Who We Are?

Introducing The Planet Prodigy (TPP)









- Youth-led society @ UMSDC
- 200+ students & staff across campus

“Planet First, People Forward”

UNIVERSITI MALAYA

PUSAT PEMBANGUNAN MAMPAN
Sustainable Development Centre

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The Planet Prodigy

To empower and mobilise youth to collectively care for urban ecosystems through **heartware** enhancement.

Urban lakes

vibrant, lentic ecosystem



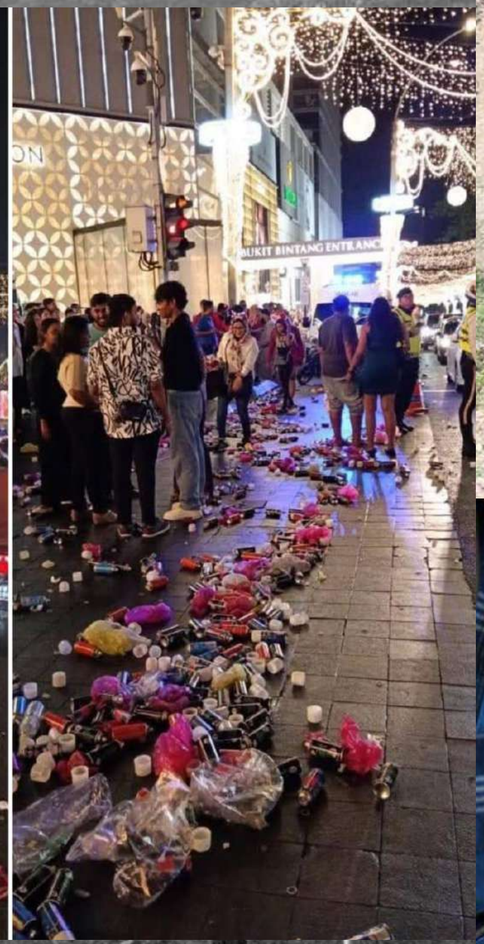
But the urban challenge
persists

- 1.1 million tonnes plastic waste/year
- >80% of pollution comes from **littering**
- biodiversity & ecosystem services are **lost**
- youth are **disconnecting** from nature











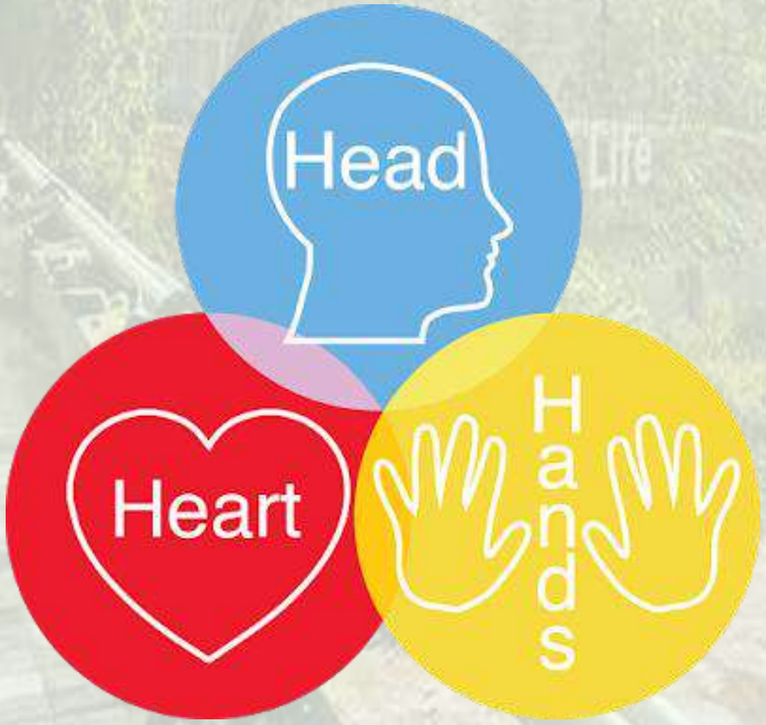


Our method

The Heartware Approach

What is heartware?

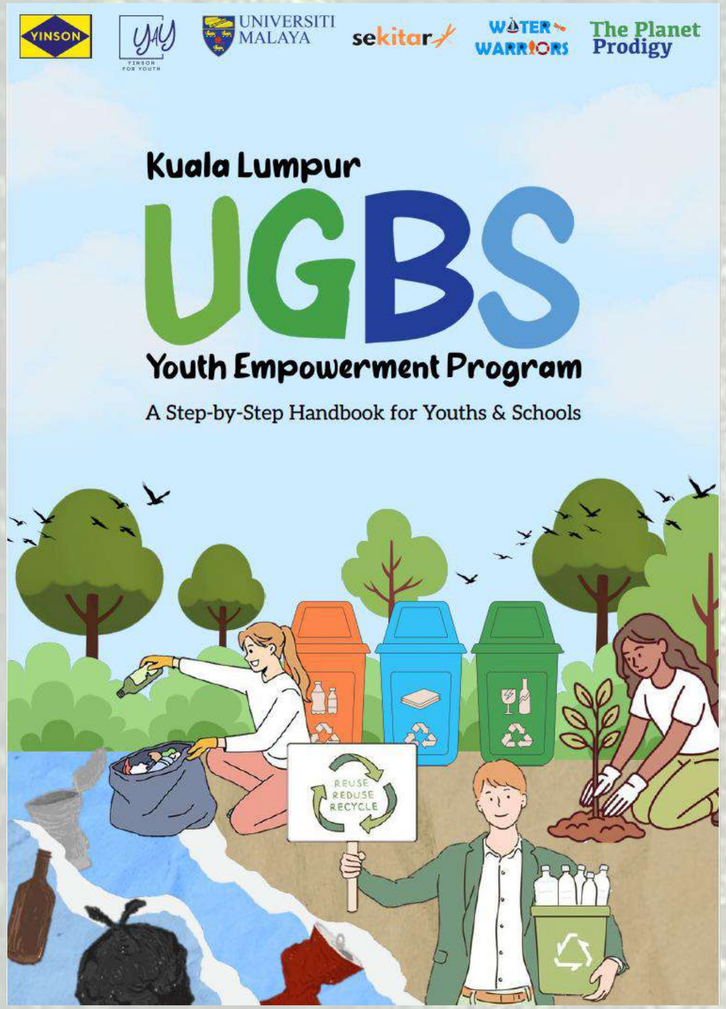
Heartware refers to the internal, voluntary motivation and shared values that drive long-term community action.





A five-step youth capacity enhancement approach for watershed ecosystem heartware.

1. LEARN
2. CONNECT
3. CREATE
4. CARE
5. LEAD THE CHANGE





1.2 Sense of Place in UGBS

What are UGBS?

These are natural areas within urban environments such as **parks, rivers, lakes, forests, and green corridors.**

Sense of place in UGBS is about the connection youths feel with natural environments in the city. These spaces are more than just areas for recreation or scenery. They are places where youths can create memories, build friendships, relax, learn, and feel a sense of belonging.

Which UGBS do KL youths like?

Findings from a preliminary survey that we conducted with KL youths revealed that **lakes, ponds, parks, and gardens** were among the most preferred types of UGBS among the respondents.

Which UGBS do KL youths like?

River 3.8%
Playground / open field 7.7%
Forest / nature area 10.3%
Park / garden 35.9%

▲Survey results showing Kuala Lumpur youths' pre
UGBS (N = 78).

2.3 Tackling the Plastic Waste Problem

Single-use plastic (SUP) waste is one of the most common forms of pollution found in UGBS, especially in rivers, lakes, drains, parks, and public spaces. Improperly managed plastic waste can harm wildlife, pollute waterways, contribute to flooding, and affect human health and well-being.

What are single-use plastics?

These are plastic products and packaging that can only be used once or a few times before being discarded.

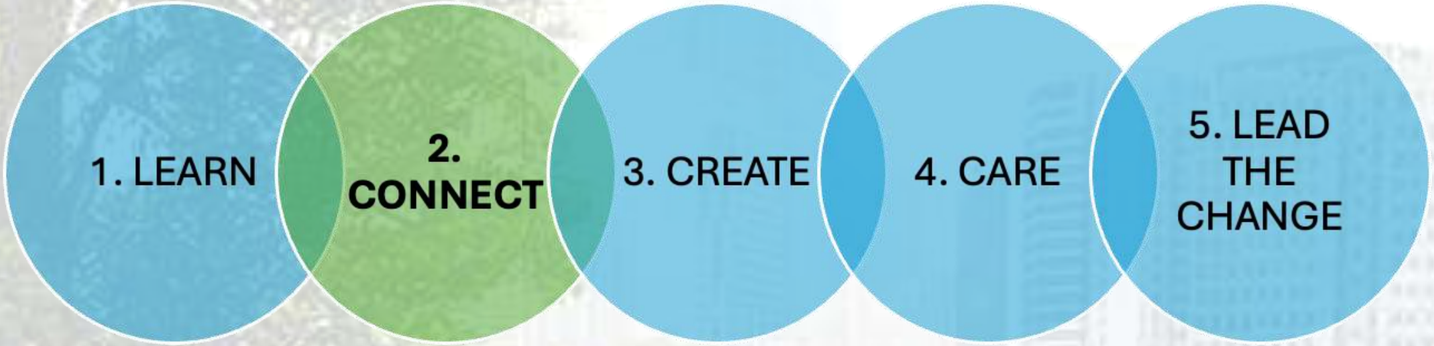
Most common SUP waste

Beverage bottles (plastic)
Bottle caps (plastic)
Cigarette butts (<2.5cm)
Cups, Plates (plastic)

▲ Preliminary surveys conducted at selected rivers and green spaces in Kuala Lumpur revealed that drinking bottles and food packaging were the most common types of SUP pollution.

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We wrote a handbook for youths so that they can **learn** about urban lake ecosystem services and issues.



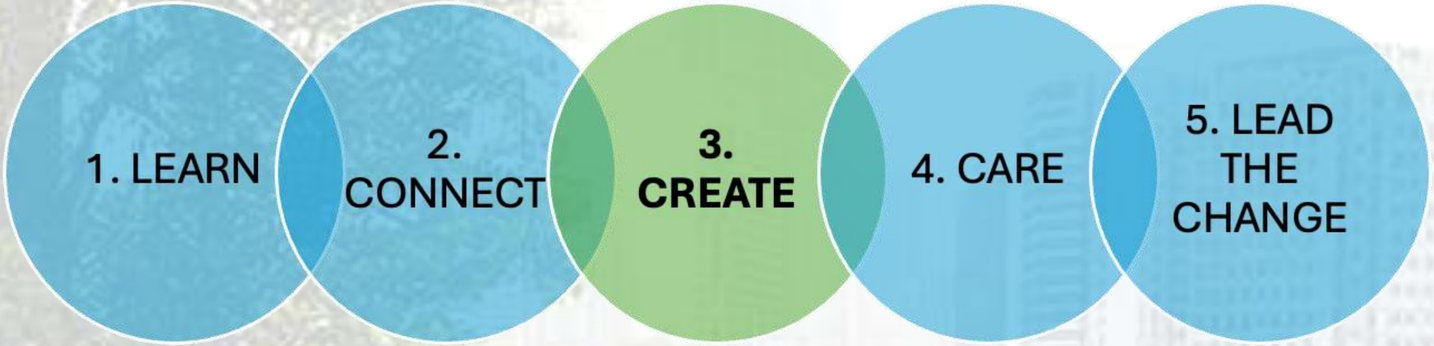
Youth place-making workshops to help young people **connect** to nature and lakes.











School outreach & engagement programs encouraged youth students to **create** and exchange ideas to solve problems associated with urban lakes.







1. LEARN | 2. CONNECT | 3. CREATE | **4. CARE** | 5. LEAD THE CHANGE

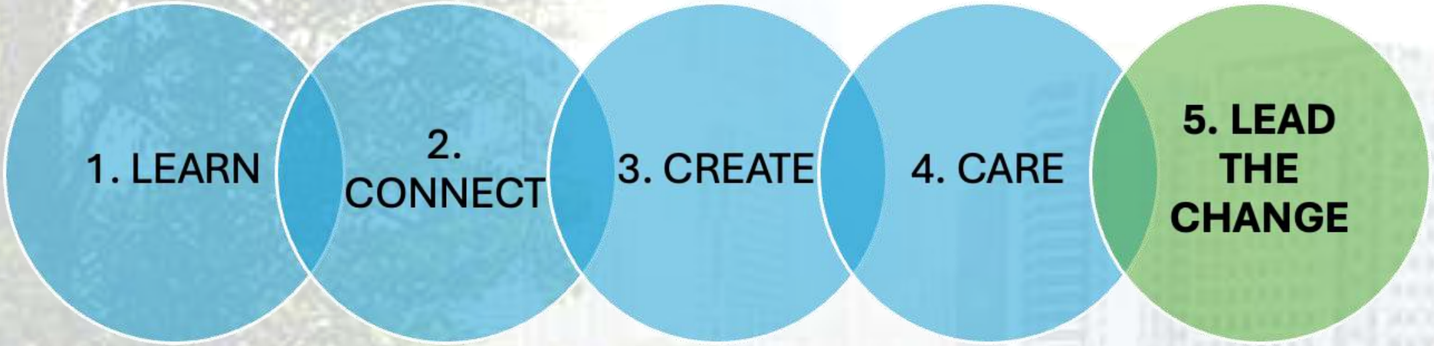


Caring for the lakes through regular cleanups and plogging to remove plastic pollution.









Through this virtuous cycle, generations of youths become empowered to **lead the change!**





International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC)

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Read our KL UGBS YEP handbook here!

Thank you!

