



2022 IMPACT REPORT COALITION WILD



Director's Message

I'm thrilled to present CoalitionWILD's 2022 Progress Report, which showcases the remarkable strides our team—with the collective effort of our partners—has made to support young changemakers to help halt biodiversity loss. The pressing need to preserve our planet's rich biodiversity cannot be overstated and neither is the intrinsic bond between the ecosystem and human well-being.

The past year has been eventful not only for CoalitionWILD but also for the international community. The international community successfully hammered a deal at the Kunming-Global Biodiversity Targets, which highlights the urgency to conserve and protect our ecosystems. While reaching the targets may seem a daunting task at hand, I've been given a glimmer of hope because of the young conservationists who constantly rise up to the occasion. In a similar vein, while it's only been a year since I assumed the position of CoalitionWILD's Director, I've been constantly reminded that intergenerational equity remains one of the strongest guiding forces in safeguarding our planet—through mentorship, we are leveraging the wisdom of our predecessors while embracing the resilience and innovative thinking of youth. In this journey, I've come to understand that leadership transcends mere guidance; it's about igniting inspiration, nurturing innovation, and fostering collaboration among diverse minds. As I navigate this role, I'm constantly reminded that effective leadership isn't just about leading; it's about empowering others to lead and fostering a collective force that drives positive change.

As I reflect on the achievements of the past year, I couldn't help but be grateful for our supporters, whether longstanding partners or new advocates, be they organizations or individuals—CoalitionWILD is thriving because of all of you. I invite you to delve into our progress report, it is also an invitation to recommit ourselves to the cause of biodiversity conservation. Together, we can build a future where nature thrives, and where young conservationists continue to lead the charge.



Yen Parico
Director, CoalitionWILD





NEVER TOO YOUNG

Conservation leaders aren't born, they are made — made from their experiences and understanding of the issues of the natural environment around them. Made from the challenges they witness in their own communities.

We are facing an unprecedented challenge as a species while our planet faces the biggest mass extinction event in all of history. In fact, we will lose up to 90% of the world's wildlife by 2050. And the truth is, this is all driven by our own behaviors and choices.

The future of humanity, animals, and plants will be determined by what we do now to stop biodiversity loss. And as the most successful environmental initiatives are those that engage the whole community, we are working with young global partners to advance the conservation of biodiversity.

All over the world, young people are driving conservation initiatives left and right. From developing solutions to elephant-human conflicts in Kenya to educating children at schools about the importance of recycling in Ecuador, engaging in the restoration of mangrove forests in the Philippines or reintroducing manatees in Guadeloupe— the youth have proven over and over again that they can make a difference even way before the age of 35.

Now, what if we keep engaging and capacitating more youth leaders to grow this network? This is the purpose of CoalitionWILD.

Grassroots to Global

We're building a global community of young leaders who are leading communities in their own regions.

Asset-based community development has proven to be invaluable in making sustainable and effective conservation. It can foster cooperation and trust between locals and environmental groups, resulting in more effective conservation initiatives. But we also recognize that to do this, young conservationists require a high level of support. This is where we come in.

We believe that making a difference starts with an awareness of your own impact on the world around you. In our 10 years of developing young leaders, we have seen how individuals who grow to become community leaders generally have the discernment to identify issues in their own communities and ecosystems. Their experiences have helped them recognize these challenges, giving them an idea of how to address them. We step in to provide free resources and mentorship so that they can put their vision into action.

CoalitionWILD's two major programs have helped more than 300 young leaders to create a positive impact on the lives of more than 33,000 human beneficiaries through conservation practices. The objective is to maintain our long-term efforts.

Join us as we continue to cultivate a movement of young leaders who can make a difference in their communities. Let's take a step together to inspire more generations to come.

CONNECTED FOR CONSERVATION: COALITIONWILD AND WILD FOUNDATION

As we stand at the intersection of global challenges and environmental stewardship, the need for collective action and collaboration has never been more crucial. CoalitionWILD, an international coalition of young environmental leaders, founded in partnership with the WILD Foundation, embodies this spirit of unity and empowerment.

CoalitionWILD is a vibrant community that brings together young leaders, visionaries, and change-makers from across the world who are deeply passionate about environmental conservation. Our mission is to catalyze a wave of positive impact by connecting, supporting, and amplifying the voices of young conservationists.

WILD Foundation, our dedicated partner, has a rich legacy of over four decades in championing wilderness preservation and fostering connections between people and nature. Together, CoalitionWILD and WILD Foundation have been driving change by fostering innovation, sharing insights, and sparking collaborations that have the potential to transform our planet.

The principle of **Nature Needs Half** recognizes that human well-being is intricately linked with the well-being of the natural world, and by safeguarding a significant portion of our Earth's ecosystems, we can ensure a sustainable future for all life forms. This principle inspires and guides the actions of CoalitionWILD and its members, driving us to collaborate, innovate, and advocate for a more harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature. As we stand at this critical juncture, the principle of Nature Needs Half serves as a compass, directing our efforts towards a more balanced and resilient world.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Transforming CoalitionWILD's visual identity and messaging of mission and values through a comprehensive rebranding process
- Revamping the CoalitionWILD website to showcase our initiatives and impact in a more visually captivating manner
- Fostering intergenerational equity between thirty-five pairs as part of the 2022 Global Mentorship program.
- Developing a more robust EXCEerator Program for the 2022 Cohort, aiming to create a more comprehensive and impactful learning experience, and tailoring the program to meet the specific needs of the upcoming cohort.
- Welcoming and integrating 49 participants hailing from 31 countries into the 2022 EXCEerator program.
- Onboarding six new Steering Committee members to assist in overseeing the health of the organization, and strategizing for its continued growth and success. This will play a pivotal role in shaping our future endeavours and ensuring the organization's resilience in a dynamic landscape.
- Participating in APAC, S+50, and COP15 events holds significant importance as it provides a crucial opportunity to comprehend our role within the international policymaking sphere. These engagements offer insights into global perspectives, foster collaboration, and help shape our strategic contributions to address pressing global challenges.
- Establishing new partnerships with The Iris Project, World Rainforest Day, and Youth for Ecocide Law signifies a proactive expansion of our network. In the longer run, this will propel us towards a collective vision of positive change, underscoring our commitment to meaningful and impactful initiatives.

CHALLENGES

- Establishing a consistent and secure financial pipeline to cover the essential operational costs, enabling us to continue making a meaningful impact on our mission.
- Expanding our reach to engage a widespread audience interested in conservation across diverse geographical regions and age groups.
- Broadening the scope of our programs and initiatives to accommodate more regions and communities
- Achieving organizational goals while managing limited staff, time, and operational resources requires careful balancing.

**INVOLVE
AND
EQUIP
MEET THE
PROGRAMS**





"I do [conservation work] for those who have not had the chance like me to study the subject, mitigating the persistent resistance to conservation mechanisms and helping small farmers to take ownership of the cause as leaders in their communities while valuing their traditions, customs and cultural practices recognized to nature. If there is one thing I have learned, it is that here in rural areas, biodiversity is a source of income. Protect these natural riches and everyone can reap the benefits." - Gervais Muderhwa, EXL_I alumnus

Taken from

EXL_I GRADUATE LEADS COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN THE CONGO

Written by Elliot Connor for WILD Voices Blog

Read more on WILD Voices



Antonio Busiello

Zara finds a lot of value in capacity building, especially in how it develops leadership. She finds that leadership is one of the most important soft skills one can develop for project management, as it also helps you in building a trusted network and community. “Conservation takes a lot of energy,” she admitted. “But once you talk to people and have that support, they understand and you feel better.”

Taken from

HELPING COMMUNITIES HELP THEMSELVES BY TEACHING CONSERVATION

Written by Cidee Despi for WILD Voices Blog

[Read more on WILD Voices](#)



EXCELERATOR

In order to broaden EXLs—participants of the EXCEerator program—we search for opportunities to showcase their abilities and ideas.

Where ideas are developed, potential is realized and powerful solutions can be launched.

Each year, EXCEerator accepts proposals from youth all over the world that tackle environmental issues. Their projects are each individually designed and executed by participants who understand their local ecosystem, culture, community, or livelihoods. They get a chance to work with other like-minded individuals, and all participants leave with a better understanding of the unique issues facing our planet and how they can impact change through action.

Our experts provide mentorship and experience to the EXLs as they learn how to lead environmental campaigns and work with communities. With four phases, EXCEerator comes as a series of webinars that address issues relevant to specific aspects of project management (preparing), financial planning (sustaining), genuine community engagement/capacity building from within (partnering), and effective communication (storytelling). There are also additional webinars that cover topics on advocating for policy and leading your team effectively.

The program is designed to make effective leaders out of the youth. By providing a training ground for our participants, we prepare them for their future careers in conservation.

ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



The EXCEerator program allowed me personally to propel personal and professional growth concretely into what I wanted to do with my project. The sharing of experiences, innovative ideas from my colleagues and very qualified guest speakers on this occasion [were] also very useful to me and allowed me to acquire additional and practical knowledge of my project.

Gervais Muderhwa, Congo



During the [EXCEerator, my], expectations were met: I developed more critical and practical insights into my project. [There were] highly interactive session[s] with peers, mentors, [plus there were] networking opportunities to develop further understanding and context from existing similar projects as mine.

During the [program], [I was able to] take on intense progress with the project I [developed]. [I was also able to] connect and learn from colleagues around the world even further, [and] develop personal connections for even further collaboration.

Aiita Joshua Apamaku, Uganda



During the EXCEerator program, I truly enjoyed the mentorship. My mentor was very inspiring. He connected me to over 5 international organizations, platforms, and networks addressing my issue of interest. I enjoyed every session of this program, especially with my mentor.

With the great networks the program connected me [with,] I strongly believe the goal to set up a plastic recycling factory will be met within the nearest future.

Achare Elvis Ayamba, Cameroon



The best opportunity you offer us [are the] grants to keep believing in our dreams. Sometimes is hard to keep going with a [biodiversity conservation] project while you're working 24/7.

The [program] is a path to learn about your limits and your resilience. They're bigger than you could imagine.

Esteban Barriga, Ecuador



GLOBAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Young environmental activists get the opportunity to work one-on-one with a seasoned mentor who can support and challenge their leadership skills. Participants commit to 12 months of mentorship, setting personal and professional goals in the first two meetings. By co-learning, co-creation, and co-mentoring, this program seeks to link conservationists across regions and generations.

The mentor-mentee connection, however, does not end there. Even after the 12-month term has been completed, the dynamic dialogues on global best practices continue, and we increase the worldwide network of environmental leaders.

“

Brilliant network and perfect match with my mentors. Great support system and guidance.

Mentee testimonial

“

The CoalitionWILD mentorship opportunity helped to refine my mentorship and coaching skills. It allowed me to revisit skills that I have not fully utilized and inspire my mentee. It is an opportunity for personal and professional growth.

Mentor testimonial

WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED

We built CoalitionWILD in response to the gap in opportunities given to young conservationists. And after almost 7 years of successful youth development, we have a chance to expand the support for EXCEerator projects through a new initiative, E-collab - a conservation collaboration agreement with our young conservation leaders..

EXCEerator participants are boundless, ambitious young leaders who want to change the world. They're the next generation of conservationists who understand how to harness community involvement for biodiversity protection. In our commitment to guide and empower them, we're

RAISING THE BAR ON CAPACITY

Building up young conservationists to make a difference in their communities is at the heart of our mission.

E-collab's goal is to strengthen the projects of young conservationists while they work on it on their own terms. We nurture their work with access to grants, connections to the right network, and amplification of their advocacy through our platforms to reach a wider audience. The program aims to incubate youth-led projects that make a mark.

Hand-in-hand, we will work with them on the grassroots level for collaborative learning on effective planning, community engagement, and natural resource management.

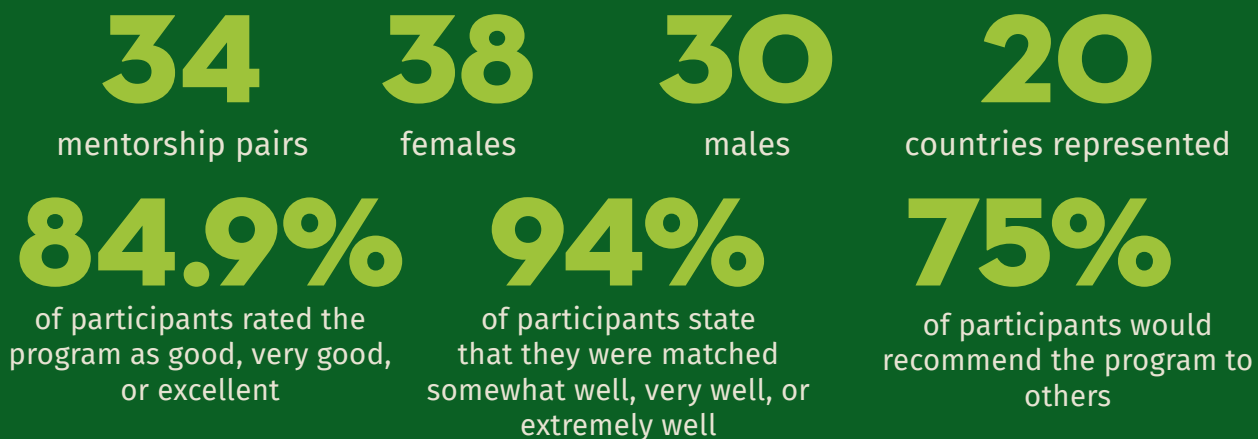
MAKING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS MORE ACCESSIBLE

Our experiential learning from the field will be translated into original content like webinars, blogs, and other resources so that more volunteers can use it in their own communities.

We're getting our hands dirty not only for on-ground participants, but also to reach a wider range of community leaders through our own work. We know that conservation is best achieved through education, and we want to make our resources available to as many people as possible.

A RIDDLE EFFECT FOR CHANGE

2022 Global Mentorship Program



2021 EXCEerator Program (updates)

- Since December 2022, **2 TONS OF PLASTIC COLLECTED** weekly with a team of 50 plastic pickers
- Over **300 YOUNG STUDENTS** are taught about the importance of nature conservation
- **543 LISTENERS** of a podcast that is focused on topics like halting biodiversity loss
- **3000 HECTARES OF LAND** in Kenya is stewarded by an EXCEerator participant, this area accommodates over **2,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS**. This also accommodates **85** resident elephants while **415** are nonresidents that pass through the area.
- **10 YOUNG ISLANDERS** will be certified in the PADI open water course
- **1** solid waste educational guide tailored-fit for the community produced
- **2** research are produced to serve as guide in drafting a conservation action plan for the study area

2022 EXCEerator Program (ongoing)

45 participants from across **29** countries are recruited to work on their own action projects, with more than half of the initiatives focused on protecting and restoring ecosystems.

Campaigning At COP15, a total of 159 on-site participants attended four side events either led or co-led by CoalitionWILD

THE FUTURE IS YOUNG

We are excited to share our new logo with you, which represents the growth and evolution of our organization's mission. Our new identity embodies the passion, energy, and spirit of our work, empowering youth and protecting the environment.

Our logo features a vibrant, nature-inspired color palette that reflects our commitment to preserving the environment. The typography is dynamic and modern, reflecting our dedication to innovative solutions that help us achieve our mission.

BEFORE



AFTER



SOCIAL MEDIA

782.8%

Increase in Facebook page reach

209.9%

Increase in Facebook visits

84.5%

Increase in Facebook

133%

Increase in Instagram page reach

105.2%

Increase in Instagram visits

620

New LinkedIn followers (Apr 22 - 23)

Changes between the first half of 2022 (January 1 to May 31) and the second half (June 1 to December 31)



Our director, Yen Parico, alongside Julia Jackson of Grounded.org, Amy Lewis of WILD Foundation, Karl Burkart of One Earth, Oscar Soria of Avaaz, and Eric Dinerstein of RESOLVE took a stance at COP15 and called for the conservation and protection of 50% by 2030.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION ABOUT LOCAL CONSERVATION.

We need the kind of dialogue and debate that only large-scale events like COP15 and Stockholm+50 can provide. And we need young conservationists from local communities all over the world leading the way.

By this time, we can't just talk about it; we need to act on it. CoalitionWILD amplifies the voices of young conservationists so they can be heard globally. We engage diverse voices to address global challenges.

Take a look at the global conversation CoalitionWILD took part in in 2022.



CoalitionWILD Director Yen Parico facilitating the COP15 panel on Nature Needs Half | Photo by: Avery Tilley of Reserva: The Youth Land Trust

The Successes and Pitfalls of COP15: Why we will continue to talk about Half

COP15 is a historic event that aimed to address biodiversity loss and promote the conservation and protection of natural resources. However, despite the progress made, there are still concerns about the lack of clarity in the post-2020 GBF's aims to protect and conserve at least 30% of the world's islands, inland waterways, coastal regions, and seas. To address this, we had different COP15 side events in December 2022. We discussed the importance of prioritizing and optimizing conservation actions, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation. The first goal is to continue working towards protecting the planet's biodiversity and maintaining nature at 50% to make the world a better place.

Additionally, CoalitionWILD also had events on biodiversity financing, focusing on the needs and interests of grassroots organizations, women, youth, Native Americans, and civil society, and on environmental preservation and our relationship with nature.

[Read more on WILD Voices](#)

Towards a Protected and Thriving Africa: 2022 IUCN Recap

The African continent has 30% of the world's biodiversity, but only 7% of its land mass is protected and conserved, and the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened conservation efforts. To address this, the IUCN Africa Protected Congress was held in July 2022, providing a timely opportunity to discuss and prioritize the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the region.

CoalitionWILD delegates Aiita and Ayamba attended the congress and called for the conservation of at least 30% of Africa's Protected Areas by 2030, while also highlighting the need to incorporate the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and youth in conservation efforts.



[Read more on WILD Voices](#)



Why We Need Events Like Stockholm+50

The Stockholm+50 conference was held to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, serving as a platform for meetings such as COP15 and COP27.

Diana Garlytska, as part of the Youth Task Force, attended the event and highlighted the importance of youth representation and empowerment in environmental policy development. For this major event, the Youth Task Force developed three documents, including a policy paper urging politicians and decision-makers to take bold actions toward a green future in various fields.

[Read more on WILD Voices](#)

CONSERVATION IS A MOVEMENT, AND WE CANNOT DO THIS ALONE.

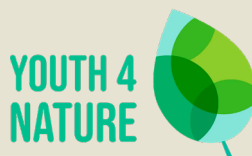
Young conservationists can make a real difference, but they need support to get started. From lack of resources, limited access to funding, insufficient training opportunities, and difficulty navigating complex bureaucratic systems, the path of effectively sustaining our biodiversity isn't easy. Especially when you're young.

We're in a field that requires collaboration and support from others. In creating partnerships with like-minded organizations and institutions, we can pave the way for young leaders' voices to be heard in the movement.

OUR PARTNERS



**CONSERVATION
OPTIMISM**



CoalitionWILD is a community where you can feel like your voice matters.

Our team is young, collaborative, and tirelessly working hard to protect our natural world. We believe in the power of young people to achieve change, and we are dedicated to building a movement of young leaders who can work across boundaries, collaborate, and make a difference in the world.

STEERING COMMITTEE VOICES



Asmita Rawat
Nepal

I cannot even begin to explain how much CW means to me. As a student I was looking for ways to engage with organizations working in the field of conservation to simply get an insight on how things run around it. Like anyone else I was intrigued by the work they were doing for the youths which made me feel like I could definitely benefit and learn from them.

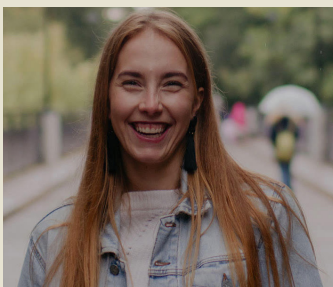
Since CW was one of the very first organizations I volunteered for, it really helped me kick start my journey and sort of laid a path for me. For sure, my motivation to join CW was to learn and without any doubt my interpersonal skills as well as networking skills were built the foundation for me.



Elliot Connor
UK/Australia

CoalitionWILD has unlocked so many opportunities for me: from taking part in the UN Biodiversity Conference COP15 to entering the wildlife filmmaking industry.

I joined CoalitionWILD's Steering Committee to lend a hand to the organization that transformed my life. As an EXCEerator programme alumnus, CoalitionWILD helped me to start a charity of my own and scale it to support community-based conservation projects across 110 countries. I wanted to help future cohorts to have that same life-changing experience and validation of their work and struggles as emerging environmental leaders. It truly is a community like no other that allows me to consolidate my own knowledge whilst sharing experience with peers.



Raechel Wastesicoot
Canada

I have and continue to learn so much from CoalitionWILD when it comes to nature conservation on a global level.

I bring to the [organization] my lived and constantly evolving perspective and insight into Indigenous-led conservation and youth-driven climate action.

It's important that we work together on a global scale to achieve the ambitious conservation targets needed to protect nature and all it sustains in perpetuity, and spaces like this the CoalitionWILD Steering Committee makes room for big ideas and innovation.



Matias Pooley
Chile

As a young conservationist, I know the difficulties and barriers to work and implement conservation projects with the credibility of local governments, academy, NGO's and private sector. After being part of [CW programs], I was convinced that [the organization is trying to change the world through upskilling] young people [so we] can work in environmental projects. [If only for this,] I decided to join CW Steering Committee because the vision of the organization is to enhance the voice and actions of young people.

We're building a world where young conservationists are celebrated for their passion and ingenuity.

This generation was born into a world where wildlife loss is threatened, and we know we will bear the brunt of its consequences. We've seen what happens when young people don't have a voice—they're the ones who get left behind.

In 5-10 years, we want to see a more inclusive world for young environmental leaders. A world where they are not just making space for themselves, but also being given the opportunity to make decisions about our future.

We're already witnessing young people pave the way for conservation progress. And with our work, we want to make sure that every young leader feels welcome, valued, and respected not just in our organization but at every level.

5 years with CoalitionWILD

We know that EXCEerator is a powerful program that helps young conservation leaders from all over the world work together and solve problems, especially in areas where biodiversity is highly endangered.

In the next 5 years, we want to see it continue to grow along with our Global Mentorship program. We want to diversify activities and reach more areas. We don't want to be limited to only English and Spanish-speaking locations. The goal is for the programs to be tailored to fit the needs of each region—we're not here just to create a cookie-cutter program that works in one place and fails in another. We aim to reach wider experiences and cater to broader contexts.

In that amount of time, we also want to incubate more projects through E-collab. As we pilot the program this year, we commit to its growth and test its impact in more communities across the globe.

10 years with CoalitionWILD

We want to be able to fund youth-led projects and support them in a way that makes them sustainable, and seek to create an environment where youth-led projects being funded is the norm rather than an exception.

In ten years, we want to see that more agencies are doing what we do—that our capacity-building programs are replicable enough to be implemented by more groups, and not just youth-oriented organizations.

CoalitionWILD is here to make sure that our impact is felt in the world. We're not here just for today—as we've been showing, we're here for the future.

STEERING COMMITTEE VISION



Asmita Rawat
Nepal

My sole hope for the future of CW is to keep on doing the good work by strengthening its members and ensuring the work of the participants has a meaningful influence.



Elliot Connor
UK/Australia

I hope CoalitionWILD can continue to scale the incredible legacy of impact it has, creating a ripple effect that can carry across the globe. I [see] that we will push strongly into policy spaces in the aftermath of COP15, giving youth a powerful voice at the table in partnership with other networks. And I [look forward] that it will expand its repertoire into running entirely youth-led projects of its own, selecting and scaling well-positioned works from its alumni network.



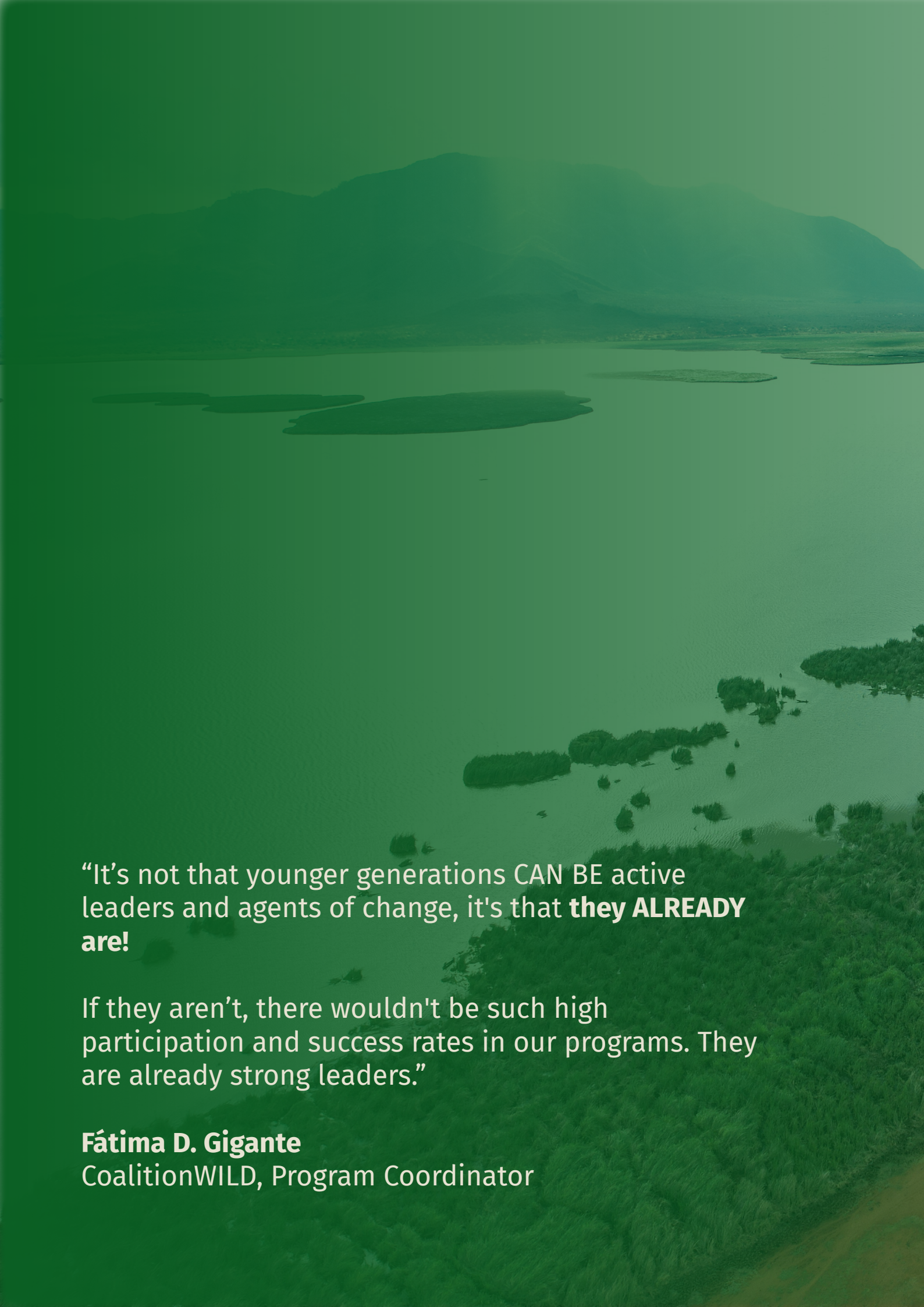
Raechel Wastesicoot
Canada

Impactful nature protection and climate action is only possible through collaborative and innovative solutions. In order to make significant changes, meet ambitious targets and ensure a greener future for our planet, we need to band together for nature. CoalitionWILD has the opportunity to connect youth from across the world and I hope that our network grows and inspires youth to take action in the places that they live and beyond.



Matias Pooley
Chile

I see CoalitionWILD as a recognized organization in empowering young leaders and conservationists. We will be an organization [leads] young conservationists to make an impact around the world.



“It’s not that younger generations CAN BE active leaders and agents of change, it’s that **they ALREADY are!**”

If they aren’t, there wouldn’t be such high participation and success rates in our programs. They are already strong leaders.”

Fátima D. Gigante
CoalitionWILD, Program Coordinator



The Lake Jipe Eco Restoration Project is community-centred conservation initiative, led by Zacharia Mutendi Muteti, with the support of CoalitionWILD. This initiative focuses on fostering a balanced relationship between the Jipe community and the resident elephant population. By engaging the community and wildlife conservation, the project aims to address environmental degradation and human-wildlife conflict in the region. It's about finding a way for people and wildlife to coexist harmoniously, restoring both the ecosystem and livelihoods. This project aims to bring a pragmatic solution to the challenges faced by Lake Jipe and its surroundings through collaborative efforts and community involvement.

The destination for our first E-collab with an EXCEerator alumnus, Zacharia Mutinda Muteti: **Lake Jipe in Kenya.**

COALITION WILD

wild.org/coalitionwild
2023