



# IMPACT REPORT

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# letter from our team.

Despite being a (second) pandemic year, the Youth4Nature team has been keeping busy. 2021 was a year of exploration. With a now 12-person strong staff team, over 30 Global Ambassadors, and a new intergenerational, 7-person Board of Directors, we leveraged the foundations we have been building since launching in 2019 to pilot new projects, try new campaigns, and test out new ideas to **support youth and deliver much-needed action for nature and climate.**

Both nature and youth have dramatically risen in prominence over the last three years, and Youth4Nature has been at the forefront of this shift. We've been able to strategically and intentionally establish ourselves as one of the only global, youth-led organisations working directly at the intersection of nature and climate at this scale, while centring youth and justice. And while the increasing popularity of nature and youth bring new concerns of greenwashing, youthwashing, tokenism, co-option, and injustice, we are directly addressing disempowerment and extractive relationships **by tangibly recognising and supporting youth as leaders in our own rights.** For example, in 2021, Youth4Nature became not only a grant-seeking organisation, but also a grant-maker, delivering financial support and seed-funding grants to youth within and outside our team. Improving youth access to financial support will continue to be a primary goal of ours moving forward.

Most of all, in 2021 we grew partnerships and worked side-by-side with other youth-led groups. The isolation of the ongoing pandemic has been a deep and critical reminder of the importance of collaboration.

**We refuse to fall prey to false narratives of scarcity that pressure young people to compete, rather than work collectively.**

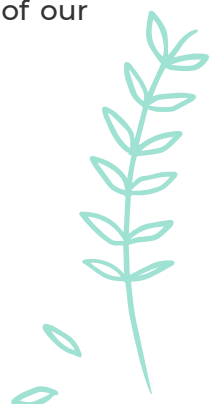
At Youth4Nature, we are **bridging movements across scales**, whether it's delivering storytelling workshops with youth in Nigeria, connecting climate justice organisations across West Asia, or co-developing the first-ever Global Youth Position Statement on Nature-based Solutions with the two largest youth-led nature and climate networks in the world.

This is why supporting youth-led work is so critical. We are actively building a space where young people, all over the world, have agency over the joint climate-biodiversity crisis that was not created by us, **but is and will be felt and addressed by us.** Where we have autonomy over our work, and can build a space that puts people above all else. With our horizontal organisational structure, that is grounded in intersectional, multidisciplinary practices and transversal knowledge, we are nimble and adaptable, all while keeping our values front and centre.

We invite you to reflect on 2021 with us. To step into our world(s). To learn with us and to listen to us. There is so much knowledge sharing to do, so much capacity building needed, and so many stories to amplify.

**We will not back down to the crises of our time. We are only getting started.**

With love and solidarity,  
The **Youth4Nature** Team





# our story so far.

Youth4Nature is addressing the challenges of **resources, capacity, knowledge & access** that prevent youth from leading on solutions in the nature-climate nexus. We do this by **educating, equipping, and establishing** youth to be the leaders we know we already are, for nature and for climate, on all levels: from local to global. This is our [mission](#).

## Our Theory of Change

Youth bear the burden of our intersecting planetary crises - climate, nature, social inequity. And our engagement is necessary for transformative change. Yet we are often excluded from decision-making processes that have a profound influence on our present and our future. By resourcing youth **ambition** and directing the **moral authority** that youth hold, we can **influence key climate-nature decisions** that will determine the shape of our **collective futures**.

When youth are provided with **opportunities** to develop their capabilities & knowledge on the nature-climate nexus; when we are given a **space** to meaningfully engage and share our stories and actions; and when our voices are **valued** in decision-making spaces as leaders within our local communities and on a global stage, the world is given a chance to fundamentally reimagine what a green, regenerative, sustainable and inclusive future might look like.

In other words: when we provide resources, capacity, knowledge, and access, youth are able to lead on solutions that create real and tangible impact for nature and climate. This is [how we create change](#).



# how we work.

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## Pillars

We work at a multi-scalar level with a variety of partners and stakeholders, from grassroots movements and community groups to international NGOs and institutions. Above all, we prioritise working with youth.

Our work falls within three pillars:

- **Knowledge-sharing:** We connect young people with scientists, experts, and knowledge-holders to build a strong knowledge-base among young people globally. Our by-youth, for-youth knowledge sharing creates space for young leaders to exchange information, ideas and hope, supporting a more diversified understanding of the nature-climate nexus.
- **Storytelling:** provide purpose, skills and platform for youth from all corners of the world to tell their stories about climate-nature issues and solutions, have their voices be heard, and be supported in their on-the-ground efforts.
- **Capacity-building:** We aim to grow the capacity of youth to advocate for solutions rooted in nature and justice and be involved in their planning and implementation. Through global youth delegations and on the ground support, we help to equip young leaders with the practical skills, capabilities, and training, as well as providing access to a network of other youth and resources that they need to be leaders for climate & nature within our local communities & on a global stage.

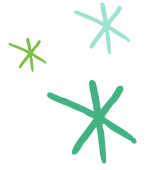
## Focus Area

While Y4N used to focus on Nature-based Solutions, today our work focuses specifically within the climate-nature nexus. Though certain activities might be more predominantly climate or nature focused, we **always** ensure we make the connection between the two. This is our systems thinking in practice.

## The End Goal

When we are successful - when we address the challenges of resources, capacity, knowledge & access by educating, equipping, and establishing youth as nature-climate leaders - we will build a world where communities thrive with nature across generations. This is our vision.

# 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

*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*



**+70** published blogs  
**80%** of social media audience is under 35yrs old

GROWTH IN FOLLOWERS FROM 2020

**case studies** GLOBAL AND REGIONAL continued on following pages



For more information on all projects, events & activities - visit [youth4nature.org](http://youth4nature.org).

GLOBAL

# capacity-building.



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

## our key COP26 message

Solutions to the intersectional crises of our time lay before us: with youth, with Indigenous and front-line communities, with nature, and with accountability.

## COP26

- Y4N's Global Youth Delegation to COP26 was our biggest event ever, and our first hybrid delegation, with digital and on-ground teams. It was also the first time that many of our team members met in person, after working together for over a year!
- Our delegates were featured on live broadcast news (SkyNews), and in major Canadian and European media outlets: CBC, Euronews, France23, RTE News.



**100k**  
online reach

**+23**  
speaking sessions

**5**  
events

**+14**  
interviews



- The on-ground delegation included 15 youth from 13 countries (representing all our six regions): Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Brazil, Finland, Spain, Japan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, United Kingdom, and Canada.



*We navigated major access issues, which took up a significant amount of capacity: access issues and complications with visas, flights, access to vaccines, experience with youthwashing, racism, sexism, islamophobia, transphobia, homophobia, and more. But, we made sure to centre solidarity and care into our delegation in response to this.*



*Small but monumental changes happened this year at COP26, with synergies between the work we do at Y4N & my time spent with Indigenous Climate Action showing that our youth generation will create change that ensures Indigenous Rights & People are at the forefront of climate policies*

GLOBAL

# capacity-building.



## GLOBAL AMBASSADOR SUPPORT FUND

Considering the intergenerational inequalities and extractive relationships youth experience in the mainstream climate-nature architecture, it is vital for us to tangibly recognise and support young people driving our work, from internet connectivity and well-being support, to virtual and on-the-ground mobilisation expenses. With this in mind, this year we launched the Global Ambassadors Support Fund: an internal fund set up to support our volunteers.



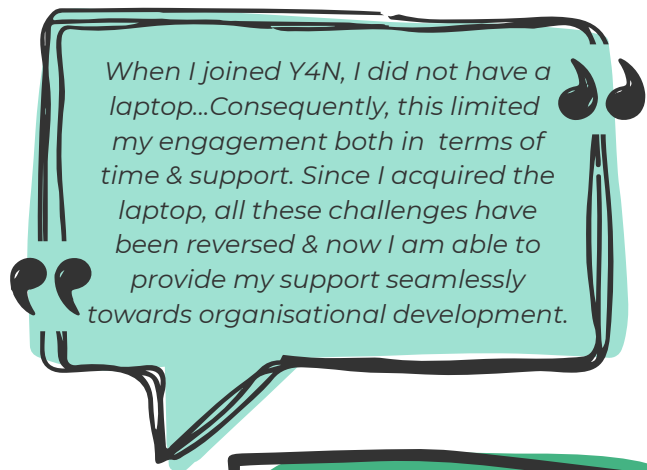
We designed this innovative and flexible internal fund as a key component of core operations, with sub-funds for specific programmes and projects, including:

- Supporting team-members to attend COP 26 that face unique and challenging barriers to participating in global environmental spaces.
- Supporting the volunteers that make up the Storytelling Programme Unit, without whom all this work wouldn't run!



### Our Impact

*The Global Ambassadors Support Fund is directly creating opportunities for young people, all while building our own capacities and creating a community of care and solidarity within our organisation.*



*When I joined Y4N, I did not have a laptop...Consequently, this limited my engagement both in terms of time & support. Since I acquired the laptop, all these challenges have been reversed & now I am able to provide my support seamlessly towards organisational development.*



**+US\$10K**  
funds delivered

**80%**  
of funds to  
Global South



*Y4N is committed to ensure that GAs are professionally equipped, in their personal capacities to fit within the diverse labour market well beyond their role in the organisation. I think this is uniquely amazing and selfless of the organisation.*



# knowledge-sharing.



## NBS GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT

The Nature-based Solutions (NbS) discussion is lacking a united youth voice that clearly outlines how the global youth community understands NbS, and what is and isn't acceptable, within NbS approaches in policy and on-the-ground. In a first-of-its-kind coalition bridging the youth biodiversity and climate movements, and with leadership from our Policy Taskforce, we collaborated with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) and YOUNGO to fix this.



### The Project:

1. Publish an accessible and informative NbS information brief
  - Co-developed an information brief with GYBN and YOUNGO to inform youth on the NbS discussion and debate
  - Released the brief during the IUCN Global Youth Summit during an intergenerational event featuring NbS experts on all sides of the conversation
2. Lead a multilingual, global youth consultation
  - Published a consultative survey in English, French and Spanish to gather the ideas, perspectives, and understandings of youth on NbS
  - Received over 1000 responses from youth representing 180 countries
3. Co-develop the first Global Youth Position Statement on NbS
  - Crafted a Global Youth Position Statement based on the consultation results
  - Launched at COP26 during a hybrid event, with in-person & digital participation

**The Result?** An accessible and inclusive resource to support youth in their advocacy efforts globally so we can redirect the NbS narrative towards justice. We are already planning the next phase, so stay tuned for more!

## Key messages

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Practices are not new              | Ecosystem integrity and functions                |
| Vulnerability to greenwashing      | Legally agreed framework for both CBD and UNFCCC |
| Decarbonization remains crucial    | Strict binding safeguards and guidelines         |
| Biodiversity is not a side benefit | Calling out false solutions                      |



# knowledge-sharing.



## NBS AROUND THE WORLD SERIES

- The Education Taskforce hosted a series to spotlight youth speakers from Uganda and the USA
- The series platformed diverse youth perspectives within the nature-climate nexus, exploring topics such as urban organic gardening, food security, and climate mitigation and adaptation



## NATURE, CLIMATE & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WITHIN THE PRIVATE SECTOR: AT THE IUCN GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

- The Private Sector Taskforce hosted two roundtable sessions at the IUCN Global Youth Summit with diverse and intergenerational speakers: The first roundtable focused on the private sector’s engagement with sustainability, including in energy, human rights, and ecology. The second roundtable focused on the role that youth can play in the private sector, and how the private sector can better engage with young people in their decision-making processes.

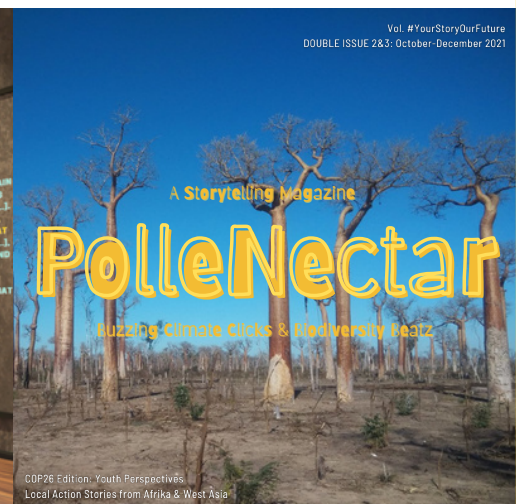
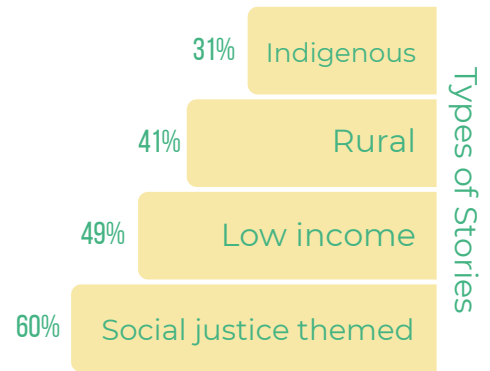


# storytelling.



Storytelling is not only a key pillar at Y4N, it's also our flagship programme. In 2021, we significantly scaled this work up. We more than doubled the number of young people whose stories and messages we are amplifying, diversified the ways we showcase youth work, in addition to directly supporting youth to scale-up their work on the ground.

- Upgrading our **digital storymap**, transforming it into an engaging, interactive platform that allows users to sort through and discover stories
- Wrapping up our **Your Story Our Future** campaign, featuring over **130 new stories** in the **6 working languages** of the campaign
- Soft-launching the **Global Storyteller Community** in December at COP26 by funding six storytellers from across Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America to engage in international environmental governance.
- Supporting our first **on-the-ground and in-person storytelling workshops**, which took place in Nigeria, Kenya, and the UK
- Exploring new, innovative ways of communicating and showcasing stories, including:
  - Publishing **two issues of PolleNectar**, our storytelling magazine!
  - Launching a **Virtual Storytelling Exhibition**, an interactive and multimedia digital platform that utilised immersive and engaging technology to showcase stories, and the calls to action they inspire



GLOBAL

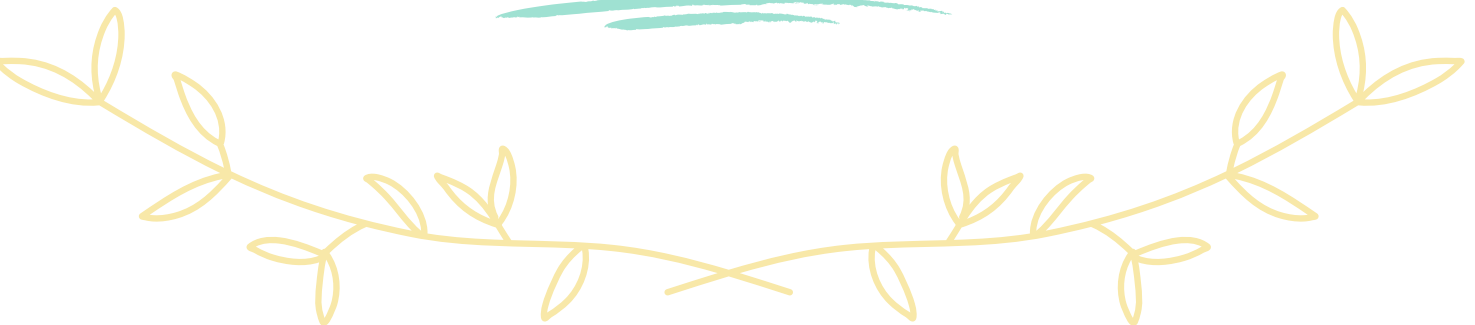
# storytelling.



Over the next two years, we will be building and launching the remaining components of our Storytelling Strategy, including:

- **Establishing the Global Storyteller Community:** where all young people who have shared their stories with us will be able to connect with each other, share learnings and resources, and build their networks of supportive communities.
- **Launching the Ground-up Storycrafting Lab:** where young people will have access to resources, tools, and training to improve their storytelling skills and tell stronger, more compelling stories.
- **Launching the Storymaking Microgrants program:** where we will provide direct funding to young storytellers that will support them in scaling up their work on nature-climate solutions and deepening their impact in their communities.

We are building global community, and equipping youth with platforms and resources, ultimately resulting in tangible change for nature and climate.



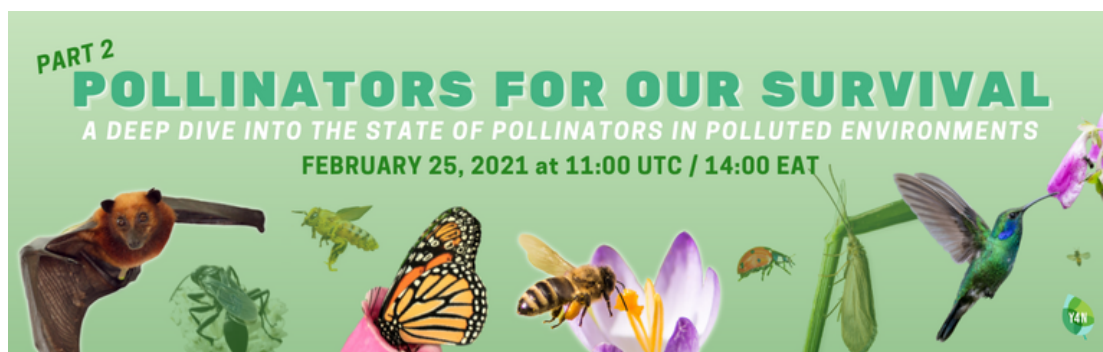


## #PHOTOCHALLENGE

- The members of Team Afrika live and work in vibrant landscapes. To showcase this, we launched a monthly #PhotoChallenge to profile photos & stories from our inspiring Global Ambassadors across the continent, including in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Egypt
- The photos and stories shared helped to foster a greater connection to nature & to each other, and inspired, motivated & challenged us as youth, to continue pushing for positive change on the ground

## POLLINATORS FOR OUR SURVIVAL

- Team Afrika launched a three-part webinar series covering the science of pollinators, the state of their survival, and why they are important for the continent
- Beekeepers & researchers shared practical information about what youth can do for pollinators, including helpful how-to's for setting-up sustainable beehives & flower farms, and for testing honey quality



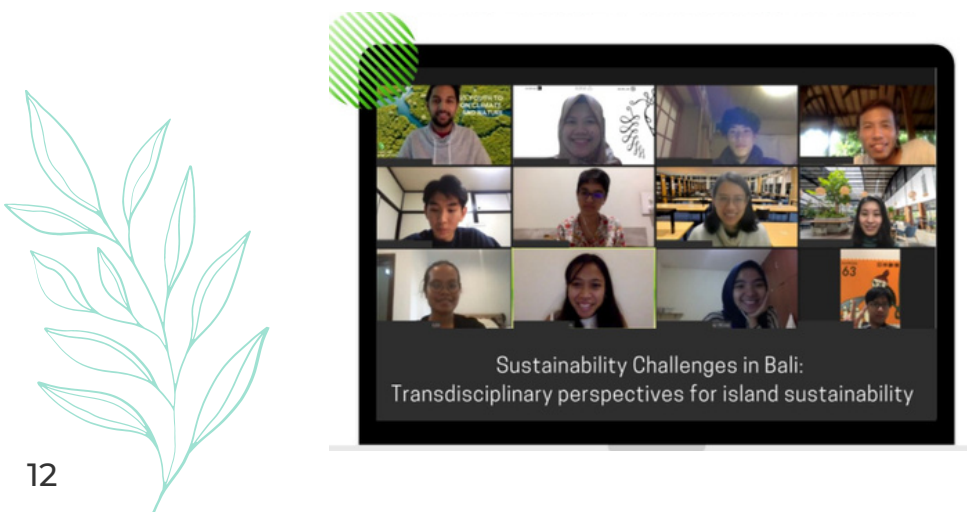


## MEGHA KNOWLEDGE FORUM AND RIVER GAME

- We joined our partners at the Meghna Knowledge Forum to engage in a multi-stakeholder exchange about sustainable and inclusive management of the Meghna River Basin
- Part of our contribution was to host an interactive session called "The River Game" with high-school aged youth in Bangladesh and India
- The game helped youth to understand everything the river in their backyard is connected to, including biodiversity, culture, and threats to river-based livelihoods, and how youth can help protect their river
- Over 30 youth participated in the game, which has since been adapted for high school curriculums. So far, it has been featured in 2 schools, reaching even more youth.

## SUSTAINABILITY ONLINE TRAINING

- With the University of Tokyo, we supported on the design and delivery of a 5-day training program for students. The training explored topics surrounding sustainability, using Bali, Indonesia, as a case study.
- In particular, we lent our expertise in youth engagement, social entrepreneurship, and systems-thinking to the training, & got to engage directly with young sustainability students to build knowledge collectively.



asia & pacific.



# SPRING OF HOPE!

*Happening: March-June, 2021*



## #SPRINGOFHOPE CAMPAIGN

- As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact folks around the world, we published an online and open toolkit (in French and English) to share knowledge on how to keep engaged with the nature-climate nexus.
- We also hosted a workshop with the Council of Baltic Sea States that explored social and green entrepreneurship, featured three social entrepreneurs from the region (Finland, Latvia, and Estonia)



**Impact:** We demonstrated what a hopeful future could look like by showcasing the private sector in ways that avoid greenwashing, and instead illustrate examples of businesses that work in harmony with nature to steward climate solutions

## STORYTELLING WORKSHOP WITH SÁMI YOUTH

- In partnership with the Sámi Youth Council of Finland, we ran a workshop designed to introduce storytelling as a tool to counteract catastrophic climate-nature narratives and channel the energy of youth into positive social change
- **16 Sámi youth** participated from across Sámi lands. We worked together to strengthen the existing storytelling capabilities of Sámi youth, and make more space for Sámi youth to share their own nature-climate narratives

**europe &  
central asia.**





## DRAINING LATIN AMERICA: MINING AND EXTRACTIVISM

- During this event, we shed light on the exploitative extraction practices of North American companies, and the impacts of these practices for communities and for nature in Latin America
- The webinar featured simultaneous translation in English and Spanish, and spotlighted Indigenous and transgender leaders from Latin America
- This was a cross-regional collaboration with the Y4N North America team and the UBC Climate Hub and saw an audience of over 50 attendees

## LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINE SERIES

- We partnered with a range of environmental justice organisations to deliver two linked events during the From the Ground Up digital gathering, hosted by the COP26 Coalition:
  - Part 1: Indigenous resistance to territorial destruction
  - Part 2: Indigenous self-governance and community-based solutions
- Both events featured simultaneous translation in Portuguese, Spanish, and English, and saw an audience of over 230 attendees in total



**latin america &  
caribbean (abya yala).**





## ART AND ACTIVISM

- Exploring how art can be a tool for activism
- Launched a virtual art gallery online and spotlighted the work of young artists across the US and the world on our social media - reaching over 500 people globally

*The unique ways that each artist approached the issue of communicating climate change and or climate grief/eco-anxiety was both thought provoking and eye opening. I think the webinar both fueled me creatively and helped me become more aware.*

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR ADAPTATION

- An intergenerational discussion on the opportunities and challenges of scaling up implementation of NbS and Ecosystem-based Adaptation
- Critical and thoughtful dialogue: explored opportunities, direct examples of youth-led leadership, and critique. Experts were youth, Indigenous leaders, academics, and politicians/government leaders
- Collaboration with GYBN-México, & supported by the Government of Canada (Environment and Climate Change Canada) & the Global Commission on Adaptation's Nature-based Solutions Track
- Trilingual: English, French and Spanish, with live translation



**north  
america.**



# BIG POCKETS EMPTY HANDS

CLIMATE FINANCE IN WEST ASIA



## BUILDING FROM THE GROUND-UP

- West Asia is Y4N's newest region, and we grew from having no presence at all, to establishing ourselves as one of the key youth-led organisations working for nature and climate
- With over 17 new partnerships, we've been able to build bridges and connect grassroots and youth-led initiatives across the region
- Our own membership grew as well by welcoming 7 new Global Ambassadors from 4 countries across West Asia

## THE AJYAL PODCAST

- The Ajyal Podcast is one-of-a-kind. We launched this youth-led initiative to create a space for youth to discuss issues unique to West Asia around climate justice, nature-based solutions, and climate leadership in English & Arabic. Episodes touch on topics such as:
  - Palestinian rights, oil and gas in the Gulf Region, militarization and climate action, local foraging, and greening the desert
- 100% of listeners say they're likely to listen to episodes a second time
- In 2022, we will grow this from a podcast, to an action-oriented community platform. Stay tuned!



west asia.

# 2022 sneak peak.



## Youth4Nature is growing deep

With an established foundation and reputation, we are uniquely positioned to deliver on regionally-specific and youth-led local work while also providing a truly global and multifaceted perspective and network across climate and nature spaces. We recognise that the necessary pathways forward to address our environmental crises must include well-equipped and dynamic youth leadership and collaboration in all spaces, from global decision-making to community-level implementation, and our work during the next two years will embody this.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, Y4N plans to “grow deep”: We will intentionally, strategically and sustainably strengthen our existing impact within our team and externally through our youth networks across the globe. We will be choosing quality over quantity, prioritising meaningful and focused impact for what we care about most: youth, and the nature-climate nexus.



# show us the money.

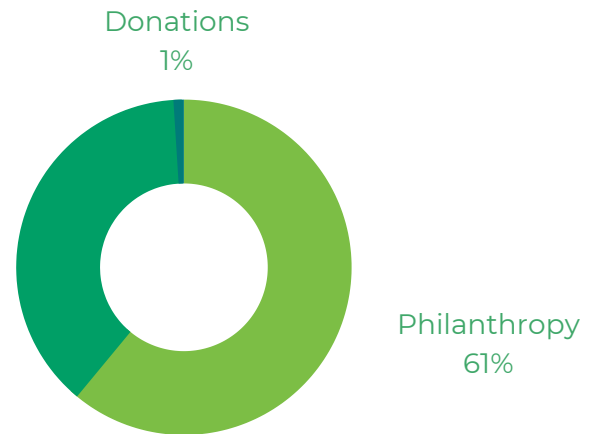


Financial resources are often the primary barrier to meaningful youth engagement in nature and climate action. Despite being critical components of the solution, youth are often unpaid or underpaid, and youth-led work is often unfunded. The result of this is a loss in the potential and the impact of youth-led work, and the overwork and burnout of youth leaders. This is intergenerational injustice.



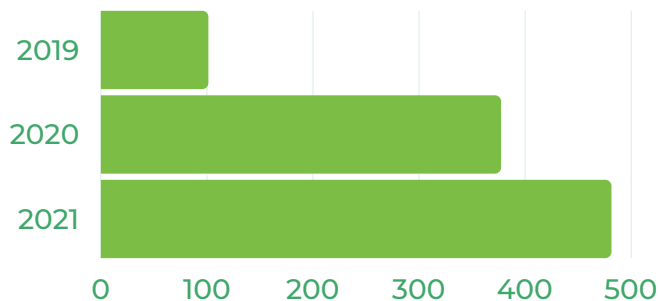
*When youth are funded, we are able to build our own capacities to build and support movements that create meaningful change.*

Government  
38%



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.

Organizational budget increase (USD, thousands)



Despite these challenges, Y4N has secured more than \$480K in our third year of operation, an increase of over 20% from our second year.





# partners. funders. friends.

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 & friends. Here are just a few:



## Contact

Youth4Nature

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