



YGC October Newsletter 2025

Youth and Community Collaboration for Sustainable Social change



A group photo from the 4th Annual African Businesses and Human Rights Forum convened in Lusaka , Zambia from 7th – 9th October, 2025

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.

Between 2nd and 13th October 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) mobilized over 42 environmental defenders and Civil Society Organizations to write to Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and other national human rights systems calling for immediate intervention in the unjustified prolonged detention of 12 climate defenders since August 1, 2025. They arrested, detained and remanded to prison following their peaceful protest to Stanbic Bank regarding its financial support to the EACOP project. Following the urgent appeal, YGC was invited by the UHRC to further discuss the case during which the commission committed to investigating the matter and ensuring due process is upheld.

On 7th October 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) supported the legal representation of 9 activists arrested on 21st May 2025 after a peacefully marching to the KCB Bank's headquarters to deliver a petition opposing the bank's involvement and its financial support to the EACOP project. The Court dismissed the case for lack of sufficient evidence, marking a sufficient victory for environmental and climate justice and reaffirming the continued pattern of suppressing dissent, right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression for climate defenders in Uganda.

From 7th to 9th October 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) participated in the 4th Annual African Businesses and Human Rights Forum held in Lusaka, Zambia, under the theme "From commitment to Action; Advancing Remedy, Reparations and Responsible Business Conduct in Africa. The event brought together over 600 delegates including business leaders, government officials, civil society, indigenous representatives and human rights institutions to advance concrete action on human rights, accountability, and responsible business across Africa. On 30th October, 2025, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and Enabel organized a reflective and coordination meeting to consolidate the outcomes from the forum, strengthen synergies among the Uganda-based participants, and leverage the momentum ahead of the upcoming UN Forum on Business and Human rights.

On 10th October 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) hosted an engagement with academicians to discuss the impacts of oil projects on affected communities and explore how academic institutions can contribute to their protection and empowerment. The engagement examined the social, economy, and environmental impacts and emphasized the importance of research-driven solutions to strengthen community resilience and promote sustainable development in the region.

On 16th October 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) provided support to 12 climate activists who were brutally arrested for peacefully protesting against Stanbic Bank Uganda's continued willingness to fund the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. Sadly the matter has been adjourned to 6th November and the activists remanded to prison till then.

On 16th October 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) took part in a workshop at Africana Hotel organized by the Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action – Uganda (JISRA) under theme "Strengthening Voices: Religious Leaders, Women, and Youth in Advocacy." The workshop sought to empower faith leaders, women and youth to drive change in ending gender-based violence (GBV) while promoting peace, equality and social justice. The engagement provided a collaborative platform to explore how faith-based approaches can be harnessed to prevent GBV and strengthen inclusive community advocacy.

On 18th October 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC), in partnership with Nkobazambogo, a Baganda students' association organized a community clean up at Ndejje town Council to promote environmental sustainability. The initiative focused on reducing waste accumulation, raising awareness about proper waste management and inspiring community involvement in environmental protection. YGC highlighted the importance of recycling, minimizing single use plastics, and engaging youth, communities, and institutions of learning in environmental education to build a culture of responsibility and environmental stewardship

On 28th October 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) provided legal support to 11 environmental defenders arrested while peacefully marching to the European Union Office to deliver a petition advocating for environmental and climate justice. Through this intervention, YGC ensured fair legal representation and reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the rights of environmental defenders and promoting peaceful civic engagement in Uganda.

Throughout October 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) ran an extensive social media and media outreach campaign highlighting key social and environmental issues. The campaign aimed to raise public awareness, amplify the voices of environmental and climate defenders and promote informed dialogue on business and human rights, gender-based violence, and climate justice across both digital and traditional platforms.

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.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

EDITORIAL TEAM

1. Eva Kakuuma
2. Brian Wasswa
3. Caroline Kinkuhaire

Pictorial of our Activities

YGC advocates for the release of 12 climate defenders



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Legal Representation of Environmental defenders in Uganda



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YGC takes part in the 4th Africa Business and Human Rights Forum where they called for protection of environmental defenders across Africa



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YGC empowers youth in oil affected communities on how to use legal frame work to defend their right



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YGC takes part in religious youth advocacy



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YGC in partnership with Nkobazambogo organises a clean-up activity at Ndejje Town Council

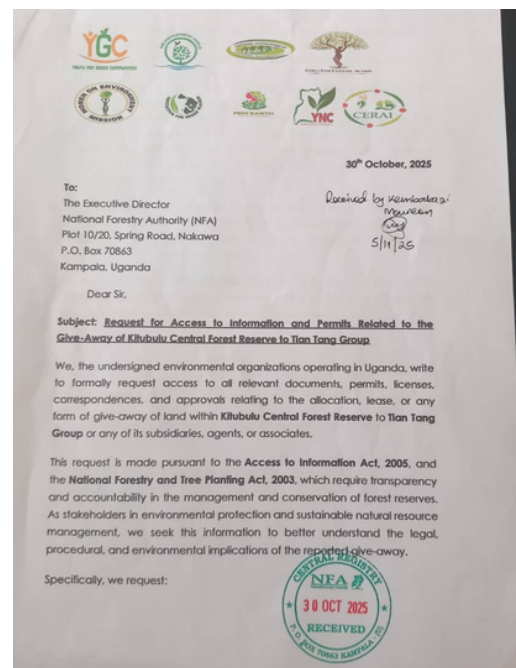


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LOBBYING

Social media and communication campaigns



LETTERS

What do indigenous people expect from COP30?



As the world prepares for the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, indigenous communities are calling for climate justice that recognises their struggles, voices, and solutions. For many of them, climate change is not a future threat but a daily reality that affects their food, health, and way of life.

In Uganda, indigenous groups such as the Batwa, Beni, and pastoralists in Karamoja are among the most affected by the changing climate.

The Uganda National Meteorological Authority reports that the country's average temperature has increased by 1.3°C over the past 60 years, while droughts now occur every two to three years instead of every decade. These shifts have reduced food production, dried up water sources, and increased poverty in areas already struggling with inequality.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), more than 5.8 million people in Karamoja are facing severe food insecurity due to prolonged droughts and loss of livestock.

The problems facing indigenous people are multi-layered. Many have lost access to ancestral lands through forced evictions for conservation or commercial projects, leaving them without vital natural resources for their survival. Droughts and floods have destroyed crops and livestock, deepening hunger and economic hardship. Changing weather patterns have worsened the spread of diseases such as malaria, typhoid and cholera, putting further pressure on already weak health systems.

Beyond physical challenges, the loss of land and cultural practices has also eroded traditional identity and community cohesion. For the Batwa, being displaced from forest areas has meant losing not only their source of food and medicine but also their spiritual connection to nature.

Despite these hardships, indigenous people are not passive victims; they are active agents of change with valuable traditions.

Their traditional knowledge, passed down through generations, offers practical and sustainable ways to protect ecosystems. Many communities are using indigenous farming methods, growing drought-tolerant crops, restoring forests, and managing water sources wisely.

They are also calling for access to climate finance to support local adaptation projects such as tree planting, soil restoration, and water harvesting. Securing land rights remains a top priority as it enables them to manage their territories and natural resources sustainably.

As COP30 approaches, indigenous communities expect global leaders to move beyond promises and take real action. They want genuine representation in climate decision-making not as observers, but as equal partners shaping solutions. They also expect fair access to climate finance, with funds reaching grassroots levels where they are needed most. They also demand recognition of land and cultural rights as part of climate justice, as well as the integration of health and food systems into adaptation strategies.

Their message to world leaders is clear: "Nothing about us without us." Indigenous people expect COP30 to deliver commitments that protect their rights, value their knowledge, and provide tangible support for resilience.

Climate action must not only focus on reducing emissions but also on uplifting communities that live closest to nature and bear the greatest burden of its loss.

The path to a just and sustainable future must begin with those who have protected the earth for generations.

Ms Caroline Kinkhuire,
Gender and advocacy officer
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National News

Ms Evelyn Anite says the government has allocated 150 acres of Kitubulu forest land to Tian Tang Group

BY KARIM MUYOBO

A new controversy has erupted over the government's decision to allocate part of Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve in Entebbe to a Chinese investor for building government offices and a shopping mall.

This move has sparked outrage among environmentalists, policy experts, and local leaders. The 150-acre (about 61 hectares) project, spearheaded by Mr Paul Zhang, the head of Tian Tang Group, is part of a broader plan championed by State Minister for Investment and Privatisation, Ms Evelyn Anite, who said it is aimed at creating an "alternative capital city" in Entebbe.

Ms Anite confirmed that the government had allocated about 150 acres of Kitubulu forest land to Tian Tang Group for what she described as a "government campus", a complex meant to host ministries, departments, and agencies currently renting space in Kampala.

"The government has allocated land in Entebbe to Chinese investors for the construction of modern facilities, including a five-star hotel, hospital, conference centre, and housing estates," Ms Anite said.

"Unless you are in a government-constructed facility your office will have to move to Entebbe. The aim is to decentralise Kampala," she added.

Mr Zhang said construction is expected to commence next month, describing Entebbe's proximity to the international airport as a "strategic advantage" for investors.

"Some time ago, I approached the minister with a proposal to build an international conference centre along with other amenities such as hospitals, international schools, and modern housing in Entebbe," Mr Zhang said.

"We believe this will transform Entebbe into a modern administrative hub. He added that his company was facilitated through the minister's office and

Outrage over Kitubulu forest land giveaway



Part of Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve cleared by a developer. PHOTO FILE

was later introduced to President Museveni, who approved the allocation.

In July more than five developers expressed interest in acquiring parts of the forest. The National Forestry Authority (NFA) reportedly issued licences to various private developers to establish eco-lodges within the forest.

During a meeting convened by Entebbe Municipality Mayor Fabrice Ruhulinda, and attended by the Katabi Town Council Mayor, NFA, and the developers, the forestry body acknowledged that it had allocated sections of the forest reserve to various developers.

Local leaders protest

The decision has angered Entebbe authorities and environmental activists who accuse the government of sacrificing a vital ecological asset for short-term commercial gain.

Kitubulu is a protected central for-

Complaint.

We are not allowing this forest giveaway, that's clear. It is disrespectful that no one from NFA has ever come to discuss with us or even inform us of any plans regarding this forest."

- Entebbe Municipality Mayor Fabrice Ruhulinda

est reserve, gazetted under the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, and managed by the NFA.

It is one of the few remaining natural habitats on the shores of Lake Victoria, providing a crucial buffer zone that helps maintain water quality and biodiversity.

Mr Ruhulinda condemned the move,

saying Entebbe leaders were not consulted about the allocations.

"We are not allowing this forest giveaway that's clear. It is disrespectful that no one from NFA has ever come to discuss with us or even inform us of any plans regarding this forest," he said.

"We are appealing for the cancellation of all land titles and letters issued in connection with this forest because we are determined to put up a spirited fight to ensure nothing of this sort happens in Entebbe," he said.

He added that Kitubulu was not a naturally grown forest but one planted by the people of Entebbe decades ago.

"This forest was planted by our people, and we had hoped it would be preserved for posterity. Whoever claims to have bought land in that forest has been duped because we will not allow any developer to take over," he said.

Mr Ruhulinda added that his office

had written several letters to NFA seeking clarification, but had received no response.

"All the letters we have seen authorising activities in that forest are coming from NFA. We appeal to them to cancel all permissions because this forest is not for destruction," he added.

NFA defends allocation

When contacted, Mr Emmanuel Mangirapha, the executive director of NFA, defended the authority's decision, saying the plan for Kitubulu allows for "wise use" through eco-tourism.

"The forest management plan talks about conservation through wise use. The best way to save Kitubulu is through sustainable utilisation, and eco-tourism is one of those approaches," Mr Mangirapha explained.

He added that developers were given strict conditions before being allowed to operate within the forest. "Every developer is required to carry out environmental and social impact assessments, and all this was done," he said.

Environmentalists, however, insist that the government must suspend all ongoing allocations and conduct a comprehensive environmental audit.

They argue that converting a protected forest reserve into commercial property sets a dangerous precedent.

They warn that clearing Kitubulu could worsen flooding in Entebbe, accelerate wetland degradation, and undermine Uganda's commitments under international environmental conventions.

As the debate rages on, Kitubulu, once a quiet, lush green forest hugging the shores of Lake Victoria, has become the latest battleground in Uganda's escalating struggle between conservation and commercial development.

Efforts to reach out to State Minister for Water and Environment, Ms Beatrice Anywar for a comment on the ongoing developments in Kitubulu forest were futile as she never picked up our repeated phone calls to her by press time yesterday.

Upcoming events

6th November, 2025: Legal representation of 12 Environmental defenders who were arrested while attempting to deliver a petition to Stanbic Bank

11th November, 2025: Legal representation of 11 Environmental defenders who were arrested as they marched to the European Union Office to deliver a petition

From 11th -17th November,2025: Belem,Brazil; Participation in the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) and pushing for our key demands

From 18th to 23rd November,2025: Johannesburg; South Africa; Participation in G20

21st November,2025: Radio talk show; Breaking down the law for oil impacted communities

25th November, 2025: Legal representation of 11 Environmental defenders who were arrested as they marched to the European Union Office to deliver a petition

Through out November: Social media campaign, responsible media outreach 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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