

GLOBAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE (GIYSCC) - STRATEGIC PLANNING

The project focuses on the implementation of the Global Indigenous Youth Summit on Climate Change (GIYSCC) Strategic Plan 2026–2031 (Annex 1), which seeks to advance Indigenous youth leadership in climate action through a structured, sustainable, and globally coordinated approach. The initiative builds on the success of GIYSCC-2023, GIYSCC-2024, and GIYSCC-2025, which engaged over 3,000 participants from 140 nations, spanning over 350 languages, establishing a precedent for meaningful inclusion of Indigenous youth in climate dialogue. The implementation plan entails four key pillars: establishing the first secretariat and then regional hubs, strengthening partnerships, building leadership capacity, and enhancing communication and outreach.

The first phase involves registering GIYSCC as a non-profit organization and establishing a Global Secretariat hosted at the International Institute of Science Diplomacy for Sustainability (IISDS), Malaysia. This Secretariat will serve as the operational, administrative, and technical hub to coordinate activities, ensure alignment across regional hubs, and facilitate intergenerational and cross-cultural knowledge exchange. Subsequent phases will create at least one regional hub per continent, reflecting local ecological, social, and cultural realities while integrating Indigenous knowledge into global climate solutions.

Partnerships form the backbone of the GIYSCC. Through a multi-layered collaboration model, GIYSCC will engage Indigenous youth, researchers, policymakers, civil society, and international institutions. These partnerships will promote co-design, mutual respect, and shared ownership, enabling Indigenous-led solutions to climate challenges while fostering global cooperation. The initiative also emphasizes leadership capacity building by providing youth with knowledge and tools in climate science, policy engagement, and science diplomacy, equipping them to participate actively in UNFCCC processes, IPBES initiatives, COPs, and other international forums.

The project has a strong implication for science diplomacy. By bridging Indigenous knowledge systems and global science-policy processes, GIYSCC serves as a platform for intercultural dialogue and collaborative decision-making. Indigenous youth leaders, as agents of change, can influence policy frameworks by presenting locally grounded solutions to global challenges. This interaction strengthens the use of evidence-informed strategies in climate governance, fostering mutual understanding between Indigenous communities and international policymakers, and contributing to culturally inclusive and equitable climate action.

Moreover, the initiative promotes informed decision-making by establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. Key performance indicators will track youth engagement, policy contributions, and partnerships, while annual reporting and impact dashboards will provide

evidence of outcomes and inform adaptive strategies. Knowledge-sharing mechanisms, including publications, interviews, and learning platforms, will ensure that lessons learned inform future global climate initiatives and strengthen the integration of Indigenous perspectives into sustainable development policies.

In conclusion, the project operationalizes the GIYSCC Strategic Plan to create a globally coordinated, Indigenous-led network that advances youth leadership, amplifies Indigenous knowledge, and promotes inclusive and informed climate action. By linking local expertise with international policy processes, the initiative exemplifies the transformative potential of science diplomacy in addressing climate change while ensuring the participation of those most affected by its impacts.