

RCE Youth Webinar 2022

Art, Actions, and Perspectives for Biodiversity Conservation

1. Outline

Date & Time	Friday, 12 August 14:00-16:00 (JST)
Venue	Zoom
Organiser	UNU-IAS, Global RCE Service Centre

1. Background of RCE Youth Webinar

- **International Youth Day** is celebrated annually on 12 August to bring youth issues to the international community's attention and celebrate the potential of youth as partners in today's global society. The Day gives an opportunity to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives, and meaningful, universal and equitable engagement.¹.
- **ESD for 2030** focuses on the five priority action areas, namely (i) advancing policy, (ii) transforming learning environments, (iii) building capacities of educators, (iv) **empowering and mobilising youth, and (v) accelerating local level actions**. This webinar will contribute mainly to (iv) & (v).
- Facilitating youth engagement is one of the priorities in the global RCE network. The **Roadmap for the RCE Community 2021-2030** specifies a suggested action: "*Provide opportunities, mobilise and strengthen the engagement of youths on ESD in regional/local communities as one of the key actors in addressing sustainability challenges*".
- In 2021, the first-ever RCE Youth Webinar was organised under '*Youth Voices on Climate Change, Action for sustainability*'. The IVE programme plans to organise the webinar annually, focusing on pressing issues of sustainability and facilitating actions.
- **RCE Youth Webinar 2022** will focus on **biodiversity conservation** as one of the most pressing issues towards sustainable development that many RCEs worldwide have been addressing.
- UNU-IAS launched the [case study publication and video](#) on '*Engaging Communities for Biodiversity Conservation: Education for Sustainable Development Projects from the Global RCE Network*' in April 2022. This webinar will provide an opportunity to invite a RCE youth representative to share the outstanding project. The initiative of the annual Youth Art Challenge will also focus on the topic of biodiversity conservation.

2. Objectives

- To celebrate **International Youth Day**¹ and highlight actions by youth as change agents for transforming our world.
- To contribute to building momentum for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the upcoming second part of the COP15 in Kunming (China) in 2022 and contribute to the global movement of '[UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#)'.
- To share **concrete examples of youth-led activities** and facilitate discussion to inspire more young people and other stakeholders in the global RCE network and beyond for accelerating efforts to address issues on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- To synthesize youth activities in the Global RCE Service Centre by bringing together the annual RCE Youth Art Challenge and the webinar.
- To provide a creative platform for youth to widen and deepen their knowledge on expressing themselves through art on the topic of biodiversity.

¹ **International Youth Day:** It was established by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/54/120), which on 17 December 1999 endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth calling for 12 August to be declared International Youth Day. (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/youth-day>)

3. Programme

<p>Opening Session (10 min)</p>	<p>Opening remarks Prof. Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi (Director, UNU-IAS)</p> <p>Congratulatory remarks Ministry of the Environment, Japan (TBC)</p>
<p>Keynote speech (25 min)</p>	<p>Presentation on youth-led biodiversity activities Ms Daria Chekalskaia (Youth Climate Activist, Finland) Ms. Maycie McWillie (RCE Saskatchewan, Canada)</p>
<p>Expression through Art (30 min)</p>	<p>2022 Youth Art Challenge Global RCE Service Centre</p> <p>2021 Youth Art Challenge awardee presentation Ms. Lian Sabella Castillo (RCE Yokohama, Japan)</p> <p>Presentation from youth environmental activist and digital artist Ms Qiyun Woo (Singapore)</p>
<p>Workshop (50 min)</p>	<p>Workshop facilitated by UNU-IAS</p>
<p>Closing (5 min)</p>	<p>Closing Remarks from UNU-IAS</p>