



gybn
global youth biodiversity network

Youth Participation in the CBD-Process

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Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)

Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, October 8 2014

What is GYBN?

- *aims to raise global awareness* among young people for the values of Biodiversity
- *global network of youth organizations* and individuals working on Biodiversity
- Faciliate action plans for **youth advocacy** and **empowerment**
- **Build capacity** to enable youth to be change agents on both the national and international level
- *Coordination platform for youth participation* in the CBD-process



History of GYBN

- idea to establish international youth network on Biodiversity has been discussed since at least COP9
- several international youth conferences on Biodiversity took place between 2008 and 2010
- at CBD COP10 representatives of all these groups finally met and agreed to create GYBN





Biodiversity on the Edge,
Germany, May 2008



YouPEC 2010,
Belgium, July 2010



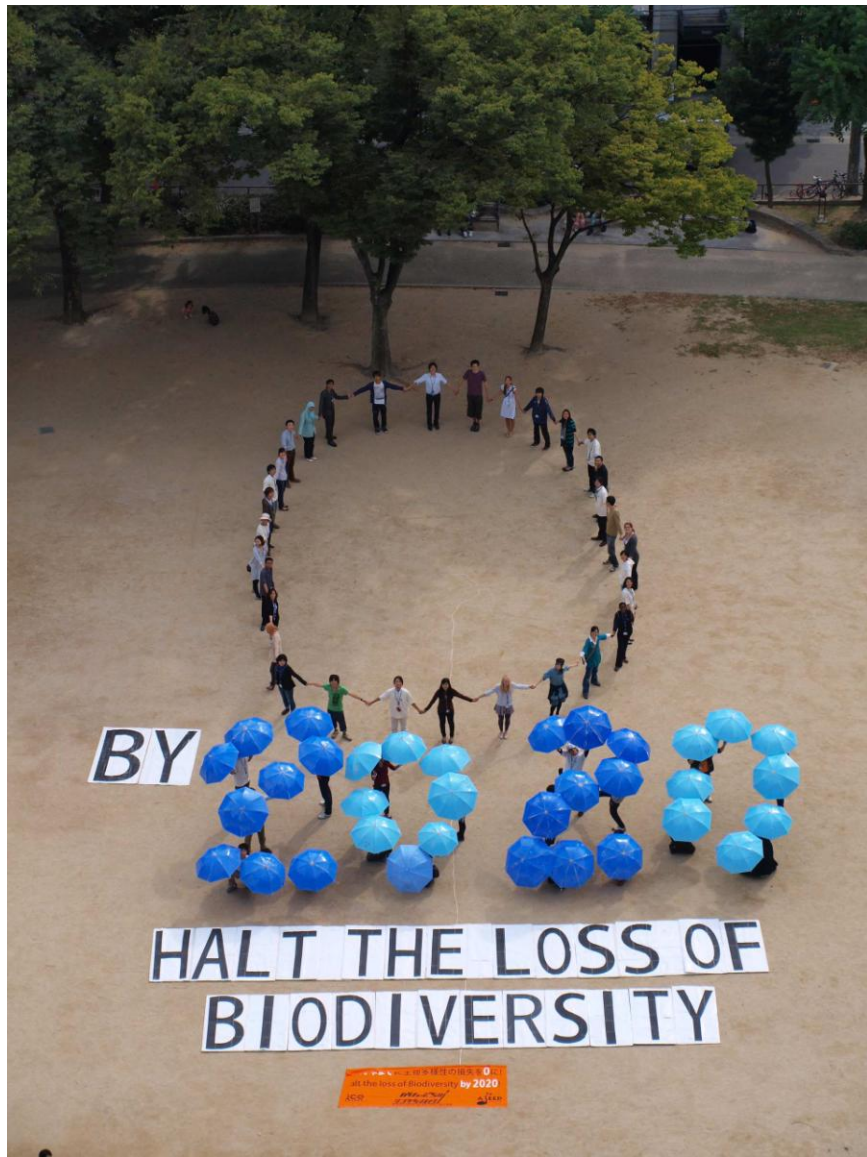


2nd International Youth Symposium on Biodiversity, Canada, August 2009



International Youth Conference on Biodiversity, Japan, August 2010





- The CBD Secretariat supported the creation of GYBN
- recognized GYBN as major group for youth in the CBD-process



Ref.: SCBD/OMG/NP/er/78949

1 June 2012

Dear Ms. Noltie,

I would like to thank you and the steering committee of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) for your letter dated 17 May 2012 and congratulate you for the success of the network so far. GYBN's objective to provide a global platform for youth to bring together their imagination, ideals and energies to stop biodiversity loss and support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is commendable.

I am pleased to hear that the GYBN Kick-off Meeting to be held in Berlin, Germany on 21-27 August will provide an opportunity for all youth involved to formally launch the network. I trust this event will also allow participants to discuss and prepare their participation to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the CBD. I would be pleased to provide a short video message for the occasion.

GYBN can continue to count on the Secretariat's collaboration to effectively contribute to the CBD objectives and processes including in preparation for, during and after COP 11.

Yours sincerely,

Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary



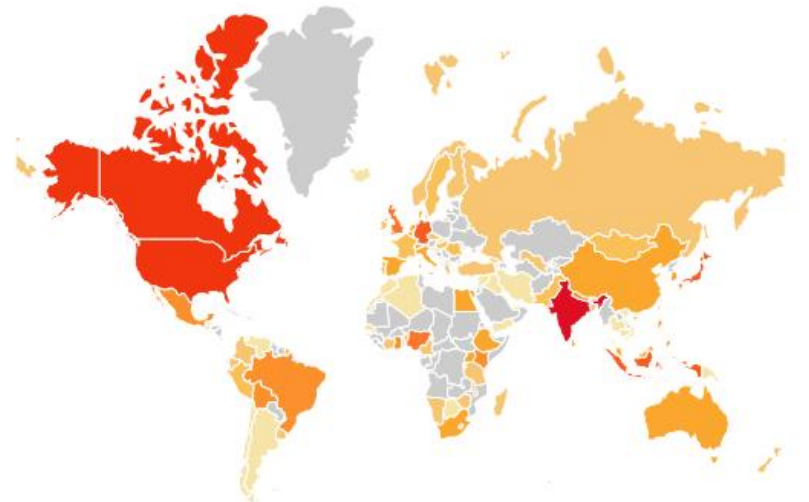
History of GYBN

- Interim Steering Committee coordinated establishment process from 2010 to 2012
 - GYBN Kick-Off Meeting in Berlin in August 2012:
 - 40 representatives of youth organizations from 20 countries
 - funded by Germany, hosted by NAJU
- Adoption of GYBN Statute and establishment of the network



GYBN Members

- Launch of GYBN membership registration process in mid-May 2013
 - 410 registered individual members from 86 countries
 - 51 member organizations from 30 countries, representing 340.000 members
 - 800 subscribers of our GYBN mailing list
 - over 2.100 fans on our facebook page



GYBN Achievements

- Coordination of Youth Participation at COP11
- Governments of Sweden, Spain and Colombia invited GYBN to represent youth at Key-Biodiversity Meetings in 2012 and 2013
- Initiation of Partnership with Korean youth for COP12
- Coordination of fundraising activities for COP12
- First Youth Delegation to CBD intersessional meeting - SBSTTA-18 and WGRI-5 2014
- Coordination of Youth Participation at COP12
- Coordination of Youth Input to IUCN World Parks Congress





- **June: GYBN delegation to WGRI-5 and SBSTTA-18 in Montreal**
 - 1 Side Event together with CBD Alliance
 - 8 Interventions
 - Proposal to develop a Strategy on Youth Engagement
 - meeting with Korea, government confirms willingness to fund us



Youth Participation at COP12

- 36 youth delegates at COP12 in Korea
- Youth Capacity-Building Seminar
- 2 Interventions so far
- 5 Youth Side Events



GYBN

- Election of the 1st GYBN Steering Committee in September 2013
- 12 members from 10 countries
- Election of Korean Youth Representative in December 2013

THE GYBN STEERING COMMITTEE 2013-2015



Shailyn Drukis
(Canada)



Melina Sakiyama
(Brazil)



Christian Schwarzer
(Germany)



Dayna Noltie
(Canada)



Mirna Ines Fernández
(Bolivia)



Arunava Datta
(India)



Lemuel Vega
(Mexico)



Mesfin Hailemariam
(Ethiopia)



Tomas Badura
(Czech Republic)



Achmad Solikhin
(Indonesia)



Shankar Adhikari
(Nepal)

Why YOUTH?

- Half of the world's population is under 30
- Decision taken today directly affect the lives of youth
- We are the future decision-makers



Creativity, Innovation,
Energy



Many youth worldwide are active in
environmental activism, conservation,
research, policy-making



Vulnerable, Apathetic,
Underestimated and
Marginalized from the
decision making
process



Youth Awareness

- Awareness and understanding of Biodiversity is low
 - only very few studies have analyzed youth awareness so far, no comprehensive study exists
 - Biodiversity loss only an issue of concern for 48% of children and youth (Forsa 2007)
 - One out of seven children cannot explain what the term „endangered species“ means (SCBD 2010)



Youth Awareness

- In a survey conducted in 2010 10.000 children and youth were asked about their perception of nature
 - watching TV and playing Computer Games a priority for 40%
 - Saving the environment only a priority for 4%
- 2009 study conducted in the UK with 1.500 children
 - 30% of those interviewed couldn't tell the difference between a wasp and a bee

Decision XI/8. „Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities“

B. → Children and youth ¶

▪ *The Conference of the Parties, ¶*

Acknowledging the importance of youth participation in decision-making processes 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, 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 that support the three objectives of the Convention, such as the Global Youth Biodiversity Network. ¶*

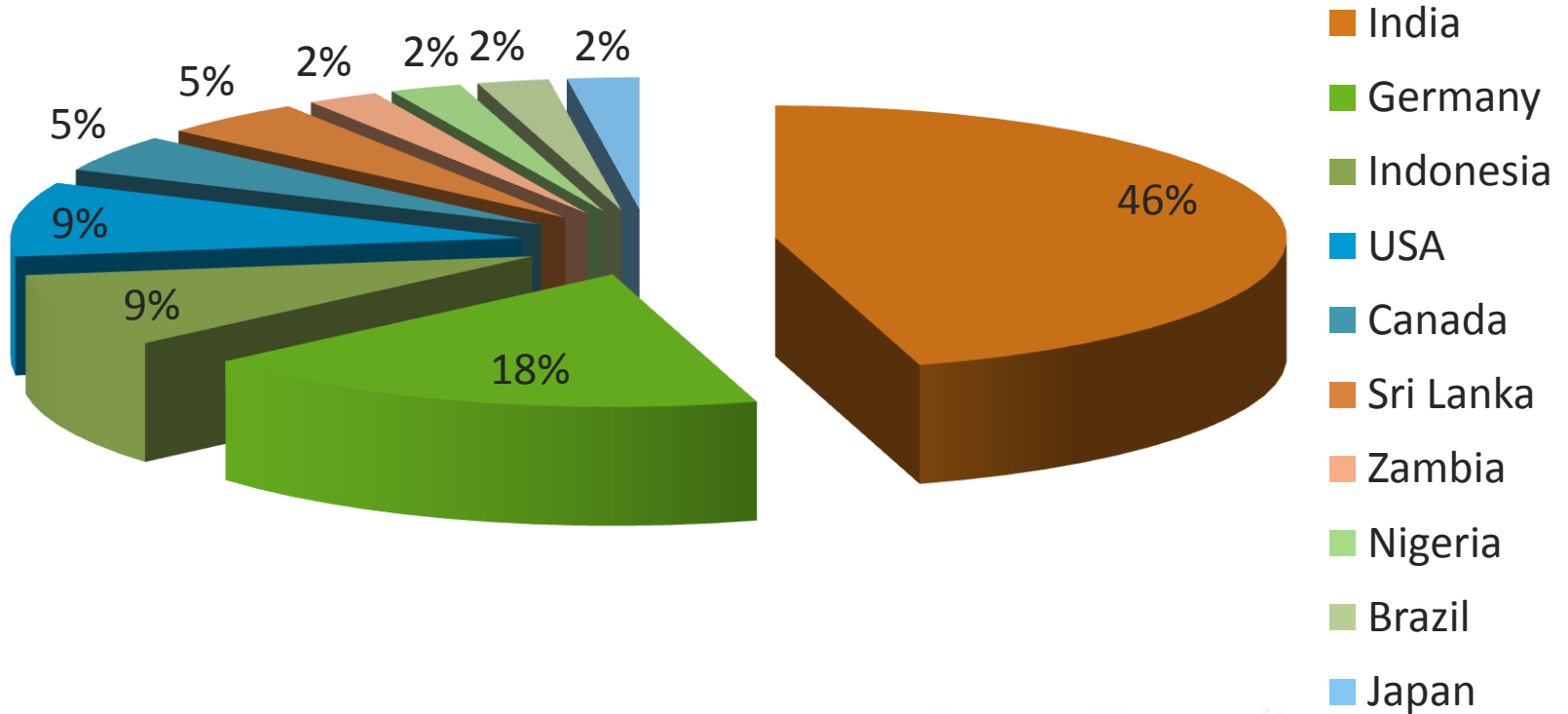
1) Acknowledgement of the importance of youth participation

2) Encourages parties to fully involve youth in all relevant processes

3) Invites parties to continue to provide support for youth initiatives that support the three objectives of the conventions



Youth Delegates in COP11, Hyderabad



Participation Figures

- Host country is usually represented in large numbers
→ *But number of host country youth typically decreases at next COP: e.g. 20 Japanese youth at COP10, only 1 at COP11*
- Key Magediverse countries (e.g. Colombia, Malaysia etc.) were not or poorly represented at COP11
- Lack of youth delegates from countries of both the Global South and the North

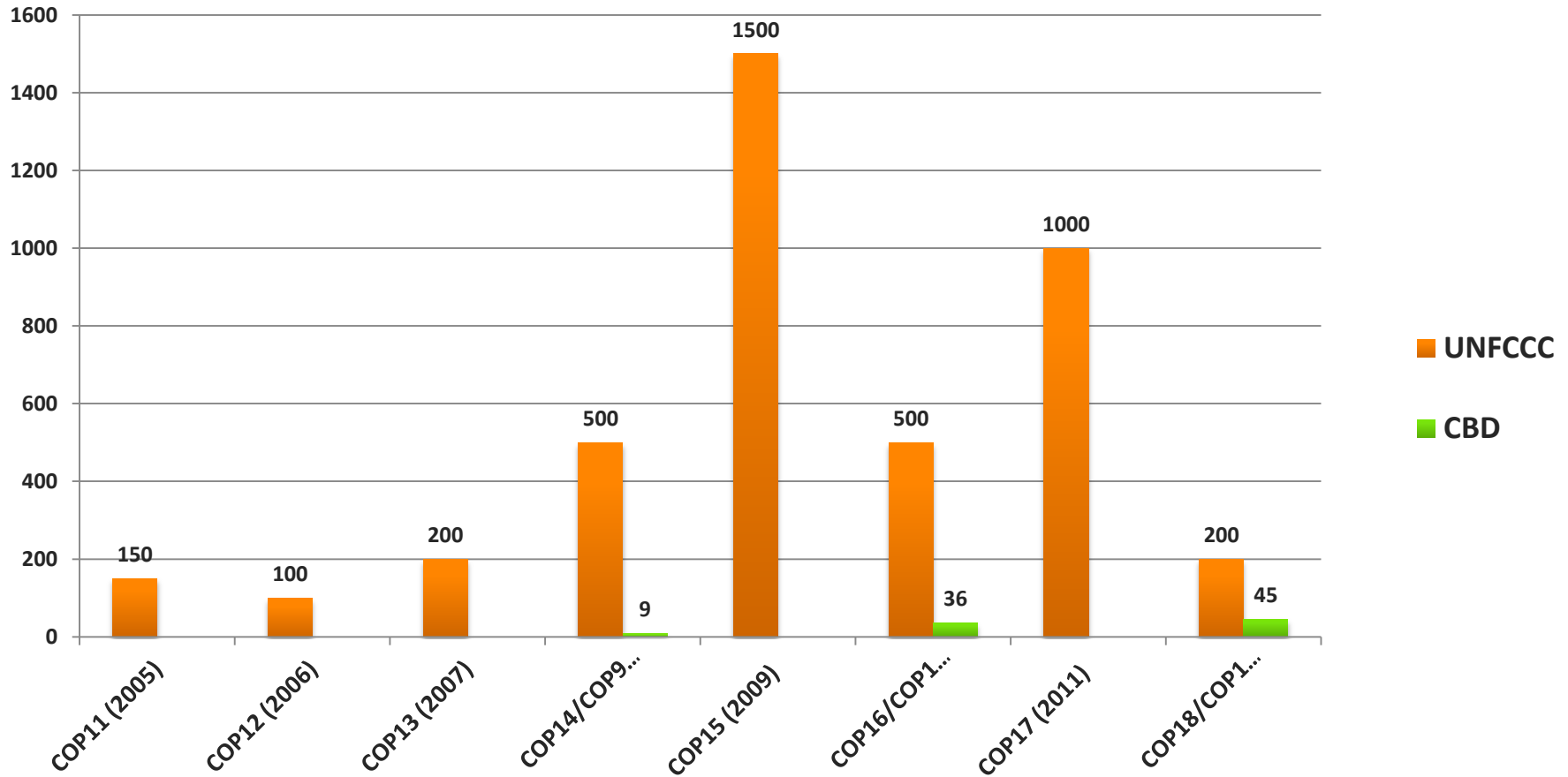


Participation Figures

- **Various World Regions remain underrepresented**
 - Europe (except of Germany at COP11, 1 at COP10)
 - **Africa (2 at COP11, 2 at COP10)**
 - **South-America (1 at COP11, 1 at COP10)**
 - Central America (0 at COP11, 1 at COP10)
 - Western Asia (none)
 - Eastern Asia (2 at COP11, 20 at COP10)
 - Australia (none)



UNFCCC/CBD Youth Delegates



Main Challenges

- Many youth organizations and young people in the world are involved in on-ground nature conservation projects
- Youth organizations are mostly active on the local or national level
- Very few engage on the international level due to:
 - Lack of dedicated funding for youth participation in Biodiversity governance
 - lack of knowledge about the importance of the CBD and how to participate effectively



Thank you very much for your attention!

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bit.ly/gybn-indv

Contact us

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