

Conservation

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# Manifesto!

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Conference of Youth

#COY11 - PARIS 2015

- February 2016 -

# Conservation 1/2

## Position :

### **Strengthening and empowering local communities.**

We, COY's working group on conservation, define conservation as the preservation of all forms of biodiversity: the diversity of genes, of species, of ecosystems. We identify the local communities as the important focus to take actions for conservation. They are an integral part of the territory where the conservation takes place. They are the basic consumers of locally produced goods ; they have the specific knowledge linked to a specific territory. Local communities are all communities - at the scale of a territory - where there is a need to re-focus the actions, to have more and more sustainable growth.

## Recommendations :

We propose that decisions are taken directly by local communities instead of global organisations: more self-determination, more power to act for conservation in daily life, along with conservation education. We do ask for a bottom-up decision making system rather than the usual top-down approach. We recognise that in some communities, specific social groups are important for conservation : women's groups in India for example are the ones we need to reach in order to promote conservation. We encourage the education of members of local communities in order to make them actors within their environment at the local scale, and to allow them to understand the integration of local actions at the global scale. Educative projects such as serious games are suggested.

We insist on the need to include local communities in the decision-making processes with regards to conservation of their living place at the local or global scale.

We ask for support from the economic sector for the local communities and emphasise that this strategy is a win-win situation: economic costs due to non-action are bigger than economic costs incurred by the build-up of actions. There is also a need for a re-thinking of the economic system's organisation : fair-trade, local-trade relying on local communities' knowledge and capabilities should be supported along with the conservation it allows.

We ask for knowledge transfer aside of economic support so that each local community becomes able to deal with issues related to climate change. We encourage the development of participative programs. We insist on the link between the empowerment of local communities on conservation issues that have been raised in this working group and the topics of education, sustainable food and human rights groups.

## Conservation 2/2

### Actions :

- ▶ As the next generation, we will have to deal with climate change and we should not forget the knowledge of the elder ones about their land and its biodiversity in order to conserve it.
- ▶ The youth is a powerful force which should be included in decision-making processes concerning conservation.
- ▶ The youth nowadays is eager to explore: partnerships for exchanges between North and South countries in order to lead conservation programs and learn should be encouraged.