURE.



THIS COULD BE AN INTUITIVE RIGHT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE WEALTHY COUNTRIES WHO ARE TRYING TO REPRESENT US, BUT SORRY FOR YOU ALL, YOU CANNOT PUT YOURSELF IN MY SHOES, YOU CANNOT REPRESENT SOMEONE WHO WAS STANDING IN THE WELLS' LINE TO COLLECT THEIR FAMILIES' WATER WHILE YOU WERE STRIKING YOUR COUNTRIES' PARLIAMENT.



WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR MORE DISCRIMINATION IN THE YOUTH CLIMATE ADVOCACY ACTION, WE ARE REALLY GRATEFUL FOR THOSE FOLKS WHO HAVE SPARKED A VERY POWERFUL MOVEMENT. WE NEED TO BE TOGETHER ON THIS WORK BECAUSE DIVERSITY IS ALWAYS BENEFICIAL. WE ARE ASKING THE YOUTH THAT DO HAVE THE SPACE, TO MAKE MORE SPACE FOR MORE OF US TO JOIN IN."

TO READ MORE ABOUT THE INTERNAL-DISPLACED-PEOPLE PERSPECTIVE, VISIT:
WWW.YOUTH4NATURE.ORG/BLOG/FROM-FRONTLINE-FORGOTTEN-COMMUNITIES-TO-THE-WORLD

JOURNEYS OF SAND, GRASS, WATER AND SOIL

BY LEONARD IYAMUREMYE AND IBRAHIM INUSA

TWIN CRISES, TWIN AFRICAN KILLERS

Increasing temperatures and sea levels, changing precipitation patterns and more extreme weather are threatening human health and safety, food and water security and socio-economic development in Africa. So is biodiversity loss and threats to vulnerable flora and fauna species.

Almost half of the population in the South of the Sahara live below the poverty line and depend on weather-sensitive and nature-based activities, such as rain-fed agriculture, herding and fishing, for their livelihoods. Limited financial buffers and low levels of education and health care impede their ability to adapt to the increased vulnerabilities to food insecurity, income losses and unemployment. The climate and ecological crises exacerbate already significant inequalities.

Moreover, climate variability and environmental change, and the exposure and vulnerability of millions of people in Africa, trigger migration, displacement and safety-related needs. Refugees and internally displaced people in Africa often reside in climate hotspots, where they are particularly exposed to, and affected by, slow- and sudden-onset hazards, thus increasing their risk of secondary displacement and/or preventing their opportunity for return.

At the same time, some of the conflict hotspots are places abundant in biodiversity and gifts from natural ecosystems that support all life, even beyond Africa's borders. Although most disaster- and environmental-related displacement in Africa is internal, displacement across borders, which may be interrelated with situations of conflict or violence, also occurs, with climate change and biodiversity loss acting as threats multipliers.

Did you know that in Africa...

- The major climates are tropical, arid and temperate, with significant regional differences.
- There are 1/4 of the world's biodiversity hotspots
- Glaciers are present, found in East Africa, including Rwenzori Mountains, Mount Kilimanjaro, and Mount Kenya. However, these are in retreat at a rapid rate, both in terms of number and area of coverage
- Only 2-3% of energy and industry CO₂ emissions come from the African continent as a whole, with a per capita rate well below the global average.



YOUTH WEAVING STORIES OF CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY SPACES

On the edge of the Sahara, at the frontline of desertification, desert encroachment and drought that leads to severe child hunger and malnutrition, young people gathered on the 14th of November 2021. Why? To discuss the matter and design some solutions to restore their dying landscapes through telling the world their stories around vulnerability to these negative impacts. In particular, the focus was on how the climate and ecological crises affect them and their various communities, considering proper coping capacities within Yobe State at Northeastern Nigeria, where deserts have been claiming territories, capturing farmlands, and displacing communities from their fatherland.

The workshop was organized and convened by Ibrahim Inusa, Youth4Nature's Global Ambassador and Founder of Nature Conservation Advocates for Climate Initiative (NCACI). In attendance were young leaders, professionals and experts in the field of nature and environmental conservation with a diverse range of speakers across different disciplines. The 30 participants activated for climate action in the state were drawn mostly from Yobe State University Damaturu to equip them to tell their story around the nature and climate nexus, and how it affects their future.



DYK? DOLPHINS 'CALL EACH OTHER BY NAME!

BY LEONARD IYAMUREMYE

Scientists have found further evidence that dolphins call each other by "name".



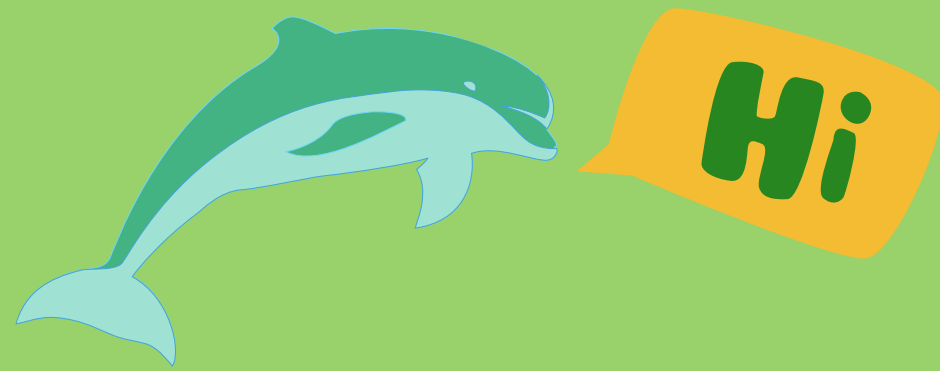
Research has revealed that the marine mammals use a unique whistle to identify each other. A team from the University of St Andrews in Scotland found that when the animals hear their own call played back to them, they respond

The study is published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr Vincent Janik, from the university's Sea Mammal Research Unit, said: " (Dolphins) live in this three-dimensional environment, offshore without any kind of landmarks and they need to stay together as a group." "These animals live in an environment where they need a very efficient system to stay in touch."

It has been long suspected that dolphins use distinctive whistles in much the same way that humans use names. Previous research found that these calls were used frequently, and dolphins in the same groups were able to learn and copy the unusual sounds. But this is the first time that the animals' response to being addressed by their "name" has been studied.

To investigate, researchers recorded a group of wild bottlenose dolphins, capturing each animal's signature sound. They then played these calls back using underwater speakers. "We played signature whistles of animals in the group, we also played other whistles in their repertoire and then signature whistles of different populations - animals they had never seen in their lives," explained Dr Janik. The researchers found that individuals only responded to their own calls, by sounding their whistle back.

The team believes the dolphins are acting like humans: when they hear their name, they answer. He said: "Most of the time they can't see each other, they can't use smell underwater, which is a very important sense in mammals for recognition, and they also don't tend to hang out in one spot, so they don't have nests or burrows that they return to." Dr Janik said that understanding how this skill evolved in parallel in very different groups of animals could tell us more about how communication developed in humans.



UNSILENCING SILENT STORIES: MATCH THE COP26 PICTURE WITH ITS CAPTION!



"See you in 2022!"



"Dancing after the storm passes... Or calms down. Might as well?"



"Basically that was all some of them had to give... The bare minimum."



"So true, but it hurt. One for "things NGOs say" on Twitter."



"Climate activism often feels like the three of them, at times like the corner one. Changes fast, really."



BECOME A Y4N GLOBAL AMBASSADOR FOR STORYTELLING

What you need:

- Enthusiasm for learning and contributing!
- Time (as much/as little as you can!)
- Being up to 35 years old

What we need:

- More members from the Pacific, the Caribbean, South America, Asia, North Africa and Europe.
- More girls/women and/or non-binary people.

If interested, reach out to our Storytelling Director at storytelling@youth4nature.org. Applications open in January 2022.

#YSOF II & III

END OF 2021'S CLICKS & BEATZ