ROAD TO STOCKHOLM+50

Voices of Youth: Realizing a Green Future for Asia and the Pacific
Realizing a Green Future for Asia and the Pacific
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

YECAP and the young people of Asia and the Pacific would like to say thank you to the Government of Sweden for supporting the Stockholm+50 consultations. The events provided more than 4,000 young people from across the region with an opportunity to influence future climate action, both at home and abroad. For many, it was the first time they had been meaningfully consulted on the climate-related issues that will affect their future.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Offices in Asia and the Pacific, specifically China, Fiji, Indonesia, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam, who all conducted national youth consultations in preparation of Stockholm+50, have supported follow-up activities and shared their results with us for this report.

Finally, we also wish to thank all the youth participants and facilitators who came from far and wide to attend the consultations. Special thanks to Hyea Yoon Jung, UNDP Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions Coordinator, and Saumya Surbhi, UNDP Youth Environmental Human Rights Defender Protection Coordinator for also helping to support the events.

Thank You!
"We learnt more than expected from the consultation. We proudly join hands with our fellow youth to make the vision of a better world come true."

YOUTH CONSULTATION PARTICIPANT, CHINA

"We are not above nature, but a part of it."

ABIGAIL KITMA, THE PHILIPPINES

"Young people want real, meaningful participation. Not just tokenism."

SARAH RAUZANA, THE INDONESIA PLASTIC BAG DIET MOVEMENT (GIDKP)

"Young people have the power. We must stop purchasing from companies with a poor environmental track record - and hold them accountable!"

YOUTH MENTIMETER PARTICIPANT, THE PHILIPPINES
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1. INTRODUCTION

The climate crisis is a rights crisis for young people. Across Asia and the Pacific, countries are experiencing record temperatures, wildfires, flooding and typhoons like never before. Climate change infringes on all aspects of young peoples’ rights, including their right to education, clean water, adequate nutrition and a safe environment, all of which are outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This convention, in addition to the 2015 Paris Agreement, has been ratified by all countries across Asia and the Pacific.

In addition, children and youth often remain excluded from the climate policy and decision-making processes, meaning they have little or no say in the issues which affect their futures. As such, countries across Asia and the Pacific continue to rank poorly in the Youth Progress Index results, scoring the lowest in freedom of assembly and the freedom of expression, which remain some of the greatest barriers to youth mobilisation and advocacy for climate action in the region.

The 2030 agenda, along with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, all call for urgent action to address climate change. However, despite multiple collective action efforts in recent years, the rapid, transformative action required to avert the dangers of breaching the 1.5 °C increase threshold, have yet to take place at scale. The challenges brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic have further delayed action and exacerbated inequalities for young people. This in turn has led to a reduction in the number of opportunities for their meaningful participation in political processes, education and employment.

Despite these challenges, millions of young people across the region remain passionate about protecting their natural environments. Climate change is not inevitable and the young people of Asia and the Pacific are an important part of the solution.

The Stockholm +50 Conference, held on 2-3 June, 2022, aimed to tackle some of these challenges and provide young people with an opportunity to influence the climate agenda. The event also celebrated five decades since the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

In order to ensure strong youth participation at the event, YECAP and the youth fellows, with the support of Sida, organised a series of national and regional consultations for young people. Consultations were held across 9 countries in addition to two regional consultations, with more than 4,000 young people attending the events. The consultations provided a platform for young people, particularly those from marginalised communities, to raise their voices and influence climate action both at home and abroad.

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3 UNFCCC (2022) Ratification status of the Paris Agreement https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification
5 UNFCCC (2022) Ratification status of the Paris Agreement https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification
During the consultations, young people were given a platform to speak openly and frankly with various stakeholder groups, including government leaders, civil society and other development partners. The aim was to stimulate an inclusive whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogue around the key themes of Stockholm+50 and the Leadership Dialogues.

The consultations involved a diverse group of young people, from city and rural youth, to indigenous youth, the LGBTQ+ community and young people with disabilities. It was the first time that many had been invited to attend such consultations and have their voices heard. As such, the consultations were able to capture the true diversity of thoughts and experiences from across the region.

This report aims to provide partners and youth with a snapshot of the youth consultation process at both the national and regional levels, including the results, key challenges and solutions raised by young people.
2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Road to Stockholm +50 Youth Consultations were to:

- Provide an opportunity for youth to give their input for Stockholm +50
- Provide space at national and regional levels for children and youth to discuss climate and environmental advocacy strategies
- Provide a platform for youth and children to share their local and national experiences of climate change advocacy work
- Present the basic principles of children’s right to a healthy environment in the context of climate change
- Provide a platform for children and youth to share their perspectives with leaders, including ideas and concerns about climate justice
- Provide a platform for youth participants and organisations to share best practices and experiences in negotiations and decision-making processes at regional and global levels
- Provide orientation on risk assessment for youth advocates
- Provide an opportunity for children to give their input for General Comment 26 on children’s rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 An overview

The consultations were held in nine countries (China, Fiji, Indonesia, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam) in addition to two regional consultations.

The consultations were held through a mix of virtual and in-person meetings, according to what worked best, given the local context. Several countries held hybrid virtual and in-person meetings. Each session lasted approximately 1-2 hours.

In several countries, young people also decided to carry out volunteer activities such as tree planting and beach clean-ups, prior to the consultations, to help promote a sense of togetherness and a stronger connection with their environment.

The consultations were organised by UNDP, with support from other UN agencies and their Civil Society Organisation (CSO) partners, including youth groups and networks.
The results presented in this report were collected both during the consultations themselves, and afterwards, through follow up activities conducted by the UNDP country offices and the young people themselves.

3.2 The youth participants

YECAP made a concerted effort to ensure gender balanced representation among the participants, including children and youth who identify as LGBTQ+, those from minority and low-income backgrounds, migrant youth and young people with disabilities. These young people were identified through the support of UNDP’s CSO partners, including local youth groups and networks.

4. RESULTS

More than 4,000 young people participated in both the regional and country-level consultations that were held from March – May 2022.

A more detailed overview of each consultation can be found below.

Table.1 Country-level consultation results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of youth</th>
<th>Description of events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. China| 27 April 2022              | Beijing                   | 30              | - The in-person event was attended by a diverse group of youth from schools, colleges and universities, youth groups, NGOs, government and research institutions.  
  - Among the 30 youth participants, 40% were young women, 10% were youth from ethnic minorities and 27% were youth from rural areas.  
  - Discussions centred around key challenges and opportunities for future youth engagement at all levels, with a focus on education and the need for more practical and interactive forms of teaching.  
  - Young people expressed the need to increase collaboration with government and private sector partners, improving transparency and data sharing, and the enforcement of environmental regulations. |
| 2. Fiji | 23 May, 2022               | Suva                      | 30              | - In-person event  
  - 64% of the participants were young women, 28% men, 4% non-binary and 4% who preferred not to disclose.  
  - Key topics of discussion included access to environmental information and the need for improved transparency and accountability from leaders. |
| 3. Indonesia | 17 March 2022 - 18 September 2022 | Held both virtually and in person Jakarta and Wakatobi. | 447 | - Five youth dialogues (with government leaders) and three community-level focus group discussions were held in person in Jakarta and Wakatobi.  
  - Discussions focussed on key barriers to environmental action and proposed solutions.  
  - Strong representation of indigenous youth and young people.  
  - Prior to the events, young people joined together and organised beach clean-ups, mangrove planting and other activities. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>14 May 2022</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>virtual</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                  |                     | National online youth consultation event attended by young people from across the country.
|                  |                     | Strong inclusion of young people from low-income backgrounds, LGBTQ+ youth, young people from rural and conflict-affected areas and youth with disabilities. |
|                  |                     | A sign language interpreter was provided. |
|                  |                     | Key topics of discussion included how to ensure safer, more meaningful engagement with government leaders and improving youth access to green jobs. |
| Samoa            | 10 May 2022         | Virtual       | 10+          |
|                  |                     | National online youth consultation event attended by young people from across the country. |
|                  |                     | Strong inclusion of young people from low-income backgrounds, LGBTQ+ youth, young people from rural and conflict-affected areas and youth with disabilities. |
|                  |                     | A sign language interpreter was provided. |
|                  |                     | Key topics of discussion included how to ensure safer, more meaningful engagement with government leaders and improving youth access to green jobs. |
| Sri Lanka        | March and May 2022  | In-person     | 199          |
|                  |                     | session in    |              |
|                  |                     | Mannar and    |              |
|                  |                     | virtual       |              |
|                  |                     | A series of 12 in-person focus group discussions were held with 2 sessions with youth held in March and May 2022. |
|                  |                     | Over these two sessions, there was a strong female turnout and participation (65% young women) and inclusion of minority groups. |
|                  |                     | The participants indicated the need to create a platform to share best practices to enhance communication, flow of information towards implementation of concrete actions on sustainable development. |
|                  |                     | Overall, the Stockholm+50 consultation series brought together young people, civil society, government partners, private sector and financial institutions. |
| Thailand         | 21 May 2022         | Nationwide    | 98           |
|                  |                     | The national event was hosted online and was attended by 42 males, 51 females and 5 youth who preferred not to share their gender identity. |
|                  |                     | Key topics of discussion included: |
|                  |                     | The links between COVID, mental health and the environment |
|                  |                     | Improving youth access to green jobs |
|                  |                     | Improving the quality and applicability of environmental education. |
| Timor-Leste      | 27 April 2022       | Dili          | 80           |
|                  |                     | An initial consultation was held between youth and academia on April 27, 2022. This consultation was then followed by a broader national consultation on 4 May 2022. |
|                  |                     | Key topics of discussion included: |
|                  |                     | Practical actions required to safeguard the environment for future generations |
|                  |                     | Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19 |
|                  |                     | Accelerating the implementation of sustainable solutions. |
9. Viet Nam

Three regional youth consultations in addition to a national youth survey. The youth survey incorporated questions relating to Stockholm+50, including environmental action, impacts of climate change and future action. Key discussion topics during the consultations included plastic and water pollution, air pollution and the need for improved climate resilience for vulnerable communities.

Table 3: Regional consultation results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Number of youth</th>
<th>Description of events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. YECAP Unconference       | 28 Feb 2022         | UNDP, UNICEF, UNFCCC, the British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme, and 2030 Youth Force | 145             | The virtual event included young climate leaders and discussions around 8 different thematic areas in relations with climate change: health, gender equity; water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); energy, chemicals, and waste management; biodiversity, sustainable food system, lifestyle and indigenous communities. Other key topics covered by the events included:  
  • Improving youth knowledge and participation in the climate action thematic areas;  
  • Initiating and implementing local climate action projects;  
  • Global partnerships and collaboration for the planet. |
| 2. YECAP Climate Action Week| 16-20 March 2022    | UNDP, UNICEF, UNFCCC, the British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme, and 2030 Youth Force | 360             | The virtual event was a week-long programme organized by the YECAP Fellows, consisting of peer-to-peer sharing, capacity building sessions throwing light on S+50, COP 27 and other key opportunities for the youth. It also served as part of the pre-events for YECAP’s Regional Dialogue leading to the Stockholm+50 conference. Key objectives of the events included:  
  • Engaging in meaningful conversation with experts from fields of sustainable energy, climate change research, impact evaluation;  
  • Addressing the climate change reality that affects and threatens the futures to young environmental human rights activists;  
  • Bringing in diverse perspectives of people from vulnerable communities, including Indigenous peoples;  
  • Introducing the Road to Stockholm+50 Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action. |
3. The YECAP Regional Dialogue
6-7 April 2022
UNICEF, UNFCCC, UNEP, UN Human Rights, UNV, UNESCO, the British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme, and 2030 Youth Force
1000+ youth (18-35)
The virtual event included young environmental activists, environmental professionals (research institutions and NGOs) and discussions around climate change, biodiversity, clean energy, protection of the oceans and the inclusion of marginalised groups in environmental action.

Leading dialogues discussed:
- The urgent need for a healthy planet and prosperity for all
- Sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19
- Implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs

Other key topics covered by the events included:
- Improving youth knowledge and participation in the country-level NDC revision processes
- Implementation and monitoring climate action processes
- Global partnerships and collaboration for the planet
- Immediate action for the environment

4. The Asia Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations
28-30 May 2022
UNEP, UNICEF, the Asia Pacific Network for Environmental Defenders (APNED), Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) and other local partners.
986 young people (549 children and 437 youth aged 18-to-35)
The virtual event focused as part of Asia Regional Dialogue, 8 consultations were conducted in 5 countries, reaching out to 117 young people. Some of these consultations were focused on women and indigenous youth, on climate justice and their ideas for tackling the climate crisis.

Youth participants also shared their experience with advocacy, their thoughts on how to support women and indigenous youth advocates, and their inputs for the Stockholm +50.

5. IMPACTS
The following key impacts were identified following the completion of both the country-level and regional consultations.

- Young people, through knowledge exchange with peers, were able to build better networks with other youth and with involved UN agencies.

- Youth were able to establish meaningful connections with government, private sector, UN agencies, NGOs and research organisations to support the roll-out of future climate change activities and engagement in upcoming political processes.

- All partners at all levels were able to gain a better understanding of the climate and environmental issues affecting specific youth groups. This has led to UNDP adapting their future programming accordingly, to better serve the needs of young people (including the rights of indigenous youth).
A summary of more specific impacts by country and regional event can be found in the tables below.

**Table 4 Country-level impacts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description of key impacts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>• Young people vowed to work more closely with the government, private sector and research institutions, to increase awareness and improve data transparency.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Following the consultations, young people reported having an increased knowledge and enthusiasm for climate action.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Several social media campaigns, from young peoples’ personal accounts were launched following the consultations.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The consultations led to an increased enrollment in the Movers Climate Action Courses.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Following the consultations, youth government counterparts began designing and rolling out new climate action initiatives, including a collaborative room where youth can share knowledge and information, and the development of a database of youth organisations and movements, to strengthen collaborative opportunities and amplify impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• As a result of the consultations, UNDP has also developed a stronger relationship with the representatives of SDGs Youth Hub, who have since gone on to increase climate action within the hub.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Following the consultations, young people have been invited to join their sessions at COP 27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>• The consultations strengthened the link between young people, the general public and political institutions, improving intergenerational understanding, empathy and cohesion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The consultations led to increased youth participation in project design and will also now lead to increases in capacity building and policy development activities.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Following the consultations, UNDP Pacific in partnership with UNCDF is supporting 3 student graduates from the University of the South Pacific’s Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PACE-SD) to attend the COP27 in Egypt.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Stockholm 50 youth consultations led to a follow-up meeting on Kioa Island, including CSO representatives of the Pacific and Oceania, frontline and indigenous communities, grassroots organisations, youth networks, and faith-based organisations who jointly penned an urgent call to action in the lead up to COP27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>• From a UNDP perspective, the agency has been able to gain a deeper understanding of youth priorities when it comes to climate and the environment.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• The event allowed UNDP to establish new, stronger relationships with young people, who will now be invited to join all upcoming climate training and advocacy activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Since the consultations, government counterparts from the National Development Planning Agency are working with young people to improve their knowledge of decision-making processes, and how to ensure their voices are heard.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• A stronger relationship has been developed with the Innovative Financing Lab’s Youth Section, providing further opportunity for collaboration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Philippines</td>
<td>• The consultations consolidated youths’ identity as agents of change and strengthened their trust of government partners. The government leaders in attendance committed to providing further opportunities to youth to engage with them on climate-related issues and promote accountability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• By encouraging an honest and open dialogue within a safe space, the consultations helped increase trust and cooperation between young people and the government, paving the way for future collaboration and the creation of safe spaces for collaboration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>• The Stockholm +50 project helped to establish and strengthen relationships between youth, NGOs and government partners.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• During the consultations, young people requested the creation of more green internship opportunities. UNDP listened to these voices and is now working on developing a new green internship programme for young people, including marginalised youth.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The consultations led to further discussion between young people and NGO partners, on the planning of future youth-inclusive projects for environmental action. Such NGOs include the Samoa Conservation Society, Brown Girl Woke and the Deaf Association of Samoa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The UNDP Samoa country office will hold a follow-up meeting in the coming months, to maintain the momentum initiated by the Stockholm+50 consultations, provide participants with an update and discuss follow-up activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sri Lanka
- The momentum established during the National Youth Dialogue and Stockholm +50 Youth Consultations has led to the launch of UNDP Sri Lanka’s youth climate action programmes; the HackaDev Green Innovation Challenge and the #Movers4Climate.
- The campaigns will create additional safe spaces for young people to engage in other environmental consultation processes, with support from UNDP.

Thailand
- The S+50 youth consultations has influenced the development of the Action Agenda on Empowering Youth in Climate Action, which was presented at COP27 and will be used for designing an action plan for youth empowerment around climate action.

Timor Leste
- Young people left the consultations with an increased knowledge and motivation to tackle the environmental crisis at the community level.
- UNDP has channelled the calls of young people into their current and future programming - for example, they are now piloting new small-scale environmental projects recommended by young people. Such projects include:
  - The construction of green parks in target schools
  - The promotion of eco bags at local markets
  - The planting of trees in landslide prone areas
  - The strengthening of local governance for environmental protection, through cooperation with local authorities.

Viet Nam
- The S+50 consultations have been used to support the development of the recently launched 2nd Youth Special Report in Viet Nam. The report provides a clear action plan for youth, aimed at better inclusion and support for young people as part of the country’s NDC implementation.
- The results also informed 2023 youth priorities for UNDP, in their work with the Government and other partners across the country.

**Table 5 Regional-level consultation impacts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of event</th>
<th>Description of key impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. The YECAP Regional Dialogue | - The regional dialogue provided YECAP ensured youth’s involvement in the planning and implementation of Stockholm+50.  
  - The Regional Dialogue brought youth participants including marginalised youth groups together to increase youth engagement in climate change and environment.  
  - The outcome of the regional dialogue was disseminated in the Stockholm+50 and adopted for the future youth programme design. |
  - Regional youth partnerships were strengthened and/or established.  
  - The regional dialogue provided a space for children and youth to discuss climate and environmental advocacy strategies.  
  - Young people shared their local and national experiences with climate change and discussed the key measures youth can undertake to be part of the climate movement and take care of the environment in their everyday lives.  
  - The outcome of the regional dialogue fed into the Youth Policy Paper on Stockholm+50 as hosted and drafted by the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force, and also be input for future agenda.  
  - The consultations supported the opportunity to establish increased collaboration between UNEP, UN Human Rights SE Asia and UNDP, via YECAP, on initiatives and programming related to environmental and climate justice with a focus on youth. More specifically, this has led to the formation of the Youth Advisory Group on Environmental and Climate Justice. |
6. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The key lessons learned across all consultations include:

1. **Protection and safeguarding the rights of all groups, especially the most marginalised youth.** Ensuring the empowerment and inclusion of marginalised groups, including indigenous youth and those living in poverty, in all levels of decision making. This specifically includes increasing support for indigenous and other community-led initiatives, making sure that green finance trickles down to those who need it the most. This also involved increasing awareness around indigenous rights and representation, amplifying the voices and concerns across all aspects of our work, to make sure all our programming is truly inclusive.

2. **Eliminating tokenism:** Young people felt strongly about not being used “tokenistically” and that their voices were heard, during the initial programme design phases, not just during project implementation. This was particularly the case for indigenous youth and young people with disabilities.

3. **Prioritising the creation of green jobs for young people:** UNDP and other organisations must work closely with public and private sector partners, to encourage the creation of green jobs for young people. These jobs must pay a decent wage and provide young people with the skills and opportunities to create an impact. Access to these jobs must be equitable, and YECAP and partners have an important role in helping to bridge current inequities in employment. For example, they must provide mentorship and career development support to marginalised groups to help them strengthen their skill set and better access green jobs. This will be key in ensuring a green recovery, following the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted young people disproportionately.

3. **Ensuring practical training and environmental education opportunities are available for all:** Throughout both the country and regional consultations, the need for improved environmental education and training were repeatedly raised by young people. Marginalised groups especially felt frustrated at the lack of affordability or ability to access certain courses, due to lack of resources or internet connectivity.

4. **Tackling the plastic crisis:** Young people, more than anything, are really concerned about the impacts of plastic pollution - perhaps the most visible environmental impact they see on a daily basis. Across all countries, young people called for urgent action on tackling the plastic crisis by banning plastic bags, improving access to recycling facilities and developing innovative alternatives to plastic packages. Young people can be an important part of the solution, and UNDP and partners must actively engage them in tackling the crisis.

5. **Closing the digital divide:** Despite best efforts to ensure inclusivity, online consultations often struggled to reach the most disadvantaged youth. This is due to the growing digital divide across Asia and the Pacific. Young women, rural youth, youth with disabilities and indigenous youth, often have less access to digital technologies and internet connections - limiting their ability to learn, participate, influence policy and apply for green jobs. Face-to-face consultations in marginalised communities can help in the future, but ultimately, UNDP, the government and their private sector partners, must work together to find ways to tackle the digital divide.

6. **Closing the inter-generational divide:** Meaningful intergenerational is critical in order to break down barriers and ultimately create an impact. UNDP and partners have an important role in helping to convene multiple generations at all levels, to ensure increased understanding and support for young advocates and collective action at scale.
7. NEXT STEPS

YECA aims to carry out the following activities, to build upon the success of the youth consultations.

1. **To incorporate the voices of young people in the next phase of YECAP programming:**

   The knowledge and perspectives shared during the Stockholm+50 consultations are already being incorporated into the design of the next phase of YECAP programming. This new phase (“YECA 2.0”) will scale-up existing activities, adapting programming as required to better meet the needs of young people and create maximum impact. Youth perspectives will specifically feed into:

   - **The Fellowship Programme:** will feed into the next stage of our Fellowship programming. The YECAP Fellowship Programme is a new, comprehensive regional and national fellowship aimed at providing additional support and training for young leaders as climate leaders, green business creators and supporters, to create collective and systemic change at the national and international levels. Next steps will include increasing the inclusion of indigenous youth, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Indigenous Network in Asia. In 2023 YECAP will convene a dialogue between key Indigenous networks in Asia on the outcomes of S+50 youth consultations, to ensure improved inclusion and support of indigenous youth.

   - **Young Environment Human Rights Defenders Protection Programme:** In collaboration with UNEP and United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for South-East Asia, YECAP convened a regional capacity building for the jointly co-convened Youth Advisory Group on Environmental and Climate Justice alongside the Asia-Pacific Environment Human Rights Defenders forum from 24-28 October. The event was aligned with the “Inclusion and intergenerational equity: rights and duties” of S+50 outcome.

   - **Climate Movers Programme:** Through peer-to-peer learning and a gamified dialogue approach, the young leaders that supported the S+50 consultations will create dialogues with their peers, community leaders and community institutions to implement the outcomes of the S+50 consultations, further empowering their communities to take climate action and protect the environment. The upcoming in-person and virtual dialogues will utilise the *World We Want* and *Movers Programme* approach, which have successfully engaged more than 50,000 youth across the region.

2. **Expand YECA activities to reach more young people, including additional countries:** YECA in collaboration with key partners aims to launch a global citizenship for youth climate action programme in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam. This programme will ensure that young people and youth networks receive the training, peer support, mentoring and resources needed to take meaningful, collective climate action in their communities. It is hoped that more than 200,000 young people will be empowered to take climate actions during 2023-2026, as aligned to the recommendation 9 of S+50 *“take further steps to ensure ease of access to funds for environmental action by youth-led organisations”*. 
### 8. ANNEXES

#### 8.1 Key challenges and solutions identified during the consultations

#### 8.1.1 The country consultations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Key challenges identified</th>
<th>Key solutions proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. China | Water and air pollution are a major priority for young people. Key challenges included:  
- A lack of pollution standards and enforcement for heavy industry.  
- A lack of opportunity to connect more deeply and meaningfully with the government and private sector.  
- A lack of funding and training for young people.  
- Lack of climate awareness among youth and general population.  
- Need for better, more inspiring and practical climate education. | • Advocate for more stringent pollution standards for industry - including stronger enforcement with more severe penalties for violations.  
• Provide more regular opportunities and platforms to meet with leaders from the government and private sector.  
• Increase funding to support young people and youth organisations, to provide training and mentorship support to young environmental advocates.  
• Ensure environmental education is more inspirational, impactful and practical for young people. |
| 2. Fiji | • Lack of intergenerational and intersectional dialogue and engagement.  
• Lack of reliable and accessible climate-related information, particularly among rural communities.  
• Leaders described as being “gatekeepers” who excluded youth from decision-making spaces, with their innovative ideas often being discredited or ignored.  
• Limited opportunity for marginalised youth to meaningfully engage with leaders. Indigenous women felt particularly strongly about this.  
• Lack of financial support for youth groups.  
• Concerns over lack of safeguards for Environmental Human Rights Defenders. | • Real, authentic partnerships must be established between leaders and youth, so that laws, regulations and policies genuinely address their concerns.  
• More concerted efforts to include marginalised youth, including those from the LGBTQ+ community and indigenous women.  
• Ensuring indigenous knowledge is included in environmental policies and action.  
• Creation of a youth information hub to improve information transparency and connect youth across the country.  
• Further strengthen existing structures like the National Youth Council, ensuring greater diversity and inclusion of youth voices on climate-related issues. |
| 3. Indonesia | • Traditional power structures prevent young people being taken seriously by older generations, leading to a lack of power and inclusion in decision-making.  
• Challenges around behaviour change (e.g. reducing consumption and increasing personal responsibility) for adults and youth.  
• Lack of inter youth group networking.  
• Lack of financial resources to train young people and take environmental action. | • Support for youth to conduct research and develop innovative solutions to protect the environment.  
• Creation of a safe space for young people to speak freely with political and business leaders.  
• Ensuring young people can be actively involved in promoting and monitoring Corporate Social Responsibility.  
• Strengthening national curricula to ensure improved integration of climate change and other environmental issues - in a way that is practical and meaningful for young people.  
• Creation of an online platform to support youth group networking.  
• Increased financial support to youth groups to increase environmental knowledge, skills and action. |
### 4. Philippines
- Lack of affordable, environmentally sustainable products.
- Lack of access to green jobs and meaningful environmental education.
- Lack of mentoring and support for young climate advocates.
- Lack of opportunity to engage directly with government and business leaders and fear of oppression.
- Abuse of Environmental Human Rights Defenders, especially those from indigenous and rural communities.
- Advocacy to raise standards for sustainable business practices.
- Increasing the availability and “trickle-down” of green finance to youth organisations.
- Developing affordable zero waste packaging solutions.
- Improving equitable access to green jobs.
- Improving the quality of environmental education in schools - making it more engaging and practical.
- Ensuring all future laws and policies relating to the environment have stronger youth inclusion.
- Improved defence and accountability of protecting indigenous peoples’ rights and territories is vital in protecting nature.
- Acknowledging the legacy of colonialism and its impact on the environment.
- Improving access to green space in urban areas, to help strengthen connection with nature.

### 5. Samoa
- The lack of women pursuing STEM careers and a lack of mentorship for women and other marginalised groups.
- Ensuring climate financing trickles down to allow the scaling-up Nature-based solutions in collaboration with local communities.
- Ensuring affordable clean energy solutions for off-grid communities.
- Improving the quality of environmental education, by strengthening curricula, making it more engaging and practical.
- Provide young people with opportunities to practice what they have learnt at school, encouraging and incentivising them to create an impact outside of the classroom.
- Improving equitable access to green jobs, by improving practical training opportunities (e.g. installing solar panels) for marginalised youth.
- Increasing the number of positive female role models.
- Increasing the availability and affordability of climate resilient crop varieties.
- Restoring coral reefs whilst also ensuring a stronger, greener tourism industry.

### 6. Sri Lanka
- Lack of technical support, mentorship and provision of seed funding to implement community-level environmental projects.
- Lack of sustainable consumption and waste management in many communities.
- Lack of community engagement with politicians.
- Promote sustainable food production, reduce food waste and increase support for home-gardening.
- Increase access to affordable and sustainable renewable energy sources.
- Providing technical and financial support to youth organisations to implement innovative environmental sustainability programmes.
- Improving access to environmental education by strengthening informal and formal systems and curricula, making them more practical.

### 7. Thailand
- Lack of knowledge and awareness around climate change and other environmental conEmpowering young people through access to information, capacity building was one of the key points discussed.
- Raising the voices of marginalised communities, particularly indigenous youth.
- Improving youth access to reliable environmental data, to promote transparency and improved cooperation with key stakeholders.
- Improving training and mentorship of youth, to improve their understanding of government processes and policy development - to support improved inclusion and influence.
8. Timor-Leste

- Lack of enforcement of environmental regulations, with lack of consequences for polluters.
- Lack of awareness among the general public on key environmental issues and how to address them.
- Lack of resources to implement climate action at the community levels.
- Lack of affordable clean energy solutions at the household level.
- Improving training and financial support for young people, including youth organisations.
- Working with the government to expand existing plastic and recycling policies, including in the health sector.
- Implement water protection and conservation projects in collaboration with government leaders.
- Integrate biodiversity enhancement projects within farming activities, including coffee plantations and livestock farming.
- Improving the affordability and availability of clean energy (including solar panels and bio-energy).
- Introduce a tobacco tax, to reduce unsustainable tobacco farming practices and improve health.
- Improved planting and management of trees in urban areas, to improve accessibility for youth with disabilities.

9. Viet Nam

- Chronic air pollution and lack of industry regulation
- Lack of disaster resilience, including climate resilience for vulnerable populations.
- Tackling the plastic pollution problem and promoting personal responsibility.
- Net-zero waste policies, including the elimination of plastic waste.
- Promoting nature-based solutions and affordable renewable energy.
- Strengthening the knowledge and capacity of youth groups, including in relation to environmental policy and accessing leaders and resources.

8.1.2 The regional consultations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of event</th>
<th>Key challenges identified</th>
<th>Key solutions proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The YECAP Regional Dialogue</td>
<td>Lack of community building and networking opportunities for youth.</td>
<td>Creating and strengthening safe spaces for young people to network, learn and mobilise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of meaningful engagement with youth at all levels of the decision-making process.</td>
<td>Include more young people, especially the most marginalised, in the decision-making process.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of youth technical skills and capacity to apply for green jobs and contribute to a green, sustainable future.</td>
<td>Implement participatory policies to ensure public consultation and transparent environmental policy development processes.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of youth knowledge of policy mechanisms and consultation channels.</td>
<td>Leader commitment to represent and listen to the voices of youth from diverse backgrounds, including indigenous youth, to respect their knowledge, safeguard their rights and interests.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of access to key environmental impact information.</td>
<td>Training programs for green jobs to empower young people along with mentoring support from the United Nations.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lack of financial resources and capacity within youth organisations to implement large-scale environmental projects.</td>
<td>Improving the quality of environmental education, making it more fun and practical.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tackling the urban-rural divide, intergenerational gaps and cross-cultural learning deficit.</td>
<td>Improve public knowledge and access to reliable and accessible data.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Protecting the safety of young Environmental Human Rights Defenders.</td>
<td>Financial support to grassroots movements, youth groups, and marginalised groups to strengthen their capacity as they work towards a better future.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The Asia Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations

- Creating and strengthening safe spaces for young people to network, learn and mobilise.
- Include more young people, especially the most marginalised, in the decision-making process.
- Implement participatory policies to ensure public consultation and transparent environmental policy development processes.
- Leader commitment to represent and listen to the voices of youth from diverse backgrounds, including indigenous youth, to respect their knowledge, safeguard their rights and interests.
- Training programs for green jobs to empower young people along with mentoring support from the United Nations.
- Improving the quality of environmental education, making it more fun and practical.
- Improve public knowledge and access to reliable and accessible data.
- Financial support to grassroots movements, youth groups, and marginalised groups to strengthen their capacity as they work towards a better future.
- Enforcing safeguarding mechanisms and safe spaces for young climate advocates, including legal knowledge and empowerment, and guarding the safety of marginalised youth.
- Advocate for policy and standards strengthening and investment to eliminate fossil fuel dependency, including for industry.