GLOBE IN A HONEYSPOON

Plural Narratives Across a Plural America: Gazing Borders of Climate-Nature Injustice in Turtle Island and Abya Yala

(Cover picture: Douglas Fir Tree, Across from the Copeland Islands, Thulin Passage, British Columbia, Canada. By Kaitlin Grierson & Lauren Grierson, 2019 Y4N Storytellers)

SPECIAL CALLS WINNERS FEATURETTE

Find out how to check the stories of the winners of our #YourStoryOurFuture Special Calls, and learn more about our youngest climate-nature leaders!

MEET OUR TEAM:

Curious about the faces and people behind the storytelling content you come across? Get to know them in their own words!

ALSO...

>> A Quick Guide to Compositing
>> Y4N’s 2021 Achievements
>> and more!
All found at full length at: https://bit.ly/3MBVWbZ

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#YSOF IV
APRIL’S CLICKS & BEATZ
Joining Y4N has shown me that supporting youth-led work is critical. I realised that we young people could be frontline actors to tackle climate change and nature issues. I found a movement that is actively building a space where young people, all over the world, have agency over the joint climate-biodiversity crises that were not created by us, but are and will be felt by us, hence must be addressed by us.

Above all, at Y4N I love learning, having fun, reading stories, and collaborating. In fact, to me Y4N is more than a learning and working space: it is a source of love to be considered family as well. And today I want to extend that love to all of you. Since our first launch, we sincerely thank you from our inner heart because you have been a good reader and Y4N Storytelling soulmate. To be honest, without you, we couldn't move forward and our work would be meaningless. What a joy to share with you our fourth issue, and receive once again your attention and feedback. We hope that your contribution and engagement can plug us into the power of change even further.

Sincerely receive our love,

Leonard Iyamuremye, Global Ambassador at Y4N
"The water to our seeds, the nutrients to our roots, the sun to our leaves, the bees to our fruits. That's who Y4N’s Global Ambassadors (GAs) are, and every day I count my lucky stars for the possibility of remote working within such a dedicated and dynamic group of youth! There is no Storytelling Programme without them, and that’s a story that also deserves to be told."

EMILY BOHOBO N’DOMBAE DOLA, STORYTELLING DIRECTOR

"Everything comes in time to him knows how to wait. But believe me, my dear boy, there is nothing stronger than those two: patience and time; they will do it all. - Leo Tolstoy"
#WordsOfWisdom #FaveQuote

@Orieny | Africa Region

"Yazan is much younger in real life than he is in the ID card; he couldn't enjoy his childhood during the war in his country, so he is discovering it now."
#ReadMore
https://allaboutyazan.y4n/

@Abby | Africa Region

Love my dog - I stayed with her for 15 years and passed on in 2020 October at the age of 15 (not “dogs”, there is a difference). I am 5.7, which is apparently tall in East Africa. One day I plan to climb Mt.Kenya & Kilimanjaro!
#IceBroken
Sometimes I'm a biologist, sometimes an artist and sometimes a writer, but I am always a gardener.

@Cesar | Latin America & the Caribbean Region

It's by doing lots of different things, with lots of different people, in lots of different ways, that we achieve what we envision.

@Bulimo | Africa Region

#DYK The globe is home to over 70,000 tree species, around one-third (>30%) of which are at risk of extinction. As the saying goes, the last man dies when the last tree dies. #NatureIsLife

@Odhiambo | Africa Region

#ICYM “Our planet’s alarm is going off, and it is time to wake up and take action! – Leonardo DiCaprio” #DailyTruths #ListenToUs

@Tomiwa | Africa Region

#AboutMe
Sometimes I’m a biologist, sometimes an artist and sometimes a writer, but I am always a gardener.

@Odhiambo | Africa Region

#DailyInspo

#ICYM “Our planet’s alarm is going off, and it is time to wake up and take action! – Leonardo DiCaprio” #DailyTruths #ListenToUs

@Bulimo | Africa Region

It's by doing lots of different things, with lots of different people, in lots of different ways, that we achieve what we envision. #DailyInspo
I’m a village boy from the deserts and I believe in allowing natural cause to lead me on my chosen path. #ThoughtLeadership

Eventually, everything connects! #TrustTheProcess

Raised loving nature and exploring its beauty in the country of thousands of hills. #HelloWorld #PositiveVibes

If I ever were to choose where to spend eternity, I wouldn’t have a second option to the wild, with nature. World Wildlife Day is my birthday (literally). #BornForThis
Throughout 2021 our storytelling campaign received inspiring stories from young people around the world. A variety of competitions helped us discover youth through the lenses of resilience, passion and innovation, covering themes like gender and women's rights, cultural and social diversity, vulnerability and risk, production and consumption, and governance and knowledge. We are happy to now feature 22 prize-winning stories in a special category within our Glocal Climate Nature Storymap:

Check All of Our Winning Stories: https://bit.ly/37sIOjD
WINNERS SPOTLIGHT: OUR YOUNGEST STORYTELLING LEADERS!

Sainath Manikandhan and Sai Sahana Manikandhan are siblings and young environmentalists of the Papers, E-wastes, Plastics, and Cans (PEPC) campaign. Sainath is a Grade 9 student while his sister Sai is in Grade 7, both of GEMS United Indian School in Abu Dhabi.

As young environmentalists, Sainath and Sai support numerous environmental groups, including Drop It Youth (DIY), Tunza Eco Generation, and Emirates Environmental Group—to mention a few. Their main aim is to raise environmental awareness about single-use plastics and encourage individuals and organizations to reduce their CO2 emissions through simple everyday choices.

Their PEPC campaign directly addresses the problem of plastic pollution by encouraging recycling and alternatives to put an end the dominance of single-use plastics. The duo strongly believes in the potential of technology to develop greener and more sustainable solutions to the plastic problem.

They inform their action through awareness and sensitization campaigns and workshops, pep talks, as well as fun articles and columns in the dailies. They also continue to leverage social media through art and keyboard plays to ensure their messages reach their target audiences.

Part of their propositions to reduce plastic pollution in their messaging includes; the need for individuals to carry refillable water bottles, reuse plastic food packaging, adopt reusable and biodegradable carrier bags, spare use of water and electricity, and the planting of more trees.

They believe the plastic menace is significantly intertwined with other global challenges of our time, including climate change and biodiversity loss, and call for a redefined synergy to pursue a collective solution.
Especially in a world full of so many different cultures, we can bounce ideas off each other based on our respective cultural and economic backgrounds to think of ways to improve existing solutions in one area of the world or even create universal solutions. However, just like how New York City has historically discriminated against minorities by putting landfills near their neighborhoods, we must deal with regional racial and environmental disparities on an individual basis.

From “Introducing Next Generation Diplomacy”, by 2021 Storyteller Ethan Chiu (U.S.A)
Only 10% of the original Atlantic coastal forest ecosystems of tropical South America remain. North America has four major deserts: Great Basin, Mohave, Chihuahuan and Sonoran. All but the Sonoran Desert have cold winters.

The high-altitude Polylepis forests in the Andes hold some of the most threatened Neotropical vegetation and biodiversity on Earth.

55% of the LAC’s entire mangrove coastline is now classified as in critical or endangered status. Scientists are now using “aridification” to refer to ongoing record-level trends of desertification, drought, fires and freshwater-ecosystem loss across Western North America.

Average coral cover in the Caribbean declined from 34.8 per cent in 1970 to 16.3 per cent in 2011 for 88 sample points.

All in all, America is one of the most endowed landmasses in terms of natural wealth critical for the global climate regulation system, particularly its tropical forests in LAC representing ¼ of all of their kind on the planet. Unfortunately, today its ecosystems are generally in worse shape than in previous decades.

Did you know that...

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- Scientists are now using “aridification” to refer to ongoing record-level trends of desertification, drought, fires and freshwater-ecosystem loss across Western North America.
- Average coral cover in the Caribbean declined from 34.8 per cent in 1970 to 16.3 per cent in 2011 for 88 sample points.
It is estimated that since 1970, North America (NA) has lost \( \frac{1}{3} \) of its biodiversity. Even in spite of areas like LAC protecting close to \( \frac{1}{4} \) of its land and \( \frac{1}{5} \) of its marine areas, there has been considerable loss of some habitats across the American (dual) continent due to fires, expansion of industrial agriculture, and use of pasture for livestock. On the climate side, as of 2020, NA’s largest reserve of fresh water, the Great Lakes, is at a historically low level. 2020 was also among the three warmest years in Central America & the Caribbean, and the 2nd warmest in South America.

With 27% of LAC and 20%-40% of NA populations living in coastal areas, many are at risk of being affected by coastal hazards, with Southern NA and islander LAC communities already suffering devastating seasons of storms and hurricanes. And the slow-onset melting of Andean glaciers and changes in rainfall patterns in the Amazon basin may have massive effects on the region’s ecosystems and nature-reliant food systems, from production to consumption.

Although America contains high-emitting & high-consumption countries like the United States, held accountable for their leading role (or lack of thereof) in global governance, climate and environmental injustice permeate the continent. Histories of colonialism and slavery uphold NA and LAC reliance on extractive & expansive activities that harm nature and the atmosphere. The effects of these then disproportionately impact the livelihoods, neighborhoods/territories and ways of living of indigenous, Afro-descendent, working-class, & migrant-worker communities, who rely on nature, and on whom nature relies, to survive and thrive.

All in all, the region’s resilience – its capacity to adapt and sustain external shocks – is continually reduced by the twin environmental crisis. Key ecosystems are close to systemic failure, threatening people’s well-being, the countries’ potential for adaptation to climate change and, ultimately, a sustainable future. Fortunately, the future can still be bright. Youth in both NA and LAC have long awoken to their reality and are taking action accordingly, just as elders and ancestors have done for generations within various indigenous and frontline communities.

“Our territory is the water, the soil, the mountain, every tree and living being that lives there. Our territory is also a witness and cradle of our identity, of our collective memory...

Our movement is based on ecofeminism because we know that exploiting our territories is exploiting ourselves...

It is the territory where I laugh, sing and dance. That is my territory where I cried, screamed and resisted. It is in my territory where I learn, grow and share."

From “Mujeres Yucatecas por la Defensa del Territorio”, by 2021 Storytellers Colectiva Igualdad Sustantiva Yucatán (Mexico)
WHAT BELONGS TO THE EARTH, SHOULD RETURN TO IT: A QUICK GUIDE TO HOME COMPOSTING

BY AHMAD YAZAN MIRI

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): “An estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted globally each year, one-third of all food produced for human consumption”. So, what we can do about it? Composting can be part of the solution!

Spring is here again in much of the Northern Hemisphere, we can try to make some joy in our backyard by turning our food leftovers into valuable materials that I call “The black gold”. The world starts shining when we stop blaming others and start doing the small-scale activities that bring joyfulness with value to our life, as well as a big positive impact to solve a lot of crises that our world is suffering from. So, let’s try to understand the basics of this family-friendly activity step by step:

1. Look after your personal hygiene: Dealing with organic waste without further preparation can lead to skin infections and respiratory diseases in the long run. So you should wear a pair of gardening gloves and a face cover, and try to avoid touching the waste with your hands.

2. Collect the compostable materials: the to-be-wasted food that we can compost include fruits and vegetables, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, teabags and nutshells. It is also possible to add other items like shredded newspaper, cardboard, grass clippings and houseplants. Our advice is to place the collected materials in a cold, dry and shaded place.

3. Layer up the materials: starting with the thickest and biggest things first, set up 10-centimeter layers. The recommended process is 1) brown shaped dry materials >> 2) moisturize them a bit >> 3) green shaped more moisty materials>> 4) a bit of organic fertilizer or dirt >> 5) repeat the loop >> and 6) try to give it a hierarchy shape. Your composting pile is ready!
Check the moisture of the pile every once in a while: make sure that if you test and handle it with your hand a few drops of liquid will fall. If not, hydrate it more and turn it to give it a breath.

Turn your composting pile regularly: you should do it every week in the summer and twice a month in the winter.

Lastly, wait for a ready compost to use: it will smell like the soil, have a colour between black and brown, and will no longer create heat.

DID YOU KNOW?
There is a composting method known as “vermicomposting” through which worms are used to facilitate the materials' breakdown process! 2021 Storyteller Muleghesania Nzanzu Rodrigue told us all about it in his story: youth4nature.org/stories/lombricompostage
Learn more about what the Y4N team got up to in 2021 in our recently released 2021 Impact Report.

More available at www.youth4nature.org

#YSOF 4 APRIL'S CLICKS & BEATZ