

Just Green Pulse (JGP)



YOUTH FOR GREEN COMMUNITIES

YGC March Newsletter 2026

**Youth. Women. Communities. Planet.
Justice**



A group photo of the Benet community , YGC Staff and Partners

WELCOME TO YGC'S NEWSLETTER

Dear readers,

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.

Between 15th and 21st March 2026, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) participated in a training camp organized by the StopEACOP Coalition under the theme "The People Teach, The People Lead." The camp focused on strengthening advocacy through collective learning, reflection, and action, creating a participatory space where everyone shared experiences and learned from one another. As a result, participants enhanced their advocacy skills, deepened their understanding of people-led approaches, and strengthened collaboration for more effective community action.

On 16th March 2026, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported the legal representation of 12 climate activists who were arrested while peacefully protesting against the funding of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline by Stanbic Bank. The activists have been in detention since 1st August 2025, spending nearly nine months in prison. The court session did not proceed due to the absence of the magistrate and the case was adjourned to 10th April 2026 pending judgement.

On 24th of March, Youth For Green Communities supported legal representation of 11 Environmental defenders who were arrested for peacefully delivering a petition to Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) offices challenging its will to fund The East African Crude Oil Pipeline project. Fortunately it was dismissed for want of prosecution.

On 24th March 2026, our Staff represented us at the Ministry of Water and Environment headquarters, young people across Uganda continued to face barriers to meaningful participation in governance, particularly in climate policy formulation and implementation. To address these gaps, the Ministry of Water and Environment, during UWEK 2026, convened youth organizations to discuss how best to engage and collaborate on programs that benefit young people. During the engagement, our staff highlighted the importance of embracing community-led initiatives as a pathway to strengthening inclusive participation and effective climate action.

On 25th March, 2026 On 25th March 2026, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) together with our Partners Women on Environment Mission and the Resource Centre for Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities in Africa, conducted a community dialogue that brought together indigenous women, WWDs, local leaders, youth and other community members from Kapchorwa, Kween, and Bukwo districts. Through this engagement, we facilitated community-led dialogue, trained participants in advocacy, leadership and the need for inclusivity in climate governance. Participants were equipped with knowledge, practical tools and platforms to share their experiences and contribute meaningfully to local and community-driven solutions.

On 26th March 2026, following earlier engagements, Indigenous community members established a community hub, which was officially launched by Youth for Green Communities (YGC) and its partners. The hub was created to serve as a central platform for sharing information, updates, and key messages with the wider community through selected leaders, strengthening communication, coordination, and community engagement.

Throughout March 2026, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) led a dynamic media campaign to spotlight urgent social and environmental issues, amplify the voices of environmental and climate defenders, raise the rights of indigenous communities particularly Women with Disabilities in the context of climate and inclusion and spark public dialogue on business and human rights, biodiversity protection, gender-based violence and climate justice. Through these efforts, YGC supported youth to use social media and other communication channels to raise public awareness of social injustices and demand for accountability.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Brian Wasswa
Ayesiga Brian Douglas
Caroline Kinkuhaire

Pictorial of our Activities

Participation in the Climate Organisers Training Camp in Arusha, Tanzania,



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As a result, participants enhanced their advocacy skills, deepened their understanding of people-led approaches, and strengthened collaboration for more effective community action.

Legal representation of environmental defenders



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Pictorial of our Activities



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YGC participates in the 9th Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2026



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Participatory community dialogue with the Benet community in eastern Uganda



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YGC and partners launch community hub for Benet Indigenous community in Eastern Uganda

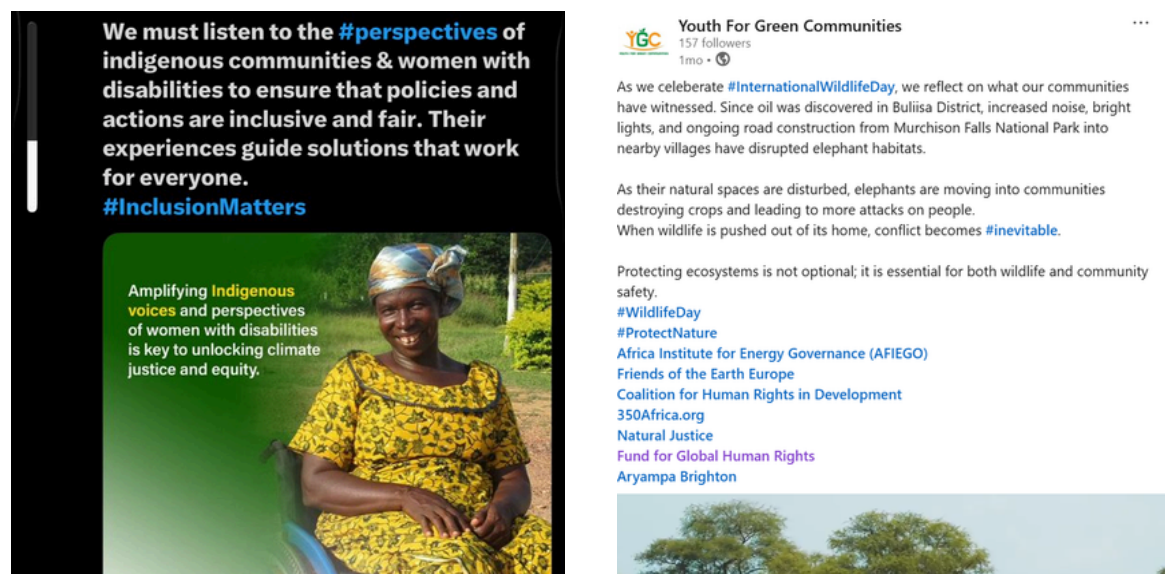
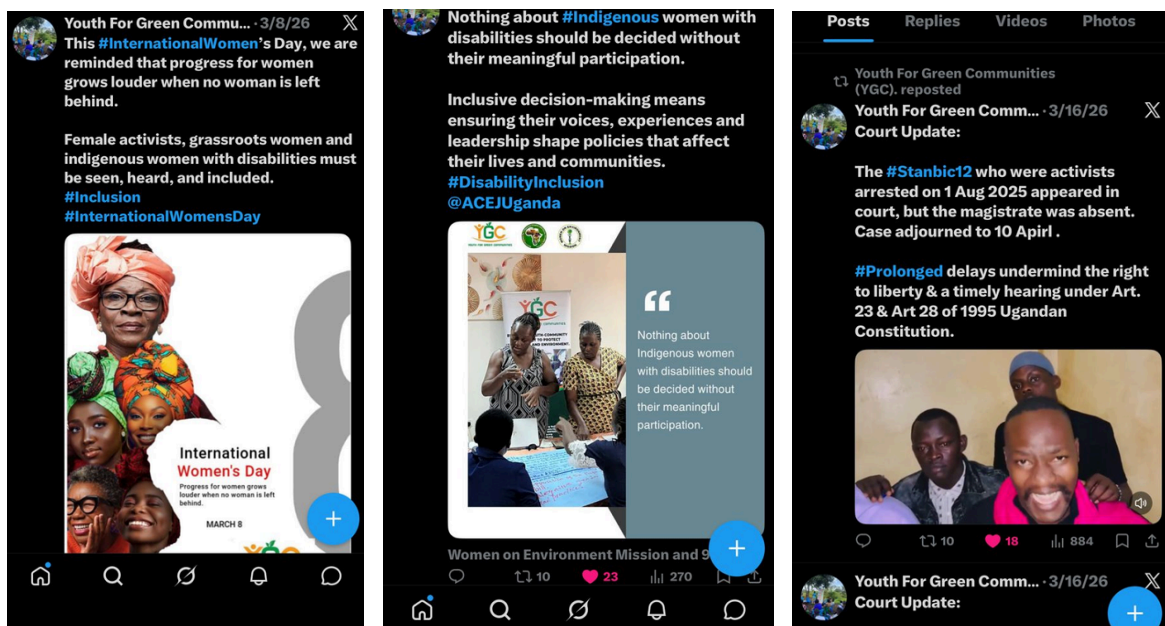


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Media and social media campaigns

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LOBBYING



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March 11, 2026

To:
The Chairperson
Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
P.O. Box 4929
Kampala, Uganda

*Received
Hagabaw
12/03/2026
- 0414377155
- 0414377156*



Dear Madam,

RE: FOLLOW-UP ON COMPLAINT REGARDING THE PROLONGED DETENTION OF 12 STOPEACOP ACTIVISTS.

We write to respectfully follow up on our letter dated **October 10, 2025**, in which we petitioned the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) to intervene in the prolonged and arbitrary detention of 12 StopEACOP environmental and climate justice activists who were arrested on **August 1, 2025**, during a peaceful protest at Stanbic Bank Uganda's head office in Kampala.

Following the submission of our complaint, we received a phone call from the Commission and were subsequently invited for a meeting with Ms. Teddy Achayo at the Uganda Human Rights Commission offices on October 30, 2025. During that meeting, we were informed that the Commission would conduct further investigations into the matter and review the concerns raised in our petition.

While we appreciated the Commission's willingness to engage and its indication that the matter would be investigated further, we have not received any communication or update regarding the progress or outcome of these investigations since that meeting.

Continued Detention and Delayed Justice

We remain deeply concerned that the environmental defenders remain in detention to date, and the court is yet to deliver a judgment in their case. The prolonged nature of this process raises serious concerns regarding the protection of their constitutional rights and the administration of justice. More troubling is the fact that should the court eventually convict the activists for the offense with which they are charged, Nuisance on the Road under Section 65(e) of the Roads Act—the maximum sentence prescribed under the law would already have effectively been served through the time they have spent in detention on remand. This situation raises serious questions about fairness, proportionality, and the right to personal liberty.



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

Protecting Uganda's regenerating forests: Why it matters to all of us

Over the past two to three decades, Uganda has faced a growing environmental crisis driven by forest degradation. Deforestation, land grabbing and unsustainable resource use have steadily eroded the country's forest resources. This degradation continues largely unchecked, fuelled by rapid population growth and the increasing demand for forest products and services.



Teddy Omongo

Land grabbing in Uganda's forests, often linked to urbanisation, commercial agriculture and industrial expansion, has caused severe deforestation, biodiversity loss and the displacement of local communities. In many cases, these acquisitions involve fraudulent practices and result in the replacement of natural forests with monoculture plantations or complete land-use change. The consequences include the destruction of livelihoods and rising food insecurity.

Amid this crisis, however, there is a quieter, hopeful story. Uganda's forests are beginning to recover. Across many local and central forest reserves, natural regeneration is taking place. Forests are slowly rebuilding themselves through underground root systems, soil seed banks and the growth of indigenous species. Yet, instead of being protected, these recovering ecosystems are increasingly threatened by encroachers who mistakenly view them as "idle land." This misunderstanding poses a serious risk to Uganda's environmental future.

Upcoming events

10 April, 2026; Legal representation of environmental defenders

8th April, 2026; Community engagement with Basongora Indigenous Community in Kasese

10th April, 2026; Community engagement with Batwa Community in Kisoro

14th April, 2026; Radio talk show to discuss the inclusive climate leadership and rights of indigenous people

27th April, 2026; Share advocacy materials from our community engagements with indigenous communities

1–31st April, 2026; Support social media advocacy, media outreach and publications

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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