



**Global Youth  
Biodiversity  
Network**

# Living in harmony with nature

*A basic human right and a youth priority*



Melina Sakiyama  
GYBN Youth Voices Programme Coordinator



# GYBN is

Global network of individuals and youth organizations active on biodiversity

International coordination platform for youth participation in the CBD



## COMMITMENTS

- Voice young people's perspectives and positions and advocate for the rights of future generations within the biodiversity policy arena
- Build a global biodiversity movement that pushes for societal change to halt the loss of biodiversity
- Raise awareness, build capacities among and strengthen partnerships and collaboration between youth communities and organizations

*Empowering youth to lead the shift that will enable society to live in harmony with nature*

**664,000**  
members

**319**  
youth organisations

**140**  
countries



# What we do

## Around the world



Our **members and member organizations** engage in several biodiversity conservation activities:

**Awareness raising & campaigning, capacity building, education and research, conservation, lobby & policy**



Covering a very diverse range of topics:

**agriculture, forests, marine, poverty & development, climate change, wetlands, protected areas, wildlife**



**BENIN ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION SOCIETY**



**RWANDA BIODIVERSITY MEDIA GROUP**



**MAHIRU FOUNDATION**



**RAJPUTANA SOCIETY**



**NATURAL HISTORY**





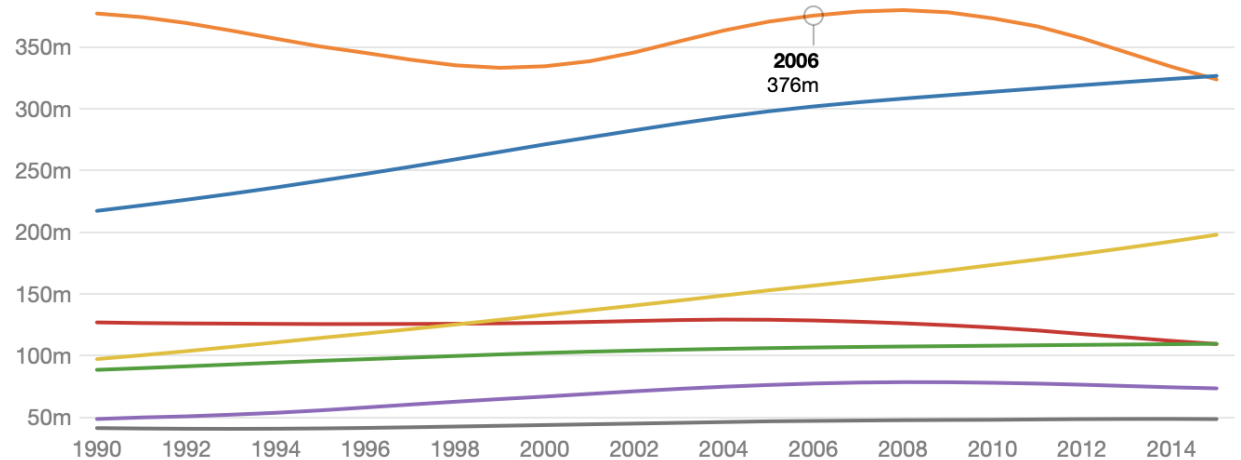
# Who are we?



## How Is the World's Youth Population Changing?

Youth population, ages 15-24

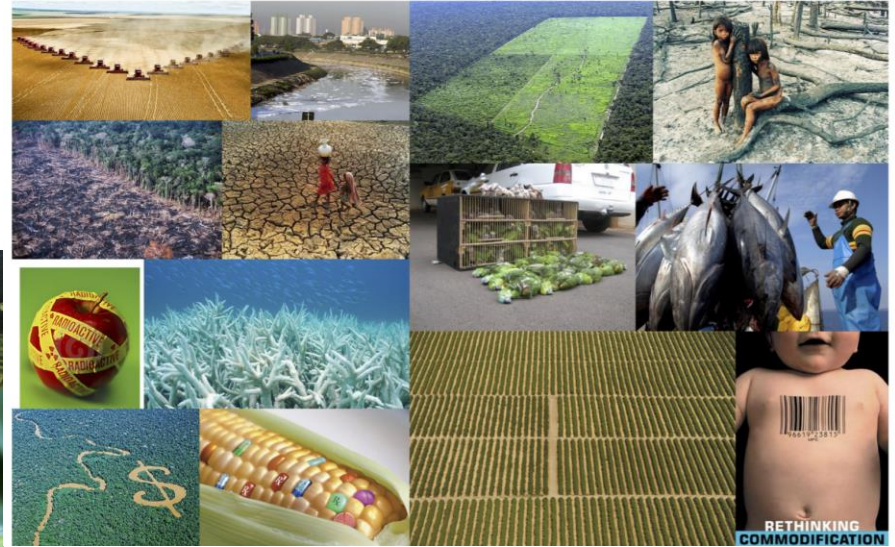
East Asia & Pacific Europe & Central Asia Latin America & Caribbean Middle East & North Africa  
North America South Asia Sub-Saharan Africa



Source: [World Bank Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2017](#)

SOURCE: UN

# What are we facing?

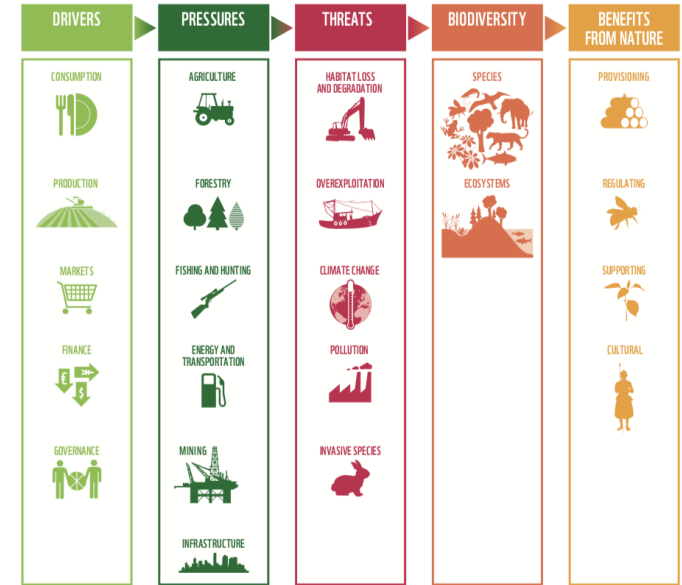
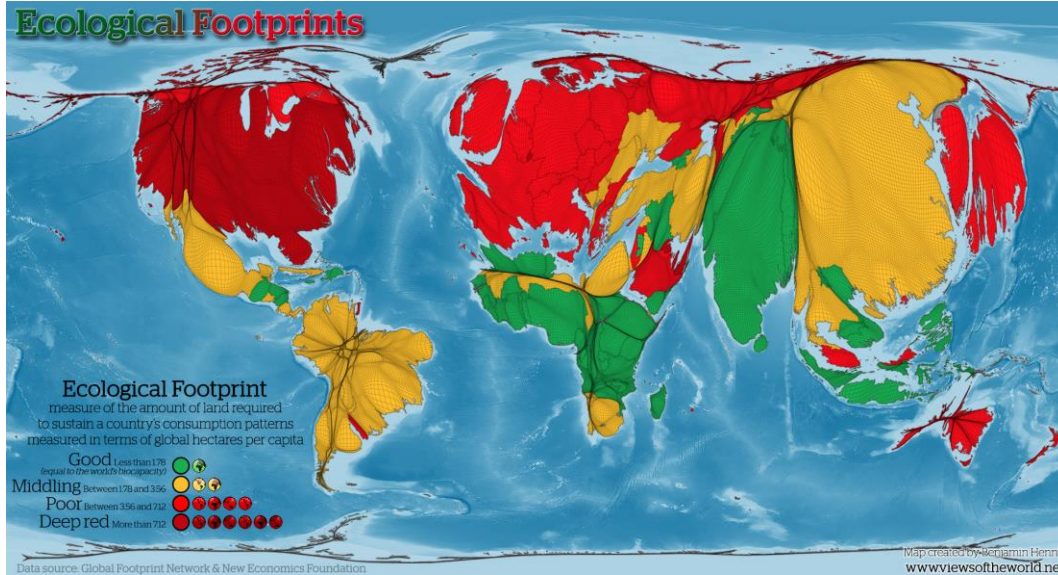


## Environmental degradation



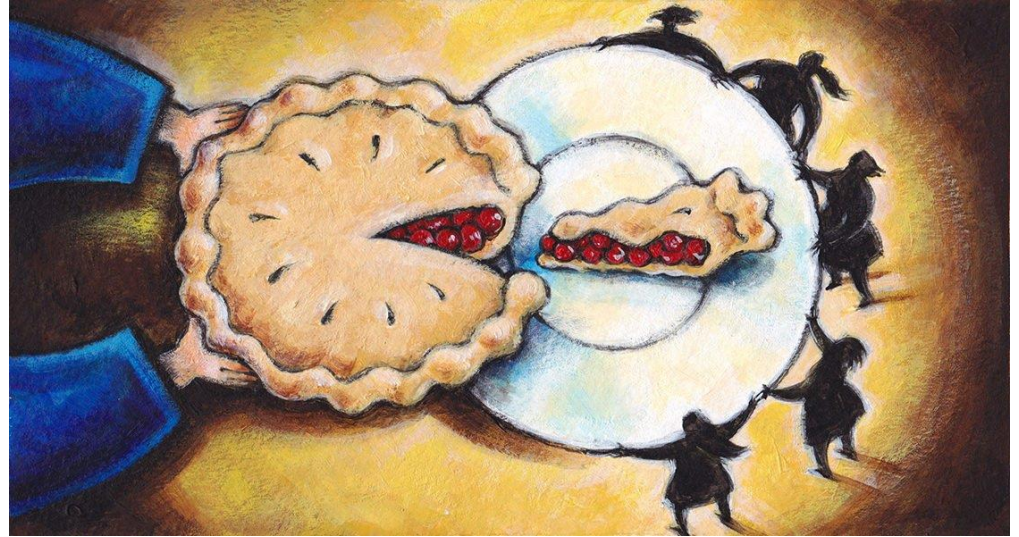


# Pressure over resources



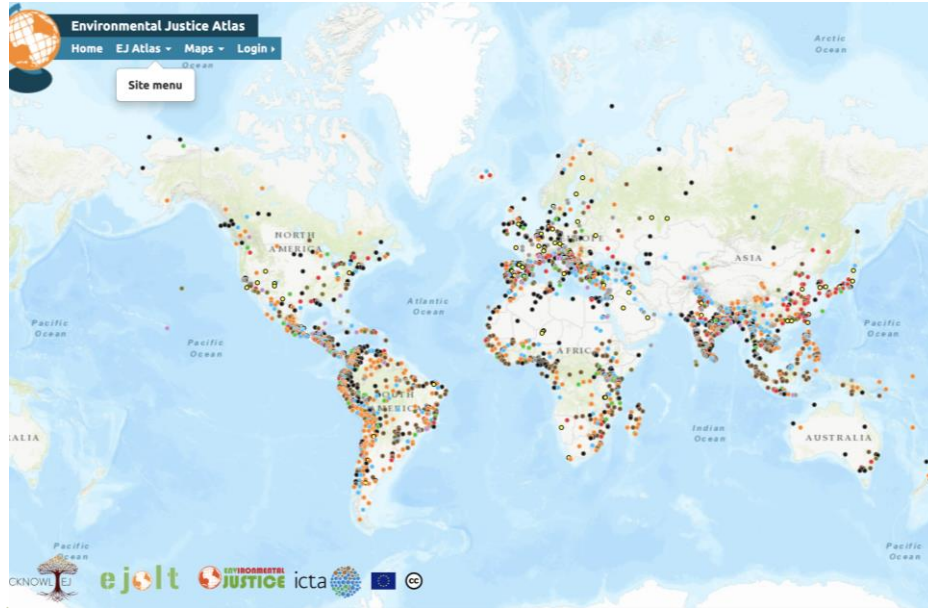
**Overconsumption  
overproduction**

**Unequal distribution of  
benefits and bearing of  
costs**





# Violence and oppression





# Most affected group

Table 1

## Youth unemployment and working poverty trends and projections to 2017

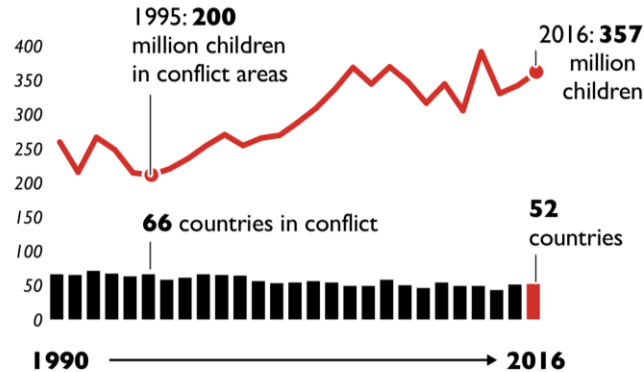
	Unemployment rate, 2007-17 (percentages)				Unemployed youth, 2015-17 (millions)		
	2007-14	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
<b>World</b>		<b>12.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>71.0</b>
Developed countries		15.0	14.5	14.3	10.2	9.8	9.6
Emerging countries		13.3	13.6	13.7	52.9	53.5	53.5
Developing countries		9.4	9.5	9.4	7.4	7.7	7.9

	Working poverty rate, 2007-17 (percentages)				Working poverty, 2015-17 (millions)		
	2007-14	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total emerging and developing</b>		<b>38.4</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>159.9</b>	<b>156.0</b>	<b>152.2</b>
Emerging countries		31.2	30.2	29.3	107.3	102.7	98.4
Developing countries		73.3	72.2	71.0	52.6	53.3	53.8

Note: Throughout this report figures for 2016 and 2017 are projections. The working poverty rate is defined as the share of employed population in extreme or moderate poverty, i.e. with per capita income or consumption of less than US\$3.10 per day.

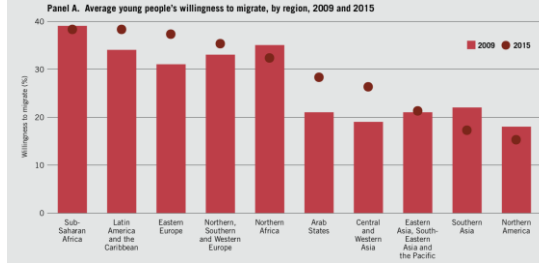
Source: ILO calculations based on October 2015 update of the model in Kapsos and Bourmpoula (2013) and ILO Research Department's Trends Econometric Models, April 2016.



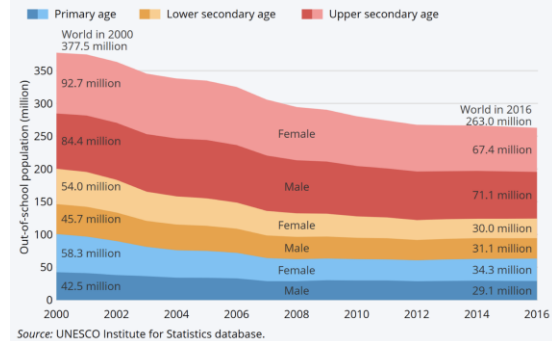
## FIGURE A: CHILDREN AND COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT

The chart shows the number of children living in conflict zones, and number of countries in conflict between 1990 and 2016. Data source: UCDP GED dataset (Sundberg and Melander, 2013; Craicu and Sundberg, 2017), Gridded Population of the World (GPW) v3 (CIESIN, 2005) and World Population Prospects (UN, 2017).

Willingness to migrate abroad permanently among youth aged 15-29, by region and country (percentage of respondents)



Global number of out-of-school children, adolescents and youth, 2000-2016



Source: UN

## Marginalization from decision-making process





**Dismissed and discredited**



**Cheated with quick fixes  
and distraction tactics**

**Gap between rhetoric and  
practice**





**What future we want?**



# Resilient

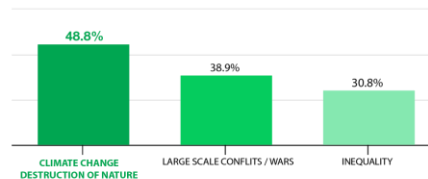
## Young people...

Think **climate change** and the **destruction of nature** is the most critical issue.

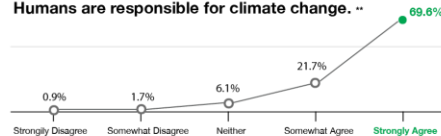


Over **90%** of young people agree or strongly agree that **Humans are responsible for climate change.**

## Most serious global issues.



## Humans are responsible for climate change. --



\*24'270 and \*\* 23'737 respondents

Global Shapers Annual Survey. #shapersurvey

## Young people...

Identify first as **humans**

Want **equality** for all citizens

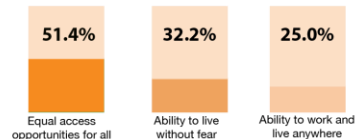


**Equality** between all citizens is the grass root of a free society.

## What defines my identity.



## The ways to make a society more free. --



\*20'589 and \*\* 20'545 respondents

Global Shaper Annual Survey. #shapersurvey

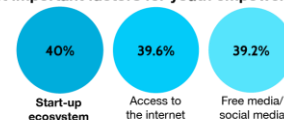
## Young people...

Think Governments need to favour a start-up ecosystem and entrepreneurship to empower their youth.

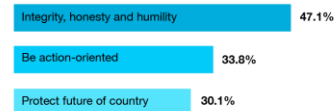


Young people are looking for integrity, honesty and humility in their country leaders.

## 3 most important factors for youth empowerment.



## Most important characteristics of country leaders. --



\*22'493 and \*\* 22'489 respondents

Global Shapers Annual Survey. #shapersurvey



# Reaction





2010

An Interim Steering Committee is formed and receives strong support from the CBD Secretariat

2011

The German government provides generous support for the initiative and GYBN is officially launched prior to COP11



GYBN coordinates the youth participation during COP11 and its activities successfully push parties to acknowledge the importance of Children and Youth (Decision XI/8 B)

## Decision XI/8

### B. Children and youth

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Acknowledging* the importance of youth participation in decision-making process at all levels,

1. **Encourages** Parties and other governments to include youth fully in all relevant processes, and specifically in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as activities under the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity; and

2. **Invites** Parties to continue to provide support for youth initiatives and other networks that support the three objectives of the Convention, such as the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

**COP 11**

*Parties officially recognised youth*



Acknowledges the importance of youth participation



Encourages parties to fully involve youth in all relevant processes



Invites parties to continue to provide support for youth initiatives



# Mainstreaming Biodiversity through YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & MOBILIZATION



## VIBRANT YOUTH MOVEMENT FOR BIODIVERSITY

*Young people **mobilized and organized** at the national and regional levels spearheading conservation, lobbying, outreach, communication, capacity building and other activities to support the work of the CBD and the work of local governments with their NBSAPs, push for stronger commitments beyond 2020 and ensure socio-environmental rights are respected*

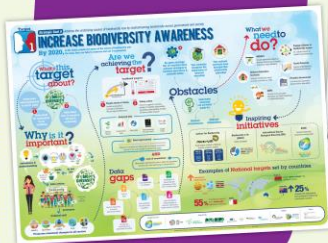




## Capacity Building Programme

### Infographics

Communicate the Aichi Targets and its progress, focusing also on concrete contributions that youth can make.



### Workshops

Build capacity among youth on CBD issues, share knowledge and experiences, promote networking and seed activities for biodiversity conservation.



### CBD in a nutshell – youth guidebook for the CBD

Cover the CBD's framework, structure, negotiations and a series of tips and advices for effective youth participation.



### Toolkits

Outreach materials, campaign templates, workshop packages and other tools to support our members



### Policy Advocacy

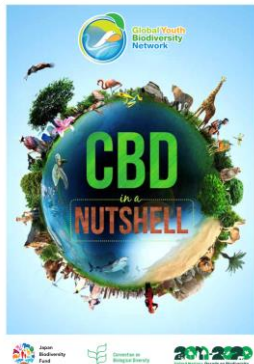
Prepare teams of youth representatives to attend key CBD meetings to advocate for the rights of future generations.



Apply now!



# CBD IN A NUTSHELL



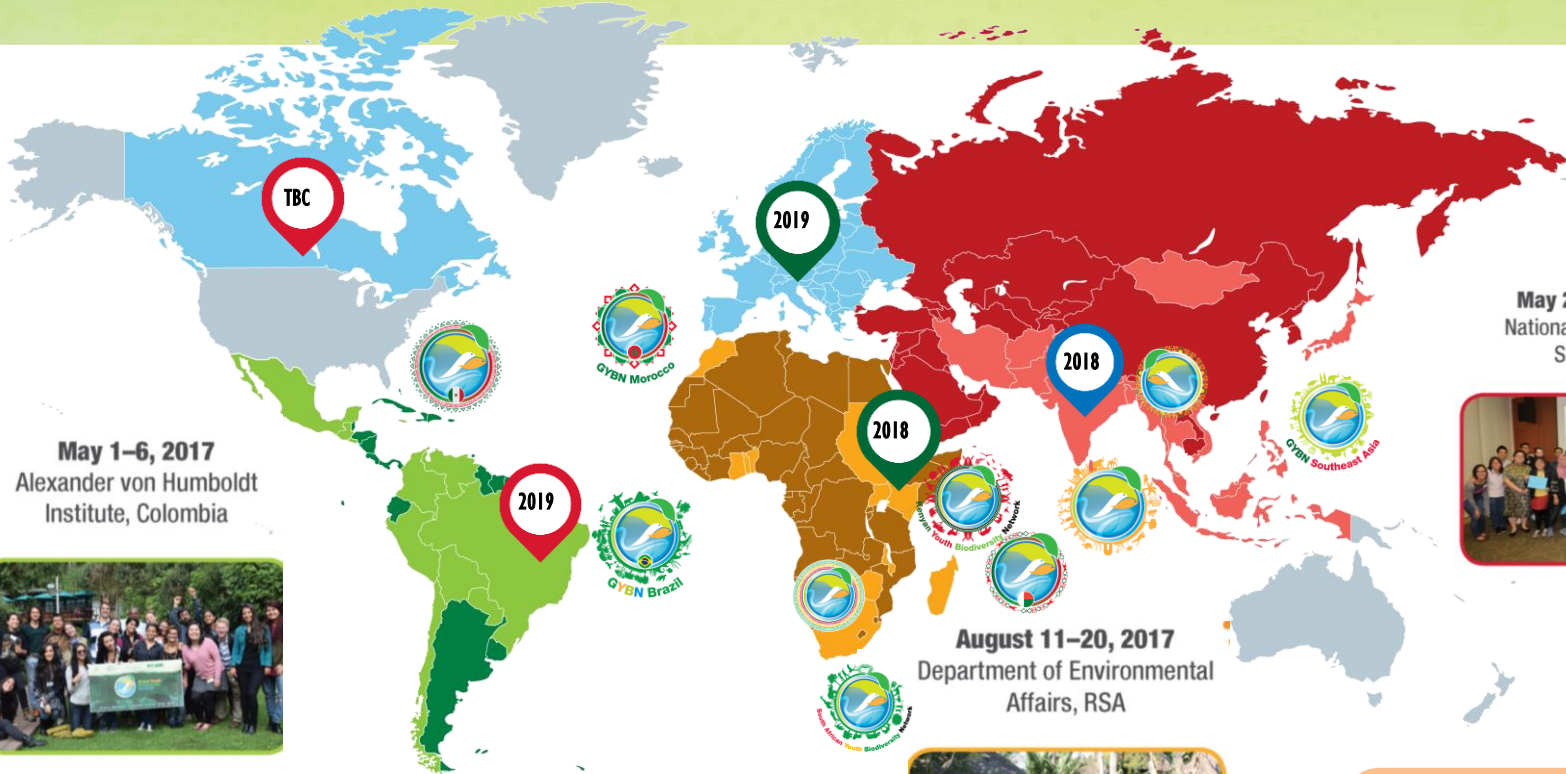
Launch 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Side event  
28/Nov  
18:15

IGO Meeting Room M3







**May 1-6, 2017**  
Alexander von Humboldt  
Institute, Colombia



**May 21-28, 2017**  
National Parks Board,  
Singapore



**August 11-20, 2017**  
Department of Environmental  
Affairs, RSA



## Snowballing Effect

Several participants were inspired by the workshops and through a **collaborative follow-up process**, are leading the creation of several **GYBN National and Regional Chapters**, mobilising communities and **multiplying the impact**.

**3000+** directly engaged

**8000+** monthly social media reach

**76** Countries  
**184** Leaders



- 10 mini workshops in 10 Schools with a total of 800 participants



**¡Conversatorio entre jóvenes!**  
 Intégrate al nodo de  
 tu estado o por  
 skype @EcoMaxei

**¡COMENZAMOS!**  
**LUNES 8 DE**  
**MAYO - 7 A 9 PM**



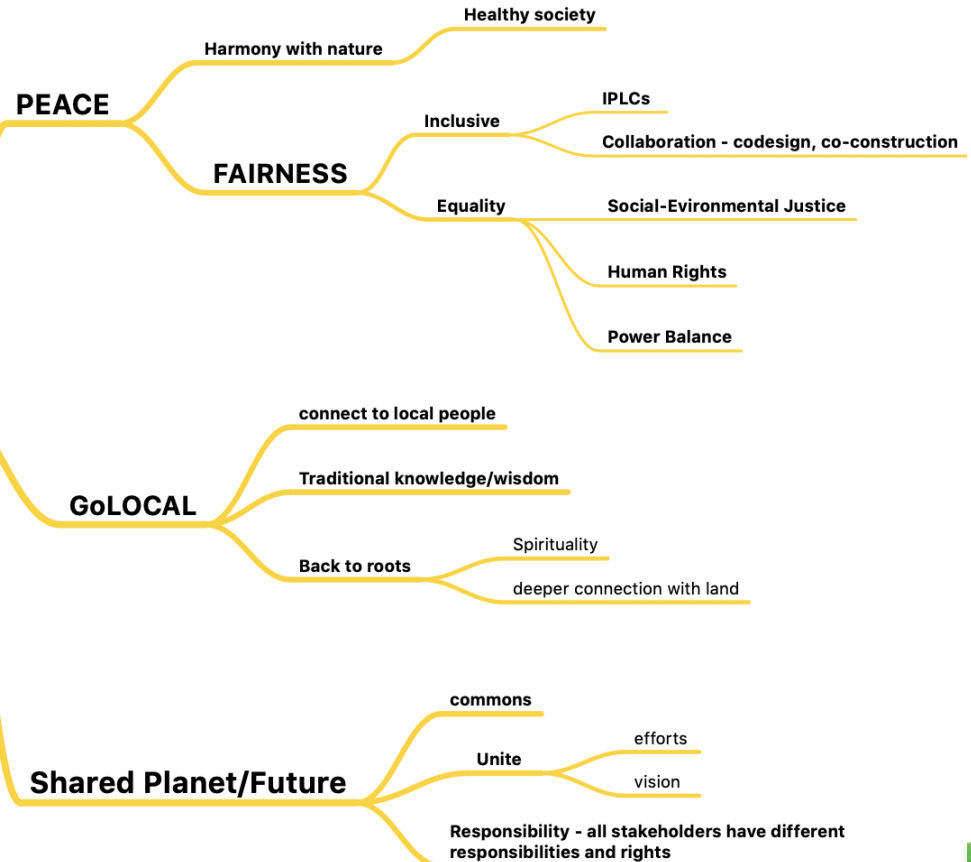


# What we want?

## FUTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY



### Values





## BOTTOM-UP YOUTH-LED CULTURE

### Back to our origins

**GoLocal: “Think globally, act locally”** Solutions for global complex issues will happen at the community and municipal level. They will be the main protagonists of the mindset shift we need in our culture in order to live in harmony with biodiversity

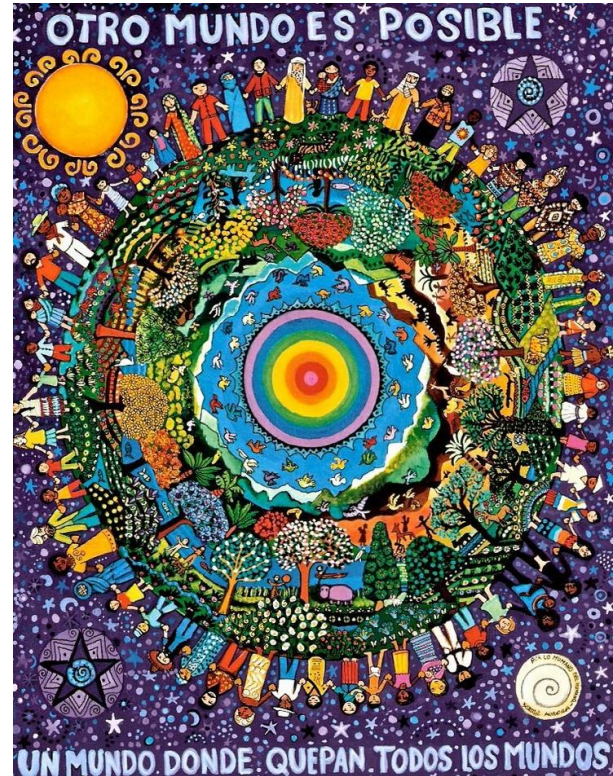
**Togetherness within diversity:** Different voices speaking for a shared vision

**We are biodiversity:** We are intrinsically connected to our land, our environment, our nature. We are part of biodiversity and biodiversity is part of us.



# BIODIVERSITY IS OUR WAY OF LIFE

*To celebrate all everchanging forms of life, with its history, meanings, relationships and functions, coexisting and evolving together within the limits of our planet dentro.*



## KEY PRIORITIES FOR POST 2020

- ✓ Ensure that the **integrity of biodiversity and ecosystems functions** is a **fundamental human right**
- ✓ Address it in the post 2020 global biodiversity framework as a **cross cutting theme across all targets**, but also, through a **stand alone goal on Socio-environmental justice through minority empowerment (women, IPLCs and youth)**
- ✓ Develop **synergies with international governance on human rights** and other UN processes
- ✓ Develop an **action plan with concrete milestones for implementation and provisions for monitoring and reporting**, as well as **capacity building and awareness raising**.





## STRATEGIC ACTIONS

**Alliance building:** Provide an global coordination platform for youth and biodiversity, support national chapters, regional networks, strengthen and build partnerships, facilitate collaboration and project development

**Empowerment and capacity development:** Organize workshops, webinars, dialogues to build capacity, provide mentorship

**Policy Advocacy:** Global Youth Consultation on Post 2020, and national mobilization

**Outreach & communication:** Online campaigns, actions and social media presence

**Information, knowledge & experience sharing:** Development of publications, infographics and capacity building toolkits





*"At the beginning I thought I was fighting to save the rubber trees, then I thought I was saving the Amazon Forest.*

*Now I know I am fighting for humanity."*

*Chico Mendes (1944-1988)*

*Brazilian union leader and environmental activist murdered by ranchers*

# Thank you!!



Japan  
Biodiversity  
Fund



Convention on  
Biological Diversity





