



Report – Global Youth Retreat Nairobi, 28-31 July, 2008

The 4th Global Youth Retreat (GYR) took place from 28 to 31 July in Nairobi, Kenya. This meeting had the participation of the Youth Advisors of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from different regions¹ of the world having as objectives:

- Increase TYAC knowledge and understanding of UNEP and its mid-term strategy as well as other policies on environmental issues;
- Review critical environmental issues such as climate change and identified how TYAC will incorporate these issues in their environmental activities;
- Discuss the 2nd Tunza Strategy² for the period 2009-2014 and make suggestions;
- Provide suggestions for the Tunza Youth website and make recommendations on how to better engage youth people in environmental issues.

The advisors watched a presentation about the UNEP's Mid-Term Strategy (2010-2013) in order to better understand it and find ways of adapting the new Tunza strategy to the six UNEP's thematic areas, which are:

- Climate Change

¹ North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, West Asia and Asia Pacific.

² The strategy is available for download at:

http://groups.takingitglobal.org/tunza_alc/docs/?view=folderdocs&id=1271.

- Disasters and Conflict
- Ecosystems Management
- Environmental Governance
- Harmful substances and hazardous waste
- Resource Efficiency – sustainable consumption and production

It was defined that these six thematic areas will have a special focus within the Tunza activities. However, there is still a need to reflect on how some of these areas can be developed with youth. Regarding Climate Change we have as activity, the Billion Campaign (<http://www.unep.org/BILLIONTREECAMPAIN/>) and regarding Resource Efficiency we'll keep on working with Youth Xchange (<http://www.youthxchange.net>).



Opening Speech: Ângela Crooper and Santinder Bindra

The advisors had a space to give a presentation³ about what we can improve about the Tunza Strategy. Handy Cuellar (Cuba) and Gabriela Monteiro (Brazil), Youth advisors for Latin America and the Caribbean, gave a presentation based on a consultation done with youth from their region. The points that were mostly emphasized by the youth in the consultation were:

- Make Tunza become a participatory process for all;

³ The Power Point presentation given by Handy Cuellar and Gabriela Monteiro is available at: http://groups.takingitglobal.org/tunza_alc/docs/?view=folderdocs&id=1281.

- Invest on concrete activities that youth can easily take forward within their respective communities;
- Focus on capacity building;
- Elaborate a mechanism to choose a Tunza Active Contact in each country;
- Make available information in Spanish;
- Support activities developed by youth (be it institutional or financial support).



Presentation of suggestions from Latin America and the Caribbean for the new Tunza Strategy (2009-2014)

It's important to note that UNEP demonstrated an interest in giving more emphasis on Capacity Building aiming to empower youth in order for them to be real agents of change. The final version of the strategy will be available for all in October, 2008.

The Tunza website for youth (www.unep.org/tunza/youth) will be revamped and it might be ready this year. The advisors gave suggestions⁴ for the website taking into account the impressions of youth in their respective regions. Among the suggestions we have:

- Create a link "Join our regional group" as for more youth to be able to participate of the Tunza strategy;
- Have a space for multimedia resources;

⁴ To know which were the suggestions of the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean, see: http://groups.takingitglobal.org/tunza_alc/docs/?view=folderdocs&id=1281.

- Make it easy to find organizations that work with the Tunza Strategy in different countries;
- Have a space to promote youth activities.



Ideas for the new Tunza website

Morgan Strecker (Youth Xchange/DTIE/UNEP) gave a presentation about Youth Xchange and the youth advisors shown great interest in supporting and promoting this activity within their respective regions. This is considered by the advisors to be one of the most concrete activities of the Tunza Strategy and it's also the one that any youth can initiate. Thus, it deserves attention.

Besides Youth Xchange (YXC), the advisors had also other trainings on Gender and Environment, UNEP's Major Groups, Resource Mobilization, Climate Change, Media and Environment and Environmental Education.



Youth Xchange training with Morgan Strecker

The advisors were informed that next year, besides the Tunza Youth Conference, there will be also other Tunza Conference for children. Date and place is to be defined.

The main products of the GYR are:

- Training on YXC, that will be of great utility for the advisors to replicate the practices of sustainable consumption and encourage youth of their regions to take part of the initiative;
- Ideas for revamping the Tunza website. With a website that is more dynamic and easy to deal with, it'll be possible to attract more youth to participate and expand the strategy;
- Suggestions for the new Tunza Strategy, that will have some changes in order to work with the six thematic areas of UNEP. Furthermore, the organization has also demonstrated interest in giving more emphasis on Capacity Building among the youth.