



UNEP Youth & Education Project 2024-2027

Committee of the Permanent Representatives,
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 2 May 2024





Introduction

UNEP works with and for youth in three ways:

1. **UNEP Youth Strategy:** Internal plan to ensure UNEP is meeting goals of UN Youth 2030 Strategy.

2. **Youth & Education Project Document:** Overarching programme across all UNEPs work.

3. **Children and Youth Major Group:** Member of Major Groups, advocate for and represent their constituency.

Today's discussion will focus on #2, the Programme, with the aim of exploring how we can engage with the CPR to support this.





Half the world population is under 30 years old, with 1.8 billion people between 10 and 24 years old.

This is the largest generation of young people in our whole history.



*“From innovative sustainable technologies and renewable energy, to revolutions in transportation systems and industrial activity, **young people must be equipped with skills and knowledge to shape a cleaner, greener, more climate resilient future.**”*

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres





Young people are calling for change.

90% of respondents of the [SOS student opinion survey](#) said they are willing to accept a salary sacrifice to work in a company with a good environmental and social record.

57% of youth would prefer to work for an environmentally sustainable business ([Survey on Earth Overshoot Day](#)).



Only 1 in 8 people have a green skill.

Supply of green talent is not keeping up with demand.

Risk that women will not be included in a just transition.

Not enough workers are being hired into green jobs.

Source: [LinkedIn, Global Green Skills Report 2022.](#)

Vision

Inspire and support key youth and education partners to implement environmental actions to tackle the triple planetary crisis.



Goal 1: Inspire education systems to **improve green education and skill building** for youth.



Goal 2: Promote sector alliances to advocate for **enhanced youth action** to tackle the triple planetary crisis by engaging audiences in places where they spend their time.



Goal 3: Enhance youth engagement in UN policy processes and **increase youth leadership** in interventions addressing biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change.

Partners & Actors

UN System

UNESCO, GO4SDGs, UNICEF Generation Unlimited, ILO, UNFCCC, UNDP, UNECE, UN Staff College, UNITAR, UNIDO, UN University, UN Women.

Stakeholders

Governments (national / subnational), private sector, youth, higher education and further education institutions.

UNEP ROs: Regional & National Engagement

Regional collaboration mechanisms, global alliance of national human rights institutions, regional political fora, think tanks, NGOs and CSOs.

Ecosystems

Comms

Coordinated by
Youth,
Education &
Advocacy Unit

Law

Economy

Governance
Affairs

Intergovernmental Bodies

- MEAs / UNEA / Stockholm +50;
- EU / AU / G20.

Goal 1:

Inspire education systems to improve green education and skills building for youth. This includes:

A

Green Jobs and Skills

B

Greening Education
Systems

C

Engaging Higher
Education



Highlights



Green Jobs for Youth Pact:
UNEP with **ILO** and **UNICEF** are working to accelerate the green transition through commitments from various stakeholders. This includes regional efforts through [GO4SDGs](#) and launch of Green Skills and Learning Hubs around the world.



Greening Education Partnership (GEP):
With **UNESCO**, UNEP is part of the GEP, which seeks to “green” schools, curriculum, teacher training and communities. **86** member states & **1200** organizations are involved



Nature Positive Universities:
130+ Universities have pledged to be nature positive by 2030, with the wider network consisting of **1400+** unis and students.

Examples of work:



Green Jobs for Youth Pact

3 Green Skills Conferences: UK, Kenya, and Thailand have taken place to advance the role of higher and further education on green skilling.



Nature Positive Universities

Student Toolkit and Workbook for how to help the university to move towards a Nature Positive goal, reaching students from 49 countries from 130 institutions.



Goal 2:

Promote sector alliances to advocate for enhanced youth action to tackle the triple planetary crisis by engaging audiences in places where they spend their time.

A

Sport

B

Tech

C

Other

Highlights



55 sports organisations have recently committed to act, with [the French and Kenyan Governments seeking to take this agenda forward ahead of Paris 2024.](#)



Other areas to be explored:
fashion, music, etc.



Facilitating the video games industry to decarbonise and integrate green activations in games through **40** gaming companies, reaching over **3 billion** of players.

Examples of work:

JOIN THE RUGBY FOR NATURE SQUAD
From shamrocks to springboks, silver ferns and red roses, wallabies, cockerels and toucans – wherever we look, nature is deeply connected with the heart and soul of our game. But with the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, rugby, our communities and our planet are all under increasing threat. Join the #RugbyforNature Squad, build your score and help secure the win for rugby and nature!

PHASE ONE: THE TRY
Get over the goal line with five actions:

- 1 Form a diverse 'Nature Squad' and work as a team for environmental action.
- 2 Whether you're a team, club, school or union, assess your impact on nature by mapping activity, challenges and opportunities.
- 3 Draft and share your nature game plan with clear goals.
- 4 Prioritise nature conservation on and off the playing field.
- 5 Give nature a home by installing wildlife boxes, bug hotels, bird baths and wild patches.

PHASE TWO: THE CONVERSION
Aim for the posts and extend your lead:

- 6 Choose sustainable, local and plant-based foods for health and planet.
- 7 Collaborate with suppliers for nature-friendly products and practices.

PHASE THREE: THE DROP GOAL
Over the bar for a match-winning score!

- 8 Engage, educate and mobilise players, fans and your community for nature.
- 9 Celebrate, inspire and expand the impact of Rugby for Nature.
- 10 Track impacts of actions and push for continuous improvement.

LEARN MORE AT [NATURE.WORLD.RUGBY](https://nature.world.rugby)

WORLD RUGBY | Sports for Nature



Sport for Nature: Normative guidance to support sports to act for nature through the pyramid from Union, League, Club and Grassroots.

Playing for the Planet: 90+ major video games will integrate activations in their games to inspire realworld action.

Goal 3:

Enhance youth engagement in UN policy processes and increase youth leadership in interventions addressing biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change.

A

Showcasing youth leadership

B

Meaningful youth engagement

C

UN Coordination

D

Pro-environmental youth advocacy



CHAMPIONS
OF THE EARTH



Highlights



Global Youth Environment Assembly

Over 450 young people came together to prepare the youth position for UNEA-6.

Outcome: First ever Global Youth Declaration on Environment.



Tide Turners

The Tide Turners Plastic Programme is one of the biggest youth movements shifting knowledge attitudes and practice with young people in more than 50 countries.

Outcome: Engaged nearly 1 million youth on the impact of plastic pollution and activate their agency on this issue.

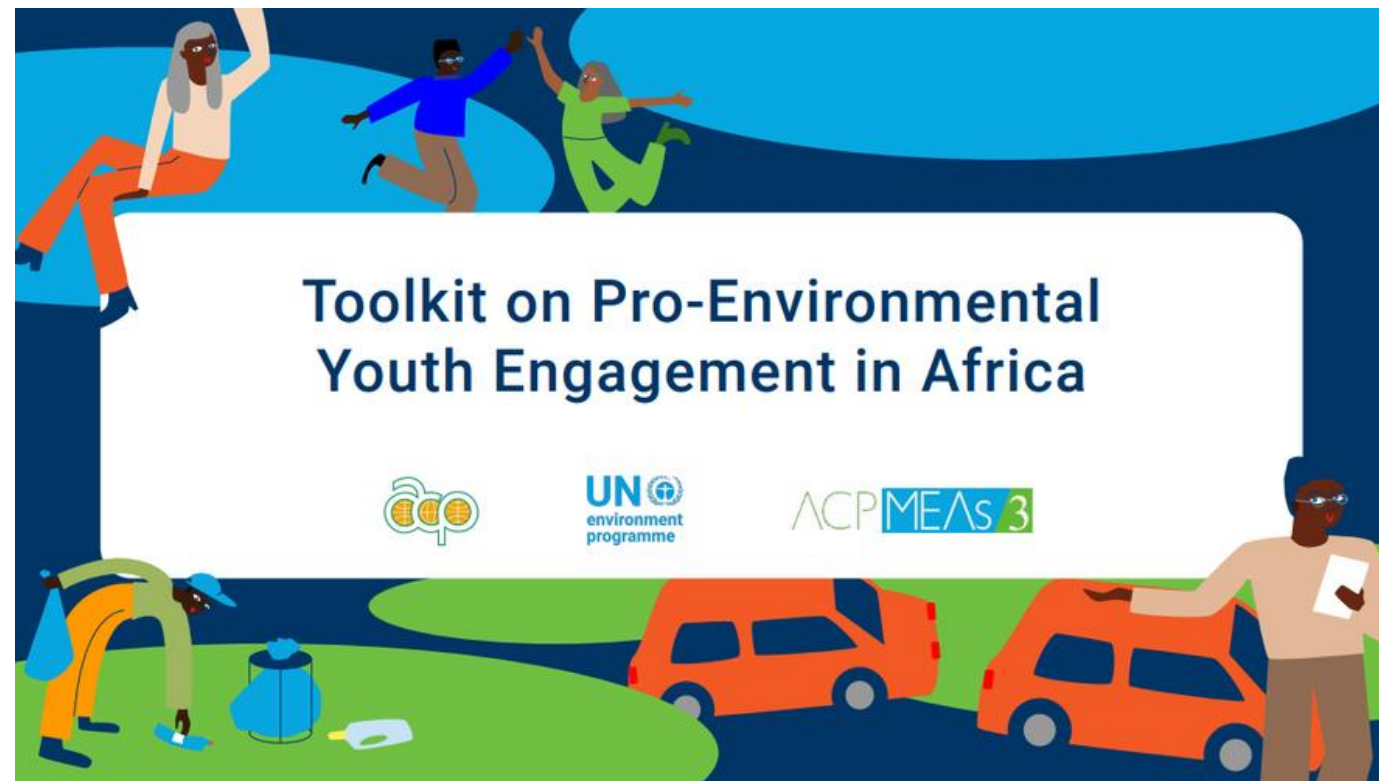


Young Champions of the Earth

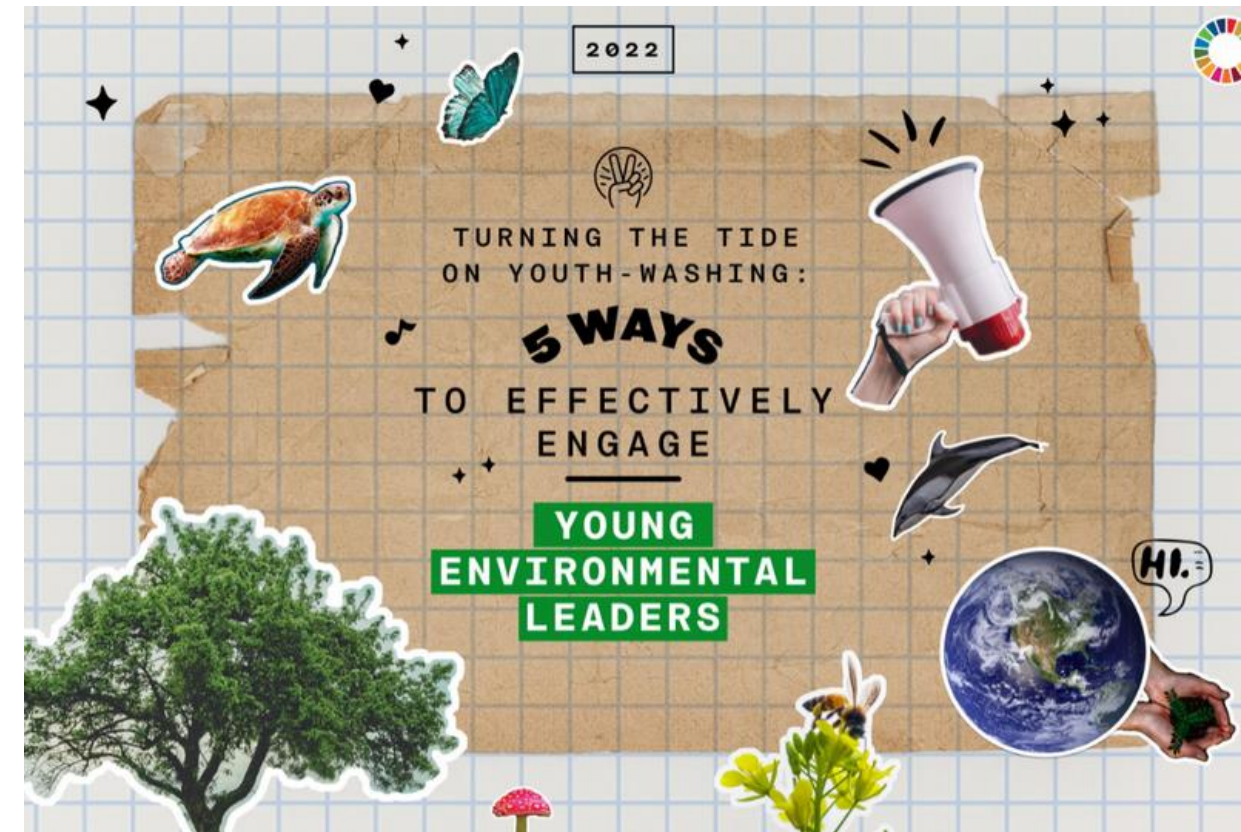
In 2024, Young Champions of the Earth will receive mentorship, capacity building workshops and access to a UN community of experts, publicity and recognition through online and global media and US\$20,000 in seed-funding.

Outcome: Young green entrepreneurs from across the world are supported in establishing their sustainable businesses.

Examples of work:



Youth Empowerment and Training Initiatives (YETI): Created by youth for youth living in Africa providing hands-on guidance on how to take sustainable action and engage in eco-friendly behavior.



Tide Turners Plastic Challenge: Survey of youth led to creation of new paper on how to effectively engage young environmental leaders and avoid “youth washing.”



For discussion

- How can this programme further support the needs and interests of member states?
- At member states request, how could the ambition of this work be scaled up?

What support is needed:

- Political support, to prioritize this work both within UNEP and beyond.
- Funds, to strengthen the delivery of the programme and empower youth as changemakers.

Thank you

