



**Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network**

STATUTE



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About GYBN

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is a unique network of individuals and youth organizations from around the world whose common goal is to prevent and halt the loss of biodiversity.

The network is the international coordination platform for youth participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is committed to bring youth's perspectives and positions into the negotiations so that they are heard and taken into consideration.

GYBN promotes and facilitates collaboration between youth from diverse backgrounds with a passion for biodiversity in order to build a stronger and unified voice that will advocate for the rights of future generations within the biodiversity policy arena.

GYBN seeks to inspire global youth and future leaders to work towards promoting the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for a healthy planet.





Guiding principles

Biodiversity is life; it is crucial to the balance of ecosystems and the survival of all species. Despite of this, it continues to be lost at an unprecedented rate. This loss is one the greatest challenges of our time and hence, needs to be addressed on all levels.



Vision

Our vision is to transform the world into one that does not experience human-induced biodiversity loss and where people live in harmony with nature.



Mission

Our mission is to build a global coalition of individuals and youth organizations to halt the loss of biodiversity through mobilising and empowering young people whilst raising global awareness on the importance of biodiversity.



Objectives

We coordinate

- Active youth participation in the CBD process

We provide

- Members with a global platform for sharing knowledge, skills and experiences on biodiversity issues and conservation
- Up-to-date relevant resources and information concerning biodiversity
- Support in establishing GYBN regional nodes

We facilitate

- Collaboration and dialogue among youth from various backgrounds

We develop and implement

- Capacity building, outreach and awareness raising activities, in addition to tools which enable youth to influence biodiversity-related policies and conservation on a local, regional and global level
- Action plans for youth advocacy and empowerment



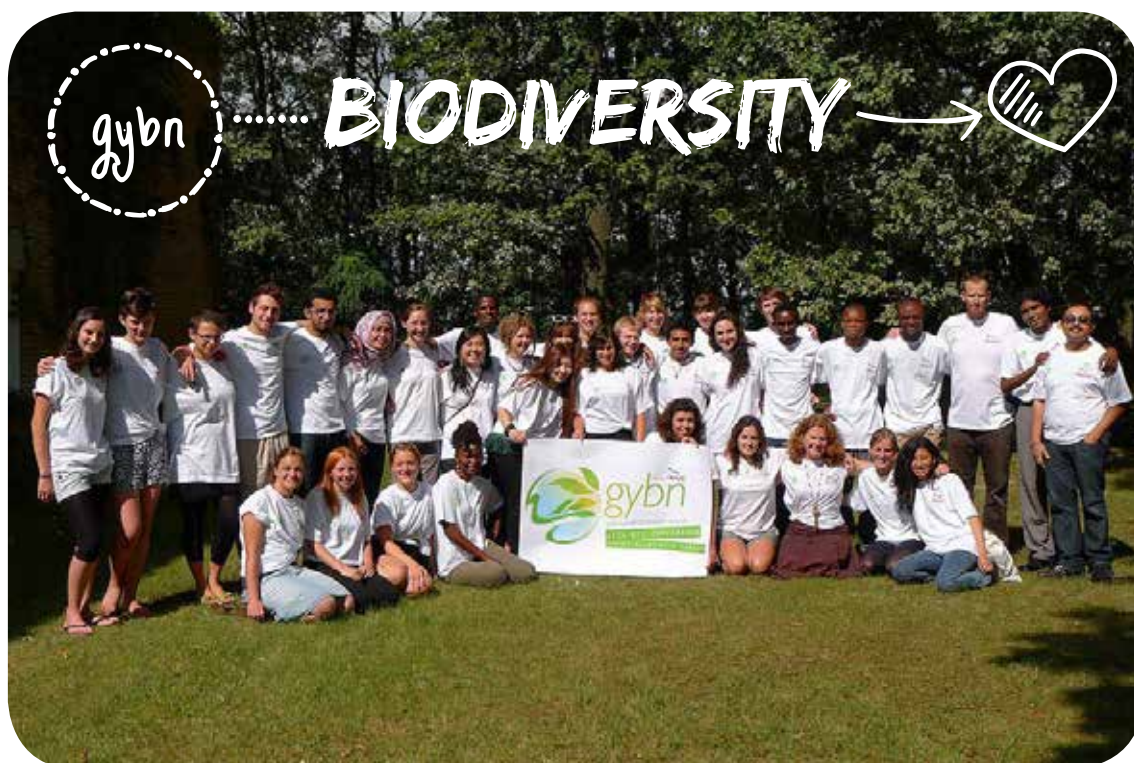


Establishment of GYBN

In the years leading up to the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP10), young people from around the world who were passionate about biodiversity issues felt the need to establish a network to ensure active coordinated participation and involvement of youth in the CBD process.

The creation of GYBN was officially announced at COP10 followed by immediate support from the CBD Secretariat. Following almost two years of preparatory work by an Interim Steering Committee, GYBN was officially launched at its kick-off meeting which took place in Berlin, Germany in August 2012.

GYBN made history at COP11 whereby for the first time, youth participation was officially recognised and acknowledged for its the importance in the decision-making process. This was made possible through a partnership with the host country's youth organizations, which saw the success of active and coordinated youth delegation at COP11 in Hyderabad.



GYBN Kick-off Meeting – Berlin, 2012



Youth Participation in the CBD Process

Agenda 21 acknowledged the importance of youth participation at the Rio Summit in 1992. It states that:



“It is imperative that youth from all parts of the world participate actively in all relevant levels of decision-making processes because it affects their lives today and has implications for their futures”.

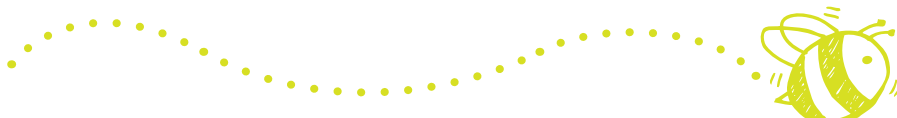
At COP11 in Hyderabad, India in October 2012, Parties adopted decision UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/8 on “Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities”. For the first time in the history of the CBD-process, in section B. on Children and Youth this decision officially recognizes the importance of youth participation in all Biodiversity-related decision-making processes on all levels. This decision states that:



“The Conference of the Parties, acknowledging the importance of youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels,

1. Encourages Parties and other governments to include youth fully in all relevant processes, and specifically in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as activities under the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity; and

2. Invites Parties to continue to provide support for youth initiatives and other networks that support the three objectives of the Convention, such as the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.”





(see Decision: XI/8. “Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities”, section B. Children and youth, available online at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-08-en.pdf>)

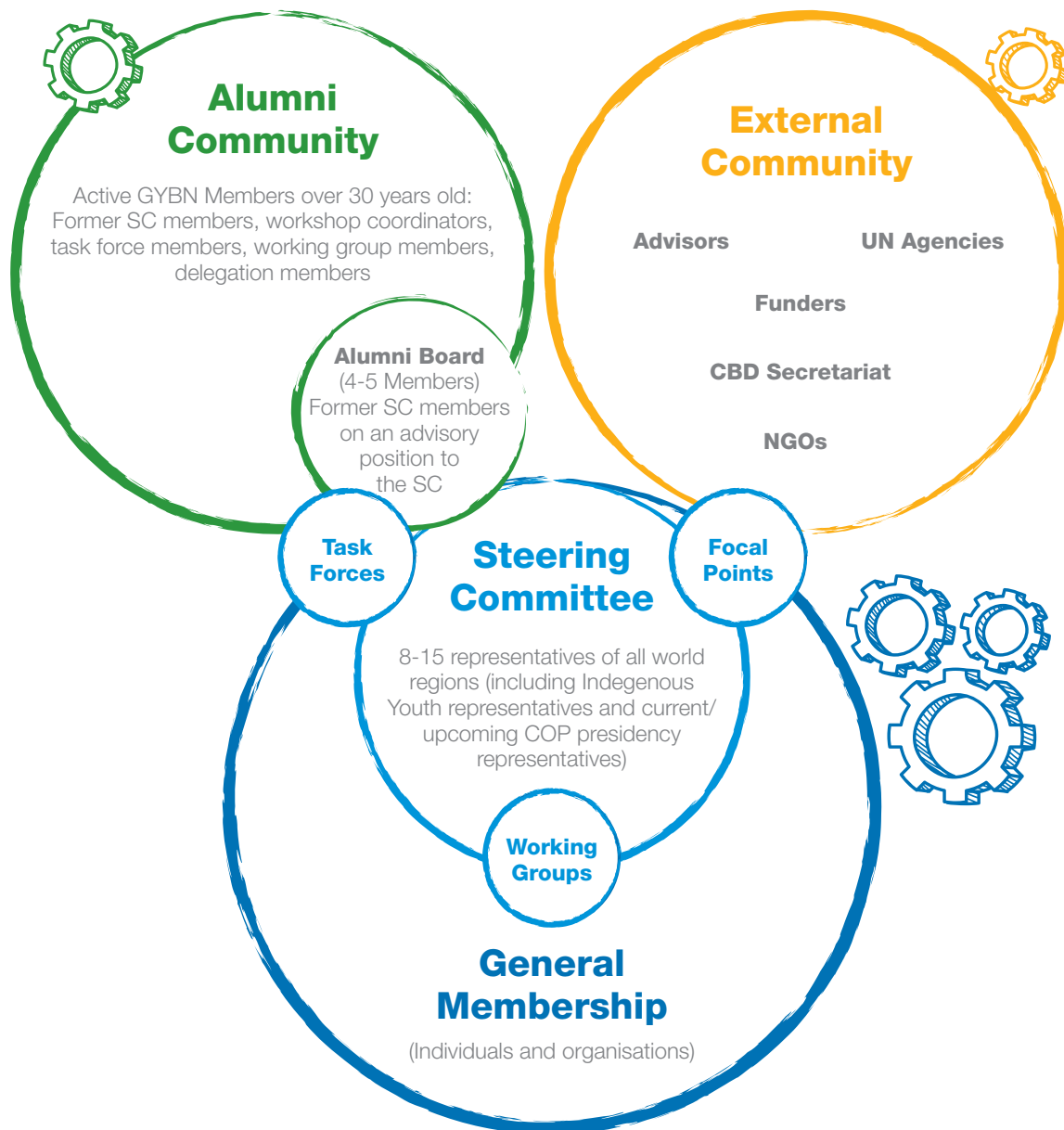


GYBN COP11 Delegation with CBD Executive Secretary Mr. Bráulio Dias – Hyderabad, 2012





GYBN Structure



General Membership: All registered individual members and organizations.

Steering Committee (SC): GYBN's main coordination and decision-making body. It consists of 8-15 representatives from all world regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Oceania), including indigenous youth representatives and COP presidency representatives.



Focal Points (FP): GYBN's liaison with external community, especially the CBD Secretariat. It consists of 2 Steering Committee members internally appointed, one representing the Global South, and one representing the Global North.

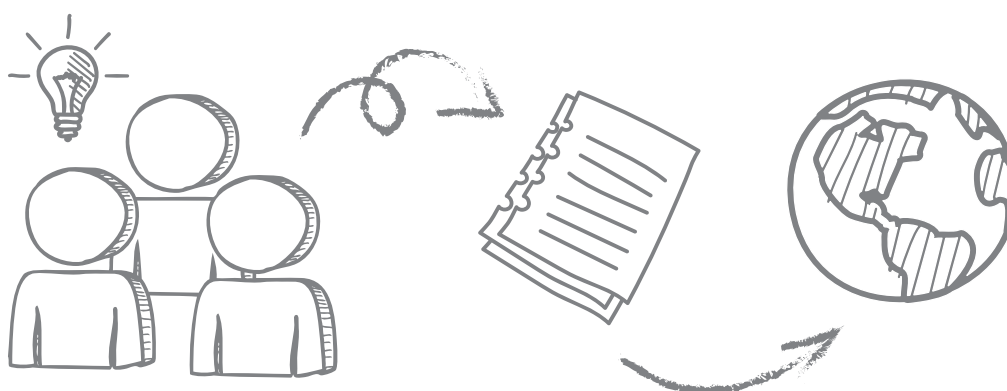
Alumni Community: Active GYBN members over thirty years old that wishes to keep supporting the work of the network.

Alumni Board: Former SC members that wishes to keep supporting the work of the network on an advisory position to the SC.

Working groups: Permanent groups of active GYBN members working on specific issues relevant to the work of the network (e.g.: Policy, Outreach, Capacity Building, etc.) that are overseen by the SC.

External community: Group of NGOs, advisors, UN agencies, funding agencies with which GYBN may interact.

Task forces: Project-base group of active GYBN members working on specific projects, campaigns or activities that can be temporary (e.g.: GYBN Youth Voices). It can be overseen by the SC, the Alumni Board or both.





Membership

Membership is open to individuals and organisations alike through the submission of an online membership registration form. A confirmation email will be received shortly after the completion of the application. All registered members should be committed to the vision of GYBN and comply with GYBN's Code of Conduct.



For individuals:



For organizations:

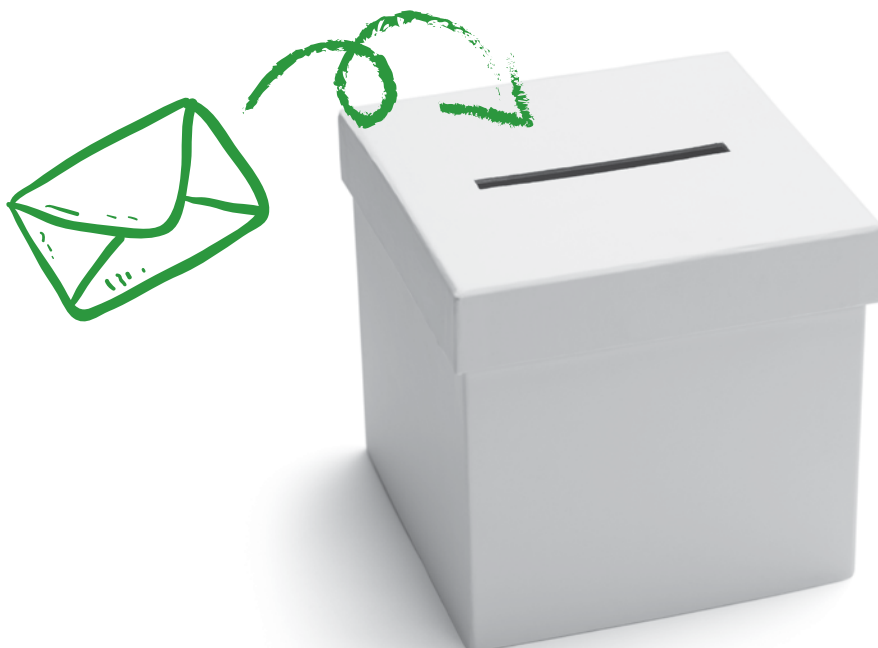




Election

- (1) GYBN Steering Committee operates with transparent practices as the coordinating body of the network to support its members and ensures that the mission and objectives of the network are achieved.
- (2) In order to ensure unbiased and transparent elections, the Alumni Board is responsible for organizing the election process every two years.
- (3) During the elections, all the members of the Steering Committee are elected to fulfil a two-year mandate.
- (4) Focal Points are selected internally out of the elected Steering Committee members and should also fulfil a two-year mandate and an additional year for a effective hand-over process.
- (5) All registered individual members that are between 18 and 28 years old have the right to nominate themselves as a Steering Committee candidate.
- (6) All registered individual members that are between 18 and 30 years old have the right to vote during the public elections of new Steering Committee members.

Further information on the election process can be found in the document "GYBN Election Process"





Mandates

1 - Mandate of the GYBN Steering Committee

The GYBN Steering Committee (SC) is the network's main coordination and decision making body and has the mandate to implement the five functions below:

(1) Coordination

- Oversee and support the work of the network (projects, events, activities and partnerships) and its bodies (Focal Points, Working Groups and Task Forces)
- Facilitate the collaboration between the network and external advisors, funders and other partners
- Facilitate capacity building, communication, outreach and fundraising activities to support engagement of members and its activities
- Coordinate youth participation during the CBD meetings along with Focal Points

(2) Commitments and Compliance

- Maintain an ethical, transparent, democratic, inclusive and participatory spirit in all activities within the Network
- Ensure that the network complies with the GYBN mandate and code of conduct
- Manage, moderate and monitor all the content that has been produced by members and/or circulated in all of GYBN's communication channels, having the right to remove inactive members or those who are violating GYBN's code of conduct
- Ensure that open and effective methods of communication are maintained
- In consultation with the Alumni Board, remove any Steering Committee member that is not complying with the Steering Committee's Terms of Reference, or is violating the Code of Conduct

(3) Decision Making

- Formulate internal guidelines, policies and rules of procedures that are necessary to maintain the work of the network, and seek approval and/or consensus from members before making any major decisions
- In consultation with the Alumni Board, amend all existing official documents when necessary





(4) Network Representation

- Represent global youth and coordinate their activities within major biodiversity-related policy fora
- Represent the network when engaging with different stakeholders and organizations
- Select participants and representatives of the network to participate in CBD and various national, regional and international related events, meetings and activities.

(5) Evaluating, Monitoring and Reporting

- Evaluate, monitor and report on the network's activities and its bodies

2 - Mandate of the Focal Points

The Focal Points are the communication channel (contact persons) which liaise between GYBN and the CBD Secretariat, as well as any other body interested in working with the network and supporting its mission.

The Focal Points mandate is to abide by the Steering Committee mandate, in addition to the following:

- Maintain effective communication channels between the CBD Secretariat, other institutions and the members, disseminating relevant information when appropriate
- Attend the CBD COPs and CBD intersessional meetings taking place during the given term, subject to the availability of funding and to the best of their ability
- Identify interim Focal Point(s) to attend CBD intersessional meetings if they are not able to, and ensure these interim focal points are properly prepared for those meetings
- Liaise with the CBD Secretariat at CBD negotiation sessions on a daily basis if necessary
- Translate information from the CBD Secretariat or other institutions into a youth friendly language
- Appoint active members that are already engaged in GYBN's activities as replacements, in case SC members are removed, in order to maintain the functionality and workflow of the Steering Committee

3 - Mandate of the Alumni Board

- Step in upon invitation by the Steering Committee or Focal Points to resolve any internal issues
- Evaluate the general performance of the Steering Committee and Focal Points
- Organize the Steering Committee elections for the network
- Coordinate and support the work of task forces



4 - Mandates of CBD COP Presidency Representatives

To ensure strong youth participation at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, during their term, the Steering Committee can invite GYBN members who are from the current and the upcoming CBD COP presidencies to join the SC. The representative will serve as a focal point between GYBN, the COP presidency and the local youth organizations that are active on biodiversity issues and the CBD-process.

The responsibilities of the Representatives of the current and upcoming CBD COP-Presidency include but are not limited to:

- Representation of GYBN in national preparatory processes for the CBD COP such as NGO-meetings, government meetings, preparatory conferences and other relevant events
- Involving GYBN in the preparation and planning of relevant youth activities, campaigns and events
- Reaching out to local youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders, such as NGOs and governmental institutions
- Promoting the importance of youth participation in CBD-processes, particularly at COP meetings among young people in the host country
- Connecting international youth with local and national youth initiatives



GYBN COP12 Delegation with CBD Executive Secretary Mr. Braulio Dias – Pyeongchang, 2014

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Global Youth Biodiversity Network

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