

IAHR Panama Young Professionals Network

2025 Annual Report on Activities

Our vision and mission

IAHR Panama YPN was founded by a group of young professionals with the aim to organize the YPN during the 38th IAHR World Congress held in Panama in September 2019. Since then, the group has organized and has been very active promoting and organizing activities both locally in Panama and regionally in Latin America.

The chapter's mission is to promote the development of technical capacities in the general field of hydro-environmental sciences (water, environment and renewable energies) in students and young professionals, and to influence through interdisciplinary scientific research in Panamanian society to achieve a more resilient and sustainable country.

The group's vision is to effectively communicate the significance and outcomes of research in water, energy, and the environment. Additionally, it aims to foster a scientific culture and enhance soft skills among young Panamanians through interdisciplinary approaches and strategic partnerships with youth organizations, universities, and the public-private sector.

Main goals and key objectives

This year, our focus was on strengthening and revitalizing YPN through strategic organizational and outreach efforts. The main areas of work included:

1. Structuring and activating YPN under its new Board of Directors.

2. Recruiting new members while identifying and understanding their interests and areas of engagement.
3. Developing activities and generating publications on our social media platforms related to hydro-environmental topics

Activities during this year

Instagram Live: Meet the New Board of Directors

- **Date:** April 3, 2025
- **Venue/Platform:** Instagram
- **Objectives:** To introduce the members of the Board of Directors, present the organization's strategic focus areas, and invite participants to become actively involved.
- **Description:** Each board member introduced their professional background, their role within the Board of Directors, and their vision for the group. In addition, the session highlighted the benefits of being part of the network and explained how interested participants (20+ aprox.) could join and engage with YPN.



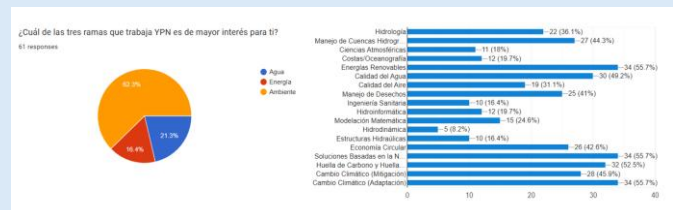
Participation in the World Recycling Day

- **Date:** May 17
- **Venue:** In-person, Rodelag Transistmica, Panama City, Panama
- **Objectives:** To collaborate with the Recycling Chamber of Panama in commemoration of World Recycling Day.
- **Description:** The Recycling Chamber of Panama allocated volunteer slots for YPN Panama members to support the drive-through recycling collection initiative, assisting with the organization and reception of recyclable materials.



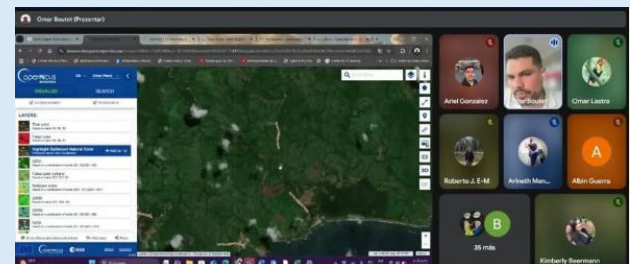
Call for New Members 2025

- **Date:** May 27 – June 19
- **Platform:** Google forms
- **Objectives:** To recruit new YPN members and identify their interests and areas of expertise.
- **Description:** The call received over 61 responses, with 63.9% women and 36.1% men. Of the respondents, 56% were students and 44% professionals. Key thematic interests included climate change adaptation, Nature-based Solutions, and water quality. Additionally, participants expressed interest in technical software such as ArcGIS and HEC-RAS. An open-ended section was included to allow members to share proposals, ideas, and suggestions for future activities.



Virtual Training: Forest and Water – A Satellite-Based Perspective of Panama's Territory Using Google Earth Engine

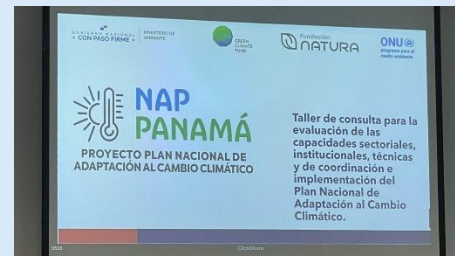
- **Date:** July 26
- **Platform:** Google Meet
- **Objectives:** To provide training on forest-related challenges in Panama, present a case study, and demonstrate deforestation monitoring and visualization using Google Earth Engine.
- **Description:** The training covered three main thematic areas: (1) forest-related challenges and environmental compensation mechanisms; (2) deforestation visualization using Google Earth Engine (GEE); and (3) environmental monitoring and regulatory frameworks in Panama. The session featured national experts Eng. Omar Lastra, Eng. Omar Pérez (YPN Board Member), and Eng. Roberto J. Escobar-Mou (YPN Board Member), and was attended by more than 40 participants.



Participation in National Congresses and Key Events

- **Dates:** May 29, August 13, September 30 – October 3, October 16, December 3, December 9
- **Venue:** Panama City, Panama
- **Objectives:** To highlight the active participation and representation of YPN Panama members in national congresses and other relevant events related to science, climate change, and environmental sustainability.
- **Description:** During this period, YPN Panama members participated in a range of national congresses and high-level events, including the National Congress of Science and Technology (APANAC) 2025, the Sectoral Capacity Assessment Consultation Workshop for Panama's National Adaptation Plan on Climate Change, Nature Summit 2025, the Nature Pledge Panama Roadmap Workshop, the Belgium–Panama Seminar on Nature-based Solutions, the Launch of Panama's Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and the International Forestry Congress. These engagements strengthened YPN Panama's visibility and contribution to national dialogues on climate action, science, and environmental policy.

Members: Ariel González, Reynaldo Rodríguez, María Gabriela Castrellón, Zuri Rodríguez, Yarelis Melgar, Beatriz Reyes, Yaxuri Muñoz, Kimberly Beermann, Maribelys Núñez, Roberto Escobar-Mou, Karol Fuentes.



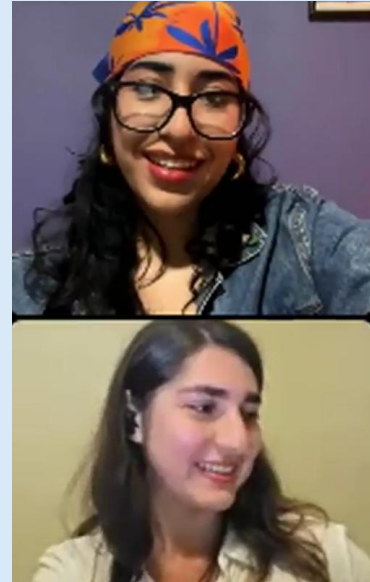
Connections that Drive Change: First YPN Networking Meeting

- **Date:** October 4
- **Venue:** Hybrid format, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá
- **Objectives:** To foster integration among YPN Panama members, strengthen interpersonal connections, and promote collaboration across the network.
- **Description:** The event brought together more than 20 participants in a dynamic and participatory environment. Activities included the “Río de Vida” integration workshop, presentations of the three YPN Panama committees and their respective focus areas, and a dedicated networking space that encouraged dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas among members. The meeting emphasized community-building, collective purpose, and the importance of strengthening professional and personal connections to drive environmental action.



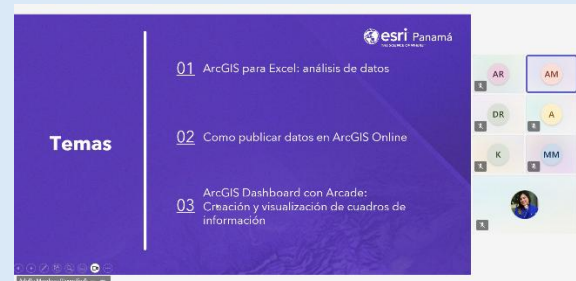
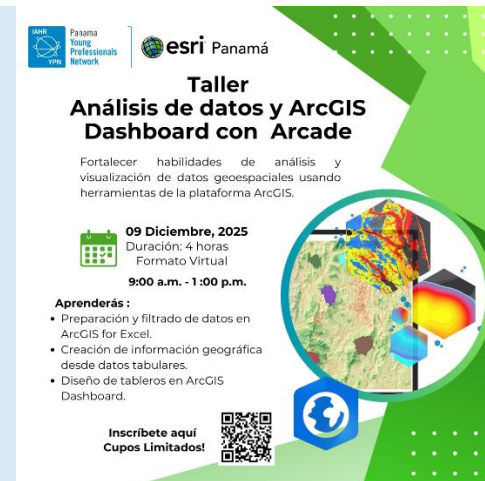
AGUA Y CAFÉ: COPs and Biodiversity — Why Panama Must Be Part of the Conversation

- **Date:** November 13
- **Platform:** Instagram Live
- **Objectives:** To facilitate a dialogue on global climate negotiations, highlight the interlinkages between climate, biodiversity, and land agendas, and emphasize the role of Panama, women, and youth in international environmental decision-making.
- **Description:** This Instagram Live featured a conversation with Mari Castillo, a climate change lawyer, international negotiator, and one of Panama's leading voices on climate action, biodiversity, and environmental justice. The discussion explored the relevance of COP30 in Belém, Brazil, the connections between climate, biodiversity, and land agendas, the importance of synergies among the Rio Conventions, and the critical role of women and youth in global negotiations. The session also highlighted why Panama should play a central role in international environmental dialogues. The exchange provided valuable insights, key perspectives, and in-depth reflections on the environmental future of the region and the planet.



Workshop on Data Analysis and ArcGIS Dashboards Using Arcade, delivered by ESRI Panama

- **Date:** December 9
- **Platform:** Microsoft Teams
- **Objectives:** To strengthen data analysis and visualization skills using tools from the ArcGIS platform.
- **Description:** The workshop was shared with official YPN Panama members and received 12 registrations. ESRI Panama led the session, covering data preparation and filtering in ArcGIS for Excel, the creation of geographic information from tabular data, and the design of interactive dashboards using ArcGIS Dashboards. The training provided participants with practical tools to enhance spatial analysis and data-driven decision-making.



World Environmental Days Publications

- **Dates:** March 22; September 27; October 21; October 24; November 19; November 27; November 29; December 10; December 11
- **Objectives:** To raise awareness of key environmental observances by sharing relevant information, data, solutions, and research related to each theme.



- **Description:** Through original social media content, these publications highlighted the origin and significance of each World Environmental Day. The posts focused on explaining the importance of the date being commemorated, sharing key facts and insights, and delivering a closing message aimed at encouraging continued care, research, and action in support of the natural resources and environmental themes being celebrated.



Partnerships and collaboration

- **ESRI Panama:** Meetings were held to explore collaboration opportunities with ESRI Panama, resulting in the delivery of a data analysis training focused on ArcGIS Dashboards for YPN Panama members.
- **Panama Canal Authority:** Engagement and formal correspondence were conducted with the Panama Canal Authority, leading to approval from the Environmental Management Manager to provide venues and facilities for YPN Panama activities.
- **Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá (UTP):** In alignment with the cooperation agreement between the university and the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR), UTP provided physical space for an in-person networking workshop. Additionally, closer collaboration will be pursued with one of YPN Panama's advisors, who is a member of the university's academic staff.
- **Ministry of Environment – Directorate of Climate Change:** YPN Panama was included in climate change consultation and socialization events as a representative organization of Panamanian youth, strengthening youth participation in national climate processes.
- **Embassy of Belgium and Embassy of the United Kingdom:** Through the presidency of YPN Panama, invitations were extended to participate in national-level events organized by both embassies, enhancing the network's international engagement and visibility.

Communication channels

Twitter | @ypnpanama

Instagram | @ypnpanama

Linked In | IAHR YPN Panama Chapter

Facebook | IAHR Panamá YPN @ypnpanama

WeChat | ---

Website | ---