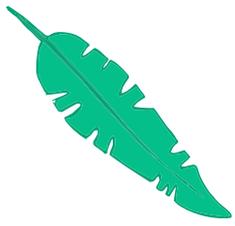




Tools for climate action



Tools for climate action

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Panama, Republic of Panama, 2020

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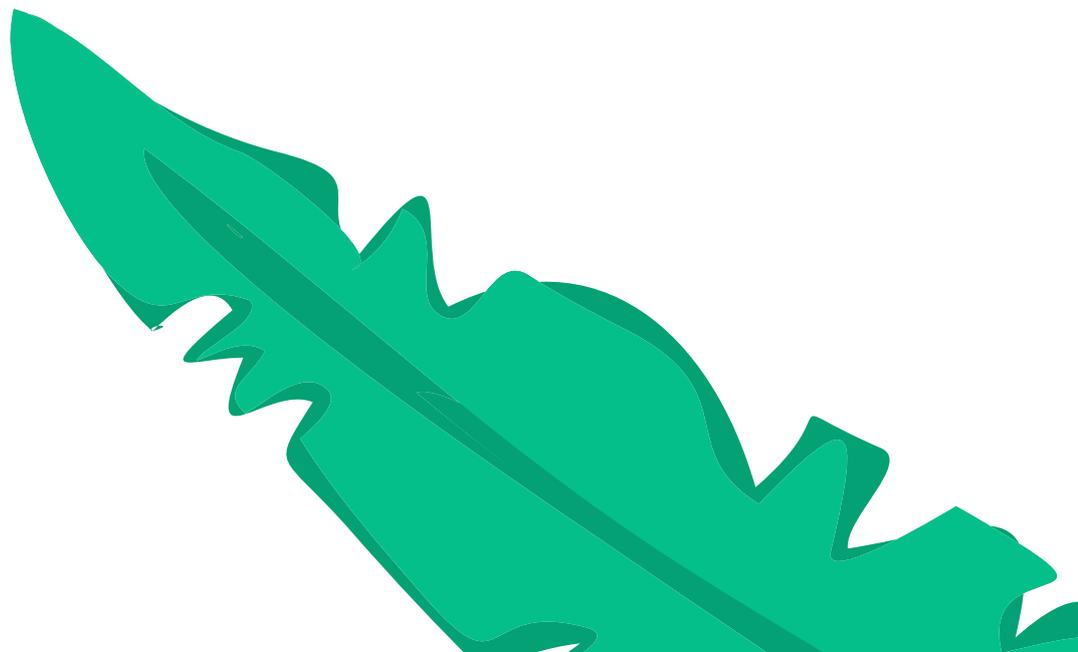
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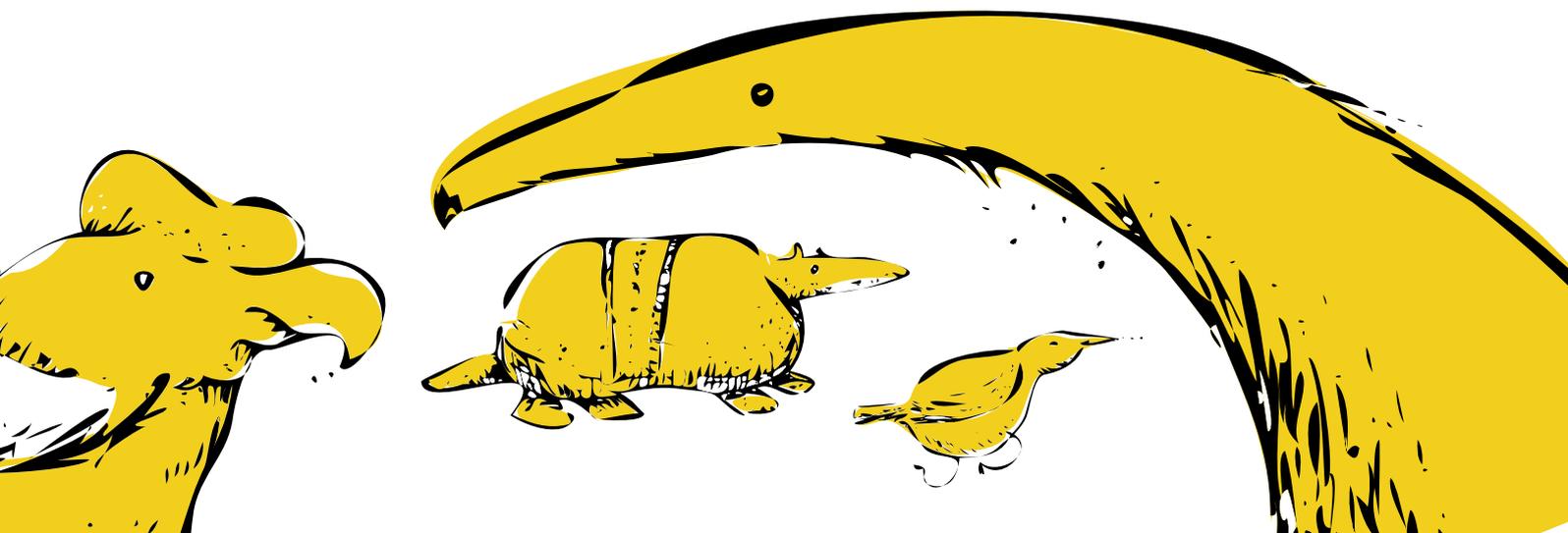
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Tools for climate action

A guide to understanding the key tools for making progress towards the global climate action goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Paris Agreement, nationally determined contributions and other tools.

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Presentation

"We, as young people, are agents of change in different sections of society. We are not being left behind in **climate action**: our voices are being increasingly heard and we are demanding the right to **participate fully**. In fact, our participation is a right that should be central to the formulation of public policy."

The **Toolkit for Young Climate Activists in Latin America and the Caribbean** was created by young people who, like you, are concerned about our planet's situation and who, as activists, have faced many challenges when advocating and taking action.

Our goal is to share clear, concise, easily understandable information that describes the course that global, regional and national climate action is taking, in order to prepare you for **meaningful and informed participation**.

The booklets interrelate and are designed so that you can read them in succession and progressively deepen your knowledge of each of the topics. You can also consult them independently, according to your needs.

These are:

Tools for climate action: Key tools for making progress towards the global climate action goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Paris Agreement, nationally determined contributions and other tools.

What is climate governance? Information about climate governance and the decision-making process at the national and international levels, including the Framework Convention on Climate Change, how it works and the mechanisms for participation.

Prepare to take action! Practical advice and accounts of other activists' experiences to help you develop the skills needed to take part in and influence the climate agenda.

The Paris Agreement for young people: Details of the Agreement, its importance, and all its articles in simple language.

Escazú Agreement for young people: Essential information about the Agreement, its importance, and its articles in simple language.

Climate glossary for young people: Important concepts and definitions that every climate activist needs to know.

This booklet uses the terms "youth" and "young people" to refer to adolescents and young people between 15 and 24 years old.

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Acknowledgements

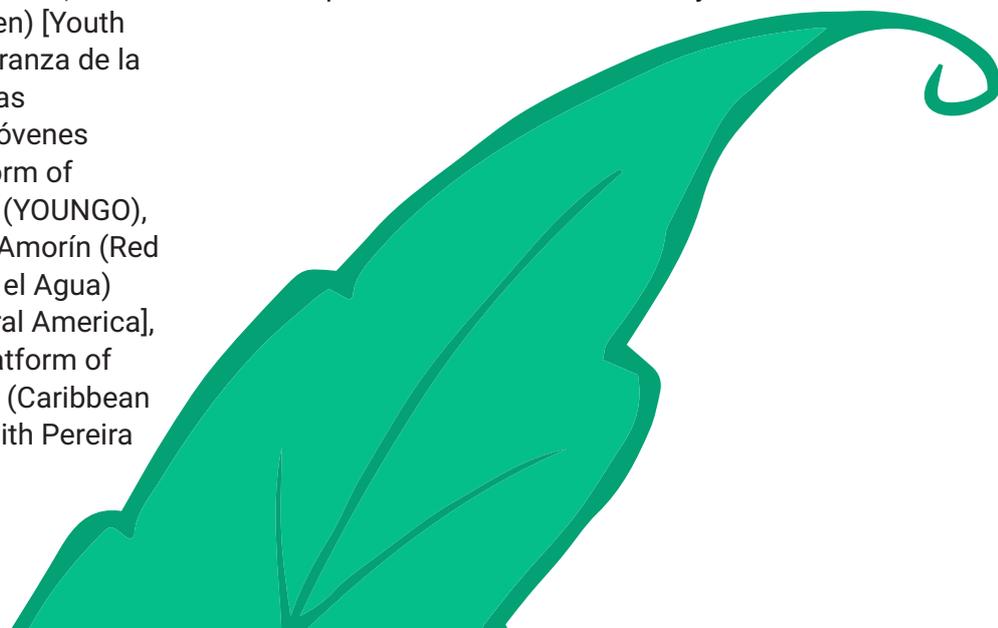
The toolkit was written by Sara Cognuck González, a young climate activist from Costa Rica, and Emilia Numer, a UNICEF consultant, with technical advice from Adrián Martínez and Hanoch Barlevi. All the content was co-created with young climate activists from 15 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Special thanks to Carolina Guerra (Red de Jóvenes ante el Cambio Climático) [Youth Network on Climate Change], Juan José Martín (Cverde), Soraya Zorzal and Valery Salas (YOUNGO), young activists who were excited about the project and always ready with constructive contributions to improve this booklet.

We are also grateful to the young people who reviewed, edited and provided input, and to those who participated in the consultation process: Ana Quesada (Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Youth Mexico), Bárbara Neira (Universidad Mayor de Chile (USM) Zero Waste), Benjamín Carvajal (UNO.CINCO), Camila González (Fridays For Future Mexico), Carmen Monges (World Wide Fund for Nature – WWF), Christian Flores (Plataforma Boliviana de Acción frente al Cambio Climático) [Bolivian Platform against Climate Change], Claudia Taboada (YOUNGO), Daniel Villamar (Fridays For Future Ecuador), Danielle Howell (Local Disaster Management Office), Eleanore Henderson (YOUNGO), Elmer Gómez (Asociación Civil Paz Joven) [Youth Civil Association for Peace], Esperanza de la Cruz (CONCAUSA), Gabriel Cuestas (Plataforma Iberoamericana de Jóvenes Indígenas) [Ibero-American Platform of Indigenous Youth], Heber Olivahn (YOUNGO), Heeta Lakhani (YOUNGO), Isabel Amorín (Red Centroamericana de Jóvenes por el Agua) [Youth Network for Water in Central America], Jessica Vega (Ibero-American Platform of Indigenous Youth), Jevanic Henry (Caribbean Youth Environment Network), Judith Pereira

(Fridays For Future Costa Rica), Kantuta Conde (Indigenous Youth Network of Latin America and the Caribbean), Kevin Manning (University of the West Indies), Kyara Cascante (Champion of the Escazú Agreement), Manuel Vásquez (Movimiento Ecológico Estudiantil) [Student Ecological Movement], Marie Claire Graf (YOUNGO), Marlene Sánchez (Bolivian Platform against Climate Change), Mayte Molina (Youth Network for Water in Central America), Montserrat Fonseca (Educación Ambiental Mundial) [Global Environmental Education], Noemy González (Jóvenes Unidos por Centroamérica) [United Youth for Central America], Rafael Cortés (Red de Juventudes y Cambio Climático) [Youth and Climate Change Network], Raquel Sagot (Youth and Climate Change Network), Rogelio Rosas (SDSN Youth Mexico), Rosario Garavito (The Millennial Movement), Samia Benalcázar (Unión Estudiantil - Tandari) [Student Union – Tandari], Sofía Abril (The Last Chance), Sofía Hernández (Fridays For Future Costa Rica) and Yzamar Machaca Rodríguez (Consejo Juvenil por la Madre Tierra) [Youth Council for Mother Earth].

Lastly, we are grateful for the support of the UNICEF team: Amy Wickham, Alejandra Trossero, Constanza Solís, Fabio Friscia, Fabiola Rios Pool, Gladys Hauck, Manuel Moreno González and Marlene Coyure Tito for their guidance and advice, that has helped make this toolkit a reality.



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Acronyms and abbreviations

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MGCY	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
MRV	Measurement, reporting and verification
NAMAs	Nationally appropriate mitigation actions
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
YOUNGO	Constituency of Youth NGOs

Introduction

The tools for climate action are fundamental as they allow progress to be made towards achieving the **objectives for global climate action** established in the Paris Agreement. These objectives are based on the following main themes: **mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.**

These themes are used to generate guidelines and ambitious policies that build or strengthen the conditions for developing climate actions at the local and national levels in different sections of society.



1 We begin by introducing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.



Then, we share information about the **Escazú Agreement**¹, a pioneering treaty intended to guarantee the full and effective implementation of access rights and help protect the environment and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.



We then look in detail at other tools that are linked to the Agreement and that frame the actions and plans of countries as they strive to meet the targets of the global climate agenda and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.



Finally, we propose concrete actions to promote the use of the tools in your country.

The SDGs are the global framework for sustainable development and set targets that can guide countries in the formulation and implementation of national development plans.



¹ The treaty's official name is the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, commonly known as the Escazú Agreement.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) is an international agreement signed by 197 Parties. Its objective is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system. This would allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change.²

This Agreement establishes the basic mechanisms and entities needed so that climate-related decision-making processes can function at the international level. It is the basic tool for the governance of climate action. The decisions taken as a result of the UNFCCC direct and define climate actions implemented at the global, national and local levels using the tools presented in this booklet.



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² United Nations, 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change', United Nations, <https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf>, accessed 29 June 2020.

The Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement was created by the UNFCCC with the aim of redirecting efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emission and limit the planet's average temperature increase. It is an international agreement that commits countries to ambitious climate actions with respect to mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage.



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The Paris Agreement (adopted in 2015 in Paris, France) changed the course of global climate action. It united nations behind the common cause of undertaking ambitious actions to tackle climate change, adapt to its various effects and ensure adequate support for developing countries³.

The Agreement was developed during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and has been signed by 195 Parties. The COP is part of the UNFCCC.

More information in the ['What is climate governance?'](#)

Countries that participate in the Paris Agreement or in the UNFCCC are called Parties.



³ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 'What is the Paris Agreement?', United Nations, <<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement>>, accessed 10 June 2020.

The Paris Agreement:

- ▶ The Agreement is a key instrument for complying with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs given that climate change responses and measures are closely related to equitable access to sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- ▶ It prioritizes safeguarding food security and ending hunger.
- ▶ It also notes the importance of protecting all ecosystems (including oceans) and biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as 'Mother Earth'.

The Agreement calls for countries to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to help societies and ecosystems adapt better to climate change. Participation is voluntary and countries are not penalized if they do not meet their commitments. **Civil society therefore plays a very important role in monitoring the implementation of the Agreement at the national and local levels.**

There are two main bodies that ensure that the Agreement is applied and its terms are met:

- ▶ The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), which represents the countries that signed the Agreement, acts as the supreme body overseeing the Agreement's implementation and takes the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation.
- ▶ The Secretariat, which is the Secretariat of the UNFCCC and organizes the sessions of the annual conferences, receives reports from the countries and provides them with assistance.

Why is the Paris Agreement important?

Because of its ambition and goals

- It sets ambitious targets for climate action in countries.
- It promotes commitments to limit this century's average global temperature increase to no more than 2°C, and pursues additional efforts to limit the increase to only 1.5°C.
- It seeks to increase countries' capacity for adaptation to climate change.
- It lays the foundation for a shift to low-emission, climate-resilient development models.
- It aims to achieve a balance between greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

Because of its content

- It promotes climate change **mitigation and adaptation** measures, which include strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerability, and increasing and conserving natural areas that have the capacity to absorb greenhouse gases, in order to protect ecosystems and people.
- It promotes **innovation and technology transfer** to improve resilience and provide an effective response to the impacts of climate change in the medium and long term.
- It addresses the **damages and losses** associated with the adverse effects of climate change, which occur when adaptation is no longer possible, and it recognizes the importance of supporting countries suffering from such effects.
- It establishes mechanisms for **voluntary cooperation among countries** by facilitating the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs).



Attention! A 'balance' between emissions and removals is not enough; we need to absorb much more than we emit to compensate for all the years that we have been emitting rather than absorbing.



Mitigation: The reduction of sources of greenhouse gas emissions or the increase in sinks (natural areas that absorb greenhouse gas emissions).

Adaptation: The process of adjusting natural or human systems to the actual or expected climate or its effects in order to moderate adverse effects or benefit from opportunities.

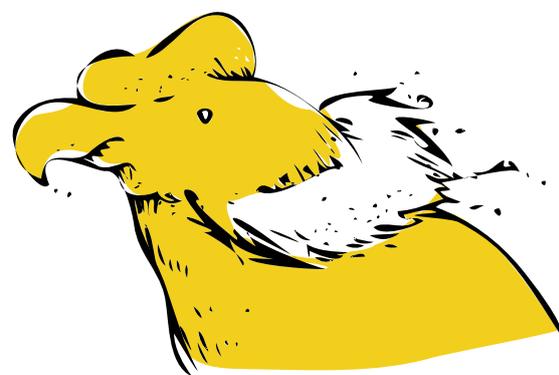
NDCs: Each country's commitments to address climate change at the national level, taking into account its priorities and capacities.

Because it calls for action, collaboration and accountability

- ▶ **Action:** All measures adopted should be reflected in **NDCs**, which are the actions that each country decides to take to address climate change. The contributions should be highly ambitious, so that the objectives of the Agreement are met, and adapted to the reality of each country, taking into account its priorities and capacities.
- ▶ **Collaboration:** The Agreement proposes that developed countries support developing countries with its implementation through measures such as capacity-building and funding for implementing actions.
- ▶ **Accountability:** It establishes a **transparency framework** that offers a clear vision of climate action in each country, the progress made and the support given or received by the different countries. This transparency framework has flexibility to take into account the capacities of developing nations.



The Agreement calls for countries to take ambitious and progressive action and enables a collaborative approach to climate action. In addition, it takes special account of the capacities of developing nations.



Because of its relationship to human rights

- ▶ The Agreement recognizes the importance of protecting and respecting human rights in all climate actions. Those rights are, principally: the right to health, development, gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity, as well as the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, people with disabilities, people in vulnerable situations and children.

Because of the importance of citizen participation

- ▶ The Agreement sets ambitious goals, but actions by countries are voluntary. **It is extremely important that civil society, including young people and adolescents, exercises its right to participate and be involved in defining national plans and climate targets, and demands that those targets be met.**
- ▶ It is important to create different mechanisms to integrate social actors. Among the most important are YOUNGO ([Youth+NGO](#)), which officially represents children and young people in the UNFCCC, and the United Nations Major Group on Children and Youth ([MGCY](#)). There are also many other organizations and networks that were founded by and for young people so that they can participate and be involved in climate decisions. We advise you to find out what organizations and networks exist in your country.

Tools for complying with the Paris Agreement

In order to meet global climate action goals, it is imperative that they be integrated into each country's national action plans. One way to do this is through the formulation of guidelines or ambitious policies. There are other tools that countries use to align themselves with global goals.

There are a number of very important approaches to consider when planning, reporting on or updating any of the above-mentioned tools.

For you, as a young activist, these approaches can serve as a guide for participating in the development of national plans or strategies; they can help you ensure that your proposals are taken into consideration during development or review processes, so you can secure the highest possible level of ambition.

These tools are:



NDCs,



Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs),



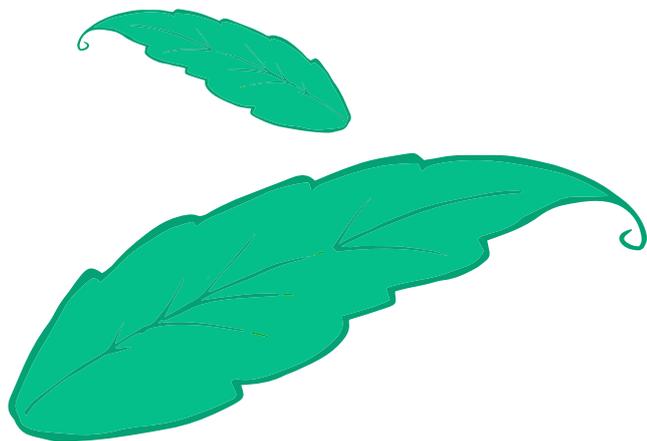
National Adaptation Plans (NAPs),



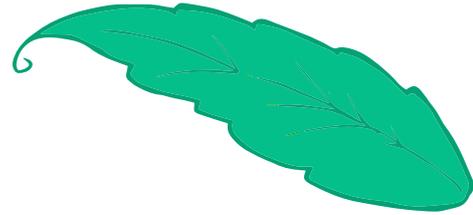
Long-term strategies,



Adaptation Communications.



Eight approaches the tools should use to raise ambition



1

Human rights and children's rights approach:

The actions proposed should be in line with the protection and enjoyment of human rights and especially the rights of children and adolescents. This unique stage of physiological and emotional development exposes them to greater risks with potentially lifelong consequences. The most vulnerable children face the greatest risks as climate-related impacts threaten their limited capacity to cope with adversity and further exacerbate inequity.

3

Intergenerational approach: Children have high social vulnerability to the effects of climate change, associated with biological, health and socioeconomic factors.

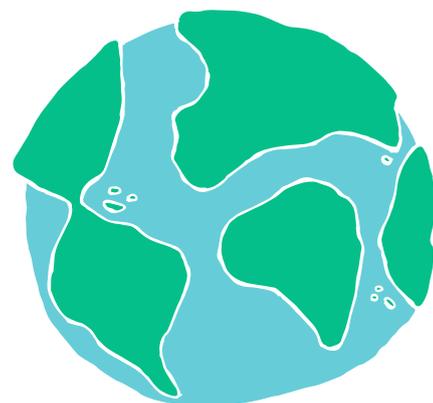
Children and adolescents will live longer and bear the brunt of the damage, impacts and instability caused by climate change. The consultation processes at the various stages of developing and implementing the tools for climate action should take into account the different perspectives of present and future generations. It is therefore necessary that children and adolescents are included and participate in these processes.

4

Gender approach: Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, due to the socioeconomic inequality they experience globally. Actions should promote equal and effective participation that enables women to contribute fully to the planning, formulation and implementation of policies and strategies.

2

Climate justice approach: Actions should promote equity, reduce social inequalities and prevent vulnerabilities to climate change from increasing. It is essential to recognize the differentiated impacts of climate change, as well as the differentiated responsibilities and capacities of individuals or countries, based on the principle that not all people have contributed equally to the generation of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the climate actions to be developed should not result in any form of discrimination or negative impact.



visit
[UNICEF's website](#)
for more information



5

Holistic and multisectoral approach: To achieve low-carbon climate resilience, climate change should be addressed as a cross-cutting issue, linking to other issues such as education, health, food security, water and sanitation, housing and social protection.

7

Transparency and access to public information approach: The tools for climate action should have mechanisms that allow for the monitoring and evaluation of actions, guarantee the exchange of information, and provide for and implement access to public information.

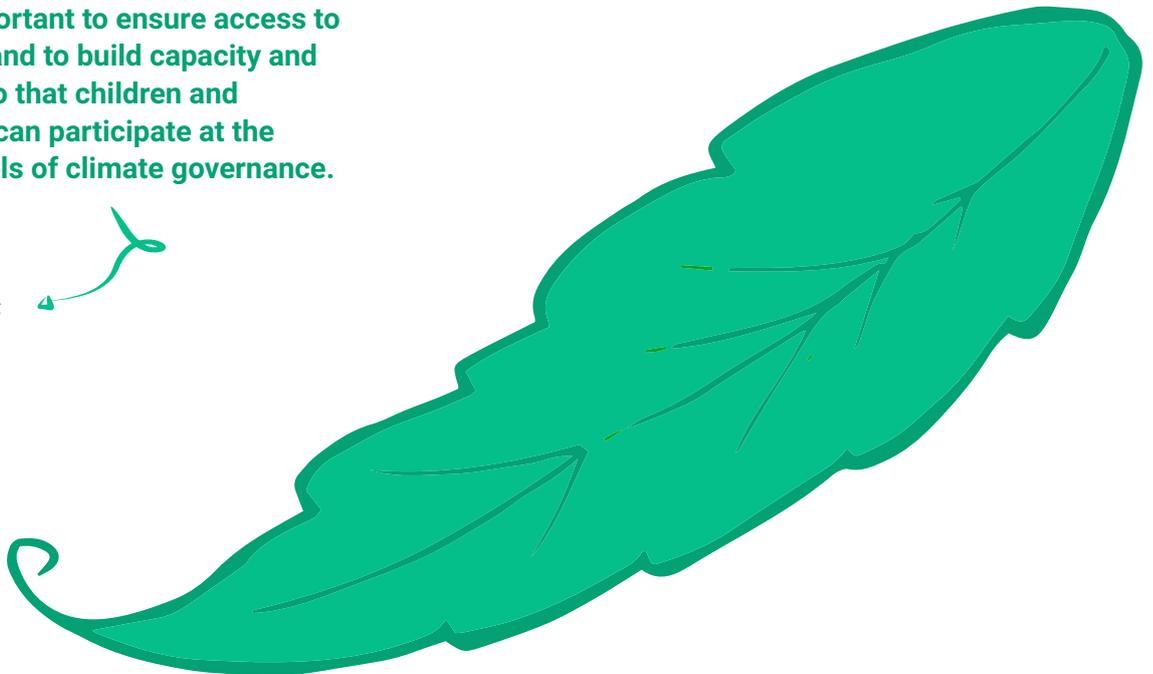
6

Empowerment of children, adolescents and young people approach: It is important to generate and implement guidelines that seek to integrate children, adolescents and young people into decision-making processes and that promote their empowerment. This allows them to increase their response capacity and collaborate in reducing their vulnerability. In addition, children and adolescents can take an active role in local and global climate action, with the school climate demonstrations an example of this. **It is important to ensure access to information and to build capacity and knowledge so that children and adolescents can participate at the different levels of climate governance.**

8

Citizen participation approach: The process of formulating, implementing and monitoring these tools should involve the participation of citizens, including children and adolescents, so that the diverse perspectives that exist in relation to climate action are integrated into the tools. Necessary mechanisms should be developed to make this possible.

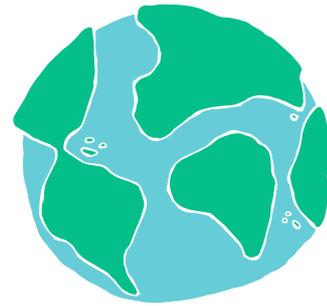
To understand the concept of climate governance, see the ['climate glossary for young people'](#)



Nationally determined contributions

NDCs were created in 2013 during the [Lima Call for Climate Action](#), with the objective that countries would independently determine the contributions they would make to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. These served as the basis for the creation of the Paris Agreement, which includes the contributions as tools for achieving the objectives at the national level.

The call was successful: almost all the countries submitted contributions. However, the proposals and ambition of each country's contributions were insufficient in relation to the global climate goals.



What are NDCs?

NDCs are the commitments made by the countries that ratified the Paris Agreement to achieve global climate goals.

Each country sets the level of ambition of its contribution, meaning the country decides the climate mitigation actions it will implement in order to:

- > limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C.
- > achieve a balance of zero emissions through carbon reduction and sequestration by 2050.

Some important points:

- Each country determines its own contributions. The Paris Agreement calls for contributions to be **ambitious and progressive** (countries should submit new contributions every five years).
- From 2023, a global stocktake will be conducted every five years to review progress and generate recommendations.

NDCs include:

- ▶ The actions that countries are committed to take to address climate change.
- ▶ Mitigation objectives, i.e. actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or to increase sinks (natural areas that capture greenhouse gases).
- ▶ Strengthening measures for the implementation of the contributions.
- ▶ Actions for transparency, such as measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of actions.

Development and updating of NDCs

Most of the countries of the Convention (186 countries) submitted their first contributions, but the formulation processes took place without much participation from civil society. In 2020, the first stage of updating and delivering the second contributions began, coinciding with the COVID-19 crisis. As a result, various countries have chosen to participate virtually in the consultation processes aimed at updating the new contributions.



Optionally, countries can integrate objectives for adaptation and for addressing loss and damage caused by the adverse effects of climate change.

Objectives can also cover technology transfer and capacity-building for adaptation and mitigation.



The updating process is carried out every five years. It is important to know when the next contributions update will take place in your country, as it is a great opportunity to influence and participate in the formulation of national actions.



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Contributions timeline



The process for updating contributions depends on each country. Some general steps that countries can take include the following:

- ▶ Analyse the progress made with the previous contribution.
- ▶ Set a new goal with greater ambition and a longer time frame than the current one or enhance the current goal.
- ▶ Conduct a new analysis on mitigation action options, their potential impacts and the cost benefit of each option.
- ▶ Formulate new actions or strengthen the actions of the previous contribution through working teams that involve their country's different sectors (at this point it is important to consider sectors that were not previously taken into account).
- ▶ Develop more robust transparency systems.

Once the contributions are prepared, each country is required to submit them to the UNFCCC Secretariat and [register](#) them in a public contribution registry. Contributions should be successive, cover a five-year period and show progressively greater ambition.

For a contribution to be implemented, it is necessary to establish the appropriate processes and institutional structures to drive and coordinate climate action. In addition, it is important to monitor implementation to understand which measures work best and why. It is also necessary to apply the lessons learned.



Long-term strategy

Long-term strategies provide confidence in terms of a country's planning for implementing the Paris Agreement in the long term. They serve as a road map for future NDCs, which should be increasingly ambitious. They also improve conditions for implementing NAMAs.

What are they?

They are strategies that countries develop to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the long term. These strategies look forward to the middle of the century, establish guidelines for the development of possible future investments and provide favourable public policy frameworks. Long-term strategies also help countries align their national development objectives with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, which is a global long-term strategy.

Generally, long-term strategies include:

- ▶ Long-term transformation measures focused on investment processes and the design, planning and development of public policies.
- ▶ The level of ambition needed for the country to make progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Why are long-term strategies important?

They are important because they can support the implementation of long-term policies related to development pathways and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, charting a path towards sustainable development and resilience and limiting the average temperature increase to 1.5°C. Such strategies should cover all economic sectors and include clear time frames for phasing out fossil fuels. They also provide a solid basis for demanding that the proper authorities take appropriate action.



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Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions

NAMAs are not explicitly mentioned in the Paris Agreement. However, they are seen as voluntary planning tools that contribute to achieving the Paris Agreement's objectives aimed at limiting the increase in average global temperature. They can be understood as locally developed actions to reduce greenhouse gas emission, which generate possible targets to be incorporated into the contributions.

NAMAs are composed of two main elements:

- ▶ **General activities:** a series of specific actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which also include funding, technology transfer and capacity-building.
- ▶ **The MRV framework:** this consists of a series of activities aimed at measuring, reporting and verifying the effectiveness of proposed actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

What are they?

NAMAs are the actions that reduce countries' greenhouse gas emissions. They function as an umbrella tool for locally developed mitigation initiatives, aiming to bring about transformational change within the economy of a country or sector (e.g. the agricultural sector). Countries are supported by technology, international financing and capacity-building to carry out these actions.

Implementation may vary depending on the type of funding. There are two types of NAMA: the supported NAMA, which receives support from international cooperation, multilateral and bilateral banks and the private sector; and the unilateral NAMA, which receives only domestic financing.



National Adaptation Plan

NAPs were instrumental in the debate on the inclusion of the concept of **adaptation** in the Paris Agreement, when a global adaptation target was set. The Paris Agreement specifies targets and the obligations of countries with respect to **adaptation** and states that countries should adopt, formulate and implement NAPs.

What are they?

NAPs are a planning tool with the following objectives:

- ▶ **Reduce vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change** by enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience.
- ▶ **Facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation** into relevant policies, programmes and activities.

An NAP should be transparent, gender-sensitive and participatory, and based on a human rights approach, scientific and local knowledge and ecosystems. It should give special consideration to the groups and individuals most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Usually, an NAP includes:

- ▶ Guidelines needed to develop the knowledge that will inform decision-making on adaptation at the national level.
- ▶ Capacity-building that facilitates the development of the necessary actions for adaptation in the country.

The structure and form of these plans vary from country to country, and may include sectoral plans, for example in the biodiversity or fisheries sectors. As with any planning process, the NAP design process will have variable results, including national adaptation plans, programmes and policies.

Throughout the process of formulating and implementing NAPs, the most vulnerable groups or individuals should be directly and indirectly involved to ensure the inclusion of special measures to promote the resilience of these individuals or groups.

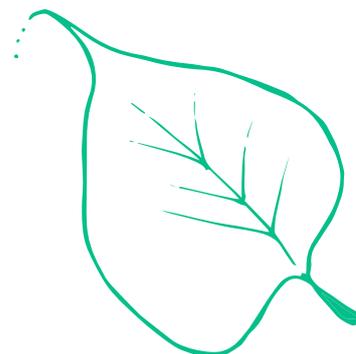
What is the relationship between the NAP and loss and damage?

Even if the NAP adaptation measures are implemented correctly, there is always a residual risk. In other words, complete adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change cannot always be achieved. **The adverse effects of climate change have resulted in impacts that people have not been able to cope with or adapt to, and that can lead to loss or damage, such as loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, loss of income and damage to infrastructure.**

Adaptation communications

It is important to monitor the various areas that the Paris Agreement covers in order to achieve successful implementation. To achieve the global goal of adaptation, each country should establish adaptation communications and register these with the Convention Secretariat.

Such communications also serve to encourage good practices in national adaptation and planning.



What should they include?

The Paris Agreement is not specific about the content of adaptation communications or the form they should take. However, there are different views on what they should include, for example:

- ▶ How adaptation actions will strengthen the resilience of local communities and ecosystems.
- ▶ Information on the involvement of different stakeholders in the planning and implementation of adaptation actions.
- ▶ Transparent information on the availability of resources for adaptation actions, the allocation of funds and the need for adaptation activities at national and local levels.
- ▶ Information on relevant national and local policies that promote adaptation and resilience to climate change.
- ▶ The country's climate action review cycle and new or revised proposals and contributions, i.e. to function as though they were part of the NDC cycle.
- ▶ Information that allows the progress of the global inventories to be evaluated.

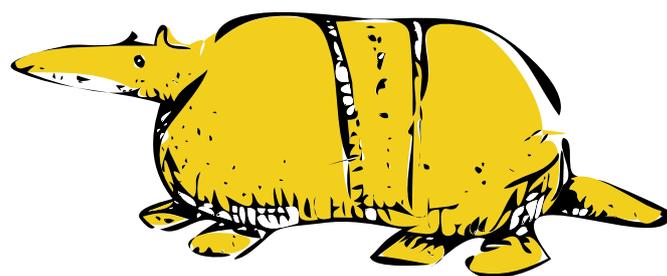
Action for Climate Empowerment

Action for Climate Empowerment

(ACE) is a tool that works as a cross-cutting approach for the other tools described in this booklet. ACE emerged from efforts to comply with article 6 of the UNFCCC and now also relates to compliance with article 12 of the Paris Agreement. It forms part of the international agreements that the Paris Agreement countries are expected to promote. It recognizes the importance of the Agreement in improving global action on climate change.

See details in
'The Paris Agreement
for young people' booklet

Each country has a National Focal Point tasked with monitoring the Agreement and providing communication reports on progress. Countries should produce strategies for implementing the components of ACE.



What are the components of ACE?

- 1 Education:** through education an understanding can be gained on the causes of and possible approaches to climate change. In addition, children and adolescents develop capacities that allow them to respond and make decisions when faced with the negative impacts of climate change.
- 2 Training:** it is necessary to build capacity to mobilize actions that support the transformation towards new economic models and towards societies that are sustainable and resilient in the face of the adverse effects of climate change.
- 3 Public awareness:** the climate struggle should be common to all individuals and groups as this would allow for better climate policies and actions. Public awareness is therefore necessary. This, in turn, can lead to the social transformations that should support climate action.

4 Public participation: the right to public participation should be guaranteed so that people, including children and adolescents, can have a voice in the decisions that affect them. In addition, the right to participation allows young people, adolescents and children to demand action in response to the negative impacts of climate change.

5 Public access to information: the right to access information should also be guaranteed so that people, including children and adolescents, can be aware of the impacts they may experience and the possible effects that some climate change actions may have.

6 International cooperation: all countries can benefit from the exchange of experiences, knowledge and successful actions, as well as from the strengthening of institutional capacities and access to financing, which make climate action more powerful.



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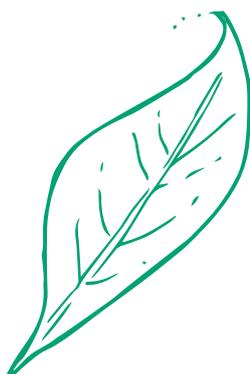
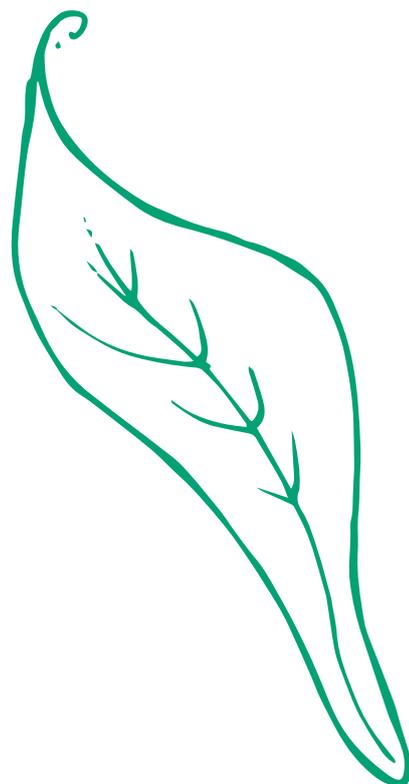
Other UNFCCC tools

There are other UNFCCC tools that can be used to support the implementation and fulfilment of the Paris Agreement. One of these tools is the [national communication](#), through which countries report periodically on greenhouse gas inventories and other details of the implementation of climate actions. Countries are required to submit their national communication to the UNFCCC every four years.

Countries should also send an update of their national communication, known as a [Biennial Update Report](#) (BUR), every two years. Countries report updates of their national circumstances and national greenhouse gas inventories, as well as progress made with respect to mitigation measures, existing financing needs, access to technology and capacity-building.

Another tool are the [reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC), which is the leading international scientific body working on climate change assessment. The IPCC produces three reports containing scientific information and analysis from experts around the world. The reports are the products of the following three working groups:

- ▶ Physical science basis of climate change.
- ▶ Climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability.
- ▶ Mitigation of climate change.



The Escazú Agreement as a regional tool to promote and protect climate action

The Escazú Agreement is a pioneering tool in terms of **defending access rights and contributing to environmental protection**, and reflects the region's the ambition, priorities and unique characteristics. For the climate action tools to be ambitious and successful, they should include public participation. The Escazú Agreement aims to protect the right to participate in decision-making on environmental and climate change issues.

The Agreement establishes the commitment to include those who have traditionally been excluded, marginalized or underrepresented in decision-making spaces relating to environmental issues. It also provides for the protection of the human rights of environmental defenders, a measure that reflects the challenges those defenders face in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Agreement is based on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, which is the product of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992). Principle 10 states the **importance of citizens' access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters**.

The Agreement was adopted in Escazú, Costa Rica, in 2018, after two years of preparation and negotiations among Latin American and Caribbean countries. Eleven countries need to ratify the Agreement for it to come into force.

As of November 2020 the Agreement was signed by:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uruguay.

It was ratified by: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, México, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uruguay.



Why is it important?

Because of its objectives

The Agreement is important because it aims to guarantee that all people can:

- ▶ Access information on the state of the environment and on projects that may affect the environment.
- ▶ Give their opinion and participate in environmental decision-making processes.
- ▶ Go to the courts to seek redress if the environment is damaged or if people are excluded from environmental decision-making processes.
- ▶ Enjoy the right to a healthy environment and sustainable development, with an intergenerational approach.
- ▶ Create and strengthen capacity-building and cooperation.

Because of its content

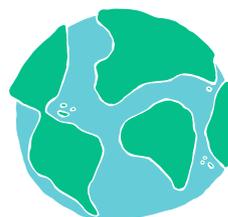
- ▶ It establishes a relationship between human rights and environmental protection and aims to guarantee the rights of environmental defenders and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- ▶ It establishes specific measures in favour of people and groups in vulnerable situations.
- ▶ It encourages countries to produce new mechanisms, updated information systems, procedures and reforms in the regulatory framework to guarantee access rights (information, participation and justice).

Because it promotes cooperation and transparency

- ▶ The Agreement aims to ensure that all countries of the region, to the same extent, protect, guarantee and promote access rights (information, participation and justice).
- ▶ It sets out measures for cooperation and capacity-building among countries.
- ▶ It constitutes a step forward in transparency in environmental matters and in accountability at the country level.
- ▶ It has a framework of principles that will chart the course of each country.
- ▶ It promotes the participation of different sections of society.

Because of the importance it attaches to civil society

- ▶ The Agreement has been created by and for the people: civil society was responsible for advocating the creation of the Agreement and its ratification by the different countries. The involvement and participation of all people, including young people and adolescents, is necessary to ensure that the Agreement is widely ratified and implemented in each country. Different mechanisms should therefore be created to integrate social actors. The [Regional Public Mechanism](#) is an example of one such mechanism.



Act! Concrete actions to promote the use of the tools in your country

It is important to know that you can influence the processes used to formulate and implement the tools. You can use existing consultation and participation mechanisms to achieve this. If these processes do not exist in your country, it is a good time to create them or to advocate the adoption of inclusive consultation processes.



The following are a series of concrete actions you can take according to the tool used.

1 UNFCCC

- Join other youth organizations that participate in the UNFCCC in order to work together in this space and that represent different groups, including young people (YOUNGO), environmental organizations, indigenous peoples or women and gender.

2 Paris Agreement

- Learn more about this Agreement in the 'Paris Agreement for Young People' booklet. It is important to be familiar with the Agreement in order to work on its objectives and commitments.

3 NDCs

- Advocate the creation of mechanisms to involve adolescents and youth in the processes of formulating, implementing and updating NDCs.
- Participate in NDC processes to contribute your perspective, knowledge and experience of climate change issues.
- Conduct youth consultations on NDCs to bring suggestions, opinions and ideas for improvement to decision makers and thereby increase ambition.
- Monitor the results of the different parts of the NDC process so that areas for improvement, where you can help, may be identified.

4 Long-term strategy

- Advocate the integration of youth as an element of the long-term strategy.
- Participate in the process of building, implementing and monitoring the long-term strategy, with the aim of making it truly ambitious.
- Train future generations (adolescents and children) on climate advocacy issues for youth so that lessons learned are passed on from generation to generation and so the movement is continually improving.

5 NAMAs

- Advocate the creation of mechanisms to involve adolescents and youth in the processes of formulating, implementing and monitoring NAMAs.
- Participate in the development of the NAMA for your sector.
- Disseminate and communicate simplified information about NAMAs to draw the attention of more young people and increase monitoring of the actions' implementation.
- Raise awareness of the importance of NAMAs.

6 NAP

- Young people are one of the groups vulnerable to climate change, making it necessary to work on their adaptation and resilience. One way to do this is by integrating youth as an element of the NAP.
- Disseminate and communicate simplified information on NAPs to draw the attention of more young people and increase monitoring of the plans' implementation.
- Raise awareness of the importance of NAPs.

7 Adaptation communications

- Monitor adaptation communications to find out where the country needs to improve.
- Involve more young people and share what you have learned. The communications will provide you with data on which to base your advocacy for improved adaptation measures.

8 ACE

- Urge your country to adopt an ACE strategy. If it already exists, find out which approach is being implemented in your country.
- Mobilize partners to support the newly visible adolescent and youth movements, as a means of tackling climate change.
- Organize or join an awareness-raising campaign to raise public awareness and understanding of climate change, its effects and the action that young people can take to mitigate its potential impacts.
- Generate spaces for training and education on issues related to climate change so that adolescents and young people can make decisions and take action in an informed manner.
- Guarantee the right of access to information through databases that are accessible to young people and information campaigns.
- Contact the ACE Focal Point in your country to organize meetings, talks or events to inform more young people.
- Insist that the ACE contact be updated on the official platforms.
- During the COPs, participate in the ACE Dialogues and share your feedback and perspective.

9 Other UNFCCC tools

- Monitor your country's climate reports.
- By reading these reports we obtain information that we can use to develop climate action in our community and country.
- Share information on your social networks.



Remember that young people are agents of change and that we can help to build a new type of development.

10 Escazú Agreement

- Press for your country to ratify of the Escazú Agreement.
- If your country has ratified the Escazú Agreement, you can demand the creation or reform of regulations and public policies, as well as mechanisms for their enforcement at the country level.
- Join the Escazú Network in your country to influence the issues that the Agreement covers.
- Incorporate elements of the Escazú Agreement into your climate actions.
- Demand that adequate and effective measures are taken to protect and guarantee the rights of human rights defenders in environmental matters.



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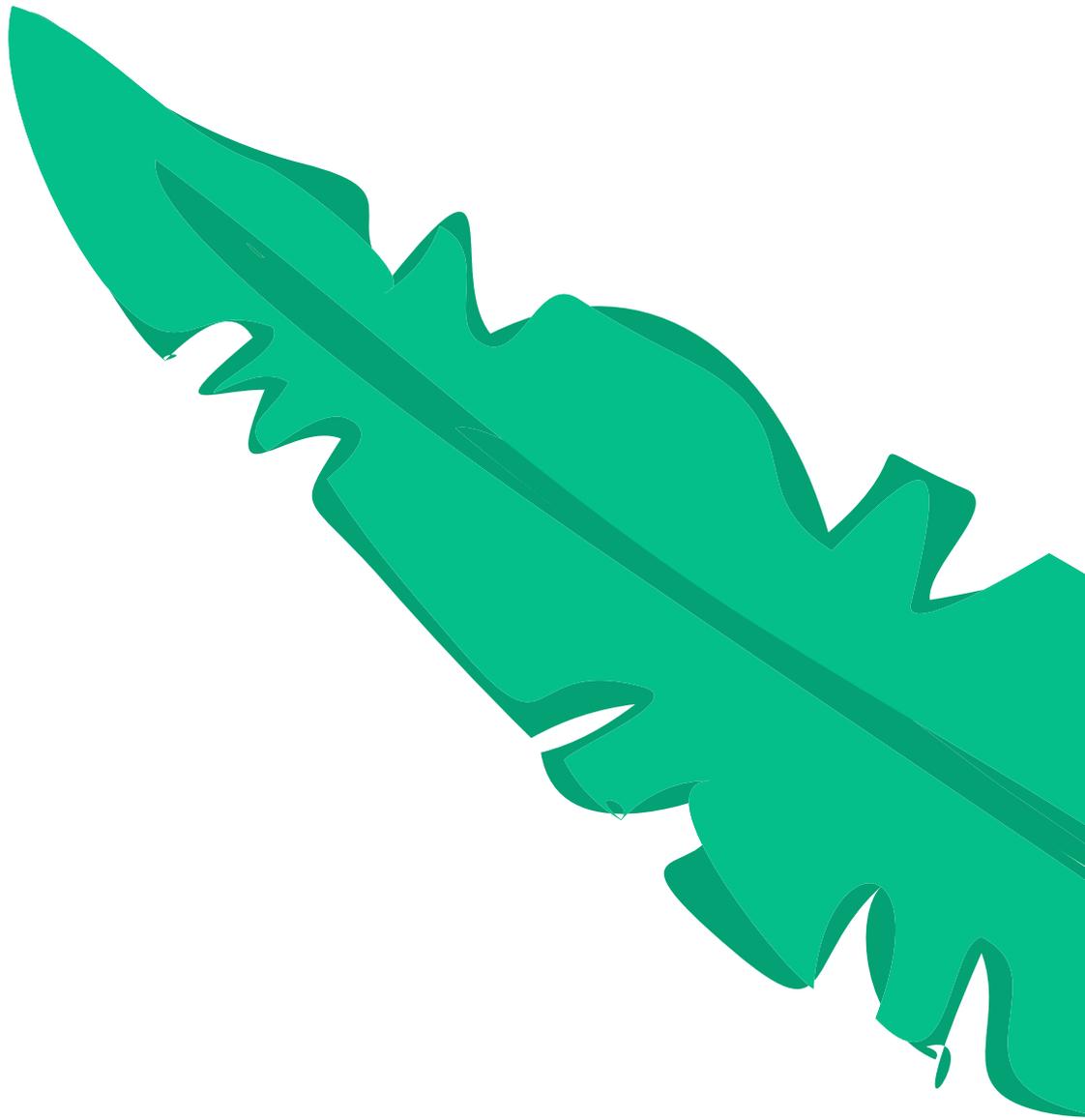
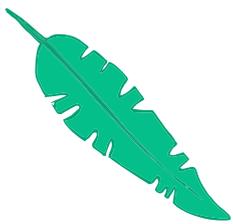
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October 2020

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