

# **YGC Newsletter 2025**

# Youth and Community Collaboration for Sustainable Social change



Our Chief Executive Director, Mr. Aryampa Brighton took part in the member gathering in Nairobi, Kenya

### **WELCOME TO YGC'S NEWSLETTER**

We are excited to share our latest updates on our youth-led initiatives to influence better environment and natural resource governance that benefits all. The insights herein focus on sustainability and respect of human rights through our focus on environmental literacy, civic engagement, social media, other responsible media outreach, community development training, youth capacity building, and empowerment labs for social sustainable change. In this month's newsletter, we bring you our pictorial section through which we share the activities that we have implemented.

On 2nd and 11th July an 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported the legal representation of activists who were detained at Jinja Road Police Station. The embattled activists had spent two nights in police detention before they were remanded to Luzira Kampala remand prison for 83 days. Fortunately they were granted a cash bail.

Between 7th and 12th July , 2025, our staff participated in the Members' Gathering of the Coalition for Human Rights in Development, held in Nairobi, Kenya. The gathering brought together over 50 participants from 46 countries to share inspiring stories, reflect on collective achievements, engage in strategic and cross-regional discussions, and strengthen solidarity in advancing community-led, rights-based development and accountability in global development finance. This aimed to celebrate the Coalition's 10-year journey and cocreate its Strategic Plan for 2026–2030.

From 9<sup>th</sup> to 10th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) engaged in documenting and amplifying stories of environmental defenders currently in detention to show of solidarity and advocacy. Through powerful storytelling and social media campaigns YGC aimed to highlight the human rights violations and unjust criminalization faced by peaceful climate activists. This initiative raised awareness and reinforced public support for detained defenders emphasizing the urgent need for justice and protection of civic space in Ugandar's environmental movement.

On 15th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) further supported legal representation of 11 youth activists who were arrested on 26th February 2025 for peacefully marching to the European Union Office in Uganda to deliver a petition opposing TotalEnergies' involvement in harmful fossil fuel projects. The petition highlighted associated human rights violations against oil impacted local communities and environmental defenders. The activists were reporting to court for further hearing of their case. Sadly on 15th July,2025, the State failed to present any witnesses and the matter was adjourned to 16th September 2025 at 9:00 AM.

On 17th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) mobilized and supported university youth across Uganda to engage government ministries and public university administration in opposing the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between public higher institutions and oil companies particularly the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Company limited and Total Energies entered last year and early this year. The youth called for academic independence, environmental justice and an end to partnerships that legitimize fossil fuel expansion. During the engagement, YGC submitted a petition signed by over 102 students, raising concerns about the environmental and human rights impacts of fossil fuel projects and urging universities to stand for sustainability, transparency and climate justice

On 29th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported the legal representation of nine youth activists who were arrested on 21st May 2025 while peacefully marching to the headquarters of KCB Bank to deliver a petition urging the bank to withdraw its financial support for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The activists were charged with the offence of common nuisance, despite exercising their constitutional right to peaceful protest. Unfortunately, the case was adjourned to 19th August 2025.

On 31st July 2025, Youth for Green Communities supported a meeting between the lawyers and the KCBII at Streamside, Kampala for a strategic meeting aimed at identifying and understanding the challenges they faced during their 3 month illegal detention in prison. The session created a safe and open space for the activists to share their lived experiences, highlight gaps in legal and psychosocial support and engage in dialogue with legal experts. This aimed to collaboratively explore legal intervention, advocacy and support mechanisms that can be employed to protect the rights of activists, ensure their wellbeing while in detention, and strengthen efforts for their reintegration after release.

On 17th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported youth activists in organizing a peaceful protest demanding the release of the 11 KBC activists, who had spent nearly three months in prison for peacefully delivering a petition highlighting concerns over KCB Bank's recent financing of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

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On 25th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) participated in a Consultative Meeting at Hotel Africana which brought up representatives from government, special interest groups and students to engage in meaningful dialogue on shaping the Environment Manifesto 2025. The meeting provided a platform to share ideas, build consensus and strengthen collaborative efforts toward a just and inclusive environmental agenda for Uganda.

Between 27th and 31st July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) participated in a national training program organized by Defend Defenders at Hotel Levana, Entebbe, which brought together over 30 human rights defenders from across Uganda. The training aimed to build the capacity of both organizations and individual defenders to serve as Trainers of Trainee (ToTs) in physical and digital security management. Through this program, YGC strengthened their ability to protect themselves, support at-risk communities and build internal systems that enhance the organization's ability to respond to threats ensuring the safety and resilience of grassroots human rights and environmental defenders.

On 12th August, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) joined the world in celebrating International Youth Day under the theme "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond." The commemoration emphasized the transformative role of young people in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by turning global aspirations into community realities. YGC marked the day by organizing a vibrant social media storm, where young voices were amplified to raise awareness, inspire action and showcase the critical contributions of youth in driving sustainable development.

On 19th August 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported legal representation of 12 young Environmental defenders currently in Luzira prison on remand for peacefully protesting against Stanbic financing of EACOP. The Ugandan court failed to hear the bail application on.

Furthermore on 19th August 2025, YGC staff took part in a National Stakeholder Workshop hosted by ACFODE, FIDA and UNDP under the Global Women CSO-EHRD Flagship Programme. The discussions focused on enhancing the capacity, voice and influence of women-led CSOs, youth coalitions, and Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) in environmental governance, climate justice and democratic engagement. YGC's participation reflected its ongoing commitment to strengthening civil society, fostering meaningful youth engagement and advancing climate justice across Uganda.

On 21st August 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) joined the StopEACOP Coalition in marking the KickTotalOutofAfrica Africa Week of Action. Our campaign exposed the growing criminalization of environmental activism associated with TotalEnergies funded projects in Uganda and joined other grassroot climate justice groups to amplify the call to KickTotalOutofAfrica and mobilized global solidarity for ClimateJustice. YGC actively contributed and supported a successful social media storm, delivered a petition to TotalEnergies and conducted a peaceful climate protest. These collective actions reached thousands online, drew media attention and strengthened solidarity among local and international partners amplifying the voices of frontline communities resisting the destructive EACOP project.

On 26th August 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported the legal representation of KCBII climate activists who had been detained at Jinja Road Police Station and jailed for nearly three months. During the court session, the defense informed the court that the matter was scheduled for hearing but could not proceed in the absence of the state. As a result, the case was adjourned to 14th October 2025. YGC remains committed to standing with these activists and ensuring their rights are upheld throughout the legal process.

Between 25th and 29th August 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) participated in the Oilwatch Africa Conference organized by the Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) and Oilwatch Africa (OWA) at Esella Country Hotel in Kira.

The theme was "From Exploitation to Restoration: Climate Justice, Debt Cancellation and Reparations for Africa," the conference provided a platform to interrogate Africa's historical and ongoing exploitation while advancing the case for reparations, restoration and climate justice. Discussions also addressed issues of climate debt, debt cancellation and the delicate balance between critical minerals and critical ecosystems.

As we move forward, Youth For Green Communities remains deeply committed to fostering sustainable solutions, supporting marginalized communities, promoting gender equality and empowering and connecting youth with local communities to advance eco-friendly initiatives, defend human rights and drive social sustainable change in their communities.

Throughout July, Youth for Green Communities participated in social media and communication campaigns promoting sustainability and inclusive, just climate solutions. Through creative storytelling, publications, and online engagement, YGC amplified grassroots voices, challenged harmful fossil fuel narratives and spotlighted community-driven approaches to climate justice.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

# EDITORIAL TEAM 1.Eva Kakuuma 2. Brian Wasswa 3. Caroline Kinkuhaire

## Pictorial of our activities

### YGC supports Legal Representation of Environmental defenders in Uganda



On 2nd and 11th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported the legal representation of 11 youth activists who were arrested while delivering a petition to the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) offices, challenging the bank's continued support for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The activists were detained at Jinja Road Police Station, where they spent two nights, and have now been jailed for 83 days.

On 17th July court granted these activists a cash bail and they were released on 22nd of July 2025. YGC continues to stand in solidarity with these defenders, advocating for their rights and calling for an end to the criminalization of peaceful climate activism.





On 15th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) provided legal representation for 11 youth activists who were arrested on 26th February 2025 for peacefully marching to the European Union Office in Uganda to deliver a petition opposing TotalEnergies' involvement in harmful fossil fuel projects and highlighting associated human rights violations against local communities and environmental defenders.

The activists were intercepted by police and later remanded to Luzira Prison on 6th March 2025 though they were granted cash bail on the same day. Sadly on 15<sup>th</sup> july,2025, the state failed to present any witnesses and the matter was adjourned to 16th September 2025. YGC remains committed to supporting youth defenders and challenging the criminalization of peaceful environmental activism.

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The activists were charged with the offence of common nuisance, despite exercising their constitutional right to peaceful protest. YGC remains committed to defending the rights of youth climate defenders and ensuring access to justice. Unfortunately, the case was adjourned to 19th August 2025.



On 19th August 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported young climate defenders through legal representation unfortunately the Ugandan court failed to hear the bail application.

These activists had been arrested for peacefully protesting against Stanbic bank financing of the harmful East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). YGC reaffirms that criminalizing climate action will never silence the truth and remains committed to defending the rights of young people advocating for a just and sustainable future.



On 26th August 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported the legal representation of KCB climate activists who had been detained at Jinja Road Police Station and jailed for nearly three months.

During the court session, the defense informed the court that the matter was scheduled for hearing but could not proceed in the absence of the state. As a result, the case was adjourned to 14th October 2025. YGC remains committed to standing with these activists and ensuring their rights are upheld throughout the legal process.

# YGC in solidarity amplifies the plight of detained environmental defenders in Uganda



On 9th and 10th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) engaged in documenting and amplifying stories of environmental defenders currently in detention, as a show of solidarity and advocacy.

Through powerful storytelling and social media campaigns YGC aimed to highlight the human rights violations and unjust criminalization faced by peaceful climate activists. This initiative raised awareness and reinforced public support for detained defenders emphasizing the urgent need for justice and protection of civic space in Uganda's environmental movement.

# YGC participates in members gathering to strengthen collective vision of community-led development



Between 7th and 12th July , 2025, our staff participated in the Members' Gathering of the Coalition for Human Rights in Development, held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The gathering brought together over 50 participants from 46 countries to share inspiring stories, reflect on collective achievements, engage in strategic and cross-regional discussions, and strengthen solidarity in advancing community-led, rights-based development and accountability in global development finance.

This aimed to celebrate the Coalition's 10-year journey and cocreate its Strategic Plan for 2026–2030.

YGC Engages government and Public Universities over Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) between Higher Institutions of learning and Oil Corporations in Uganda



Youth for Green Communities (YGC) mobilized and supported university youth across Uganda to engage government andPublic ministries university administration in opposing the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between public higher institutions and oil companies particularly East African Crude Oil Pipeline Company limited and Total Energies entered last year and early this year. The youth called for academic independence, environmental justice and an end to partnerships that legitimize fossil fuel expansion.

During the engagement, YGC submitted a petition signed by over 102 students, raising concerns about the environmental and human rights impacts of fossil fuel projects and urging universities to stand for sustainability, transparency and climate justice.

### YGC stands in solidarity with the KCB11



On 17th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported youth activists in organizing a peaceful protest demanding the release of the 11 KBC activists, who had spent nearly three months in prison for peacefully delivering a petition highlighting concerns over KCB Bank's recent financing of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The protest was held in solidarity with the arrested activists, calling for their immediate release and an end to the criminalization of environmental defenders.

### YGC participates in the consultative meeting at hotel Africana



On 25th July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) participated in a Consultative Meeting at Hotel Africana which was organised by Environment parliament which brought up bringing representatives from government, special interest groups and students to engage in meaningful dialogue on shaping the Environment Manifesto 2025.

The meeting provided a platform to share ideas, build consensus and strengthen collaborative efforts toward a just and inclusive environmental agenda for Uganda.

### YGC took part in the physical and digital security training of HRDs



Between 28th and 31st July 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) participated in a national training program organized by Defend Defenders, which brought together over 22 human rights defenders from across Uganda.

The training aimed to build the capacity of both organizations and individual defenders to serve as trainers in physical and digital security management.

Through this program, YGC strengthened their ability to protect themselves, support at-risk communities and build internal systems that enhance the organization's ability to respond to threats ensuring the safety and resilience of the staff.

### YGC organises a meeting for the the KCB11 embattled activists and the lawyers



On 31st July 2025, Youth for Green Communities supported a meeting between the lawyers and the KCBII at Streamside, Kampala for a strategic meeting aimed at identifying and understanding the challenges they faced during their 3 month illegal detention in prison.

The session created a safe and open space for the activists to share their lived experiences, highlight gaps in legal and psychosocial support and engage in dialogue with legal experts.

This aimed to collaboratively explore legal intervention, advocacy and support mechanisms that can be employed to protect the rights of activists, ensure their wellbeing while in detention, and strengthen efforts for their reintegration after release.

### YGC joins the world to celebrate the International Youth Day



On 12th August, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) joined the world in celebrating International Youth Day under the theme "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond."

The commemoration emphasized the transformative role of young people in localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by turning global aspirations into community realities. YGC marked the day by writing organizing a vibrant social media storm, article writing where young voices were amplified to raise awareness, inspire action and showcase the critical contributions of youth in driving sustainable development.

### YGC takes part in the National Stakeholders workshop on Women and Youth Environmental Human Rights Defenders under the UNDP supported Global Program



On 19th August 2025, YGC staff took part in a National Stakeholder Workshop hosted by ACFODE, FIDA and UNDP under the Global CSO-EHRD Women Flagship Programme. The discussions focused enhancing on capacity, voice and influence of women-led CSOs, youth coalitions, and Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) environmental governance, climate justice and democratic engagement.

YGC's participation reflected its ongoing commitment to strengthening civil society, fostering meaningful youth engagement and advancing climate justice across Uganda.

### YGC supports youth campaign in the KickTotalOutofAfrica of Action



On 21st August 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) joined StopEACOP Coalition in marking the Africa Week of Action. The campaign demanded the immediate release of all peaceful climate defenders, exposed the growing criminalization of environmental activism, amplified the KickTotalOutOfAfrica call to and mobilized global solidarity for ClimateJustice.

YGC actively contributed through a vibrant social media storm, delivered petition to TotalEnergies and conducted a peaceful climate protest. These collective actions reached thousands online, drew media attention and strengthened solidarity among local and international partners amplifying the voices of frontline communities resisting the destructive EACOP project.

YGC participates in 2025 Oilwatch Africa Conference and Annual General Meeting held in Uganda between 25th-28th August 2025



On 25th August 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) participated in the Oilwatch Africa Conference organized by the Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) in conjunction with Oilwatch Africa (OWA) at Esella Country Hotel in Kira.

The theme was "From Exploitation to Restoration: Climate Justice, Debt Cancellation and Reparations for Africa" the conference provided a platform to interrogate Africa's historical and ongoing exploitation while advancing the case for reparations, restoration and climate justice.

Discussions also addressed issues of climate debt, debt cancellation and the delicate balance between critical minerals and critical ecosystems.

### Social media and other Communication campaigns to promote social sustainable change

Throughout July and August , Youth for Green Communities participated in social media and communication campaigns promoting sustainability and inclusive, just climate solutions. Through creative storytelling, publications, and online engagement, YGC amplified grassroots voices, challenged harmful fossil fuel narratives and spotlighted community-driven approaches to climate justice.

17 Youth For Green Communities (YGC), reposted



Tumusiime ② ② @PeterT... · 21 Aug ☑ :
They spoke for land, water, and climate.
Instead of listening, the system threw them in iail.

These are defenders, not criminals.





Today I joined activist to demand @TotalEnergies to stop funding EACOP.We call on them to demonstrate true climate leadership

by ending your support for EACOP and Tilenga projects, and to instead invest in equitable, community-led renewable energy solutions.

#KickTotalOutAfrica



Fridays For Future Uganda and 5 others

on . Eniten . @

"When the law protects polluters and punishes protectors — that is not justice, it is colonialism in a new form."

Across Africa, young people and communities are standing up against destructive fossil fuel projects like EACOP HC Oil host communities and @Tilenga. Instead of being protected, they face intimidation, arrests, and harassment. This must stop.

We choose people over profit. We choose justice over exploitation. We choose a future that is sustainable, equitable, and led by Africans for Africans.

Youth For Green Communities

#StopEACOP #ClimateJustice #KickTotalOutOfAfrica #FreeTheActivist #ClimateDefenders #EndFossilFuels



13 Youth For Green Communities (YGC), reposted



Comfort Tusingwire @co... · 21 Aug Ø :
Peaceful protest is not a crime. 12
#StopEACOP activists were arrested and
denied bail for standing up against a pipeline
that threatens lives, land, and climate. We
demand their immediate release. #FreeThe12
#ClimateJustice #KickTotalOutOfAfrica



13 Youth For Green Communities (YGC), reposted

### **LOBBYING**

### Social media and communication campiagns







Re: Financing of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Potentially Violating the Green Finance

As representatives of Ugandam, Tanzaniam, and African environmental groups, local civil society organizations, landowners, and residents of affected communities from Uganda and Tanzania, we are writing to raise concerns regarding the Tast African Crude Oil Pipoline (TACOP), which is already supported by Instalatorial Commercial Bank of Orina (DOC) as a franctial advisor, and reportedly may be financed by several Chieses institutions, including Chies Expire deeper them. (Ozina Eximitants) with the support of Simonom: EACOP is being developed by Total Exergia. and Tanzania. China National Offichare Oil Company (CNOCC), in partnership with the Ugundan and Tanzanian

Developing EACDP will head to severe negative eminonmental, social, climate, and bindiversity impacts. In construction is almostly triggering widesquest opposition among typendum, Teoconium, and wider African communities. As such, we are many other stakeholders have repeatedly requested China Eann Bank, Sinosare, and other Chinese action to not provide any financial support to the project or its project developers. Unfortunately, no Chinese financial institution has responded to our public connection.

we excit that me to de ingrave assectionment, sound, commen, and attornersy impacts, the project does not align with relevant Chinese green fleance publics and international notices and standards. Given the lask of response of Chinese financiers, we are now contacting China's National Financial Regulatory Administration (INFRA) to flag our concerns.

We respectfully ask that the NiRA urgs and discourageany Chinese Transfer and institution from supporting EACOP, including Chins Zelin Baok and Simuses. If furth have already been surroutited, we strongly ask that the NIFRA work with each institution to re-valuate, suspend, control, or require immediate registerent of any current or planning tuning thanks which support EACOP.

StopEACOP Youth Coalition Kampala, Uganda

Email: stopeacopyouthactivists@gmail.com Date: August 21st, 2025

Through Philippe Groueix, Country Chair and General Manager TotalEnergies EP Uganda Course View Towers, Plot 21 Yusuf Lule Road P.O BOX 34867 Kampala

Patrick Pouyanné Chairman and CEO TotalEnergies SE 2. Place Jean Millier La Défense 6, 92400 Courbevoie, France

Dear Mr. Pouyanné and the TotalEnergies Board,

### RE: An Urgent Call from African Youth-Uganda: StopEACOP and Fossil Fuel Expansion in Africa.

We, the youth of Uganda, East Africa and Africa, writing under the banner of the StopEACOP campaign, stand in firm opposition to your continued investment in destructive fossil fuel projects across our continent specifically the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and the Tilenga oil project in Uganda and Tanzania. These ventures represent a future we cannot accept, one defined by ecological destruction, climate chaos, human rights violations, and a betrayal of the just transition our generation deserves.

These projects do not represent development. They represent displacement, environmental degradation, and the deepening of a global climate crisis that disproportionately affects African communities. Communities that have contributed the least to the problem.

# YGC staff wrote articles that were published in the mainstream media calling for climate action and social sustainability



Uganda is one of the youngest countries in the world. More that 70% of our population is below 30. The high number of young people is an opportunity for the Uganda and world's growth but only if these new generations are fully empowered to realise their best potential. Link

# **Upcoming events**

5th September, 2025: Legal Representation of 12 Environmental Defenders

10th September,2025 Legal representation of 9 climate activists

10th and 11 September, 2025: Romitah Hotel; Development of Women with Disabilities Engagement framework for climate change policy and Negotiations

15th September, 2025: Sky Hotel Kampala; Youth Capacity Building on advancing climate justice through legal empowerment strategies

16th September, 2025: Legal representation of 11 Environmental defenders

22nd September: Hoima; Empowering youth and community champions in oil-impacted communities the legal angle and youth action for climate justice.

Through out September: Social media campaign, responsible media out reach and publications on social issues

### **About Youth For Green Communities (YGC)**

Youth for Green Communities (YGC) is a youth-led public policy research and advocacy non-profit organization based in Kampala, Uganda. Committed to influencing better environment and natural resources governance for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable while mitigating climate change impacts, YGC was established to secure the future by promoting sustainable management of the environment and natural resources for socio-economic development. The organization collaborates with educational institutions, communities, government, cultural, and religious leaders to ensure that natural resources are utilized in an inclusive, equitable, and environmentally sustainable manner, while upholding human rights.

### Vision

A society where natural resources are utilized in an environmentally sustainable manner.

### Mission

To promote and advocate for sustainable management of environment and natural resources for the present and future generation

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