

# CAPACITY BUILDING

Youth's Involvement in  
Capacity Building and  
Development on Biodiversity

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## Youth's Involvement in Capacity Building and Development on Biodiversity

Published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), November 2021  
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This report has been produced by UNEP under the ACP MEAs 3 Youth Empowerment and Training Initiative (YETI) to empower the youth on issues of environmental governance. The contributions are to feed into the finalization of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

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The views and opinions expressed here are those of the authors and not that of UNEP or the partner organization.

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### Citation

UNEP 2021 Report on Youth's Involvement in Capacity Building and Development on Biodiversity, November 2021. Pp: 24

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## **List of Acronyms**

**ASEAN**- Association of Southeastern Asian Nations

**AHPS**- Asean Heritage Parks

**AYBP**- Asean Youth Biodiversity Programme

**BCAMP**- Biodiversity Conservation and Management Of Protected Areas In Asean

**BCH**- Biosafety Clearing House

**CBD**- Convention on Biodiversity

**CHM**- Clearing House Mechanism

**COP**- Conference of Parties

**CYBN**- Canadian Youth Biodiversity Network

**EBSA**- Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas

**GEO**- Grant Mark for Effective Organization

**GEF**- Global Environmental Facility

**GIASI**- Global Invasive Alien Species Information

**GRIIS**- Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species

**IAS**- Invasive Alien Species

**IEG**- International Environmental Governance

**IICB**- International Institute of Capacity Building

**NDC**- Nationally Determined Contributions

**NRM**- Natural Resource Management

**SBI**- Subsidiary Body on Implementation

**SBSTTA**- Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technology Advice

**SCOR**- Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research

**UNEP**- United Nations Environmental Program

**UNESCO**- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**YBL**- Youth Biodiversity Leaders

## **1 Introduction**

Regarding the post-2020 global biodiversity framework draft, there is an urgent need for Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to put more effort on Article 22, in order to enhance the execution of the long-term framework. Article 22 encourages parties to see the importance of capacity development in the implementation of biotechnology, genetic resources, benefit sharing as well as financial mechanisms in the context of the biodiversity agenda. Moreover, capacity development will enhance voluntary codes of conduct of private businesses from northern countries.

The members recognize that capacity building and capacity development are essentially the same concept; and note that capacity development holds more 'heftiness' and amplitude.

With the urgency of taking control of the already severely damaged state of the world's biodiversity (representing a painful loss affecting all aspects of life on earth), it is nevertheless counterproductive to show hopelessness for the future. Knowing that all is not lost and humanity is learning from the consequences, it is time for humankind to change and adapt to a better way of doing things and using the right process.

The major actors of the International Environmental Governance (IEG) play an important role in leading the young leaders of the future to a better level, hence the processes used are key to determine if the situation will improve or, hopefully, not worsen.

The aim of this report is to show what the theory of difference resembles, the outcome so far, the challenges faced in the sub regions of Africa and the recommendations put forth to improve the capacity development of biodiversity especially in developing countries.

Capacity development is important in ensuring that the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, subsidiary bodies on technology transfer, scientific and technology awareness and transfer, NDCs, and withdrawal procedures from the agreement are observed and implemented with full transparency and responsiveness.

Another aim of bringing more effectiveness in capacity development is to resolve the current tensions between the northern and southern countries regarding exchange of genetic information and biotechnology transfer.

## **2 Case Studies: Building Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Various Regions**

The group examined a number of examples of capacity development carried out in different parts of the world, as a step taken by both state and non-state actors towards implementation of the CBD through creating more awareness on the importance of governance, restoration and conservation of biodiversity.

## **2.1 Africa**

### **❖ Kenya**

The Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network is a movement of both individuals and youth initiatives made up of members purely categorized as youths, who are dedicated to stopping and biodiversity loss. The network, which is also a part of Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), holds capacity building workshops to train soon-to-be-leaders in the importance of biodiversity conservation.

The training aims to equip the youths with knowledge especially on the agricultural sector on successful ways of smart farming that can minimize the rapid climate change brought forth by modern agriculture while ensuring that they benefit from it extensively.

### **❖ Egypt**

The African Wildlife Foundation, in collaboration with the African chapter of GYBN encouraged the young leaders by engaging the youths at the 14th Meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (held in Egypt in November 2018) by striving for the inclusion of youths across the continent to share their creativity. This included using suitable skills in the platform to highlight the challenges they face, so as to push for more support in equipping the young people with the necessary capacity -- thus building networks as well as developing required skills to share and understand the knowledge needed in capacity building on biodiversity.

## **2.2 Asia**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Biodiversity launched the ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Programme (AYBP), aiming to empower youth to contribute to the formulation and implementation of biodiversity policies, at the sidelines of the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes Regional Forum on 4 September in Makati City, Philippines.

AYBP - developed in collaboration with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the official youth constituency to the Convention on Biological Diversity - aims to have youth be recognized and involved in biodiversity strategies and action plans at the local, national, and regional levels. The programme is funded by the European Union through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP) project,

The AYBP will provide ASEAN youth with capacity building, mentorship and resources through two signature activities, namely: Youth Biodiversity Leaders and Youth Internships in ASEAN Heritage Parks.

❖ ***Youth Biodiversity Leaders (YBL)***

YBL is a training programme that builds capacity and relationships for young ASEAN leaders in biodiversity conservation to enhance youth-led implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and to mainstream youth considerations to national biodiversity agendas. Each year, two YBLs, aged 18 to 35, will be selected from each ASEAN Member State to form a YBL Cohort. They are provided with at least one year of online and in-person training and guidance, including participation in public webinars and a one-week capacity building workshop.

❖ ***Youth Internships in ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs)***

AHPs are protected areas of high conservation importance, and together the network of AHPs preserve a complete spectrum of representative ecosystems of the ASEAN region. Participating AHPs in each ASEAN country will provide AHPs Youth Internships for students and young professionals aged 18 to 35 to gain on-the-job training and exposure to biodiversity conservation, as well as protected area management and operations. Internship details including job scope, duration, and stipend allowance are designed specifically for each participating AHP. AHP Youth Internships are not limited to students/graduates of biodiversity-related disciplines but are open to students and young professionals from all fields.

## **2.3 Europe**

In the European setting youth have been involved in capacity building towards biodiversity through various activities. For example, in the case of COP14/CMP4, over 500 young people congregated in Poznan to request governments to work together to reach an ambitious climate treaty. They also blogged, analyzed policy developments, staged creative awareness-raising activities, and organized two international capacity-building training workshops to kick-off their participation in COP14/CMP4<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/youth\\_participation\\_in\\_the\\_unfccc\\_negotiations.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/youth_participation_in_the_unfccc_negotiations.pdf)



## **2.4 Australia / Oceania**

Australia is involved in several ways in capacity building towards biodiversity. Statistics show that the country is one of the richest places in terms of species and most so endemic species. Therefore, to maintain its state and get involved in capacity building, the country has established a number of bio-related organizations such as the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) which has members from oceanic regions, holding conferences on capacity building which mostly target the youth to strengthen and develop the skills, abilities and talents in them, including the 2020 World Summit on Sustainable Development<sup>2</sup>.

## **2.5 North America**

In June 2018, the Canadian Youth Biodiversity Network, was created by Canadian youth who attended the Twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and Subsidiary Body of Implementation meetings in Montreal, Quebec. The Canadian Youth Biodiversity Network (CYBN) launched in May 2019, and is currently working on empowering youth from all backgrounds through collaboration and sharing resources in a participatory network on biodiversity conservation issues. We acknowledge the importance of reconciliation efforts in Canada and recognize that this land is in the traditional territory of many Indigenous communities from all over Canada.

CYBN is part of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network. CYBN focuses on providing a platform for youth across Canada to stand on and raise their voice and concerns for biodiversity at a provincial, national and international level.

They aim to be inclusive regardless of cultural identity, sexual orientation, economical background and even educational background. We understand that the future of our world is on our shoulders regardless of who we are and where we come from. We should all have the opportunity to discuss these issues.

From April 23 to 24, 2021, CYBN Coordinators held a virtual consultation with Canadian youth to discuss key areas of focus for Canada in preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/ocean-and-coastal-management/vol/45/issue/9>

## **2.6 South America**

Fifty young leaders from the Latin American and the Caribbean countries were conducted through a series of regional workshops organized by the GYBN between the 2nd and the 5th of June 2021 under the theme of “Regional Youth Capacity-Building Workshop on Biodiversity for Latin America and the Caribbean”, hosted in Bogota, Colombia.

Some of the aims accomplished in this programme were as follows:

- a) The youth were able to learn about the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- b) Deeper understanding on advocacy, communication on project management enabled the young leaders to know which projects to undertake so as to contribute to the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity target;
- c) Exchange of information National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) among the participants as well as to come up with possible practices that might be emulated and formulated in their respective countries.

## **2.7 Antarctica**

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, adopted under the auspices of the CBD, provides the basis for taking effective action to curb biodiversity loss across the planet by 2020 (including Antarctica). —Youths from around the globe can get involved in more scientific research on species, as well as participate in better ideas to bring in more economic value that will ensure biodiversity is conserved and that the policies instituted are adhered to.

Our evidence suggests, surprisingly, that for a region so remote and apparently pristine as the Antarctic, the biodiversity outlook is similar to that for the rest of the planet. Promisingly, however, much scope for remedial action exists.

The specific aim of the Strategic Plan is to take effective and urgent action to halt biodiversity loss, to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thus securing the variety of earth's life and contributing to human well-being and poverty eradication. Its intent is to provide an overarching framework for the assessment and protection of biodiversity, not only for the entire United Nations system but for all partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development

### **3 Building Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation**

Biodiversity conservation ensures that our ecosystem is managed and protected so as not to compromise the future generation. The main aim of biodiversity conservation is as follows:

- ❖ Sustainability of the ecosystem and the species;
- ❖ To maintain a lifelong system and necessary ecological processes;
- ❖ To preserve and prevent extinction of species.

Biodiversity conservation can be done either in-situ; conserving species within their natural habitats which is a natural way of maintaining and protecting the ecosystem. This can be done in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Ex-situ is also used as a means of biodiversity conservation, and it involves breeding and maintaining endangered species in zoos, nurseries, botanical gardens and gene banks. As a result, animals and plants have a long-term breeding and grafting to prevent their extinction on earth.

Biodiversity conservation is key as all species depend on the environment for survival. To conserve our biodiversity, both social and economic factors have to be considered as they are key contributors of the existence of species. Different environmental experts, individuals and organizations have come up with programs that encourage the conservation of biodiversity. Despite all the programs and initiatives put in place for biodiversity, overexploitation of resources, pollution resulting to climate change and industrial processes, hunting, diseases and invasive exotic species have not slowed down -- bringing challenges on environmental conservation and protection. Looking at African countries which are one of the richest sources of plants and animals, ecosystem conservation has depleted over time despite the many summits and numerous regulations set to address these issues.

Capacity building for biodiversity conservation is carried out so as to check whether the ecosystem objectives are well implemented on different levels. Examples are mentorship programs and trainings by the environmental practitioners such as the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), the Grant mark for Effective Organization (GEO), the International Institute of Capacity Building (IICB, 1999) under UNESCO and the Nairobi Global Center on Resilience and Ecosystems and Desertification.

This area now represents a priority area for conserving marine biodiversity and will remain in force for 35 years. Several priority elements for scientific research and monitoring associated with the Ross Sea Region Marine Protected Area have to focus specifically on surveys or censuses to estimate the distribution and abundance of marine mammals, seabirds, fishes, and invertebrates, and on the dynamics of phyto- and zooplankton.

The members take note that the successes, as well as the shortcomings, reflect the result of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets which were under a ten-year timeframe, as well as the recommendations now urged on the Parties to formulate the right way needed to control the

damage of biodiversity loss. Moreover, the members encourage the CBD Parties to positively take the proposed recommendations with urgency and with hope. The youth of the world stand ready to aid in closing the intergenerational gap that continues to broaden and worsen the current situation.



*Photo by: Neil Palmer / CIAT*

### **3.1 Successes Achieved in Building Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation**

The workshops and conferences mentioned below have resulted in positive outcomes, which show a clear picture of how involving all levels of capacity can impact biodiversity restoration that, in turn, has increased the chances of achieving the 5 overarching goals -- from transiting to a circular economy to working on sustainable development goals, capacity development is a necessary tool to ensure a healthy planet as well as boosting the economy, with no ill effects.

#### ***3.1.1. Technical Capacity***

##### **❖ Asia**

Pre-workshop sessions and webinars in preparation for the Regional Workshop to facilitate Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) training sessions in the Black sea and the Caspian Sea (Azerbaijan).

❖ Antarctica

Construction of the specialized vessel that will enable scientists to do their research was completed by 2012 and took course.

The construction of the specialized vessel aims to bring more youth research that will enable them to have first-hand experience in the Marine and Terrestrial ecosystem. Thus, more youths will have more knowledge based on peer-to-peer education improving the governance that will be needed to ensure that the soft laws are followed dutifully.

❖ Africa

The Global biodiversity youth network chapter of South Africa provided a workshop on capacity building in biodiversity to all levels from organizations, to youth representatives in the government and individuals, on training on the importance of conservation of Biodiversity.

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya gave a presentation during “Capacity Building Workshops” in the East and Southern countries of Africa held in Zambia, on the drivers of biodiversity loss as well as the measures enforced by the government through policies.

❖ Europe

Capacity building workshops held in Germany for Europe region that included more than 5 countries, on ecosystem conservation as well as restoration to support the achieving of Aichi biodiversity targets, took place 2nd - 6th June 2014.

### **3.1.2 Functional Level**

❖ Australia

The government of Southern Australia (2012-2017);

The natural resources management plan initiated by the state under the southern Australian government, is an implementation of some multilateral environmental agreement as well as international treaties that enable it to execute the sustainable development goals, hence showing how biodiversity affects all aspects.

Through community groups, volunteers, non-governmental organizations and regional Natural Resources Management (NRM) boards such as “southern downs regional council” that

established a youth branch known as “southern downs youth council “, the youth are well represented in all areas of active state planning processes to ensure the NRM goals are achieved.

The NRM plan is projected as a long-term process that includes the capacity building and development at three levels as a manner to ensure all thematic fields are included. It also ensures an economic boost as well as control of biodiversity loss, which is still being implemented at the moment.

#### ❖ South America

The monitoring of forest restoration projects specifically on Atlantic forest restoration done by Brazil, aimed at training a pact of members on the forest protocols, as well as the recommendations given to be implemented in order to apply the protocols on the field. The project also urged the members of the group to work on proposals to provide socio-economic benefits to the members of the community living in the geographical area of interest.

#### ❖ Asia

The availability of data sharing that contains thorough scientific research information on national reports on biodiversity, gathered over a long period of time, has enabled parties e.g., Japan biodiversity outlook science committee (2016) and China's State Environmental Protection administration (1988), to be used by the regional blocks such as ASEAN center for biodiversity that gives the youths a platform to participate in policy making. This information has majorly contributed to the CBD framework draft 2020.

#### ❖ Antarctica

Acknowledging that Antarctica has both marine and terrestrial ecosystems, the geographical location has not been left behind in matters of achievements.

By 2020, scientific, technical and knowledgeable information that mirrors biodiversity, has been improved tremendously in terms of sharing the facts of values related to biodiversity and consequences of biodiversity loss and applied, due to the strategic plan that was done by capacity building and development to increase the chances of implementation. Therefore, the young leaders know the problems facing this geographical location and have a better stand on what policies to suggest, since the access to accurate information is now available.

### **3.1.3 Further Achievements**

Other achievements attained so far include:

- ❖ Global Invasive Alien Species Information partnership (GIASI) partnership that was developed to improve better access information through the workshop organized by Global Biodiversity Information Facility to achieve target 9 of the Aichi targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15) in Copenhagen in 2011 has been completed.
- ❖ Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) - Invasive Alien Species (IAS) surveillance tool that enables parties to access via Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) youths from all over the world, who work in that field or are involved in that field, are able to access information which reflects the transparency that is being implemented in terms of genetic exchange of information.
- ❖ The UNEP-Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project entitled “Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) of the Cartagena Protocol” That aims to train the key stakeholders as well as assisting parties under this agreement and fund the related projects has succeeded to bring awareness on matters of capacity building with an outstanding number of regional advisors to make it easier for the parties in areas that need guidance.

It has also enabled the Parties to the Cartagena protocol to be accountable for the projects funded by the GEF in their respective countries, on the progress made on their strategies and action plan referencing the article 22.

## **3.2 Challenges that Hinder Capacity Building and Capacity Development in Africa**

As this study focuses mainly on African geographical areas, their challenges are quite different compared to those of “first world countries”.

- ❖ In terms of technical challenges, two particular themes emerge, on marginalized communities and agriculture. These challenges are summarised as follows:
  - Limited success-most of the marginalized communities are unfortunately excluded from the spectrum, mostly due to corruption in the government administration. Therefore the marginalized communities often miss a chance of being sensitized on such areas,
  - Limited interest -not “talking in the language of the community”: meaning the broadness of biodiversity might not be that effective unless it’s narrowed down to the specific needs of the marginalized communities i.e., culture, religion, economic activities.

- Misconception-on this point, the group is amused by the realization of the number of false statements that are shared with the public, that agriculture is for the poor. Most magazines and booklets that describe farmers usually have less fortunate people on their cover page, who are either too old and unclean (to show that it is man's last option) or too young with tattered clothes (to show that agriculture is a punishment to a human being) which is totally untrue and misleading.
- Lack of quality and availability of environmental data necessary information;
- Difficult to sustain-to enhance youth involvement in capacity building, there is a need for constant financial provisions, from the training to hands on experience, so that the youths may know how to work with the communities in different aspects. Moreover, political propagandas and sometimes arrogance between the youths and some parts of the government administration in developing countries often hinder the efficiency of the capacity building training.
- Difficult to mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture systems-admitting that improved processes will change things around, we cannot ignore the fact that reducing or managing the harmful damage already caused is equally hard. In some geographical areas where the biodiversity loss is too great to be reversed, the ecosystem might go extinct if the member states do not take accountability and respond to the alarming situation.
- Weak/ignored provisions-finding nonprofit organisations that are willing to serve the needs of the youths in agricultural and marginalized sectors in educating the importance of capacity building on biodiversity, with pure intentions is hard. Furthermore, the little provisions provided are appreciated but pose a deeper challenge on ensuring that the goal of mass awareness is reached, hence projects end up either postponed or called off.

❖ Functional challenges include:

- Limited understanding among the persons living in marginalized places, occurs when the communities are not educated well on the importance of capacity building and the advantages of conserving biodiversity
- Changes in biodiversity status are empirically and conceptually difficult to attribute to aid activities;
- Some governments are not protecting information disbursed to the citizens of their own countries, hence allowing political propaganda to blind the communities from facts that need to be understood correctly.

In terms of type of capacity, the reflection of so many issues affecting biodiversity through lack of capacity building/development is widely experienced.



❖ Challenges entailing individual capacity include:

- Weak provisions-finding donors who would sponsor an individual to the short courses is absolutely rare if close to none, thus making it difficult for individual members to enroll for the training programmes.
- Inadequate human and financial capacity-agreeing that youths make a huge chunk in the developing countries' population, it is affirmed that most are either in low-income jobs, jobless or in school without much allowance. Hence it is very costly to enroll for short courses that involve environmental training on biodiversity in tertiary institutions and even in independent sectors.
- The needs of the small islands are not addressed in terms of development.

❖ Organizational shortcomings include:

Lack of ongoing qualifications and certification processes for environmental service providers; Biodiversity aid reporting methods do not reveal the exact funding for biodiversity projects.

- Although the importance of capacity building on biodiversity is now being amplified among the Parties to this agreement, Africa seems to be left behind in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) and Biosafety training among the youth. Even with the improvements in access to information, politics seems to hinder progress due to ignorance by some state leaders as well as arrogance of still believing in the inferiority of their own youths' potential.
- Even though information about capacity building and development is dispersed among the youths, there is a need for the community at large to be included in training and implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements -- so as to solidify the awareness of the importance of capacity development.
- Holding specific actors and ministries accountable -- for example, the ministry of environment/natural resources and water -- is needed. In many countries in Africa these institutions are not always held accountable -- in part because very few people are knowledgeable in the process that is to be followed to achieve sustainable development goals. As well, the level of corruption continues to increase and, in turn, affects the entire population via pressure. The negligence of states in involving youth in matters of policy making worsens the situation, yet so many of these young leaders are well equipped with information and innovation to help the governments combat biodiversity loss.

- Furthermore, there is also a need of educating the community on National Determined Contributions (NDCs), how they can become able to participate to their own extent, so as one can know their area of expertise and interest.

### 3.3 Recommendations on Capacity Building

In order to enhance the main objectives, some modifications are required as well as some new ideas, implemented from individual, organizational and environmental levels, need to be introduced - both in the short and long-term terms.

Individual level	Organizational level	Environmental level
Short - term		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Advocate for short showers to save water</li> <li>❖ Discourage tree cutting and encourage planting of more trees.</li> <li>❖ Encourage planting of insect attracting plants.</li> <li>❖ Respect the plants and animals' habitats.</li> <li>❖ Research for the communities on best plants to keep for the improvement of biodiversity.</li> <li>❖ Offer training and education programs on the importance of biodiversity to human beings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Set up strategies that will encourage other organizations to take part in capacity building and implementation of the convention protocols.</li> <li>❖ Come up with short-term programs to educate the people on the importance of biodiversity.</li> <li>❖ Have programs in the organizations that support or fund environmental activities.</li> <li>❖ Come up with activities that can be carried out in the organization to assist with environmental sustainability like tree planting, walks for environment or charity activities in relation to biodiversity maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ensure the involvement of the youth on the short-term budget implementation on capacity building</li> <li>❖ Ensure inclusivity during the short-term action plan construction for diverse ideas on implementation of capacity building protocols.</li> </ul>

Individual level	Organizational level	Environmental level
<b>Long - term</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The involvement of programs like the Kenya Youth Empowerment Program.</li> <li>❖ Access the relevant training necessary in organizations for individuals.</li> <li>❖ Develop skills and knowledge on biodiversity and ensure other individuals' awareness of the same.</li> <li>❖ Ensure implementation of the acquired skills and competence for the long run of biodiversity.</li> <li>❖ Facilitate competence and skills transfer to individuals for the reduction of biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ There should be effectiveness and coherence in the implementation of the biodiversity framework program through continuous training, financial and technical support.</li> <li>❖ Ensure interrelation with the relevant organizations both governmental and non-governmental to strengthen the implementation of sustainable development strategies.</li> <li>❖ Encourage countries' involvement in biodiversity actions through organizational influence.</li> </ul> <p>Come up with strategies that ensure the fulfilment of the 2030 targets on biodiversity development like; reviving the forgotten articles such as the Nagoya protocol which shows the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The rules and regulations set by the convention should be implemented and upheld strongly for sustainability of biodiversity.</li> <li>❖ The rules and regulations set should be revisited to fit in the current biodiversity problems.</li> <li>❖ There should be analysis of the factors that are affecting the environment.</li> <li>❖ Encourage use of bio-friendly means such as the green energy which will reduce environmental pollution and exploitation with reference to the Cartagena protocol, that explains the use of biosafety measures and safe handling in transport and</li> </ul>

Ensure total involvement of local communities, special people, youths and women in biodiversity programs.	benefits of accessing resources and sharing them equally through the Convention on Biodiversity and its benefits.	modified organisms which may negatively affect the environment.
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Further recommendations and changes on capacity building for biodiversity entail;

- ❖ Need for a proper education that is tailored in the local language, i.e., using things that they can relate with by encouraging one-service stop, that is, a central institution or network that concentrates on specific themes with accordance to their national priorities.
- ❖ Integrating the importance of biodiversity conservation and restoration in the education sector by encouraging students in tertiary school institutions to participate in competitions and competitions that will enable them to display their different talents by coming up with innovations to counter the challenges in Biodiversity e.g., biotechnology, fashion, art, youth leadership, engineering, architecture and many other fields.
- ❖ Encourage peer to peer sessions on capacity building and development forums amongst youths in the context of the intersection of human rights and the environment.
- ❖ Encouraging marathons, cycling and walking across national reserves as a way of educating people on the importance of capacity building in biodiversity.
- ❖ Improve access to information on capacity building in each country by making an app with all the information needed.

Having more youth forums engaged with state officials and ministries in charge of the environment (e.g., in the format of Q&A sessions) for better clarification as well as allowing communities to give their proposals on the processes taken to implement policies (as a means of ensuring accountability).

## **4 Conclusion**

The members of this group would like to acknowledge the willingness of the member parties to the Paris agreement and care for the common home. Without doubt, the groups seeks to appreciate the successes accomplished so far by member states who have tried to adhere to the Aichi targets that were set. Noting with concern of the seclusion of youth involvement in such matters, especially in the environmental governance, there is an increase of ignorance in grassroots environmental organisations that seek to help their communities but do it wrongly. Moreover, the lack of education to the youths on the importance of capacity building on biodiversity seems to widen the biodiversity loss gap as well as slow the control and recovery process that is needed, which is set under the NDCs of member states.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to include youth's participation in capacity building on biodiversity especially at this time where the intergenerational gap seems to rapidly increase. Environmental governance with cooperative leaders as well as the youths, plays a big role in ensuring that the 2050 vision targets are achieved.

To sum up, the main reason for this, is not to push further the wise and mature generation, but rather, to include the youths in these matters so that it may be an act of collaboration. This will not only help in ensuring a fair process to achieve the 2050 vision targets, but will also prepare a way for the future leaders, who will in return, have an easy task to manage the natural resources and change the perception on environmental governance, restoring harmony in different ecosystems that was once destroyed by our own selfish gains and neglect.

ACP MEAs 3



## ACP MEAs Programme

The ACP MEAs is a joint UNEP- EU-FAO-OACPS partnership programme. It aims to build the capacity of 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific to fulfil their obligations to multilateral environmental agreements. Phase III (ACP MEAs 3) of this programme is being implemented in Africa by the African Union Commission (AUC), Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention, in the Caribbean by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Cartagena Convention, in the Pacific by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is the civil society partner.



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