

SPECIAL REPORT

YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN VIET NAM



MAY 2021

This special report was designed by Linh Le (UNDP Viet Nam) and Alex Nguyen.

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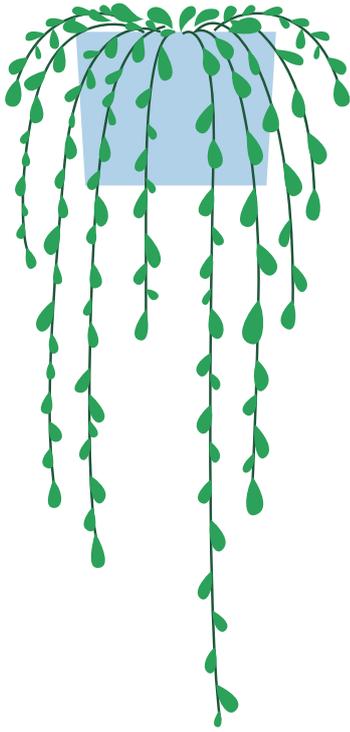


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Foreword

BY CAITLIN WIESEN, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN VIET NAM

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Our Common Future (the ‘Brundtland Report’), 1987.

United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has rightly called climate change ‘the defining issue of our time.’ It is running faster than we are, but we have a moral obligation to win the race for our children and grandchildren, as they will inherit from the world we built and the decisions we made.

To do so, all countries, including Viet Nam, need to establish more ambitious targets and accelerate their actions by taking a ‘whole-of-government’ and ‘whole-of-society’ approach—especially though engaging the private sector and youth—to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the near future and meet the Paris Agreement’s targets to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius by 2100. There is only one decade left to avoid the catastrophic and irreversible impacts of climate change, which in turn would severely impact any prospects for global and national-level sustainable development.

Responding to this urgency, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed the Climate Promise Programme, which supports 118 countries in enhancing their NDCs and raising their climate ambitions. In 2020, UNDP Viet Nam also launched the Youth4Climate Initiative to increase youth understanding of the challenges associated with climate change in their country and build their capacity to undertake climate action.

Youth in Viet Nam represent 23% of the population and are a formidable force for positive change. They are a powerhouse for innovation and action, and some of our most effective allies to win the race against time. We are truly honoured to publish the first Special Report on Youth for Climate Action in Viet Nam, entirely co-written by a cohort of 20 outstanding youth representatives from all regions of the country. The intention of this Special Report is to capture youth voices and share their common vision with policymakers so that they can receive adequate support and increase their contributions to climate action. It outlines the challenges faced by youth in undertaking climate action, such as limited access to technology and finance and a lack of cooperation with stakeholders, and highlights the accelerators that hold the promise of unblocking these bottlenecks. It also introduces a concrete action plan towards COP26 to enhance the capacity and contributions of youth. In this Special Report, youth have also committed to implementing their roadmap to accelerate youth-led climate actions from 2021 to 2025 in Viet Nam.

Throughout this process, youth have demonstrated that they are committed to playing an active role in solving climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and speeding up adaptation efforts. They want to participate in the policymaking process, and this Special Report marks the first milestone of their contribution to national and global climate efforts. We hope that this report will contribute to bringing youth-led solutions to the forefront of the race against climate change. Furthermore, we want to call on all of our colleagues and development partners to join hands with us in aligning our programmes and offering financial mechanisms to facilitate and advance an environment in which youth can rise to fully occupy their roles as agents of change.

Finally, I want to express my warm thanks to the youth representatives who have contributed to this groundbreaking report. In line with the youth movements that have spurred climate action across the world, we are convinced that Vietnamese youth will be a dynamic force for climate change by mobilizing and engaging their families, universities, and communities. We firmly believe that empowering youth today will lay the foundation for a greener and more sustainable Viet Nam where no one is left behind.



CAITLIN WIESEN,
Resident Representative, UNDP Viet Nam

Foreword

BY DR. TANG THE CUONG, DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE,
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Climate change is taking place on a global scale and has caused tremendous losses and damage for people across the globe. Without immediate actions, the consequences of climate change will be irreversible.

The Government of Viet Nam considers responding to climate change a vital issue and a central task of the entire political system. Vietnam actively participated in the negotiations for the Paris Agreement in 2015. Afterwards, it only took the Government one year to approve of the Agreement and the Plan for Implementing the Paris Agreement. Our current effort to respond to climate change is reflected in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in 2015, the updated NDC in 2020; the National adaptation plan for 2021-2030 with a vision to 2050; medium and long-term socio-economic development plans, programmes and strategies to 2030 with a vision to 2045 of line ministries and localities.

To realise the goals outlined in the updated NDC requires the effort of every government agency at all levels, every business sector, every community and every individual. Here, the youth also plays an essential role. Each and every action they undertake, from even the smallest ones, carry the power to change society's perception and create a driving force for the transformation toward a climate resilient and low carbon economy.

As part of the continued effort of the Government of Viet Nam, the Department of Climate Change collaborated with UNDP Viet Nam in the Climate Promise Programme. By aiding the youth in completing the Special Report, the Government demonstrated support for youth empowerment in responding to climate change. It's our hope that this Special Report will inspire youths to have practical solutions to spread knowledge and take action for climate change.

The Department of Climate Change will continue to collaborate with UNDP and international organisations to facilitate youth engagement in responding to climate change for the sustainable development of the country.



Dr. TANG THE CUONG,
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Acknowledgements

This Special Report “Youth for Climate Action in Viet Nam” was prepared by Hoang Ngoc Xuan Mai, consultant – lead reporter in compiling the report for UNDP Viet Nam. The writing and reflections of the Viet Nam Youth4Climate cohort during the National Writeshop and afterwards were critical inputs for this report. This group includes Nguyen Ba Khang Hung, Nguyen Danh Bo, Nguyen Hoang Nam, Nguyen Hoang Son, Nguyen Minh Huyen, Nguyen Ngoc Tam Nhu, Nguyen Tan Tai, Nguyen Thi Hoang Anh, Nguyen Phu, Nguyen Van Loi, Quang Thanh Thu, Tran Do Bao Nghi, Tran Gia My, Tran Ngoc Bich, Tran Thi Hong Hien, Truong Nguyen Luan, Pham Thi Khai, Vo Uyen Phuong and Y Sacien Kabuor.

Suggestions and comments on the report outline and drafts were provided by Prof. Tran Thuc, Pham Van Tan, Dr. Chu Thanh Huong, Bui Viet Hien, Morgane Rivoal, Bui Thi Quynh Anh, Le Thi Dieu Linh, Merran Eby, Dr. Janto Hess, Prof. Marco Abbiati, Le Thi Ngoc Bich, Thoi Thi Chau Nhi, Khong Tuan Anh, Vuong Hong Ngoc, Ta Thi Huong Giang and Vu Thi My Hanh.

This product was developed under UNDP’s Climate Promise, with generous funding from the governments of Germany, Sweden, Spain, Italy, the European Union, and UNDP’s other core contributors.

Disclaimer: This Special Report paper has been prepared by Hoang Ngoc Xuan Mai and was supervised by Bui Viet Hien (UNDP Viet Nam). The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the UNDP Viet Nam.

1. Youth Statement

For several years, Viet Nam has ranked as one of the countries most affected by climate change. It is not hard to see the climate emergency's impact on this country when it comes to increasingly extreme weather events and climate disasters.¹ In 2020, a historic series of storms and floods in the Central region of Viet Nam led to unprecedented levels of loss and damage to human lives and infrastructure. According to a report from the Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, climate disasters in October 2020 alone were responsible for 232 deaths and an economic loss of 15.576 billion VND (676 million USD) for Central Viet Nam provinces.²

Even though extreme weather events form a natural part of the climate cycle, science has proven that climate change worsens their frequency, intensity and impact. Climate change-induced sea level rise and saltwater intrusion pose great threats to people across the country, especially farmers and vulnerable groups such as women and children, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities.³ Even now, some have already found it necessary to relocate due to changing environmental conditions, such as the impoverished fishermen from Ca Mau (Mekong Delta) whose livelihoods were threatened because of harsher weather and declining fish stocks.⁴

Aware of these hard truths, Vietnamese youth are constantly looking for innovative ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change. With access to more information and data than ever before, we feel obligated to use knowledge and act to secure our own futures on this planet, as well as those of our families and society as a whole.

“With access to more information and data than ever before, we feel obligated to use knowledge and act to secure our own futures on this planet, as well as those of our families and society as a whole.”

Viet Nam is a young country. According to the 2019 Population Census Report, youth aged 35 years old or younger make up 57 percent of Viet Nam's population of 96.5 million.⁵ If 57 percent of Viet Nam's population commits to climate action, we believe that achieving the goals laid out in our country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is more than possible.

Not only strong in numbers, Vietnamese youth possess great creative potential as shown through the country's high ranking on the World Bank's Human Capital Index compared to others at the same income level.⁶ We regard climate change as an existential threat as well as an accelerator for innovations that would bring added value to our society, environment and economy.

With our passion, creativity and energy, Vietnamese youth have been at the forefront of the search for solutions in climate mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR), many of which utilize nature-based methods. However, **youth groups still encounter major bottlenecks when it comes to skill sets, access to technology, financial sustainability and cooperation with stakeholders, which has led to a lack of systematic, comprehensive and effective projects.** Additionally, Vietnamese youth face barriers in understanding regional, national and international climate policy, and have yet to realize our role in mainstreaming and contributing to Viet Nam's NDC and National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

At the time of writing, we are worried that youth's climate projects will remain unable to optimize their effectiveness and impact, with many creative ideas unimplemented due to internal and external bottlenecks. We are worried about whether youth can maintain fervor in climate action when faced with increasing economic and societal pressures. We nervously track the progress of international climate negotiations, with the hope that youth voices will be recognized by policymakers so that we have concrete tools to boost collective action for our own futures.



¹ David Eckstein, Vera Künzel and Laura Schäfer. 2020. "Climate Risk Index 2020: Who suffers Most from Extreme Weather Events? Weather-related Loss Events in 2018 and 1999 to 2018." Summary report. Bonn / Berlin: Germanwatch e.V. <https://www.germanwatch.org/en/17307>.

² "Cơ Cấu Tổ Chức Ban Chỉ Đạo Trung Ương Về Phòng Chống Thiên Tai" (Bộ Nông nghiệp và Phát triển nông thôn, 02/11/2020), <http://phongchongthientai.mard.gov.vn/Pages/co-cau-to-chuc-ban-chi-dao-tw-ve-pctt.aspx>.

³ "Global Warming of 1.5°C" (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2019), <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/download/#full>.

⁴ Thị Phụng Hà Trần, "Sinh kế thủy sản và thích ứng trong điều kiện môi trường đe dọa về bất định sinh thái," trong kỷ yếu hội thảo Thích ứng với biến đổi khí hậu tại Đồng bằng sông Cửu Long (Đại học Cần Thơ, 2012).

⁵ "Completed Results of the 2019 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census" (Hà Nội: Statistical Publishing House, 2020), pp. 211-238, <https://www.gso.gov.vn/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ket-qua-toan-bo-Tong-dieu-tra-dan-so-va-nha-o-2019.pdf>.

⁶ "Human Capital Index (HCI) (Scale 0-1) - Viet Nam," Accessed January 27, 2021, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/HD.HCI.OVRL?locations=VN>.



Photo by UNDP Viet Nam/ Youth4Climate

Yet alongside our fears stand hope and faith in the future. Through the [National Writeshop](#), consultation forums and other capacity-building opportunities in 2020, we are starting to see more cooperation and growth within the youth climate community in Viet Nam. We hope that the result of this process will be systematic accelerators that truly boost the effectiveness, depth and impact of youth climate groups in Viet Nam. Most importantly, since climate change will have a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged communities, **we want youth's climate groups to be more inclusive in their approach, enabling young people from all regions and backgrounds to participate in their projects.**

And that is why today we gather to write the Special Report “Youth for Climate Action in Viet Nam,” the first of its kind to take stock of current youth climate projects, the bottlenecks experienced by youth and potential accelerators for the future.

First and foremost, this is a report written by Vietnamese youth for the good of our country and the world. As the authors of this report, we want this publication to **reach as many youth groups in Viet Nam as possible, so that they can obtain a bird's eye view of the youth climate action ecosystem currently in existence.** With the publication of an English version, **we also hope our report findings will reach a wider youth audience in the region and the world,** to boost cross-border collaborations for the common goal of keeping temperature increase to below 1.5 degrees.

But not stopping there, we want our report on youth climate action to be seriously considered by stakeholders in our country and beyond. We will succeed when our Roadmap for Youth Climate Action, with specific proposals to enhance youth capacity in mainstreaming the NDCs, receives support from youth as well as the Government of Viet Nam and other relevant organizations. These are our objectives in creating the Special Report “Youth for Climate Action in Viet Nam.” We commit to channeling our best efforts in realizing the proposed accelerators and long-term goals over the next five years.

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Quy Nhon, 7th December 2020

2. Executive summary

General bottlenecks

Our survey showed that the four most serious bottlenecks encountered by youth in climate action are **skills limitations, technological limitations, lack of support from stakeholders and financial constraints**.

— Skill limitations:

Vietnamese youth lack the skills needed to put theoretical knowledge into practice in designing and managing climate projects. These skills are not taught in schools and universities, and many youth have not actively sought out ways to hone them via extracurricular opportunities.

— Technological limitations:

Vietnamese youth struggle to access the technology needed for efficient implementation and innovation in climate projects.

— Lack of support from stakeholders:

Young people have difficulty working with stakeholders to execute projects, especially local authorities, scientists and school administrators, who question youth groups' capacity to implement effective, sustainable projects.

— Financial constraints:

Without legal representation, many youth projects struggle to fundraise or apply for large grants. On the other hand, youth also lack experience in financial management, planning fundraising campaigns, researching and writing grant proposals.

Vulnerable groups:

Youth in remote areas, ethnic minorities, youth with disabilities and high school students struggle even more than others in accessing opportunities to hone their skills and build sustainable projects. As mentioned above, even the Viet Nam Youth4Climate's consultation process, despite its best efforts, did not receive the full participation of a wide range of representatives from under-resourced groups.

General accelerators

— Accelerator #1 - A youth network for climate action:

The network can assist member groups in rallying human resources, applying for funds and working with stakeholders, as well as offer training programs to improve youth capacity.

— Accelerator #2 - A Climate Learning Hub for Vietnamese youth:

Create an online climate learning hub serving youth groups and individuals who want to learn about the latest climate solutions. The portal will feature modules on climate topics and project management skills as well as a constantly updated database of youth projects.



Photo: UNDP Viet Nam / Youth4Climate



Climate mitigation *thematic section in which youth are most active.*

Of the 387 youth climate advocates surveyed, 59 percent partake in mitigation activities (in order of popularity: waste management, renewable energy and air pollution reduction). This is a high-potential field for boosting youth climate action in Viet Nam.

Distinct bottlenecks:

- **Strong technical knowledge, lacking in soft skills:** Young people working on innovative climate mitigation projects often possess technical literacy but lack experience and skills in communication, project management, and building viable business models.
- **Difficulty in mobilizing diverse target groups:** Effective mitigation projects need to communicate to reach diverse audiences in order to raise awareness and inspire behavioral change. However, currently, young people only communicate most effectively with other young people through social media and still face difficulties in utilizing more traditional communication channels.

Prioritized accelerators:

- **Accelerator #3 - Scholarships for youth interested in innovation for mitigation:** Establish scholarships and internships in university labs, college labs and research centers, prioritizing youth from under-resourced communities and young women.
- **Accelerator #4 - Long-term project mentorship groups:** After launching innovation competitions and programs, organizers should commit to setting up mentorship groups to support youth from project experimentation to implementation for at least six months.

Climate adaptation & disaster risk reduction *thematic section in which youth face the most challenges in building sustainable projects.*

Of the 387 youth surveyed, only 27.4 percent are active in climate adaptation. Most of them participated as volunteers for larger organizations instead of youth-led projects.

Distinct bottlenecks:

- **Youth in vulnerable localities lack skills and opportunities:** The effects of climate change are most evident in the rural and coastal areas of Viet Nam, where local youth face even more barriers to skills-building opportunities and support networks. On the other hand, youth from urban centers who want to operate locally face geographical, cultural and bureaucratic constraints.

Prioritized accelerators:

- **Accelerator #5 - Skills training for local youth:** Organizing skills training courses for young people in localities most affected by climate change, so they can effectively contribute to adaptation efforts in the place they know best.
- **Accelerator #6 - Recruit local youth into existing adaptation projects:** Development organizations, CSOs and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union (HCYU) should boost recruitment of local youth volunteers and interns in existing adaptation projects for youth to contribute and be empowered to build their own projects later on.

Nature-based Solutions *many urban greening initiatives, nature-based projects, awareness-raising and education projects; not many nature conservation projects.*

Distinct bottlenecks

- **NBS is still seen as a new concept:** Young people have difficulty persuading the community and stakeholders to support and engage in their projects because “nature-based solutions” are still seen as a new concept in many places.
- **Lack of human resources:** Unlike other project types, NBS projects require young people to experiment and implement models over a long period of time before they yield concrete results. Therefore, projects often face shortages of human resources able to commit in the long run.
- **Projects often run over budget:** Youth’s NBS projects can incur additional costs during implementation due to unforeseen challenges, according to youth interviewed. This

leads to many projects having to stop midway because they cannot continue raising funds.

- **Models still unrealistic; face difficulties in implementation:** In order to successfully build a nature-based project, youth need to know about and apply appropriate models. Teams embarking on project implementation before fully studying available models often face difficulties that could have been anticipated.

Prioritized accelerators:

- **Accelerator #7 - NBS experiential tour:** Organize field visits for youth interested in NBS to experience, contribute to and learn from existing NBS models, as well as connect with potential human resources for future projects.



Photo: Freepik



Photo: UNDP Viet Nam / Youth4Climate

Climate policy: *youth have not realized their role in climate policy engagement and advocacy.*

Distinct bottlenecks:

- **Lack of reliable, easily understandable sources of information:** 60.5 percent of 387 survey respondents believe that sources on climate policy in Vietnamese are difficult to understand, unreliable or both. This is a major barrier to policy mainstreaming among youth.
- **Lack of framework for youth climate advocacy:** At present, 42.7 percent of youth respondents have never engaged in policy advocacy, mainly because they do not believe their voice will have an impact. In addition, there is no formal framework in Viet Nam for youth climate advocacy efforts through policy dialogues or policy reviews.
- **Accelerator #9 - Design and carry out a climate policy awareness campaign:** The program will be divided into three main phases: (1) synthesizing and publishing updates on climate policy through the Youth Climate Learning Hub, (2) organizing COP26 simulation events and (3) eTED Talk contest for youth to express what climate policy means to them.
- **Accelerator #10 - Youth Climate Policy Working Group: After policy mainstreaming campaign, set up a collective of Youth Climate Working Groups based on the six sections of Viet Nam's NDC:** (1) Energy, (2) Agriculture, (3) Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry, (4) Waste management, (5) Climate adaptation and (6) Cross-cutting issues (e.g. climate finance, gender inequality, vulnerable groups). Working Groups will collaborate to enhance member capacity and produce youth climate policy briefs submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and relevant government agencies, with the eventual goal of youth representation in building Viet Nam's next updated NDC in 2025.

Prioritized accelerators:

- **Accelerator #8 - Research on youth understanding of policy:** Although our survey has roughly assessed the level of climate policy understanding among youth, we believe that conducting a larger study throughout 2021 will contribute to clarifying the level of policy literacy as well as evaluating the effectiveness of communication and capacity-building campaigns.

3. Methodology

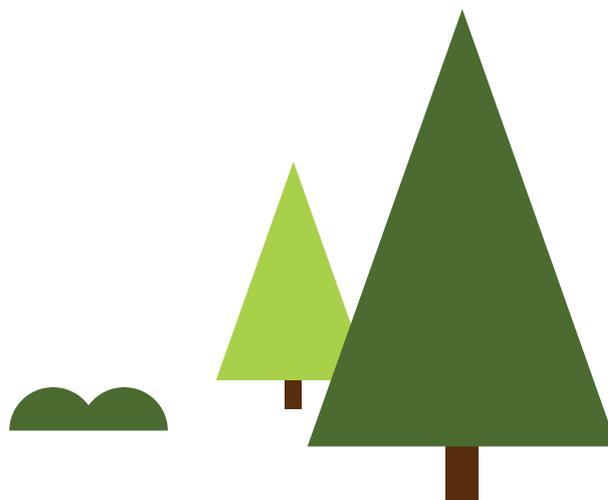
In collaboration with MONRE, UNDP Viet Nam launched the Viet Nam Youth4Climate initiative in 2020 with the aim of strengthening the capacity of existing youth representatives and networks in stepping-up their climate action to advance Viet Nam’s NDC. This initiative builds on UNDP’s long experience in mobilizing and working with youth in Viet Nam, including the 2030 Youth Force Viet Nam and youth social entrepreneurship networks.

With the support of experts from MONRE, UNDP and CSOs (Live & Learn, WildAct and CHANGE), the Viet Nam Youth4Climate initiative organized three youth consultation forums from July to October 2020 for the Northern, Central and Southern regions of Viet Nam. Here, youth leaders and youth-initiated organizations gathered to exchange, discuss and learn about climate change issues in Viet Nam. Reports from the regional consultations can be found [here](#).

The process of writing the special report “Youth for Climate Action in Viet Nam” - officially began at the National Writeshop, which took place from December 5-7, 2020 at the International Center for Science and Interdisciplinary Education.

At the writeshop, 20 report authors from all three regions of Viet Nam discussed four areas of climate action—mitigation, adaptation, nature-based solutions and climate policy—to share experiences in the field and bottlenecks encountered, as well as potential accelerators. Over six weeks, this group of youth, under the coordination of the Lead Reporter, collaborated to finalize the youth statement, Roadmap for Youth Action and the list of recommendations for stakeholders and thematic sections seen in the report.

Through the regional consultation forums and national forums, the Report Authors have identified seven main bottlenecks that hinder youth climate action.



To accurately assess how widely each bottleneck affects youth in the four different fields of climate action, we developed a [survey](#) sent to all youth in the Viet Nam Youth4Climate network as well as more than 45 additional youth climate groups on social media. The survey asked respondents to rate the seven major bottlenecks on a scale from 1 (bottleneck does not affect project) to 10 (the largest bottleneck).

We received 387 survey responses in total from youth 14-35 years old, among them:

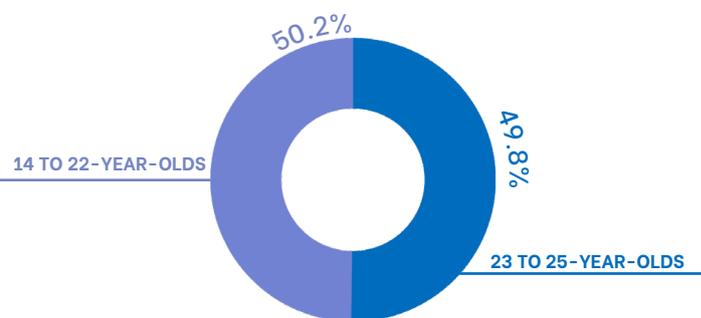


Figure 1: The age of youth participating in the survey

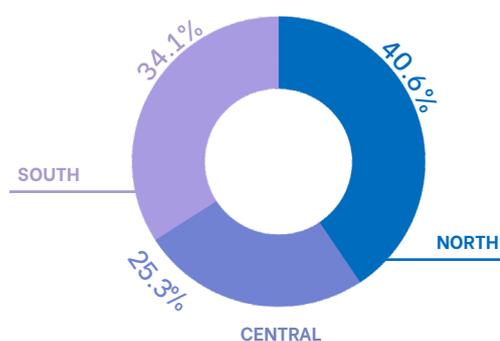


Figure 2: The geographical distribution of youth participating in the survey

Seven main bottlenecks that hinder youth climate action mentioned in the regional consultations: financial constraints, lack of relevant knowledge, skills limitations, lack of access to relevant technology, time constraints, limited human resources and lack of support from stakeholders.



This survey helped us rank the bottlenecks according to relative severity, as well as prioritize the most-needed accelerators for the Youth Action Roadmap and Recommendations for Stakeholders. The Lead Reporter also specifically sought out and interviewed six outstanding youth climate advocates from under-represented groups who could not attend the consultation events. All the youth mentioned in the report have allowed us to quote their responses and share information related to their projects.

Although the report authors aimed to capture the most accurate and inclusive snapshot of youth climate action in Viet Nam, we faced limitations in our work including time constraints and difficulties in reaching a wide range of representatives from under-resourced groups such as ethnic minorities and youth with disabilities. We hope that this report will spark discussions within the Viet Nam Youth4Climate network and beyond about what further research and assessment is needed to fully understand and support youth climate action in Viet Nam.

4. Terminology

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) – a naturally occurring gas, CO₂ is also a by-product of burning fossil fuels (such as oil, gas and coal), of burning biomass, of land-use changes (LUC) and of industrial processes (e.g., cement production). It is the principal anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) that affects the Earth's radiative balance.⁷

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) – Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), non-profit organizations (NPOs) representing groups such as farmers' associations, women's associations, youth and children's associations, indigenous peoples, scientific communities, etc.⁸

Conference of the Parties (COP) – the COP is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with a mandate to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by party countries, assess the effects of the measures taken by the Parties and the progress made in achieving climate goals.⁹

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) – actions for preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk in order to raise disaster resilience and therefore achieve sustainable development.¹⁰

Greenhouse gases (GHG) – gases in the atmosphere responsible for the greenhouse effect, a phenomenon in which solar radiation is absorbed into the atmosphere and transformed into heat, causing global warming. The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Other gases with low concentrations but with a high potential for causing a greenhouse effect are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃).¹¹

Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union (HCYU) – the largest socio-political organization of Vietnamese youth founded, led and trained by the Communist Party of Viet Nam. The HCYU is a reserve force of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, represents youth's legal rights and is a core political force in youth movements as well as in other youth organizations of Viet Nam.¹²

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) – the Government of Viet Nam agency responsible for state management functions in areas including land use, water resources, mineral resources and climate change.¹³

Mission 1.5 – the goal of keeping global average temperature increase to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, based on the “Global Warming of 1.5°C” special report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In the report, 91 of the world's leading scientists strongly recommended that achieving this goal is necessary for reducing the negative impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, species loss and extinction, ocean temperature rise and acidification. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C.¹⁴

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of long-term climate goals. Updated every five years, NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.¹⁵

Nature-based Solutions (NBS) – actions that work with and enhance nature to help address climate mitigation and adaptation, such as greening cities, preserving biodiversity, using nature-based products, etc.¹⁶

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a set of 17 goals developed by the United Nations in 2015 to define the world we want. They apply to all nations and mean, quite simply, to ensure that no one is left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are the 2030 Agenda.¹⁷

The Paris Agreement – a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2 and preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.¹⁸

United Nations Development Programme in Viet Nam (UNDP Viet Nam) – On the ground in 170 countries and territories, UNDP works to eradicate poverty while protecting the planet. UNDP Viet Nam's current Country Programme (2017-2021) contributes to three inter-related outcomes of the One UN Strategic Plan for Viet Nam, aiming to address poverty and inequalities; enhance citizen par-

ticipation and protection of rights; as well as promote sustainable low- carbon development while strengthening resilience of the targeted groups.

Youth – In the framework of this report, the term “youth” is understood as young people from the ages of 14 to 35 in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam Youth4Climate – In collaboration with MONRE, UNDP launched the Viet Nam Youth4Climate initiative in 2020. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of existing youth representatives and youth networks in stepping-up their climate actions in different frontlines to advance Viet Nam’s NDC.

⁷ IPCC, 2018: Annex I: Glossary [Matthews, J.B.R. (ed.)]. In: *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.)], In Press

⁸ “Tổ Chức Xã Hội Dân Sự,” Tổ chức xã hội dân sự | Quỹ Môi trường toàn cầu Việt Nam, accessed January 9, 2021, <http://www.gef.monre.gov.vn/vi/gioi-thieu/to-chuc-cua-gef/to-chuc-xa-hoi-dan-su/>.

⁹ “Conference of the Parties (COP),” unfccc.int, accessed January 9, 2021, <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop>.

¹⁰ UNISDR, UNOFDRR. “Terminology on disaster risk reduction.” Geneva, Switzerland (2009).

¹¹ IPCC, 2018: Annex I: Glossary [Matthews, J.B.R. (ed.)]. In: *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.)], In Press

¹² “Secretariat Members of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of the 11th Tenure,” The Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, accessed January 29, 2021, <http://english.doanhnhien.vn/Article-detail/Hcyu/38349/secretariat-members-of-the-ho-chi-minh-communist-youth-union-of-the-11th-tenure.htm>.

¹³ “NGHỊ ĐỊNH: Quy Định Chức Năng, Nhiệm Vụ, Quyền Hạn Và Cơ Cấu Tổ Chức Của Bộ Tài Nguyên Và Môi Trường,” Bộ Tài nguyên và Môi trường – Introduction, accessed January 9, 2021, <http://www.monre.gov.vn/pages/chuc-nang--nhiem-vu.aspx>.

¹⁴ “Global Warming of 1.5°C”

¹⁵ “Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs),” unfccc.int, accessed January 9, 2021, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs>.

¹⁶ Stephan Pauleit et al., “Nature-Based Solutions and Climate Change – Four Shades of Green,” SpringerLink (Springer, Cham,

January 1, 1970), https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-56091-5_3#:~:text=The%20concept%20of%20Nature%2Dbased,climate%20change%20mitigation%20and%20adaptation.

¹⁷ “What the SDGs Mean,” United Nations (United Nations), accessed January 31, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/what-sdgs-mean>.

¹⁸ “The Paris Agreement,” unfccc.int, accessed January 9, 2021, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement#:~:text=The%20Paris%20Agreement%20is%20a,com-pared%20to%20pre%20industrial%20levels>.



Photo: Freepik

5. Recommendations for key stakeholders

While young people will be responsible for initiating accelerators outlined in this report, we hope to receive support from all stakeholders in effectively implementing the programs. Keeping in mind the key bottlenecks and 10 prioritized accelerators, we would like to propose the following recommendations to stakeholders:

To national climate policymakers:

- Every six months, **update information about** climate policies and consultation events at the local, national and international levels to **the Youth4Climate Learning Hub (Accelerator # 2)**.
- Conversely, **highlight information about outstanding youth climate projects** on the NDC Portal of the Department of Climate Change - MONRE.
- Join **mentorship groups to support innovation for mitigation projects (Accelerator # 4)** that might benefit from a more thorough understanding of relevant policies and advice on how to connect with relevant authorities.
- Regularly support **capacity building opportunities for the Youth Climate Policy Working Groups (Accelerator #10)**; **include youth representatives** in policy dialogue and consider their inputs while drafting any policy that would affect Viet Nam's climate mitigation and adaptation capacity.
- Coordinate between related agencies or ministries to **bring climate change into the classroom** as a mandatory component of public school education across the country.

To local authorities– People's Councils and People's Committees:

- Enhance **youth for climate action network (Accelerator #1)**'s outreach efforts to young people from under-resourced communities through local communication channels – especially in the leadup to the **Scholarships for youth in innovation for mitigation (Accelerator #3)** program.
- Support youth groups with local activities by clarifying necessary procedures as well as focal points responsible for environment/climate/youth projects. In case of personnel change, quickly update project leaders about new focal points.
- In the regions most affected by climate change/extreme

weather events, support **climate adaptation/DRR trainings (Accelerator #5)** by contributing to program content with previous expertise.

- Support youth in organizing **experiential nature-based tours (Accelerator #7)** by connecting with government-run projects in their locality.
- Regularly support capacity building opportunities for the **Youth Climate Policy Working Groups (Accelerator #10)**; include youth representatives in policy dialogue and consider their inputs while drafting local action plans related to climate mitigation and adaptation.

To the HCYU:

- Support the **youth for climate action network (Accelerator #1)** in **connecting with youth from under-resourced groups** through the network of provincial and district HCYU.
- Enhance the Viet Nam HCYU's Central Committee, National Volunteer Center's role in **representing youth projects in the climate sector** that do not have legal status and are facing obstacles in applying for funds to operate and work with other stakeholders, especially local authorities.
- Enhance the Viet Nam HCYU's Central Committee, National Volunteer Centre's role in mobilizing youth volunteers for **long-term DRR projects**, in addition to the Centre's short-term disaster response portfolio.
- Share the Union's experiences in mobilizing youth volunteers through skills modules on **the Youth4Climate Learning Hub (Accelerator #2)** as well as **local training sessions on climate adaptation and disaster response (Accelerator #5)**.
- Provide outreach support for Youth for Climate Action Network in bringing **the media campaign (Accelerator #9)** on NDCs and other climate policies to HCYU members in universities and schools nationwide.
- **Nominate interested and experienced members** to join the **Youth Climate Policy Working Groups (Accelerator #10)**.



To scientists in climate, environment and related fields:

- Provide technical expertise and support youth in developing and maintaining [the Youth4Climate Learning Hub \(Accelerator #2\)](#), especially **climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and nature-based solutions**, which youth are not as familiar with.
- Support opportunities for young people, especially those in under-resourced groups, to experience research and technical innovation through the [Scholarships for youth in innovation for mitigation \(Accelerator #3\)](#) program.
- Commit to at least six months as a **technical advisor for outstanding youth innovation projects from existing competitions (Accelerator #4)** throughout ideation and implementation phase.
- Continue to support **competitions and innovation** programs, especially in waste management, energy and air pollution, the three areas of strength for youth in climate action.

To development organizations and CSOs:

- Continue to **sponsor youth projects that do not have a legal status** and are facing obstacles in obtaining funds to operate and work with other stakeholders. Provide additional support in connecting youth groups with industry experts.
- Share organizational expertise in project management and other relevant soft skills through modules on [the Climate Change Learning Hub \(Accelerator #2\)](#) as well as **local training sessions on climate adaptation and disaster response (Accelerator #5)**.
- Enhance CSO's roles as **technical advisor for outstanding youth innovation projects from existing competitions (Accelerator #4)**, especially in the area of climate mitigation (energy, waste management, air pollution).
- Empower **local youth, especially youth from under-resourced groups**, to contribute to **existing climate adaptation projects (Accelerator #6)** implemented by the organization in climate-vulnerable communities. Support youth in organizing experiential **nature-based tours (Accelerator #7)** by connecting with government-run projects in their locality.
- Support the youth network for climate action and interested youth groups in designing content for [the media campaign \(Accelerator #9\)](#) to mainstream NDCs and climate policies.
- Regularly **support capacity-building programs for the Youth Climate Change Policy Working Group (Accelerator #10)** through providing technical expertise on NDC, climate policies and policy advocacy. If necessary, act as an intermediary to **support the group in sending policy recommendations to relevant authorities**.

6. General bottlenecks & accelerators

a. General bottlenecks

Across the country, youth climate projects are diverse in content, structure and target groups. It follows that each youth will encounter a different set of bottlenecks in their journey of creating or participating in a climate action project. However, after gathering input from more than 400 youth respondents via consultation forums as well as surveys and interviews, we have identified the four largest bottlenecks that most young people face in climate action. In order of prevalence, they are: (1) financial constraints (2) lack of support from stakeholders, (3) skills limitations and (4) technological limitations.



% of youth rated this as a major bottlenecks

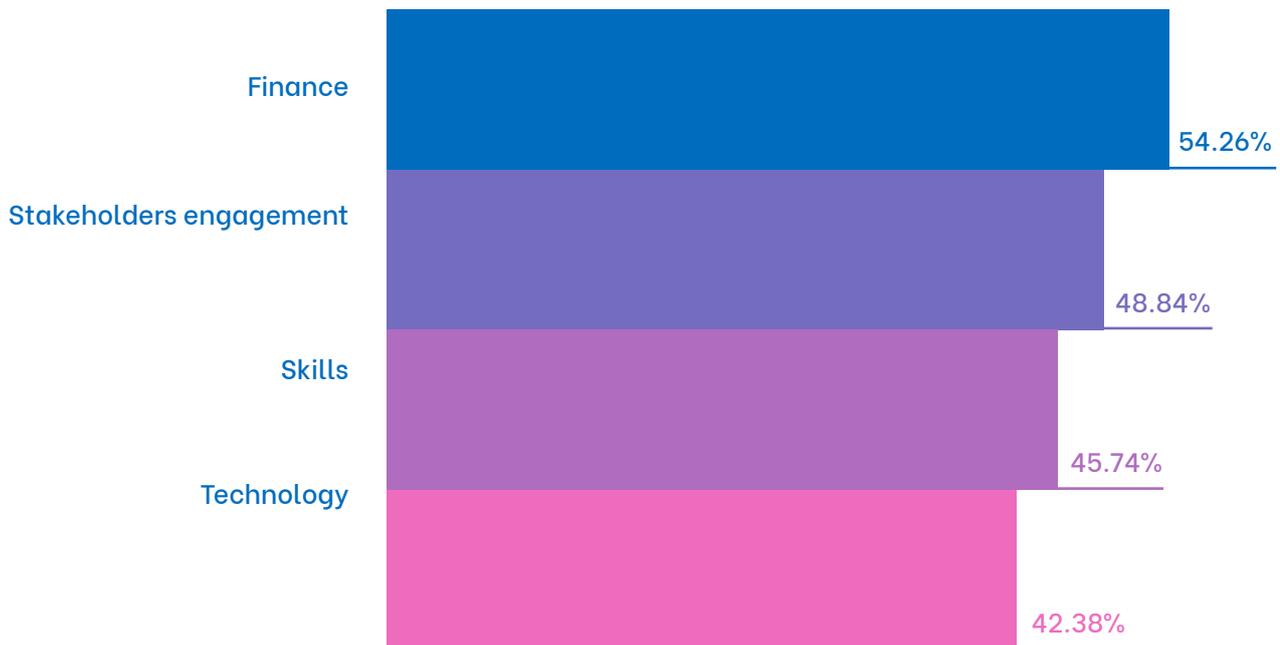


Figure 3: Major bottlenecks for climate action according to youth survey respondents



Financial constraints

Financial bottlenecks are the ones that Vietnamese youth encounter the most when working for climate projects, at least according to their own evaluation: 54.3 percent of the 387 surveyed youth rated this bottleneck an 8 or higher in terms of severity, indicating that it is the most significant obstacle. This is not surprising as most youth-led climate projects do not generate enough revenue to sustain a mid-to-long-term operational budget, forcing them to rely heavily on external funds and donations for each activity and campaign.

This situation remains partly due to external factors, one of which is the difficulty face in obtaining legal status for their groups, resulting in most youth groups operating without one. This has greatly hindered their ability to fundraise and obtain sponsorship from major partners. The second challenge comes from the youth's side—a lack of confidence and skills in finding suitable funding partners for their project. Finally, even groups with financial resources face challenges in managing their funds, accentuated by factors such as frequent personnel changes coupled with lack of organizational knowledge retention.

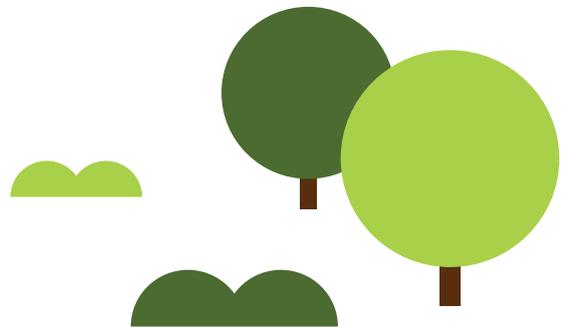
Stakeholder engagement

Nearly 49 percent of the 387 youth surveyed for this report say they are experiencing significant difficulties working with project stakeholders, defined as local government, scientists, CSOs and community members, where the project is implemented.

One important factor leading to this bottleneck is a structural one: in some localities, access to stakeholders may be quite difficult due to a lack of representatives or lack of willingness and familiarity with youth projects. Other factors, however, are internal, coming from youth' inexperience with promoting projects, planning out stakeholder engagement strategies (via community mapping, for example), and lack of creativity in using their own existing networks. Due to ineffective stakeholder engagement, some groups have had to suspend or relocate their projects, as elaborated upon in the thematic section (8.c) below.

Skills limitations

The third most prevalent bottleneck faced by youth climate advocates in Viet Nam is a lack of relevant skills, with 45.7 percent of respondents sharing that they don't feel confident in their project management, public speaking, writing or other needed skills in their work. On one hand, it is true that these skills are not frequently taught in the classroom, so Vietnamese youth has little access to skills-building opportunities in a school environment. In addition, existing skills building programs are not specifically aimed at youth in the climate change field and do not satisfy many of their needs. On a more subjective level, however, youth may not be proactive enough in setting aside time to improve their skills through online capacity-building opportunities.



Access to technology

Finally, inadequate access to technology and technological solutions affects 42.4 percent of youth surveyed, forming a particularly large bottleneck for adaptation and nature-based projects (see “Adaptation” section 8.c. and “Nature-based solutions” section 9.c).

b. Under resourced groups

If Vietnamese youth in general faces many bottlenecks in climate action, youth from under- resourced communities faces even more serious challenges that have led to many potentially valuable projects stopping at the ideation stage. Even though the Report Authors were not able to obtain quantitative data on all under- resourced youth groups, we did find a number of trends as follows:

Youth in remote regions

Youth in remote regions in general and youth from Central Viet Nam in particular face significant barriers to starting and maintaining climate projects, many of which are tied to the unique socio-economic situation of these regions. An often-mentioned reality is how local governments in these provinces, unlike those in more cosmopolitan areas, are unfamiliar with civil society projects, especially those led by youth. As youth climate advocate Ms. Lê Thị Việt Anh from Quảng Trị province in Central Viet Nam said, “Because we are still students, it is so hard to create confidence in community members in remote areas like mine who have never worked with youth- led groups.”

Finding suitable partners to implement technology-based projects is even more challenging for youth in remote regions. Ms. Tran Phuong Quynh Trang, who leads a project in waste management, shared her group’s experience—“My team is based in Central Viet Nam, but the waste processing factories that we’re trying to work with are often too far away as the local ones do not have enough capacity. This has incurred extra transportation expenses.”

In addition, youth state that there are currently no climate-focused CSOs working in the Central region with specific programs to support youth—a major challenge for those wishing to find legal representation or other support to legitimize their operations. At the Viet Nam Youth4Climate consultation in the Central Region, youth representatives also shared that there is a significant **language and knowledge barrier**, as Central Viet Nam communities use a significantly different dialect from other regions.

All these bottlenecks combined to make it DISPROPORTIONATELY MORE DIFFICULT FOR YOUTH FROM THE CENTRAL REGION TO LAUNCH CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION PROJECTS, even though this region is especially vulnerable to climate change impacts.¹⁹

Ethnic minority youth

Vietnam is an ethnically diverse country, with 54 distinct ethnic groups who have their own languages and cultural practices. However, the majority Kinh ethnic group alone accounts for more than 85 percent of the total population, dominating the country’s socio-political system.¹⁹ Low school enrollment and high dropout rates remain major challenges for ethnic minority youth.²⁰

Unsurprisingly then, language and knowledge barriers are two major challenges that youth from ethnic minority groups, especially those who want to implement climate projects in their own communities, often face. In addition to living in remote regions across the country, ethnic minority communities have a higher percentage of residents who cannot read and write the national Kinh language. Young ethnic minority women, in particular, face many barriers in accessing education opportunities and participating in social activities.²¹ The Report Authors, despite our best efforts in spreading our survey to under- resourced communities, were unable to collect enough quantitative data to draw general conclusions about ethnic minority youth. Female-identifying ethnic minority youth were also not present in our survey sample and consultation process. However, we consulted have two ethnic minority representatives, Mr. Y Sacien Kbuor from Dak Lak and Mr. Danh Bo from Bac Lieu, who participated in the regional and national consultation forums and contributed their experience and ideas to this report.

Sacien grew up in an ethnic minority community in Dak Lak solely reliant on agriculture, especially coffee planting. But in recent years, coffee plants have withered because of depleted water resources, erratic weather patterns and frequent droughts. Therefore, Sacien wants to launch a climate adaptation initiative that focuses on the water needs of the Ede people in Dak Lak province. According to Sacien, the major barriers his community faces when approaching the topic of climate change are knowledge and awareness. “Access to information [among the Ede] is still hindered because awareness-raising campaigns have not specifically targeted these communities,” he said. Sacien himself credits his university education in the foreign languages department as a major factor which increased his confidence, empowered him to step out of his comfort zone and found CHANGE in Ho Chi Minh city, the CSO that acquainted him with the climate change field.

¹⁹ “UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators,” October 30, 2013, https://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/odis/odis_technical_report_viet_nam_1_1.pdf; Trung tâm Quyền của người dân tộc thiểu số và miền núi (HRC), “Số người dân tộc thiểu số theo địa phương”, Truy cập tháng 10/2018

²⁰ “Education,” UNICEF Viet Nam, accessed February 17, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/education>.

²¹ Tien Dat 2015, “Education and Training in Ethnic Minority Areas, Some Achievements and Issues”, Accessed October 2018; “Number and Proportion of Ethnic Minorities 15 Years and Older Who Can Read and Write by Ethnicity, As of August 1, 2015.” Viet Nam, August 1, 2015. http://files.ubdt.gov.vn/ContentFolder/ubdt/source_files/2016/09/20/16031829_Bieu%2040%20-%20So%20luong%20nguoi%20DTTS%20tu%2015%20tuoi%20biet%20doc,%20viet_16-09-20.p.dj.

Meanwhile, in the southwestern region of Bac Lieu, the young Khmer farmer Danh Bo also said that lack of knowledge is a major obstacle for those in his community unfamiliar with the concepts of sustainable agriculture, environmental protection and greenhouse gas reduction. “Even those aware of sustainable agriculture find it hard to make the switch, as we only have access to agrochemical engineers hired by companies and corporations only promote their products and sell

High school students

Even though within the Viet Nam Youth4Climate initiative, we define “youth” as those from 14 to 35 years old, the average age of youth joining our forums and responding to our survey is 22 years old. Younger youth, especially those still in high school (14–18 years old), have shared in the survey that they find it challenging to engage with climate projects long-term due to time constraints.

Ms. Y. Ngoc, a high school student from Ho Chi Minh City, shared the challenges her team faced while implementing [Tofu Tree](#), a project that raises awareness about the benefits of a plant-based diet. “Since we are still students, and the Vietnamese education system is very heavy in terms of academic requirements and grades, taking part in community activities is always a secondary priority. We don’t have a lot of time and receive little support from teachers and parents while working on our project,” Ngoc said. Students fear that taking time off extra classes, homework or even school can result in long-term consequences in an unsympathetic education system. Similarly, Mr. Khang Hung, founder of [Clean n’ Green](#) project in Hanoi, shared, “Currently, my group members and I are in 9th grade, so we are quite busy studying and have not been as active as we hoped.” However, despite these structural challenges, Hung admits that there’s a subjective element as well—Vietnamese school-age youth need to develop better time management skills and make a conscious decision to prioritize climate action in their daily schedule.

c. Key Accelerators

#1 Establish a youth network for climate action

First, to address the biggest bottlenecks outlined above, we proposed a youth climate action network with a rotating Steering Committee and core team consisting of youth who have experience in various fields of climate action. The network engages with youth and their projects across Viet Nam with three key objectives: (1) to connect them with one another, (2) to boost their capacity and (3) to enhance their ability to engage relevant stakeholders.

This accelerator should be youth’s first and foremost priority, as it can address challenges related to financial constraints, lack of access to stakeholders and inadequate skills – three of the four largest bottlenecks hindering youth climate action. In addition, the network should also prioritize outreach to under-resourced youth groups and address the specific barriers that they face.

Since the original drafting of the report, the network has been deployed nationwide starting in January 2021 according to the timeline below:

1st quarter: Set up a strong Steering Committee and core team, plans for the year, budget and other resources; induct 50 youth climate groups across the country as network members

2nd quarter: Implement capacity-building and networking programs according to the Roadmap;

3rd quarter: Continue implementing programs and start evaluation process;

4th quarter: Focus on evaluation and network expansion.

Currently a similar network model has been implemented by a number of organizations and individuals in Viet Nam such as the Green Belli network (see “Mitigation” section 7.b. for more information). However, the current networks do not specifically and holistically address climate action topics and do not reach nationwide. With the advantage of having reached youth climate advocates throughout Viet Nam via the Youth4Climate program in 2020, we believe it is possible to implement this model on a new scale and scope, reaching diverse youth projects with a common objective.

#2 Build a Youth4Climate Learning Hub

Next, with the support of UNDP Viet Nam, we proposed a Youth Climate Learning Hub specifically designed for young people, to act as a central hub where youth across the country can easily find information on climate topics related to their projects or fields of interest. In addition, the hub can also act as a digital space to connect young people with scientists and policy-makers, where questions can be asked and answered for the benefit of all.

With the above objectives, the hub will have at least four main functions as follows:

- **Climate science:** Summaries of scientific articles and other knowledge modules related to climate change and climate solutions, with lively communication methods suitable for youth. (See: New Zealand government’s “Science Learning Hub” as an example <https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/>)
- **Climate change policy:** Regularly update policies related to climate action at local, national and international levels (See the European Union’s “Climate Policy Info Hub” page <https://climatepolicyinfohub.eu/global-rise-emissions-trading>).
- **Skills-building modules:** Create project management capacity-building modules for youth.
- **Updates on Youth Projects:** Synthesize information on youth climate initiatives, from those that have been implemented to those still in ideation stage (See “Youth Innovation Bank” from the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist zz <http://www2.ytuongsangtao.net/>).

This Youth Climate Learning Hub can address related to technological access, skills capacity and knowledge barriers that young people passionate about climate change are still facing.

7. Thematic section: Climate mitigation

a. Introduction

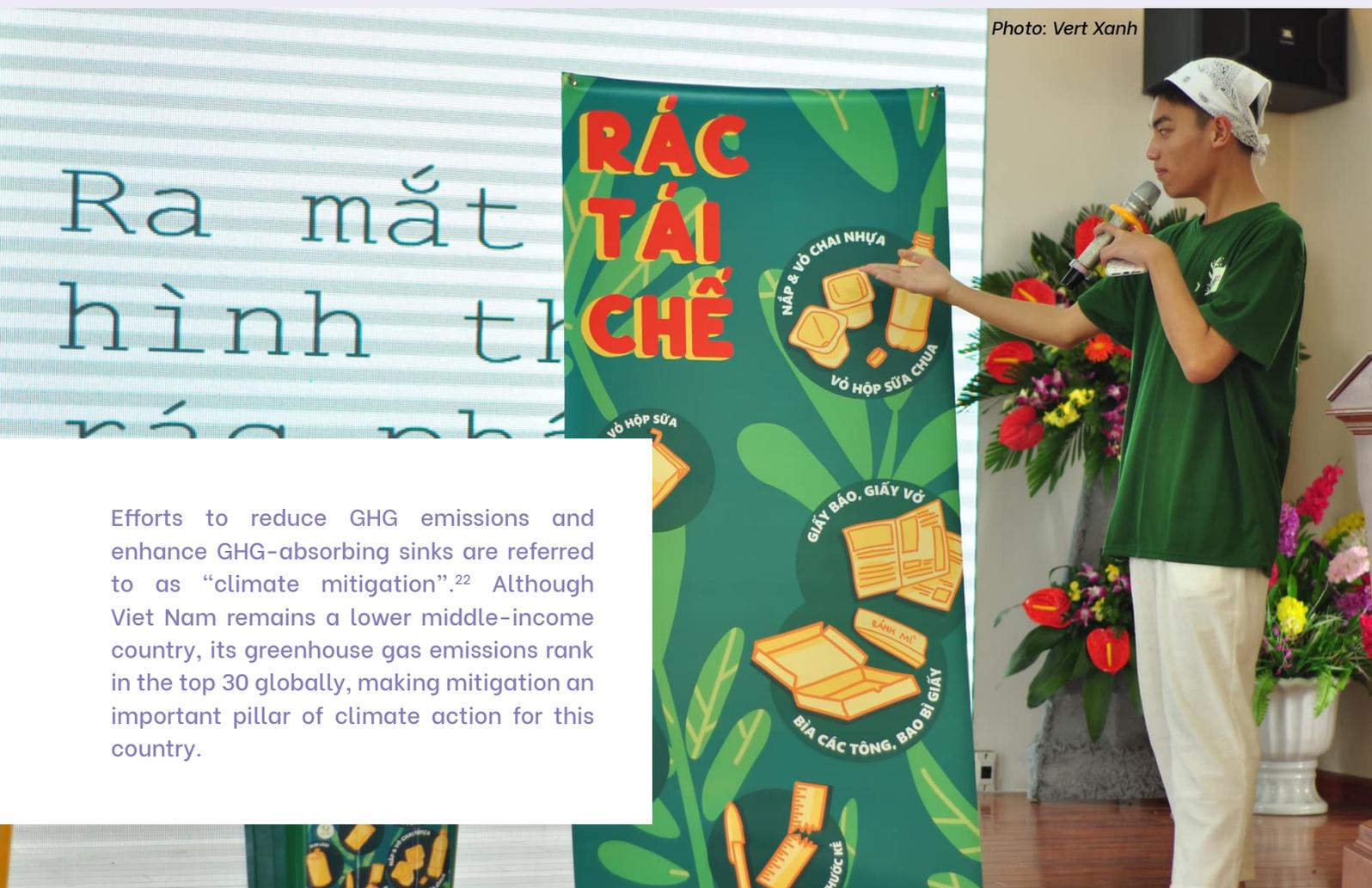
When it comes to climate change, the two main areas of action mentioned are **mitigation and adaptation**.

Efforts to reduce GHG emissions and enhance GHG-absorbing sinks are referred to as “climate mitigation”.²² Although Viet Nam remains a lower middle-income country, its greenhouse gas emissions rank in the top 30 globally, making mitigation an important pillar of climate action for this country.

Fortunately, mitigation is also the branch of climate action that has attracted the largest number of Vietnamese youth, with 59 percent of the 387 youth surveyed saying that they have engaged in projects that promote emissions reduction. Nonetheless, Vietnamese youth still face formidable challenges in this field. Successful mitigation projects require technical innovation as well as effective community outreach; most youth groups only have experience in either of these fields and lack the necessary skills to do well at both. This has led to projects not being able to expand in scale and scope despite having great potential.

Through this report, therefore, we want to highlight the unique strengths and weaknesses that youth face in climate mitigation, so that stakeholders can better support them in a field where they have already achieved concrete results on their own.

Photo: Vert Xanh



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²² “Introduction to Mitigation,” unfccc.int, accessed January 29, 2021, <https://unfccc.int/topics/mitigation/the-big-picture/introduction-to-mitigation>.

b. Stocktake of outstanding youth projects

Among 15 types of climate projects across the four themes listed in our survey, waste management is the one that most youth projects focus on, achieving significant results especially with campaigns to reduce the use of disposable plastics. In fact, more than half of the survey respondents (52.2%) are currently members or have been members of waste management projects; meanwhile, 28.2 percent of respondents have experience in energy efficiency projects. Not counting nature-based measures to enhance carbon sinks (afforestation, forest conservation—covered in “Nature-based solution” section 9.b.), the two aforementioned project types are the most popular among Vietnamese youth. In addition, solutions for air pollution monitoring and reduction is also a relatively attractive project focus, especially for those in the North.

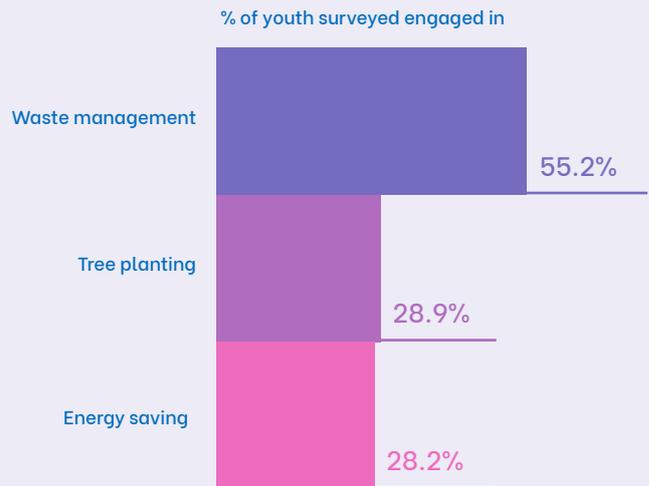


Figure 4: Activities with most youth participation fall under the climate mitigation category.

It is worth mentioning that not only are activities in the mitigation field attracting the participation of young people, these activities especially attract young people’s technological innovation and creativity. Out of 387 survey respondents, only 82 youth in total considered scientific and technical innovation to be at the core of their climate projects. However, among those 82 responding, a large proportion (79.3%) have projects in climate mitigation, most notably energy saving and waste management. Similarly, of the total 387 respondents, only 60 consider their projects to be start-ups, but 44 of these (73.3%) fall under the mitigation category.

Below are listed some of the most impressive youth projects in the fields of waste management, energy and air pollution:

Waste management

Northern Region:

— **Vert Xanh** is a project founded by three young high school students in Hanoi with the aim of building a green and modern learning space as well as changing the perceptions of a young generation about protecting the environment. In 2019, the group implemented small projects at Nghia Tan Secondary School such as collecting old batteries, making eco-friendly bricks, raising awareness about environmental issues via social campaigns, etc. At the end of 2019, the cafeteria at Nghia Tan Secondary School has replaced all disposable plastic cups and bowls per the recommendation of Vert Xanh. In 2020, Vert Xanh deployed Vert Tour—a series of events to install a waste collection and sorting model at source in secondary and high schools across Hanoi. Main events include Vert Tour - Storm Bird have mobilized 1800 students from junior high schools and high schools such as Nghia Tan Secondary School, Chu Van An Highschool, ... Operated by a group of youth, the project also faces many difficulties in fundraising for events, connecting with environmental experts and working with schools. One way the project tried to overcome these barriers in 2020 was by first specifically targeting one school,

Nghia Tan, which agreed to pilot the project. The project also obtained legal representation, technical and professional advice from Live and Learn.

Central Region:

— **Green Beli** is a plastic waste reduction project in Viet Nam with 15 young members, mainly students. The group’s activities include post-storm ocean debris removal. It has cleared over 300m of coastline: collected and processed nearly one ton of rubbish on Son Tra beach, Da Nang, mainly fishing nets and nylon bags. In addition, the group has run a series of plastic communication photo contents that received great attention from Facebook users. Their posts have reached nearly 80,000 hits, 13,500 interactions, 900 likes, 250 comments, and 700 shares, and the numbers are still growing. Youth at Green Beli has also created the Green Beli application, a map with more than 1,000 green locations in the country, supported by the Department of Science and Technology of Danang. However, like any project run by a group of young people, Green Beli

also faces many difficulties, of which the biggest one is the lack of funding for events.

- **Reform Plastic Vietnam:** the goal of the project is to solve plastic waste challenges in Viet Nam through a scalable social franchising model by collecting low-grade plastic and processing it directly into valuable and usable commercial products.

Southern Region::

- **Green River** is a project initiated by seven Vietnamese youth aged 18–30. The project aims to solve the problem of plastic waste in Viet Nam’s rivers, especially those in the Mekong Delta, by establishing a smart trash system on tourist boats, cargo boats and passenger ferries. This

system uses robots to collect floating plastic waste on the river and raise community awareness, contributing to building a green lifestyle for small businesses and households living on or along the river. The project came into operation in January 2020 at Cai Rang floating market, Can Tho city; from then till now, it has organized a trash collection activity, a test run of the collecting system, an offline event and a series of online communication campaigns, with 150,000 reach and 15,000 engagement. The project recently just won first prize at UNESCO’s “Youth Innovative Ideas for an Ocean without Plastic Programme” competition and is expanding its area of operation to Cu Lao Cham, Quang Nam. Still, the group faced many challenges such as: COVID delays, difficulties with local authorities. Additionally, the existing trash collecting machines were not working so the team has to build a new machine by themselves

Energy

Northern Region:

- **Tắt đèn - Bật ý tưởng (BOOVironment):** Since participating in the first Earth Hour Campaign in 2009, Viet Nam has successfully organized ten others, mobilizing youth from all across the country. The number of members participating in the campaign has increased rapidly year by year. To celebrate Earth Hour, Turn off the lights - Turn on ideas campaign by BOOVironment spread widely, mobilizing youth groups to raise community awareness about climate change and spread environmental messages nationwide. After 10 years, the campaign has attracted more than 5,000,000 youth volunteers, 800 news articles, 20 provinces and cities with accompanying programs and more than 50 groups / organizations. It also called for 18,000 trees to be planted in Hue’s mangrove forests. In 2018, the campaign’s chosen theme of Plastic contributed to creating a wave of awareness about the damage of plastic in general and micro plastics in particular, mobilizing 100 stores / restaurants to reduce their plastic consumption practices.

- **SG Solutions** is a project that provides new energy monitoring solutions designed by **IoTTeam VN**, leading to more transparency in monitoring power consumption and lowered electricity costs. In 2020, the project installed ten sets of energy monitoring systems in households in Hanoi to help people quickly assess the direct benefits of energy-saving practices (such as choosing LED bulbs instead of traditional bulbs, choosing a reasonable air-conditioning level, using sunshades when possible...). The SG Solutions energy monitoring kit comes from scientific research by the IoTTeamVN technical team and has been praised by the Ministry of Construction. The project is supported by the “Clean Air – Green Cities” Fund implemented by Live

and Learn. The project is also promoted through the Viet Nam ENERGY ACCELERATOR PROGRAM organized by **New Energy Nexus**.



Photo: Green River

Southern Region:

— **New Energy Nexus Việt Nam** is a non-profit organization run by three Vietnamese youth aged 22 to 35 years old. Funded by ADB Venture, the organization aims to support the development of clean energy startups through funding, capacity building and networking. In 2020, New Energy Nexus Viet Nam and New Energy Nexus Southeast Asia implemented the **BUILDING ENERGY CHALLENGE 2020** project, which aimed to pilot energy saving projects in buildings and raise awareness about energy efficiency in Southeast Asia. The project ran from March to July 2020, connecting ten corporations and 1,800 startups in energy saving. In the final round in Viet Nam, the project successfully connected Viettel with a foreign startup. Currently this collaboration is still in its pilot stage, although some challenges have already appeared, including foreign startups not being able to come to Viet Nam due to COVID-19. Some other challenges include language barriers (corporate engineers do not speak English well, it is difficult to explain energy issues and startup ideas to them); lack of incentives (electricity prices in Viet Nam are low, so the demand for energy saving is not high); low social awareness among Vietnamese corporations; varying quality among the solutions proposed by Vietnamese startups.

Photo: GE Tour



Air pollution

Northern Region:

— **AirSENSE** is for students to develop STEM skills with an environmental mindset, with an emphasis on citizen science and practical applications. AirSENSE originated from a research project under the SPARC Lab, Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST). With the advantage of qualified human resources, AirSENSE has established an air quality measurement system for STEM education and environmental education. From HUST, the project has been implemented in a number of schools in various forms such as seminars, group exchanges, support for the establishment of learning clubs, exhibitions, STEM festivals, and science competitions. To create an innovative playground, AirSENSE organized a Technical Design Contest with the theme of Air Quality in 2019 and Smart solutions in Environmental science in 2020. With the goal of “learning to learn, create and develop”, the contest creates a healthy and rewarding intellectual playground, an opportunity to exchange and learn for all students from 13-25 years old who have a passion for learning, science and technology to unleash their creativity and turn ideas into useful products. In the past two years, the contest has attracted hundreds of innovations to help the environment. In addition, the groups participating in the contest also developed many skills to become a competent project management team. Despite having a lot of professional support and expert relationships, AirSENSE still faces many difficulties such as funding problems, communication problems, human resources and administration issues. In addition, technical students part of the project have not been trained in soft skills and communication skills. The project has a website and fanpage, but needs to operate and budget for these channels more effectively.



c. Distinct bottlenecks

Unlike those in the other three thematic groups, mitigation projects do not face many technical challenges or lack of access to technology, at least according to the subjective assessment of the youth involved in the survey. After the youth consultation forums as well as the bottleneck survey, we compiled three main bottlenecks commonly seen in mitigation projects:

(1) financial constraints, (2) skills constraints and (3) lack of engagement with stakeholders.

Because financial constraints are common to all types of youth climate projects, in this section we will focus on discussing the skills constraints and stakeholder engagement challenges faced by mitigation groups.

Skills constraints: “People who want to focus on science“

The high level of technological savviness mentioned above partly comes from the fact that many outstanding mitigation projects are led by youth with a strong background in science—only 39 percent of surveyed youth in this field believe access to technology to be a significant bottleneck. However, frequently mentioned is a lack of other skills necessary for implementing an effective project, such as **public outreach, project management and product marketing.**

Ms. Lê Gia Thanh Trúc, a member of the energy monitoring group SG Solutions, shared that the largest bottleneck her group encountered had to do with their communication skills. Trúc said, “Because everyone in our team specializes in engineering, it is difficult for us to devise an effective communication plan—something we’re trying to improve in.” Although saving electricity brings economic benefits to users as well as aid in GHG reduction, Trúc realizes that not many households in Viet Nam are concerned about these two issues. Her group is still figuring out how to convey this message more effectively.



In addition, as a startup project using new techniques, the group has also encountered many difficulties in building a suitable business model for its products. For a long time, SG Solutions struggled to market their products for small household consumers. However, thanks to the support of the New Energy Nexus program in 2020, SGSolution members learned more about building business models and decided to switch their product’s marketing strategy, targeting restaurants, coffee shops and other businesses that might have a larger incentive to save electricity costs at their store.

Similarly, Ms. Tran Thi Hong Hien, who has experience leading projects in air pollution and waste reduction including AirSENSE and Peaceful Fishing Village, also shared about the difficulty of gathering a group diverse in background and skill set who are interested in climate-conscious innovation. Unable to find qualified human resources, Hien has taken on the role of environmental engineer, electric engineer, teaching assistant and program officer in her work with air pollution projects. Even after targeted campaigns to recruit team-members with a more diverse skill set, Hien’s group still ended up primarily composed of “people who want to focus on science” rather than other aspects of running a project.

Another youth working in the field, Ms. Nguyen Chau Giang, experienced a similar situation with her group, further citing this lack of project management skills as a reason that the group has struggled financially even with a high-value product. “I don’t think money [in and of itself] is an important factor,” they said. “I think that obstacles come from more fundamental challenges, such as youth not knowing how to market their innovation ideas and raise funds.”

Stakeholder engagement: projects unable to reach a diverse audience

Although lack of stakeholder engagement is a common challenge that all youth projects face, in GHG reduction, this is a particularly major one, as broad community engagement is quintessential for large-scale behavioral changes. Although youth groups often have great success in communicating with other youth, what they often struggle with is how to get “adults” to listen to them as well.

A former member of the Lake Project in Northern Viet Nam reiterated the need for youth’ climate mitigation projects to reach broader audiences. “Hanoi youth are not the only group who needs to be “informed” [about climate change], but the elders in Northern highlands, the fishermen, the corporate leaders as well... This may sound difficult, but this bottleneck is tied to all others [that youth mitigation projects face] such as budget and skills constraints.” Similarly, Mr. Nguyen Hoang Son, leader of the Green River project, also shared that one of the bottlenecks his team has not yet overcome was making the project more widely accessible, to introduce recycled and non-plastic products more popular with diverse communities.

More often than not, media campaigns of youth groups will focus on social media channels mainly used by youth. When connecting with more mainstream channels such as state media and public schools, young people have a hard time building confidence in their project. Ms. Tran Thi Diem Phuc, co-founder of Green Fingers Viet Nam, shared, “We want to organize education programs on waste management for primary school students, but it is difficult to find a school to host us because the paperwork is very complicated.”

d. Prioritized Accelerators

#3 Expand climate innovation and research opportunities to more youth groups through scholarship programs

Proving youth’ ability to conduct large-scale research and innovation projects is one of the key ways to build trust in youth potential among scientists, policymakers and local authorities, and should be prioritized in designing accelerators. We can see that youth do not lack creative ideas, especially in the three areas of waste management, energy efficiency and reduction of air pollution. However, the youth groups who have implemented the most impressive projects lack diversity in background and skill sets.

This is tied to the fact that not all youth have the opportunity to experience a methodical, creative research environment, except for those currently studying engineering in urban schools with good funding and facilities. In order to bring climate mitigation research to a wider range of youth of ages and backgrounds, we propose that universities and research centers create **climate innovation and research scholarship programs**

aimed at youth who demonstrate an interest in reducing GHG emissions.

The program can “pair” youth interns with laboratories and projects currently carried out by professors and advanced degree students, so that they can experience and observe the scientific process. This opportunity should **prioritize youth from remote provinces, young girls and youth from other under-resourced groups** who haven’t had much exposure to research environments.

In order to implement this program, much support is needed from stakeholders, primarily universities and centers that have research programs in energy, waste management, air pollution and other climate mitigation fields. Youth climate networks can play a role in conceptualizing the program, liaising with stakeholders and recruiting applicants.



Photo: Freepik

#4 “Mentorship” groups to support implementation of innovation projects

Once youth have come up with innovative ideas, the key here is to hone their project management skills so that they can effectively turn the idea into a long-term project, CSO or social enterprise. We believe that in the field of climate mitigation, long-term **mentorship groups consisting of scientists, experts, CSOs and successful startups willing to work closely with youth climate mitigation projects can have big impact.**

Looking at the year ahead, we hope to test this mentorship program in 2021 to support the best creative projects from HCYU and UNDP’s Youth for Climate Innovation Award. To find the right mentors for each project, we propose a “project-mentor matching” function on the Viet Nam Youth4Climate Learning Hub to act as a platform for teams to post information about their products/projects and connect with suitable mentors. Then, this mentorship group will run for at least six months, supporting groups from product trial hopefully to launch stage.

There have been successful competitions and programs that support youth teams in coming up with creative ideas such as AirSENSE and New Energy Nexus Viet Nam. We hope the “mentorship” model will continue to support teams from such programs for a longer time period, to truly understand and help them solve problems during the implementation stage.

Of course, the biggest challenge in running these mentorship groups would be finding dedicated mentors to support projects not only in one or two days of completion judging but over a long period of time. However, we believe that with a project-mentor matching platform and the intrinsic potential of youth innovation ideas, we can find the right mentors willing to support them.



8. Thematic section: Climate Adaptation

Adaptation consists of all activities that increase the resilience of natural and social systems, mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, and take advantage of opportunities brought about by climate change.

a. Introduction

It is impossible to mention climate action in Viet Nam without mentioning adaptation, which must take place in parallel with mitigation. For our country, climate change is not just a future threat, it is already happening; its influence has been felt in all parts of Viet Nam, especially for under-resourced communities who lack climate resilience. According to Viet Nam's Law on Environmental Protection and international conventions, adaptation consists of all activities that increase the resilience of natural and social systems, mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, and take advantage of opportunities brought about by climate change.²³

Youth adaptation projects thus far have focused on assisting local communities in changing cultivation and animal husbandry practices to suit changing climatic conditions. Some of these apply nature-based measures, and will be listed in the NBS thematic section 9.b. below. In addition, many students and young professionals have volunteered for disaster relief campaigns spearheaded by the HCYU, local authorities and CSOs.

Currently, however, very few independent youth groups have successfully developed and implemented a large-scale DRR or disaster relief project on their own – a major shortcoming as DRR is a particularly important issue for Viet Nam. A particular challenge is that many youth in regions most strongly affected by extreme weather events belong to under-resourced communities, making it particularly challenging for them to access support opportunities and take on leadership roles. Knowledge is required to play a leadership role in project implementation. Projects that seek to ensure the safety of the community, schools and housing in case of natural disasters attract the lowest level of participation among youth surveyed (only 11.7% of 387 youth).



²³ “Luật Bảo Vệ Môi Trường 2020, Luật Số 72/2020/QH14,” Khoản 1 điều 90. /Photo: Freepik

b. Stocktake of outstanding youth projects

Most adaptation projects featured in our regional and national youth consultations were still at the ideation stage and have not yet reached implementation. Only the following youth projects have achieved concrete results:

Northern Region:

— **Rễ Project (The Root Project) - Song Ma Youth Volunteers Team** started bringing Vetiver grass to La Pan Tan commune, Mu Cang Chai in June 2018 to deal with the extremely serious landslide situation there. By planting Vetiver grass, the project aims to provide an economical, sustainable and easy-to-implement solution for landslides caused by floods and rains in mountainous regions mostly occupied by ethnic minorities. At the same time, Vetiver will be the first step in improving forest land, contributing to raising awareness of forest protection and sustainable farming for locals. As of present, the group has brought 33,000 Vetiver cloves to La Pan Tan, in addition to implementing other projects such as community education, awareness-raising, building a Vetiver nursery and developing landslide maps at La Pan Tan. The group currently includes 10 members who are young professionals and students in their final years of university in Hanoi.

Central Region:

— **Quang Tri, Quang Binh, Quang Ngai Provincial HCYU** established a total of 210 volunteer teams to respond to floods in these three provinces in October 2020. According to information from The HCYU Central Committee quoted by Thanh Nien daily, youth volunteer groups have assisted locals in overcoming the consequences of natural disasters by clearing roads, moving furniture, rebuilding houses, caring for farm animals, ... A total of more than 3,400 HCYU members in the three provinces participated in this relief campaign. In addition, many groups in other provinces who are members of the National Volunteer Network of the National Volunteer Center also participated in the relief efforts.²⁴

Southern Region:

— **BRIMOFOT (Bring more than food to the table)** was initiated by a group of students and lecturers from three universities of Kien Giang, An Giang and the Royal University of Phnom Penh. The project aims to promote gender equality and the participation of disadvantaged groups in wetland policymaking and management, to ensure sustainable development and climate adaptation in the Lower Mekong River region. The project will be implemented in Tinh Bien district, An Giang province, and Ta Keo district in Cambodia. The project will be implemented over 18 months (postponed due to COVID). The main works of

the project include researching the current situation, developing solutions, training local staff and communicating to the community, evaluating progress and proposing recommendations to stakeholders such as local authorities, women groups, ethnic minorities, etc. The project is currently in phase one with inception workshop activities, field assessment and data collection. The project team consists of 20 people, with ages ranging from 26 to 50 years old. The project is operating with a grant of about \$100,000 from **SUMERNET**. Common difficulties faced by project teams are language barriers, lack of experience in working with foreign partners, and public speaking skills.

c. Distinct bottlenecks

Youth in most vulnerable regions lack knowledge and skills

Currently in Viet Nam, the regions most affected by climate change and extreme weather events are the mountainous areas, the Mekong River Delta and the coastal Central regions.²⁵ However, as mentioned in the general bottleneck, compared to urban youth, young people in remote areas face many barriers, both external and internal. Many groups have not even positioned themselves as long-term projects working in the field of climate adaptation, due to a lack of knowledge about how adaptation and DRR relate to their projects.

According to Mr. Duong Be Thanh, one of the young lecturers at Kien Giang University who initiated the BRIMOFOT project, regarding subjective difficulties, **most students in the Mekong Delta are not confident enough in their communication, unlike youth in the city**. This made it difficult for the student group to go on field trips, talk with local farmers and officials to collect data for the project.

“When I do group interviews in a commune, I sometimes get confused and do not know what questions to ask the interviewees, which results in them getting distracted and talking among themselves,” Thanh said. “I am very afraid that when training local officials later on, I won’t be able to communicate confidently as well because they are older, experienced and have a higher social status.”

In addition, adaptation projects often require technical assistance and resources from specialists, some of whom may be foreigners. Thus, **the language barrier is a major factor contributing to the lack of access to technology** for groups in the Mekong Delta like BRIMOFOT. “When our project Advisor from SUMERNET, a [British] PhD presented and facilitated discussions, we could not fully understand their point... Undergrad students especially struggle because their English is very poor.”

²⁴ Vu Tho, “Establishing 210 Youth Volunteer Teams to Respond to Floods” (Thanh Nien Newspaper, October 14, 2020), <https://thanhnien.vn/gioi-tre/thanh-lap-210-doi-nien-n-dragon-pho-pho-to-lu-lut-1291664.html>.

²⁵ “Ảnh hưởng Của Biến Đổi Khí Hậu Đối Với Nước Ta: Thực Trạng, Những Vấn Đề Mới Đặt Ra Và Giải Pháp,” Trang thông tin điện tử - Hội đồng lý luận TW, accessed January 9, 2021.

#6 Recruit youth to local adaptation projects

After local youth undergoes skill training sessions, they need more opportunities to access and contribute to long-term, large-scale climate adaptation and DRR projects before setting up their own. Therefore, development organizations, CSOs, and even youth groups need to **increase the recruitment of local volunteers and collaborators in localities affected by climate change**. Our survey, consultation event, interviews and literature studies show that youth are eager to find more long-term volunteer or internship activities in this field; however, the number of projects explicitly recruiting local youth is still limited at present. With the support of the project management organizations, youth climate networks can act as a bridge to bring these projects and local youth together.



9. Thematic section: Nature-based Solutions

a. Introduction

In ancient times, people used to rely on a nature to survive and build communities. However, for a long time, modern society has been structured around not respecting the value of nature, as we always strive for further economic, societal and technological advancement. The same philosophy applies to humans' approach towards climate change mitigation and adaptation; the first solutions that youth as well as policymakers come up with always revolve around applying manmade, high-tech inventions to solving problems caused by humans themselves. Although nature-based models have always been readily available, they were not applied on a large scale or included in national climate policies for a long time.

It was not until the late 2000s that the concept of “nature-based solutions” (NBS) was truly considered an intrinsic part of climate mitigation, climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Since then, ten years of research and implementation have shown organizations around the world that NBS can be a cost-effective way to mitigate and adapt to climate change as well as develop sustainably.²⁶

In Viet Nam, NBS projects have also become more popular in recent years. Noticeably, more and more young people are deciding to build a career in their hometown using NBS models in agriculture, forestry, fishery and the service industries.²⁷ However, they encounter many difficulties in conceptualizing and implementing their projects, as well as pressure from the community who might not always be supportive.

Through this report, we want to thoroughly highlight NBS projects that have achieved certain levels of success in all three regions, as well as remaining bottlenecks and potential accelerators. Even though NBS plays a central role in both mitigation and adaptation, the Report Authors believe the topic deserves its own section due to the unique challenges that youth face in this field.



Photo: Green For Future

b. Stocktake of outstanding youth projects

Youth-led NBS projects in Viet Nam currently fall into three main groups: urban greening, ecosystems conservation and nature-based products (mainly agricultural). Among these three, tree planting and urban greening received the most enthusiastic participation, with 28.9 percent of the 387 youth surveyed (84 youth) in all three regions participating in this activity. Next are green agricultural projects, with 82 youth participants. Biodiversity conservation projects are somewhat more selective, with 73 youth participants mostly from Northern and Central regions. Only one project stands out for applying a nature-based solution to disaster risk reduction in the northern mountainous regions (see “Rễ” project in “Adaptation” section 8.b).

The following is a list of outstanding NBS youth projects from the three regions:

²⁶ Stephan Pauleit et al., “Nature-Based Solutions and Climate Change – Four Shades of Green,” SpringerLink (Springer, Cham, January 1, 1970), https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-56091-5_3#:~:text=The%20concept%20of%20Nature%2Dbased,climate%20change%20mitigation%20and%20adaptation.

²⁷ Hàng Mai, “Giới Trẻ Và Chọn Lựa Lối Sống Mới: Từ Phố Về Quê,” TUOI TRE ONLINE, February 9, 2020, <https://tuoitre.vn/gioi-tre-va-chon-lua-loi-song-moi-tu-pho-ve-que-20200207220641329.htm>.

Urban greening

Northern Region:

- **Xanh Hà Nội (Green Ha Noi)** was established by four young people in August 2017 with the goal of planting 1,000,000 new trees in Ha Noi. From 2017 to now, the group has planted more than 3,000 trees in the city with some outstanding projects in Vinh Quynh Street, Thanh Tri; The College of Technology and Commerce; Xuan Loi ward, Dong Anh; and Hoang Dieu ward, Chuong My. Currently, the core team of Xanh Hà Nội consists of 11 members, while the number of volunteers participating in its events has reached more than 100. Xanh Hà Nội operates mainly based on individual contributions, but after going into operation, the group has received technical support from relevant stakeholders and financial support from the Southeast Asia Leaders Initiative Fund (YSEALI).

Biodiversity Conservation/Afforestation

Northern Region:

- **Green for Future Club** is a club at Viet Nam National Forestry University founded in 2013 by third-year students with the aim of disseminating knowledge about nature, the environment, and biodiversity protection to students at the university and elsewhere. In 2020, the group launched Cây Miền Ngược – Nước Miền Xuôi, a five-month project with the goal of greening Thung Mai village, Hang Kia commune, Mai Chau, Hoa Binh. The project is implemented by 36 youth volunteers who successfully collaborated with Thung Mai village, Hang Kia commune. 48 households in Thung Mai village and the nature reserve of Hang Kia – Pa Co supported the design of the seedlings planting and transportation model. The project is funded by the Center for Sustainable Development and Irish Aid.

Central Region:

- **Sasa Marine Rescue Team** was established in July 2018 after a dolphin named Sasa washed ashore on the coast of Da Nang in late June. Currently, the project consists of more than 20 volunteers equipped with knowledge, skills and equipment to spend 4-5 days / week diving along the beach of Son Tra peninsula to remind visitors not to damage coral reefs, cut ghost nets, collect trash and restore damaged reefs. In addition, SST also carries out marine life rescue of species including sea turtles, dolphins, ... The biggest difficulty SST faces is securing enough funding to maintain their regular volunteer activities. The group is also trying to increase the efficiency of their diving trips.

Nature-based products and services

Northern Region:

- **Vietherb - Thuốc nam của người Việt** (Vietnamese Herbal Medicine) focuses on promoting natural healing methods by using medicinal plants for products such as shampoo, shower gel, mouthwash, etc. Vietherb prioritizes naturally-grown medicinal plants rather than those farmed using chemicals or tissue culture technologies. In addition, Vietherb seeks to connect traditional healers from both the mountains and the plains, to build community around preserving the values of Vietnamese traditional plant-based medicine. Currently, VietHerb has developed nearly 100 products, and commits to using at least 51 percent of its profits to preserving and fostering the growth of medicinal plants.

Central Region:

- **An Nhiên Farm**: A farm built on three hectares of land in the middle of barren hills and valleys. After being renovated, An Nhiên Farm now includes a composting workshop, a self-sufficient vegetable garden, a lodging house and a furniture processing workshop. All products at An Nhiên farm, from tables and chairs to decorations, are made using nature-based methods. Currently, An Nhiên farm has developed into a sustainable ecotourism complex considered as the lungs of Da Nang city. In addition to creating a green space, An Nhiên farm generates job opportunities for local youth.

Southern Region:

- **Vải thân thiện** (Friendly cloth), a sustainable clothing initiative founded by H'mong youth Ms. Giang Thi Minh (1996). The project was created to contribute to limiting industrial fashion waste and inspire the use of products from green, safe and environment-friendly materials such as handmade woven linen and natural dyes. Started in April 2020 in Tan Phu, Ho Chi Minh City, the project has so far connected with handicraft artisans in the Northwest to obtain a friendly source of fabric, then creatively designed products such as bags, gloves, costumes ... However, the project is still new so it has not received much support or seed funding and is still facing many difficulties.

c. Distinct bottlenecks

For youth working on NBS projects, survey results show that the four largest bottlenecks they face are (1) **financial constraints**, (2) **lack of stakeholder support**, (3) **lack of human resources** and (4) **skills limitations**. Out of these four, the most noticeable is (3) lack of human resources, as NBS is the only field of climate action where youth think that human resource difficulty is one of the three largest bottlenecks affecting project results.

According to our survey, 40 percent of youth working in NBS thinks that lack of personnel is the most significant or a relatively significant challenge (rated 8/10 or greater).



Photo: Truong Nguyen Luan

NBS still seen as a new concept

Engaging with community stakeholders is a barrier for youth NBS projects as many reports that their community still thinks of NBS as “a fairly new concept that they do not want to accept,” in the words of Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Tam Nhu from Phan Thiet. This has made it more difficult for youth to convince stakeholders such as community members, local authorities or even family members to support their projects.

This comes in a field of work that requires much coordination between youth groups and stakeholders to implement. For example, when planting trees in urban areas, Xanh Ha Noi members need to work hard to connect with local authorities, schools and hospitals where they wish to plant trees. However, problems still arise with greening plants conflicting with the city’s development plans, resulting in a loss of soil for plants to grow.

On the topic of persuading one’s local community to join in NBS projects, Ms. Tran Do Bao Nghi, Vice Chairman of Cộng Đồng Xanh – Một Sức Khỏe (Green Community – One Health) club in Ha Noi, shared the challenges she experienced while trying to spread the “urban garden” model in the neighborhood. Together with her teammates, Nghi has developed a model to compost household-generated organic waste and use it to grow vegetables on the balcony. However, although Nghi has many friends at the club who support the initiative, persuading residents in her neighborhood is the most difficult step. At present, Nghi has only been able to convince three neighbors, because the rest of them still have not seen the health and environmental benefits of applying this model.

If convincing the community is difficult, Mr. Danh Bo in Bac Lieu faced an even greater challenge while building a sustainable NBS shrimp farming model: convincing his own family. Mr. Danh Bo’s family does not support him in developing the model on family, due to concerns about productivity and income loss

associated with testing a new model. This greatly discouraged Danh Bo, for whom family opinion matters a lot in his own decision-making. There were even times his pilot models did not succeed and Danh Bo had to hide it from his family to be able to continue. Bo is not alone in this regard, for many farming households in the Mekong Delta have not participated in or even opposed the switch to more nature-based farming models due to concerns about income and profit. According to Mr. Hoai Phong, a former member of the [Forests and Deltas program](#) and the [Support for Sustainable Livestock Development program](#), farmers often do not want to take risks by boldly switching to new models “because if the crop [or new farming model] fails, it will affect the lives of family members.”

Lack of human resources

Not only does youth struggle to secure long-term engagement from stakeholders, but finding other youth to commit to NBS projects is also no easy task. In fact, NBS is the only field in which youth significantly struggles to mobilize enough human resources for their projects. Youth at consultation events shared that this might be due to the nature of NBS projects; **tree planting, biodiversity conservation, sustainable agricultural and tourism projects cannot happen overnight**, but require the patience of project leaders and members alike over a long period of time to produce concrete results. All over the country, **few youth groups have been lucky enough to find such long-term companions**.

Mr. Nguyen Hoang Nam from Hanoi, member of the [The Forest Viet Nam](#), shared “... no one wants to be a three-headed and six-legged monster. We all depend on the community.” However, from his own experience as well as that of surrounding youth, Nam has learned that **the most important factor when**

implementing the project – strong human resources – is sometimes the biggest bottleneck. “There are people who do not share the same goals while collaborating, it is difficult to do projects together when a friend constantly objects to decisions or, worst of all, disappears,” Nam said. “It felt like the fire had gone out after the first meeting.”

Similarly to Nam, Mr. Truong Nguyen Luan is a young person whose experience involves not being able to find a suitable teammate for an ecotourism development project in Can Gio. During the process of conceptualizing and implementing projects with support from GenU, a UNICEF program, the biggest problem that Luan encounters is the “disagreement and lack of passion” amongst team members. According to Luan, because **students in Viet Nam’s school system are under intense pressure to compete for grades and exams**, it is challenging for them to follow a long-term volunteering or youth action process.

In the Central region, Ms. Phạm Khai, who’s developing an eco-garden model at a restaurant in Hoi An, has also had difficulty in mobilizing restaurant staff members to join her. Although Khai has launched her project and achieved concrete results, she still feels that economic burdens and time constraints have turned away people who might otherwise have engaged in her project. To overcome this situation, Khai tried to inspire others and share information about her eco-garden model via small talks and workshops. Gradually, her colleagues’ interest in the project increased – a driving force for Khai to continue striving.

Projects often run over budget

Financial sustainabilizing is an issue that youth active in all climate fields consider to be a major bottleneck. However, for NBS projects in particular, youth interviewed shares that coping with extra expenses that arise in project implementation is even more challenging than raising funds in the first place.

Mr. Nguyen Van Loi is a youth from Nghe An and former coordinator of [Let’s Do It! Nghean](#). He is also passionate about sustainable farming models. However, Loi was unable to continue experimenting with microalgae as a natural feed for chicken and tilapia, because of unforeseen expenses. Without prior experience, Loi packed his chickens too densely during the experiment. The strong individuals competed with weaker ones, eating up their feed and preventing their growth, leading to a net loss of both algae and chickens. Next, when Loi experimented with raising tilapia, one heavy rainfall washed all the fish away, causing him heavy capital loss. Before that, in order to get the algae for the model, Loi had struck a deal with an algae farming company. After failing to make profits, however, the company stopped supporting Loi, causing his project to discontinue.

Facing somewhat similar financial problems, Ms. Tran Ngoc Bich **did not accurately foresee the technical costs** she would incur when implementing self-sufficient garden models in households without using chemical fertilizers. The additional costs, along with a lack of support from her community and her own inexperience, also led Bich to discontinue her project.



Models still unrealistic; youth face difficulties in implementation

But beyond the bottlenecks above lies the fact that young people themselves do not have adequate personal or institutional experience in applying nature-based solutions. For example, Mr. Nguyen Van Loi, whose algae feed pilot halted midway, believes that he lacks skills in farming, planning and managing such models that would have made the process more efficient. Not only Loi, Bich also struggled with lack of skills in building and spreading her self-sufficient garden model. In general, successful nature-based models require a lengthy process of experimentation and experience by trial-and-error. Therefore, young people who want to build NBS models need all the advice they can get in order to fine-tune their models’ technical and operational details before launching.

Due to the complexity of NBS and the above-mentioned bottlenecks in building and implementing models, nearly half of the surveyed youth climate advocates in this group (80/162) only have experience with education and awareness-raising rather than technological innovation.

d. Prioritized solutions

#7 Experiential tours of successful NBS models

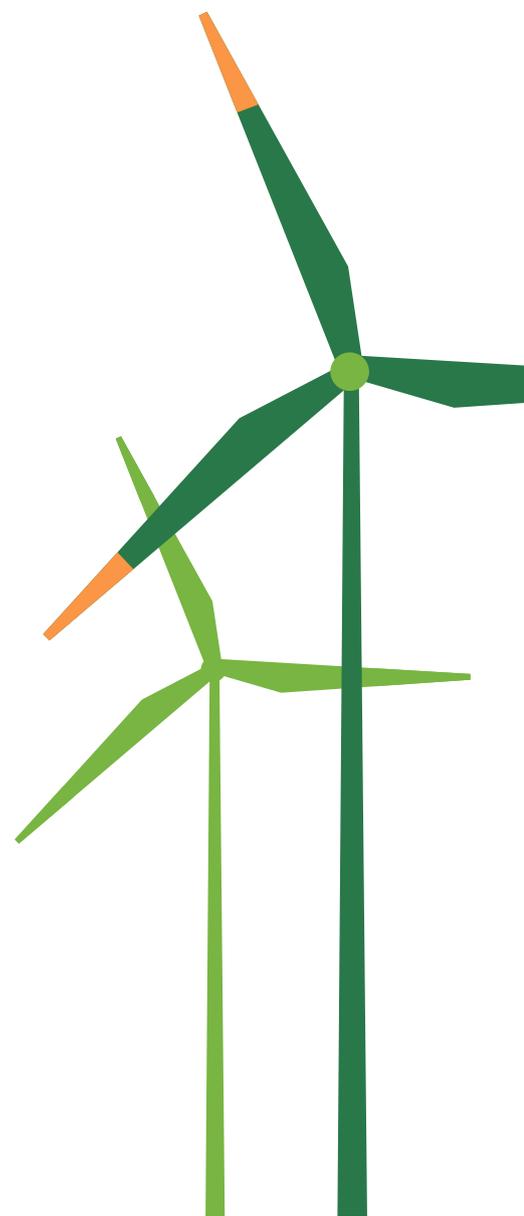
It is not easy to solve all the above bottlenecks. However, in the near future one feasible solution is organizing **experiential tours of successful NBS models** (from other youth groups, CSOs, the HCYU, etc.) so that youth can learn from them. This would also be an opportunity for NBS projects to promote their model to a team of potential volunteers. Because NBS models need to be experienced first-hand rather than read about, the Report Authors believe that the experiential tour would be more effective than simple information exchange forums; however, prior to the tour, youth participants will also be provided with adequate background knowledge about the wide range of possible applications of NBS in climate action, so the tours can be a fully educational experience.

Currently, there are already youth-led NBS models that have achieved some degree of success, as shown in the stocktake above. However, **publicly available information about these models is still limited**, and interested youth cannot easily access it without the right connections. For example, not all youth who want to build a sustainable agricultural model know about An Nhien farm in Hoi An, and not all youth who wants to grow trees in urban areas know about Hanoi Green. Even when these groups' names are known through media or social networks, it is not easy to actually experience them.

That is why we hope to receive support from project managers to organize an NBS experiential tour. We hope the program can take place for the first time in the 2nd quarter/2021. Enthusiastic youth can then take on a longer-term volunteer role at these projects if they want to in the summer of 2021, and then apply their newly-acquired knowledge to developing unique projects in their hometown.²⁸

In addition to **witnessing and participating in the daily activities** at their projects of choice, youth on the NBS tour will gain **a more bird's eye view of available NBS models, expenses they incur and stakeholders they engage with**. It is a win-win situation, as models will gain more human resources as well as promotion of their projects. A major advantage to this approach is that it can be deployed in the near future through mobilizing resources from existing networks instead of creating something new.

If successfully launched, we hope the experiential NBS tour will become an **annual event** to foster an educated and nature-based youth community, and gradually be incorporated as an official educational extracurricular activity for youth, perhaps through the local HCYU branches.



²⁸ "Building on the Growth and Resilience of the Environmental Movement Worldwide Earth Day Network Launches 'Restore Our Earth' as 2021 Theme," Earth Day, 15/5/2020, <https://www.earthday.org/press-release/building-on-the-growth-and-resilience-of-the-environmental-movement-worldwide-earth-day-network-launches-restore-our-earth-as-2021-theme/>.

10. Thematic section: Climate Policy

a. Introduction

The Paris Agreement was signed by 197 countries in 2015, signaling a new global era of commitment towards climate-conscious policy making to achieve the common goal of GHG reduction. The Agreement requires that countries update their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) towards climate mitigation and adaptation every 5 years.²⁹ According to the updated NDC in 2020, Viet Nam is committed to reducing GHG emissions by 9 percent by 2030 compared to business-as-usual, as well as implementing strategic climate change adaptation and sustainable development measures.³⁰ An understanding of these policy commitments at the international, national and local levels will undoubtedly help Vietnamese youth in mobilizing more effective and systematic climate action.

However, although climate policy is not a new topic, it is still an unfamiliar one for most Vietnamese youth—even the ones

with long-term experience working in the environmental and climate change field. There is still a widespread belief that policymaking is solely the responsibility of the government; youth have not grasped the concept of active citizenship in implementing and contributing to climate policies. As a result, Vietnamese youth climate advocates have not been involved in the consultation process for NDC updates as well as other climate-related policies. Simultaneously, they face problems while implementing mitigation, adaptation and NBS projects due to a lack of understanding of related policies and laws.

To improve this situation, we would like to highlight the degree of youth policy awareness in Viet Nam, the difficulties youth face in learning about policy, as well as possible accelerators to be incorporated in the Roadmap for Youth Climate Action in 2021 and Action Plans for 2022–2025.

Climate Policy



²⁹ "Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)"

³⁰ "UPDATED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC)" (The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, July 2020), https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Viet%20Nam%20First/Viet%20Nam_NDC_2020_Eng.pdf; "Hoàn Thành Cập Nhật Đóng Góp Do Quốc Gia Tự Quyết Định (NDC): Nâng Mức Đóng Góp Của Việt Nam Cho Ứng Phó Với BĐKH Toàn Cầu," (Cục Biến đổi khí hậu - Bộ Tài nguyên và Môi trường, 25/7/2020), [http://doc.gov.vn/tin-tuc/3653/Hoan-thanh-cap-nhat-dong-gop-do-quoac-gia-tu-quet-dinh-\(NDC\):-Nang-muc-dong-gop-cua-Viet-Nam-cho-ung-pho-voi-BDKH-toan-cau.html](http://doc.gov.vn/tin-tuc/3653/Hoan-thanh-cap-nhat-dong-gop-do-quoac-gia-tu-quet-dinh-(NDC):-Nang-muc-dong-gop-cua-Viet-Nam-cho-ung-pho-voi-BDKH-toan-cau.html).

b. Policy awareness among Vietnamese youth

To understand youth policy awareness and the bottlenecks that limit it, we surveyed 387 youth climate advocates on policy concepts such as **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, **the Paris Agreement**, **NDCs**, **Viet Nam’s National Climate Change Strategy** and **Law on Environmental Protection**.

Regarding international policy frameworks, the majority (80.6%) of 387 youth survey respondents are aware of **the United Nations’ 17 SDGs**; relatively few are unsure about (8.8%) or have never heard of the SDGs (10.6%). Furthermore, of the 31 youth respondents (10.6%) surveyed who responded “no,” up to 30 have never been a long-term member of climate projects, only having volunteer experience or interest in the topic. Thus, the majority of youth who have been members of climate projects has a certain level of understanding regarding the 17 SDGs, which include SDG 13, climate action.³¹

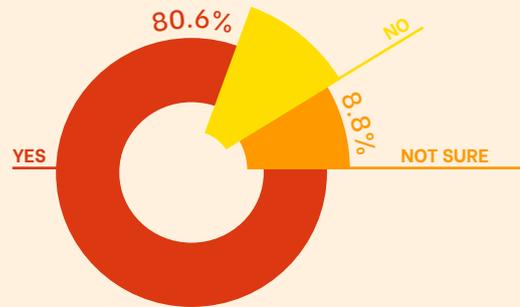


Figure 5: Awareness of the 17 SDGs among Vietnamese youth

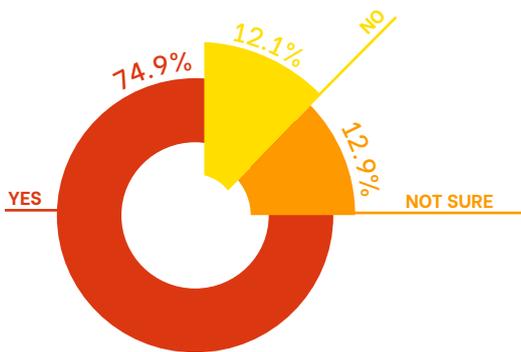


Figure 6: Awareness of the Paris Agreement among Vietnamese youth

Similarly, the majority of survey respondents said they know about the **Paris Agreement** (74.9%); 12.9 percent are not sure and 12.1 percent completely have not heard of the historic Agreement.

More alarming however, is the low level of awareness about the **NDCs**, the very framework through which the Paris Agreement is realized. Only 37.5 percent of youth respondents surveyed know about NDCs; meanwhile, 41.6 percent are completely ignorant of the concept. This, in short, shows that the proportion of youth climate advocates who do not know about the NDCs is still high—one of the reasons why they have not been involved in consultations prior to the NDC updates. It can be further inferred that since the NDCs form an essential part of the Paris Agreement, most Vietnamese Youth only hear the name of this agreement but do not truly understand how it is translated into member countries’ policies.

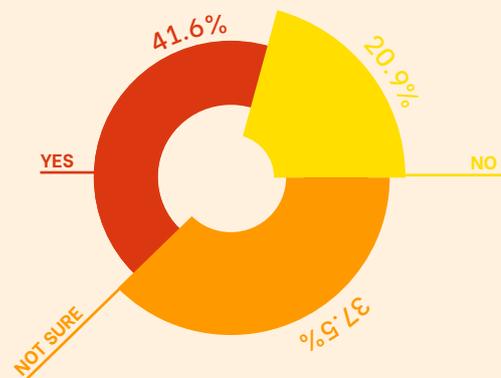


Figure 7: Awareness of the NDCs among Vietnamese youth

³¹ “Climate Action – United Nations Sustainable Development,” accessed January 10, 2021, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-action/#:~:text=Goal%2013%20calls%20for%20urgent,well%20below%202%20degrees%20Celsius>.

Regarding national policy issues, only 68.8 percent of Vietnamese youth respondents are aware of the **National Climate Change Strategy**, while 12.5 percent are unsure about the strategy and 18.7 percent know nothing about it. Thus, in general, Vietnamese youth have a certain understanding of the National Climate Change Strategy, but considering the importance of this policy document in shaping the country's climate response, this level of awareness among climate youth is still not high enough.

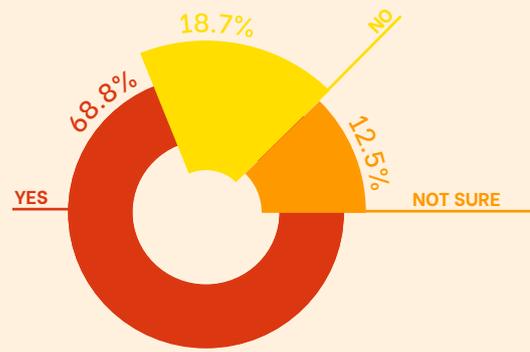


Figure 8: Awareness of the National Climate Change Strategy among Vietnamese youths

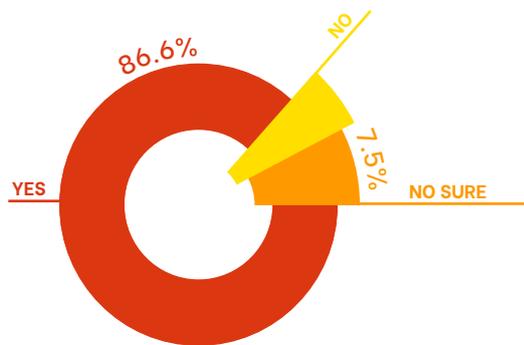


Figure 9: Awareness of the Law on Environmental Protection

Finally, the **Law on Environmental Protection** is the most well-known among Vietnamese youths, with 86.6 percent of survey respondents aware of this law, last updated in 2020.

Most youth climate advocates have not done research about policies in their specific areas of interest

In addition, our survey also asked if youth were aware of other policies, policy frameworks or laws related to their specific field of climate action or geopolitical region. Out of 387 survey respondents, only 54 gave answers to this question. However, 18 of these responses mentioned awareness-raising campaigns and other programs not directly linked to policy (e.g., Earth Hour); This shows that many Vietnamese youth advocates still do not understand the basic definition of what constitutes a climate policy, policy framework or law. In addition, no responses mentioned policy programs at the local level.

c. Distinct bottlenecks

Through our surveys, we identified two main bottlenecks preventing youth engagement with climate policy in Viet Nam: lack of reliable, easily understandable sources of information and lack of infrastructure for youth climate advocacy.

Information about the policy is difficult to grasp and unclear

Most survey respondents (60.5%) highlighted that “sources of information on policies are still difficult to grasp,” citing this as a major barrier to greater policy understanding. Given the convoluted writing style of policy and legal documents, only the experienced can discern the main parts from the auxiliary and know what to focus on for analyses—something most youth are not trained to do. In addition, the academic content and specialized words of these documents are easily confused or misinterpreted.

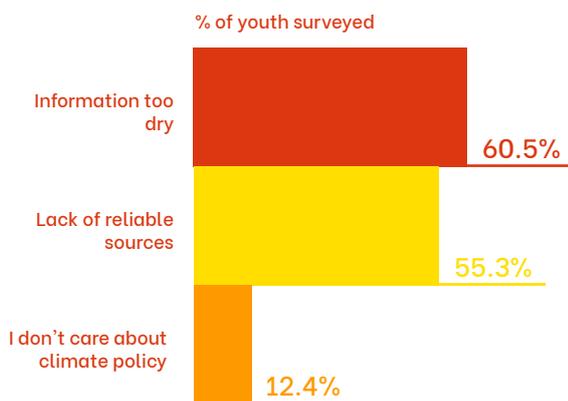


Figure 10: Barriers youth face in accessing climate policy

Mr. Hoai Phong, a former youth member of the Forests and Del-tas program and the Support for Sustainable Livestock Development program, shared a concrete example related to green agricultural policies. “...green agriculture strategies and climate policies have been integrated into front-line workshops or technical training for young farmers. But they still do not fully understand [these new policies and concepts], and it is hard for them to see how agricultural activities generate GHG emissions. Or sometimes they just go back to ignoring the environment and implement old methods instead of trying out new strategies (which they learnt from the strategic briefs or workshops).”

Creative, audience-conscious updates on climate policy are essential to undoing youths’ perception that policy is a dry, abstract topic with relevance to everyday life. Ms. Quang Thanh Thu, founder of Vert Xanh and youth representative at the Viet Nam Youth4Climate consultation events, shared, “When I think about the NDCs, I feel it is a terribly big topic for [a young person



like] me... However, when I finally got the chance to hear policy-makers from [the Department of Climate Change] explain these concepts [at the consultation events], I realized that they were really important and not quite so hard to understand.” As not all youth currently have the ability to have direct contact with policymakers like Thu, CSOs and youth groups need to coordinate with national and local authorities to summarize, systematize and communicate climate policy updates more effectively.

On the other hand, some youth climate advocates shared that not only did they struggle to understand the language of policy documents, they did not know how to find reliable information sources in the first place. Many online sources are not regularly updated, some quoting misleading speculation from non-official sources which makes the reader even more confused. Overall, more than half of youth survey respondents believe that reliable sources of information on climate policy are lacking.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Kieu Linh, a youth from the south, described the difficulties she faced while researching climate policy. “No reliable individual or organization has regularly updated and actively disseminated knowledge [about climate change policies] through media channels.” Similar to Linh, Ms. Tran Thi Diem Phuc from Green Fingers Viet Nam feels that “Information on Viet Nam’s climate-related policies is often fragmented, not gathered into a specific PDF file or website for youth to browse.” Ms. Cao Ngoc Quynh Uyen, meanwhile, raised the issue of “non-official information sources” making her confused and scared while doing policy research.

Lack of framework for youth climate advocacy

Although more than 95 percent of youth are aware of at least one policy or law related to climate change at the national or international level, survey respondents more than 40 percent have never actively engaged in policy advocacy. The biggest reasons for this lack of engagement may seem subjective: 36.7 percent of youth surveyed report that they “don’t think youth voices have an impact” on policy and “never thought of ways to engage with policy.” However, these sentiments reflect a societal lack of infrastructure for youth policy advocacy in Viet Nam.

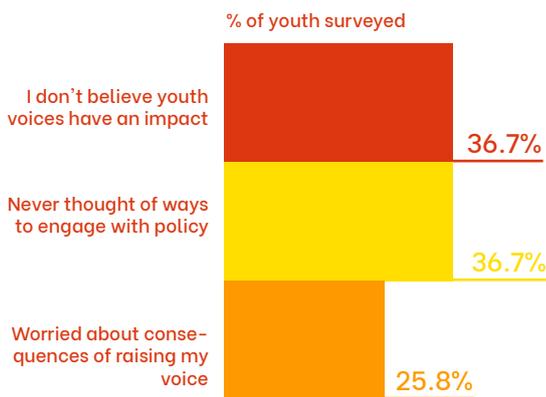


Figure 11: Barriers youth face in climate policy advocacy

Youth representatives have not been informed about Viet Nam’s timeline for NDC updates, the revised Law on Environmental Protection, and the Power Development Master Plan VIII (PDP 8). We hope that in the near future, after youth have boosted policy awareness and research skills in our own community, stakeholders will support us in resolving this bottleneck: lack of infrastructure for youth policy advocacy.

On a more positive note, more than half of the youth surveyed has participated in one of the following activities: policy research, awareness-raising, talking with policymakers, online petition-signing, and writing policy op-eds. The most popular among these is signing online petitions (32% of respondents), then policy research (29% of respondents). An example of an online petition that has resonated with many youth climate advocates is the the Save Son Doong petition, which asks the government to stop supporting any cable car construction in the world’s largest cave located in Central Viet Nam. However, the fact that there are more youth advocates signing petitions than spending time researching policies shows that a small number of young people surveyed do not fully understand the existing policies before engaging in advocacy. The most popular petitions mostly concern short-term changes to a certain project – for example, the Son Doong cable car project – rather than long-term policies and regulations, according to youth at our consultation forums.

d. Prioritized Accelerators

To erase the barriers that have prevented youth from engaging with climate policies, we would like to propose a three-pronged approach as follows: research, awareness-raising and capacity-building.

#8 Continuous research on policy mainstreaming

There is a gap between youths and climate policymakers that needs to be more clearly defined

Currently, there is a gap between youth and climate policymakers that needs to be more clearly defined. Although during the development of the Special Report, the Report Authors have identified the greatest barriers to youth policy engagement, there are still many questions remaining. A survey carried out in one month on many different climate action topics cannot focus specifically on evaluating youth’s understanding of climate policies as well as knowledge gaps that need to be overcome.

Therefore, we propose that youth collaborates with universities to design and conduct a sociological survey study to better understand youth perceptions of climate policies. This study will run in parallel with the network’s communication and capacity-building activities, also as a way to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs in improving youth’s policy understanding.

The research will be divided into two phases: data collection and research interpretation and evaluation.

Phase 1 – Data collection 2nd – 3rd Quarter/2021

During this period, a youth research team can develop and run a six-month-study with a target group of 1,000+ youth climate advocates working in various climate action fields across the country to collect data on how they interact with and understand policy concepts in order to come up with tailored recommendations for awareness-raising campaigns.

Phase 2 – Research interpretation and evaluation 4th Quarter/2021

The youth group synthesizes data and writes a report on the research results to be published in the latter half of 2021. Through this report, the Viet Nam Youth4Climate Network Steering Committee will make necessary modifications to the policy mainstreaming action plan (see below). The study will also be continued as climate mainstreaming campaigns begin, to evaluate the campaigns' effectiveness in raising youths' level of understanding.

#9 Climate policy media campaign

Today, technological developments have created many platforms for youth to connect with each other and spread awareness about critical issues and policies. For example, during the COVID pandemic, youth played a key role in disseminating good prevention practices in collaboration with the Ministry of Health via Tiktok and other social media. There is no reason why, with the right support, Vietnamese youth can't achieve the same level of success with spreading awareness about key climate policies.

Viet Nam Youth4Climate consultations and surveys have both shown that the role of young people in Viet Nam's climate policymaking and mainstreaming process has still not been fully realized. But before they can make impactful contributions, youth need to truly understand relevant policies at the international, national and local levels – something that is not so easy at the moment. An objective bottleneck is the lack of youth-friendly, well-updated communication channels about climate policy in Viet Nam, as frequently highlighted by youth survey respondents. However, there are subjective barriers on the youth's side as well, which have to do with lack of confidence and interest in the subject of policy. With the support of stakeholders and the HCYU, we hope to rectify both issues with the following campaign

Phase 1–Policy portal in Youth Climate Learning Hub 2nd – 3rd Quarter/2021

To address the largest barrier youth face in understanding climate policy—lack of reliable, engaging information sources—we first want to set up a portal as part of the Youth4Climate Learning Hub in order to systematize, summarize and communicate information on climate change policy at the international, national and local level for youth. This portal must meet both criteria: providing accurate information and conveying content in a youth-friendly way. The portal may be designed and managed by youth, but will need support from experts, policymakers and other stakeholders in providing the most accurate and up-

to-date information.

The portal will be launched by the end of March 2020; however much of the updating and content creation would need to be done afterwards by a few passionate and experienced youth with the technical support and guidance of UNDP Viet Nam. Thus, we propose that the portal be administered by a youth representative in the first three months after its launch, before being handed to a potential Youth Climate Policy Working Group in July 2021 (see Phase 3).

Phase 2– “Youth Climate Policy Express” 3rd – 4th/2021

When mainstreaming climate policy – a relatively abstract and vague topic – it is necessary to implement events, campaigns and other targeted communication strategies to motivate youth. Therefore, after posting policy-related information on the portal, we want to organize two activities as follows with the aim of making policy concepts more digestible and preparing youth to think critically about their role in the policymaking process.

March - June/2021

Activity

- COP simulation in Viet Nam – Using an established negotiation simulation model to disseminate climate solutions and related policies to Vietnamese youths (potentially: En-Roads Climate Action Workshop model).
- Selected participants are youth the interested in climate policy with experience in climate action projects.

Objectives

- Attract 250 youth members to join
- Each COP simulation will produce a report on youth policy recommendations.
- Select 25 best delegates from the simulation events.

May/2021

Activity

- eTED VN (electronic Teen's Environmental Talk Viet Nam) (Inspired by the TED Talk program, eTED VN campaign will motivate youth to create a 3 to 7-minute video of themselves sharing about what a specific climate policy means to them.)

Principals

- Steering Committee of the Youth for Climate network
- Videomakers: youth from 14–35 years old working on climate projects with different backgrounds

Objectives

- At least 50 videos from youth in 10 different provinces of Viet Nam. Five best videos chosen from the campaign.

The ultimate aim is for these two activities to motivate youth to realize that climate policy concerns them on a personal level and is not just an abstract topic for policymakers and experts.

#10 Establish a Youth Climate Policy Working Group

From the two COP simulation sessions and the eTED VN contest, 30 outstanding youth could be selected to form the Youth Climate Policy Working Groups in **4th Quarter/ 2020**. The six different Working Groups will cover six policy themes based on Viet Nam's NDC as well as areas of strong youth engagement - (1) Energy, (2) Agriculture, (3) Land use, land use change and forestry, (4) Waste management, (5) Adaptation to climate change and (6) Cross-cutting issues (e.g. climate finance, gender equality, under-resourced groups). Each of the Working Group will have a youth coordinator who is a core member of the interested in the subject of policy.

The working group aims to increase members' capacity as well as compile policy recommendations, with three main activities every year:

1st branch of action – Capacity building for members

The first branch of activity for the Working Groups—capacity building—will play a key role in the first few months but continue afterwards as a core mandate of the Working Groups as well. Every two months, each individual Working Group will have at least one offline training session, alongside various online capacity-building opportunities. The range of capacity building activities for each group will revolve around two main areas: (1) technical training and (2) skills training. Each Working Group Coordinator and general coordinator are responsible for reaching out to relevant experts for the training sessions.

2nd branch of action – Negotiations tracking

The next branch of activity for the Working Groups is tracking climate negotiations from a youth perspective. We propose that starting from COP26, at least one Working Group representative will join Viet Nam's delegation with the aim of monitoring the negotiations and representing youth's demands to negotiators. This representative will also need to remotely consult with all the Working Group members to update them on the ne-

gotiation progress, taking note of their questions and demands. During negotiation events, the Working Group is also responsible for creating communication products about the negotiation process, including summaries, infographics, explainer videos, etc. to be disseminated via the Youth Climate Learning Hub.

3rd branch of action – Develop policy recommendations from a youth perspective

In drafting important policies related to climate change in Viet Nam (e.g. NAP, NDC), policymakers need to engage youth representatives from the Youth Climate Policy Working Groups, the HCYU and others in a formal consultation process. Before each consultation event, the Working Groups will be responsible for drafting a list of recommendations from youth to submit to relevant agencies, as the basis for youths' contributions to the formal policy consultation session.

Even more so than proposed accelerators in other sections, climate policy accelerators especially require the cooperation of stakeholders in enabling and empowering youth. Throughout all three phases—research, policy mainstreaming, and Youth Working Group launch—youth need support from those familiar with key climate policies on a local, national and international level. The goodwill of policymakers at all levels in particular would be a big source of motivation for youth to truly engage in the policy implementation and advocacy process with-

11. Youth-led Roadmap for Climate Action

Having considered the bottlenecks as well as prioritized accelerators across all four fields of climate action, the Report Authors have compiled a recommended Youth-led Roadmap for Climate Action for 2021 and Long-term Goals for 2022-2025 as follows:

ROADMAP 2021

YOUTH-LED FOR CLIMATE ACTION

DEC

JAN

FEB

National conference on climate action and youth climate

Establish the Steering Committee and sub-committees for a youthclimate network. Finish the Special Report for Youth Climate Action.



- * Launch the youth climate network nationally with an online presentation
- * Incorporate 50 youth climate groups into the network
- * Survey to assess knowledge on climate change among Vietnamese youth
- * Create knowledge modules on climate change topics for the Youth4Climate Learning Hub

MODULE



Establish YOUTH CLIMATE POLICY WORKING GROUPS

AUG



25/7 Deadline for to submit climate innovation proposals

- * Create skills modules for the Youth4Climate Learning Hub, covering relevant project leadership skills
- * Climate career fairs for youth in 3 regions

Award the most impressive youth climate action projects

Launch disaster reduction workshop at schools in climate vulnerable areas

SEP

13
OCT

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

OCT



Youth consultation on climate negotiations leading up to COP26



ROADMAP ACTION 2020-2021

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Awareness-raising campaigns about climate policy & 27/3 Earth Hour



Earth Month, "Restore our Earth" theme; focus on boosting youth contribution to NBS projects

Use the **YOUTH4CLIMATE LEARNING HUB** to connect youth climate projects/ideas with experts in relevant fields

20-27 Apr: Organize **MOCK COP26 & Roadshow** of youth climate projects



APR

JUN + JUL



MAY



Create mentorship groups to assist youth in implementing climate projects

Launch experiential tours for youth to visit successful NBS models (tree-planting, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable tourism, ...)



NOV

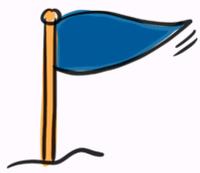


Competition for youth to track and report on COP26 negotiations from the youth perspective

COP26 in the UK



Present the **SPECIAL REPORT YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN VIET NAM** and progress update at COP26



2022

ACCELERATION YEAR

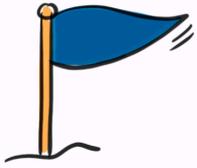
Set up a core group of climate youth network coordinators in 3 regions



Organize Youth4Climate consultation events

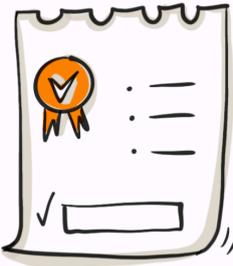
Connect with climate network in other countries

Continue with 2022 activities, updating leadership, organizing innovation, NBS experience, COP simulation



2023

CONSOLIDATION YEAR



Objective assessment of Viet Nam's accelerators for youth climate action in comparison to other countries

Research, analyze past NDC submission, prepare to contribute youth voice to NDC development



Provide youth's perspective for ongoing climate research in Viet Nam

Provide youth's perspective for ongoing climate research in Viet Nam



Awareness campaigns about climate policies in Viet Nam and internationally



Youth's inputs submitted for the next NDC



2024

CONTRIBUTION YEAR

Organize regional youth consultations to gather inputs for the next NDC submission



with youth networks countries

2021 Accelerators: learning modules, innovation contests, mental tours, simulation, ...



Viet Nam's missions' contribute towards target in 2024

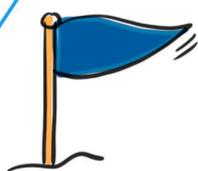


Establish group of youth leaders to contribute to NDC process

Expand youth climate network: 25.000 youth members with active climate projects

Compile Action Road Map for the next 5 years

Compile another special report on youth progress in climate action over 5 year



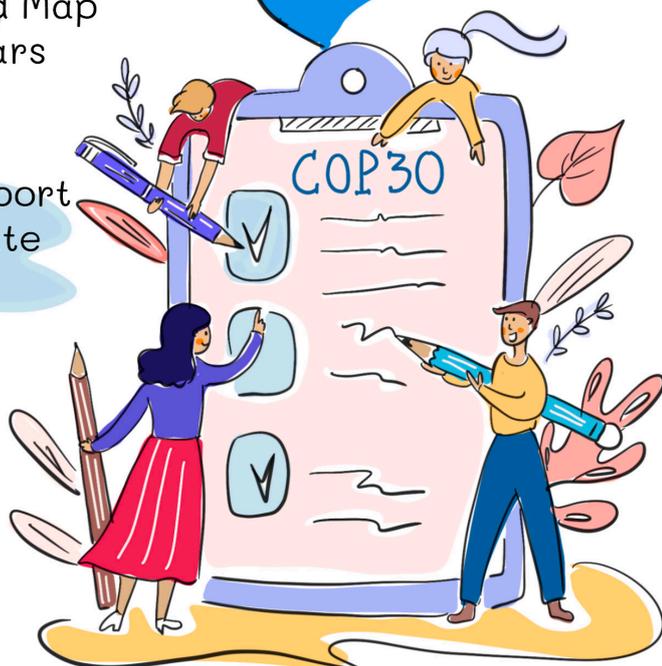
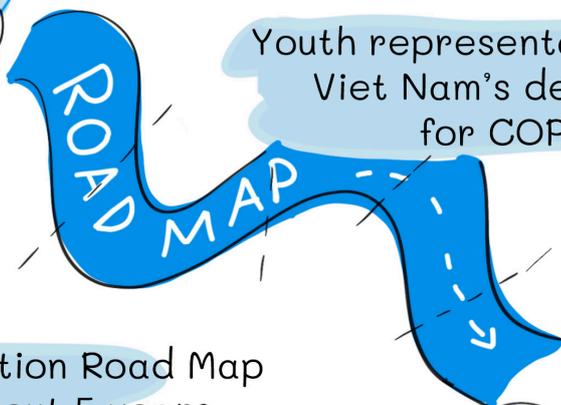
2025 EVALUATION YEAR

CÁC MỤC TIÊU HÀNH ĐỘNG 2022-2025

Youth For Climate



Youth representative to join Viet Nam's delegation for COP30



12. Authors



Quang Thanh Thu



Nguyen Hoang Son

Nguyen Ba Khang Hung



Nguyen Thi Hoang Anh



Nguyen Hoang Nam



Hoang Ngoc Xuan Mai



Tran Gia My



Nguyen Phu



Y Sacien Kabuor



Tran Do Bao Nghi



Tran Ngoc Bich



Nguyen Danh Bo



Tran Thi Hong Hien



Nguyen Minh Huyen



Pham Thi Khai



Vo Uyen Phuong



Truong Nguyen Luan



Nguyen Van Loi



Nguyen Ngoc
Tam Nhu



Nguyen Tan Tai

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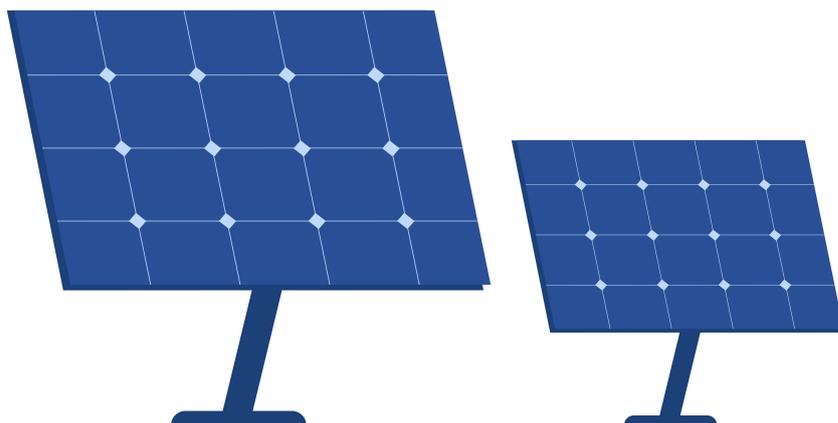
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