

THE SEED

Official Newsletter of the
Zimbabwe Youth Biodiversity Network

Listen To Young Voices!

As we reflect back on our experiences over the past twelve months, we feel both grateful for the opportunity to work with fellow young people & like minded organizations, and excited to continue advocating for young people to actively engage and raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity in Zimbabwe.

Thank you to all of you who have and continue to support ZYBN. Your collective contributions highlight the importance of creating a generation of youths who understand the importance of halting the loss of biodiversity throughout Zimbabwe and the dedication to see that through.

We hope you find even a fraction of the inspiration within the pages of this newsletter as we have been fortunate enough to find through our engagement with our members, the communities we worked with, the national/international forums we attended and those who participated in our programs.

Knowledge Vingi
Programs Coordinator



**Zimbabwe
Youth
Biodiversity
Network**

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Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Symposium 2019

In commemoration of the May 22 International Biodiversity Day, ZYBN hosted this symposium under the theme ‘Young People for Nature’, to highlight the status of biodiversity in Zimbabwe, threats, the role young people play in biodiversity conservation and actions young people are already taking to protect nature. The symposium had a diverse panel of presenters who spoke on various biodiversity related issues such as food security, law and policy as well as climate change.

The ZYBN Chapter was also officially launched at the symposium and this was officiated by the Guest of Honor Mr Shoko, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment Climate, Tourism and Hospitality



Bulawayo Post2020 Youth Consultation meeting co-facilitated by Cindrella Ndlovhu

Post 2020 GBF Youth Consultations

In September, 7 different meetings were held in 7 different cities around the country. ZYBN managed to organize this in partnership with local based youth led organizations. The consultations focused on introducing participants to the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process. A consultation position paper developed by GYBN was used to gather the views and recommendations for the new framework. Participants reviewed concepts on living in harmony with nature, climate change and gender issues. An important issues that was raised was the general lack of biodiversity awareness, lack of youth participation and lack of funding.

Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

In 2020 the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature. The Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. We look forward to engaging with youths and leaders in this process.





Film Screening

In June, ZYBN collaborated with the African Wildlife Foundation to show *Sides of a Horn* which focuses on the conflict between rangers and poachers. The second film, *Eye of the Pangolin* aimed at raising awareness about the critical situation faced by the African Pangolin, and was organized together with the Tikki Hywood Foundation in September. Both of these screenings were followed by a discussion on illegal wildlife trade of endangered species, the effects on species and nature as well as solutions to these problems.



Biodiversity Awareness Workshops

Initiatives implemented by ZYBN throughout the year mainly focused on raising people's awareness of the values of biodiversity and discussing the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably. In March, ZYBN hosted two workshops on biodiversity conservation for high school students and four Schools in Harare benefited from this. The workshops mainly focused on the web of life, to show young people how everything in nature is connected to each other. In addition to this, other workshops were also organised. These include the *Speaking of the Future: A Youth Dialogue on Wildlife Conservation* held in Dete, Hwange, organized following the Africa Wildlife Economy Summit convened by the United Nations Environmental Program and the African Union in Zimbabwe, in June. The *Youth Environmental Leadership Workshop* was convened to engage the youth based in Mutare in a dialogue on the values of biodiversity and sustainable management of the environment.

Ongoing Online Campaign

ZYBN is running the **#ZYBNbiodiversitychallenge** across its social media platforms. As a way to encourage people to be more conscious about the biodiversity around them and its importance.

Take part in our challenge and start a conversation with a friend, sibling, relative, neighbor, workmate or anybody about biodiversity. You can also share with us the local biodiversity found in your home area. Share your experience with us and let us know how it goes.

Remember to use **#ZYBNbiodiversitychallenge** in your posts on facebook, twitter or Instagram.





Species Focused Initiatives and Youth Engagement

With support from the Global Greengrants Fund, ZYBN is currently working on a project aimed at highlighting and documenting the plight of the Samanga Monkeys and the threats they face from deforestation, climate change and other issues. This project will also focus on engaging young people to actively participate in preserving their surrounding biodiversity.



International Engagements

ZYBN was represented at the 2nd Man and Biosphere Youth Forum held in China, in September. This Forum was held under the theme ‘Committed to biodiversity’. ZYBN will endeavor to work with youth living and/or working in the Zambezi Biosphere Reserve to establish actions that contribute to the post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, actions that address climate change and sustainable development in general. ZYBN also participated in the Africa Wildlife Economy Summit convened by the United Nations Environmental Program and the African Union in June, in Zimbabwe. Overall, as a Chapter of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, ZYBN closely follows meetings held under the Convention for Biological Diversity that also call for youth participation. Ultimately, ZYBN engages with youth in Zimbabwe to participate, act local and think globally.

The aim is to encourage and empower the youth community to rise up to the challenge and preserve biodiversity as well as to participate in ensuring we achieve the 2050 vision of "living in harmony with nature".

"We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity.."

E. O. Wilson



If Tomorrow Never Comes

BY TAPIWA BENGWEA

The flowers used to blossom, giving an exquisite fragrance of welcome;

Our summer vacations were the best; We danced with glee to the buzzing tunes of the bees; The flowers never worried about winter; A vivid spring was there to welcome the bees.

We grew wise, established new states, invented new methods; An age of innovation, creativity was the answer; We competed against ourselves to develop new technologies; Life became easier; At the snap of a finger, lights could go off; Watching movies in driverless cars, a theatre on wheels making the long journey short.

Is the journey really becoming short? The science is undeniable; I need not a graph or chart to understand the climate crisis; I simply look out the window.

The world is chaos; From the plains to the Sahara; Yet amidst the gloom,

Mother Nature cannot afford the luxury of wallowing in sorrow and lamentation; The time has come for the world to stop agonizing and to start organizing; organizing ourselves into becoming responsible citizens and bearers of the future.

Leaders have sat under the gloom of the yellowish moonlight; Committed to net-zero carbon emissions; Funds will be forked out to carbon-neutral investment portfolios; A billion trees planted; Initiatives to protect forests and safeguard water supplies are being put in place; The teapot of Africa whistling the Climate Change Bill boiling in it;

Ready to purify SI 134 of 2019; These steps are all pivotal – but they are not sufficient.

Improving the world's capability is no longer a matter of more technical assistance; It takes the right society; A society willing to work hard and carry themselves in achieving their dreams by collectively sharing sustainable ideas; Deniers and major emitters are out in open, flying high above us; Their disposals polluting our environment; We won't fold our hands and wait for Aide; We the youth should take a stand to jolt the world and accelerate action on an even larger scale.

The future is for us, its calling; Even if we heed to answer it; We will get there? The grim cold of the Arctic crippling Otione's nerve system, death befalling him on an alien plateau, buried in deep snow; The scorching African sun smearing Mahatma's dense skin into foliated chunks, exposing him to its violent rays, death became inevitable, far away from the rice fields, back home; Are we going to see the future; or will our grandchildren know of white Rhinos, leopards, black Rhinos, elephants with tusks; Or museums will be the only way to appreciate the beauty of Mother Nature left?

Every day we are reminded that in less than 10 & a half years the Sustainable Development Goals will indeed be history; A new millennium will be born; As we pause on the age of achieving the set SDGs we should both celebrate and reflect; Celebrate the change programs our youth are setting out; Reflect on who we are; where we came from and ultimately where we are heading.

The best tribute we can pay to the past is to make sure that the years that lie ahead will just be as fruitful; yielding even more; The future is particularly important for us, youth, because it invites, as it did our founders; To secure progress of social justice, gender equality and economic development in the world of today and tomorrow.

Our local leaders, Pan Africanists, Environmentalists, Millennials, world leaders and you too; Science tells us that on our current path, we face at least 3C of global heating; Heating of our crops, dearests living with Albinism, water sources, by the end of the century; You may not be there, but your grandchildren and my children will be there; Refuse to be an accomplice in the destruction of our only home; WE LOVE THE EARTH! IT IS OUR HOME; IT IS OUR PLANET!

The values we choose; Shape our lives; We have a long way to go; But, the journey has just begun and; It's calling; There is no room for spectators, 'Earth' has already received more than a million views on YouTube; Earth needs actors and drivers of change; Climate change is real; And If tomorrow comes; Will the past resurface with the plans of our mobs? We can't say goodbye to our today's luxuries; It will only be our greatest worry tomorrow, in the future; Very little things are written by my simple pen; Many enormous, vast mysteries are left undeciphered.

Seek ye first environmental sustainability and the rest will come later.





Connect with ZYBN

See our social media updates at:

 Zimbabwe Youth Biodiversity Network

 ZYBN_CBD

 zybn_cbd

 Zimbabwe Youth Biodiversity Network

Read more articles at:

www.zybn.org/blog/

Join Our Network

Registration for individuals:

<http://bit.ly/zybn-individuals>

Registration for organizations:

<http://bit.ly/zybn-orgs>

Contact Us

zybn17@gmail.com

www.zybn.org

Partnerships

In addition to the dedication of our coordinators and volunteers, big thanks to the following organizations for working with us;

- CYNESA Zimbabwe
- Tikobane Trust
- Action 24 Regional
- African Wildlife Foundation
- AYICC Zimbabwe
- Advocates4earth.org
- Green Hut Initiative
- Green Governance Zimbabwe
- Herentals Wildlife Conservation Club
- Sibanye Animal Welfare and Conservancy Trust
- Mutasa Youth Forum Trust
- Lupane Youth For Development
- GZU Environmental Law Association



MAY 2020

2ND Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Symposium

#BANCS2020

