



Papua New Guinea

Youth Statement

for NDC 3.0



INTRODUCTION

Youth of Papua New Guinea

We are the young people of Papua New Guinea (PNG), standing together to be equal partners in delivering an ambitious and just NDC 3.0. To build on our Universal NDC Youth Clause to urge our government to support youth engagement in the NDC 3.0, an online Youth Survey on 'Climate Governance and Youth Voice inclusion in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in PNG' was conducted in October 2025. The survey revealed overwhelming support to climate education, transparent governance, climate finance and pathways to green jobs.

This statement reflects our aspirations to ensure our government of PNG, the Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA), development partners, and stakeholders prioritise youth inclusion in climate policymaking, strengthen climate education, provide climate finance that reaches frontline communities, and provide pathways to green jobs.

Background

PNG is facing increasing climate-related challenges, including sea-level rise, flooding, and disruptions to agriculture. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, PNG has developed key climate policy frameworks, including its NDCs and National Adaptation Plan (NAP), to guide national and subnational efforts in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Despite the importance of these frameworks, awareness of them remains limited, and youth voices are insufficiently included in their development, localisation, and implementation. Given that young people make up more than 60% of PNG's population, their meaningful participation in climate governance is critical to building a just, inclusive, and sustainable future.

To better understand youth engagement in climate governance, a national online youth survey in 2025 was conducted to assess young people's understanding of climate policies and the extent to which their voices are represented in the design and implementation of the NDCs and NAPs across all levels of government, particularly at the local government and youth council levels.

The youth conversations reached 1,449 individuals and engaged 505 unique participants, predominantly women (77%) and indigenous youth (26%). Key insights include education and capacity, as well as governance and accountability. finance and frontline delivery, participation and recognition: green jobs, and, community-first approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people are calling for action in:

Education & Awareness:

We call for the integration of climate education into the national curriculum at all levels, from primary schools to tertiary institutions. Climate literacy is the foundation for informed action. We further call for capacity-building programs that equip youth with knowledge of NDCs, NAPs, and climate governance, ensuring meaningful participation in decision-making. Awareness initiatives must extend beyond urban centres to reach rural and indigenous communities.

Youth Participation & Governance:

We insist on formal youth representation in national climate committees, technical working groups, and Conference of the Parties (COP) delegations. Youth must not be token participants but active contributors to policy design and implementation. We call for mentorship programs that connect young leaders with climate experts and decision-makers, and for feedback mechanisms that transparently show how youth inputs influence policy outcomes. Schools and communities should host climate clubs to foster grassroots engagement.

Climate Finance:

We demand transparent reporting on climate finance flows and project outcomes, accessible to the public and youth constituencies. Climate finance must prioritize frontline communities and include loss and damage compensation for affected lands. We call for the establishment of a PNG Youth Climate Micro-Fund, providing direct access to resources for youth-led initiatives that advance adaptation, mitigation, and resilience.

Policy, Law & Accountability:

We call for strong accountability frameworks to hold governments and corporations responsible for climate commitments. Open access to Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) data and plain-language summaries must be guaranteed to enable youth monitoring. Climate governance must be inclusive, transparent, and enforceable, ensuring that policies translate into real action on the ground.

Green Jobs & Skills:

We demand investment in technical training programs that prepare youth for careers in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and nature-based solutions. Green entrepreneurship must be incentivized through seed grants, procurement preferences, and incubation programs, enabling youth to lead in building a low-carbon economy.

Adaptation & Community Action:

We call for community-driven adaptation projects that reflect local realities, including early warning systems, mangrove restoration, and climate-smart agriculture. Implementation must engage local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), women's networks, and Indigenous groups, ensuring that solutions are inclusive and culturally grounded.

ABOUT

This youth statement was consolidated by Duncan Wohwiehembe, with the support of the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA), the National Youth Development Authority (NYDA), and the National Capital District Commission (NCDC).



PARTNER WITH US TO BUILD A CLIMATE RESILIENT FUTURE

We are ready to play a meaningful role in shaping climate resilience at local and national levels, provided that systems create space for our participation and support our leadership.

By partnering with us at national and community levels, we can strengthen climate governance, accelerate locally driven action, and ensure climate responses are inclusive, just, and future-focused.

