

Vol. #YourStoryOurFuture
ISSUE 4, April 2022

A **Storytelling** Magazine

PolleNectar

Buzzing Climate Clicks & Biodiversity Beatz

GLOBE IN A HONEYSPHOON

Plural Narratives Across a Plural America:
Gazing Borders of Climate-Nature Injustice
in Turtle Island and Abya Yala

(Cover picture: Douglas Fir Tree, Across from the Copeland
Islands, Thulin Passage, British Columbia, Canada
By Kaitlin Grierson & Lauren Grierson, 2019 Y4N Storytellers)

SPECIAL CALLS WINNERS FEATURETTE

Find out how to check the stories of the winners of our #YourStoryOurFuture Special Calls, and learn more about our youngest climate-nature leaders!

What is this background photo all about? Check p. 8 to find out!



MEET OUR TEAM:
Curious about the faces and people behind the storytelling content you come across? Get to know them in their own words!



ALSO...

- >> A Quick Guide to Compositing
- >> Y4N's 2021 Achievements
- >> and more!

Images from 2019-2021 Y4N stories: "The Charles Darwin of the Playground" (top right), "Feeding the Earth" (top left), "Good Actions from Paraguay" (bottom left), "Mujeres Yucatecas por la Defensa del Territorio" (bottom right). All found at full length at: <https://bit.ly/3MBVWBZ>



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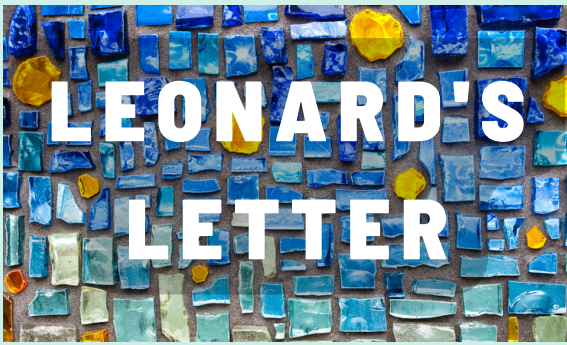
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Y4N's 2020-2021 achievements are fresh from the oven and all at a click away!

#YSOF IV
APRIL'S CLICKS & BEATZ



Fact #1. Horticulture is my habit.



I would never feel youthhood like I do without Y4N... Because I joined true people here, I have so many stories to tell... Among them is one about how you can not separate youth, climate, nature and stories just as you can't have a lock without a key. That's why I'm proud of how throughout 2021, we have significantly scaled up our work at the Storytelling Unit, more than doubling the number of young people whose stories and messages we are amplifying, diversifying the ways we showcase youth work, and directly supporting youth to scale-up their work on the ground.

Fact #2. I studied wildlife conservation and trained on environmental protection; these made me achieve my goal of becoming an environmentalist.

Joining Y4N has shown me that supporting youth-led work is critical. I realised that we young people could be frontline actors to tackle climate change and nature issues. I found a movement that is actively building a space where young people, all over the world, have agency over the joint climate-biodiversity crises that were not created by us, but are and will be felt by us, hence must be addressed by us.

Above all, at Y4N I love learning, having fun, reading stories, and collaborating. In fact, to me Y4N is more than a learning and working space: it is a source of love to be considered family as well. And today I want to extend that love to all of you. Since our first launch, we sincerely thank you from our inner heart because you have been a good reader and Y4N Storytelling soulmate. To be honest, without you, we couldn't move forward and our work would be meaningless. What a joy to share with you our fourth issue, and receive once again your attention and feedback. We hope that your contribution and engagement can plug us into the power of change even further.

Sincerely receive our love,

Leonard Iyamuremye, Global Ambassador at Y4N



STORYTELLING GAs: OUR SUSTAINING TRUNK

BY ORIENY JAPHETH

"The water to our seeds, the nutrients to our roots, the sun to our leaves, the bees to our fruits. That's who Y4N's Global Ambassadors (GAs) are, and every day I count my lucky stars for the possibility of remote working within such a dedicated and dynamic group of youth! There is no Storytelling Programme without them, and that's a story that also deserves to be told."

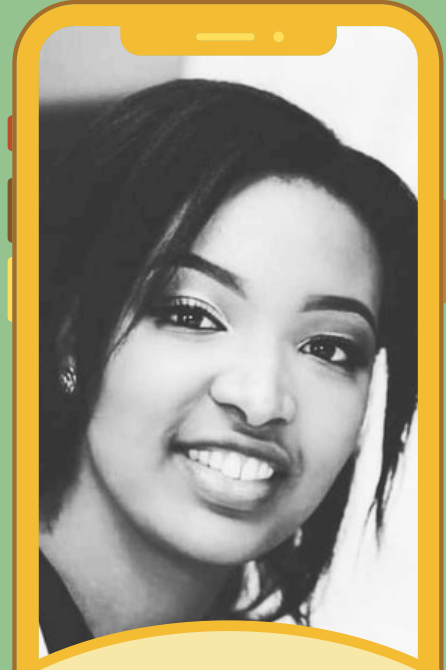
EMILY BOHOB0 N'DOMBAXE DOLA, STORYTELLING DIRECTOR



@Orieny | Africa Region

"Everything comes in time to him knows how to wait. But believe me, my dear boy, there is nothing stronger than those two: patience and time; they will do it all. - Leo Tolstoy"

#WordsOfWisdom #FaveQuote



@Abby | Africa Region

Love my dog - I stayed with her for 15 years and passed on in 2020 October at the age of 15 (not "dogs", there is a difference). I am 5.7, which is apparently tall in East Africa. One day I plan to climb Mt.Kenya & Kilimanjaro!
#IceBroken

@Yazan | West Asia Region

"Yazan is much younger in real life than he is in the ID card; he couldn't enjoy his childhood during the war in his country, so he is discovering it now."

#ReadMore

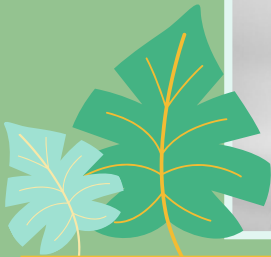
<https://allaboutyazan.y4n/>





@Cesar | Latin America & the Caribbean Region

#AboutMe
Sometimes I'm a biologist, sometimes an artist and sometimes a writer, but I am always a gardener.



@Tomiwa | Africa Region

#DYK The globe is home to over 70,000 tree species, around one-third (>30%) of which are at risk of extinction. As the saying goes, the last man dies when the last tree dies. #NatureIsLife

@Odhiambo | Africa Region

#ICYM "Our planet's alarm is going off, and it is time to wake up and take action!"
- Leonardo DiCaprio" #DailyTruths
#ListenToUs



@Bulimo | Africa Region

It's by doing lots of different things, with lots of different people, in lots of different ways, that we achieve what we envision.
#DailyInspo





@Leonard | Africa Region

Raised loving nature and exploring its beauty in the country of thousands of hills.
#HelloWorld #PositiveVibes

@Zakira | Asia & the Pacific Region

Eventually, everything connects!
#TrustTheProcess



@Ibrahim | Africa Region

I'm a village boy from the deserts and I believe in allowing natural cause to lead me on my chosen path.
#ThoughtLeadership

@Joshua | Africa Region

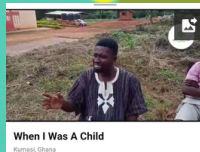
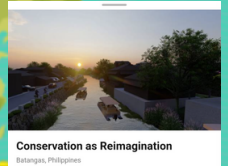
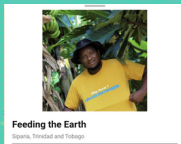
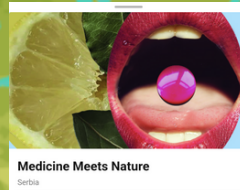
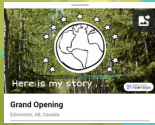
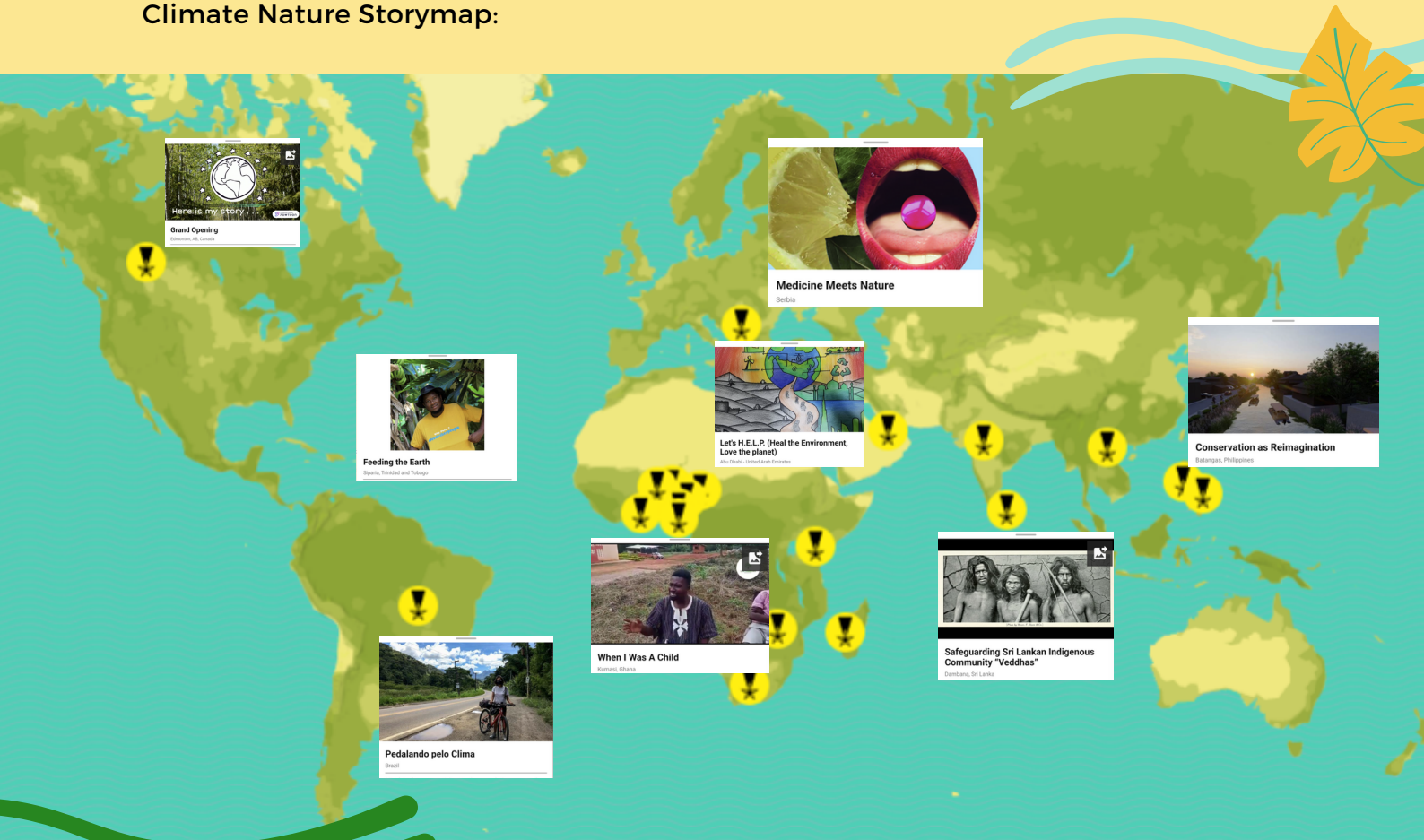
If I ever were to choose where to spend eternity, I wouldn't have a second option to the wild, with nature. World Wildlife Day is my birthday (literally). #BornForThis



#YOURSTORYYOURFUTURE WINNERS FEATURETTE

BY ODHIAMBO RONALD & PETER BULIMO

Throughout 2021 our storytelling campaign received inspiring stories from young people around the world. A variety of competitions helped us discover youth through the lenses of resilience, passion and innovation, covering themes like gender and women's rights, cultural and social diversity, vulnerability and risk, production and consumption, and governance and knowledge. We are happy to now feature 22 prize-winning stories in a special category within our Glocal Climate Nature Storymap:



Check All of Our
Winning Stories:
<https://bit.ly/37sIojD>



WINNERS SPOTLIGHT: OUR YOUNGEST STORYTELLING LEADERS!

Sainath Manikandhan and Sai Sahana Manikandhan are siblings and young environmentalists of the Papers, E-wastes, Plastics, and Cans (PEPC) campaign. Sainath is a Grade 9 student while his sister Sai is in Grade 7, both of GEMS United Indian School in Abu Dhabi.

As young environmentalists, Sainath and Sai support numerous environmental groups, including Drop It Youth (DIY), Tunza Eco Generation, and Emirates Environmental Group-to mention a few. Their main aim is to raise environmental awareness about single-use plastics and encourage individuals and organizations to reduce their CO2 emissions through simple everyday choices.

Their PEPC campaign directly addresses the problem of plastic pollution by encouraging recycling and alternatives to put to an end the dominance of single-use plastics. The duo strongly believes in the potential of technology to develop greener and more sustainable solutions to the plastic problem.



They inform their action through awareness and sensitization campaigns and workshops, pep talks, as well as fun articles and columns in the dailies. They also continue to leverage social media through art and keyboard plays to ensure their messages reach their target audiences.

Part of their propositions to reduce plastic pollution in their messaging includes; the need for individuals to carry refillable water bottles, reuse plastic food packaging, adopt reusable and biodegradable carrier bags, spare use of water and electricity, and the planting of more trees.

They believe the plastic menace is significantly intertwined with other global challenges of our time, including climate change and biodiversity loss, and call for a redefined synergy to pursue a collective solution.





Future of Sustainability

GRATEFUL TO...

IT'S
TIME
FOR
NATURE

Artwork from "Let's H.E.L.P. (Heal the Environment, Love the planet)" by Sainath Manikandan and Sai Sahana Manikanda, 2021 Y4N Storytellers. Check their full story at: www.youth4nature.org/stories/help

Sainath Manikandan -881-

PLURAL NARRATIVES ACROSS A PLURAL AMERICA

BY AIITA JOSHUA APAMAKU & CESAR MONTES FIGUEROA

Known in some places as two separate continents (North & South), and in various others as a singular one (America), the land and ocean which occupies most of the Western Hemisphere is home to the most ancient cultures and richest ecosystems on Earth.

First up is the varsity of North America's landscapes, known by some communities native to the region as Turtle Island. From tropical rainforests to open savannahs, to highlands and valleys, to the bottom of the lakes and gently flowing rivers, to the stretches of drylands; all these can be found in the region with a varsity of aquatic, grassland, forest, desert, and tundra communities.

Down from the islandy middle to the peaky end is the even more varied Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Commonly named and referred to by various of its indigenous peoples as 'Abya Yala', LAC has some of the most species-rich habitats on Earth, such as lowlands forests, tropical forests, savannahs, grasslands, xeric communities, mangroves and wetlands.

The subregion of Central America, only 0.5% of the world's landmass, has 10% of all of its biodiversity. 40% of the plants found in the Caribbean Islands are found nowhere else on Earth, making it a hotspot for endemism. Such abundance can also



Cover picture unhidden! The Great Maya Reef, also known as the Mesoamerican Reef. It is the largest coral reef in the Atlantic Ocean and can be found along the coasts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.

Especially in a world full of so many different cultures, we can bounce ideas off each other based on our respective cultural and economic backgrounds to think of ways to improve existing solutions in one area of the world or even create universal solutions. However, just like how New York City has historically discriminated against minorities by putting landfills near their neighborhoods, we must deal with regional racial and environmental disparities on an individual basis.

From "Introducing Next Generation Diplomacy", by 2021 Storyteller Ethan Chiu (U.S.A)

“ I've been through a bush fire and I've seen when rivers burst their banks to make roads impassable cutting off people and leaving communities stranded in terrible situations. I've also witnessed, with the scarcity of resources, communities come together to clear, repair and rebuild when we know the government isn't coming and the only way is to work with your neighbour. ”

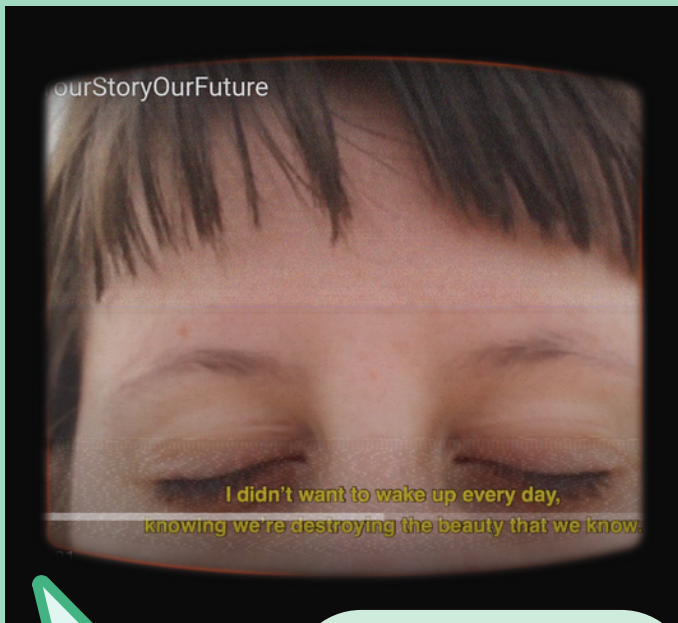
From "Chandelle and Fondes Amandes", by 2021 Storyteller Chandelle O'Neil (Trinidad and Tobago)

be found in its seas, which are home to the Mesoamerican Reef, the largest coral barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere. And, down in South America, you can find four of the world's ten most biodiverse countries – Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru –, and the home of the world's most biodiverse habitat, the Amazon rainforest.

All in all, America is one of the most endowed landmasses in terms of natural wealth critical for the global climate regulation system, particularly its tropical forests in LAC representing ¼ of all of their kind on the planet. Unfortunately, today its ecosystems are generally in worse shape than in previous decades.

Did you know that...

- Only 10% of the original Atlantic coastal forest ecosystems of tropical South America remain.
- North America has four major deserts: Great Basin, Mohave, Chihuahuan and Sonoran. All but the Sonoran Desert have cold winters.
- The high-altitude Polylepis forests In the Andes hold some of the most threatened Neotropical vegetation and biodiversity on Earth.
- 55% of the LAC's entire mangrove coastline is now classified as in critical or endangered status.
- Scientists are now using "aridification" to refer to ongoing record-level trends of desertification, drought, fires and freshwater-ecosystem loss across Western North America.
- Average coral cover in the Caribbean declined from 34.8 per cent in 1970 to 16.3 per cent in 2011 for 88 sample points.



From "Puzzled", by 2021 Storytellers Clara Botto, Lorena Germano and Priscila Gouvas (Brazil)

“ Isn't it insane to think that the climate crisis can even take quiet afternoons in the park from us? That in a few years the sea level can rise and leave Rio de Janeiro submerged, without beaches? Isn't it insane to think that there are people who don't seem to care about where things are heading to? Why "fight for" the environment? The very idea of "advocating for" the environment shows our disconnection with life. Because we are the environment. ”

GAZING BORDERS OF CLIMATE-NATURE INJUSTICE IN TURTLE ISLAND & ABYA YALA

BY CESAR MONTES FIGUEROA & EMILY BOHOBO N'DOMBAXE DOLA

It is estimated that since 1970, North America (NA) has lost $\frac{1}{3}$ of its biodiversity. Even in spite of areas like LAC protecting close to $\frac{1}{4}$ of its land and $\frac{1}{5}$ of its marine areas, there has been considerable loss of some habitats across the American (dual)continent due to fires, expansion of industrial agriculture, and use of pasture for livestock. On the climate side, as of 2020, NA's largest reserve of fresh water, the Great Lakes, is at a historically low level. 2020 was also among the three warmest years in Central America & the Caribbean, and the 2nd warmest in South America.

With 27% of LAC and 20%-40% of NA populations living in coastal areas, many are at risk of being affected by coastal hazards, with Southern NA and islander LAC communities already suffering devastating seasons of storms and hurricanes. And the slow-onset melting of Andean glaciers and changes in rainfall patterns in the Amazon basin may have massive effects on the region's ecosystems and nature-reliant food systems, from production to consumption.

Although America contains high-emitting & high-consumption countries like the United States, held accountable for their leading role (or lack of thereof) in global governance, climate and environmental injustice permeate the continent. Histories of colonialism and slavery uphold NA and LAC reliance on extractive & expansive activities that harm nature and the atmosphere. The effects of these then disproportionately impact the livelihoods, neighborhoods/territories and ways of living of indigenous, Afro-descendent, working-class, & migrant-worker communities, who rely on nature, and on whom nature relies, to survive and thrive.

All in all, the region's resilience – its capacity to adapt and sustain external shocks – is continually reduced by the twin environmental crisis. Key ecosystems are close to systemic failure, threatening people's well-being, the countries' potential for adaptation to climate change and, ultimately, a sustainable future. Fortunately, the future can still be bright. Youth in both NA and LAC have long awoken to their reality and are taking action accordingly, just as elders and ancestors have done for generations within various indigenous and frontline communities.

“ Our territory is the water, the soil, the mountain, every tree and living being that lives there. Our territory is also a witness and cradle of our identity, of our collective memory...
Our movement is based on ecofeminism because we know that exploiting our territories is exploiting ourselves...
It is the territory where I laugh, sing and dance. That is my territory where I cried, screamed and resisted. It is in my territory where I learn, grow and share. ”

From "Mujeres Yucatecas por la Defensa del Territorio", by 2021 Storytellers Colectiva Igualdad Sustantiva Yucatán (Mexico)



comparto promoveremos
provocaremos

WHAT BELONGS TO THE EARTH, SHOULD RETURN TO IT: A QUICK GUIDE TO HOME COMPOSTING

BY AHMAD YAZAN MIRI

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): “An estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted globally each year, one-third of all food produced for human consumption”. So, what we can do about it? Composting can be part of the solution!

Spring is here again in much of the Northern Hemisphere, we can try to make some joy in our backyard by turning our food leftovers into valuable materials that I call “The black gold”. The world starts shining when we stop blaming others and start doing the small-scale activities that bring joyfulness with value to our life, as well as a big positive impact to solve a lot of crises that our world is suffering from. So, let's try to understand the basics of this family-friendly activity step by step:

1

Look after your personal hygiene: Dealing with organic waste without further preparation can lead to skin infections and respiratory diseases in the long run. So you should wear a pair of gardening gloves and a face cover, and try to avoid touching the waste with your hands.

2

Collect the compostable materials: the to-be-wasted food that we can compost include fruits and vegetables, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, teabags and nutshells. It is also possible to add other items like shredded newspaper, cardboard, grass clippings and houseplants. Our advice is to place the collected materials in a cold, dry and shaded place.

3

Layer up the materials: starting with the thickest and biggest things first, set up 10-centimeter layers. The recommended process is 1) brown shaped dry materials >> 2) moisturize them a bit >> 3) green shaped more moisty materials >> 4) a bit of organic fertilizer or dirt >> 5) repeat the loop >> and 6) try to give it a hierarchy shape. Your composting pile is ready!

4

Check the moisture of the pile every once in a while: make sure that if you test and handle it with your hand a few drops of liquid will fall. If not, hydrate it more and turn it to give it a breath.

5

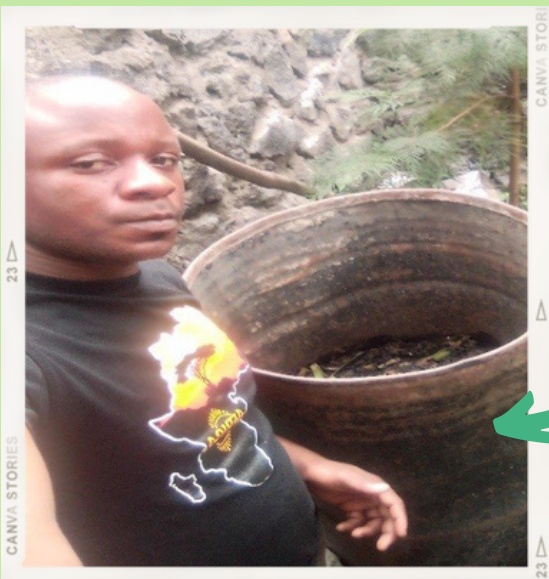
Turn your composting pile regularly: you should do it every week in the summer and twice a month in the winter.

6

Lastly, wait for a ready compost to use: it will smell like the soil, have a colour between black and brown, and will no longer create heat.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a composting method known as "vermicomposting" through which worms are used to facilitate the materials' breakdown process! 2021 Storyteller Muleghesania Nzanzu Rodrigue told us all about it in his story: youth4nature.org/stories/lombricompostage





IMPACT REPORT

2021

Learn more about what the Y4N team got up to in 2021 in our recently released 2021 Impact Report.



More available at www.youth4nature.org



our impact.

87% Team members who believe their work at Y4N has enabled them to contribute to positive change

100% Team members who learned something new about climate or nature, & a new skill at Y4N

30 partnerships created for short, medium & long-term projects

+30 events & online activities were executed

+20 webinars & workshops we led/hosted

+500 youth engaged with our online activities

42% **+70** published blogs

78% of social media audience is under 35yrs old

85%

303%

GROWTH IN FOLLOWERS FROM 2020



We have empowered regional voices, added ourselves to global delegations, increased our capacity to support more youth, have become known within the space we revolve around and gathered youth momentum on what we believe is necessary for the climate!

Y4N made me realise that my voice can be heard and can contribute to positive change. I'm learning about regional and international events and initiatives and trying to localise them to work on local systemic change

case studies GLOBAL AND REGIONAL continued on following pages

For more information on all projects, events & activities - visit youth4nature.org