

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY REGIONAL YOUTH SYMPOSIUM 2024

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The third World Wildlife Day Regional Youth Symposium was held physically in Singapore from 23-25 February 2024. The event was organised by 25 youth stewards under Singapore's National Parks Board (NParks) Youth Stewards for Nature (YSN) programme, with support from NParks, Mandai Nature, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and other key partners. The symposium also saw the debut of a new segment, Youth Showcase. The event successfully brought together youth attendees to engage in discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities focused on youth involvement in wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship.

OBJECTIVES

- Anchor and grow Southeast Asia's youth conservation network
- Connect Southeast Asian youth with mentors and role models in the wildlife conservation sector
- Raise international awareness of innovative practices for nature conservation in Southeast Asia
- Spotlight creative and novel use of digital solutions and technology for monitoring and protecting wildlife
- Encourage environmental stewardship, protecting nature for future generations

WWD24
at a
glance

500 in-person attendees

10 workshops

89%
expressed interest in returning for the next rendition of the symposium

12 speakers & guests

14 youth showcase groups

15 countries including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, India, France, Korea, United Kingdom & United States



DAY 0

Facilitators and Youth Showcase project teams attended the Cultural Exchange, an informal networking session consisting of games, trainings and briefings, to form connections with peers and prepare for the upcoming Focus Group Activity (FGA) on Day 1 and Youth Showcase segment on Day 2.



DAY 1

Before the commencement of the event, some of our regional attendees had the opportunity to attend a nature walk at Coney Island, jointly organised by the WWD 2024 Organising Team and Punggol Coast Nature Kakis.



The event kickstarted with a line up of speakers below and tracked themes:

Opening Speakers



MR DESMOND LEE
Minister for National Development & Minister-in-Charge of Social Services, Integration, Singapore



DR JANELL PUTHUCHEARY
Advisor of Punggol Coast and Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information, and Health



MS SOPHIANNE ARAIS
Group Director, National Biodiversity Centre and Horticulture & Community, National Parks Board, Singapore



MS IVONNE HIGUERO
Secretary-General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)



DR THERESA MUMDITA LIM
Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity



DR SONJA LUZ
CEO, Mandai Nature

Track 1 - Technology and Innovation



MR ANTON L. DELGADO
Environmental Reporter and Multimedia Photojournalist, The Pulitzer Center, Cambodia



DR MALCOLM SOH
Principal Researcher, Wildlife Management Research, National Parks Board, Singapore



MR NGUYEN VAN THAI
Founder, Save Vietnam's Wildlife, Vietnam



DR TRANG NGUYEN
Founder & Director, WildAct, Vietnam



MRS REAKSMEI LUY
Executive Director, Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA), Cambodia



MR ALEX WAISIMON
Founder, Isoy Hill's Eco-Tourism, Indonesia

Track 2 - Leadership and Community Engagement

Attendees then ended the day by taking part in the FGA which posed a hypothetical land-use challenge. Attendees took on personas of various stakeholders who collaborated, negotiated and together, navigated the complexities of the challenge that mirrored real life biodiversity conservation in-practice.



DAY 2

Workshops

- ArtScience Museum Workshop: Understanding Nature Through Technology**
Held in partnership with the ArtScience Museum.
- Bird Paradise Workshop: Soaring into Ex-Situ Avian Conservation and Sustainability**
Held in partnership with Mandai Nature and Mandai Wildlife Group.
- Ethnobotany Workshop: Connecting People, Plants and Culture**
Held in partnership with the Singapore Botanic Gardens.
- GYBN SEA Workshop: Mapping ASEAN Youth Contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**
Held in partnership with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network Southeast Asia.
- Illegal Wildlife Trade Workshop: Caught in the Act! From Crime Scene to Lab/Rehab**
Held in partnership with Centre for Wildlife Forensics, Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation, and Wildlife Trade, National Parks Board.
- LKCNHM Workshop: Revealing Conservation Narratives through Taxonomy**
Held in partnership with the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore.
- Mandai Conservation Workshop: Innovations Behind Singapore Zoo's Conservation Efforts**
Held in partnership with Mandai Nature and Mandai Wildlife Group.
- Marine Conservation Workshop: A Deep Dive into SINML's Cutting-Edge Research**
Held in partnership with the St. John's Island National Marine Laboratory.
- Nature Storytelling Workshop: Crafting Compelling Content to Engage Audiences**
Held in partnership with Kong Man Jing (Biogirl M) and Jayaprakash Joghee Bojan.
- WWF-Singapore Workshop: Capturing Citizen Science for Conservation**
Held in partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature (Singapore).



Youth Showcase

In the afternoon, attendees gathered at One Punggol for the Youth Showcase segment. Attendees and members of the public had the opportunity to visit up to 14 project booths featuring youth-led conservation efforts. Attendees could earn a sticker for participating in unique booth activities with those managing to collect up to eight stickers being able to claim prizes as part of the ongoing sticker rally activity.

