

The UNEP Magazine for Youth

TUNZA

for young people · by young people · about young people



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THE 4Rs – A WAY OF LIFE

TUNZA

the UNEP magazine
for youth. To view current
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CONTENTS

Be a super-hero!	3
Quiz	3
The future we want	4
Focus on what unites us	5
Voices from a conference	6
Changing worlds?	8
Only one planet	9
The future, now	10
Making stuff	12
Food for thought	14
Dig in!	14
High-density growth	15
A place to live	16
Innovations	17
Pedal power	18
Recycling: making it work	19
Seven masters of invention	20
Metals	22

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**Partners for Youth
and the Environment**



UNEP and Bayer, the German-based multinational involved in health care, crop protection and high-tech materials, are working together to strengthen young people's environmental awareness and engage children and youth in environmental issues worldwide.

A partnership agreement, originally signed in 2004 and renewed in 2007 and 2010, runs through 2013. It lays down the basis for UNEP and Bayer to implement the projects under the partnership. These include: TUNZA Magazine, the International

Children's Painting Competition on the Environment, the UNEP Tunza International Youth and Children's Conferences, youth environmental networks in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia, the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Program and a photo competition, 'Ecology in Focus', in Eastern Europe.

The long-standing partnership between UNEP and Bayer has become a public-private partnership that serves as a model for both organizations.

Be a super-hero!



Jovana Dodos

IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH ... really. Just devote one second, one minute, one hour or even one day to SAVE THE WORLD. We call it a OneOne.

It would be worth it, wouldn't it?

Save the world? YES, we can!

When Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955, the world changed. Her simple act of defiance became an icon for international resistance to racial segregation. Single simple acts CAN change the world.

So challenge yourself – but be realistic. Set goals that you are likely to achieve. Be inspired by Matt Cutts's video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnfBXjWm7hc).

Remember, mighty trees from small seeds grow! Turning off the light when you leave a room won't stress you too much, will it? Or taking a reusable bag when you go shopping, rather than using throw-away plastic bags? Making presents for friends and family might take a bit longer than buying them, but it'll be fun and give loads of satisfaction. Planning a community clean-up or giving up a day a month to work for a local environmental organization or in a local nature reserve will take more of a commitment, so try it for a month and see.

If we all take one small step, the effects could be profound. Remember the butterfly's wings. That small insect just beating its tiny wings in one place could have an enormous impact somewhere else in the world – that's a law of physics!

Our OneOne? We're organizing a campaign to get two local mega-offices to turn off their lights at night. It'll save energy and reduce pollution. Watch this space.

Tell us about your OneOne at <http://tunza.mobi> or tweet your OneOne @GEOforYouth

QUIZ • QUIZ • QUIZ • QUIZ

How good is your environmental knowledge?

Win a printed copy of the *Global Environment Outlook – GEO for Youth!*

Just answer these 10 questions (all the answers can be found in *GEO for Youth* at www.unep.org/pdf/geo_for_youth.pdf).

Send us your answers – by e-mail, or online at <http://tunza.mobi> – by 15 June 2013, and we'll draw the five winners from amongst all correct answers received.

Don't forget to send us your postal address with your entry!

Good luck!

1: How many people are expected to live on the planet in 2050?

a: 8 billion b: 9 billion c: 10 billion

2: Of the 90 key environmental goals agreed over the past 40 years, how many show significant progress?

a: 4 b: 14 c: 24

3: How many people does UN-Habitat estimate are homeless worldwide?

a: 1 billion b: 100 million c: 10 million

4: What percentage of people will be urban dwellers by 2050?

a: 52% b: 67% c: 73%

5: How much more food will be needed by 2050 to cope with growing populations and dietary changes?

a: 30% b: 50% c: 70%

6: Of all the world's species, how many have been described?

a: 1.75 million b: 5.75 million c: 7.15 million

7: How much water can you save in a year by turning off the tap when brushing your teeth?

a: 3,700 litres b: 5,300 litres c: 7,300 litres

8: How much of the planet's surface do large cities occupy?

a: 0.5% b: 1% c: 5%

9: The famous ozone hole is over:

a: the Arctic b: the Equator c: the Antarctic

10: When was UNEP founded?

a: 1972 b: 1982 c: 1992

The future we want

'We, the UNEP Tunza Youth Advisory Council together with participants of the UNEP Tunza International Youth Conference ... present this statement, on behalf of young people of the world, to the First Universal Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (February 2013).

1. We propose that UNEP provide appropriate frameworks and mechanisms to measure the full environmental and social costs of production, thereby enabling consumers to make informed decisions and to encourage fair pricing.

2. UNEP has to lead by example in encouraging financial incentives to promote entrepreneurship that has strong social and sustainability goals among young people.

3. UNEP should help to create a mechanism or space for sharing technologies for research into new technical and social ideas through financial incentives and funding via governments.

4. Education for sustainable development (ESD):

a. governments should introduce ESD in formal education curricula, as well as through informal and non-formal methods of learning from the early stages and with a life-long-learning perspective;

b. together with UNEP, governments and stakeholders should create a database of information on sustainable development that is open, accessible and easily available;

c. programmes should be launched that aim to provide professionals with the appropriate training and skills to conduct their work in a sustainable manner.

5. The participation of youth in decision making:

a. leading by example, UNEP needs

to encourage a system that facilitates young people in decision-making structures that are not tokenistic;

b. UNEP also needs to provide training and enable individuals to develop and share skills for inclusive involvement in other key stakeholder groups.

6. Reforms should be made to national youth councils to allow for a sector dedicated to the environment, aimed at involving youth in environmental policy-making processes and providing proper platforms to engage in capacity building. Where such councils do not exist, steps must be taken for them to be set up.

7. UNEP should encourage all stakeholders to become more transparent and accountable in their work, allowing for citizens, especially young people, to understand the different structures that are working towards a sustainable society.

8. Strict environmental laws must be enforced, with a focus on the removal of negative impacts caused by institutions not adhering to existing laws.

9. Indigenous people and local communities should be involved in all government processes. Adherence to ancestral knowledge should be promoted to improve strategies on sustainable production and consumption.

10. We propose that the Governing Councils of UNEP authorize

experts from the World Health Organization and other relevant official public health institutions/entities to conduct frequent checks on pharmaceutical companies that emit chemical waste that might affect drinking water. Steps should be taken to ensure that companies adhere to their respective environmental policies.

11. Governments should commission the quality mapping of water sources by setting up water-quality monitoring techniques, including low-cost, easy-to-set-up monitoring kits. Furthermore, governments should adopt a water source protection act, ensuring that no untreated wastewater contaminants enter water sources.

12. We call on governments, business, cities and civil society to support several efficient campaigns against food waste and unsustainable consumption. We further call on governments and all sectors of society to cut back on food waste and food loss as a post-2015 development agenda target and establish it as a Sustainable Development Goal.

13. UNEP and governments should support and facilitate youth-led campaigns, such as the Unite for Water Campaign, and projects aimed at preserving ecosystems for water security as well as efficient sustainable water use. It is further requested that the sustainable use of water be put forward as a post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal.'

'focus on what unites us'

ACHIM STEINER told delegates at the opening of the Tunza Youth Conference, 'there is so much to do, and so much we can do'. For the first time, more than 130 young people – budding doctors, engineers, lawyers, and even artists from over 100 countries around the world – assembled at UNEP's Nairobi headquarters,

where they were joined by a similar number of young people from all over Kenya.

'The world is full of barriers and obstacles when it comes to sustainable development,' Steiner continued, 'but you, youth, remain a key, powerful engine to address the world's needs.'

GEO for youth



Bartolo

TO PROVIDE A FOCUS for the conference and beyond, Saba Loftus, Chucky Bartolo and Karuna Rana (pictured above) launched the youth edition of the *Global Environment Outlook – GEO for Youth*. 'This is not just about the environment and its problems,' they told the delegates. 'It's about acting together for change – it shows there's hope and that successes are happening every day.'

www.unep.org/pdf/geo_for_youth.pdf



NEW

Tunza Youth Advisers



UNEP

The election of the new Tunza Youth Advisory Council is always tense, exciting and absolutely vital. There are usually two advisors for each of UNEP's six regions: Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, West Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and North America.

The TYACs serve for two years, representing their regions to UNEP, supporting youth networks in their areas, and acting as a focal point for youth activity. Your TYACs for 2013–2015 are:

Latin America and the Caribbean

Pedro Pereira Marques (vivahojeativismo@gmail.com) & Stefan Knights (stefanknights@gmail.com)

Europe

Daniela Karaivanova (danika6@gmail.com) & Simona Zeroska (zeroska_simona@yahoo.com)

Africa

Tom Akampa Israel (ttomas9@yahoo.se) & Ashley van Heerden (ashvanheerden@gmail.com)

West Asia

Basma Dali Ahmad (basmadali@hotmail.com) & Mohammad Elamayireh (mohamad_mazan2007@yahoo.com)

Asia and the Pacific

Jes Ebrahim Izaidin (jes.ebrahim@gmail.com) & Pranav Desai (pranavdesai92@hotmail.com)

North America

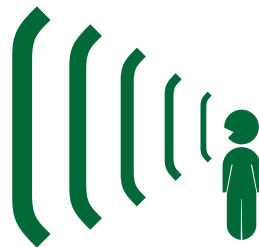
Victoria Wee (vwee@stanford.edu)

So get in touch with your local TYACs – they want to hear from you.



TRISTRAM STUART OF FEEDING THE 5000 (www.feeding5k.org) introduced UNEP's new, year-long campaign to reduce food waste, cherishing not just food itself (though that alone would really make a difference), but also water, fertilizers and pesticides, transport fuels, and the energy used in food processing and cooking. Tristram presented a compelling argument: the world produces more than 4,000 calories a day for every person living in the world, but fewer than 2,000 are actually eaten. The rest is wasted – left rotting in fields and storage facilities, thrown away because it doesn't seem perfect or, like offal, has become unfashionable as food. A lot is also discarded because we've kept it in the fridge too long or we just loaded our plate with more than we can eat. As Tristram pointed out, there is enough food for everyone; we just have to change the way we think.

Voices



from a conference

Getting the attention of law makers – Nigeria

As Nigeria has no clear policies or institutions to address climate change, the Nigerian Youth Climate Action Network decided to get a government bill through the National Assembly. To make this happen, they:

- organized an international press campaign, calling on law makers to act as a matter of urgency;
- launched a social media campaign to flood policy makers' Facebook walls with messages;
- sought the support of radio and TV stations, which featured live discussions on the issues and explored the need to teach people about climate change;
- printed *Turn Down The Heat* T-shirts for young people in Abuja, the capital.

Although the bill got through parliament, it has been waiting for presidential signature since 2010. To make that happen the young people are now seeking 20,000 signatures on an Earth Hour petition that will be forwarded to the President, asking him to act swiftly on the Climate Commission Bill.

HAMZAT LAWAL, the charismatic co-founder of the Network, told TUNZA: 'Partnership is key to our work – we identified individuals, organizations and institutions with an interest in environmental issues and we reached out to them for partnership.'



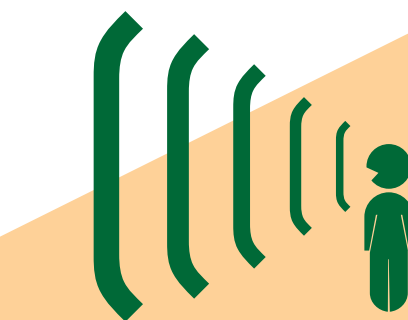
Hamzat Lawal

Taking national action – Canada

In the winter of January 2012, We Canada's young sustainability advocates went on a two-month coast-to-coast tour: Dialogues and Action for Earth Summit 2012. Their aim was to engage citizens by teaching them about the United Nations Earth Summits and the significance of Canada's role in the negotiations, to consult civil society on the national position for Rio+20, and to provide concrete action platforms to get young people to mobilize their own networks. 'Our volunteer team worked on drumming up media attention through traditional media press releases and appearances and through social media like Facebook and Twitter, as well as the We Canada website (<http://wecanada.org/blog/>),' said the group leader **VICTORIA WEE**. 'Thanks to generous sponsorship, we engaged 7,837 Canadians directly in dialogue from 23 universities, 30 schools, and 3 community centres across 10 provinces and territories – three-quarters of these were young people between the ages of 10 and 25. As a result, more than 1,000 letters were sent to political leaders, demanding that Canada make sustainable development a priority on the federal agenda.'



Victoria Wee



Local – national – international

When the question of what to do with unused and unwanted medication was posed, students in Illinois, USA, started the Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program (P2D2). Backed by the State of Illinois, Illinois American Water, Covanta Energy and Illinois Indiana Sea Grant, this grew beyond their local area, with the students placing drop boxes in police stations and pharmacies across the USA for people to safely and efficiently dispose of their surplus medicines. P2D2, which won third place in the 2012 Volvo Adventure, is now going international with the Scouts of Brazil, initially in the southern city of Erechim. 'We hope to take P2D2 right across Brazil,' founder **BAYLEE RITTER** told TUNZA, 'and we have ambitions to spread the idea to other countries, forming life-long partnerships with like-minded environmentalists.'



Baylee Ritter



Who's fighting for the environment?

IVANA SAVIC, who led the Rio+20 Major Group for Children and Youth, works for the Ombudsman Office in Serbia. She explains what this kind of administrative process could do for environmental issues.

'Little attention has been paid to the role administrations can play in the enforcement or violation of environmental agreements, environmental rights and human rights in general. But they have a huge influence on the lives of people and on the state of the environment.'

'The administrative system is the place where citizens and governments meet and it is where environmental treaties and standards can be brought to life. Wrongly handled, however, the system can prevent citizens from gaining access to justice and can contribute to environmental degradation.'

'National Human Rights Institutions such as Ombudspersons are independent state bodies with mandates to promote and protect human rights. They also ensure that international obligations are implemented at a national level, and play a critical role in changing the practices of public administration, policies and government in general.'

'As such, they could advance and support environmental mainstreaming, the assessment of laws and procedures from an environmental perspective, and initiate the establishment of a multi-sectoral coordinating body to ensure an integrated approach to the environment and development.'

'That would ensure that the environment is not just the responsibility of specialist ministries, but becomes the concern of all ministries, bodies and organs holding public authority, and recognizes that the environment is at the core of public interest.'

No more dengue deaths – Paraguay

The Mangore Scout Group from Ciudad del Este, Paraguay, set about fighting dengue fever locally – and won the Volvo Adventure Award for 2012. To eliminate the breeding-grounds of the mosquito that spreads the disease, they organized neighbourhood clean-ups and awareness-raising in schools, and taught people how to reuse and recycle wastes. Then in September, Paraguay's president, Federico Franco, asked the group to take its programme to the Ministry of Health so that it could be put into action across the country. 'Now we're working with local authorities and communities on neighbourhood clean-ups in public spaces and disused sites, as well as going from house to house telling people how to prevent mosquito breeding grounds from forming,' group leader **KATE GUERIN MIÑO** told TUNZA.



Kate Guerin Miño

Driving action – Cameroon

The "I Vote for Climate" movement was set up by Actions Vitales pour le Développement Durable to encourage candidates for the Cameroon presidency at the October 2011 elections to include environmental protection in their manifestos. A petition invited the candidates to commit themselves to including climate change and sustainable development in their plans. "I Vote for Climate" was not political and supported no particular party,' organizer **JONAS ALIROU YEDIDIA** told TUNZA, 'not even the "greens"'. Rather, it was a plea to future decision makers to take the environment seriously. The campaign caught the eye of the authorities, including Elections Cameroon – ELECAM, the body that organized the elections – which signed the youth petition.



Jonas Alirou Yedidia

Changing worlds?

by Matt Golding



Matt Golding

BACK IN THE 1980s we spent a huge amount of time fantasizing about possessions – the latest car, bike, disc, film and more. Days would be spent imagining the life we would have if only we owned these things.

In recent years, however, I have been surprised by a slow but growing shift amongst young people towards nonchalance about ownership. Whether it's music, cars, phones, movies or software, young people seem increasingly happy just to value the experience stuff offers rather than the stuff itself.

How has this come about? Maybe in the developed world it's because of abundance; the increased availability of affordable possessions. Or maybe the increased responsibility of looking after so much stuff has worn us down. Maybe the globalization of progress has caused convergence, so that the messages possessions send about

That said, the environmental benefits of moving away from individual ownership are potentially huge. But to maximize the potential we also need to exercise our power as customers and ensure that what we buy is made to be upgradeable, recyclable, repairable and long lasting.

Take my old laptop: it had an iFixit* rating of 7, meaning you could fix and upgrade it yourself. But the new model's rating is 1, meaning you have to get rid of it when the battery dies or the hard drive runs out of space. Currently both models are on sale with the exact same specifications – apart from the retina screen – so you, the consumer, can choose. If everyone buys the new design, valuing the 3mm thinner machine with an amazing screen over upgradeability, the older, more environmentally benign option is likely to be discontinued.

Even allowing for Moore's Law – stating that the power of

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