



Young conservationists are working on the **frontline** of the **biggest, most complex** conservation issues of our time.

Youth for Wildlife Conservation (Y4WC) is a global network of young conservationists born from the **Youth Forum for People and Wildlife** held in Johannesburg in September 2016, before CITES CoP17. Our mission is to *support and empower youth to become the future conservation leaders the world needs.*

Our network represents over **50 nationalities** working with **more than 100** different species. Our members are **youth leaders** conducting wildlife conservation projects in the four corners of the globe. They are rehabilitating orangutans in Borneo, protecting wildlife habitats in India, researching the skin trade of big cats in South Africa and educating the next generation about wildlife, in schools from Vancouver to Harare. Many in our network are already involved in the CITES process.

Our Aim:

In 2019, the conservation world will turn its' attention to **Sri Lanka** for the **CITES CoP18**. Y4WC hopes to be there too, bringing together a selection of early-career conservationists and policy makers. **We are proud to announce our aim to organize a youth-led Forum in Sri Lanka in 2019!**

Here, youth delegates from Party delegations as well as selected young conservationists and the Y4WC network online from across the globe, will take part in:

- capacity-building workshops,
- professional development training
- and have the unique opportunity to network across disciplines and expertise.

We wish to showcase how young people can mobilize to learn about and take part in CITES negotiations, and catalyze an international network of outstanding youth conservation leaders!

Our highlights over the last year:

- Y4WC were official partners for **World Wildlife Day 2017**, participating in the United Nations General Assembly World Wildlife Day event in New York and leading a social media campaign on the theme “**Listen to the young voices**”.
- We ran an interactive workshop during the **Conservation Optimism Summit** in London. The workshop focused on one of our key values, the **importance of diversity in the youth movement, in conservation, and in environmental issues in general**.
- Partnering with **World Elephant Day 2017**, we ran a social media campaign that promoted the work young conservationists in our network are doing in **elephant conservation across Africa and Asia**. The campaign reached thousands of people and gave young people the opportunity to **debate, collaborate and learn** about the conservation of elephants.
- Members of Y4WC sat on a youth panel and presented the ‘**Millennial Engagement in Wildlife Conservation: Motivations, Challenges and Opportunities of Youth Globally**’ Project Report at the International Congress on Conservation Biology in Cartagena, Colombia. The report was also submitted as an Information Document to the 69th CITES Standing Committee.



Interested in supporting young conservationists?

- **CITES Parties:** Bring youth delegates to the negotiations, for which Y4WC will organize learning opportunities and events to network with their peers and experts.
- **CITES Parties & the Secretariat:** Y4WC encourages you to take part in the conception of the Forum, in order to make it relevant and impactful.
- **Experts & Professionals:** You have knowledge and expertise, what’s better than to share it with emerging wildlife conservationists?
- **Donors, Funding Agencies & Trusts:** Help us sponsor young conservationists from developing and indigenous backgrounds to attend our Youth Forum in Sri Lanka! We call on donors to work with us and invest in the next generation of young conservation leaders.

See you in Sri Lanka

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