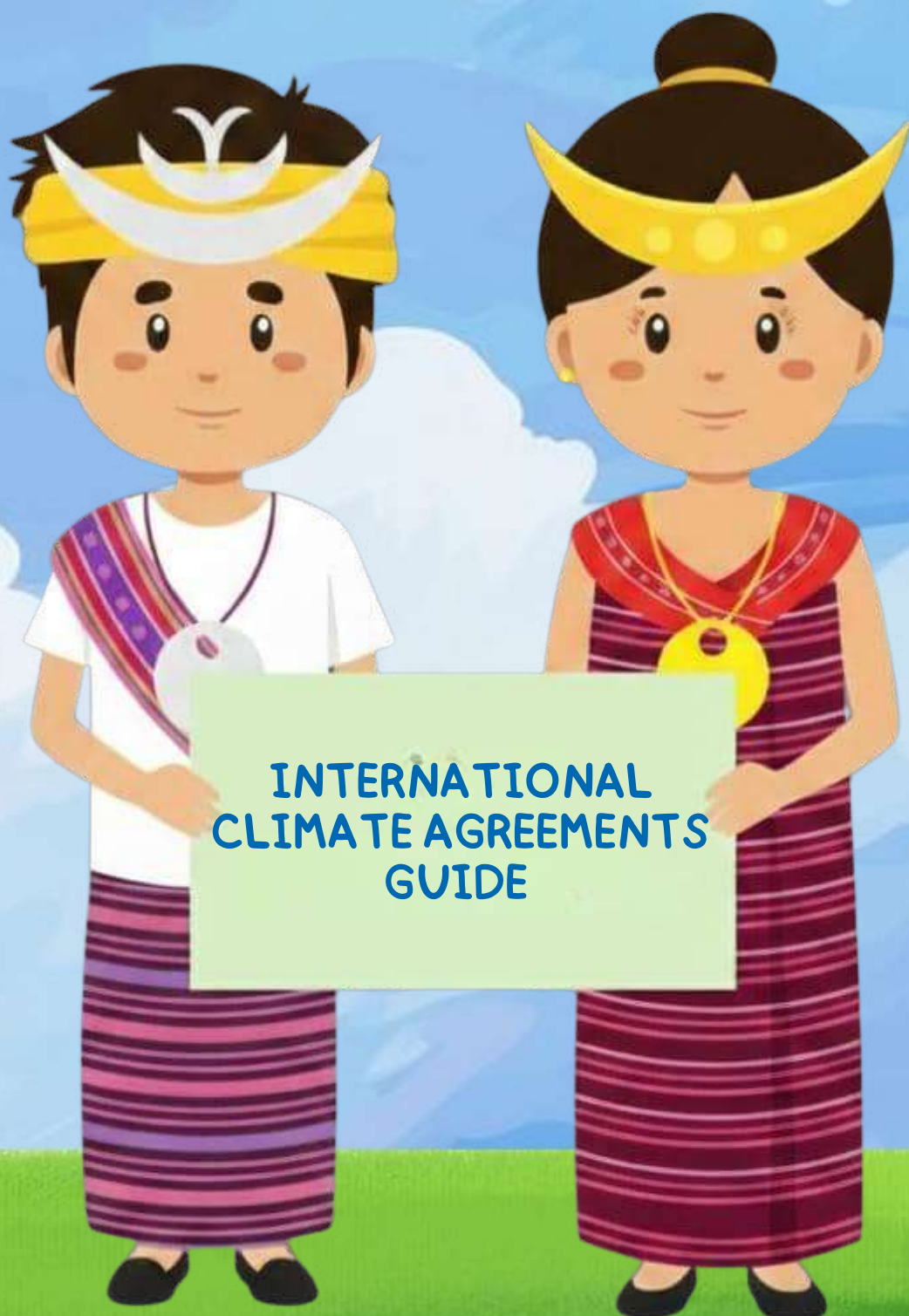




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International Climate Agreements Guide

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With contributions from:

Adolescents and young people, including students, youth leaders, environmental youth groups, girls and young women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ youth from Dili, Viqueque, and Lautém municipalities, who participated in the consultations and field testing and shared their experiences, perspectives, and insights during the development of this guide.

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Their meaningful contributions helped shape the content, language, and tools to ensure they are relevant, inclusive, culturally appropriate, and youth-friendly.

Disclaimer:

This guide is an educational resource intended to support learning and youth engagement on climate change and its processes. It does not replace official government policies or United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) documents.

The Development of Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Climate Change Module and Toolkit Series was funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).



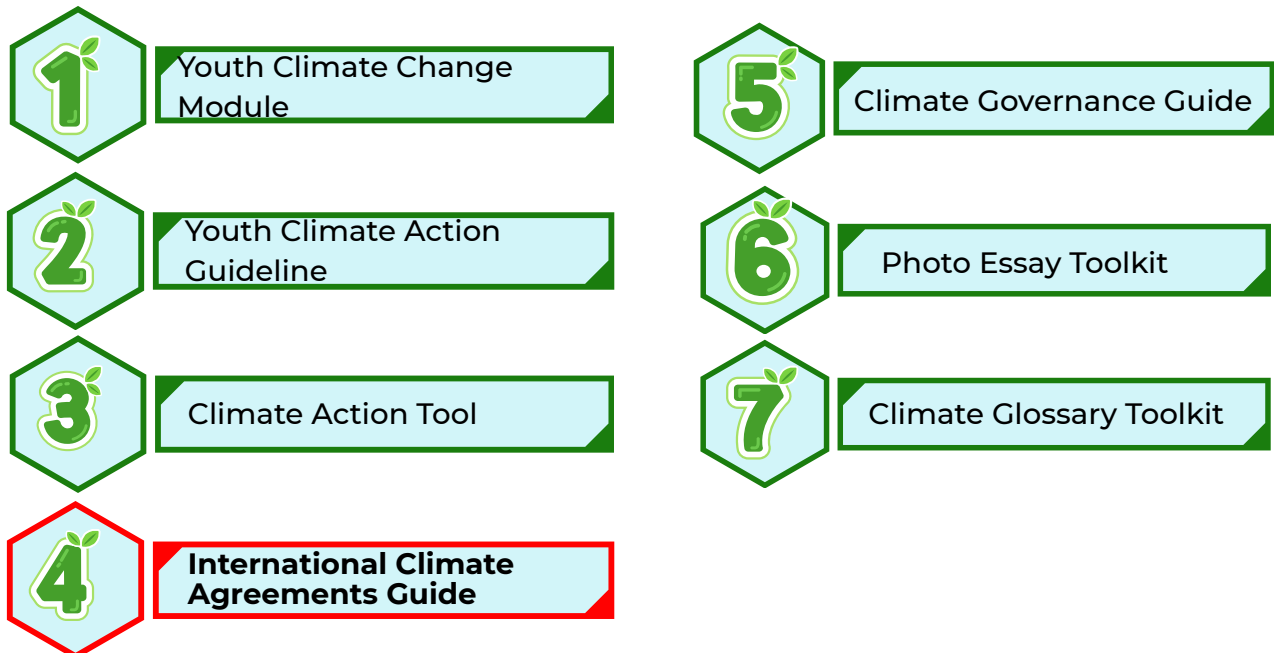
A Simple and Youth-Friendly Guide to How Countries Work Together on Climate Change



How to Use this Resource?

The **Youth-Friendly Climate Change Module and Toolkit Series** were developed to empower adolescents and young people in Timor-Leste, especially those aged 15 to 28, by providing climate change learning resources that support informed, inclusive, and locally driven climate action.

These resources are:



This **International Climate Agreements Guide** is the **fourth resource** of the Youth-Friendly Climate Change Module and Toolkit Series. We recommend starting with the **Climate Change Module, Youth Climate Action Guideline and Climate Action Tool** to build a strong foundation before diving into this guide. But you are also welcome to jump straight in if you are interesting to learn about **international climate agreements**.

This resource is available in two languages: **English and Tetun**.

Both versions are intended to ensure broader accessibility and understanding.

How to use this guide: It is yours to explore in your own way. This resource can be used by individuals, youth groups, facilitators, etc. You can read alone, with friends, or in a group. If reading is tricky, try discussing sections aloud, drawing, role-playing, or storytelling. Every action, big or small, makes a difference!

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
AF	Adaptation Fund
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
COP	Conference of the Parties
EITS	Economies in Transition
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IVA	Integrated Vulnerability Assessment
LCOY	Local Conferece of Youth
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
FRLD	Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage

Abbreviation	Meaning
LSM-TL	Laudato Si' Movement de Timor-Leste
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substnces
UNCCD	United Nations Convetion to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Chnage

SECTION 1 – CLIMATE CHANGE IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM

What is Climate Change?

Imagine Earth wrapped in a blanket. This "blanket" is made of gases in our atmosphere that trap heat from the sun, keeping our planet warm enough for life. This is called the greenhouse effect, and it's actually natural and necessary!

However, since the Industrial Revolution (around the 1800s), humans have been burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas for energy. This releases extra greenhouse gases (GHG) especially carbon dioxide (CO₂) making the "blanket" thicker.

The result?

The Earth is getting warmer, and this warming is changing our climate in dangerous ways.

The Main Gases That Contribute to Climate Change Are:



→ The main greenhouse gas produced by burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas); it comes from transportation, electricity generation, heating, and deforestation.



→ Methane: produced from organic waste, landfills, rice fields, land, and poorly managed livestock (especially cattle).



→ Nitrous Oxide: produced primarily by agriculture, fertilizers, and wetlands.



→ These are powerful human-made greenhouse gases:

HFCs (Hydrofluorocarbons): Used in air conditioners, refrigerators, and cooling systems.

PFCs (Perfluorocarbons): Produced during industrial processes like aluminum manufacturing.

SF₆ (Sulfur hexafluoride): Used in electrical equipment for insulation.



Source: VectorStock (Image ID: 45862776), www.vectorstock.com

The image on the left is a simplified illustration of the greenhouse effect and climate change.

It shows the Earth with human activities such as factories, vehicles, and farming releasing smoke and pollution into the atmosphere. The sun's rays enter the Earth, but some of the heat is trapped by a layer of gases (shown as clouds around the planet). Arrows indicate heat being reflected back toward the Earth instead of escaping into space.

Why Is It a Global Problem?



NASA/2007

Climate change does not respect borders. When factories in one country emit CO₂, it affects the entire atmosphere. Here's why this is everyone's problem:

1. Shared Atmosphere: We all breathe the same air. GHG mix globally, so emissions anywhere affect temperatures everywhere.

2. Connected Impacts:

- Melting ice caps in the Arctic raise sea levels for island nations in the Pacific;
- Droughts in one region can cause food shortages globally;
- Extreme weather events are increasing worldwide.

3. Disparate Impact: Countries that have contributed less to climate change, such as Timor-Leste, often suffer some of the most severe consequences. Therefore, climate change is also a matter of justice. Impact: Countries that have contributed less to climate change, such as Timor-Leste, often suffer some of the most severe consequences. Therefore, climate change is also a matter of justice.

4. No Country Can Solve It Alone: Even if one country reduces all its emissions, this alone will not stop global warming. Collective action from all countries is needed.

The Science Behind It

Scientists from around the world through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) agree:

- Global average temperature has risen about 1.1°C since pre-industrial times;
- Human activities are the main cause;
- Without urgent action, we could see 3–4°C warming by 2100, causing catastrophic impacts.

For Your Information:

IPCC is a scientific body established by the United Nations. It brings together scientists from around the world to assess and summarize the latest research on climate change including its causes, impacts, and possible solutions.

Why This Matters to You?

You might wonder: Why should I care about what's happening?

Here's why:

- **Your Future:** The decisions made today will shape the world YOU inherit;
- **Your Voice Matters:** Young people are pushing world leaders to act faster and stronger;
- **Innovation Opportunity:** The solutions to climate change will create new jobs, technologies, and opportunities for your generation.



LSM-TL/Dili/2025



Now that we understand climate change is a global challenge requiring global cooperation, let's zoom in on how it's affecting our home Timor-Leste.

SECTION 2 – CLIMATE CHANGE IN TIMOR-LESTE

Timor-Leste is a Least Developed Country (LDC) and Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with incredible natural beauty, from our mountains to our coral reefs. But our geographic location and developing economy make us particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

 **Key fact:** The emission in our country is very low (0.003% of global emissions) meaning that Timor-Leste contributes very little emissions but is one of the vulnerable countries.

1 Extreme Rainfall and Devastating Floods

- Intense rainfall events are becoming more frequent;
- Flash floods wash away homes, roads, and agricultural land;
- In recent years, floods in Dili and other areas have displaced thousands of families;
- Example: In April 2021, severe floods and landslides killed dozens of people and destroyed infrastructure across the country.

Who is affected:

- Families living near rivers and in low-lying areas;
- Farmers who lose crops and livestock;
- Students whose schools are damaged or closed.



Rádio Renascença/Flood damage after heavy rains, Timor-Leste/ 2021

2 Prolonged Droughts and Water Scarcity

- Dry seasons are getting longer and hotter;
- Water sources are drying up;
- Agricultural productivity is declining.

Impact on daily life:

- Communities must walk longer distances for clean water;
- Crops fail, threatening food security;
- Increased risk of wildfires.



NDCC/Seical/2019

3 Landslides on Our Mountains

- Heavy rains trigger landslides, especially in deforested areas;
- Soil erosion damages farmland;
- Roads become impassable, isolating communities.



OXFAM Timor-Leste/2021

4 Rising Sea Levels and Coastal Erosion

- Sea levels are rising, threatening coastal communities;
- Saltwater intrudes into freshwater sources;
- Coral reefs are bleaching due to warmer ocean temperatures;
- Fish populations are shifting, affecting livelihoods.

Communities at risk:

- Fishing villages along our coastline;
- Urban areas like Dili built near the sea.



Christine Cabasset/ 2018/Dili, Timor-Leste

5 Impacts on Agriculture and Food Security

- Unpredictable weather makes farming difficult;
- Traditional planting calendars no longer work;
- Pests and crop diseases are becoming harder to predict

Why it matters:

- About 70% of Timorese depend on agriculture for their livelihoods;
- Food prices increase when harvests fail;
- Malnutrition risks rise, especially for children.



Seeds of Life/2016/Covalima, Timor-Leste

6 Impacts on Health

Impacts You Should Know

Climate change affects our health too:

- Heat-related illnesses during extreme temperatures;
- Waterborne diseases after floods (diarrhea, cholera);
- Vector-borne diseases like dengue spreading to new areas;
- Malnutrition due to food insecurity;
- Mental health stress from displacement and loss.



The 2021 Floods: A Wake-Up Call for Timor-Leste

In April 2021, Timor-Leste experienced one of the worst floods in its history. Several days of heavy rain, rivers overflowed and flash floods hit Dili and many other municipalities.

The floods caused widespread damage across the country:

- 28,734 households were affected;
- Roads, bridges, schools, and public buildings were badly damaged;
- More than 40 people lost their lives due to floods and landslides;
- Rice and maize crops were destroyed, increasing food security risks.

Young people were among those most affected:

- Many missed school because classrooms were flooded or damaged;
- Families lost homes and belongings;
- Youth faced health and safety risks, especially in evacuation centres.

This event shows that climate change is already happening in Timor-Leste.

Extreme rainfall events are becoming more frequent and more intense, increasing the risk of disasters.

Addressing climate impacts require resources (financial, technology and capacity).

Can our country respond to climate change on its own?

If not, where can we get support?

And how can we access that support?

This disaster reminds us why Timor-Leste needs climate-proof infrastructure, including:

- 1 Stronger roads and bridges;
- 2 Flood-resistant schools;
- 3 Better drainage systems;
- 4 Safer housing can withstand extreme weather.



Take a moment to reflect. Climate change is not just something we hear about on the news it is something many of us see and experience every day.

- Have you noticed changes in weather patterns?
- Has your family been affected by floods or droughts?

Discussion Question:

- What climate impacts have you witnessed in your suco or municipality?
- How have communities adapted?

These local impacts are why Timor-Leste joined other nations in creating international agreements to fight climate change together. Let's explore what these agreements are and how they work.

SECTION 3 – INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AGREEMENTS

Why Do We Need International Agreements?

Remember from Section 1 that climate change is a global problem? That means **we need global solutions**. International climate agreements are like promises countries make to each other to work together on reducing emissions and helping vulnerable countries adapt.



What Do These Agreements Do?

These agreements provide a common framework that helps countries coordinate their actions and share responsibility.

They enable countries to:

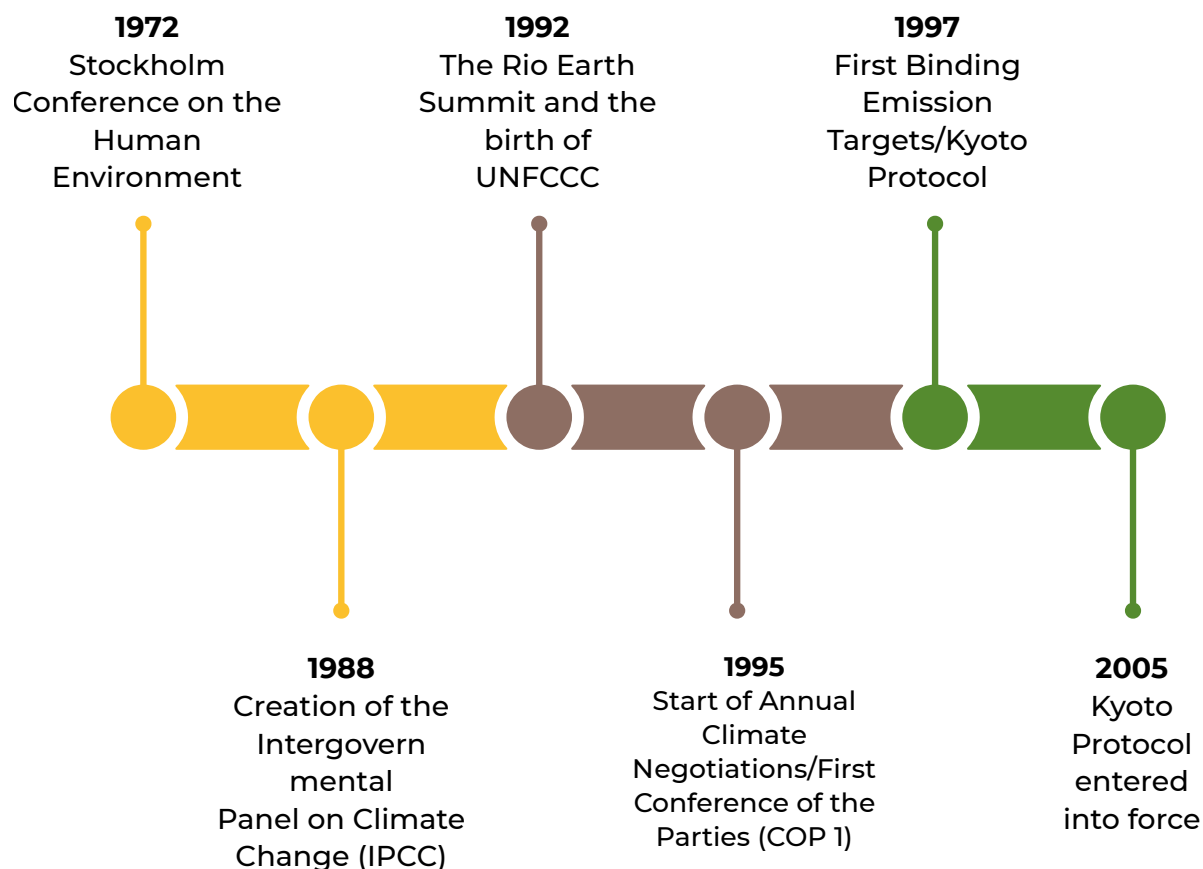
- Work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Support vulnerable countries in adapting to climate impacts;
- Mobilize finance, technology, and knowledge;
- Follow the progress and make sure countries do what they promised.

What Happens Without International Agreements?

- Without these agreements, global climate action would be much weaker and less coordinated;
- Countries might blame each other instead of acting;
- Some countries might delay or avoid taking action;
- Others might act only when it benefits their own interests.

👉 This would make it much harder to address a global problem like climate change.

1. Climate Change Enters Global Agenda



1

1972 - Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment:

The first major global meeting where governments recognized that human activities were harming the environment. It focused on pollution, air quality, and atmospheric issues laying the foundation for future climate discussions.

At the time, Timor-Leste was not yet independent and had no voice, but the conference opened the door for later participation of small and vulnerable countries.

1988-1990: Waking Up to the Problem

2

1988 - Creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

- Scientists sound the alarm about climate change
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is created to study the science
- Countries realize they need to act together

3

1992 - The Rio Earth Summit:

At this summit, countries adopted three major international agreements, now known as the Three **Rio Conventions**:



SGK Planet. (n.d.). Summary and conclusions of the Rio Summit: Second Earth Summit



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which focuses on climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



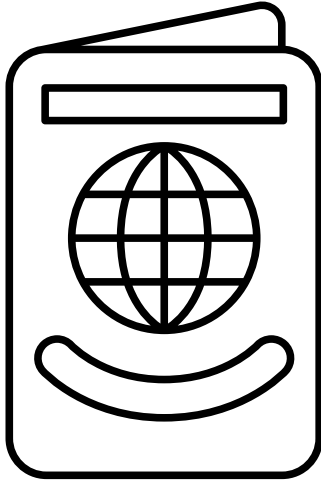
Convention on
Biological Diversity

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focus on Protecting biodiversity, ecosystems, and wildlife



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) focus on Land degradation, drought, and desertification.



What is the UNFCCC?

- It's the parent treaty, the foundation for all climate agreements;
- 198 countries (called "Parties") have joined;
- All Parties are obliged to attend big annual global meeting known as Conference of Parties (COP)
- Its main goal: Prevent; "dangerous" human interference with the climate system.

Principles of the UNFCCC

1. Fairness: "Common but Different Responsibility"

All countries must act on climate change, but not in the same way.

- Richer countries caused most emissions in the past, so they should do more.
- Developing countries still need to grow, so they should receive support (money, technology, Skills).

2. Support for Developing Countries

The UNFCCC recognizes that climate action costs money and knowledge.

Timor-Leste's commitment:

Timor-Leste ratified the UNFCCC in October 2006, showing our dedication to global climate action even as a young nation.

What does Timor-Leste have to do?

By joining the UNFCCC, Timor-Leste commits to:

- Take action on climate change: (e.g., protect forests, promote renewable energy, adapt to climate impacts);
- Report progress: Share updates with the international community on what actions the country is taking;
- Participate in global meetings: Join discussions like COP (climate conferences) to share views and priorities;
- Highlight national challenges: Advocate for support as a vulnerable country (finance, technology, capacity-building).

Why is this important for Timor-Leste?

Timor-Leste contributes very little emissions. But faces high risks (floods, droughts, sea-level rise)

So, being part of the UNFCCC allows Timor-Leste to:

- Have a voice globally;
- Access support and funding;
- Protect its people and environment.

Check out the official UNFCCC website to learn more: <https://unfccc.int>

4

1995 - First COP (COP 1):

After the Rio Earth Summit countries started meeting every year at the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the UNFCCC.

The first COP (COP 1) was held in Berlin, Germany in 1995. Since then, COP has taken place almost every year.

COP brings together countries every year to:

- Review progress on climate action
- Negotiate new agreements
- Make decisions to address climate change

COP is where the world meets to discuss, decide, and act on climate change together.

Timor-Leste started joining COP meetings in 2007, after officially becoming part of the UNFCCC. Since then, it has taken part in global discussions to share its challenges and push for support as a vulnerable country.



The Guardian/2023/The UN holds first COP climate conference in Berlin, 1995

5

1997 - 2005 Kyoto Protocol:

What is it?

The first agreement to set binding emission reduction targets for developed countries

Key Facts

- Adopted in 1997 (Kyoto, Japan)
- Enter into force in 2005

What it did

- Set legally binding emission targets for developed countries
- Based on fairness:
 “Those who polluted more should do more”

Main Target

- Cut emissions by about 5% below 1990 levels (2008–2012)

For Developing Countries

- No strict targets
- Could join projects like:

 Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

Fun fact: The Kyoto Protocol is named after Kyoto, Japan, where it was adopted in 1997.

Special Tools Introduced



Emissions Trading



Joint Implementation



Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

CDM: Richer countries could support climate-friendly projects (like renewable energy) in developing countries and earn emission credits.

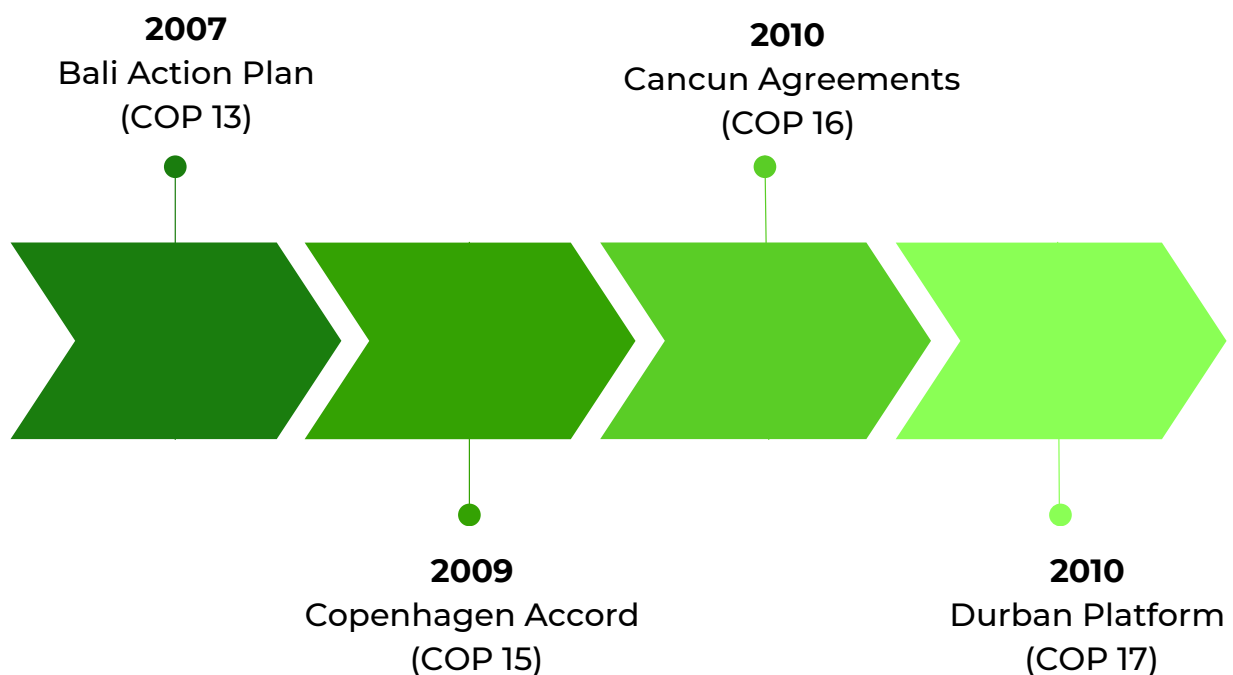
Emissions Trading: Countries could trade emission allowances, like a carbon budget.

What it meant for Timor-Leste:

- As a developing country, Timor-Leste does not required to reduce emissions;
- But we committed to reporting on our emissions and climate actions;
- We ratified the Kyoto Protocol in October 2008.

Transition period

After the limits of the Kyoto Protocol became clear, the world entered a transition period a time of learning, debate, and rebuilding trust. Between 2007 and 2014, countries worked to design a climate agreement that would include everyone, not just a few nations.



2007 - Bali Action Plan (COP 13)

- COP 13 in Bali, Indonesia marked a new step;
- Countries agreed on the Bali Action Plan which served as a roadmap toward a new global agreement that would involve both developed and developing countries;
- This was a big shift toward shared responsibility.

2009 - Copenhagen Accord (COP 15)

In 2009, leaders met at COP 15 and adopted the Copenhagen Accord. For the first time, the world clearly agreed that global warming should be kept below 2°C to avoid the worst climate impacts. However, the agreement was political, not legally binding, so countries were not yet required to act.

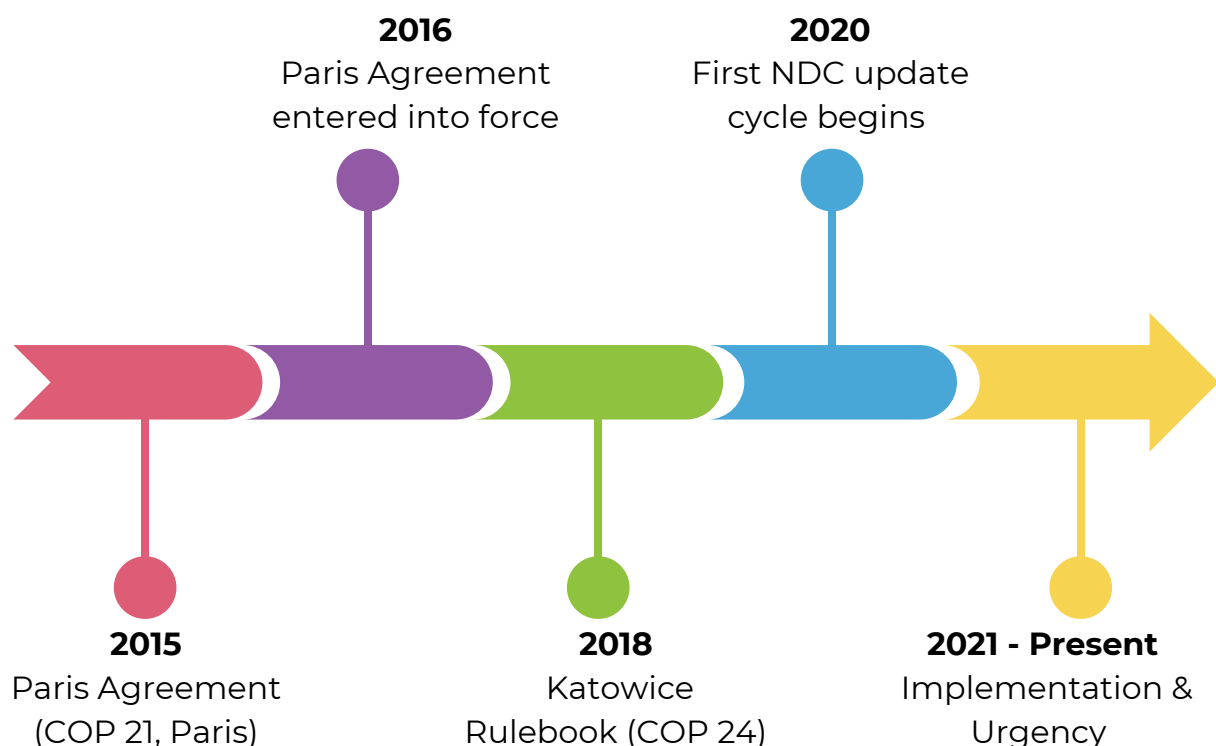
2010 - Cancun Agreements (COP 16)

This COP showed progress continued with the Cancún Agreements. These agreements officially confirmed the 2°C goal and created the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help developing countries adapt to climate change and reduce emissions.

2011 - Durban Platform (COP 17)

Finally, in 2011, countries met at COP 17 and launched the Durban Platform. This decision started negotiations for a new universal climate agreement, one that would apply to all countries, developed and developing.

The Paris Agreement





Greenpeace UK. (n.d.). What is the Paris Climate Agreement and why does it matter?

1 2015 - Paris Agreement

In 2015, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at COP 21. It is **the most ambitious and inclusive climate agreement** ever created!

The big goal is to:



Temperature Goal: Limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C;



Adaptation Goal: Increase ability to adapt to climate impacts and build resilience;



Finance Goal: Make finance flows consistent with low-emission and climate-resilient development.

2 2016 - Paris Agreement Entered Into Force

In 2016, the Paris Agreement officially entered into force, meaning it became active and countries began implementing their climate plans. This turned climate promises into real responsibilities.

If you're curious and want to explore the real global agreement, you can check it out here:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

How Does It Work?

The Paris Agreement is not just goals, it's a system to make sure countries actually take action and keep improving.



Article 2 – The Big Goal

This article explains the overall purpose of the Agreement.

- Limit warming to well below 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C;
- Build climate-resilient development;
- Align finance with a low-emission future.

This is the main mission guiding all climate action

Article 3 – How Countries Contribute Fairly

This article explains how all countries should take action and must act based on:

All countries must act

- Capacity
- Responsibility

This ensures the system is fair and inclusive

Article 4 – Climate Action Plans (Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs))

Under the Paris Agreement **all countries MUST prepare, communication, and submit their NDC**. Countries must also update their NDC every 5 years & plans must become more ambitious.

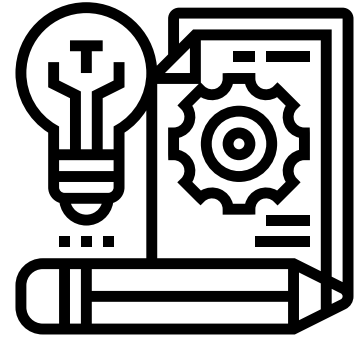
While submitting an NDC is mandatory, the content is not strictly enforced:

- Countries choose their own targets;
- There are no legal penalties if they don't meet those targets;
- Instead, the system relies on: transparency, global pressure and peer accountability.

Article 7 – Adaptation to Climate Impacts

This article focuses on preparing for climate impacts through strengthen adaptation efforts and protect vulnerable communities

Climate change is already happening, people need protection now



Article 8 – Loss and Damage

This article recognizes impacts that cannot be avoided. Addresses climate losses (e.g., floods, sea-level rise). Provides support to affected countries

💡 Why it matters:

👉 Helps communities facing serious climate impacts

Article 9 – Climate Finance

This article explains financial support for climate action.

Developed countries provide funding to support LDCs and SIDS countries to take mitigation and adaptation actions.

Many countries need resources to take action.



3 2018 Katowice Rulebook (COP 24)

What is Katowice Rulebook?

What is it?

In 2018, countries met at COP24 in Katowice, Poland to turn the Paris Agreement into action.

They agreed on the Katowice Rulebook, a set of rules that explains how countries should implement, measure, and check their climate actions.

4 2020 – First NDC Update Cycle Begins

Why it matters for Timor-Leste

Updating the NDC helps:

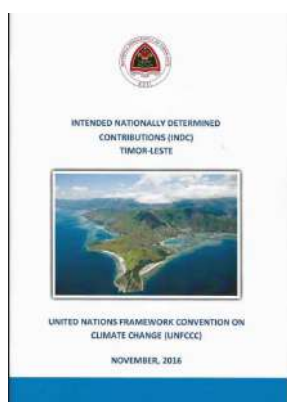
- focus on adaptation (disasters, water, food, ecosystems),
- communicate national needs,
- and access international support.

Even though Timor-Leste emits little, it faces high risks.

Youth play an important role in shaping stronger climate action.

How often are NDCs updated?

This is called the 5-year ambition cycle. Each update should be stronger than the last one, countries are not allowed to go backwards.



Timor-Leste first NDC
<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Timor-Leste%20First%20NDC.pdf>



Timor-Leste second NDC
<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Timor-Leste%20First%20NDC.pdf>

Timor-Leste's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0 2026-2035

Final document, approval by the Council of Ministers is pending.

Key Moments in the NDC Timeline



2015

Paris Agreement adopted

Countries agreed to create and update NDCs regularly.



2016

Paris Agreement entered into force

NDCs officially became part of global climate action.



2020

First major NDC update

Countries were asked to submit new or updated NDCs with higher ambition.



2025

Next NDC update (upcoming / ongoing)

Countries must submit stronger NDCs that align with the 1.5°C goal.



2030

Key milestone year

NDCs must show deep emission cuts by 2030 to avoid the worst climate impacts.

Every 5 years after that

NDCs continue to be updated: 2035, 2040, 2045...

This timeline means climate action is not a one-time promise. It is a living process that keeps improving.

What happens between updates?

Between NDC updates:

- ◆ Countries implement their plans;
- ◆ Progress is reported and reviewed;
- ◆ The world checks collective progress through a process called the Global Stocktake (every 5 years).



Since 2021, the world has entered the most critical phase of climate action: implementation and urgency. This is the moment when countries are expected to stop talking and start delivering on the promises they made under the Paris Agreement.

During this period, countries are under pressure to:

- ◆ Cut emissions faster to keep global warming as close as possible to 1.5°C;
- ◆ Implement their NDCs (national climate plans), not just submit them;
- ◆ Increase climate finance to support developing countries;
- ◆ Strengthen adaptation and resilience for communities facing climate risks.

At the same time, global meetings called COPs are now focused less on writing new rules and more on checking progress, closing gaps, and pushing governments to act faster and more fairly.



Other Global Agreements

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands – 1971



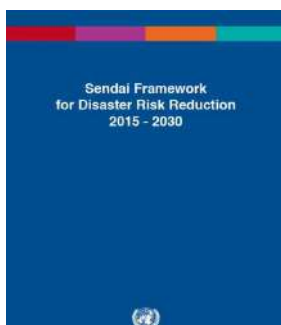
- The Ramsar Convention protects wetlands like lakes, rivers, and mangroves;
- These help prevent floods, support food and fisheries, and store carbon;
- In Timor-Leste, Lake Ira Lalaro and mangroves are protected.

Montreal Protocol – 1987



- Addresses ozone-depleting substances;
- Also helps climate because many of these substances are greenhouse gases;
- One of the most successful environmental agreements ever!.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – 2015



- Focuses on disaster risk reduction;
- Relevant for Timor-Leste's flood and landslide preparedness.

Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)



- 17 global goals for sustainable development by 2030;
- SDG 13 specifically addresses climate action;
- Climate change affects almost all other SDGs (poverty, hunger, health, etc.).

The Road Ahead

- Climate agreements continue to evolve:
- Global Goal on Adaptation to better support adaptation efforts
- Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27
- Stronger emission reduction commitments needed to meet 1.5°C goal

Remember: These agreements are living documents. They're strengthened through negotiation, implementation, and advocacy including from young people like you!

International agreements create the framework, but how do they actually lead to real change on the ground in Timor-Leste? Let us explore how global promises become local action.

SECTION 4 – FROM GLOBAL AGREEMENTS TO NATIONAL ACTIONS

Turning Big Promises into Real Change

You might be thinking:

These agreements sound great, but what do they actually DO?" Great question! This section shows you exactly how international commitments translate into real changes in Timor-Leste.



The Journey: From Global Agreements to Your Community

Think of it like a river flowing from high mountains (global agreements) down to your community (local action):

- ☐ **International Agreement**
- ☐ **National Policy**
- ☐ **Programs & Projects**
- ☐ **Community Action**
- ☐ **Real Impact**

Each step brings the world's commitments closer to your daily life.

Step 1: Translating International Agreement Into National Policy

Timor-Leste translates its global climate commitments into concrete national policies and strategies, ensuring that international agreements are reflected in country-level action.

A. National Climate Change Policy (2022)

This is the country's roadmap for climate action, guided by global commitments. Let's explore more about the policy [here](https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/tim211643.pdf).
<https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/tim211643.pdf>

Key priorities:

- Adaptation (protecting communities)
- Mitigation (reducing emissions)
- Capacity building (skills and knowledge)
- Climate finance (accessing global funds)
- Technology transfer
- Education & awareness especially for youth

Why it matters for youth: This policy recognizes young people as key actors, not just beneficiaries.



LSM/2026/Dili/Timor-Leste

B. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

This is Timor-Leste's official promise to the world under the Paris Agreement. Let's explore more about the policy here:

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NAP-Timor-Leste-2021.pdf>



This NDC focus on four pillars:

- 1 Climate Risk Governance;
- 2 Nature-Positive Growth and Transition;
- 3 Low Carbon Development;
- 4 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Building.

Global link: Every country submits an NDC under the Paris Agreement.

Youth opportunity: Youth can advocate for stronger NDCs and help monitor progress.

C. National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

This is Timor-Leste's first Adaptation Plan with the objectives to reduce vulnerability to climate change by strengthening adaptive capacity and resilience and integrate climate change adaptation into policies, programmes, and development planning across all sectors and levels.

NAP priorities:

- Infrastructure Adaptation Priorities;
- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Adaptation Priorities;
- Health Sector Adaptation Priorities;
- Agriculture Sector Adaptation Priorities;
- Water Sector Adaptation Priorities;
- Disaster Risk Reduction Adaptation Priorities;
- Tourism Sector Adaptation Priorities;

Let us explore more about our NAP here:

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NAP-Timor-Leste-2021.pdf>

D. Second National Communication (SNC) to the UNFCCC

The Second National Communication is an important report that provides a comprehensive update on Timor-Leste's climate situation and progress.

It includes:

- Greenhouse gas emissions inventory;
- Assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities;
- Adaptation and mitigation measures;
- Capacity needs and priorities.

Let us explore more about our SNC here:

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Second%20National%20Communication%2C%20Timor-Leste.pdf>

Step 2: From Plans to Real Projects

International agreements lead to real projects that directly affect people's lives, for example:

Climate-Resilient Agriculture

From the Paris Agreement → Local farms.

Problem: Unpredictable rainfall

Solution: Climate-smart farming

Local actions:

- Drought-resistant crops;
- Small irrigation systems;
- Farmer training.

Impact:

- More reliable food supply;
- Increased income;
- Stronger community resilience.



Youth role: Youth can support innovation, training, and knowledge sharing.

Renewable Energy for Communities

From NDC → Rural electrification

Problem: Limited electricity access

Solution: Solar energy systems

Impact:

- Students can study at night;
- Clinics store medicine safely;
- Lower energy costs;
- Reduced emissions.

Youth role: Training as solar technicians lead to green jobs



Step 3: How Climate Action Gets Funded

Implementing climate action requires funding. International agreements open access to financial support through mechanisms such as:

- Green Climate Fund (GCF) – largest climate fund;
- Global Environment Facility (GEF) – long-term environmental funding;
- Adaptation Fund (AF);
- Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD);
- Multilateral Fund.

Timor-Leste develops project proposals aligned with its NDC and NAP to access these funds.

This is why strong national planning is essential it helps attract international support.

Fun fact: The Government of Timor-Leste in partnership with international agencies have accessed to GEF and GCF funds. For example, Mangrove Ecotourism in Hera, it was part of GEF funded project, implemented by UNDP and government and local NGO.



Sentru Estudu Mangrove Hera/2021/Hera

Step 4: Monitoring and Accountability

Countries must report progress to the UNFCCC through:

- National Communications, like SNC;
- Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) currently Timor-Leste is planning to develop 1st BTR;
- Emissions Inventories.

Why this matters:

- Transparency;
- Accountability;
- Learning and improvement;
- Access to more funding.



Youth role: Data collection, research, and advocacy for transparency

Step 5: Everyone Has a Role — Especially Youth

Climate action is not just for governments.

Key actors:

- Government ministries;
- NGOs and civil society;
- Private sector;
- Communities;
- YOUTH (you!).

What youth can do:

- Advocate for stronger climate policies;
- Join environmental organizations;
- Raise awareness in schools and communities;
- Participate in decision-making spaces;
- Develop green skills and careers.

👉 Important: Youth are recognized globally through platforms like:

- UN Youth Climate Action;
- Youth participation in COP meetings.



Global climate agreements are not just about governments, they are about your future.

**It is not about:
“What are countries doing?”**

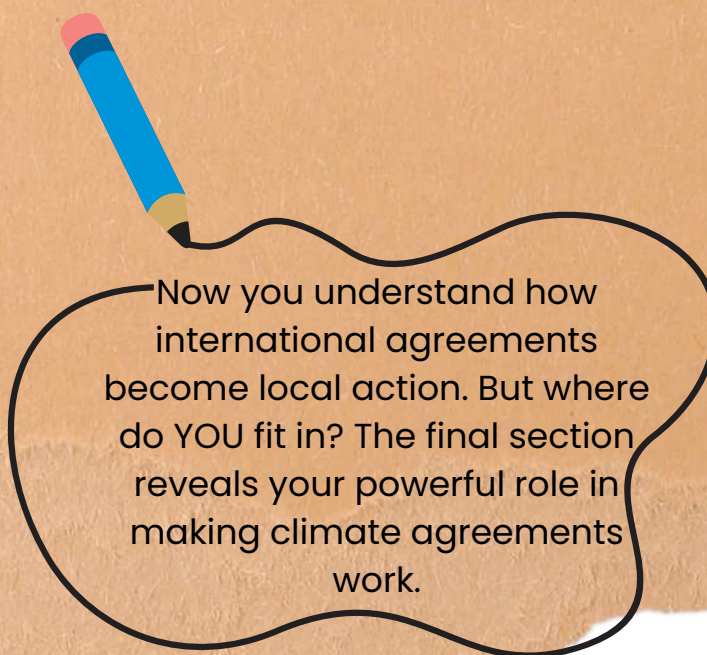
But:

“What can I do to make these commitments real?”

Reflection:

Think about your community:

- ▶ Have you seen climate or environmental projects nearby?
- ▶ Are there activities like drainage improvement, mangrove planting, or disaster drills?
- ▶ Are young people involved, or only adults?



Now you understand how international agreements become local action. But where do YOU fit in? The final section reveals your powerful role in making climate agreements work.

SECTION 5 – YOUTH ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AGREEMENTS



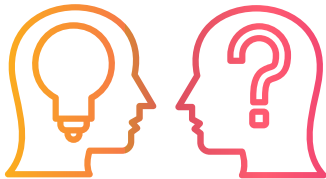
Why Youth Matter in Climate Action?

You are not the leaders of tomorrow, you are leaders TODAY!

Here's why your voice and action are essential.

1. Youth Have the Most at Stake

The climate crisis will most affect YOUR future. Decisions made now will shape the world you inherit. You'll live with the consequences longer than current decision-makers.



2. Youth Bring Fresh Perspectives

Innovative ideas unburdened by "we've always done it this way". Digital savvy for spreading awareness and mobilizing action. Understanding of social media, technology, and peer networks

3. Youth Are Agents of Change in Your Communities

Influence family behaviors and choices. Educate peers and younger children and connect traditional knowledge with new solutions



International Recognition of Youth in Climate Action

You're not alone, the global climate framework values youth!

International Level: Global Climate Spaces

Official Youth Constituency (YOUNGO)

- Official youth voice at UN climate negotiations.
- Timor-Leste youth can join and participate.
- Sends young delegates to COP meetings.
- Advocates for ambitious climate action



Skills Youth Build Through Climate Engagement

Climate action is also a powerful learning journey.

By engaging in climate activities, youth develop:

- Leadership and communication skills;
- Policy understanding and advocacy skills;
- Scientific and environmental knowledge;
- Teamwork and problem-solving abilities.

These skills do not only help protect the environment, they also support education, future careers, and community leadership.



How Youth Engage at Different Levels

Individual Actions:

- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use;
- Choose walking, biking, or public transport over cars;
- Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (4R);
- Save water;
- Choose reusable items over single-use plastics.



School-Based Actions:

- Establish Climate Clubs: Start or join environmental clubs;
- School Greening: Plant trees, create gardens, install solar panels;
- Awareness Campaigns: Organize climate weeks, film screenings, poster contests;
- Waste Reduction: Implement recycling programs, eliminate single-use plastics;
- Energy Audits: Assess school energy use and propose improvements.



In Your Community

Community Engagement:

- Join Local Groups: Environmental NGOs, youth organizations, community associations;
- Volunteer: Beach cleanups, tree planting, mangrove restoration;
- Traditional Knowledge: Learn from elders about traditional ecological practices;
- Community Gardens: Start urban agriculture projects;
- Awareness Raising: Street theater, murals, community radio programs;
- Document Impacts: Photo-document local climate changes for advocacy.



Local Government Engagement:

- Attend Municipal /national events such as Participate in planning discussions/workshop or training;
- Youth Councils: Join or form youth advisory councils;
- Propose Projects: Present climate solutions to local authorities;
- Budget Advocacy: Advocate for climate budget allocation;
- Monitoring: Track implementation of local climate projects.



Examples from Timor-Leste:

- Youth groups organizing coastal cleanups;
- Student-led tree planting in deforested areas;
- Young people documenting flood impacts in their sucos;
- Community theater about climate adaptation.

National Engagement 🇹🇱

- Youth Climate Networks: Join or form national youth climate organizations;
- LCOY (Local Conference of Youth): Participate in Timor-Leste's LCOY;
- Submit Recommendations: Provide input when government updates NDC or climate policies;
- Media Engagement: Write opinion pieces, give interviews, use social media;
- Petitions & Campaigns: Organize campaigns for specific climate policies.

Official Participation:

- National Consultations: Join public consultation processes for climate policies;
- Youth Delegates: Apply to be part of official delegations to regional or international meetings;
- Parliamentary Engagement: Meet with members of parliament to discuss climate concerns;
- National Climate Assessments: Contribute youth perspectives to national reports;
- Attend Workshops: Participate in climate training programs;
- Research: Conduct research on local climate impacts and solutions;
- Leadership Training: Develop advocacy, communication, and project management skills;
- Mentorship: Learn from and mentor other young climate activists.

UNFCCC Participation:

- COP Conferences;
- Apply as Observer: NGOs can register youth to attend COP;
- Youth Delegation: Join Timor-Leste's official delegation or youth constituency;
- Side Events: Organize or participate in youth-led events at COP;
- Negotiation Observation: Watch how countries negotiate;
- Statements: Deliver youth statements in plenary sessions.

Story



I Do Event-Media/NDCC/2024/Timor-Leste

As a young woman from a rural area in Baguia, I felt incredibly proud to be selected as a delegate for the second Local Conference of Youth Timor-Leste 2024. It was a meaningful experience where I learned from experts, built connections, and met fellow young people who share the same passion for discussing climate change challenges and finding solutions together.

In 2024, I also had the privilege of representing youth in Timor-Leste at the National Climate Change Conference. During the conference, I raised the voice of young people, emphasizing how decisions are often made without fully considering youth perspectives. I highlighted the importance of working together and supporting one another, because the decisions made today will shape the future of young people.

Climate change is a complex issue that affects all living beings in different ways. Children, students, persons with disabilities, youth, and the elderly all experience its impacts differently. This is why it is so important to ensure that everyone's voice is heard in shaping solutions.

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