State of Youth Climate Organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean

A journey through the impact, challenges, and opportunities of youth organizations and their funders to drive climate action in the region

A project by:

CLAAC
COALICIÓN PARA LATINOAMÉRICA DE ACCIÓN CLIMÁTICA

With the support of:

Climate Emergency Collaboration

Fund

CLIMAPS

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Índex

Prólogo
Climate Emergency Collaboration Group

For far too long, we have waited for leadership to emerge from traditional power structures. And yet, governments have fallen short of their commitments to contain the climate crisis, meet the funding needs and prioritize long-term survival over short-term gain. Not because the solutions are unknown, but because political will, structural inertia, and vested interests have stood in the way.

But now, a new kind of leadership is emerging to transform this reality.

And it is coming from young people across Latin America and the Caribbean who refuse to accept a future defined by inaction. They are organizing in their communities, mobilizing across borders, innovating solutions grounded in local realities, and demanding a seat at the tables where decisions about their futures are made. They are not waiting for permission.

This report by CLAAC (Coalición para Latinoamérica de Acción Climática) documents that leadership. Bringing together more than 500 youth-led climate organizations and initiatives across the region, it shows the scope and impact of youth-led climate action, despite the systemic barriers that continue to constrain it: **inadequate funding, persistent inequities tied to geography, gender, culture and language, and the exhausting reliance on voluntary labour.**

For youth organizations, this report provides recognition and a platform to articulate common agendas and strengthen networks. For funders, governments, and international institutions, it provides **insights and opportunities for strategic engagement and developing new community-based strategies for impact.**

What emerges most powerfully, however, is the centrality of community building to youth climate action. Young leaders across Latin America are weaving networks of solidarity, creating spaces for collective learning, and building movements that transcend national borders and sectoral divides – for example, addressing the climate crisis through the lenses of biodiversity protection, sustainable development, culture and art, and media.

This collaborative spirit is both a source of strength and a strategic necessity. In contexts where formal support is scarce and institutional access is limited, community becomes infrastructure. It is through these networks that knowledge flows, resources are shared, strategies are refined, and resilience is cultivated. **Investing in youth climate action means investing in this connective tissue:** the relationships, platforms, and processes that enable young people to organize, sustain their work, and amplify their impact together.

This report is not an endpoint. In fact, many more initiatives and organisations are emerging, and in years to come this can truly become a force for good. Thus, I invite funders, policymakers, multilateral institutions, and civil society organizations, to engage deeply with these findings and initiatives. The path toward a just and liveable future requires leadership that is bold, inclusive, and grounded in the communities most affected by the climate crisis. That leadership is already here in our youth in all its diversity. The question is whether those of us with resources and power will rise to meet it.

Diego Casaes
Program Director at Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG)

The Climate Emergency Collaboration Group is a philanthropic group working to unlock the power of critical international moments to deliver urgent and effective climate action.

Prólogo
Youth Climate Champion for COP30

Nós somos início, meio e início de novo (Nego Bispo)

At 26 years old, and with a trajectory in activism since the age of 16 in the peripheries of Brazil, I can confidently affirm: youth are mobilized. Our mobilization reflects the many forms of violence and violations to which we are exposed, while also representing an intergenerational and ancestral response in the struggle to reduce inequalities and to guarantee the right to a balanced environment. I speak for myself, Marcele Oliveira, but also for the tireless work carried out collectively through the Youth Presidency mandate of COP30, the United Nations climate conference held in November 2025 in Brazil.

My attention to climate justice began in 2019, in Realengo, in the West Zone of Rio de Janeiro, when I realized that residents near my home had been mobilizing for decades to transform a restricted area into a public green leisure space instead of another private condominium. Many treated this demand as a luxury, rather than a fundamental right that drives the economy, reduces heat, and supports cultural and environmental education activities. Absurd! It was by refusing to normalize these absurdities and by connecting with the Movimento 100% Parque Realengo Verde, the Ocupação Parquinho Verde, and the Agenda Realengo 2030 that I witnessed Realengo secure its park and inspire the creation of other parks in peripheral areas of Rio de Janeiro.

The more I tell this story, both individual and collective, the more I encounter similar stories, which makes the following pages even more meaningful, as they present data compiled from these lived experiences. **Qualifying, quantifying, and situating in historical and social time the actions of youth in Latin America is a way of telling our story in a complementary manner,** between challenges and solutions, aiming to foster collaboration in the present while building a just future.

COP30 represents a political and social milestone for the Global South, especially for Latin American youth, who, in addition to demanding action and implementation, also call for recognition, financing, and social participation, **as stated in the "Political Declaration of Ibero-American Youth Towards COP30," which establishes that 5% of climate finance should be allocated to support youth-led projects and environmental best practices.**

An important point in all of this is that in order to protect, it is necessary to know. And to know, it is essential to recognize our ecosystems, our territories - or, as we say in Brazil: our biomes - as part of our daily lives, considering the diversity of experiences of children and adolescents growing up in rural areas, waters, forests, indigenous communities, quilombos, favelas, and other contexts present in our cities.

If no place in the world needs more concrete, what are the alternatives? What are the contexts of our different socio-biodiversities that can contribute to the regeneration of the planet? How can we confront algorithms and effectively share the call for a Global Collective Action against Climate Change? These are the questions I ask myself every day.

And this is where multilateralism comes in. Because no country alone will be able to address this crisis. Multilateralism is the space where we understand the importance of acting together, of cooperation instead of competition, of transforming our struggle into a global pact for climate justice and for an ethical framework that ensures the fulfillment of the agreements made so far. For Latin America, multilateralism is not just diplomacy.It is a political act of survival.

I know, we have a lot of work ahead of us. And this report supports our work, from the local to the global, with information based on territorialized data and reflecting diversity in race, gender, and ecosystems. Therefore, for this report to serve as an ally in protecting our cultures and identities, I invite you to move through the following pages already thinking about how we will amplify them, as taught by Nego Bispo, a quilombola thinker from Piauí and Brazilian philosopher: life has a beginning, a middle, and a new beginning. The end is not part of our vocabulary, because we reinvent ourselves along the way, porque a gente se reinventa no meio do caminho e eles passarão, a gente passarinho (Mário de Andrade).

Marcele Oliveira
Presidency Youth Climate Champion of COP30

The PYCC role is to facilitate the meaningful engagement of children and youth in climate action, including within the UNFCCC process.

Prólogo
UMI Fund

The remarkable days of the youth climate school strikes in 2018–19 resonated strongly and were amplified across Latin America and the Caribbean, enabling young people to access seats at tables of power they'd never been able to reach before, and bringing a surge of new climate commitments. The moment created a collective sense that future generations were finally being listened to and that those in power might take urgent responsibility for the world they would leave to young people.

The moment created a collective sense that future generations were finally being listened to and that those in power might take urgent responsibility for the world they would leave to young people.

Seven years on, we find ourselves in a very turbulent and often contradictory place: where the failure to act on, or the repeal of, those commitments is creating a world that is ever more frightening. Yet at the same time, **we can see the unmistakable power of a now incredibly sophisticated globally-connected community-grounded movement of young people who continue to relentlessly lead the way towards a more hopeful future.**

UMI has been supporting youth movements across the world since that moment in 2019, and our commitment now has never been stronger, rooted in the belief that if we align with Indigenous wisdom, we must always put the next generations at the centre of our thinking. We've been honoured to support hundreds of community climate projects that young people in their tens of thousands have been busy delivering. **And we know that there is so much more potential, as this report makes abundantly clear.**

What we now see is that there are generations of young people with a consciousness and commitment that is unparalleled. Young people who have never known a world without the reality of climate change impacts, but who have the drive and ambition to help turn the ship around. **Young professionals who are combining the wisdom they have already gained from several years of advocating at the highest levels, with highly sophisticated digital communications expertise and the vision for a world that has come back into right-relationship with the earth, where each human is valued equally.**

There is no doubt that fossil fuel interests understand that influencing young people through dark money, ploughed into campuses and communication campaigns that target specific age and gender demographics, is now vital to the continuation of their business model. They understand that they need to influence new generations into divisive anti-climate perspectives in order to survive. The potential and need to counter this dynamic is huge. **We need to fund the young people who are acting now to build a better world, and who will be the leaders of tomorrow if given the right opportunities.** Our call is clear: **philanthropy cannot fail at this moment** to fund the next generation of young climate leaders that this report makes so beautifully visible.

Anna Jones
Head of Programmes at UMI Fund

UMIF is a convenor of the field, an advisor to philanthropy, and a grant maker. Working to build the power needed to ensure pressure for climate action becomes relentless and unignorable.

Prólogo
Coalición para Latinoamérica de Acción Climática (CLAAC)

The Latin American Coalition for Climate Action (CLAAC) was born from a simple truth: no organization can face the climate crisis alone, a challenge that transcends borders and requires collective responses. What began as a space to amplify youth climate voices and leadership has evolved into a broader movement that recognizes the need to drive deep structural changes to ensure a just and healthy planet.

Since 2024, and even before, CLAAC has brought together intergenerational and youth-led organizations across Latin America, working collaboratively to strengthen regional leadership, share knowledge, and transform how climate action is imagined and practiced in our territories. Through joint projects and campaigns, CLAAC has built a regional ecosystem in which Latin American youth not only mobilize, but also influence, co-create, and lead the search for just climate solutions.

This document reflects that spirit. It continues a regional effort to map, analyze, and amplify the work of youth climate organizations, documenting both their transformative impact and the systemic barriers that limit their potential. Beyond data, this report is also a political and cultural statement that demonstrates how youth in the region are contributing to the transition toward societies grounded in justice, democracy, and sustainability.

Finally, this publication is not a conclusion, but an open invitation. It aspires to evolve as a living document, strengthened by new knowledge and collaborations. The path ahead will require persistence, imagination, and unity. The commitment of Latin American youth reminds us every day that a just, resilient, and hopeful future is not only possible: it is already being built.

CLAAC was created to make collaboration our greatest strength, and this report is proof that this spirit endures. The future of climate action in Latin America, as always, is written collectively.

ONG Uno Punto Cinco

Rebellious, insolent, and defiant. This is how we have often been described when referring to mobilized youth. But how could change ever be achieved without questioning and challenging the foundations of the status quo?

We live in a society in constant transformation. Latin America has historically been a region marked by inequality, crises, and resistance. And despite everything, it has not lost its spirit or identity, it has learned to adapt, to reinvent itself, and to build hope in the midst of adversity.

Today, as a region and as a generation, we are among those who will be most deeply affected by this challenge, despite not having caused it. Latin American youth are here, organizing, participating, and working toward a more just and sustainable future. But to scale our impact, we need allies: institutions, governments, companies, and civil society committed to supporting this transformative momentum.

We hope that in this report you will find inspiration to strengthen support for this generation and this region, which once again stands ready to face the challenges of its time and to demonstrate that change is not only possible, but inevitable.

ABREVIATURAS

ALC	América Latina y el Caribe	Latin America and the Caribbean
BID	Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo	Inter-American Development Bank
CECG	Grupo de Colaboración para la Emergencia Climática	Climate Emergency Collaboration Group
CLAAC	Coalición para Latinoamérica de Acción Climática	Latin American Coalition for Climate Action
COP	Conferencia de las Partes (de la CMNUCC)	Conference of the Parties
COY / LCOY / RCOY	Conferencia de la Juventud / Conferencia Local de la Juventud / Conferencia Regional de la Juventud	Conference of Youth / Local Conference of Youth / Regional Conference of Youth
GAR	Informe de Evaluación Global sobre la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres	Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction
GAYO	Organización Juvenil Verde de África	Green Africa Youth Organisation
OCDE/OECD	Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económicos	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ODS/SGD	Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible	Sustainable Development Goals
OMM/WMO	Organización Meteorológica Mundial	World Meteorological Organization
ONU/UN	Organización de las Naciones Unidas	United Nations
PIB/GDP	Producto Interno Bruto	Gross Domestic Product
UNDP	Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP	Fondo Internacional de Emergencia de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
YCJF	Fondo Juvenil por la Justicia Climática	Youth Climate Justice Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Latin America and the Caribbean is experiencing a climate crisis that exacerbates historical inequalities, but also offers a unique opportunity to lead a just and sustainable transformation. **The region, which is home to 8 % of the world's population and more than 40 % of the planet's biodiversity,** faces an unprecedented climate and environmental reality, marked by increasingly extensive, recurrent, and catastrophic climate disasters, despite contributing less than 10 % of global greenhouse gas emissions annually. In this context, **youth have become a dynamic force that actively drives ways of acting to achieve socioenvironmental transformation in the region.**

The report "State of Youth Climate Organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean" analyzes and makes visible the role of this regional movement, its diversity, its contributions, and the obstacles that limit its potential. Based on data from nearly 500 organizations mapped on the Climaps platform, interviews with youth leaders and funders, and a comparative review of regional sources, the study shows that **youth drive decisive actions in environmental education, climate justice, policy advocacy, territorial defense, and community communication.**

The findings confirm that youth are strategic actors in the ecological and social transition of the region. More than 60 % of organizations prioritize environmental education and awareness, and several of them integrate ancestral knowledge with scientific knowledge. Their work is grounded in values of equity, human rights, and participation, although it is carried out under unequal conditions, as most depend on unpaid volunteer work, lack stable funding, and do not have legal recognition.

These inequalities are the result of a climate action ecosystem that is trying to make its way in a complex terrain, **where less than 1 % of global climate finance reaches youth led organizations**, which highlights a structural gap between their contributions and the resources available[1].

The report concludes that **supporting youth is not a symbolic gesture, but an essential strategy to strengthen climate resilience in the Global South.** Youth organizations **already generate tangible impacts in environmental restoration, education, social cohesion, and territorial leadership, even with minimal resources.** Strengthening their work requires transforming governance and funding models, promoting direct and multi year support, and institutionalizing their participation in decision making.

The climate future of Latin America and the Caribbean is already being built by its youth. Believing in them, collaborating, and supporting them means committing to a more just, resilient, and sustainable region.

Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context: Latin America in the face of the new climate reality and the opportunity to lead change

Latin America and the Caribbean LAC are at a historical turning point. The region, which is home to 8 % of the world's population[2] and concentrates more than 40 % of the planet's biodiversity[3], **faces increasingly severe climate impacts despite contributing less than 10 % of global greenhouse gas emissions[4].** According to the World Meteorological Organization[5], the last decade has been the warmest on record in the region since measurements began, generating prolonged droughts in the Southern Cone, increasingly intense hurricanes in the Caribbean, record heatwaves in Mexico and Brazil, and recurrent wildfires in the Amazon, the Pantanal, Patagonia, and the Chaco. These are some of the signs of a crisis that has already been present for some time.

The Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction GAR 2025[6] highlights that **the direct costs of climate disasters globally have increased to approximately 202 billion dollars annually, but their real cost exceeds 2.3 trillion dollars when considering cascading effects and damage to ecosystems,** disproportionately affecting rural communities, indigenous peoples, afro descendant populations, and women[7]. If current policies remain unchanged, the global economy could face a reduction of up to 50 % of GDP between 2070 and 2090, while increasing impacts are already being observed such as shocks in food systems, water insecurity, heat stress, and the rise of infectious diseases[8].

The world is already locked into a reduction of 17 % of its global income by 2050 due to the economic damages derived from past emissions and socioeconomic inertia, with the greatest losses concentrated in low income regions such as LAC, where this income reduction is estimated at 22 % of total income, compared to 7–8 % in wealthier regions such as Europe or North America[9], **which implies losing nearly a quarter of the Latin American economy, directly affecting progress in human development, education, and health.**

The climate crisis as a crisis of equity and generation

The impacts of climate change in LAC are not neutral they amplify pre existing inequalities. The region is **one of the most unequal in the world** the richest 10 % concentrates 77 % of total wealth[10] and these structural gaps determine who can adapt and who cannot. **Youth, women, and indigenous peoples are among the groups most affected** by the loss of livelihoods, food insecurity, and forced migration caused by environmental disasters.

UNICEF[11] estimates that in Latin America **between 5.9 and 17.9 million children and youth could fall into extreme poverty by 2030 if countries do not strengthen their adaptation policies.** In 2022 alone **nine out of ten children and adolescents have been exposed to at least two extreme climate events** in the last five years which directly impacts their health, nutrition, education, and emotional well being[12]. Climate change is redefining childhood and youth in the region transforming them into experiences marked by ecological uncertainty instead of stages associated with development stability and the promise of the future.

Political advances and structural setbacks

In this context, **Latin America has shown progress in the adoption of climate framework laws, national green finance strategies, and mechanisms for citizen participation**. Countries such as Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Costa Rica have developed legal frameworks that aim to be robust; others, such as Brazil and Ecuador, have reactivated the debate on climate justice and the protection of strategic ecosystems.

Among recent advances, the response to the Paris Agreement stands out through national policy and governance capable of linking youth to decision making processes. It is valuable to mention some illustrative cases.

Chile consolidated its Framework Law on Climate Change (2022)[13], establishing carbon neutrality targets by 2050 with multilevel governance mechanisms, binding citizen participation, sectoral emissions budgets, and processes of territorial ecological planning.

Colombia approved the Climate Action Law (2022)[14] and advanced in the creation of the Ministry of Equality (2023)[15] and in just energy transition policies, together with the historic ruling of the Supreme Court in 2018 that recognized the Amazon as a subject of rights, strengthening the judicial defense of the environment[16].

Mexico advanced in the update of its NDC (2025)[17], in community conservation policies[18], and has strengthened community forest management programs that are now a global reference for their impact on reducing deforestation[19].

Costa Rica has maintained its regional leadership, consolidating a long term decarbonization policy[20] and promoting biological corridors, expansion of renewable energy, increased reforestation with forest protection, and regenerative bioeconomy strategies[21].

Barbados and other Caribbean countries have led an international agenda on climate finance, debt, and resilience[22], promoting proposals such as the *Bridgetown Initiative*[23], which has become a roadmap for reforming the international financial system in favor of vulnerable countries.

However, in some countries of the region setbacks are observed, even where climate action had previously advanced.

For example, in **Brazil**, after the change of administration, weakened environmental institutions were restored, the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon PPCDAm was relaunched, deforesta-

tion was reduced by almost 50 % in a single year, and the country repositioned itself as a central actor in international climate negotiations[24]. However, the progress of the so called *PL da Devastação*[25], a legislative package that seeks to relax environmental licensing, reduce protected areas, weaken enforcement, and expand the extractive frontier[26], represents an institutional setback that would affect the country's capacity to fulfill its climate commitments. Added to this are pressures to allow agroindustrial activities in indigenous and quilombola territories, despite their constitutional recognition and their key role in conservation.

In **Ecuador**, the government has recently eliminated the Ministry of Environment, merging it with the Ministry of Energy and Mines[27], and the country is experiencing a concerning shift toward the relaxation of environmental standards and the use of force to control territorial protests, criminalizing indigenous leaders and environmental defenders[28], sending a clear signal of weakening environmental protection and opening the door to mining and oil activities.

Argentina faces a similar situation, where the Milei government has adopted an openly climate denialist stance, with deep budget cuts to the environmental agenda and the elimination of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, now reduced to a Subsecretariat within the Ministry of the Interior[29]. These measures have weakened the state's capacity to coordinate policies with the provinces and respond to socioenvironmental conflicts.

Additional cases of weakening are observed in **Peru**, where successive reforms have reduced environmental evaluation standards and limited oversight powers[30]; or in **Bolivia**, where authorizations for extractive activities within protected areas and indigenous territories have been expanded[31], increasing pressure on forests and water sources[32]; or in the case of **Chile**, where the Sectoral Permits Law[33] approved in 2025 streamlines the environmental assessment authorization process, which has generated doubts and concerns, especially from civil society, regarding whether environmental and social protection standards for high investment projects with strong socioenvironmental impacts will continue to be respected.

Despite these contradictions, multiple countries in the region continue to push for greater climate and environmental ambition at the global level. The situation of **Panama** is illustrative, emerging as a reference in highlighting the realities that many countries in the region face. In its case, **one in four children lives in areas of high climate vulnerability**, and climate related disasters have multiplied 2.4 times in the last 50 years, positioning the country as the fourteenth most vulnerable in the world[34].

And despite these realities, narratives and dynamics are emerging in the region that weaken the climate advances achieved through decades of struggle, as is the case of recent environmental weakening in Ecuador and Argentina. This type of contrast reflects **a recurring paradox in LAC, where regulatory advances** accompanied by weak implementation, limited interinstitutional coordination, and persistent financing gaps, **become susceptible to shifts in governments and political will in socioenvironmental matters.**

Despite the challenges, LAC possesses unique advantages that could position it as a leading region in climate solutions adapted to the

Global South. The region concentrates **57 % of the planet's tropical forests, 30 % of surface freshwater[35],** and has one of the cleanest electricity matrices in the world, with approximately **60 % of its electricity generation coming from renewable sources[36],** a figure far above the global average of around 30 %[37]. In addition, **the ancestral and community knowledge of indigenous peoples offers models of territorial, water, and biodiversity management that are essential for building resilience.**

The challenge is multidimensional, ranging from the ecological to the civilizational. Therefore, its response must also be so, seeking to develop a new paradigm where development does not depend on extractivism or inequality, but on cooperation and environmental justice.

1.2 Leading role of youth

Amid this crisis, Latin American youth have become a key driver of change at the political, cultural, and social levels. In recent years, hundreds of organizations, movements, and youth networks have emerged working in environmental education, policy advocacy, climate activism, digital communication, and local adaptation solutions. These initiatives, often voluntary and self managed, are redefining climate action in the region with intersectional, gender equitable, and community based approaches.

Youth are strategic actors in climate action. **They lead national campaigns for environmental justice, drive climate litigation, promote local laws, and actively participate in international processes** such as the Conferences of the Parties COP, positioning their role as essential agents of knowledge, innovation, and social transformation, leading processes that combine territorial action, policy advocacy, and regional and international cooperation.

Their action combines creativity, evidence, and hope, challenging traditional governance models and proposing new forms of collective leadership. They have consolidated themselves as strategic and cross cutting actors in the regional climate response.

Latin America and the Caribbean are currently home to nearly **160 million people between 10 and 24 years old, representing approximately one quarter of the total population[38]**. This figure reflects a considerable demographic weight, with expanding political and cultural force, capable of influencing development models and the legitimacy of public policies. According to ECLAC[39], **youth are the social group with the highest level of digital connectivity and the greatest willingness to engage in social and environmental causes in the region**, making their participation a strategic component of structural change toward sustainable societies.

However, this civic energy contrasts with still limited institutional recognition. The UNICEF report "How Young Advocates Advise on Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean" reveals that, out of nearly 500 young people interviewed in 32 countries, only 4 % believe

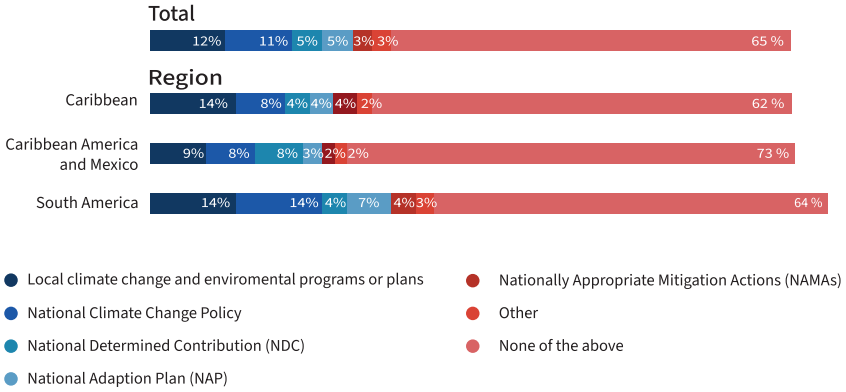
that their governments act adequately on climate change, and **7 out of 10 state that they have not been included in the formulation of public policies**[40]. The gap between youth engagement and institutional openness shows that the region has not yet managed to translate its generational capital into effective and sustainable participation structures.

At the territorial level, youth are building bridges between ancestral knowledge and modern science. Indigenous, afro descendant, and rural youth reactivate sustainable practices of water, forest, and soil management, integrating nature based adaptation with territorial and climate justice. This approach is not peripheral, but central to the climate future of the region, demonstrating that the most effective solutions can also emerge from territories, drawing from Latin America's cultural, scientific, and ecological diversity.

An example of this is the work of networks such as the Latin American Coalition for Climate Action CLAAC, which through its platform **Climaps.org has mapped nearly 500 youth organizations across the region,** more than 330 initiatives and 90 ventures. This effort transforms local data into strategic evidence for decision making, contributes to institutionalizing the youth voice, and opens more equitable spaces for their initiatives to be recognized, studied, and integrated into national and regional policies. Strengthening this youth knowledge infrastructure is key to ensuring that climate change agendas are not designed in the absence of those who will live their consequences.

Over the last decade, the region has witnessed a significant cycle of mobilization. From the global climate marches in 2019 to the Local and Regional Conferences of Youth LCOY RCOY, the Latin American youth generation has managed to position its voice in multilateral negotiation

¿Su gobierno le ha consultado alguna vez o le ha pedido su opinión sobre alguno de los siguientes documentos?



Fuente: Gráfico simplificado del informe "How Young Advocates Advise on Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean" UNICEF 2021

spaces. With delegations that have succeeded in incorporating language on climate justice, intergenerational equity, and human rights into the official decisions of COP27 and COP28, despite facing economic, bureaucratic, and representation barriers.

Despite this leading role, institutional recognition remains partial. In many cases, **youth are invited to participate as observers or in symbolic consultative roles, but rarely as co designers of public policies.** Dialogue platforms are often episodic and without binding power, which limits their capacity for influence. Added to this is the scarcity of direct and flexible funding, which restricts the sustainability of youth organizations and forces them to rely on permanent volunteer work, making it difficult to professionalize the sector and consolidate its long term impact.

Mobilizations led by youth in Latin America

Historically, youth movements have promoted environmental demands, emerging as **agents of change whose participation directly influences the quality of democracy, the construction of resilient societies, and the preservation of the environment. Understanding the role of youth in this process is a necessary condition to understand how the environmental**[41]agenda in the region has been built and continues to be built.

The relationship between younger generations and nature in Latin America has deep roots that precede even the formation of national states. The worldviews of indigenous peoples, in which nature is not a resource to be exploited but a subject with which one coexists, have for centuries nurtured a culture of territorial resistance that indigenous youth have inherited and transformed into political action.

Latin American environmentalism, unlike that of developed countries, has historically been linked to the relationship between social and environmental problems: subdevelopment becomes also an environmental problem, and current poverty expresses a long history in which the exploitation of human beings is associated with the depredation of nature.

With the advance of industrialization and accelerated urbanization in the twentieth century, environmental conflicts began to acquire a new dimension. **Since the 1970s, the diversification of environmental problems triggered notable mobilizations** in countries such as Mexico, Brazil, and Venezuela, eventually **spreading to all countries of the continent**[42].

One of the most influential socioenvironmental movements of the twentieth century in the region was that of the rubber tappers of the Brazilian Amazon. Between 1976 and 1988, Chico Mendes and his companions organized 45 “empates” (non violent actions to prevent forest clearing), managing to stop the deforestation of 1.2 million hectares of forest. This movement, largely led by young forest workers, not only resisted the expansion of the agricultural frontier it built an alternative political proposal. In 1985, it began to develop the Extractive Reserve model, a true revolution in the conception of environmental conservation units, as it did not separate human beings from nature for the first time.[43]

At the end of the twentieth century, one of the most emblematic results of this process was the Ecuadorian Constitution of 2008, which with the direct participation of social activists, peoples, and indigenous nationalities, incorporated for the first time in the history of constitutional law the recognition of nature as a subject of rights. Thus, nature acquired the status of a subject in the Constitution of Ecuador, establishing that the State would be characterized as intercultural and plurinational[44].

At the beginning of the 2000s, Chile became the setting for one of the most relevant environmental conflicts in the recent history of the region. The HidroAysén project (which contemplated the construction of five mega dams in Patagonia) triggered a large citizen mobilization. According to surveys, 74 percent of Chileans rejected the project and at the beginning of 2011 more than 100000 people marched against HidroAysén, a mobilization that opened the door for others, such as the student movement, to take to the streets and raise their own demands. Finally, the *Patagonia Sin Represas* campaign managed to sustain opposition to the project for 11 years, until its definitive cancellation in 2017 due to the constant expressions of disapproval from the population, youth, and environmental organizations[45].

The year 2019 marked the emergence of a new wave of youth mobilization in Latin America, this time articulated with the global Fridays for Future movement. In Argentina, a group of young people who had just finished secondary school organized on March 15, 2019 the first mobilization against climate change and the ecological crisis. The sustained pressure from these youth had concrete consequences for public policy Argentina became the first country in Latin America and the fourth in the world to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency, shortly followed by the approval of the Law on Minimum Budgets for Adaptation and Mitigation to Global Climate Change[46] and in 2021 the Comprehensive Environmental Education Law[47].

These experiences illustrate how young people have managed to translate protest into institutional proposals, strengthening the theory of change that recognizes their role as agents capable of transforming social mobilization into concrete policies.

Considering, then, that the current climate crisis is one of the great challenges facing the region, **recognizing and supporting the role of youth in processes of change becomes critical to accelerate the actions necessary to move toward sustainable development.**

1.3 Diagnosis

Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean show organizational and multilevel advocacy capacity by combining environmental education, community adaptation, territorial defense, strategic litigation, digital communication, and participation in international spaces such as the Conferences of the Parties (COP) and the specific youth spaces that stem from YOUNGO such as LCOY, RCOY and COY. This portfolio of actions, observed in regional mappings and comparative studies, demonstrates youth leaderships that connect science, environmental justice and interculturality, and that transform social mobilization into concrete proposals accompanied by action.

A demonstrative value also emerges: **even with few resources, youth groups achieve measurable impacts** (e.g., ecosystem restoration, socioenvironmental monitoring, climate education, clean finance campaigns, local regulatory reforms, among others), which reinforces the thesis that **supporting organizations and movements, and not only isolated projects, multiplies results,** which is not a new finding, but rather reaffirms a conclusion repeatedly highlighted by organizations, funds and philanthropists working with youth.

Structural barriers: what limits the potential of youth?

Based on the literature that has studied the state of financing for youth globally, the following barriers to youth activism in climate action were identified:

1. **Chronic and inflexible underfunding:** The share of climate philanthropy reaching youth groups remains minimal globally. **Between 2022–2024, only 0,96 % of grants from major climate foundations supported youth led initiatives;** although the volume doubled vs. 2019–2021, it continues to be a niche and not a strategic priority. At the same time, philanthropy for climate mitigation remains <2 % of total global philanthropy, further reducing the available base. This points to a gap in scale and design (limited multi year funding, low flexibility, focus on short term "projects" and significant administrative requirements)[48].

2. **Geographic and access inequality: Asymmetries in access to resources persist between the Global North and the Global South and within regions.** Comparative analysis shows a concentration of grants in the U.S., compared to more limited access for groups outside that ecosystem, suggesting the need for direct, local funding mechanisms with support (mentorship, networks, administrative support)[49].

3. **Symbolic participation in decision making:** Limited translation of youth proposals into public policies is identified. The UNICEF U-Report consultation of nearly 500 youth in LAC found that **only 4 % consider their governments climate action adequate** and that the majority have not been included in policy design, confirming exclusion or non binding participation[50].

4. **Gaps in capacities and organizational infrastructure:** Eligibility requirements

(legal registration, track record in fund management, English proficiency, complex reporting, among others) exclude collectives with proven impact but lightweight structures; a significant proportion of **organizations operate through volunteer work and lack core funding to operationalize their work.** Evidence suggests prioritizing institutional strengthening, multi year funding and more flexible funds to professionalize and sustain teams.

5. **Insufficiently funded intersectionality:** Although rhetoric on climate justice is increasing, approximately only 11,7 % of mitigation grants analyzed in the latest Youth Climate Justice Fund report were explicitly "justice-focused", and their average amounts are 1,6 times higher than those of youth initiatives, indicating mismatches in allocation and design (e.g., overly narrow thematic calls that do not reflect integrated needs: water, mental health, rights, livelihoods).

These barriers limit the transformative potential of youth and reveal structural bottlenecks in the Latin American climate ecosystem, due to the concentration of funding, territorial inequality, organizational precariousness and fragmented participation. Understanding these patterns is essential to formulate strategies that address the root causes of youth exclusion, redesigning financing schemes, strengthening institutional capacities and creating mechanisms for binding participation.

Based on this evidence, and the analysis of various studies on financing for youth climate action, **three priority lines of action emerge** that are shared across conclusions: redesign financing with criteria of flexibility and support, build bridges between territory and public policy, and advance in the regional quantification of the youth ecosystem to guide data based support opportunities. These lines are developed below:

- **Evidence to redesign financing:** diversify funding delivery, maintaining short term micro grants while adding flexible, direct and multi year funding, with technical support (management, compliance, communication, digital security, protection of defenders), considering networks and calls that reduce competition and increase cooperation.
- **Bridges between territory and public policy:** institutionalize youth participation with decision making power (advisory councils, strategy panels, co design of programs) so that mobilization translates into reforms and budgets[51].
- **Quantifying the reality of LAC:** A gap is identified in mapping youth ecosystems (actors, activities, movements) to more precisely and systematically capture impact and gaps. This will enable the generation of a clearer picture that provides greater understanding of opportunities and strengthening spaces.

The region has strong youth capacities and a window of opportunity to scale their impact if, among other factors, gaps in funding flows, technical support and inclusion within the governance of public policies on climate and environmental issues are addressed. Therefore, this report seeks to provide data and recommendations that help reduce the information gap (who does what, where and with what results), make barriers visible and propose concrete adjustments in financing and governance that enable

youth to play a structural role in the climate and democratic transition of LAC.

1.4 Purpose of the report

This report arises from the convergence between crisis and possibility in a region facing increasingly severe climate impacts, but also a generation that responds with creativity, cooperation and leadership. Its purpose is to make visible, analyze and strengthen the Latin American youth climate ecosystem, documenting its diversity of experiences, the structural challenges that limit its action and the opportunities for more just, accessible and transformative cooperation. **In a context of inequality, institutional distrust and scarcity of direct funding, youth are generating solutions, building networks and transforming ways of doing politics and community.** This leadership is not an emerging phenomenon, but a structural pillar of regional climate action, whose legitimacy and potential require recognition, resources and effective participation in decision making processes.

At the same time, the report seeks to fill a critical knowledge gap: the persistent **absence of systematized information on the scope, impact and sustainability of youth organizations driving climate action** with a special focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. Its value is twofold: **for youth, it offers a platform for recognition and articulation** that strengthens their capacities and shared agendas; **for funders, governments and international organizations, it provides empirical evidence and actionable recommendations to design better support mechanisms.**

Conceived as a living and evolving document, the report aims to accompany the growth of the youth climate movement, serving as a snapshot of the present and a compass for the future: a foundation of knowledge and action that enables the opening of more resources, spaces and recognition for Latin American youth who today sustain the hope of a just and democratic transition for their communities, countries and region.

Chapter 2
METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach

This report adopts a mixed research approach, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques to characterize the role, capacities, challenges, and opportunities of climate youth in Latin America and the Caribbean. The methodology is grounded in two guiding principles: climate justice and intersectionality, understood as analytical lenses that allow examining how youth impacts and contributions are distributed according to territorial, gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic inequalities.

The research was based on three main sources of information:

- **Literature review:** compilation and analysis of studies from international organizations (UNICEF, OECD, WMO, among others).
- **Quantitative data** from organizations and initiatives registered on the Climaps platform since its inception.
- **Interviews:** both with funders, to understand their perspective on the youth climate movement at global and regional levels, and with youth organizations.

2.2 Criteria for interviews with organizations

The interviews followed a common guide that sought to cover five dimensions: organizational profile, territorial impact, organizational challenges, funding dynamics, needs and recommendations. To ensure diversity and representativeness, selection criteria were defined based on:

- **Organizational and thematic diversity:** inclusion of local collectives, established youth NGOs, regional networks and platforms with different approaches to work.
- **Contextual and geographic variety:** although no explicit geographic distribution was established, efforts were made to include organizations from different countries and socioenvironmental contexts, in order to reflect the territorial and cultural plurality of the Latin American youth ecosystem.
- **Cultural and gender diversity:** prioritizing the participation of women, indigenous youth and afro descendant youth in leadership roles.
- **Comparative perspective:** inclusion of interviews with international and regional funders, to understand how they perceive and support the youth movement.

2.3 Selection of organizations

Sampling was intentional and non probabilistic, seeking balance between countries and subregions, as well as among organizations with different levels of institutionalization (legally registered, in formation or informal). Priority was given to those with a track record of territorial or political advocacy, and that represented diverse modalities of climate action: environmental education, community projects, international advocacy, and innovative proposals in financing or governance.

The inclusion of funders was based on their relevance and experience in the regional ecosystem of support for youth, ensuring anonymity in order to protect the confidentiality of testimonies.

2.4 Data collection

Primary information was collected through semi structured interviews, with a duration between 45 and 60 minutes, and conducted mostly virtually between July and September 2025. All interviews followed a previously agreed script, which allowed maintaining comparability between organizations and countries.

The interviews were transcribed, organized and systematized in thematic tables with the following categories for youth organizations: Participation and organization, Territorial impact and contribution, Financing, Capacities and needs, Recommendations; and for funders: Perspectives, Previous experiences, Gaps, Regional perspective, Recommendations. To complement this systematization, a parallel qualitative record was implemented aimed at preserving meaningful information that predefined categories could obscure. Through this procedure, the loss of nuances was avoided, atypical cases and inter category relationships were captured, and the interpretative validity of the analysis was strengthened.

Additionally, a documentary review of academic literature, regional reports and statistical data was conducted, in order to contextualize the findings of the interviews and strengthen methodological triangulation.

2.5 Data analysis

The analysis of the information was carried out with the objective of transforming the collected data into interpretative findings that reflect both regional trends and local particularities. This process sought to ensure that the voices of youth and funders remained faithful to their contexts, while generating a comparative and coherent reading at the regional level. The analysis was developed in three stages:

1. **Thematic coding:** identification of main ideas, quotations and narrative patterns by category of analysis.

2. **Triangulation:** cross checking of information between youth and funder interviews, as well as with Climaps data and secondary literature.

3. **Narrative integration:** selection of textual quotations and illustrative cases, which are incorporated into the report as qualitative evidence of the analysis.

2.6 Quality assessment

In order to strengthen the validity and reliability of the study, various control and review mechanisms were applied throughout all stages of the research. This process sought to ensure consistency between sources, fidelity of transcriptions, and robustness of analytical interpretations.

The main strategies implemented to guarantee the methodological quality of the report are detailed below:

- Inclusion of textual quotations from interviews to support interpretations.
- Cross review of transcriptions and categorization of information.
- Partial anonymization of funder testimonies, in order to protect confidentiality and encourage candid responses.
- Comparison of findings with previous studies and regional statistics, which allows evaluating the external coherence of the results.

2.7 Desafíos y limitaciones

As with any research process in complex and diverse contexts, this study faced a series of methodological and operational limitations. Recognizing them is essential to properly interpret the scope of the findings and to guide future research and policies to support the youth climate movement.

The main challenges identified are grouped into the following dimensions:

- **Representativeness:** although a diverse sample was sought, the coverage of interviews (19 youth organizations and funders) does not allow reflecting the full range of experiences in the region.
- **Urban digital bias:** the virtual format favored the inclusion of organizations with stable internet access, which limited the participation of rural collectives or those with fewer technological resources.
- **Language gaps:** interviews were conducted in Spanish, English and Portuguese; however, translation may imply a loss of cultural and linguistic nuances.
- **Quality and updating of secondary data:** the Climaps database constitutes a valuable source to dimension the youth ecosystem, but may include organizations that are no longer active or whose records have not been updated, as well as organizations and movements that exist but are not part of the registry. Therefore, it is essential to periodically validate and refine the information, ensuring that analyses reflect the current reality of the movement.
- **Time and resources:** the interview schedule was tight, which reduced the possibility of conducting longer feedback and validation processes with interviewed actors. Likewise, there was no logistical capacity to ensure the systematic inclusion of one regional organization and one rural organization in each country, which limited the diversity of territorial perspectives.
- **Self representation bias:** organizations with greater institutional trajectory tend to have more availability and response capacity, which may overrepresent their voices and perspectives compared to emerging collectives and or volunteer based groups.

Despite these limitations, the adopted methodology allows for the construction of a first contextual and comparative overview of the youth climate movement in Latin America and the Caribbean, generating useful inputs both for youth and for funders and public policy makers.

Chapter 3
TRENDS AND IMPACT OF THE YOUTH CLIMATE MOVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

The following section presents the main findings derived from the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the regional youth climate ecosystem. The information is based on data collected by Climaps, a platform that currently maps nearly 500 youth organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, and that makes it possible to identify trends, areas of action, and linkages between actors.

Figure 1: Spatial distribution of organizations registered on Climaps.org

Country	Quantity	Porcentaje
Colombia	78	16,39 %
Argentina	63	13,24 %
Perú	53	11,13 %
México	44	9,24 %
Ecuador	38	7,98 %
Costa Rica	32	6,72 %
Chile	28	5,88 %
Bolivia	27	5,67 %
Brasil	24	5,04 %
Venezuela	16	3,36 %
El Salvador	15	3,15 %
Panamá	12	2,52 %
Paraguay	12	2,52 %
Honduras	10	2,10 %
Guatemala	8	1,68 %
República Dominicana	5	1,05%
Haití	5	1,05%
Uruguay	3	0,63%
Belice	1	0,21%

Source: Own elaboration with data from Climaps

This input, from Climaps, which identifies youth organizations in different parts of the region as shown in Figure 1, was complemented with the interviews conducted during the information gathering process for the preparation of this document, which provide deeper insight into organizational dynamics, learning processes, and the challenges that youth face in their territories.

The analysis is organized at two levels:

- **Quantitative,** through the systematization of Climaps records and their characterization based on the information provided by organizations in the form used to join the platform.

- **Qualitative,** based on the testimonies and narratives of the organizations interviewed, which offer a richer understanding of the context, strategies, and impacts of youth action.

Together, these data provide a snapshot that makes it possible to identify trends in the youth climate movement in the region, highlighting its thematic diversity, which ranges from environmental education, direct conservation, policy advocacy, climate justice and socioenvironmental communication, as well as its growing role in transforming systems of access to financing and intergenerational collaboration.

3.1 Profile of the youth climate movement in Latin America

3.1.1 Evolution in the formation of organizations

The last decade has witnessed an expansion of the youth climate action movement in Latin America and the Caribbean, driven both by the urgency of environmental impacts and by the organizational maturity of its leadership. **What began as a wave of mobilizations between 2018 and 2019 has evolved into a diverse and structured network of collectives, NGOs and regional platforms with presence in multiple countries and levels of influence.** Youth in the region have not only responded to global agendas, such as the rise of the Fridays for Future movement (Viernes por el futuro) or the debates around the COP, but have also produced their own narrative, rooted in social justice, territorial rights and the defense of common goods.

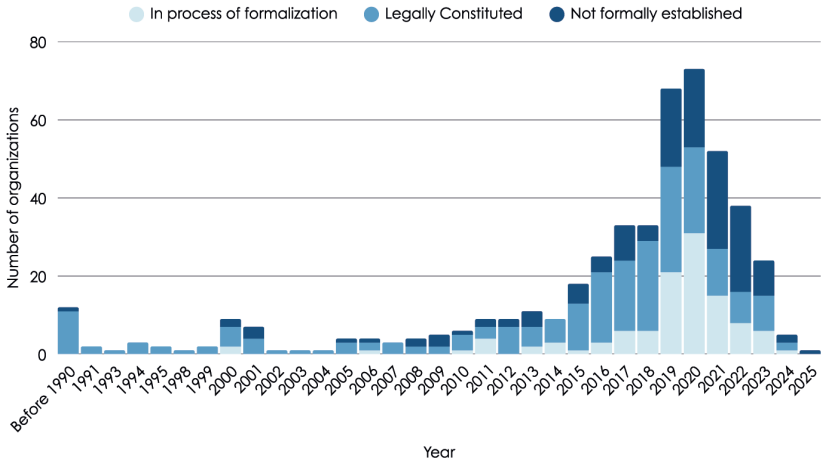
From 2019 onwards, this expansion has also translated into a gradual process of formalization and institutionalization, where various initiatives that emerged from citizen mobilization have adopted legal structures and more solid governance models. This shift responds both to the need to access funding and institutional recognition, as well as to the desire to sustain long term impact through project development and the generation of action and advocacy beyond activism.

This consolidation process shows that **the youth climate movement has advanced toward becoming a more stable, organized and expanding social force, combining mobilization, knowledge and institutional management** to build alternative futures from the territories.

The data collected through Climaps and the interviews conducted allow for a more precise understanding of who composes this movement, how they operate and in which areas they concentrate their action. The quantitative analysis provides a complementary snapshot of the regional landscape, revealing trends regarding the year of formation of organizations, their size and internal composition, the percentage of women who make them up, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that guide their work. It also makes it possible to distinguish their level of impact (local, national or regional) and to identify the main strengths that sustain their collective action, from the ability to generate networks and alliances, to educational

innovation and territorial advocacy.

Figure 2: Year of formation and legal constitution of organizations in LAC registered on Climaps

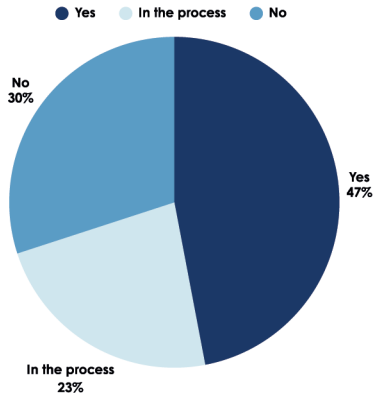


Source: Own elaboration with data from Climaps, 2025.

The analysis of the year of formation of organizations reveals **a trend of sustained growth over the last decade,** with a particularly pronounced increase between 2019 and 2021, coinciding with the rise of global youth climate movements. This period marks a turning point, youth activism shifted from sporadic mobilization with periodic actions toward the creation of stable organizational structures (Figure 2). In quantitative terms, between 2019 and 2022, 193 youth organizations were created in LAC, representing 40 % of the organizations registered on *Climaps*. Before 2015, the number of active organizations registered was significantly lower; however, between 2019 and 2023 a new fabric of collectives has emerged, driven by greater collective awareness of the state of climate change, the rise of social media and the need to fill the climate action gap that youth identify in their spaces of action.

At the same time, *Climaps* data show that **more than two thirds of organizations (70 %) have some level of legal formalization or are in the process of formalizing,** while the rest report operating informally (Figure 3), sometimes under community structures, student networks or collectives without legal status. This coexistence reflects both the diversity of organizational models and the administrative barriers that youth face in consolidating their legal status. In several countries, registration processes are complex, costly or inadequate for horizontal and volunteer based structures. Even so, the overall trend reflects a transition toward institutionalization, motivated by the need to access funding, strengthen internal governance and participate in public policy spaces that require legal and formal registration of organizations.

Figure 3: Legally constituted organizations in LAC



Source: Own elaboration with data from Climaps, 2025.

3.1.2 Age composition of youth organizations

The data collected through *Climaps* show that **the core of the youth climate movement** (people between 18 and 35 years old) in Latin America and the Caribbean is mainly composed of young **organizations with an average age of 25 years.** Disaggregated, most organizations have an average age of their members between 18 and 25 years, with 251 organizations, representing 53 % of the total. Then, organizations with an average age of their members between 25 and 35 years account for 200 cases (42 %). In contrast, organizations with an average age of their members under 18 years are only 25 (5 %), which shows a lower participation of adolescents in this sample, although expanding through educational programs and school volunteering.

This distribution reveals that **youth climate leadership in the region is mainly in the hands of young adults (18 to 35 years old) in university or early professional stages, who combine time management between activism, training and work** (Table 1). At the same time, it reflects a process of generational maturation, where climate action ceases to be seen as an exclusively student phenomenon and becomes consolidated as a space of professional youth advocacy.

Table 1: Age of those participating in climate organizations in LAC

Average age	Quantity	Percentage
Under 18 years	25	5,25 %
From 18 to 25 years	251	52,73 %
From 25 to 35 years	200	42,02 %

Source: Own elaboration with data from *Climaps*, 2025.

3.1.3 Participation and leadership of women

Regarding gender composition, data from the regional mapping show predominantly female and diverse leadership within the youth climate ecosystem. **Women represent 58,1 % of those who make up the organizations**[52]. This proportion highlights that youth climate action in **the region is marked by a strong presence of female leadership, both in coordination roles and in public spokesperson roles and advocacy processes.** Far from being an exception, this balance constitutes a distinctive feature of the movement.

3.1.4 Size and composition of teams

The analysis of the size of mapped organizations reveals an ecosystem that is diverse in scale, structure and mode of operation, where the number of active members does not necessarily translate into greater institutionalization or stronger operational capacity. **Of the registered organizations, 145 have between 1 and 10 active members, and 136 have between 11 and 25 people, representing more than half of the total (59 %).** These organizations tend to have horizontal structures, limited resources and a strong volunteer component, prioritizing local action and networked work over institutional bureaucratization.

In the intermediate ranges, **95 organizations have between 26 and 50 members (20 %) and 41 have up to 100 members (9 %), while only 59 organizations (around 12 %) exceed 100 active participants,** including 18 that bring together more than 500 people (Table 2). However, this numerical scale must be interpreted with caution, since a larger number of members does not necessarily imply greater formality or stability. In many cases, **organizations with hundreds of members function as distributed networks or territorial nodes,** sometimes fragmented and other times highly coordinated, **operating under flexible models of participation and shared leadership.**

This diversity reflects both the adaptive richness of the youth climate movement and the complexity of evaluating its institutional capacity under traditional criteria. This is based on the hypothesis that there is no single "correct" form of organization. **While some collectives opt for small and agile structures that prioritize autonomy and territorial rootedness, others choose broad networks with national or regional reach.** What emerges overall is **a dynamic, decentralized and constantly evolving ecosystem,** where numerical scale coexists with multiple forms of governance, collaboration and belonging that define the identity of the youth movement in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Table 2: Number of participants in climate organizations in LAC

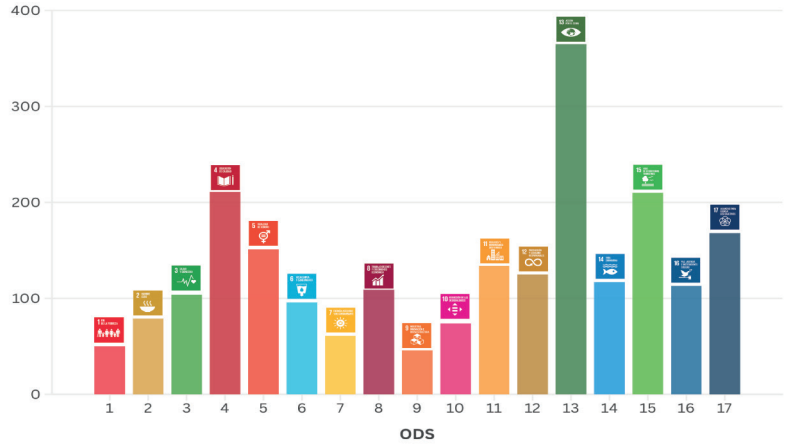
Active members	Quantity	Percentage
0-10	145	31 %
11-25	136	29 %
26-50	95	20 %
51-100	41	8 %
101-500	41	8 %
500-1000+	18	4 %

Source: Own elaboration with data from *Climaps*, 2025

3.1.5 Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and Strengths of the Youth Climate Ecosystem

The data collected through *Climaps* show that **youth organizations in Latin America approach climate action from a broad and interconnected perspective,** linking with social, educational and justice objectives. Based on the responses of organizations, where they could indicate a maximum of 3 SDGs in which they prioritize their work, different areas of action were identified.

Figure 4 : Contribution by SDG in climate organizations in LAC



Source: Own elaboration with data from *Climaps*, 2025.

The data show that **SDG 13: Climate action concentrates the majority of initiatives, with 365 organizations (76 %),** which is consistent with the profile of organizations that identify with the call for climate action that Climaps brings together. This is **followed by SDG 04: Quality education and SDG 15: Life on land, both with 211 organizations each (44 %),** figures that highlight the relevance of environmental education and territorial protection as axes of action. In contrast, objectives such as SDG 01: No poverty or SDG 09: Industry, innovation and infrastructure show lower presence (50 and 46 organizations respectively), although they emerge as areas of opportunity to connect the climate agenda with green job creation, local innovation and socioeconomic justice.

This distribution reaffirms the **intersectional nature of youth activism in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the boundaries between climate, human rights and development are diffuse.** Based on this, it can be assumed that youth understand climate action as a social, cultural and political phenomenon, not only an environmental one. Overall, the quantitative data and the experiences gathered in the interviews confirm that youth organizations are actively contributing to multiple dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, positioning SDG 13 as a meeting point between climate justice and the social transformations demanded by their territories. This comprehensive approach translates into projects that combine education with citizen participation, policy advocacy with ecological regeneration, and communication with community building.

3.1.6 Strengths of Youth Climate Organizations

The diversity of capacities through which youth drive climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean stands out. Table 3 summarizes the main strengths identified among the organizations mapped by *Climaps*, where they had to indicate 3 within the available options.

Table 3: Strengths of climate organizations in LAC

Strengths	Number of organizations (478 in total)	Percentage
Education and awareness	383	80 %
Communication and campaigns	249	52 %
Volunteering	238	50 %
Research and technical knowledge	186	39 %
Public policy advocacy	185	39 %
Presence in international events (COP, COY, etc.)	119	25 %
Cleanups and planting	114	24 %
Business transition	27	5 %

Source: Own elaboration with data from *Climaps*, 2025.

The figures reflect a clear orientation toward education, communication and social mobilization. In Latin America, **more than 80 % of organizations prioritize educational and awareness activities,** confirming the pedagogical role of youth as multipliers of climate knowledge. These initiatives include environmental education programs in schools and communities, as well as territorial training processes and workshops for the development of young leaders.

Communication and campaigns, with 249 organizations, represent 52 % of the total, **constituting another key tool to make local issues visible, inform, and build networks.** These are key efforts, especially considering that currently a large percentage of the population in LAC uses social media as a source of information. Actions include outreach in community media, production of digital content and coordination of thematic campaigns on social networks aimed at mobilizing different audiences around climate action.

Public policy advocacy, with 185 organizations and 39 % of the total, **although less widespread, shows the growing interest of youth in influencing the formulation and implementation of public policies**, as well as participating in international negotiation spaces. The creation of local regulatory proposals, participation in legislative hearings or municipal working groups and presence in international forums that promote peer learning and regional coordination are observed.

Practical actions, such as cleanups, planting and volunteering activities, with more than

350 combined mentions, represent a tangible commitment to environmental regeneration, ecosystem protection and the construction of sustainable and participatory communities. These activities include cleanup campaigns in riverbanks and beaches, urban and peri urban reforestation, ecosystem restoration and community nurseries, consolidating volunteering as one of the structural pillars of the youth movement.

For their part, **business transition initiatives and green entrepreneurship, although less frequent, show an emerging field of innovation where youth combine sustainability, local development and decent employment.** Examples include circular economy projects, environmental services for small businesses and pilot experiences in energy efficiency.

Overall, **these strengths describe a dynamic youth ecosystem, with high capacity for mobilization, creativity and transformative vocation.** Education, communication and volunteering are configured as structuring axes of youth climate action, while policy advocacy, international presence and green entrepreneurship reflect processes of professionalization and innovation with potential for expansion.

3.1.7 How is climate action perceived from these organizations?

Based on interviews conducted with young representatives of civil society organizations, the following findings emerge:

The profile of initiatives and the impact of youth organizations in the region is reflected in a wide diversity of projects and initiatives that have managed to influence both locally and internationally. A key area of these efforts has been the creation of spaces for gathering that bring together communities or groups with common purposes, often with financial support from investors who recognize the value of these initiatives. Alongside this, the development that seeks the inclusion of youth in citizen consultation processes linked to new environmental regulations is positioned as an activity that enables the generation of new leadership and spokespersons. However, this path has not been without challenges, as in several countries of the region these processes still lack clear regulation, **which forces youth to redouble efforts to validate their presence and voice.** Even so, in some cases, their advocacy has contributed to the creation of binding legal instruments that advance environmental protection.

An important participation gap is nevertheless identified: **young people without formal academic training are frequently excluded, under the perception that they do not possess the necessary preparation to contribute.** This invisibilizes the realities and experiences that these youth bring from their territories and communities, losing valuable contributions to deliberation processes.

Another central aspect of youth impact lies in training, education and empowerment projects. **These initiatives identify gaps and opportunities in local communities, with a strong emphasis on gender equity as a contribution to social justice.** These training spaces are developed both in the field, together with communities, and in virtual environments with broad reach, always with the intention of providing tools that strengthen knowledge and collective

action.

Specific projects focused on local challenges, such as air quality, conservation or decarbonization, also stand out as priority areas of action.

Finally, it is observed that **a significant number of these organizations,** even without explicitly intending it, **have become incubators of leadership in climate action.** From their ranks, **young people have emerged who today hold relevant roles in political, social, academic and even private sectors,** expanding the reach and influence of the youth movement in the region.

3.1.8 Integration of scientific evidence

All youth organizations interviewed recognize the importance of scientific evidence as the basis of their actions and advocacy processes. However, depending on the country, a certain level of distrust is perceived toward the information provided by both the public and private sectors, due to possible biases or lack of integrity in the data, which raises doubts about its reliability.

In response, **the need to have open and accessible data platforms for society as a whole is repeatedly expressed,** in line with the principles of the Escazú Agreement. Transparency and availability of information are seen as fundamental conditions to strengthen citizen participation and informed decision making.

Another relevant point is **the need to translate scientific findings and evidence into clear and understandable language for civil society,** which does not always have technical training. This practice would help avoid misinterpretations that lead to political polarization: many times, decisions based on scientific evidence are perceived as ideological, or vice versa, due to lack of clarity in communication.

However, it is also recognized that science and data communication are not completely neutral spaces. In some cases, the selective dissemination of results, aligned with the priorities or narratives of funders, can invisibilize issues that territorial organizations experience firsthand. This dynamic not only shapes public debate, but can also affect the access of youth climate actors to funding and support, especially when the severity or urgency of local impacts is perceived as lower from an external or technocratic perspective.

For this reason, **strengthening ethical and transparent communication between science, communities and youth organizations is essential to build trust and ensure that climate decisions truly respond to territorial realities.**

While traditional or western science is valued and used as a reference, youth also emphasize **the importance of integrating ancestral knowledge, particularly that led by indigenous women.** It is proposed that research centers and funds allocated to science prioritize projects that articulate both forms of knowledge, recognizing the richness of diverse perspectives in addressing socioenvironmental challenges.

Finally, interviews highlighted **a strong call for scientific research to have a closer link with**

public policy formulation. A disconnect has been identified between the real needs of society and the lines of research currently funded, which limits the potential of science as a tool for social and environmental transformation.

3.2 Scope of the activities of the youth climate movement

When and why youth organizations emerge

The interviews show that, in general, youth climate organizations in the region did not emerge in an abstract way, but rather **as a direct response to moments of rupture:** the discussion of a law or treaty (such as regional environmental agreements), the arrival of a government that dismantles environmental institutions, a socioenvironmental contingency in the territory, or the perception that the concerns of their community were not being represented.

Several testimonies place the origin of their organizations between 2018 and 2021, in the midst of three converging processes: the global cycle of climate mobilization, the discussion of new environmental regulatory frameworks and, in some countries, the closure of civic space. A recurring phrase in the interviews sums it up:

> "We decided to organize when we realized that, if we did not speak up, no one was going to put these issues on the table"

In addition, **youth climate organizations in Latin America explicitly articulate their action with human rights, indigenous peoples and gender equity agendas.** This intersectional approach is not limited to discourse, but is translated into concrete practices of collaboration and into the construction of diverse alliances.

In some cases, youth initiatives have emerged from the need to defend collective rights linked to indigenous and rural territories. As expressed in the interviews:

> "We were born (as an organization) in 2020 to talk about the Escazú Agreement and its importance for our communities"

In several cases, **that founding moment is linked to a first experience of frustration or exclusion** (not being considered in decisions that affect them, consultation processes with little transparency, lack of information), which is transformed into organizational momentum. From there emerges a key idea for this diagnosis: **youth climate organizations are born when young people identify a concrete gap** between what is happening in their territories and what is being discussed in spaces of power.

Climate justice, territories and communities

Climate justice appears in the interviews not as a label, but as a common framework that runs through youth action. For indigenous and rural organizations, entry into the climate agenda occurs when they see their territories threatened by investment projects (extractive or otherwise) or by decisions adopted without adequate consultation. For urban youth, climate is linked to unequal access to basic services, air quality, transport, housing, water and public spaces.

A message that is repeated in different voices is:

> "It is important not only to support initiatives that care for nature, but also to protect those who defend it".

Within this approach, climate action is interwoven with the defense of human rights, the demand for transparency, participation in consultation processes and the protection of defenders. When they mention instruments such as regional environmental agreements or international conventions on indigenous peoples, they do so as **concrete tools to raise standards of participation and protection,** not as abstract frameworks.

The analysis highlights that these experiences have woven intergenerational alliances with indigenous women leaders, consolidating organizational models that place gender justice and the right to self determination at the center.

The interviews show that the defense of territories and communities constitutes a central axis of youth climate action in Latin America. This defense is expressed both in rural and urban spheres, and combines advocacy strategies, local projects and community alliances.

A prominent example is the work in Amazonian communities, where young people emphasize the importance of equipping their territories with tools for the defense of collective rights and sustainable environmental management. These initiatives show how climate action becomes a pathway to strengthen community autonomy and guarantee the protection of biodiversity.

In a complementary way, the collective character of these struggles is also underlined, reflecting how youth articulate territorial defense with a vision of climate justice that transcends borders.

> "We have a very strong collective sense (…) we organize to protect territories and generate global impact"

Other organizations have shown how climate action connects with training and territorial advocacy, expanding opportunities for rural communities and reinforcing access to fundamental rights such as environmental education and participation in local decisions.

Likewise, urban collectives and citizen laboratories show that the dignification of youth work and the opening of spaces for the voice of young people in climate policies are also expressions of social justice. As they summarized in one of the interviews:

> "Highlighting the importance of youth participation in these processes (of public policy) is fundamental for change"

Taken together, these experiences show that youth **do not address the climate crisis in isolation, but as part of a fabric of historical struggles** for the recognition of indigenous peoples, gender equality and respect for human rights.

In urban spaces, **other organizations have transformed neighborhoods and cities into settings for climate action,** generating community projects that resignify their community. These processes not only recover degraded spaces, but also create references for climate action at the local level.

Likewise, regional experiences indicate how **youth movements are constituted as diverse ecosystems that articulate youth collectives, neighborhood organizations and local actors.** The need for a strong territorial presence and for

community collaborations that guarantee continuity is emphasized .

However, limitations are also recognized. **Several organizations indicated that,** despite their achievements, **they face financial challenges and a lack of structural support** to sustain their territorial defense initiatives in the long term.

Thus, it becomes evident that the defense of territories and communities is not only one component of youth climate action, but its very foundation: the struggle for the life, dignity and sustainability of the peoples and cities of the region.

Community based solutions

An important part of youth climate action in Latin America is expressed concretely through local projects that **combine reforestation, biodiversity protection, renewable energy projects in schools and community education.** These initiatives generate direct environmental impacts, **strengthen the social fabric and civic awareness in the face of the climate crisis.**

An example of this is the creation of environmental monitoring networks and educational programs in rural communities that seek, among other things, to equip young people with tools to influence the sustainable management of their territories. This approach integrates technical training with community awareness, expanding the capacity for influence from the local level.

In urban contexts, **projects for transforming degraded spaces into sustainable environments stand out,** as shown by initiatives that combine environmental restoration with community participation. These processes make it possible to link climate action with the right to the city and the improvement of quality of life.

In the educational sphere, several organizations report significant reach through workshops in schools and universities, training cycles and campaigns on social media that reach thousands or even millions of people per month when considering the capacity for reach through social media. **Environmental education is consolidated as one of the most powerful strategies of the youth movement.** Through massive awareness campaigns, some organizations have reinforced the idea that climate action begins in classrooms and in everyday community work.

These experiences show that **youth climate action does not remain at the discursive level:** it translates into concrete changes in the use of spaces, in the way of producing and consuming, and in community organization.

By combining direct action (reforestation, river or beach cleanups, biodiversity protection) with advocacy in local policies and the building of awareness, these community based **efforts become local projects, climate innovation laboratories and spaces for collective learning.**

Organizational models and portfolios of action

Once established, these organizations are not limited to a single type of activity. Most operate with **multifaceted portfolios of action,** combining:

- Education and training of youth.
- Policy advocacy and participation in regulatory processes.
- Territorial and community projects.
- Communication and narrative building.
- Initiatives linked to new economies and decent work.

Although teams are usually small and many people work part time, they take on multiple roles: strategic direction, territorial coordination, project design, fundraising and representation in negotiation spaces. One testimony describes it as follows:

> "I am literally involved in everything: from executive direction to coordination of research and education"

In some cases, the organizational form itself is a political decision. Some collectives, especially indigenous ones, consciously choose not to establish themselves as legal entities:

> "We do not have legal status out of coherence with self determination… we are willing to work twice as hard to validate ourselves"

This decision reflects a central tension between legal recognition and political and cultural integrity. Meanwhile, other organizations define themselves as youth laboratories or "think and do tanks", organizing their work into stable areas (education, research, communication, community adaptation) and managing interdisciplinary teams of young people.

The emerging landscape is not that of a "spontaneous" and disordered movement, but rather that of **an ecosystem that, even with limited resources, thinks and acts in a strategic and structured way.**

Integration of scientific knowledge and ancestral knowledge

A distinctive feature of the youth climate movement in the region is its ability to articulate scientific knowledge with ancestral and local knowledge. This integration responds both to the cultural diversity of Latin America and to the need to legitimize their demands in political and technical spaces.

In Amazonian territories, youth emphasize that ancestral knowledge is fundamental for climate management. Complementarily, it is also recognized that this knowledge needs to engage in dialogue with modern science in or-

der to generate greater influence on public policies in the current context. This dual anchoring allows them to sustain community practices while participating in national and international debates.

> "The most important thing in the territory is ancestral knowledge"

For this reason, some organizations have created or collaborate with research hubs that provide scholarships and volunteer opportunities to young researchers, with special emphasis on Black, indigenous and youth from excluded territories. This approach seeks to **decolonize who produces knowledge about climate** and to open science to historically excluded actors.

In other spaces, hybrid methodologies are developed with participatory diagnoses, applied research and data production that are combined with education and territorial work. Scientific evidence is used to support messages in technical and political forums, while local knowledge ensures that proposed solutions respond to the real needs of communities. Thus, testimonies show that scientific data support is key to legitimizing messages in decision making spaces. In several cases, **research is closely linked to communication and education strategies, which strengthens the capacity of youth to influence public arenas.**

At the same time, urban and regional organizations develop hybrid methodologies that combine applied scientific research with popular education processes and territorial work. One example is the "think and do tank" model oriented toward knowledge generation that links evidence production with concrete practices of advocacy and application of generated knowledge.

This intersection between science and local knowledge is not free of tensions (for example, around who translates, who speaks "on behalf of" territories), **but it constitutes one of the greatest innovations of the youth movement:** legitimizing ancestral knowledge in academic and political spaces, and at the same time enriching science with lived experience in territories. In this way, **youth climate action is grounded both in the memory and experience of peoples, and in contemporary science.**

Advocacy and representation: between access and effectiveness

The organizations interviewed participate in different levels of decision making, such as legislative processes, environmental consultations, local planning spaces, meetings with authorities and international forums. However, they do not describe this participation in a triumphalist way, but with a critical and analytical perspective.

On one hand, they report concrete advances such as contributions to legislative initiatives, participation in working groups, facilitation of dialogue between communities and authorities, and organization of multi stakeholder meetings to promote specific reforms. On the other hand, they point to contexts where the closure of civic space, the criminalization of activism or the dismantling of environmental institutions have severely limited possibilities for advocacy.

A cross cutting concern is that youth participation becomes trapped at a symbolic level:

> "We were invited and we felt comfortable there. The challenge is that those invitations translate into advocacy (public policy or legislation) and not just into a photo"

This diagnosis points to a shift in the movement where **the goal is no longer only to gain access, but to establish mechanisms** for follow up, accountability and co-design that allow participation to translate into regulatory, budgetary and programmatic changes.

At the international level, participation in global conferences and transnational networks is valued as an opportunity to legitimize territorial work, build alliances and position Latin American perspectives. However, persistent barriers are identified such as the use of English, inequality in who can travel and lack of resources to continue processes initiated in those spaces.

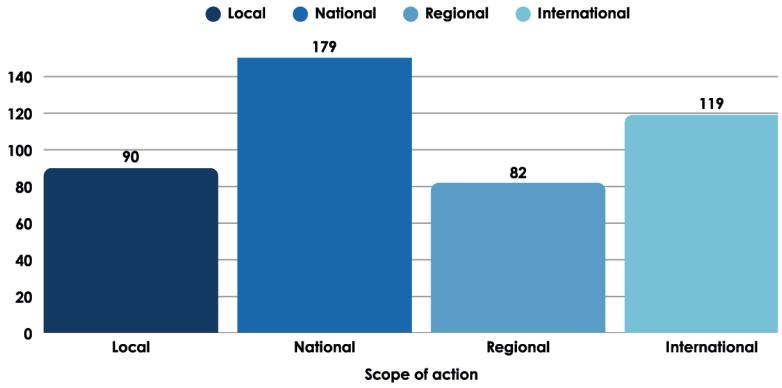
International advocacy constitutes one of the most visible strategies of youth climate movements in the region. Through participation in global conferences such as the Conference of the Parties (COP) and in international networks, **youth seek to position local realities within the global climate agenda** (Figure 6).

Interviews highlighted that presence in these spaces is not limited to visibility, but represents a form of political advocacy, as it allows linking territorial experiences with global debates. Several organizations noted that, thanks to these opportunities, they were able to **strengthen their legitimacy and build connections with other international actors, which also reinforces their work at the local level.**

In addition, the role of transnational youth networks is emphasized, as they function as platforms for exchange of experiences and mutual strengthening. These networks have facilitated the creation of regional campaigns and the coordination of simultaneous actions in different countries, demonstrating the capacity of youth to articulate collective responses beyond borders.

Taken together, these experiences show that youth participation in the international sphere is not an end in itself, but a means to strengthen

Figure 5 : Territorial scope of climate organizations in LAC



Source: Own elaboration with data from Climaps, 2025.

the legitimacy of local struggles and connect Latin American climate justice with the global debate.

Challenges in representation and language barriers

Youth participation in international and regional spaces faces limitations that affect its representativeness and effectiveness. Several interviews highlighted that those who are able to travel to global forums are usually young people with access to scholarships or international support, which reduces the presence of communities directly affected by climate impacts.

Language appears as another central obstacle. The predominance of English in these spaces restricts the capacity for advocacy of many youth organizations that lack sufficient language training, creating exclusion and limiting equal conditions.

It was also noted that **youth representation risks becoming a symbolic gesture rather than a real process of influence.** In this sense, several organizations emphasized that: "there is a lack of youth participation in design and implementation" and pointed to the need to build collective and transparent mechanisms of representation that recognize territorial diversity and ensure co design and co implementation processes.

> "There is a lack of youth participation in design and implementation"

In addition, interviews reveal a deep reflection on youth leadership within the climate movement. Media visibility is recognized as an important tool that facilitates access to decision making spaces and resources, but also as a space where personal risks are concentrated and inequalities are reproduced. Others highlight that international representation must be rooted in collective processes rather than individual decisions:

> "There is a role dynamic: those with more experience in international management represent (social movements in those spaces), but everything starts from prior community consensus"

At the same time, the tendency to glorify individual figures is questioned:

> "The West loves the story of the leader… it can build trust but tends to glorify. Transparency matters, without personalism".

Fatigue also appears in relation to the expectation of constantly performing on social media:

> "I have seen organizations that without a face still achieve impact".

These reflections suggest that the youth movement is seeking more distributed, caring and transparent leadership models, with rotating spokespersons, diverse teams of representatives and clear protocols to ensure that those who speak on behalf of an organization do so with collective backing and with minimum conditions of safety and well being.

The lack of structural funding was also identified as a fundamental challenge. Organizations emphasized that very few funds allow coverage of organizational budgets, which

limits the continuity and sustainability of teams and projects. Among the recommendations, the importance of direct funding to communities, support for local youth leadership and the establishment of stable and long term mechanisms was highlighted.

In this way, **some of the main challenges identified are inequality in representation, language barriers, the risk of symbolic participation and the fragility of funding.** Overcoming them implies transforming spaces to ensure that youth participation is truly diverse, legitimate and capable of real influence.

3.3 Alliances and collaborations

Youth organizations in Latin America are characterized by working collaboratively. When they do not have legal status, they tend to link with other entities that act as fiscal sponsors, allowing them to implement projects and receive funding without the need for a formal structure. **Collaboration occurs mainly with organizations of a similar profile, although there are also connections with other sectors.**

As organizations reach greater maturity, **it is common for them to move toward the creation of or integration into formal networks and coalitions**, which allows them to address larger scale projects without needing to grow exponentially. In this process, collaboration takes on a strategic role, as it allows them to increase their capacity for influence and legitimize their voice in decision making spaces by partnering with social movements, established NGOs or academic institutions.

In the case of indigenous organizations, there is an effort to work with actors who respect their worldviews and cultures, avoiding paternalistic practices that limit the autonomy of their internal dynamics.

However, **collaboration also faces challenges related to sustainability.** Coordinating agendas, **respecting different working rhythms and ensuring sufficient resources can generate tensions within alliances.** Even so, many youth organizations opt for innovative and horizontal structures that prioritize participation and "working together" over rigid hierarchies, reinforcing the collective nature of their actions.

In relation to the private sector, **there is greater reluctance to establish alliances due to the controversial track records that many industries carry.** However, it is also recognized that there are private funds that can be directed toward worthy causes, such as climate action or the advancement of human rights. This opens an important reflection: even if an organization's actions are positive, **if funding comes from controversial sources, the value of that work may be questioned by peers, allies and the community.**

With the public sector, collaboration becomes complex when it involves political figures, as it may be interpreted as an association with certain interests, parties or ideological currents.

Collaborations with the public and private sectors can have repercussions on how organizations are perceived by their peers or by those who fund them, so they must act with caution when engaging with this type of actors.

3.4 The Latin American difference: activism, land and community

In Latin America, youth express a deep connection with land, nature and what is endemic. This respect for preserving territories is recognized as a driving force behind their work. Despite gaps in access to funding and resources, youth organizations have developed resilience and a strong capacity for adaptation, maximizing their efforts in contexts of precariousness through collective work and cross cutting skills.

In a political scenario marked by polarization, **youth strive to maintain unity within the movement, recognizing diversity of thought but understanding that collaboration is key to achieving common goals.** This commitment to collective work is complemented by strong passion and commitment in the face of climate urgency, which provides legitimacy and credibility to their actions.

Indigenous leadership highlights the capacity of the youth movement to create safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue, where historically excluded voices are integrated. There is also an emphasis on decentralizing perspectives, incorporating views from territories and not only from centers of power.

From philanthropy, similar elements are recognized: a combination of urgency and creativity, a strong collective sense and a connection with human rights and indigenous peoples. There is also a noted level of sophistication in project implementation and an enthusiasm that translates into joy and passion for the work carried out. At the same time, **the ability of youth to address complex issues is recognized, although there remains a need to strengthen their political influence in more traditional spaces.**

Finally, it is emphasized that, unlike other regions of the Global South where the focus is on the generation of green jobs, in Latin America the youth movement is characterized by a strong emphasis on activism and environmental protection, reflecting its close link with territories and socioenvironmental struggles.

Chapter 4

BETWEEN VOLUNTEERING AND CREATIVITY: CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE YOUTH CLIMATE MOVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

4.1 Structural gaps of the youth climate movement

Youth organizations in Latin America face various gaps and challenges that vary according to their context, reality and objectives. **One of the main challenges is the lack of resources that allow for paid dedication, whether partial or full time, of their members.** This situation leads them to **depend on volunteering**, where levels of dedication are variable and subject to the work or academic demands of the young people involved.

At the international level, **a significant language gap is identified, as many advocacy spaces operate primarily in English.** This difficulty is intensified for youth belonging to indigenous communities, who must navigate a double linguistic barrier.

Another important challenge relates to the accounting and financial management of projects, especially when they involve large scale budgets. The lack of administrative capacity and technical training in these areas creates limitations in meeting the standards required by funders or strategic partners. This challenge persists when various funds linked to project implementation do not allow administrative expenses to be included, whether for dedicated organizational staff or for hiring accounting and auditing services.

Long term financial sustainability is also a recurring concern. In a significant number of cases, **access to funding occurs only through project based competitive funds, which are often restrictive in their use,** making strategic planning and institutional projection difficult.

As a consequence of these conditions, high turnover within teams is also observed, as **it is difficult to retain talent in a context where there are no guarantees of stability or clear mechanisms for continuity.** This dynamic, while reflecting the resilience and adaptability of the youth movement, also limits the consolidation of processes and the accumulation of organizational learning over time.

4.2 Perspective from funders

4.2.1 What is sought for funding

When consulting entities that currently fund civil society and or youth about the aspects they consider relevant when supporting projects or organizations, **the importance of initiatives presenting both qualitative and quantitative impact analysis** was highlighted, prioritizing those that strengthen collective power and the generation of connections. Likewise, **projects with specific and clear objectives are valued,** demonstrating concretely how, through their theory of change, they will achieve the proposed changes (outcomes) through the development of their products (outputs).

Another relevant element is **the invitation for the funding organization to also participate in the design of projects,** along with clarity in the mission of the applying entity and its capacity to collaborate with organizations that share similar objectives. Similarly, **it is essential that organizations can demonstrate learning and adaptation to different contexts,** showing resilience and capacity for adjustment.

Before allocating resources, **funders seek organizations with strong capacities in research, mobilization, coordination and activism,** as well as clear criteria for the use of these funds.

In addition, having trustworthy leadership is recognized as a decisive factor in securing funding. **Much of the trust that funding entities place in youth organizations rests on their leadership (founders, directors, coordinators), whether through personal relationships, experience in project development and the convictions that their leadership communicates.**

In many cases these dynamics can benefit youth organizations, when those leading them have strong networks and communication skills, however, it can also represent difficulties for youth without prior experience, making this positioning process a significant barrier to gaining the credibility needed to access funding.
Finally, **philanthropic actors prefer to start with small scale funding, build trust and then move to larger scale funding,** within the limits of what they are able to support.

4.2.2 Gaps for funders

Funders that already collaborate with youth organizations indicated that, in general, there are no major obstacles to supporting their work. However, **they highlight some recurring factors that somewhat hinder the consolidation of these supports.** One of the most mentioned was **the high turnover of leadership within youth organizations, which complicates continuity in communication and the building of trust,** since relationships are often established with individuals rather than with the organization as a whole.

Another identified aspect was **the tendency of some youth groups to take on too many challenges simultaneously,** which ends up diluting efforts and generating more superficial work, without the depth that certain issues require, or that their own objectives declare.

An important challenge that was also mentioned is **the difficulty of providing "small" amounts of funding that at the same time represent a significant portion of the beneficiary organization's budget, generating a relationship of economic dependency with youth organizations.** Limited availability of funding can lead organizations to have a narrow diversity of funding sources, creating economic depen-

dency on their funders. On the other hand, funders that provide flexible funding seek that their contributions do not represent a large percentage of the annual budget, but at the same time it becomes administratively complex for them to provide small and medium scale funding.

However, **the most frequently mentioned obstacle was the lack of legal status, an institutional bank account and sufficient financial track record managing a certain annual budget (in some cases requiring 2 to 3 years of accounting and legal records).** This condition is recognized as the main challenge in allocating funds, as it significantly limits the ability to channel financial support in a formal and transparent way.

4.2.3 Recommendations from funders

Organizations and philanthropic actors that fund youth in Latin America have shared a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening their impact and sustainability. These recommendations address not only project design, but also the way in which trust based relationships are built and results are communicated.

In this regard, **the importance of trust and mutual support as the foundation of any effective relationship between funders and youth organizations was highlighted.** One interviewee summarized this dynamic very clearly:

> "If you ask for money, you get advice. If you ask for advice, you get money."

This phrase reflects that **the most fruitful relationships arise when youth seek genuine collaboration, exchange of knowledge and shared learning, rather than limiting interactions to the search for financial resources.** This logic of cooperation strengthens trust and opens doors to more stable and sustainable support.

Among the recommendations, the importance of projects going beyond the office and having impact in the field is highlighted, strengthening direct work with communities. In this same sense, it is recommended that the relationship with funding entities not be limited to the delivery of resources, but that they become allies in the process of designing and developing initiatives, which allows for the establishment of long term relationships of trust.

Regarding project design, **it is considered essential to work with a clear theory of change,** understanding that impact is not measured only by the number of participants in activities, but also by how people's lives are transformed through initiatives. **Communicating results effectively is key, combining quantitative language with testimonies and experiences** that reflect real changes in society.

On the other hand, **it is observed that many proposals tend to mix or not clearly differentiate the different elements of project design** (such as the problem, objectives, activities, products (outputs) or expected results (outcomes)), which can make them difficult to understand and evaluate. These situations are usually associated with gaps in technical knowledge and planning capacities, highlighting the need to strengthen these skills within organizations.

It is also suggested that, along with covering

basic operational costs, organizations include spaces for peer learning, internal connectivity and the holistic development of the team. It is emphasized that each member should have opportunities for visibility and growth, and that resources should be allocated to capacity building, including components of mental health, community activities and team retreats.

When designing projects, **it is recommended to consider diverse audiences, incorporating the different realities of society.** For example, even when an organization's team is composed of university students, projects should not be limited to that target audience, but should also include those who have not had access to such opportunities. Likewise, it is considered essential to connect the climate crisis with everyday life, showing how it impacts concrete dimensions of people's lives and avoiding it being perceived as an isolated agenda.

Another recommendation points to strengthening the relationship of youth with politics, not necessarily from partisan affiliation, but through advocacy spaces that allow influence in decision making.

Collaboration is also highlighted as being positively viewed from a philanthropic perspective, understanding that it is not about accumulating institutional logos, but about putting the best of each organization at the service of a common objective. In fact, a common practice mentioned among interviewed donors is peer consultation, where opinions are gathered from organizations already being funded about their perception and experience working with the organization requesting funding, functioning as a complementary verification mechanism.

Transparency and honesty are considered central values. In funding processes, it is **recommended to avoid pretending to know everything**, recognizing when one does not have an answer and committing to provide it later generates more trust than improvising. Similarly, **clearly presenting the risks associated with a project** and the strategies to address them does not weaken the proposal, but rather **demonstrates a deep understanding of the context.**

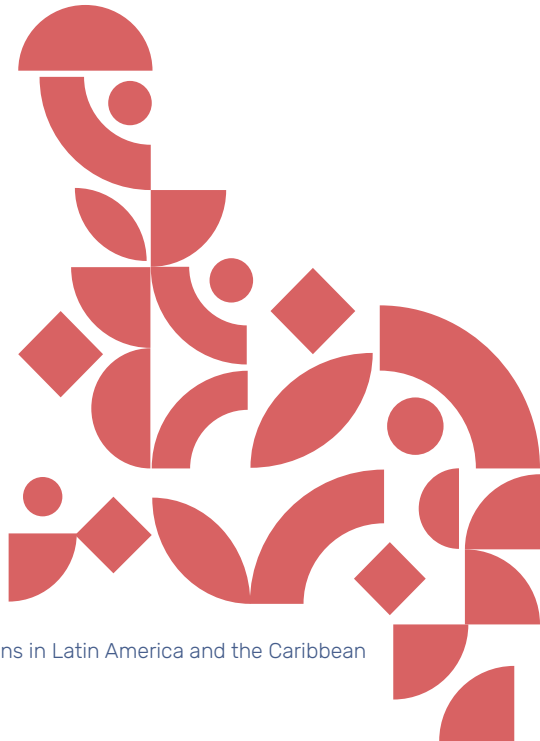
It is also advised **to maintain realism in funding requests, recognizing that it is not necessary to over promise to make a proposal attractive.** Although funding for youth remains limited, and even more scarce in Latin America, it is recommended that the proposed products and activities of projects be realistic in relation to the requested resources, even though youth organizations are sometimes forced to commit to more results in order to secure funding. In these cases, adopting a positive and compelling narrative can help further, showing with evidence why youth working in climate action deserve financial support.

Finally, youth organizations are encouraged to leverage their networks, asking entities that already fund them to connect them with other foundations, and always having a brief document (1 to 2 pages) that clearly presents their work and impact. The key is to adapt the message according to the audience and context, demonstrating flexibility and strategic communication.

4.2.4 On the positioning of leaders or representatives

Although philanthropic actors often highlight the importance of personal connection with those who lead organizations, youth themselves share relevant perceptions. It is positively valued when **youth leadership opens spaces for new voices to emerge**, expanding the network of people capable of generating impact and avoiding concentration of representation in a few figures. For these leaderships to be representative, it is essential that they are supported by concrete work, validated by the communities they seek to serve.

At the same time, the need to **avoid excessive glorification of individuals leading these initiatives is emphasized, remembering that they are human and that collective action is stronger than any individual figure.** In addition, not all leadership needs to be linked to visibility on social media, work "behind the scenes" is equally valuable and deserves recognition and respect, as it also contributes to sustaining and strengthening processes of change.

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Chapter 5

FUNDING DYNAMICS IN YOUTH CLIMATE ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

5.1 Sources of funding

Youth organizations working on climate action in the region depend mainly on international sources, which indicates low diversity in funding sources. To a lesser extent, they also manage to access resources through consultancies, targeted donations, public funds or individual contributions.

The most common funding dynamic occurs through project based open calls, which means that the resources received are usually linked to specific initiatives, concrete indicators and a defined period of time.

At the national level, financial support is sporadic and, in general, corresponds to amounts lower than international ones, or else comes with significant administrative reporting requirements, which makes the sustainability of organizations more difficult. It is uncommon to find cases in which funding is granted on a long term basis and covers operational costs, a situation that generates a high dependency on specific projects and limits the possibilities for institutional consolidation.

5.2 Why fund youth organizations

From organizations that already support youth, several arguments have been identified that reinforce the need to increase funding toward them. First, **youth must be present in decision making spaces,** since the intergenerational perspective is key to broadening the view on the changes and decisions that are taking place today.

Young generations grew up in a context marked by awareness of the climate crisis, which translates into a constant sense of urgency in the face of the challenges we face. Added to this are their creativity, energy and ambition, qualities that need to be supported and channeled effectively. As one interviewed funding entity expressed, youth working on climate are "incredible young professionals in their 20s", highlighting the level of preparation, commitment and leadership they demonstrate, even in contexts of high precarity.

> "...incredible young professionals in their 20s."

A transformational shift around the climate crisis is only possible by bringing together voices from different sectors, realities and generations. In that process, youth emerge as a central actor; however, this potential risks being diluted without adequate funding. Financially supporting this generation is crucial, in order to strengthen its role as a driver of change and harness those talents and innovative ideas from an early age, allowing them to move from volunteer work to

paid dedication, thus ensuring the continuity and sustainability of their impact.

> "young people matter and they should receive funding"

On the other hand, **the agility of youth organizations or movements in their actions is also highlighted**, adapting to changing conditions in their environments in order to carry out their projects and initiatives. In addition, they transcend government periods, which gives them greater continuity.

5.3 Recommendations for funders

Youth organizations working on climate action have shared a series of recommendations that they consider fundamental to strengthen the relationship with philanthropy and other funders. First, they **call for funding to be granted even to those organizations that still do not have legal status**, understanding the contexts and challenges they face. In various cases, when they must resort to a fiscal sponsor, the organization fulfilling that role keeps very high administrative fees that can exceed 10 % of the funding, which significantly reduces the resources available for field work.

Another key aspect is **the need to make the origin of funds transparent.** Youth seek to maintain coherence and alignment with the values that guide their work, and for this they require clarity about the origin of resources. On the other hand, although they value the involvement of funders in the design and development of projects, they also expect the vision and priorities that each organization has defined when engaging with external entities to be respected.

A recurring challenge has to do with administrative requirements. Various funds impose disproportionate bureaucratic burdens, where the amount of documents requested and the time dedication required ends up being greater than the funding granted itself. In addition, an important gap is identified in the amounts available, since while some small funds offer around 5 and 50 thousand dollars and others jump directly to amounts of 200 thousand dollars, there are few opportunities in an intermediate range, which makes the transition and progressive growth of organizations difficult.

Finally, it is recognized that **in Latin America the philanthropic culture is not as developed as in other regions of the world.** This represents a structural barrier, but also an opportunity to innovate in the forms of funding that support youth, facilitating not only the implementation of specific projects, but also the sustainability and consolidation of their organizational structures.

5.4 Keys to effective and sustainable cooperation with funders

Youth organizations identify several key opportunities for funders to strengthen their support and help maximize the impact of their initiatives. First, it is suggested that **funders help open new opportunities, facilitating connections and participation spaces that allow the expansion of youth action networks.**

The importance of **promoting closed and safe spaces for dialogue is highlighted, avoiding paternalistic dynamics, and creating effective participation spaces** that are articulated both at the global and local or territorial level. In this

sense, there is an invitation for work strategies to be co constructed with youth, ensuring that they respond to the needs and priorities that youth themselves identify.

Regarding funding, it is recommended to provide greater opportunities for long term support (multi year) and with flexible restrictions on how it can be used, since limitations such as caps on honoraria or the impossibility of including administrative costs (overhead) significantly reduce the implementation capacity of projects. Likewise, there is emphasis on avoiding symbolic support that does not imply tangible resources nor effectively contribute to the functioning of organizations. Within this same line, the possibility of **simplifying fund reporting processes is identified, in order to avoid dedicating more time to administration and reporting than to the implementation of the project itself.**

Another identified opportunity is **to advise and mentor organizations in order to diversify their sources of funding,** not only by expanding the network of philanthropies, but also by incorporating alternative mechanisms such as the sale of services or the receipt of individual donations. Finally, it is suggested to minimize the use of intermediaries in the transfer of resources, so that organizations can access funds directly and optimize their use, avoiding losses and delays associated with third parties.

Chapter 6
CONCLUSION

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region full of life, diversity and cultural richness, but this natural paradise is increasingly threatened by the impacts of the climate crisis. Although the historical responsibility for this situation lies mainly with developed countries, the Global South, and particularly this region, is the region facing the most severe and unequal consequences.

In this context, **Latin American youth have taken on a leading role in climate action.** Through territorial initiatives, policy advocacy processes, capacity building and community projects, they are generating a deep and transformative impact. Youth have become yet another driving force behind the social changes the planet needs by building organizations, movements and networks that face **a challenge they did not create, but that they decided to take responsibility for.**

However, **their work takes place under complex conditions. The lack of institutional legitimacy, limited funding that implies unpaid work and rigid political structures make the continuity of their work increasingly challenging.** Financial gaps are broad, opportunities for youth are scarce globally and even fewer in Latin America, generating high competition for limited resources. In addition, most of the funds available are allocated by project and rarely cover operational costs, making long term sustainability difficult. Added to this are the multiple restrictions on use, such as limits on honoraria or excessive administrative burdens, which end up exhausting teams and reducing their capacity for action.

The absence of legal status represents another important structural barrier. In several countries, the processes to obtain it are long and complex, preventing organizations from opening bank accounts or receiving funds directly. This forces them to resort to fiscal sponsors, who retain part of the funding in administrative fees, reducing the real impact of the resources received.

Despite this, **the funders that already invest in youth recognize their enormous potential:** creativity, passion and commitment to the territory, their capacity to manage projects and connect with communities, in addition to the deep love for nature and communities that guides their action. Youth work with resilience, collaboration, efficiency and a sense of purpose that transcends generations.

From their experience, youth organizations call for promoting funding with greater diversity of fund types, long term, with greater flexibility and fewer restrictions, that allows them to maintain focus on impact, strengthen their institutional capacity and diversify their sources of resources. **Investing in youth is not only supporting projects, but betting on the very future of climate action in our region.**

Latin American youth have demonstrated that they have the vision, energy and conviction to change

the course of the climate crisis. Now, the question is whether those who have the resources will decide to make this path easier or more difficult. Because **change is inevitable, but its speed and depth depend on the capacity we have as a society to believe in, invest in and support the youth who are already leading the transformation.**

Chapter 7
PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE VERSIONS OF THE REPORT

This report represents a first systematic effort by CLAAC to document, based on empirical evidence, the state, diversity and challenges of youth organizations driving climate action in the region. However, the findings also reveal information gaps that must be addressed with a more methodologically robust and territorially differentiated approach.

Looking ahead to a next version, it is proposed to strengthen the report as a continuous research process, combining representative quantitative analysis capable of more precisely measuring the reality of youth climate action in the region, along with comparative qualitative studies with a more refined subregional and cultural focus.

A next version has the potential to advance in three main directions:

I. Methodological depth
II. Territorial and cultural approach
III. Analysis of organizational barriers and needs.

7.1 Methodological strengthening

Mixed research framework and regional validation: Adopt a mixed and replicable research design, combining:

- Regional representative survey with at least 300 to 500 responses with up to date information from the 33 countries of LAC.
- Expand interviews to include at least 3 organizations from at least 10 countries, covering representation of 1 urban organization, 1 rural organization, 1 organization with international scope.
- Regional peer validation, ensuring coherence and comparability of the instruments applied across different linguistic and cultural contexts.

Standardized indicators: Develop an indicator matrix inspired by frameworks such as UNDP Youth Strategy 2030, enabling the construction of baselines and longitudinal analysis. Suggested dimensions include:

- Composition and leadership (age, gender, diversity).
- Balance between volunteer and paid work, and team size.
- Legal formalization and internal governance.
- Sources, stability and volume of funding.
- Institutional and technical capacities.
- Territorial scope and types of action (mitigation, adaptation, advocacy, education, communication).
- Linkages with public policies and institutions.

Triangulation and data quality: Implement mechanisms for control and consistency of information through triangulation of sources (*Climaps*, surveys, interviews) and ethical protocols for data collection, consent and data protection.

7.2 Territorial and cultural approach

Latin America and the Caribbean present a geographic and cultural diversity that requires a differentiated reading. While the findings of this report reflect common trends at the regional level, the interviews revealed particular realities depending on territory and cultural context.

For this reason, it is proposed that future versions of the study incorporate a differentiated analysis that reflects the dynamics specific to each subregion and cultural group. Suggested categories are as follows:

Suggested subregions:

- Central America
- Caribbean
- Amazon
- Andean region
- Southern Cone

Cultural categories:

- Urban
- Rural
- Indigenous and afrodescendant

Although many organizations may fall into more than one category, this classification will allow a deeper understanding of the specificities of youth work, the particular risks they face and the types of support that are most effective in each context.

The objective is to identify the characteristics of impact, what types of support work best in each context and how youth ecosystems can be strengthened through a territorially and culturally relevant approach.

7.3 Diagnosis of organizational barriers and needs

One of the potential central components for a next version could be the development of a specialized survey on barriers, capacities and organizational needs. This instrument would allow the collection of specific evidence to guide strengthening programs and design more equitable funding mechanisms adapted to the youth reality of the region. Some axes of this instrument may include:

- **Structural barriers:** obstacles to accessing funding, decision making spaces or institutional visibility.
- **Organizational capacities:** technical skills, planning and project management, financial administration, communication, policy advocacy.
- **Conditions of sustainability:** levels of volunteer versus paid work, team stability, turnover, territorial presence.
- **Access to funding:** main sources, average amounts, types of support received (donations, microgrants, international cooperation, private sector).
- **Priority needs:** resources, training, technical support, networks, mentorship, legal or administrative support.
- **Perceptions of equity:** experiences of exclusion or inequality based on gender, territory, language, age or cultural identity.
- **Alliances and collaborations:** strategic alliances as a key variable for sustainability, to understand collaborations with different actors (NGOs, governments, academia, companies, financial institutions and youth networks) that strengthen their technical capacities, legitimacy and access

to long term support.

The central objective of this component is to generate **direct and disaggregated evidence on the main obstacles that youth face in sustaining and scaling their climate action,** identifying capacity and funding gaps according to the type, size and level of development of organizations. Based on this information, the aim is to inform cooperation and philanthropy strategies grounded in empirical evidence, facilitating the design of more flexible, accessible and contextualized funding mechanisms adapted to the diverse realities of territories.

Ultimately, this effort seeks to contribute to the construction of a regional agenda for youth strengthening, aligned with the concrete needs, lessons learned and emerging priorities of Latin American youth climate actors.

7.4 The importance of maintaining and increasing narratives in this report

Finally, a potential next version of the report could integrate a deeper perspective on the human experience behind youth climate action, recognizing that figures and indicators only gain meaning when connected to the stories, emotions and trajectories that sustain them.

Incorporating perspectives from lived experience will make it possible to understand the political, emotional and community significance of climate action, capturing the motivations that drive thousands of young people to organize, the structural barriers they face daily and the self reflections they express honestly about their own processes.

These voices, often invisible in technical reports, provide an essential reading of the resilience, cooperation and creativity with which youth respond to the crisis. Integrating their narratives humanizes the data and transforms this report into a collective testimony of how youth climate action is built through a process of learning, justice and shared hope.

Chapter 8
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was made possible thanks to the collective effort, trust and collaboration of numerous individuals and organizations committed to strengthening youth climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We express our deepest gratitude to the youth organizations, movements and networks interviewed in this process, as well as funding entities and climate youth activists (current and "retired") who shared their experiences, learnings, challenges and aspirations with us. Their honesty, creativity and perseverance, often in difficult contexts, are the heart of this report. Each testimony, data point and reflection presented here reflects their daily work to protect and build a better region, planet and future. Due to a commitment to confidentiality agreed with them, their names are not included; however, we acknowledge each of the 19 interviews conducted.

We extend our thanks to **Climate Emergence Collaboration Group (CECG)**, whose support to **CLAAC** has been fundamental for the development of projects during 2025, contributing to strengthening regional coordination and the advocacy capacity of Latin American youth, without them this document would not be possible. Likewise, to **Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMI Fund)**, whose support to the NGO Uno Punto Cinco made it possible to expand and deepen this research work, which initially had a more limited scope of analysis.

We also thank the **Youth Climate Justice Fund (YCJF)** for its cooperation and inspiration in the development of this study. Their commitment to making visible the realities, challenges and contributions of youth driving climate action globally was a key reference for this initiative. We also recognize the work of **Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO) and Purpose Africa,** authors of the report The State of the Youth Climate Movement in Africa, whose example inspires us to continue deepening this process and move toward a more complete and comparative version of this study in the future.

Additionally, we recognize and highlight the work of **Sustentabilidad Sin Fronteras (SSF),** a founding member organization of CLAAC, as the NGO that has carried much of the responsibility for the creation, management and development since 2022 of the platform Climaps.org.

Likewise, we express our recognition to **Marcele Oliveira, Youth Climate Champion of COP30,** for her work in promoting and positioning youth during 2025, such a decisive year for climate action in Latin America.

Above all, this report is a way of thanking every young person who organizes, mobilizes and imagines a different future. You remind us that climate action is not a future goal, but a present reality. May these pages serve as recognition and encouragement, your work matters, your impact endures and your voices are shaping the just and resilient future that Latin America and the Caribbean urgently need.

Chapter 9
ANNEXES

9.1 Structure of the *Climaps* form

Methodology for registration and information gathering: As part of the process of preparing the State of youth climate organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American Coalition for Climate Action (CLAAC) implemented a methodology for collecting information using the information available on the Climaps.org platform, a digital tool that maps youth organizations in regional climate action. Based on the data obtained, the aim is to characterize different dimensions of the Latin American youth climate movement.

Methodological design: The registration form was designed as a simple, accessible and applicable instrument throughout the region, with questions that allow qualitative and quantitative information to be obtained about participating organizations.

The data collected feed both the public online mapping of Climaps, and the statistical and descriptive analysis included in this report.

Questions in the registration form

1. Organization information

- Name of the organization
- Brief description (mission, main focus or key activities)
- Country
- Year of creation
- Is it legally constituted? (Yes / No / In process)
- Scope of the organization (Local / National / Regional / International)
- Number of active members
- Average age of members
- Percentage of participating women
- Main area or topic of action (multiple choice, maximum 3)
- (Example: climate education, energy, biodiversity, water, waste, climate justice, adaptation, communication, advocacy, others)
- Priority SDGs with which it works (multiple choice, maximum 3)
- Main strengths of the organization (multiple choice, maximum 3)
- (Example: territorial work, policy advocacy, training, innovation, alliances, communication, etc.)

2. Digital presence and networks

- Official website (if applicable)
- Instagram link
- Twitter/X link
- Facebook link
- LinkedIn link
- TikTok link
- YouTube link

3. Contact

- Name of contact person
- Position or role within the organization
- Email
- Phone number (optional)

Data protection and consent

The inormation collected is used exclusively for research, communication and visibility purpo-

ses within the framework of CLAAC's *Climaps* initiative.

All data are treated confidentially, and organizations may request the updating or deletion of their information at any time. Participation is completely voluntary and free of charge. For more information go to www.climaps.org

9.2 Structure of the interview

As part of the process of preparing the report, CLAAC conducted a series of interviews with representatives of youth organizations and funders. These interviews made it possible to gather in depth qualitative information about the work organizations carry out, their main lines of action, experiences, challenges and opportunities for strengthening within the regional climate movement.

The instrument used was structured in sections that facilitated a comprehensive understanding of each organization and its context. Each interview had a question guide that sought to be applied in full. However, depending on the development and timing of responses, some of the questions were not asked, or were instead unified into more concise questions in order to gather the required information.

Questions for interviews with representatives of youth climate organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

1. What type of activities do you carry out as an organization and what is your role within them?

2. Who do you collaborate with to carry out your projects (other youth, communities, institutions)?

3. What impact have your organization's actions had (social, environmental, educational, political) in your community/country?

4. Do you consider that scientific evidence plays a key role in your work and in your impact?

5. Have you participated in decision making spaces or public policy advocacy related to climate change? What has that experience been like?

6. From your point of view, what do you think differentiates us as organized youth in this region from other parts of the world?

7. What are the main difficulties you face in maintaining your activities (time, resources, legitimacy, alliances)?

8. What strategies or supports do you consider necessary to strengthen your work and expand your reach? (They may be financial, networks, training, mentoring, institutional support, among others).

9. How do you currently finance your activities? (If possible, indicate in approximate or percentage terms how much comes from philanthropy or other sources)

10. What are the main barriers you face in obtaining funding?

11. Have you ever perceived distrust toward your organization from potential funders?

Why do you think that happens?

12. Do you think that leaders of organizations should play a media role to facilitate access to funding and support?

13. What skills or capacities do you feel you need to strengthen as an organization (management, communication, advocacy, planning)?

14. What recommendation would you give to donors or agencies to effectively support organizations like yours?

15. As an organization going through the same difficulties, what recommendations would you give them?

16. What changes would you like to see in institutional governance to facilitate youth participation in climate action?

17. Is there anything else you consider important to share about your organization's work or about how to support climate youth in your territory? (optional)

Questions for interviews with representatives of organizations that fund youth organizations.

1. What do you consider to be the value of supporting youth organizations in climate action?

2. What characteristics do you look for in an organization when funding it?

3. Beyond the formal requirements established in the application guidelines, are there other aspects that your organization values when providing funding? (For example, alignment with its strategic objectives).

4. Why have you decided to fund youth organizations on climate change or energy transition issues? What lessons have you learned from those experiences?

5. From your experience, what factors facilitate or hinder funding for climate youth?

6. What challenges have you identified when working with youth organizations? (For example: capacities, management, accountability, impact measurement).

7. What do you think are the main barriers climate youth face in accessing funding?

8. What limitations do you face, as donors, in channeling funds to youth climate organizations?

9. What differentiating elements do you observe in Latin American organizations compared to youth organizations in other regions of the world?

10. What types of data or evidence would you consider useful for making funding decisions for youth climate organizations?

11. Beyond funding: What opportunities do you see to strengthen the capacities and sustainability of these organizations?

Chapter 10
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