

CONCEPT NOTE

Commonwealth Youth Climate Action Stories

September 2021

1. Implementing entity

The Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN) is a network of young climate leaders and youth-led organizations leading climate action. The objective of the network is to build the capacity of young people in their endeavours to address climate change and other environmental issues, advocate climate change from a youth perspective. The overall scope of the network extends to environmental sustainability, oceans and marine life, and natural resource utilization and conversation.

2. Background

Climate change is a global crisis that has been adversely affecting the environment, social and economic status of countries, communities, and individuals. The greatest effect of climate change has already been felt through the impacts of frequent drought, flooding, increasing global temperature, level rise to name a few. Therefore, there needs to be collective action of individuals including young people to act through programming initiatives, advocacy and driving sustainable policies in order to build the resilient future that we all envisage. According to various notable organizations such as UNICEF, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and a host of others, the importance of youth in this fight against climate change cannot be overemphasized.

Even though there is still room for improvement in actions, youth efforts need to be recognized and appreciated. It is for this reason that the top 10 young climate advocate project was initiated. The project is aimed at showcasing the efforts of young climate activists within the CYCN who are driving innovative and transformative action. The 10 individuals are to be nominated by members of the CYCN to feature their climate action stories in the upcoming publication hosted by the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) and the Commonwealth Climate Youth Network. The stories are to be based on recognising the most impactful and transformative innovations in sustainable development.

3. Goal

The goal of this project is to bring visibility to at least 10 youth advocates within the CYCN who are taking impactful, transformative, and innovative actions in combating the impacts of climate change to bring about sustainable development.

4. Objectives

- Identify and highlight innovation that show demonstrable potential for advancing climate action;
- Help create an environment for young people that encourages climate action for sustainable development;
- Showcase the depth and breadth of innovation potential and creativity of young people across the Commonwealth who are acting against climate change impacts;
- Inspire, encourage and challenge CYCN members to develop innovative methods and take transformation actions to combat the negative impacts of climate change.

5. Categories of action

Stories that will be featured are of those that have been doing action in one or more of these 5 areas:

- Improve **awareness** and **knowledge** on climate change within communities.
- Foster **advocacy** action that brings youth and climate agenda to the front of discussion e.g. in Policy development spaces.
- Enhance **adaptation** of both humans and biodiversity that have been impacted by climate change.
- Build **resilience** of individuals and communities against the impact of climate change.
- Enhance **mitigation** of climate change impact

6. Nomination Criteria

- Nominees must be active CYCN members.
- Nominees must have a track record of involvement in transformative and innovative climate action.
- Nominees' climate action must be relevant to one of the categories of action
- Nominees must be 29 years old and below.

7. Nomination Link

<https://forms.gle/4e9JT1rXhukXyXKo9>