

REPORT ON LACCW

**The Commonwealth Youth Climate
Change Network**

JULY 2022

OVERVIEW

This Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week (LACCW) Report was compiled by Leneka Rhoden and Lance Scott (CYCN Delegates). The report highlights the key takeaways from the discussions had at the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week and the opportunities for youth to capitalize.

Contributors

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Overview of Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week

The Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week (LACCW) 2022 took place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from July 18 to July 22. The week empowered and engaged stakeholders to advance climate action in all nations, neighborhoods, and economies in the region. Through collaboration, opportunities were created to advance climate action, redress social injustices, and fund environmentally and socially responsible growth.

The Dominican Republic's government hosted LACCW 2022. Together with its international partners, the UN Development Program, UN Environment Program, and World Bank Group, UN Climate Change coordinated the event. Partners in the region included the Inter-American Development Bank, the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) (IDB).

The Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network partnered with YOUNGO. YOUNGO is the official youth arm of the United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change (UNFCCC) Youth Constituency and it consists of numerous youth-led groups, delegations, organizations, and individuals working in fields relevant to climate change. In order to ensure that the viewpoints of young people and future generations are taken into consideration in the international decision-making processes, YOUNGO coordinates numerous Working Groups, each of which focuses on a different aspect of climate change within the UNFCCC negotiations and events. Additionally, members of YOUNGO monitor and report on climate discussions and the effects of their results.

Statement from the Pan-Commonwealth Coordinator

LACCW 2022



Photo 1 Leneka Rhoden, CYCN Coordinator

The Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN) was honoured to have partnered with the United Nation's YOUNGO to host a side event at the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week (LACCW). The event was held between 18-21 July in the Dominican Republic.

The Network, since its inception in 2009, has been committed to its mandate to build the capacity of youth as they seek to advocate and participate in Climate Action.

The CYCN delegation included Lance Scott, CYCN Jamaica Member and a PhD Candidate at the University of the West Indies, Mona, and myself, Leneka Rhoden, as Pan-Commonwealth Coordinator of CYCN. Our activities included serving as a panelist discussing opportunities and challenges for youth in Climate Action, moderating fire-side chats on policy limitations on Climate Change in the Caribbean Region, and facilitating workshops geared towards teaching Climate Leaders skills in Data Collection and Project Management.

The CYCN continues to support actions that empower young people to translate climate change programmes into effective policies that will have a measurable impact on youth well-being. The CYCN team was able to engage with representatives from United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and discuss potential partnerships for common actions and campaigns.

Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week: Goal and Collective Effort

LACCW 2022 opened a collaboration platform to explore:

- *Resilience against climate risks*
- *The transition to a low-emission economy*
- *Partnerships to solve pressing challenges*

From a youth perspective, the LACCW provided a platform for capacity building, idea sharing and exploring best-practices at different levels.



The climate crisis poses a serious danger for all human beings, especially youth who will feel the full effect of policies and actions enacted today. According to the UNICEF's child-focused climate risk index, globally there are one billion children who are at an extremely high risk of being impacted by the climate crisis. It is therefore imperative that rapid action is taken to reduce the risk to youth and create a more resilient world for all.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, there are approximately 652.28 million inhabitants, of which 188 million are children and adolescents. According to research conducted by UNICEF in 2021, 9 out of 10 children in Latin America and

the Caribbean are exposed to at least two climate and environmental shocks. Shocks are catastrophes that are more severe than a society can handle, including heat waves, floods, and drought. The shocks are as a result of the high vulnerability of the region to hydro-meteorological events such as storms and hurricanes, which are becoming more frequent and intense due to Climate Change.

Furthermore, to investigate the impact of Climate Change on children, a Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) was developed (UNICEF 2021) and it revealed the number of children that were affected by different shocks in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- 55 million children are exposed to water scarcity.
- 60 million children are exposed to cyclones.
- 85 million children are exposed to Zika.
- 115 million children are exposed to Dengue.
- 45 million children are exposed to heatwaves.
- 105 million children are exposed to air pollution.

Children who live in Latin America and the Caribbean are exposed to at least two climate and environmental shocks.

The challenges that we face in Latin America and the Caribbean are exacerbated by the limited interactions between the regions. This is due to the fact that in failing to increase inter-regional communication, leaders are unable to implement a cohesive strategy on how best to combat shared climate challenges and further, do not engage in knowledge exchange dialogue sessions which may serve to facilitate more informed understandings of the climate crisis and lessons learned from experiences outside of their own. Additionally, the language barriers existing among Spanish, English, French and Dutch territories are also limiting factors. The native language of these territories is the main modus operandi, and this results in limited knowledge sharing in areas such as agricultural development, environmental and adaptation strategies and Climate Change.

Important lessons learnt in one territory could be beneficial to another since the region has similar social, economic and environmental challenges. Therefore, a regional platform for idea sharing is vital to plug the gaps towards greater environmental integration.

The LACCW presented a unique opportunity to share ideas and best practices as well as to build capacity. Since we share similar historical roots and have a vested interest in protecting and preserving our environment, through dialogue we are able to move forward towards the global goal, as stipulated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to achieve 1.5 degrees Celsius below pre-industrial level (IPCC 2018).



Photo 3 Lance Scott, CYCN Member and Mission co-coordinator

LACCW CYCN/YOUNGO Side-Event - Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship

The Commonwealth Youth Climate Network (CYCN) played a pivotal role in coordinating and contributing to a number of flagship events. Firstly, there was a panel discussion and breakout group discussion which focused on the challenges for **Youth Leaders and Entrepreneurs**.

Additionally, a second panel discussion and breakout group discussion focused on the **Obstacles and the Role of Youth in Climate Conversations**.

One of the key questions was *“How youth leadership and entrepreneurship can lead to meaningful impact on varied sectors of climate change?”*

To ensure a comprehensive response, there was a breakdown into several subsections namely: main challenges, existing infrastructure, solutions and increasing involvement. This section will highlight each of the subsections.

What are some Main Challenges?

- Imposter Syndrome - Feeling unconfident in your abilities of being an entrepreneurial leader within the climate space.
- Access to Opportunities and Resources – Youths within developing countries do not have access to opportunities that could affect how much they can impact they can make towards climate change.
- Lack of Knowledge (Haiti) - Participants indicated that there was limited knowledge in some countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Particularly, it was highlighted that in Haiti, for example, many youths have limited knowledge and this affects the impact they can make on the different sectors affected by Climate Change.

Lack of Training / Capacity-Building / Technical Training – Youths sometimes do not have enough technical training to make a positive impact within the Climate Change space.

- Lack of Engagement – Government officials not engaging youth
- Lack of Synergy / Collaboration – Often times there are many Climate Change groups working in silos

What are some Policy Mechanisms?

Utilizing Jamaican examples, there were three pieces of policy highlighted that supported youth leadership and entrepreneurship to have a meaningful impact on the varied sectors of climate change. Firstly, the implementation and activity of a National Youth Policy (Jamaica) helped. Youth development and its importance are discussed in policy, along with a youth situational analysis, guiding principles, national commitments, policy priorities, goals, and strategic objectives. The examination of the political and legal landscapes and broad implementation techniques follow.

Furthermore, the establishment of organizations such as the Climate Change Innovation Centre (CCIC) facilitates Youth Entrepreneurs especially those that are trailblazing innovative ideas to combat climate change. In addition, there are organisations such as the Ministry of Youth and which represent the interests of youth through engagement and information dissemination.

What are some Solutions?

- Cross-sectoral Networking
 - Synergy among different sectors such as Economic Growth, National Security, Health and Climate/Environment. The problem requires a multi-sectoral approach.
- Access to Credit / Loans
 - Young entrepreneurs find it difficult to access funding to accelerate their business growth. They often do not meet the requirement as access to credit or loans are mostly directed to more established businesses. Greater access to credit/loan

would lead to positive outcomes.

- Providing Spaces for Collaboration (local and national levels)
 - There should be a greater focus on creating entrepreneurship hubs such as resource centres that can foster collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Access to Opportunities (Publications in media for example)
 - At the local level, leadership and entrepreneurship opportunities are limited
- Access to larger platforms (Supporting and Highlighting their work)
 - Regional and international youth networks such as CYCN and YOUNGO among others help in supporting and highlighting the work youth are doing.

How can we Increase Involvement?

- Adjusting the Requirements (Improving Access)
 - Most programmes have requirements that are often difficult to be met by young people. They lack the years of experience or the formal registration certificate required to access these.
- Understanding the Gender Dynamics when planning
 - Male and Female are affected in different ways and often have different needs.
- Increasing Awareness
 - Grants are often undersubscribed due to the lack of promotion/raising of awareness.

What are the future Vision/ Expectations?

- Value-Added
 - Ultimately, youth should be engaged in a holistic way to add value at a personal, national, regional and international level. this should include providing youth a platform and integrating their intellectual thought in government policies.
- Transformation and creation of industry to drive development
 - Room must be made for the creation and establishment of new industries that are

youth-centric. These industries should cater to the development of youth and provide them with opportunities for capacity-building and gaining experience.



Photo 4 Lance Scott speaking at LACCW

LACCW Side-Event - Obstacles and the Role of Youth

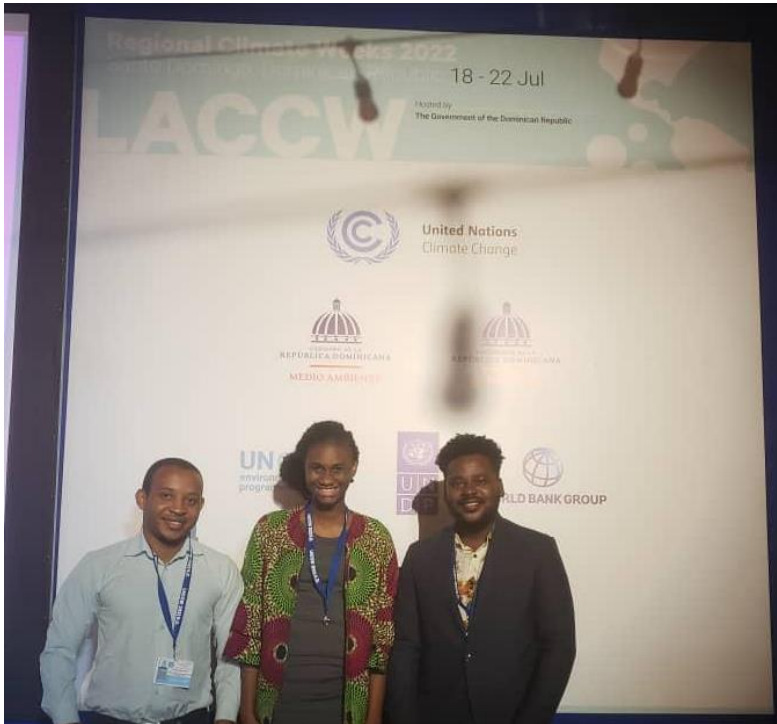


Photo 5 Ms. Leneka Rhoden along with two Haitian Youth Representatives (Left: Dr Kenzy Jean-Pierre, Right: Adelin Pierre)

The following summarizes some of the regional obstacles, best practices and the expectations for future youth climate dialogue (E.g., COP 27):

Similar obstacles faced across Latin America and the Caribbean:

- No openness from the Government
- Corruption in Government
- Difficult to enter the system and get noticed
- Youth voices not heard

- Getting partnerships at both the local and regional level to champion climate action
- Difficulty in defining Youth/ Young People
- No Youth Policy in some territories (E.g., Haiti)
- Youth Lack Competencies
- Not Trusting Youth/ Lack of Confidence in Youth
- Lack of Resources
- Access to Capital
- Dissemination of Information
- Youth Operating in Silos

Best Practices identified in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Participating in Affiliated Organizations / Gaining Access

- Holding Governments Accountable (Enforcing Policies)
- Youth coming together
- Work with Families / Improve Confidence amongst youth / Removing Cultural Barriers
- Define Youth Policy
- Help Youth Experiences / Internships / Jobs
- Stakeholder Engagement / Consultations with Youth
- Shifting Responsibility to Community
- Creating a Ministry for Youth Development (Trinidad)
- Mobilization of Youth in System through Restructuring / Making Space for Upward Movements
- Fighting for Youth Position
- Engage Youth

What are the Expectations for COP27?

- Participation / Spaces for Youth
- Opportunities for Collaboration
- GreenFund for Youth developed to fund youth initiatives and programmes
- Mandating Youth Representation / Quota for Countries
- Application for Youth to attend COP27
- Youth Ambassador Programme to be further developed to assist with accreditation, Visa Application and Funding
- Youth being Accountable to Government
- Youth Statement being included in Country Position on Climate Change (Action)



Photo 6 Lance Scott and a Haitian Youth Representative Adelin Pierre

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) at LACCW 2022

One of the most useful strategies for combating climate change is renewable energy. According to research by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), CO2 emissions would be roughly 70% lower than they are today if renewable energy sources were quickly adopted. The switch to renewable energy sources is essential for sustainable development and offers major long-term socioeconomic benefits in addition to ensuring climate stability. Discover more reasons why a future without climate change depends on boosting the use of renewable energy.

CYCN had representatives in-person at the session and engaged with Una May Gordon, the Director of the Climate Change Division in Jamaica.

There is a growing concern about the energy security in Latin America and the Caribbean since fossil fuels are still the main source of energy. Market volatility of fossil fuel prices as well its negative environmental impacts make it important to consider renewable energy sources. Therefore, the need for an energy transition is critical for our future. Youth have an important role to play to make this a reality and it will include tailoring actions through awareness campaigns and capacity building about the importance of clean energy as well as what to do on a personal level.

The IRENA session highlighted:

- There is an energy crisis that can happen at any time due to market volatility
- There is major room for renewable energy markets in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Latin America and the Caribbean has some of the resources for an energy transition
- There needs to be greater capacity building regarding the energy transition
- Youth have a role to play to usher in greater renewable energy use
- Youth should align themselves for renewable energy opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean



Photo 7 Ms. Leneka Rhoden [Right] and Ms Una May Gordon [Left] at IRENA session



Photo 8 Lance Scott [Right] and Ms. Una May Gordon [Left] at IRENA session

Opportunities for Youth

The LACCW has highlighted there are several opportunities for youth within the Climate Change space and discourse. In addition to other idea sharing and capacity building sessions, more youth are needed to champion the cause of climate action at both the local, regional and national level. Climate Action advocacy is pivotal. This could be achieved through greater synergy among the CYCN and other groups such as YOUNGO. Since YOUNGO is the official youth arm of the UNFCCC, there is a constant flow of opportunities for engagement of youth. Subsequently, youth can become a part of the YOUNGO network as well to access more opportunities.

The youth climate action space is dynamic and therefore it is important to be involved and to be part of the change that we hope to see. There are two more major youth climate action events coming up this year. They are listed below.

- New York Climate Week (September 2022)
- COP27 (November 2022)

A vivacious conversation with the Ambassador of Jamaica to the Dominican Republic also revealed the following.

- The importance of Idea sharing
 - Jamaica and Dominican Republic should exchange ideas around areas that they are expert in
- Recent visit by AGROInvest
 - There has been an initial bilateral connection
- Current Projects – Canadian funded project
 - There is a project that being organized to benefit a regional country such as Jamaica in the agricultural value chain
- Greater synergy between Dominican Republic and Jamaica
 - This can lead to greater resilience for countries including dealing with Climate Change.

Capacity Building Workshops for LACCW

Project Management – Leneka Rhoden

The long-term survival of any organization is to a certain extent dependent on management's ability to develop and implement corporate strategies in harmony with its ever-changing environments. The timing and successful implementation of projects can greatly enhance an organization's competitive situation. For example, the reduction of the time required to bring a new product to market can contribute the success of a company by providing a competitive edge. This in the end determines the overall profitability of the project. Time and speed of execution is increasingly considered a strategic factor that needs to be managed as any other resource.

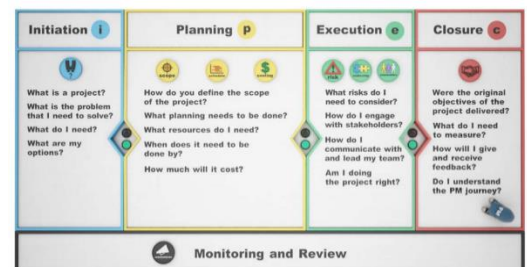
Value of Project Management

Actual experience with project management indicates that the majority of the organizations using it experience better control and better customer relations. Other advantages include lower costs, higher quality and reliability, higher profit margins, a sharper orientation towards results, improved interdepartmental co-ordination and higher employee morale. Other benefits identified are:

- Improved efficiency and increased profitability through better utilization of limited resources; and
- Enhanced planning, estimating and cost control leading to a more consistent achievement of milestones and objectives.

Finally, the project management canvas provides a great visual depiction of the project management journey. The distinct phases help project managers to carefully think about their projects and how they might approach each in turn.

Canvas Framework - Key Questions



Data Collection for Climate Scientists – Lance Scott

What is Mobile Data Collection (KoboToolbox)?

Mobile data collection is a technique for gathering both qualitative and quantitative data using a mobile device (E.g., mobile phone, tablet, etc.). It has been demonstrated that this strategy improves data gathering efficiency, effectiveness of service delivery, and program staff output. One tool used for mobile data collection is KoboToolbox.

KoboToolbox is a set of tools for collecting field data in difficult environments. Our software is open source and free. Most of our customers are aid workers and scholars in poor nations who are engaged in humanitarian activities.

Value of Mobile Data Collection

- Keep Data Organized
 - Group field data collection assignments into projects and assign users to individual projects
- Keep in Sync
 - Field data is automatically synchronized to central server, streamlining office operations and increasing productivity and cost savings. Stay in field.
- Work Anywhere
 - Data collection is fully functional offline. When back in cell coverage, data automatically synchronizes back to office.

KEY ADVANTAGES



Figure 1 Advantages of KoboToolbox for Scientists (Source Dr Donovan Campbell)

How to sign up for KoboToolbox:

Getting Started with KoboToolbox

What is KoboToolbox?

KoboToolbox is a suite of tools for field data collection for use in challenging environments

Features

- Form builder**
 - Design forms quickly
 - Import XLS Forms
- Data Collection**
 - On line and Offline
 - Phone, Tablet, Browser
- Analysis and Data Management**
 - Summary Report
 - Data Visualization
 - Export data

Signing up for KoboToolbox

Go to <https://www.kobotoolbox.org>

- Click "Create an account" and enter information (name, email address and password)
- Go to your email address and click the activation link

GET STARTED

Get started with KoboToolbox now, it's free and it takes under a minute. We have two publicly available instances of KoboToolbox you can choose from:

Unlimited Use for Humanitarian Organizations	Researchers, All Workers & Everyone Else
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided by the ODK Unlimited Submissions Unlimited Data Storage Unlimited Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided by KoboToolbox Unlimited Submissions for users 300 GB of Data Storage Per Month Unlimited Projects
<p>CREATE AN ACCOUNT</p> <p>or login</p>	<p>CREATE AN ACCOUNT</p> <p>or login</p>

For more information on the differences between the two servers and to help determine which one is right for you, please read our [Which Server Should I Use?](#) support article.

Advanced users can also install KoboToolbox on their own server (or on a local machine) using Docker. See our [KoboToolbox repository on GitHub](#) for details.

Partners of LACCW 2022



United Nations
Climate Change



References

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- IPCC. 2018. “Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty” [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 616 pp. [https://doi.org/ 10.1017/9781009](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009)