

ANNUAL REPORT



www.ygcug.org

2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About YGC	3
Our programmes	4
Table of acronyms	6
Section 1	7
Message from the board chairperson	7
Executive summary by the CEO	8
Section 2	10
Section 3	12
Key achievement, challenges and priorities	25
Highlights of key achievements	25
Challenges in 2025.....	26
Key priorities in 2026.....	27



ABOUT US

Youth for Green Communities (YGC) is a Kampala-based youth-led public policy research and advocacy organization dedicated to building a society where the environment and natural resources are sustainably governed for current and future generations. Founded in 2018 and legally registered in 2020, YGC empowers youth and local communities to access information, participate in decision-making processes, and seek redress and remedies, enabling them to shape their socio-economic development and future.

YGC connects youth, local communities, women, activists, CSOs and other environmental and human rights defenders (EHRDs) to expand knowledge, build networks, conduct joint advocacy and campaign initiatives, and strengthen their capacity for community-driven change. Through social media and other channels, YGC amplifies their voices, testimonies and aspirations, fostering public dialogue and accountability for governments and corporations.

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To promote transparent and accountability in management of environment and natural resources.
- To empower youth and women's capacity to manage the impacts of climate change through resilience and adaptation.
- To promote restoration, conservation and management of ecosystems in Uganda.
- To promote equity and inclusiveness in environmental policy formulation and implementation.
- To promote reforestation of indigenous trees species for community livelihoods and conservation.

OUR PROGRAMMES

Environmental Governance



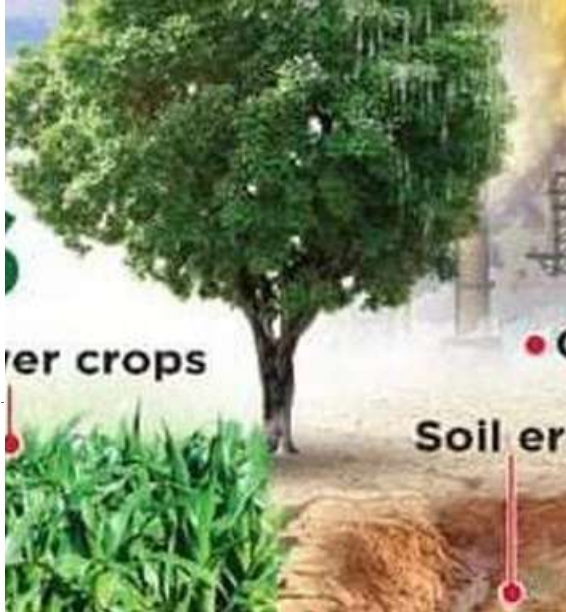
The foundation of environmental democracy was established in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration (1992 Earth Summit). It emphasizes that environmental issues are best addressed with the participation of all concerned citizens at relevant levels. Public authorities must provide access to environmental information, enable participation in decision-making, and ensure judicial and administrative proceedings for redress. Youth for Green Communities (YGC) defends the three critical pillars of environmental democracy: Transparency: The right to freely access environmental information, promoting openness to ensure citizens, civil society, and media can hold governments accountable. Participation: Citizens, especially those most affected, must have a voice in environmental decision-making to ensure legitimacy and equitable policies. Justice: Access to legal mechanisms for enforcing environmental laws and obtaining redress ensures governments act as effective environmental stewards.

Natural Resources, Oil, and Mining



The rapid growth of Uganda's extractive sector has reshaped socio-economic and environmental landscapes. Negotiations often exclude community voices, prioritizing corporate power over social justice. YGC's program seeks to: Create knowledge-sharing platforms to minimize extractive sector impacts on communities. Advocate for adherence to laws and promote community-responsive benefit-sharing arrangements. Amplify Ugandan community voices in regional and global governance discussions. Foster responsible extractive industry development through capacity-building and coalition efforts.

Climate Change and Just Energy Transition



Human Rights, Gender, and Inclusive Participation



YGC drives equitable climate policies and empowers youth to become climate leaders. By collaborating with governments, conducting independent research, and advocating for climate action, YGC ensures that climate finance and policies are inclusive and effective. Program Objectives: Develop equitable climate and finance policies through research, policy advisory, and capacity building. Mentor the next generation of youth climate leaders. Projects: Collaborating with governments to address climate change impacts. Conducting research and advocacy aligned with the Paris Agreement (2016). Running the Next Generation Climate Leaders Course, empowering youth with practical training.

YGC champions inclusive decision-making, ensuring youth, women, and vulnerable groups—often excluded—can meaningfully participate. These groups face the most significant impacts from decisions made without their involvement. This program focuses on: Promoting human rights. Mainstreaming gender considerations. Encouraging inclusive participation in policies and programs.

TABLE OF ACRONYMS

YGC	Youth For Green Communities
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
MUST	Mbarara University Of Science and Technology
KIU	Kampala International University
WWDs	Women with Disabilities
HRD	Human Rights Defenders

Section 1

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Dear Readers, friends and partners,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for each one of you, our supporters, partners, colleagues and well wishers. Your unwavering commitment and belief in the power of youth and communities have made it possible for us to continue our critical work even in the face of immense challenges.

I am proud to serve as the Chairperson of Youth for Green Communities, and as we look back on 2025, I am inspired by what we have achieved together. This past year has been one of resilience and collective action as we stood by communities affected by climate change, extractive projects, and environmental injustices.

Together, we have reached more youth, expanded our programs, and deepened our impact. The concept of creating a ripple effect is central to our mission. Small actions, when multiplied, can create lasting change. This ripple effect is reflected in the way we continue to scale our programs. In 2025, we expanded our reach through strategic partnerships, which have allowed us to reach more communities, youth and women than ever before.

Our StopEACOP campaigns, social media and responsible media outreach, university engagements, renewable discussions, climate and litigation advocacy initiatives have empowered youth to step into leadership roles within their communities and hold powerful actors accountable. We are particularly proud of our efforts to support communities facing displacement, environmental degradation, and resource related human rights abuses.

Through advocacy, legal action, and grassroots mobilization, youth and communities have been able to demand justice, amplify their voices, and drive meaningful social change.

Last year, we also strengthened our collaboration with local partners, networks, and legal allies. By working together, we have amplified the voices of those most affected by environmental and social injustices, creating a foundation for lasting impact.

As we look to the future, there is still much work to be done. Environmental injustices, displacement, and climate risks continue to threaten communities across Uganda, the region, and globally. Yet, I am confident that, with your continued support, advocacy, and community engagements and empowerments, we can create meaningful, lasting change. Your involvement, your generosity, and your belief in the potential of youth and frontline communities are what fuel our mission.

Thank you for standing with us, and for standing with the communities we serve. I am excited for what the future holds. With gratitude and optimism,

Ms. Namirembe Marysalome
Chairperson Board



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear reader,

At YGC, we believe that real change begins when young people and communities connect and take action for a better world. In 2025, we worked hand in hand with youth, women environmental defenders, Activists, and impacted communities across Uganda to advance climate justice, clean energy access, and defend environmental rights. It is an honor to present this 2025 Annual Report, highlighting the activities, achievements, and milestones of Youth for Green Communities (YGC).

Over the past year, we have faced challenges, learned important lessons, and celebrated remarkable progress all reflecting our commitment to empowering youth, women, affected communities, protecting the environment and its defenders. This work would not be possible without the steadfast support of our YGC staff, volunteers, partners, grassroots communities and stakeholders whose collaboration has enabled us to grow and strengthen our reach across Uganda and East Africa.

In this report, I also reflect on the key priorities YGC will undertake in the coming year. We hope that these initiatives will address the challenges we faced in 2025 and further advance our mission. First, I discuss the critical work that YGC accomplished throughout 2025.

YGC led petitions advocating for Clean Energy access, Kitubulu Forest protection, and release of arrested environmental defenders.

Between March- December 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) spearheaded petitions to advance climate justice and environmental protection in Uganda.

During this period, more than 30 CSOs endorsed petitions calling for a transition to clean and renewable energy, the protection of Kitubulu central forest and other protected ecosystem areas, and the release of environmental defenders facing criminalization for their human rights work. These coordinated advocacy efforts amplified community voices, influenced policy, shaped and fostered public discussions, and strengthened collective action for environmental rights.

Harnessing youth power to address oil threats: Uganda is described as a young country because over 72% of the country's population is composed of youth. The actions, or inactions, of today therefore not only affect the youth today, but also stand to affect them in the future. Youth therefore need to be empowered with information, resources and others to engage in advocacy so that action is taken to promote their wellbeing today and in the future. To ensure that the Ugandan government must take climate action, protects = human rights and champions green energy initiatives. YGC organised capacity building trainings, University debates, and non-violent campaigns in advocating for renewable energy access while amplifying the real impacts of fossil fuel extraction in Uganda and globally. YGC also supported the youth to engage in online campaigns targeting governments, financiers including Chinese ones and other stakeholders to build pressure and to ensure that climate action is taken by stopping investments in harmful projects such as the EACOP, while promoting green projects, protection and release of arrested environmental defenders.

Strengthening working relationship with national, regional and international partner organisations and other stakeholders:

During the reporting period, YGC strengthened its collaborative efforts with different organisations, embassies and coalitions, such as StopEACOP coalition, IGEN, Coalition for Human rights in Development, oilwatch Friends of the Earth Europe, Global Greengrants Fund, Fund for Global Human Rights, AFIEGO, CRED, NAPE and others.

YGC participated in 15 strategy and network-building meetings. These partnerships were instrumental in facilitating the exchange of information regarding the voices of arrested environmental defenders in Uganda and communities affected by oil projects which provided a platform for strategic discussions that enhanced our advocacy campaigns at all levels.

Empowering communities affected by EACOP and other oil projects to defend their rights to participation, environment, land and other resource rights.

In 2025, YGC worked closely with communities impacted by the oil projects in Hoima, Bulisa, Kikube, Masaka and Kyotera in the greater Masaka region to empower and build their capacity to protect their rights and access justice in courts of law amidst oil developments. YGC conducted legal empowerments, community dialogues and trainings, safety and security trainings, Community outreaches, experience sharings and learnings. YGC equipped youth, women and reached communities with the knowledge and tools to understand their rights, navigate land acquisition processes and advocate for justice. These efforts empowered communities to demand for transparency and accountability in government programs.

Effective Social Media and other responsible mainstream media on climate and social justice.

In 2025, YGC organized strategic social media campaigns on different social media platforms and responsible mainstream media to advance climate knowledge, defend human rights, communities and promote clean energy solutions as sustainable alternatives to fossil fuel expansion. These campaigns amplified the voices of affected communities widely, engaged youth and the public, and raised awareness on situation of environmental defenders, worsening climate chaos, the need for sustainable energy alternatives just energy transition.

Legal representation and access to Justice

In 2025, YGC provided critical legal support to environmental defenders arrested for defending environment and oil impacted communities through peaceful protests. YGC offered legal assistance, emergency support, and referrals while conducting security trainings and documenting cases of harassment. YGC also supported communities in national and regional courts seeking for fair compensation and challenging harm projects like EACOP. These efforts not only mitigated immediate risks and access to justice but also strengthened the broader protection systems for those f

Empowering Youth on Green and Sustainable Alternatives

In 2025, YGC strengthened its efforts to mobilise and empower young people in Uganda to advance clean and sustainable energy solutions. YGC Conducted 10 capacity-building workshops, 4 university debates and panel discussions in 4 Universities, and practical demonstrations like climate run, climate sports gala to illustrate practical knowledge and skills on renewable energy options like solar technologies, improved cookstoves biogas systems and other. This work is nurturing youth leadership and active participation in advocating for a just energy transition, inspiring young people to engage in policy dialogues, public raising awareness campaigns and local innovation initiatives.

As I end here, we experienced several challenges in 2025, including the prolonged detention of environmental defenders that created fear and uncertainty among the youth standing up for environmental and community rights, communities that are defending their ancestral land. The civic space in Uganda also remained highly restricted limiting meaningful engagements and participation. In 2026, YGC will work towards addressing these adversities to ensure that youth, indigenous communities and other marginalized groups are meaningfully participating to advance climate and sustainable change. It is a great honor to serve this team and sharing most of what I studied all my life with frontline communities.

Aryampa Brighton
Chief Executive Officer
Youth for Green Communities (YGC)



SECTION 2

INTRODUCTION

The mission of advancing environmental justice and empowering youth and affected communities in Uganda and the wider region is filled with complex challenges. In a rapidly changing climate and political landscape marked by extractive projects, land dispossession, and shrinking civic space. Youth for Green Communities (YGC) experienced a demanding yet impactful year in 2025. Despite these challenges, YGC recorded significant achievements through sustained StopEACOP campaigns, social media advocacy, climate justice mobilization, and climate and litigation advocacy at international, national and regional levels. Empowering youth and frontline communities to understand, defend, and advocate for their environmental and human rights remains at the core of YGC's work.

Throughout the year, YGC supported young activists, women with disabilities (WWD), Environmental defenders, university students and projected communities through capacity-building initiatives focused on advocacy, civic engagement, and access to justice. These efforts strengthened youth leadership in environmental struggles and enabled communities to actively engage in decision-making processes affecting their land, livelihoods, and environment.

Advocacy remains a central pillar of YGC's work. In 2025, YGC actively engaged in StopEACOP advocacy, digital and social media campaigns, and strategic litigation advocacy aimed at challenging environmental harm and human rights violations linked to large-

scale extractive projects. YGC amplified community voices in national, regional, and international advocacy spaces, ensuring that the experiences and demands of affected communities were visible and heard by decision-makers, institutions, and the broader public. In parallel, YGC continued to support youth-led and community-based resistance through coordinated campaigns, public awareness initiatives, and solidarity actions.

By leveraging digital platforms and grassroots organizing, YGC strengthened youth participation in climate justice movements and fostered collective action against environmental injustice. Partnership and collaboration remained central to YGC's approach. Throughout

the year, YGC worked closely with grassroots organizations, legal partners, civil society networks, and regional and international allies to advance shared advocacy goals. These collaborations strengthened collective impact and reinforced the role of youth-led movements in driving accountability and justice.

As 2025 came to a close, YGC acknowledges the intensity of the work and the toll it takes while remaining motivated, resilient and hopeful. With continued solidarity and support, YGC remains committed to expanding its advocacy, strengthening youth leadership and standing with communities at the frontlines of environmental and climate injustice.



SECTION 3

ACTIVITIES AND ACHEIVEMENTS

Empowering Youth for Sustainable Energy Leadership

In 2025, YGC worked with young people across Uganda to advance the use of clean and sustainable energy solutions. Through hands-on workshops, school initiatives, community outreach, and practical demonstrations, youth were equipped with skills and knowledge on renewable technologies such as solar panels, improved cookstoves, and biogas systems.

The program fostered youth leadership in climate advocacy, enabling them to engage in policy discussions, awareness campaigns, and local innovation projects. As a result, young people emerged as change agents in their communities, promoting energy practices that reduce environmental impact, support climate resilience, and improve local livelihoods.



Legal representation and access to justice

In 2025, environmental defenders faced heightened risks and intimidation. YGC supported them through providing legal assistance, emergency support and referrals, while also offering security training and documenting cases of harassment.

Through media engagement and advocacy networks, YGC ensured that the voices of affected activists were amplified. These interventions mitigated the risks faced by defenders and also helped to strengthen the overall protection and support systems for those working on environmental and human rights issues.



Regional litigation at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ)

In 2025, YGC alongside other public interest lawyers, appeared before the Appellate Division of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) in an appeal filed by the Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), Natural Justice, the Centre for Strategic Litigation, and the Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights. The appeal called upon the Court to consider the substantive merits of a Reference previously filed before the First Instance Division. The case raised critical issues concerning the right to a clean and healthy environment, alleged contraventions of regional laws by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), and its impacts on biodiversity, ecologically sensitive areas, and the land rights of indigenous communities.



Strengthening Community Access to Justice

Furthermore in 2025, YGC provided legal representation at the High Court of Uganda in Hoima in support of Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) displaced by the Kabaale oil refinery project. The case, filed by 11 PAPs on behalf of more than 7,000 individuals displaced by the government, challenges the processes of compulsory land acquisition and compensation. With support from the Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), the matter has remained before the courts for over a decade, highlighting persistent delays in access to justice for affected communities.



Empowering communities

YGC believes that empowered communities are key to fostering good energy governance that enables clean energy access, promotes environmental conservation and addresses human rights as well as climate change concerns. In 2025, YGC supported a sports gala in kahunga village, ntungamo district which equipped the residents about climate and environmental awareness and also conducted over 2 land rights trainings and exchange learnings for communities affected by oil and gas projects in over 3 districts in Uganda. The communities that were trained were from the Bunyoro and Greater Masaka sub-regions. YGC also organised radio talkshows that were aired by stations such as kyema FM. These stations reach millions of people including those affected by oil projects in the western sub-regions.

Through the above engagements, YGC listened to communities to understand their advocacy needs. YGC also equipped the oil project-affected persons with legal knowledge to defend their land rights during compulsory land acquisitions for oil projects. The platforms proved instrumental in amplifying community voices and strengthening advocacy. Through trainings and radio talkshows, YGC equipped oil project-affected communities with legal knowledge and practical tools to defend their land rights during compulsory acquisitions. These engagements also fostered solidarity and collective action, enabling communities to participate confidently in decisions affecting their land and resources.



Gender Training and Women Empowerment

Promoting gender justice and women empowerment is central to YGC’s work. To ensure that the communities YGC works with are gender-sensitive and inclusive, YGC, in collaboration with our partners the Centre for Minority Rights Development and the East African

Regional Institute of Legal and Policy conducted a gender training for **Women with Disabilities** (WWDs) in September 2025. The training aimed to ensure that women With Disabilities and youth are meaningfully represented in climate change policy, programming, and decision-making processes at all levels.



Experience sharing and security training for activists:

Safety and security, especially for communities, youth activists working amidst the repressed civic space in Uganda, is important. To promote Youth and communities' safety while going about their work, YGC organised trainings in June, November and December 2025 for the oil affected communities and youth activists that we work with.

YGC facilitated platforms for youth activists and community members to share experiences, lessons, and best practices in environmental conservation, climate action, and human rights advocacy, while also providing physical and digital safety and security training to equip them with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves against threats and repression.



Raising Public Awareness through Media and Press

In 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) conducted press conferences and media appearances to amplify the voices of affected communities and youth activists, highlighting environmental and human rights issues, and call for accountability from government and corporations.

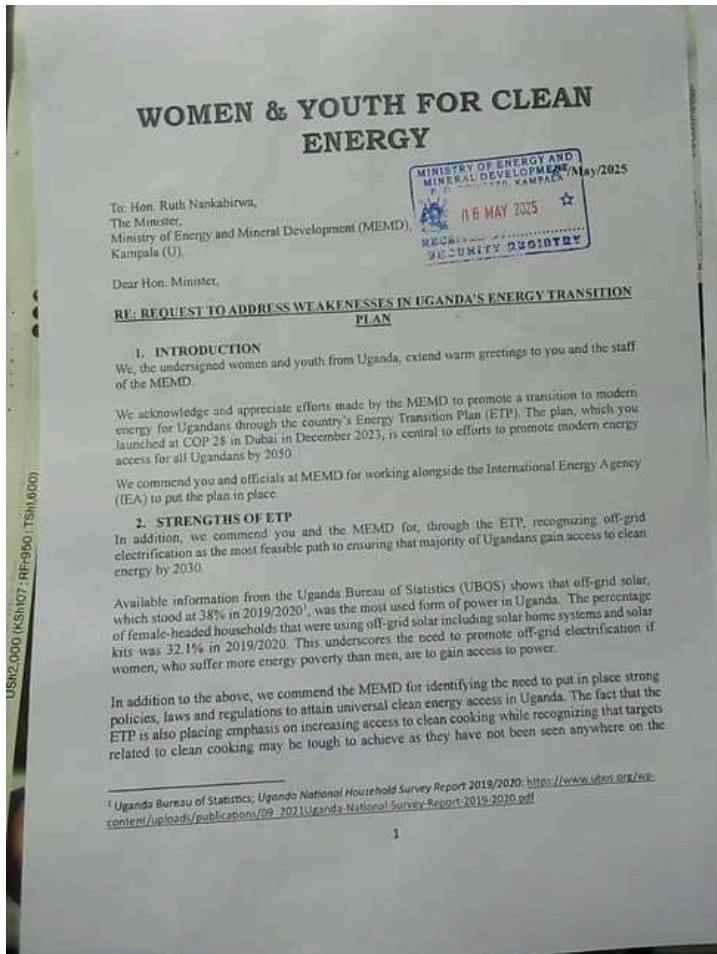
These engagements ensured that community concerns were heard, increased public awareness of climate and human rights challenges, and strengthened advocacy efforts to promote transparency, justice and sustainable environmental practices.



Advocacy Letters on Uganda's Energy Transition Plan

One of YGC's core activities involves strategic advocacy and mobilizing local communities and CSOs to engage with key government bodies, such as the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD). In 2025, YGC organized advocacy engagements, where CSO, youth, women, and other stakeholders were actively encouraged to participate in policy-making processes. These efforts aimed to address the climate crisis and promote social justice by ensuring that a just energy transition is inclusive and meets the needs of all communities.

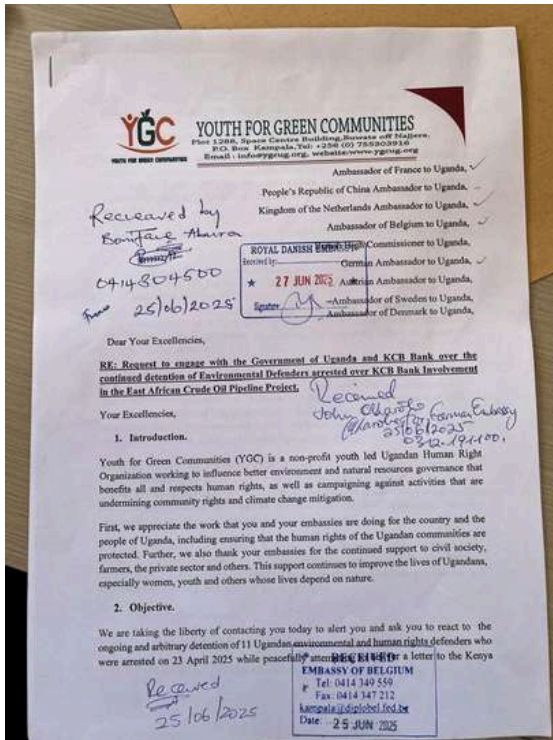
YGC used these platforms to submit advocacy letters urging the enactment of clean energy policies, a Solar Energy Policy, and the integration of gender and youth considerations into Uganda's Energy Transition Plan. As a result of these concerted efforts, YGC contributed to raising awareness among policymakers about the need for an inclusive, renewable-energy-driven and equitable energy transition in Uganda.



Produced and published advocacy materials

Additionally, In 2025 YGC created a variety of informative materials, such as articles, petitions, infographics, videos and flyers. These materials presented compelling evidence of the negative impacts associated with fossil fuels while highlighting the numerous advantages of transitioning to clean energy alternatives.

They were disseminated to local communities, youth groups and university whats groups. These efforts have yielded positive outcomes, including the increased public awareness of impacts of oil projects, the injustices faced by environmental defenders in Uganda.



Online Presence

In 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) made notable progress in strengthening its online presence and digital communication, focusing on advocacy-driven engagement to amplify StopEACOP campaigns, climate justice narratives, and climate litigation advocacy. On Twitter (X), YGC's content reached 30,000 people, driving sustained interaction around campaigns, court processes, and community demands. Instagram grew steadily, reaching 200 followers with 100 impressions, while LinkedIn recorded 3,000 impressions, supporting engagement with civil society actors, legal partners, and development stakeholders.

YGC also expanded outreach on Bluesky, engaging 50 users in conversations on climate justice. Beyond social media, the website recorded 200 sessions and 50 page views, and the newsletter achieved a 60% open rate, reflecting strong interest among activists, partners, and supporters. These digital milestones underscore YGC's commitment to leveraging online platforms to amplify youth voices, mobilize public support, and advance environmental and climate justice advocacy.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

As part of our strategy to enhance protection for environmental defenders and affected communities, YGC engaged in international programs and platforms in 2025. These engagements enabled the organization to connect local struggles to global human rights and accountability mechanisms.

In July YGC 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.

In October, 2025, Youth for Green Communities 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.



In 2025, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) participated in the **Human Rights Defenders (HRD) Program, an initiative that engages United Nations mechanisms** to protect and support individuals and communities advocating for human rights. Through this program, YGC strengthened its engagement with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, enabling the organization to raise both individual cases and broader systemic concerns affecting environmental defenders and oil-impacted communities.

In November YGC , co-hosted a side event at the G20 Social Summit in South Africa, held under the theme Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability. During the summit, YGC joined a peaceful protest and marched to the TotalEnergies offices in Johannesburg to call for accountability for environmental and human rights abuses. YGC also took part in several sessions with other like-minded organizations and policymakers, discussing how Africa can make the most of the African Union's entry into the G20.



In November YGC, represented the voices of farmers, women, and youth at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, communities whose land and livelihoods are being devastated by oil activities, alongside environmental defenders who face imprisonment for exposing human rights abuses linked to the oil industry.

YGC stood in solidarity with those on the frontlines, amplifying their stories, demanding climate justice, and calling for accountability, protection of civic space, and a just transition that puts people and the planet before profit.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Promoting clean energy initiatives:

YGC has built a critical mass of women and youth clean energy champions that ensure that Ugandans' need to enjoy accessible, reliable and affordable power remains on the public agenda. This was achieved through the women and youth champions consistently using the media, writing petitions to engage and advocate. In a country where access to clean energy remains low, the work done by the champions remains critical.

Court cases against Environmental defenders dismissed:

We have supported lawyers to represent 57 environmental defenders including stopEACOP activists in 2025. The activists were arrested for speaking out and drawing attention to the environmental and human rights abuses linked to the oil projects in the Albertine region. The court dismissed 3 of the cases for want of prosecution brought against the activists. The court decisions have no doubt made clear that the right to a peaceful protest is not a crime but a right.

Youths driving public debate on Just Energy Transition:

Due to the empowerment engagements with the youths on the need to transition to clean energy in Uganda, they are now driving public debate on why the government should prioritize clean energy investments as opposed to fossil fuels projects.

Increased youth and public awareness on oil threats and other fossil fuel impacts:

In 2025, YGC reached out to over 4000 youths and supported the formation of 100 informal youth groups from the 4 Universities and communities. We empowered and gave them information to develop a deep understanding of environmental and human rights issues in their communities and globally. They have been leading environmental and climate activism digitally and physically.

Enhanced media reporting on climate justice initiatives.

In 2025, YGC significantly increased its media engagements to amplify environmental justice issues, access to clean energy, repression of environmental defenders and the need for energy transition. Over 20 stories about negative oil impacts in communities and National parks have been published in the media with over 50 tweets about same stories. One of the year's key achievement was the production of a powerful documentary highlighting the growing human-wildlife conflict in Uganda's oil region. Beyond the documentary, the organization strengthened its broader media advocacy by supporting community storytelling, use of social media and youth media champions to highlight environmental governance issues, repression of environmental defenders and other social injustices.

Supported and elevated voices of WWDs and indigenous groups in climate change policy and negotiations.

A major milestone in 2025 was YGC's work to strengthen the participation of indigenous communities and indigenous women with disabilities in climate change policy and negotiation processes. We organized capacity building workshops and advocacy engagements that equipped them with knowledge and tools to effectively engage in climate decision making processes and they continue articulate their

perspectives on land rights, traditional ecological knowledge, climate resilience and ensuring that indigenous priorities are reflected in climate discussions at all levels. We continue the process of community dialogues and developing engagement frameworks for them.

Conservation Success of Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve.

In 2025, advocacy, public raising awareness, and community mobilization continued to play an important role in protecting Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve, a vital cultural and urban forest for biodiversity conservation and environmental education. President Museveni ordered the cancellation of land titles issued within the forest and publicly denied approving the construction of a proposed mini city in the reserve. These developments marked a significant step towards forest protection and reaffirming its importance as a public ecological asset.

CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNED

Limited Funding for our youth-led and long-term community resilience initiatives. Many promising youth climate projects struggled due to insufficient financial support and limited grant opportunities.

Various countries and financial institutions continue to support investments in EACOP instead of green ones. This undermines climate action, sustainable development and inclusivity.

The civic space in Uganda continued to be repressed in 2025 with human and environmental activists continuing to be arrested. This undermined advocacy aimed at protecting community rights as well as promoting environmental conservation and climate action.

Delayed Compensation for EACOP-Affected Communities: Despite the passing year, the communities affected by the EACOP project were yet to receive compensation for their lands. This highlighted the intricate challenges associated with land acquisition and the protection of community rights.

Another key challenge observed in 2025 was the weakness and inefficiency within the judiciary in handling community-related cases, particularly those involving environmental defenders. Many cases concerning communities affected by large-scale extractive projects experienced prolonged delays, limiting timely access to justice. Similarly, legal proceedings against environmental activists, including the #StopEACOP campaigners, were often drawn out unnecessarily, creating uncertainty and placing a prolonged burden on the individuals involved. These delays not only undermined confidence in the justice system but is also discouraging civic engagement, as defenders faced extended periods of legal vulnerability despite some cases ultimately being dismissed.

Key priorities in 2026

- Support youth and women groups to promote a just clean energy transition as opposed to fossil fuels.
- Support cross-border movements, women and youth to pressure governments, oil companies, financial institutions and others to stop the expansion of fossil fuels in Africa while increasing investments in clean energy.
- Work with women, youth and our civil society partners to advocate for the enactment or review or enforcement of policies and laws needed to promote good energy governance in Uganda.
- Deepen engagement with national, regional and global human rights institutions to defend the rights of environmental defenders, local and indigenous communities.
- Support inclusive participation in climate policy and negotiations particularly youth, indigenous communities, women, local communities and other often marginalized groups.
- Continue community legal empowerments and legal representation and protection of environmental defenders.
- Support University debates, panel discussions and public dialogues by youth on just energy transition, Climate justice initiatives, critical minerals and other social current affairs.
- Continue to support and empower youth and women groups through regular meetings and training sessions to advocate for sustainable energy solutions and reject environmentally harmful practices.
- Work with our partners to promote an enabling civic space in Uganda for civic engagement, participation and accountability to achieve climate justice.
- Continue social media, publications and other responsible media outreach to advance social sustainable change.

APPENDIX I: YGC STAFF PROFILES

Mr. Brighton Aryampa; Aryampa is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of YGC. He is also an advocate of the High Court of Uganda. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from Uganda Christian University and a diploma in Legal practice from Law Development Center (LDC).

Ms. Kamusiime Winfred: Winfred is a communications officer . She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications from Uganda Christian University. UCU)

Ms. Chrise Atambira : Atambira is the Assistant Finance. She Holds a Bachelor in Economics from Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)

Ms Caroline Kinkuhaire: Kinkuhaire is the Gender and Advocacy Officer. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

Mr. Wasswa Brian: Wasswa is the youth and project Coordinator. He has a track record in youth empowerment and non violent campaigns.

Mr. Kato Tumusiime: Kato is a legal officer at YGC. He holds a degree in bachelor of laws from Kampala International University. He is a prominent human rights and environmental lawyer in Uganda.

Mr Ayesiga Brian: Ayesiga the Programs Officer at YGC. He holds a Bachelor of Degree from Makerere University Business School. He has a post certificate in project management.

Conclusion:

In 2025, Youth for Green Communities demonstrated extraordinary commitment to protecting environment, supporting community rights and empowering youth. Through community mobilization, legal empowerment, environmental restoration and youth leadership programs, YGC strengthened the foundations for a just, sustainable, inclusive and equitable future. As we move forward into 2026, YGC remains dedicated to advancing climate justice, defending human rights, building resilient communities and amplifying the voices of the marginalized groups in the face of harmful development projects, environmental degradation and climate change

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