

For immediate release:
September 8, 2021

Contact:
Holly Shulman, Action For Nature
Holly.Shulman@gmail.com
+1-603-715-4321

Mumbai Student Among 2021 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Ayaan Shankta, a 12 year-old from Mumbai, India, is one of 25 young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action For Nature (AFN) as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes eco-conscious youth ages 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems.

Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. Since 2003, Action For Nature has recognized more than 300 Eco-Heroes from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

Ayaan won 3rd Place in the 8-14 year-old category for his project, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake.

Ayaan Shankta lives near a lake that used to be a source of drinking water for Mumbai, but has become a dumping ground for garbage and sewage. Ayaan's project, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake, aims to raise awareness about pollution, clean up the lake, and protect its ecosystem. In addition to working with NGOs to raise awareness and organize clean-ups, Ayaan authored an action report on lake conditions and is currently working on a documentary about Powai Lake.

"Kids like Ayaan have shown that the next generation of leaders is here, and they are refusing to wait to solve the world's most pressing environmental challenges," said Beryl Kay, president of Action For Nature, an international non-profit organization that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for the Earth and to take personal action to improve the environment. "The projects that these young people created will not only have real, positive impacts on their communities, they will also help solve global climate challenges and inspire others – no matter what age – to consider what they can do to help."

"My mission is for the lake to regain its past glory as a clean and vibrant body of water," said Ayaan Shankta. "Not only will this help in bringing about ecological balance in the thickly populated city of Mumbai, but it will also help to conserve endangered species."

To read more about Ayaan's work, visit www.ayaanshankta.com.

To learn more about this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2021-awards.

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Action For Nature (AFN) is an international non-profit organization based in San Francisco, California, that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth's natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments.