

Seychelles Support Team: Report from COP23

I. Summary

The Seychelles Support Team (SST) was designed as a pilot initiative to meaningfully engage youth in UNFCCC processes while providing assistance to the Seychelles delegation to the UNFCCC by covering negotiations, relevant side-events and conducting research on an as-needed basis. The Youth Climate Lab designed and coordinated the program in collaboration with Government of the Seychelles and SYAH-Seychelles, providing logistical support before, during and after the negotiations and advising team members throughout.

At the UNFCCC COP23:

- 21 Seychellois and International youth from academic and civil society organizations took notes and analyzed meetings throughout the negotiations, thereby enabling the Government of Seychelles to allow the government to focus on the most relevant policy issues and take meaningful action.
- The 4 Seychellois youth who participated meaningfully engaged in climate negotiations and policy processes through training and reporting on negotiations. Several are implementing policy projects after returning home.
- The SST facilitated greater Global North-Global South collaboration for climate action by connecting Seychellois and International Youth to advocate for tangible policy movement around Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE.)

II. Empowering Seychelles Youth

The Youth Climate Lab not only facilitated the participation of Seychelles youth in the COP, a tremendous space for learning and networking, but also provided training and team-building opportunities alongside the conference.

At COP23, Seychelles youth met with subject-matter experts at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as the Center for International Governance Innovation. There were also a number of opportunities to connect with other SIDS attendees, through AOSIS and other networking events facilitated by team members of the SST.



The Youth Climate Lab also provided logistical support for the Seychellois youth, arranging accommodation and transport in addition to helping participants schedule and manage their time during the COP. In collaboration with SYAH-Seychelles, YCL provided support in the selection of the Seychelles delegates, and developed guidelines for participants to ensure their work was productive for the government delegation. At daily meetings, participants outlined their priorities and worked towards goals established for the negotiations as a whole.

III. Supporting the Seychelles Delegation

Members of the Seychelles Support Team provided note taking and research on salient issues at COP23, reporting daily to the government delegation on the Paris Rulebook, the design of the Talanoa Dialogue, Action for Climate Empowerment, and other agenda items, particularly related to finance, loss and damage, and capacity building. SST members also provided reporting on side events relevant to the work of the Seychelles delegation, such as NDC implementation in SIDS: linking mitigation and adaptation efforts for sustainable and GLISPA/ICLEI's Front Line Cities and Islands.

IV. North-South Collaboration and Policy Outcomes

“The pink badge meant that I got to see a whole new side of COP than I'm used to as an observer, and it gave me an invaluable insight into the dynamics of the negotiations.”

Each Seychelles participant worked with an international experience with a background in a particular negotiating issue to learn more and create avenues for future collaboration.

Particularly in the Subsidiary Body for Implementation negotiations on Action for Climate Empowerment, mandated as part of Article 4 of the UNFCCC and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, SST members worked with the Government of the Seychelles to provide timely reporting and eventually policy proposals that led to an in-session workshop at SB48 in May 2018.

E. Seychelles Support Team at COP24 and Beyond

The Seychelles Support Team (SST) activates youth to provide meaningful support to small island delegations and empowers them to take further action once they return home and in future policy settings.

For COP24, SST will provide greater training, mentorship and collaboration opportunities to Seychellois participants and streamline program communication and logistics. Before COP, Seychellois participants will meet with counterparts from the Canadian Arctic through YCL's Ocean Policy Project to discuss shared and distinct challenges that their regions face because of climate change, and map out issue focuses and strategy for the negotiations and action beyond COP24. In partnership with



Youth Climate Lab

CAN-International, a pre-COP training will provide further background for participants to achieve their policy goals for the negotiations and network.

