



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

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## UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Youth Water Action - Conservation of Coastal Ecosystem in Southeast Asia

[19th March 2023, 9:00 - 10:30 AM (EST), Zoom platform]

Organized by:

International Forestry Students Association  
UN Migration Youth and Children Platform  
Oceanus Conservation

### Background on the event

The event was a youth-led speaker session bringing together youth leaders from the Asia-Pacific, highlighting their projects, case studies and experiences in the region. The major emphasis was on the application of indigenous knowledge and its influence on the conservation of coastal ecosystems through youth-led action for a sustainable future. Projects initiated by youth, project execution via monitoring, and actions towards water positively were highlighted to motivate future generations to engage in water conservation.

### Key Issues discussed

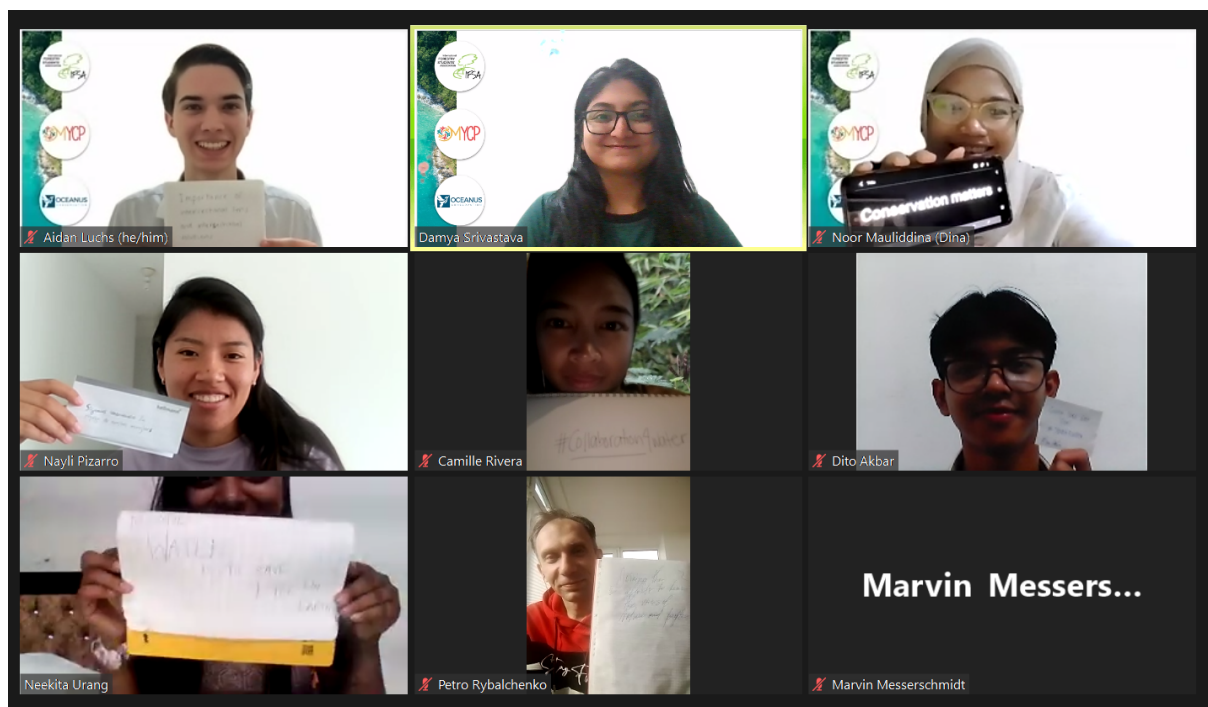
We revolved around three pillars of discussion: Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), marine & coastal ecosystem protection, and youth action.

- Inclusion and roles of IPLCs in youth projects with a case study on the Kepulauan Seribu Marine National Park in Indonesia showing successful collaboration of local residents and the KSMNP to regulate tourism related damages.
- Marine & Coastal conservation with actions of youth and indigenous communities with a case study on mangrove distribution in the Philippines. We highlighted the trends of destruction and restoration of the mangrove forests, and the strategies to engage local neighbourhoods within the same.

- Climate migration of youth & indigenous communities linked with disaster risks with a case study on the relocation due to climate change in Kiribati. The need for intersectional solutions which center around the human crisis, was given due focus.
- Importance of Indigenous Knowledge for our projects and resource preservation.
- Strategies where Indigenous knowledge and youth action merge to protect the coastal ecosystem, along with the lines of their application and impact.
- The steps and pathways which youth and indigenous communities use to engage in water positivity via their projects and actions.

### Key recommendations for action

- Technical:
  - Map long-term databases, create training manuals from data-driven reports, and improvise the documents to the local ecosystem and neighbourhoods.
  - Extend decision-making powers to all stakeholders - in drafting objectives, planning, execution, and monitoring.
- Economic:
  - Partner up with local government, NGOs and such with clear incentives and resource allocations.
- Social:
  - Lay due stress on human-centered solutions by looking beyond technical solutions of restoration and relocation to also include social fabric and cultural traditions of the communities.
  - Build trust and transparency by long-term organisational partnerships and intergenerational activities.



*In-event picture with pledges on youth action for water conservation.*