

ACE Annual Report Submission

SLYCAN Trust Youth for SLYCAN Trust ACE Programme

This submission is submitted by SLYCAN Trust Youth, as part of SLYCAN Trust's youth programme on the activity related to ACE implementation at all levels for inclusion in the annual summary report, on progress in implementing activities under the Glasgow work programme

SLYCAN Trust Youth, an initiative under SLYCAN Trust's¹ Youth Programme, is a youth-led climate action and empowerment initiative which builds on engagement and partnerships between youth and other key stakeholders aimed at driving ambitious climate policy and action at local, national, regional and global levels. The initiative is committed to advancing the objectives of the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), with recognition of the significance of empowering youth perspectives, fostering awareness, and promoting knowledge-sharing. Our vision encompasses a transformative journey towards building a greener and more resilient future for generations to come. Through a range of diverse and inclusive programs, SLYCAN Trust Youth is on a mission to empower youth at the forefront of climate impacts; young entrepreneurs; contribute to facilitating youth engagement in climate policy, decision making and action; and ensure access to vital climate information. Our strong emphasis on international cooperation and partnerships unites young individuals from across the globe, creating a powerful force to combat the pressing issue of climate change as well as bringing youth and decision makers for finding transformative and innovative solutions.

This submission provides a brief overview of the programs that have been implemented under the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (GlaSS).

Education, Training and Public Awareness

Recognizing the importance of awareness and capacity-building to scale up climate action, SLYCAN Trust Youth has conducted many activities that are related to this focus. This includes education, training and public awareness related to climate negotiations, with a special focus on ACE and youth focus.

Following are a few programmes carried out in the 2022/23 period providing an insight;

1. The Pre-COP Youth Forum on October 28, 2022, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, which focused on NDCs and NAPs of Sri Lanka.

¹ [SLYCAN Trust](#) is a non-profit think tank working on climate change, sustainable development, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, animal welfare, and social justice including gender and youth empowerment

2. The Post-COP Youth Debrief² on December 2, 2022, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, briefed participants on the outcomes of COP27 and ACE negotiations, emphasising the link between youth engagement and climate action.

3. The Global Launch Call for Action for Climate Empowerment on May 13, 2023, conducted virtually with participation at global level was conducted as an introduction to ACE and its six pillars. It concluded with breakout sessions where youth provided their input on the pillars.

4. The Pre-SB58 Global Call for Action for Climate Empowerment on May 29, 2023, and the Post SB58 Debrief on July 22, 2023, were virtual sessions which were conducted with global youth participation, focusing on the agenda items of SB58 and its outcomes.

5. EthicalX: Clima Innovation Hub³ focuses on developing climate-friendly entrepreneurs through skill-building and capacity-building initiatives. Regional hubs in Sri Lanka and Niger connect vulnerable communities, women, and youth with technical expertise and resources. The Clima Innovation Hub equips young entrepreneurs with skills in sectors such as food systems, fashion, tourism, and waste Management to scale up their startups and drive climate-friendly entrepreneurship.

6. Educating youth on climate action through transformative action in food systems focusing on alternative plant-based protein, and ethical and climate-friendly food systems. This includes sessions aimed at building awareness on opportunities for climate action, and identifying needs and opportunities for scaling up innovation and entrepreneurship support for plant-based food systems which in turn could contribute to scaling up climate action. Activities on this topic include sessions conducted at COP27 of the UNFCCC in November 2022 i.e. “Sowing the seeds of tomorrow: Youth-led action, innovation, & imagination for inclusive food system transformation”⁴ and “Enhancing entrepreneurship and innovation for plant-based and climate-resilient food systems”⁵ sessions conducted with the objective of enhancing the understanding of youth engagement in innovative and inclusive transformation.

7. Workshop Series on Climate Change and Human Mobility⁶ organised by SLYCAN Trust to which SLYCAN Trust Youth contributed through engagement build on existing work to facilitate education, awareness and capacity enhancement related to human mobility in the context of climate change. This was conducted as a three day workshop series took place in September 2022, covering four thematic areas: Human mobility in climate policies, human mobility and national adaptation plans, human mobility and addressing loss and damage, and integrating human

² <https://www.climayouth.org/post/post-cop27-youth-debrief>

³ EthicalX: Clima Innovation Hub - <https://www.slycantrust.org/ethicalx-global>

⁴ <https://www.slycantrust.org/sowing-the-seeds-of-tomorrow-youth-led-action-innovation-imagination-for-inclusive-food-system-transformation>

⁵ <https://www.slycantrust.org/enhancing-entrepreneurship-and-innovation-for-plant-based-and-climate-resilient-food-systems>

⁶ <https://www.slycantrust.org/workshop-series-on-climate-change-and-human-mobility>

mobility in climate action. Stakeholders from national government and policymakers, the private sector, civil society organisations, youth, academia, research institutions, practitioners, community groups, and women-led groups participated to increase the awareness and understanding of different forms of human mobility in the context of climate change.

Participation in Climate Processes

1. Activities related to and conducted under the Global Youth Forum on Climate Change: One of the flagship programs by SLYCAN Trust Youth is the Global Youth Forum on Climate Change (GYFCC)⁷, which was introduced in 2016 and expanded in its global presence over the years. The GYFCC boasts a global youth team representing countries such as the Philippines, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Zambia, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Niger, and Uganda. The forum has successfully engaged participants from an impressive 50 countries through its virtual sessions. GYFCC's core objective is to empower youth in climate action, as well as all related stakeholders, giving them a platform to voice their perspectives and engage in discussions on critical climate change issues. The forum strives to foster meaningful dialogues to chart a path forward for climate action that aligns with ongoing national and international climate discussions.
2. Strategy sessions: With the objective of enhancing coordination in climate action between youth, policy makers, and key stakeholders, “The Development of a Draft Framework for Youth Climate Strategy”⁸ and “The Youth Orientation Program”⁹ programs were organised in 2022. The two strategy sessions discussions were on co-creating solutions and sourcing youth-focused climate research, developing a framework for youth engagement that links to national processes and platforms, building on the key areas of ACE to determine the present key focuses and identifying opportunities for youth engagement in climate policy processes such as NDCs, NAPs and other related climate process.

Public access to information

Exiting portals, new enhanced formats of communications, scaling up virtual and social media presence to better share information and facilitate the sharing of information are amongst avenues for engaging in activities related to public access to information under ACE. These include;

1. Static and dynamic media platforms: SLYCAN Trust knowledge hub¹⁰ which is affiliated provides access for SLYCAN Trust Youth to contribute to sharing and scaling up access to information focuses on providing up-to-date climate information to raise awareness of the general public. Policy briefs, case studies, research and technical papers that are available in the portal are given

⁷ Global Youth Forum on Climate Change - <https://www.climayouth.org/global-youth-forums>

⁸ <https://www.slycantrust.org/development-of-a-draft-framework-for-youth-engagement-in-climate-policy-and-action>

⁹ <https://www.slycantrust.org/slycan-trust-youth-orientation-workshop>

¹⁰ SLYCAN Trust knowledge hub - <https://www.slycantrust.org/knowledge-portal/home>

visibility via SLYCAN Trust social media to introduce the content to youth. Social media content is created in an engaging and consumable way to engage more youth.

2. Through the Meatless Monday work programme¹¹ and weblinks connected to ethical and climate-friendly food systems: SLYCAN Trust Youth, aims of contributing to plant-based food alternatives and supporting climate-friendly youth entrepreneurs runs Meatless Monday Sri Lanka (MMSL). The program is currently operating with the goals of promoting and strengthening ethical, sustainable, and climate-friendly food systems. MMSL has digital and social media presence to capture the attention of the youth. Through awareness creation, capacity-building, outreach, and direct interventions, MMSL supports transitioning to ethical, sustainable, and climate-friendly lifestyles that benefit human and animal wellbeing, environmental conservation, and the climate. This links with the food systems programme under SLYCAN Trust, and the overarching website related to just transition in the food systems, focused on providing information, as well as avenues for the public to gain access to more information and technical expertise related to climate change and food systems.
3. Information sharing and scaling up access to climate information through virtual and social media channels. These include SLYCAN Trust Youth channels with a local to global reach with communication in local languages as well as multiple global languages.

Information sharing channels of SLYCAN Trust youth,

- Webpage - <https://www.climayouth.org/>
- LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/slycantrust-youth/>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/climayouthH>
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/slycantrustyouth>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/slycantrustyouth>

International cooperation and youth engagement in climate processes

SLYCAN Trust Youth through SLYCAN Trust's youth programme and integrated programme focused on different thematic areas, has also actively contributed to international cooperation on matters related to ACE, as well as decision making processes. This includes:

1. Youth engagement in UNFCCC negotiations (COP27 and SB58) where youth engaged actively in climate negotiations and contributed to sharing of knowledge and experiences related to climate policy and action, good practices and lessons learnt, as well as research and case studies developed.

¹¹ Meatless Monday - <https://meatlessmondaysrilanka.com/>

2. Organising ACE focused events at COP27 and SB58, as well as contributing to awareness creation and training with regards to key areas of focus in partnership with different stakeholders. This includes the UNFCCC's ACE team in contributing to the ACE Hub during SB58, as well as other side events conducted in partnership with Parties such as Niger and other stakeholder partners including civil society, as well as others.
3. Core team membership for international cooperation: Global Youth Forum on Climate Change builds on core team membership and country-based activities through the team's engagement. This builds on regular activities conducted organised by the SLYCAN Trust Youth core team, as well as partners.
4. Partnerships: Building on SLYCAN Trust's partnerships at national level as well as regional level, SLYCAN Trust Youth contributes to the work at national and local level. This includes the activities being integrated into national processes, engagement of young fellows and policy makers through fellowship programmes. This also facilitated participation of country representatives of countries to attend ACE Hub organised by the UNFCCC during SB58 of the UNFCCC.

Overarching activities

In addition to the above specific activities under ACE, the following play a key role which goes across all aspects of ACE:

1. Development of the Draft Framework for Youth Climate Strategy: This builds on research and inputs from youth, is a significant project that reflects our dedication to fostering youth involvement in decision-making processes. This includes integration of youth into climate policy and planning at national and local levels, and is implemented or mapped for implementation with SLYCAN Trust partner countries.
2. Youth Partnership for Climate Risk Management: Launched by SLYCAN Trust in partnership with SLYCAN Trust youth, the Partnership focuses on work related to risk management, which includes all 6 pillars of ACE, interlinked to building long term resilience building. The work related to the partnership builds on the thematic area of focus on climate risk transfer and risk management under the GYFCC, and also other thematic sectors of entrepreneurship, food systems, fashion and lifestyles, and biodiversity and conservation.

SLYCAN Trust Youth has also actively involved youth in local-level consultations and workshops on policy processes concerning adaptation, loss and damage, and human mobility, recognizing their role as the change agents that society needs including fellowship programmes for providing training and education related to thematic areas of focus in climate policy and action.