

# #NatureForAll YOUTH OASIS

**A 10-Step Guide to Co-Creating a  
Youth Space at Your Event**



**Nothing  
for youth  
without  
youth!**

– KALUKI PAUL MUTUKU



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# Foreword

This guide is designed to help you co-create and manage a youth-centred dialogue space, ensuring youth voices are integrated throughout the process.

It was inspired by the experiences of #NatureForAll partners in creating and hosting youth dialogue spaces over 15 times around the world, learning what makes a place special for youth and helps them get the most out of their event engagement.

We refer to these spaces as Youth Oases, but the name you choose does not matter – youth pavilion, youth archipelago, youth corner – each space is different and has its own origin, vision, leaders, events, features and outcomes. However, there are many common elements in the design and facilitation of these spaces that can support greater outcomes.

It's important to point out that youth engagement should not just happen in a specific physical space but throughout the entire event, its whole program and design. Youth engagement is central to the mandate of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). We believe that youth should be an integral part of any dialogue on the environment, or, frankly, any important discussion on a social issue. Thus, we encourage full participation of youth in every aspect of an event or congress. This includes youth in the design teams; youth on panels, including plenary sessions; workshops for youth, and workshops by youth – it includes mainstreaming youth across every aspect of an event.

This guide, however, focuses just on the steps to create a youth run space inside a larger event. These spaces are common now at many congresses and meetings and we have found these spaces to be important to give youth a “home base” where they can share, learn, ground themselves and promote their work and their ideas. This guide provides an easy 10-step process for anyone organising a space for youth at a large event. The guide also offers insights, tips and testimonials from those who have experienced a Youth Oasis in some role: organisers, youth participants and other event guests.

The guide draws on the experience of the main authors, who have designed, run, and evaluated dozens of youth oriented spaces at the local, national, regional and global levels. The guide has also been deeply enriched by substantive insights, feedback, stories, examples and tools provided by the wonderful members of the IUCN CEC and WCPA, YAC and the authors offer their deepest gratitude for this engagement and sharing. The acknowledgement section of the guide reflects the depth of input provided.



We created this how-to guide so interested organisations can implement their own #NatureForAll Youth Oasis. The document includes ready-made templates and design guidelines for pavilion walls, banners and other materials will be available to help the organisers prepare their space. Building on existing resources and our experiences, the guide consolidates and provides practice-oriented steps and tools to support people who are creating space for youth.

While the approaches presented here have been developed with a view to supporting the International Union For Conservation of Nature (IUCN), we hope they will also be useful for those who work to improve their events and make the world a better place. Together, we are all working for the good of the planet in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other environmental and climate frameworks.

Meaningful youth engagement during climate and nature events takes an extra effort, but it is worth it! We invite you to use this guide as you see fit and to provide us with your feedback, suggestions, and experiences – so we can continue to learn together and create spaces for meaningful and impactful dialogues.

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# Introduction

Over the last few years, the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and the World Commission on Protected Areas have worked through the #NatureForAll initiative and with various partners to create spaces specifically designed for youth to gather, connect and celebrate during climate, biodiversity and conservation gatherings. These are not meant to be separate spaces from the larger event, but complementary and integral components to ensure youth engagement in the broader conversations.

*(Note: youth and young professionals are used interchangeably in this document, and refer to people under the age of 35.)*

## **These spaces, what we call #NatureForAll Youth Oases, are central gathering places to:**

- ensure meaningful youth engagement
- foster intergenerational collaboration
- host interdisciplinary and intergenerational discussions
- build and empower community
- create networking opportunities
- capture and share stories
- showcase sessions and workshops led by young leaders
- decompress and relax



Successful efforts in hosting and co-creating #NatureForAll Youth Oases include during the Latin America and Caribbean Protected Areas Congress in Lima, Peru in 2019 (CAPLAC); World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France (2021); the Asia and Pacific Parks Congress in Sabah, Malaysia in 2022 (APAC); the Africa Protected Areas Congress in Kikali, Rwanda, in 2022 (APC); and the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress in Canada in 2023 (IMPAC5).

Similarly, IUCN Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) has successfully contributed to rolling out several Youth Oasis spaces at IUCN Regional Conservation Fora (RCF) throughout 2024. Youth engagement in the lead up to RCFs included not only providing input to the event programme in collaboration with organising teams, but also hosting capacity building sessions for youth attendees before the event, co-designing the Oasis activities in line with



the “youth for youth” principle and organising many informal engagements for knowledge transfer and networking.

Youth spaces should not be a replacement to full youth engagement in the forum or conference. It's important to integrate youth in all levels of the program, engaging them in panel discussions, presentations, etc. so their voices are included in all aspects of the event. Hence, the authors took every effort designing this guide to share best practices and ensure transfer of knowledge for all those tirelessly working on making youth voices heard and represented.



Image Credit: Yose Cormier

## Securing a youth space at a conference

Young people represent more than half of the global population, the majority of whom are in Asia, Africa and Latin America. They are increasingly active in conservation, voicing deep concerns about the linked fields of biodiversity loss, climate change and intergenerational justice. They are also already influencing, participating in and leading conservation and sustainable development actions.

Conferences and congresses around climate change, biodiversity and conservation straddle the present as well as the future. As such, including youth voices in decision-making, engaging them in terms of directing policy and recognising the role and contribution of young people, their unique and fresh perspectives as well as their expertise, is vital when organising a conference focused on these themes.

Youth bring energy, passion and capacity to innovate, unite diverse ideas and take advantage of new technologies, novel information sources and communication channels to create and enhance impact. They are active, involved and passionate about the environment, and as such, need to be engaged as equal partners and stakeholders in this space.

The IUCN Global Youth Summit in 2021 emphasised the need to have youth represented and engaged at all levels, but also to provide them with their own space to gather, connect and lead. The various congresses that followed only reinforced that notion.

Conversations about including a youth space need to take place during the initial planning phases of the event, to ensure youth participation is not simply token participation, but meaningful engagement.

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Develop your oasis space with the idea of fostering inclusion while creating a safe space for participants of the congress to relax, chat, and partake in youth-led events.

**Pascale Sylvester**

Youth Engagement Officer, Secretariat of the  
5th International Marine Protected Area Congress

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## **Why host and co-create a #NatureForAll Oasis?**

These huge congresses, which can often have over 10,000 people, are not always youth-friendly. It can be hard to find other youth, to find youth presenters, to find a place to talk, debrief, or share youth work.

#NatureForAll is a global partnership of almost 600 organisations whose aim is to inspire a love of nature to deepen and foster action for nature. As a global partnership with a deep commitment to youth engagement and empowerment, it was natural for the #NatureForAll community to seek ways for youth to have a more meaningful experience at big events.

Because #NatureForAll is a movement, and not an organisation, it can act as the unifier, convener and facilitator that brings people and organisations together. With guiding principles including diversity, inclusivity, cooperation and community, #NatureForAll offers a strong platform to foster enabling environments to reduce barriers and to connect people with nature





around the world. Thus, the IUCN commissions and partners started using the #NatureForAll brand for these spaces, realising how valuable they are for youth themselves, but equally for everyone attending a congress or summit.

While most will picture an oasis as a place to find water in a desert, it also refers to a pleasant or peaceful area in the midst of a hectic place or situation. As such, it is the perfect metaphor for a place (often a pavilion) for conference attendees to gather their thoughts, to recharge and to relax during what are often busy and tiring events.



Image Credit: Yose Cormier

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Setting up a #NatureForAll Youth Oasis at a Congress or event is bound to be an exciting, and at times exhausting, experience. Throughout the process, there are likely to be changes and unexpected requirements, so approach the process with flexibility and adaptability in mind.

**Erinn Drage**

WCPA Executive Officer – Africa Protected Areas Congress

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# STEP 1:

## Ensure effective outreach for diversity and inclusion

Before the event starts, an organiser may greatly influence the level of success through thoughtful outreach. As you plan the communication of the event, think how you can ensure that the attendees you receive will make up a representative group. Thus, as you plan your communications efforts be strategic about who you reach out to (i.g. regions, countries, organisations, groups, etc.) and how you ensure diversity and inclusion. Take into account the context of your target group, and address potential barriers like the digital divide, access to the internet and others.

If you make a registration form, it should be deliberately designed to funnel the audience you expect. Be explicit on non-discrimination policy you have. Encourage participation of women and girls, people with physical needs, representatives of various ethnic and religious groups etc. It should also use a platform that is accessible worldwide.

Find out what youth are most interested in and hope to get out of the event and build that into the Youth Oasis accordingly.

At the same time, make sure the event is planned with respect to the different needs these groups may have. The selection of a venue would require an infrastructure enabling people with disabilities, room for prayers, etc. Your event manual may consider including a code of conduct or expected ethical norms during the event.

Consider reaching out early on in the process with youth-led organisations involved in your sector, who will have access to a network and knowledge of the audience. This will ensure you are co-creating the space, and having youth communicate with youth.

If relevant, suggest flexibility in welcoming participants from outside the defined age groups, for instance. Say, for example, organisers may define youth between 18-35 years old, but also consider minors attending under the supervision of their chaperones.

Do not hesitate to take an extra step and investigate what barriers are faced by under-represented groups of participants in the event you're planning. These could be travel visas, cost of participation, language barriers, lack of capacity, or many other reasons. Ponder if there's any way you as an organiser could support your youth attendees in minimising these barriers. Are there organisations you can work with who could offset the costs or provide grants? Can the organisers offer to waive the attendance fee or provide a subsidised entrance for youth participants. Can ensure translators are available, or consider organising separate regional/sub-events based on language?

Include an online capacity building session before the event or translation of the main sessions of the program, which will all make a big difference for diversity and inclusion.





Image Credit: Asia Parks Congress

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Youth engagement should entail the full picture in the spectrum: youth from marginalised communities, non-binary youth, youth in all regions, youth in different fields. Do keep in mind that even though you may not find youth from these areas, you must push yourself and keep looking for different youth doing amazing things in their different ways. Do not go for the obvious stars, focus instead on the unheard stars. That makes it possible to ensure inclusion for all.

**Kaluki Paul Mutuku**

Youth 4 Nature Regional Director for Africa – Africa Protected Areas Congress

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## STEP 2:

# Design for success

When it comes to designing the space, get creative and think outside of the box! You want your design and Oasis to shout "youth" and be welcoming and warm. Given the nature of the event, you'll also want to think about using eco-friendly material or minimising waste/carbon footprint for the space and displays.

It's important to get youth involved in the planning of the space (it is their space after all!) and to provide opportunities to showcase youth. Set up a small committee to brainstorm ideas and then implement them.

You should aim to create an environment where participants feel safe to express their opinions and perspectives. Encourage active listening, empathy, and the validation of diverse viewpoints. Consider incorporating icebreakers, team-building activities, or trust-building exercises to foster a sense of cohesion and mutual respect.

**The first consideration to take into account is the location of the pavilion.**

**Where will it be located?**

**Will it be central or tucked to the side?**

Consider how you will bring people to the space, how they will enter and move around in the space you provide, and once there, how you want them to interact.

- What types of activities and opportunities are you looking to feature?
- Will you have a space for speakers or maybe interactive sessions where people can move around?
- Will you need a networking space?
- How about a quiet corner for reflection or for people who may need to get some work done?
- Will you need to/be able to rearrange the space quickly for serving the needs of the different session leaders and their participants?

Once you have that, consider how you will design your space. First off, think about where you will place the oasis title and how you will recognize your partners and funders.

Then, design the space. Consider incorporating a photo gallery with images taken by youth, related to the theme of the conference, along one of the walls.

- Would showing films/videos, featuring youth and/or created by youth be an option?
- Can you make use of nature, plants, Indigenous prints and artefacts into your space?
- How about broadcasting nature sounds in-between sessions?

All those personal touches will add to creating a welcoming and warm place where people want to spend time and connect with each other.

An important consideration, of course, will be your budget. How much funds you have to design your space will be important, but you can find ways to stretch those funds by being creative and flexible. Working with partners can help spread the cost, and the workload. Use the tools and resources provided in the resources section of this document.

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Maybe a Pinterest mood board or a dedicated brainstorming exercise like a Jamboard will help your planning team visualise the final space together. While some events/congresses will require that you use their printers or decorators to build out the space, consider what external elements may bring some fun, youthful energy to a pavilion. Plants, fairy lights, pop up posters, and art can all go a long way in bringing a space to life. Hiring an external designer, like a wedding planner, can also be a great way to make the Youth Oasis stand out among other pavilions.

**Erinn Drage**

WCPA Executive Officer – Africa Protected Areas Congress

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## STEP 3:

# Create the Oasis program with youth

Consider how the Youth Oasis feeds into the 'main event' and vice versa - ensuring the youth oasis doesn't feel lesser or too separate. It should strengthen youth voices rather than separate it from mainstream decision making.

As you begin developing activities and a program for the youth oasis, and considering inclusive youth engagement and appropriate communication and outreach efforts, you may also want to assess the needs and expectations of potential participants. One of the ways could be to include such questions in the registration form. The insights you get from participants on preferred format of sessions, their aspiration for specific speakers / experts and topics to be covered in the event will be very instrumental in the design of the event.

Co-creating the program for youth with youth is an effective way to organise the space and activities. After all, Oasis is a sort of a platform to spotlight young professionals and talents out there. Why not allow the young event attendees to nominate themselves or someone they know as a speaker at the event?

**For example, in preparation of the Youth Oasis at IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Marseille, France, that took place in 2021, the organisers put much effort to reach out to multiple environmental youth groups and organisations with the call for Oasis activities. This allowed interested youth from across the world coming to attend WCC for using the Oasis space as hosts of educational sessions, workshops, gamified networking and ice-breaking activities - always linked to nature conservation - among others. All these varied activities covered a wide range of topics from capacity building to leadership, from activism to youth mobilisation, from communications to storytelling and beyond.**

Thus, while being suggested by youth organisations, led by young professionals for attending children and youth, Oasis program activities were fully curated by young people and reflected their needs. Such an open organic design approach has allowed the Youth Oasis organisers to create a program that truly served the audience.

Another consideration would be to collaborate at the onset with youth-based organisations, some of whom might also be willing to support the development and financing of the space.

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Nothing for youth without youth! Allow youth in all capacities to co create the idea and make the programming creative. Listen to what youth would want the space to look like, and then work with them to see it come to reality. Teamwork makes the dream work a reality.

**Kaluki Paul Mutuku**

Youth 4 Nature Regional Director for Africa – Africa Protected Areas Congress



Image Credit: Sean Southey

For the Youth Oasis at IMPAC5 we had a committee composed of 15 amazing youth leaders from around the world. Each of them was responsible for leading an activity in the Oasis' program. It led to an incredible array of activities that responded to real needs identified by these youth. But it's imperative to have a designated coordinator behind the scenes (ideally also a youth) to manage logistics, break down barriers and allow these youth leaders to dream big and bring these much-needed events to life.

**Noémie Roy**

Youth Engagement Officer, Secretariat of the  
5th International Marine Protected Area Congress

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## STEP 4:

# Create extra value for youth

Meaningful youth engagement opportunities stretch out beyond the workshops, sessions and panel. Naturally, as an organiser you will strive to make your event a one of a kind unique experience for children and youth. This essentially means making an effort to create extra value.

One way of creating value for youth is by creating a networking and meeting space, allowing collaborations as enriching and impactful as any other form of activity in the Youth Oasis. Thus, make sure the Oasis is designed to support the large group meetings and bilateral interactions.

And while the meaningful engagement is core, every Oasis also serves as a rescue space. Large congresses can be intense and overwhelming. Allow the Oasis to have chill zones for young attendees to take breaks, check emails and work or be in the quiet. This is also part of the meaningful experience at the event.

Again, ponder how to bring various stakeholders together to achieve that goal. Maybe the multiple event partners can be of support here?

Other opportunities for partner participation include

- **Intergenerational Knowledge Exchange Breakfast**
- **Supporting youth attendance in offsite capacity building event**
- **Sponsor showcase on App and in Congress online media channels**
- **Exhibitor Booth at oasis**
- **Branded areas of the oasis**
- **#NatureForAll Youth Conversation Café**
- **Employee Programs**
- **Livestream of Congress and Festival Events**
- **Dedicated event at oasis**
- **Participation in opening event of oasis**
- **VIP Access to Events**





Image Credit: PCI Media

French Ecological Transition Minister Barbara Pompili and IUCN CEC Co-Chair for Youth and Intergenerational Partnerships Diana Garlytska at Breakfast Meeting during IUCN WCC 2021

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A key thing is ensuring while planning for youth engagement, you don't fall culprit of youth tokenism. Be intentional about why you want to make the youth space as objective and belonging as possible. See the youth as leaders and create events that allow them to discuss their challenges but also their solutions. Bring partners who can support and invest in youth. Plan competitions and get youth prizes, gifts and so on.

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**Kaluki Paul Mutuku**

Youth 4 Nature Regional Director for Africa – Africa Protected Areas Congress

## STEP 5:

# Make space for intergenerational collaboration

From the numerous Youth Oasis spaces for meaningful engagement of children and youth we can positively confirm that the intergenerational partnership opportunities have always proved to be most successful. While Oasis activities mainly are organised by youth and for youth, the sessions and panels that allowed collaboration and exchange of thoughts with senior colleagues and experts have always been referred to as most memorable for young attendees.

In addition, senior experts can gain new perspectives and insights from young professionals. Encourage opportunities and activities that disrupt and challenge potential power dynamics and inequalities, for example, having older conservationists interview young professionals on their experiences and perspectives, as opposed to the more traditional “mentor/mentee” dynamics.

Yet, try to create these interactions between different generations of environmental experts both in formal settings as much as in the informal ones. One of the great successes of IUCN World Conservation Congress in terms of youth programme was the ‘Breakfast Meetings’ with high level officials. These included ministers, C level corporate executives and governmental officials who met with youth in the less formal morning meetings to share their experience, consult with young people and answer their questions.

This allowed the organisers to create meaningful interactions many young professionals would not be able to have. In brief, opportunities for intergenerational cooperation go further than mentorship sessions. In fact, it’s a two way exchange that may foster very meaningful strategic collaborations.





Image Credit: Asia Parks Congress

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The lived wisdom of the old and the genuine zeal and energy of the youth should be seen as a strength to foster reciprocal relationships and partnerships. In sessions, planning and content dissemination, allow for Intergenerational engagements and open learning. Everyone has their unique value and must be allowed to contribute without prejudice or bias.

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**Kaluki Paul Mutuku**

Youth 4 Nature Regional Director for Africa – Africa Protected Areas Congress

## STEP 6:

# Roles, responsibilities and compensation

There are actual real people behind the Oasis magic. It is they who perform the multiple functions and roles that make things happen. Co-creation implies not only providing meaningful youth engagement on a volunteering basis, but also looking into ways to provide compensation to young professionals.

When possible consider monetary compensation and be explicit about the non-monetary compensation for the role upfront. An opportunity to attend a high level event free of charge, receive accommodation and transportation support are great means to create value for young professionals to benefit from these learning experiences and opportunities to enhance their skill sets.

**Here are some tips on getting the most out of your support crew:**

- Define clear roles and responsibilities before the event.
- Conduct engagement meetings with future onsite volunteers before the conference. They bring diversity and potential to your Youth Oasis. Clarify roles, responsibilities, recognition, time commitments, and create an open feedback loop on both sides. Encourage volunteers to take the lead on topics important to them, such as communication, logistics, or decoration.
- Ensure there are always volunteers available for instant help or to cover your role during other conference events. It's advisable to always have a host or two present in the Oasis during opening hours.
- Use shared files for scheduling and role clarity, a chat group for instant messaging, and email lists for more detailed information.
- Depending on the conference duration, consider daily catch-up meetings with all staff to keep everyone informed and provide a platform for debriefing and knowledge-sharing, contributing to the community's shared knowledge.
- Ideally, allocate time to open and close the collaboration period, acknowledge group efforts, and highlight points of development since the conference's beginning.
- Make sure volunteers feel valued and appreciated throughout the event (through praise, giving thanks, and recognition)





Image Credit: PCI Media

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We want formal engagements, but we also want cool and fun events, informal networking but also spots for people to just sit down, rest a bit, and connect with people.

**Kaluki Paul Mutuku**

Youth 4 Nature Regional Director for Africa – Africa Protected Areas Congress

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## STEP 7:

# Communicate using a youth centred approach

You have your space set up, your activities planned. But how are you going to bring people into your space? Are you going to share what's happening externally, or is it only for those attending the event in person?

Promoting content before and during the conference will help drive interest and discussion around the events and activities that you'll be hosting. It can lead to broader conversations with youth, and others, who aren't able to attend the conference but are interested in the content.

Ensure your plans are included in all event materials and agenda, and work with the event's communications team to promote your efforts to potential and confirmed participants. By following the steps above, you've created a program and a space that has marketing appeal and can help generate more interest in the whole event itself.

However you choose to promote and communicate the space and activities, youth-centred communication can help many young people connect and contribute to the critical discussions through the lens of different knowledge systems.

Harnessing the diverse youth perspectives and voices, through inclusive and far-reaching methods, will ensure your space is representative of young people worldwide.

Create a dissemination plan and accompanying tools that you can share to key youth organisations that will be interested in participating and visiting your space.

**For example, invite all youth attendees to join a WhatsApp group, where they can share thoughts, images, and connect with one another during the event, but also continue the conversation afterwards.**





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Having someone facilitate youth-centred communications and efforts and sharing information through the congress platform app or on social media will ensure these activities are not limited to oasis attendees, but are engaging a broader audience and having a greater impact.

**Pascale Sylvester**

Youth Engagement Officer, Secretariat of the  
5th International Marine Protected Area Congress

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## STEP 8:

# Push for youth engagement beyond the Oasis

Now that you have set up your youth oasis, which will be the heart of the event targeting all the young participants, it is only a specific space within a bigger event venue and there is much happening outside. In fact, successful youth inclusion stretches beyond the Oasis and foresees there are ways for youth participation and representation ensured in the overall (main) event program.

What's happening at the Oasis should not prevent young people from participating in the key activities (e.g. voting, debates, important press conferences etc.) outside of it. Mind, Youth Oasis is not a thing on its own. While it is a physical space, do treat the Oasis as “an experience” allowing it to extend beyond the actual place in the venue.

When designing the overall event program, the organisers should not create two parallel and exclusive tracks for young professionals and their more experienced colleagues, basically creating an environment where they do not have the possibility to interact.

Therefore, the event program shall ensure youth has means for active participation, for example opportunity to be speakers, panelists, etc. This entails roles beyond participation as attendees - young people should be engaged as speakers and moderators of sessions covering topics outside themes “typical” for youth.

When planning a program of events for the space, remember that there is much value to be derived from leaving open spots in the schedule for natural gatherings, networking, and down time. A #NatureForAll Youth oasis is often the gathering space for youth and young professionals at congresses and should be made available for unscheduled time. A well-designed pavilion schedule will be one that both creates opportunities for youth to present their work, actively participate in discussions and workshops, and to enjoy a break from the (at times overwhelming) full schedules of a large congress. Be careful not to “over-schedule” stage time within the space that leaves no free time for youth to make the space their own.



Image Credit: Yose Cormier

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You will probably be working with contractors to physically build the Youth Oasis so good communication is absolutely essential in order for them to execute your vision. Be sure to get in touch with them as early as possible (at least several weeks before the event) to walk through your hopes for the pavilion together. Given how closely you will work with the event contractors, it is also important to find out who exactly (one or two individuals) will be your main point of contact in the days leading up to, and throughout the duration, of the event.

**Erinn Drage**

WCPA Executive Officer – Africa Protected Areas Congress

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## STEP 9:

# Assess youth inclusion at the event

Essentially, the purpose of Youth Oasis is to ensure meaningful participation of young people at high-level events. This is only possible if the engagement is designed in a youth-centred manner, being inclusive, just, and with genuine intentions at heart (non-tokenistic). The staff and volunteers might have their own impression of and perspective on the event, but you sure are interested to hear from external stakeholders. Rightfully, it is the participants who can primarily make a judgement on this effort.

Thus, as the event concludes, foresee the attendees' assessment to be rolled out. Both quantitative and qualitative data will allow you to determine how successful the event was.

Offer a variety of means to share feedback with an option to remain anonymous and guarantee respect and safety for participants. Consider using surveys, questionnaires and event dialogues or debrief discussions to gather input. Ensure any feedback mechanisms have closed and open-ended questions, allow scale evaluations and longer insights (e.g. takeaways, recommendations for improvement etc.), while reflecting on different aspects of the event (e.g. the program content and design, specific sessions, venue, food etc.).

Such assessment can be done with the help of numerous digital tools, many of which are free of charge. Why not use a fun and interactive poll (e.g. Mentimeter) directly during the event and a more extensive survey (e.g. Google form) after it concludes?

You may also consider extending the report by topping the findings of the participants' assessment of the event with general facts and figures to present on the overall outcome. This could be a number of sessions within the high-level event (not only the Youth Oasis) where youth had speaking or moderator roles, number of sessions with topics on or related to youth (e.g. talent development, education, grassroots activism etc.). General statistics, like gender balance, regional / country representation will allow one to reflect on the inclusion and representation.

In addition, consider ways of tracking engagement throughout the event, such as mentions of youth in speeches by delegates, visibility/interactions of youth in Q&A sessions, engagement on social media platforms, reporting/interviews by media present at the event, feedback from youth attending the event, etc.

Finally, it is recommended to embed the voice of other stakeholders on youth engagement within the event. This will provide insights on non-youth participants at the Youth Oasis, their experience collaborating with young attendees etc. Allowing to include a different angle will only contribute to the "lessons learnt" and overall better experience for the event audience in future editions (next cycle).



Alternatively, depending on your context and commitments on reporting and disclosure you may choose to set up a follow-up (online) meeting with attendees. Such oral reflections can serve as a useful and more organic way to express insights, develop on thoughts of others and ensure a two-way communication between participants and organisers. This may have its benefits too. Such sessions can also be recorded for reporting and references in the future.

Image Credit: Sean Southey



# STEP 10:

## Report and disclose

Once the event is over, there is still work to be done. The actual reporting and disclosure is about making the assessment of event outcomes and results visible and accessible to all stakeholder groups. These need to be identified beforehand as well as means and channels of communication with them during and after the event.

While you definitely will share the assessment results with event attendees and affiliated groups, make sure the produced report(s) has open access for anyone interested.

Last but not least, the way your reporting will look greatly depends on two points:

- **the data (feedback) received;**
- **the types of tools you used to gather the data.**

One depends on the other. Thus, you have to be strategic when designing the report (see more insights in Step 9). The tone and the language as well as the form of data visualisation may need to be adjusted to each stakeholder group. Think what the objectives of this effort are. Maybe it's best to make several separate one-pagers with infographics? Maybe your stakeholders would benefit more from a comprehensive narrative report? Is it appropriate to illustrate it with event photographs or designs?

Do consider the reporting and disclosure effort as a powerful argument for communication with media, partners and sponsors at all times. It's worth the investment of time and staff effort.

Oh, and don't forget to thank everyone involved partners, supporters, staff, volunteers, etc.

**As an example, YOUNGO assessment of the Youth component in COP27 pavilions [can be found here](#).**





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Set the bar high for youth participation at future international conferences. In reporting back, highlight how young people enriched and enhanced the experience for all participants, not just youth.

**Pascale Sylvester**

Youth Engagement Officer, Secretariat of the  
5th International Marine Protected Area Congress

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# Acknowledgements

We appreciate the many people who have contributed to this guide and the Youth Spaces on which this guide is built. Thank you for all you do!

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# Tools and Resources

## **Oasis facilitator guide**

Share this guide with the people who will be staffing the oasis during the event.

## **Oasis concept note**

Use this template to outline your plans for the Youth Oasis, to pitch the Oasis concept to the event organisers and to recruit partners (financial and in-kind support) to assist you in developing a successful space

## **Budget planning**

Use this template to help you cost out the requirements for your youth oasis. This document also includes a tab to calculate the costs of supporting youth delegates in attending the event. Use this information, if needed, to find sponsors for these delegates.

## **Oasis materials checklist**

Create your own checklist to keep track of the materials and equipment you and your team plan on bringing and having on hand at your oasis.

## **Session proposals tracking**

Use this tracking template to stay on top of the proposals you receive from potential speakers and session leaders.

## **Youth Oasis schedule**

Create a schedule of all the activities and sessions you will have at the Youth Oasis.

## **Youth Journey**

Create a guide to youth-focused sessions for attendees to help them get the most out of the conference.





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