

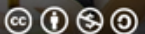


CONVENER
YOUTH-NREG
PLATFORM



YOUTH-NREG

The Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG) Platform in Ghana



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THE YOUTH IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE (YOUTH-NREG) PLATFORM IN GHANA

BACKGROUND

The need to address gender inequality and social exclusion in all development agenda has gained strong attention globally. Governments have made [legally] binding commitments to ensuring gender responsiveness in all decision making levels. Building on these commitments, the 2030 Agenda, including its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), recognize the interlinkages between gender equality and the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and call for integrated solutions with the aim to “Leaving No One Behind”.

In a quest to demonstrate good governance in the management of the natural resources and environment sector, the Government of Ghana launched the Natural Resource and Environmental Governance (NREG) program from 2008 – 2012 to address governance issues related to the mining and forestry sectors and to improve environmental management with the overall objective of ensuring economic growth, poverty alleviation, increasing revenues and improving environmental protection. The program was supported by the Agence Francais de Development (AFD), Department for International Development (Dfid) of the United Kingdom, the European Commission (EC), the Royal Netherland Government (RNG) and the International Development Association (IDA - WB).

In recent times, the issue of natural resources and environment management has increased owing to their inter-relatedness and cross-cutting nature as well as their inevitable impact on development agenda. They include Climate Change; Biological Diversity (Biodiversity); Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Forestry; Fisheries; Oil and Gas; Food Security; Land Degradation; Renewable Energy;

INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND WILDLIFE.

Increasingly, development partners are acknowledging the need for extensive consultation involving local communities, indigenous peoples, civil society organizations, private sector, women, men, girls and boys in addressing environmental challenges.

Yet in the planning, implementation and evaluation of environmental action interventions, the inclusion of young people as relevant actors has been poorly executed. Even where issues of social inclusion are specifically discussed, little attention is paid towards empowering young people to participate in environmental governance. There is a lot more that need to be done in enhancing the access of young people to public participation and decision making.

OUR OBSERVATIONS:

The following are some key observations made regarding youth development gaps:

1. Incomplete Governance Framework
2. Fragmented youth-oriented interventions
3. Limited Youth participation in decision making spaces

Establishment of a Platform:

The World Bank and UNDP-Ghana in May, 2019 supported SYND to establish the Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG) in Ghana with a current membership strength of about 150 (made up of individuals and organisations) across the country.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. To create an opportunity for young people to contribute actively in the governance of the natural resources and environmental sector in a concerted manner.
2. To form an organized group towards stakeholder engagement processes (policy dialogues, interface meetings etc) at all levels of the decision making process
3. To build the capacity of young people as change agents in promoting environmental sustainability.

STRATEGIES:

- Establishing a Youth Platform in Natural Resources & Environmental Governance
- Creating awareness on policies, programmes and practices including youth issues in the Natural Resources & Environmental sector
- Building capacity and knowledge base of young people on good environmental governance practices as change agents.
- Facilitating Stakeholder Engagements (Policy Dialogues and interface meetings)
- Facilitating follow up monitoring and tracking of commitments from policy dialogues and interface.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

1. Organising Capacity building sessions for members
2. Organising periodic Consultative Meetings
3. Developing relevant Information, Education & Communication (IE&C) Materials:
4. Embarking on Outreach and Public Awareness Campaigns

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. A formidable national youth platform in natural resources and environmental governance established and recognized by policy and decision makers at all levels.
2. Increased public awareness and education on environment issues through youth activism.
3. Evidence-based (best) practices of Ghanaian youth in natural resources and environmental governance documented and disseminated for learning and sharing both nationally and internationally.

CONCLUSION:

The need for active youth participation in the governance of the environmental sector cannot be overemphasized especially in the light of increasing demand for extensive consultations in managing the sector. The youth are our future leaders thus sustainable development cannot be attained without their active participation. They need relevant information and capacity to function in any leadership position. Again, young people possess skills, energies and abilities which are valuable resources that must be discovered, developed and deployed effectively towards the [collective] achievement of environmental goals in the areas of Climate Change; Biological Diversity (Biodiversity); Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Forestry; Fisheries; Oil and Gas; Food Security; Land Degradation; Renewable Energy; International Waters and Wildlife. Undoubtedly, the surest way to guarantee sustainability of the global development agenda including Agenda 2030 is to empower and carry young people along the entire process.

There must be deliberate measures in place to support such young people in line with the "Leave No One Behind" mantra of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Agenda 2030



ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES

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YOUTH IN RENEWABLE ENERGY MOVEMENT AUGUST 2020



EPA CONSULTATION ON NAP READINESS PROJECT OCTOBER 2020



YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION OCTOBER 2020





DEVELOPMENT OF A YOUTH STRATEGY FEBRUARY 2021



CLIMATE FINANCE 101 WORKSHOP APRIL 2021



AGM & 2ND ANNIVERSARY JUNE 2021







ABOUT SYND

The Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) was established in September 2008 with a vision to achieve environmental sustainability through active youth inclusion in the governance of climate related thematic areas. Our primary goal is to reduce fossil fuel related emissions through youth inclusion in 1) governance of the natural resources and 2) formulation, implementation and review of existing environmental sector policies, programs, and projects from local to national level.

Our thematic areas of work are Climate change, Biodiversity, Forestry and Energy for All.



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