

Youth for Environmental  
Justice and Climate Action



# YECA

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2025



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF ACRONYMS.....	3
<b>ABOUT YECA.</b> .....	4
<b>OUR MISSION AND VISION</b> .....	4
<b>OUR PROGRAMS</b> .....	4
CLIMATE JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION:.....	4
RENEWABLE ENERGY: .....	4
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: .....	5
<b>PICTORIAL OF OUR KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2025</b> .....	5
<b>OUR REACH</b> .....	9
<b>SECTION 1</b> .....	10
2.1 WORD FROM THE CEO .....	10
<b>SECTION TWO</b> .....	11
<b>IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS</b> .....	11
2.1 Advocacy to stop fossil fuel projects in Uganda. ....	11
2.2 University Engagements.....	14
2.3 Litigation Advocacy .....	15
2.4 Efforts to promote clean energy. ....	16
2.5 Institutional support.....	17
<b>SECTION 3: key Achievements, Challenges and priorities.</b> .....	18
2.6 Key Achievements.....	18
2.7 Challenges .....	18
2.8 Priorities .....	18
<b>SECTION 4:</b> .....	19
2.9 MEDIA ADVOCACY .....	19
<b>SECTION 5: APPENDICES</b> .....	25
Appendix I: Staff profiles .....	25

## TABLE OF ACRONYMS

No	Acronym	Meaning
1.	YECA	Youth for Environmental Justice and Climate Action
2.	EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
3.	ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
4.	CNOOC	China National Offshore Oil Corporation
5.	CSOs	Civil society organisations
6.	EHRDs	Environmental and Human Rights Defenders
7.	ETP	Energy Transition Plan
8.	EU	European Union
9.	GoU	Government of Uganda
10.	MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
11.	NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
12.	NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
13.	PAPs	Project-affected persons
14.	PAU	Petroleum Authority of Uganda
15.	UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
16.	MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
17.	ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
18.	CPF	Central Processing Facility
19.	COP	Conference of Parties
20.	CBMs	Community-Based Monitors

## ABOUT YECA.

Youth for Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA) is a youth-led and youth-focused non-profit organisation registered in Uganda. The organisation aims to empower and mobilise youth in Uganda for climate action.

Through policy research and advocacy, YECA works with grassroots community structures and youth movements to stop the expansion of fossil fuels in Uganda and Africa at large. We aim to build a strong climate justice movement to fight the ongoing oil and gas injustices while advocating for green economic alternatives that have the capacity to employ millions of young people across the world.

## OUR MISSION AND VISION

**Mission:** To mobilise and empower young people to take positive action for global climate action and environmental justice.

**Vision:** A sustainable world free from fossil fuels.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### CLIMATE JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION:



Climate change is the greatest threat facing people and the planet today, and scientists have warned that if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, we will soon pass the

threshold beyond which global warming becomes catastrophic and irreversible. We need to act now, and young people should be at the forefront. It's today's young people who are the first generation to feel the impacts of climate change and who will be the last generation to be able to mitigate its worst effects. Therefore, the objective of this program is to mobilise young people for climate action and build their resistance and resilience to stop fossil fuel projects in Uganda.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY:



To ensure Africa is not locked into fossil gas production, we join with movements across Africa in demanding an end to fossil gas and other dirty, dangerous, obsolete and inappropriate energy systems. We call for an end to fossil-fuel-induced energy apartheid in Africa that has left 600 million Africans without access to modern, clean, renewable energy. We call for a transformative, people-led process involving rapid social, economic and political change to achieve energy democracy and deliver renewable energy assets into the hands of people and communities across the continent. On this program, we work with Global partners, including Repower Afrika Campaign to stop developments of fossil fuels while advocating for socially owned decentralised renewable energy projects that are socially and economically owned by grassroots communities, not profit companies.

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION:



Uganda is one of the richest countries in Africa for biodiversity conservation, ranking second richest for mammals (and 13th in the World), second for birds, and seventh for higher plants. This is because several major

Biomes meet here, each with its associated fauna and flora. Uganda is also home to several species whose global range is mostly confined to Uganda, such as mountain gorillas, Rothschild giraffe, Uganda mangabey, and Nahan's francolin. However, the extraction of mineral resources, including oil and gas activities have disrupted wildlife, especially in the Albertine Graben.

Therefore, the objective of this program is to advocate for the protection and conservation of biodiversity for tourism attraction and raise awareness about the values of biodiversity conservation to the public through public policy research and advocacy.

## PICTORIAL OF OUR KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

Photo	Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ YECA organised legal empowerment training for youth activists at Makerere University. Seventy-two Environmental activists were trained as paralegals to defend the community's rights from violations. Further, the youth's legal capacity was enhanced for climate activism.</li></ul>



○ YECA enhanced youth’s capacity to lead a just energy transition in Uganda. The trained youth are now leading advocacy, calling on the Ugandan government to put in place a solar policy and other relevant policies to ease the energy transition.

Youth were also trained on Uganda’s energy transition plan and engaged in advocacy to call on the Ministry of Energy to reform the plan since it focuses on oil and gas as transitional elements.



○ YECA supported youth to launch an environmental campaign in Makerere Kikoni.

The launch brought together 94 youth climate activists and increased awareness among people living in the slums of Makerere Kikoni to live in a better environment.

The engaged youth are now leading environmental campaigns in their communities.



○ Supported youth with training on documentation of oil and gas issues in Uganda.

The empowered youth are now leading advocacy in their communities and using documented data to hold oil companies accountable.



○ YECA supported the youth for climate justice series in educational institutions. In 2025, YECA visited 5 secondary schools to launch the Green campaign.

This is an annual campaign that YECA conducts in educational institutions to groom young climate justice leaders across Uganda.

Two Environmental clubs were also supported and launched in Ruhanga and Nyakyeru sec schools.



○ YECA supported legal representation of Environmental defenders against the EACOP project.

In 2025, over 50 youth climate activists were arrested, and YECA, together with partners, offered legal representation for youth activists to seek justice.



○ Supported youth in launching the Repower Afrika campaign at Ndejje University in Uganda.

The activity resulted in the formation of a clean energy group at the university that is keeping the campaign active.



- YECA supported building of youth grassroots community structures to defend community rights against oil and gas projects in Uganda.

In 2025, we directly empowered 215 youth from grassroots communities affected by the EACOP project.

The youth empowered are now leading climate justice actions in their communities.



- YECA supported grassroots communities with legal and land rights to defend their land amidst oil developments.

Today, the trained individuals are pillars in their communities and are training other communities as paralegals.



- Supported youth action to stop the ongoing oil and gas activities in the Murchison Falls National Park.

Action to stop oil and gas activities under the Tilenga oil project will continue until 2026 to save wildlife.



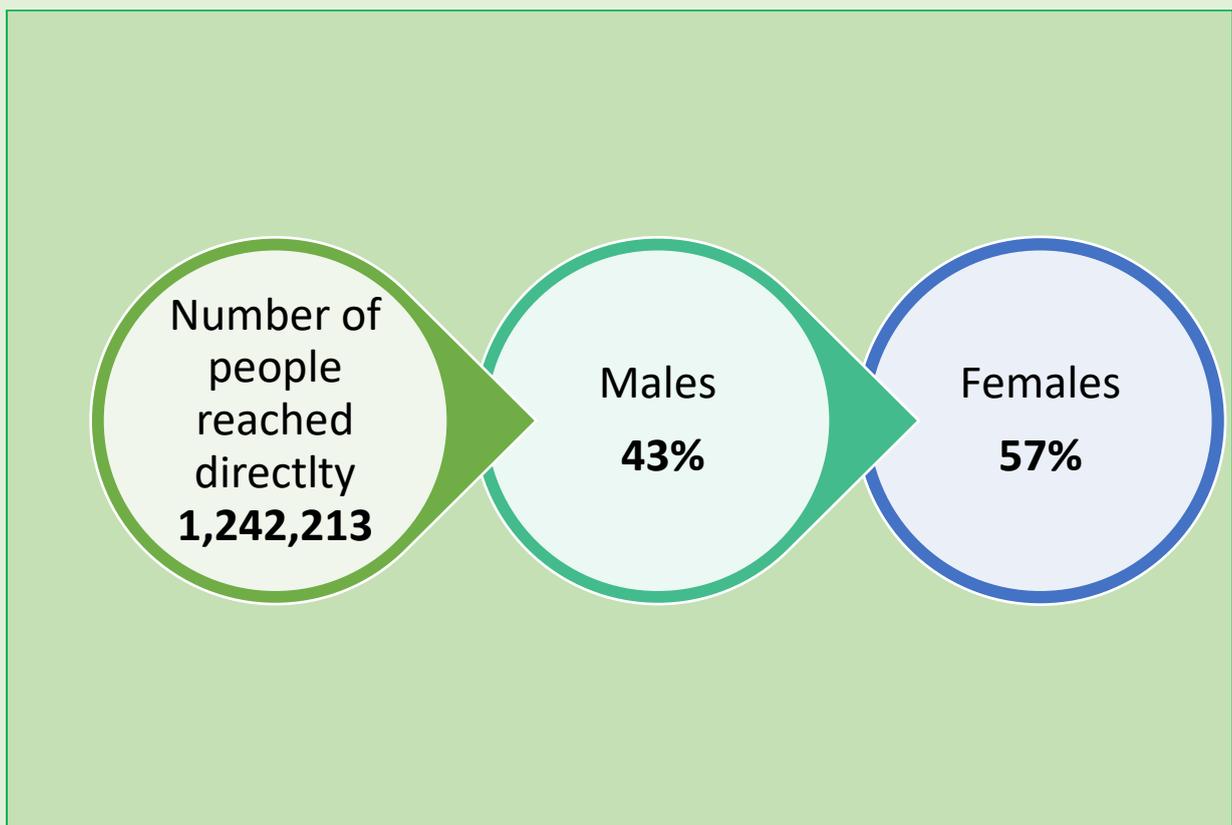
- YECA supported youth to attend the Environmental Parliament that happens every year at the parliament of Uganda. We support grass root youth climate activists affected by ongoing oil and gas projects to express themselves and share experiences about the injustices they are facing. The youth got the opportunity to present a paper that contained issues they are facing for action.



- With partners we organised action day calling on Ugandan Judiciary to release the 11 youth environmental defenders who were arrested at KCB bank offices in Kampala while attempting to deliver letter calling on the bank to withdraw from EACOP project.

Our pressure with partners yielded results and the defenders were given bail after spending 3 month in detention.

## OUR REACH



## SECTION 1

### 2.1 WORD FROM THE CEO



Dear readers, welcome to YECA's 2025 Annual Report. The past year was a transformative one, marked by learning, growth, and expanded partnerships that amplified our impact from local to global levels.

In 2025, our work focused on organisation programs that include Climate and Environmental justice, Renewable Energy, and Biodiversity Conservation, yielding significant achievements detailed in this report.

We continued to mobilise communities along the EACOP project in the Albertine region, building their resistance and resilience against oil and gas projects through public policy research and movement building for joint actions.

The year 2025 saw an increased number of youth joining our climate justice movements to oppose the expansion of fossil fuels in Uganda and across the Great Lakes region.

Further, allow me to inform you that the year 2025 came along with huge challenges, including shrinking civic space, arrests of environmental and human rights defenders, and media reluctance to cover anti-oil and gas stories.

Notably, 56 youth climate activists were arrested protesting the EACOP project, highlighting increased human rights violations targeting young voices. YECA committed to providing legal representation for the arrested Environmental defenders and supporting them with psychosocial support, as detailed in the following sections in the report.

But, despite these hurdles, we adapted and thrived, empowering communities, advocating through media and social platforms, and broadening our reach. Our focus remained on promoting green economic sectors like agriculture, renewable energy, and fisheries, opposing fossil fuel projects.

YECA is committed to building youth movements in Uganda and connecting them with other social movements to stop fossil fuel extraction in Africa.

Special thanks to all our partners, supporters, and team for their dedication. Together, let's continue driving change towards a sustainable future.

Your support is crucial as we build a better planet Earth.

**Enjoy the report**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arijuka Andrew'.

**Arijuka Andrew**  
**Chief Executive Director at YECA**

## **SECTION TWO IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **2.1 Advocacy to stop fossil fuel projects in Uganda.**

#### **Community mobilisation and organising:**

For the year 2025, YECA organised twenty-four (24) community meetings and engagements to build resistance and resilience of oil-affected communities to stop the ongoing oil and gas injustices in Uganda. YECA supported communities to understand environmental and social impact assessments and supported them in the formation of grassroots structures. Today, the communities supported are now organising community actions in their communities to stop the ongoing oil and gas injustices in their communities. We put more of our emphasis on communities affected by the EACOP project in the Albertine region of Uganda.

**Youth Engagement on documentation of oil and gas Issues in oil-affected communities.** Today, the ongoing oil and gas activities under Telenga, kingfisher and EACOP oil projects have greatly contributed to a lot of human and Environmental rights violations in Uganda. However, these issues have not been documented due to inadequate knowledge by the oil host communities on documentation and values of documenting oil and gas issues. This has resulted in most of the damages not documented, which would be used for litigation and other purposes. Therefore, to increase communities understand about documentation, YECA organised three capacity-building trainings for youth climate activists on effective documentation of oil and gas issues. This empowered youth on the values of documentation and how to use the

documented data to hold oil companies accountable for the damage caused. This is a key activity, and in 2026, more training sessions will be organised.



*A picture of Youth Engagement on documentation of oil and gas Issues*

#### **Training of grassroots local media generalists to report on oil impacts:**

Furthermore, in July 2025, YECA trained 20 generalists on comprehensive reporting of oil and gas issues. The training was aimed at equipping journalists with skills to report on the human rights violations and environmental impacts of Uganda's oil exploitation efforts. YECA also supported journalists to undertake field visits and publish stories of oil-affected communities.

#### **Advocacy to save Murchison Falls National Park from oil activities:**

In 2025, YECA continued to strengthen youth movements to stop the ongoing oil and gas activities under the Tilenga oil project in Murchison Falls National Park. We also ran social media campaigns and community actions to pressure Total Energies and the Ugandan government to stop these activities in the park. Further, due to oil activities in the National park, Elephants have escaped and attacked people's gardens, and we engaged UWA to put an electric fence

around the park. Due to our activities, the Uganda Wildlife Authority started fencing Murchison Falls National Park with an electric fence to stop wild animals from destroying people’s gardens. Advocacy to stop oil activities in the park under the Tilenga oil project is still ongoing.

**Community engagement on human and land rights:** YECA organised a series of community trainings on human and land rights amidst oil and gas developments. It should be noted that since the exploitation of oil projects began, communities lost their land without fair and adequate compensation. These people’s livelihoods depended on land for income, and after taking away their land without adequate compensation, communities found it difficult to sustain their families. Therefore, to equip youth and women with knowledge to defend their land, YECA organised dozens of grassroots community empowerment training to equip communities with legal knowledge to defend their land against oil development.



*Training YECA community based monitors on documentation of EACOP impacts in Albertine region.*

**Training of YECA community-based oil observers:**

In addition to supporting EACOP-affected communities to use the media to defend their rights, in April 202, YECA trained forty-six

community-based monitors from five EACOP-affected districts to use the media to tell their communities’ stories. The trained community-based monitors published op-eds in the national media following the training. Media stories were also published following proactive engagement of the media by the monitors.

**Supporting StopEACOP campaign:**

Stretching for nearly 1,445 kilometres, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has caused disastrous consequences for local communities, for wildlife and for the entire planet. Therefore, YECA has been a partner under the stopEACOP campaign and has continued to mobilise young people in Uganda to join the stopEACOP campaign and build community resistance against the project. To strengthen the campaign, YECA supported the formation of two stop EACOP groups in Uganda, and these are added to the three groups that YECA support their formation in 2024. YECA continues to build resistance against the EACOP project while advocating for clean, renewable energy sources and other green economic alternatives in Uganda.



*Picture of youth activists after capacity building training to stopEACOP. Use this picture instead of one above*

### **Youth support in forest Conservation:**

Uganda has lost nearly half of its forest cover due to deforestation and other human activities. This has contributed to increased climate change in Uganda, a situation that has made farmers fail to predict seasons. To participate in forest restoration activities, YECA launched tree planting campaigns in schools in Albertine to restore the degraded parts of the Bugoma forest that were cut down by Hoima Sugar Limited for sugarcane growing. Further, we distributed 50,000 trees to schools and supported establishments of tree indigenous nursery beds for continuous restoration efforts. Also, we supported youth advocacy to stop give way of part of Kitubulu forest to a Chinese investor to establish a hotel, and our effort paid off after President Museveni ordered the cancellation of all titles in Kitubulu forest in Entebbe district.

### **Strengthening partners' knowledge on oil impacts through film screenings:**

In addition to the above, we strengthened the knowledge of women and youth clean energy champions, community members, local council leaders, university youth, cultural institutions' leaders, CSOs, district leaders, MPs, government technocrats and others on the impacts of oil on the environment, cultures, health We used film screenings, radio talk shows, experience sharing meetings, photo stories and other fora to sensitise stakeholders on the above impacts. Because of these engagements, we saw youth and women stand up to reject oil projects such as the Kingfisher and EACOP ones because the stakeholders understood the dangers that the projects pose.

### **Supported youth advocacy to attend Environmental parliament:**

In addition, in September 2025, Youth for Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA) supported and participated in an environmental parliament that happened at the Uganda parliament premises. The discussion focused on climate action in politics and the role of green jobs as a solution for sustainability and employment. The environmental parliament is one of the platforms that provides space for young people to share ideas on climate action and demand accountability from leaders as far as climate change issues are concerned. YECA supported five youth to participate in the debate, and we hope that what was discussed will be implemented. We keep following up on the implementation of the action points.



*A picture of youth activists after participation in the Environmental parliament*

**Supported youth Exchange learning:** To embrace cross-border collaborations, YECA organised youth Exchange learning for youth climate activists from Uganda and those from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tanzania to have an exchange learning on how they can work together to stop ongoing oil and gas projects. The exchange learning increased the youth's collaboration and Networking skills for joint actions. Preparations are still ongoing to launch a cross border Network that will keep the youth climate activism active in the Great Lakes region.

## 2.2 University Engagements

**University debate on a just energy transition:** Today, the world is dominated by debates on energy transition, and countries have laid out strategies on how to transition from the use of fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy sources. CERAI organised a series of university debates on a just energy transition in Uganda. Through these debates, we reached five (5) universities in Uganda and empowered 540 university students in their roles to drive energy transition in Uganda. Further, YECA supported the formation of clean energy groups in universities to keep the campaign active.

**Launch of clean-up campaign at Makerere University:** To increase community awareness about the need to live in a cleaner environment, YECA organised a clean-up exercise in Kampala to mobilise youth and women to lead the change they want in their communities. We supported youth to launch a clean-up campaign in Makerere Kikoni and spread awareness about the values of living in a clean environment. The activity brought together different stakeholders, including local leaders and Kampala Capital City Authority, among others. We are happy to report that the youth we supported are now leading these campaigns in their communities.



*Action picture of youth during clean up exercise in Makerere Kikoni*

**Partnerships with University Environmental clubs:** In 2025, YECA organised a meeting with Environmental clubs leaders from Kyambogo, Makerere, YMCA and Kampala University, among others, to discuss strategies on how to work together to achieve a bigger goal. YECA believes in building partnerships with like-minded organisations, and this action increased our working relationship with the universities of Uganda. We were able to make partnerships with six environmental clubs in the mentioned universities. These people have supported YECA to easily organise climate justice activities in Uganda.



*A picture showing climate justice sessions under our climate justice series in schools.*

**University debates to debunk the propaganda by EACOP through the signing of the MOUs with the University and tertiary institutions:** Today, EACOP has signed MOUs with the topmost universities in Uganda on the grounds that it will provide internship places and jobs for the students. This is all aimed at blackmailing students to support the EACOP project, which has been preferred as controversial due to its negative impact. We organised a university debate at Kyambogo to empower university students about EACOP impacts and why they should

join climate activism to stop the ongoing oil and gas projects in Uganda.

**Climate justice series in educational institutions:** Young people in Uganda continue to be a target of the majority for any change to happen. Therefore, to increase their knowledge in climate justice and action, YECA organises climate justice every year to support students to participate in climate action activities in their communities. In 2025, YECA visited seven schools in Ntungamo district to spread awareness about the roles of students in climate action. Several environmental clubs were formed to keep environmental activities active in schools.

### 2.3 Litigation Advocacy

**Legal representation of stopEACOP youth activists:** In 2025, CERAI provided legal representation for the youth activists that have been opposing the construction of the EACOP project. We provided legal support and representation of activists in courts to youth who were arrested while peacefully demonstrating against oil and gas impacts. YECA continue to offer legal support for the Environmental defenders in Uganda, and we promise to keep representing these activists to demand justice. Opposing EACOP and other oil projects in Uganda have been criminalised by security agencies, and every time youth protest, they are brutally attacked and detained. We still have groups of activists who are still held up in person, and



*A Picture of stopEACOP activists during court session at Buganda Road chief magistrate Court*

YCA continues to provide legal support until they get justice.

**Legal empowerment training:** In May 2025, YECA organised legal aid empowerment training for grassroots youth and women in Kikuube district. The training targeted youth who were affected by the EACOP and Tilenga oil project and aimed at equipping them with legal knowledge on how to defend their human and land rights amidst oil developments. Fifty-two youth benefited from this training, and they are supporting their communities as paralegals. More legal empowerment training is needed to empower grassroots communities amid growing oil threats.

**Lunch of know your rights campaign;** In 2025, YECA launched the campaign called ‘KNOW YOUR RIGHTS’, and the campaign aims at increasing awareness about human and land rights for communities, especially those affected by oil and gas projects in Uganda. The campaign was launched in May 2025 with youth Environmental defenders and has increased youth awareness about their rights during climate activism work. -



*A picture of youth activists after training in human and land rights at Makerere University*

## 2.4 Efforts to promote clean energy.

**Youth and women training on lobby and advocacy:** In 2025, we organised youth training on lobby and advocacy skills to lead debates on just energy transition in Uganda. We strengthened the lobby and advocacy skills of women, youth and others in Uganda to promote clean energy, especially off-grid solar. By the end of 2025, the women and youth clean energy champions were undertaking advocacy to promote clean energy use. The women and youth were at the forefront of issuing and authoring newspaper articles, communiques, letters, press statements and others in Uganda.



*Action picture of youth advocating for just energy transition*

### Efforts to scale down Repower Afrika campaigns:

To ease a just energy transition in Uganda, we engaged youth climate activists in Uganda to run campaigns on the need to increase investments in renewable energy as opposed to fossil fuel projects. Today, Uganda produces more electricity than it can consume; unfortunately, due to high power tariffs, Ugandans keep depending on biomass for cooking and other sources of energy for productive and domestic work. This has resulted in the country paying a lot of money for deemed power, making the country incur losses. YECA supported youth

to advocate for off-grid energy options that are socially and economically owned by grassroots communities.

**Supported youth to advocate for solar policy and Renewable energy curriculum:** In 2025, YECA supported youth's advocacy to influence renewable energy policies to ease a just energy transition from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy sources. We empowered youth with lobbying and advocacy skills to demand the enactment of solar policy and a renewable energy curriculum to fill the gap in the renewable energy sector. The Empower Youth produced newspaper opinion articles, petitioned the Ministry of energy and issued press statements calling on the Ugandan government to put in place the above-mentioned policies. In 2026, this advocacy will continue to make sure these policies are put in place.

**Supporting StopEACOP campaign:** Stretching for nearly 1,445 kilometres, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has caused disastrous consequences for local communities, for wildlife and for the entire planet. Therefore, YECA has been a partner under the stopEACOP campaign and has continued to mobilise young people in Uganda to join the stopEACOP campaign and build community resistance against the project. To strengthen the campaign, YECA supported the formation of two stop EACOP groups in Uganda, and these are added to the three groups that YECA support their formation in 2024. YECA continues to build resistance against the EACOP project while advocating for clean, renewable energy

sources and other green economic alternatives in Uganda.



*A picture of women action to stop fossil fuels in Uganda*

#### **Amplifying the Repower Africa campaign:**

In 2024, YECA was part of the Ugandan local organisation that participated in the launch of the Repower Africa campaign in Uganda. The company aims to scale up socially owned, decentralised renewable energy projects in communities along the EACOP project. In 2025, YECA continued community mobilisation and sensitisation on socially owned, decentralised renewable energy projects and organised community training sessions on renewable energy values in Uganda. Our work under this campaign continues, and in 2025, we shall focus on the Masaka region, engaging districts of Lwengo, Rakai, and others on the Repower Africa campaign. The Repower Africa campaign is one of the alternatives we are proposing as a solution to EACOP in Uganda.

#### **Public finance advocacy to stop financial flow to EACOP and other fossil fuels:**

In 2025, we joined partners to campaign against financial flow for the EACOP project. YECA mobilised youth to participate in actions against the EACOP project and participated in global campaigns against financial flows for the EACOP.

Further, together with partners, we petitioned Standard Bank over its participation in financing the EACOP project and supported youth action against KCB Bank. YECA is still committed to stopping the financial flow to the EACOP project.

#### **2.5 Institutional support**

##### **Staff workshop on Organisational management:**

To strengthen capacities of our staff, YECA organised a four day staff retreat to support our partners, engaged in institutional strengthening efforts that included strengthening our staff capacity in six areas including: Skilling staff in the negotiations approach, sustainable financing, lobby and advocacy, documenting impact stories, physical and digital security skills, SEA and ESIA analysis and others. Staff participated in international or national workshops through which the above skills were strengthened. This strengthened our staff's capacity to better evaluate new strategies to achieve the organisation's vision.

##### **Support to community-based monitors' capacity building training:**

YECA has a chain of community-based monitors in the communities where we work. These monitors help to provide YECA with first-hand information on issues happening and also suggest solutions. Therefore, to equip them with knowledge and skills, we supported a two-day workshop to enhance their reporting and communication skills towards day-to-day activities.

### SECTION 3: key Achievements, Challenges and priorities.

#### 2.6 Key Achievements

- i. In 2025, we registered increased participation of youth and women in climate justice actions through our community meetings, radio talk shows, policy advocacy, among others, reaching over 2million Ugandans.
- ii. We supported the formation of 3 stopEACOP groups and 4 Repower Afrika groups in grassroot communities of Uganda.
- iii. We also supported youth and women in green economic alternatives. We carried out training in beekeeping and launched the Green Schools project. The trained people gained skills and are now training others in their communities.
- iv. Increased uptake of clean energy technologies in the Albertine region among the people we trained in clean cooking technologies. Communities are now producing briquettes, and some are using biogas for cooking.
- v. Supported legal representation of 50 Environmental defenders opposing the construction of the EACOP project.
- vi. Support forest conservation efforts, and our advocacy resulted into president's intervention to cancel titles in Kitubulu forest.
- vii. Further, we supported youth to participate in policy advocacy and produced over 20 lobby and advocacy materials for the need to put in place solar energy policy and renewable energy curriculum to fill the gap in the renewable energy sector for a just energy transition.

#### 2.7 Challenges

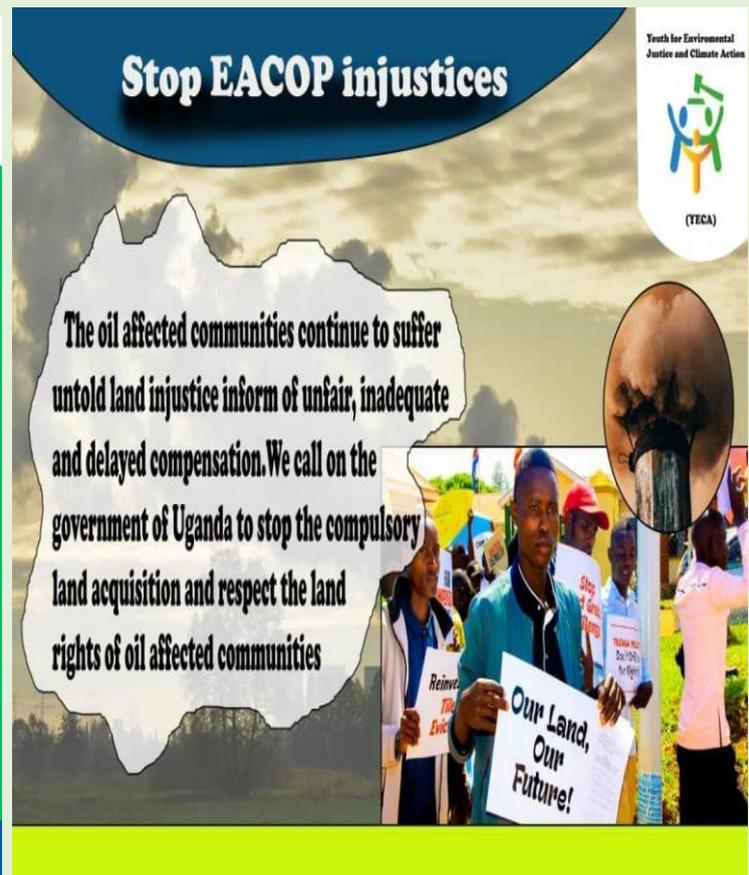
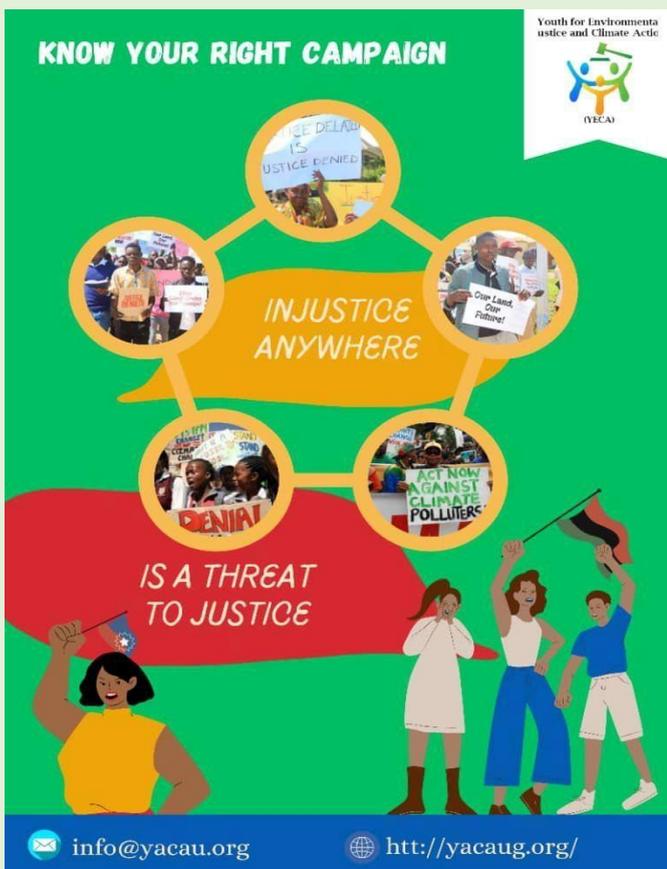
- i. In 2025, we saw an increased shrinking of civic space targeting Environmental defenders against EACOP projects.
- ii. Further, the oil activities continue to happen in Uganda's largest National park (Murchison Falls NP) in Uganda under the Tilenga oil project.
- iii. Human and environmental violations continue to increase especially targeting Environmental defenders opposing Oil projects.
- iv. The Ugandan government is still committed to exploiting oil in ecologically sensitive areas.
- v. In addition, Uganda still prioritises oil and gas as transitional elements in Uganda's energy transition plan.
- vi. Further, there is still limited access to clean cooking technologies by grassroot communities, forcing them to keep depending on firewood, which has increased deforestation.
- vii. Further, we saw delays in securing justice for Environmental defenders against the EACOP project due to judicial delays.

#### 2.8 Priorities

- i. Raising stakeholder awareness on the impacts of oil through film screenings, radio talk shows, dramas and others to support efforts to protect the environment and community livelihoods from oil threats.
- ii. Campaigning for the promotion of off-grid clean energy options by amplifying the Repower Afrika campaign.
- iii. Campaigning for the protection of the Tilenga, Kingfisher, and EACOP-affected communities' land rights.

- iv. Lobby for increased investment in clean and affordable energy over other sources of energy: Uganda’s renewable energy resources in the form of solar, wind, geothermal and others remain largely untapped.
- v. Safeguard operational space for civil society and media: With increasing threats against civil society, the media and other dissenting voices, YECA will work to safeguard this space in 2026 to enable Ugandans to hold the government accountable
- vi. Campaign against increasing power tariffs: Despite our and other stakeholders’ efforts, power tariffs and poor service delivery in the electricity sector, including power blackouts and use of sub-standard metres persists. YECA will work to address this challenge in 2026
- vii. Our efforts to stopEACOP under the stopEACOP coalition will continue in 2026.
- viii. Also, our campaign to stop oil activities in Murchison Falls National Park will be amplified.

**SECTION 4:**  
**2.9 MEDIA ADVOCACY**





### YECA NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### UGANDA'S CLIMATE ACTIVISTS BEHIND BARS: THE ONGOING STRUGGLE AGAINST EACOP PROJECT IN UGANDA.



Picture showing EACOP pipes being aligned. Photo credit Deep Earth

#### INTRODUCTION.

Dear Reader, welcome to our November newsletter.

In November 2025, Youth for Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA) documented arrests that have been happening in Uganda targeting Environmental defenders, especially those opposing the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. Uganda discovered over 2 billion barrels of oil, which will be transported by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), a 1,443km pipeline to the port of Tanga in Tanzania to be processed and sold to the world markets.

The EACOP starts in Kabaale, Hoima District and traverses 296km in Uganda through ten (10) districts, affecting twenty-five (25) sub-counties and one hundred seventy-one (171) villages in Uganda. The process of land acquisition

involved the displacement of people from their original land and has sparked debate in public, a situation that has resulted in youth rising to challenge the project due to its environmental and human rights violations.

In the beginning, the host communities envisioned a future of transformed livelihoods; they hoped oil revenues would fund better infrastructure, like hospitals, schools, roads, and create jobs, especially for the youth who make up the majority of the population, which now seems to be the contrary.

Since January 2025, over 50 youth climate activists against the construction of the East African crude oil pipeline have been arrested and detained, some released on bail, others are on police bond, and others are still in prison. It should be noted that whenever environmental defenders come out to express themselves about the EACOP



YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE ACTION  
Address: Plot 9, Centre Building, Nungundu  
Mob: +256/702077016, Email: info@yeccaug.org

August 14, 2025

#### YOUTH COMMUNIQUE ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY: THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT YOUTH INITIATIVES THAT DRIVE PROGRESS OF SDGs AT LOCAL LEVELS.

#### INTRODUCTION

On August 12, 2025, Youth For Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA) Uganda joined the rest of the world to commemorate the international youth day themed "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond" which places a strong emphasis on the transformative role of young people in the localization of the SDGs and translating the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into local realities.

The 2025 theme recognizes that young people are not merely beneficiaries of development but are active agents of change, innovation, and leadership. It acknowledges the need for youth inclusion in local governance processes, as their creativity, energy, and community knowledge are essential for addressing the complex and interconnected challenges of our time.

Over the past decade, global institutions have increasingly acknowledged that achieving the SDGs by 2030 will depend on how effectively they are localized and translated into concrete actions at the community level.

According to recent reports by UN-Habitat and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), it was revealed that at least 65 percent of SDG targets relate directly to the mandates of local and regional governments (LRGs). Consequently, there is a growing imperative to empower youth as partners in SDG localization processes, as they are often deeply embedded in their communities and possess unique insights into local development needs.

Youth for Environmental Justice commends the government for its leadership and support towards youth through various programs and initiatives in collaboration with partners to implement SDGs, especially SDGs 6, 7, and 13. However, these efforts must be scaled up to reach those who are most disadvantaged. Youth are the resource and backbone on which the country must rely to advance sustainable development and generate innovative solutions.

To commemorate the International Youth Day, YECA organised a clean-up exercise with youth around Makerere University, and this was followed by a youth discussion to understand issues that have limited implementation of SDGs in Uganda, with emphasis on SDGs 6, 7, and 13, which are on clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, and Climate Action.



**#stopEACOP**  
**Did you know!**  
**That EACOP ESIA report**  
**for Uganda indicate that three natural**  
**forest reserves in the Albertine**  
**graben and beyond are are either directly**  
**affected by or in the EACOP corridor.**  
**These forests need to be protected.**

**#StopEACOP**

**#StopEACOP**

October 31, 2025

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

#### KAMPALA-UGANDA

#### PRESS STATEMENT OVER THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF 12 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS WHO WERE ARRESTED IN AUGUST 2025

On August 1, 2025, a group of 12 youth climate activists marched to deliver a letter to Stanbic Bank Uganda calling on the bank to withdraw its funding for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) due to its human and environmental violations. As the activists began their march, they were intercepted by the Ugandan police and brutally arrested.

Since August 2025, the activists have appeared in court several times; unfortunately, they have been denied their right to bail application, and they continue to be remanded until November 6, 2025.

The twelve (12) activists, including three (3) females, were charged with "nuisance on roads" under Section 65(c) of the Road Act Cap. 346, under the pretext that they placed themselves on a road "in such a manner to cause danger or inconvenience to traffic", and remanded to Luzira Maximum Security Prison in Kampala, where they are still detained as of the current date.

#### Background on the activists reporting to court.

On August 18, 2025, the activists appeared before Buganda Road Chief Magistrate's Court, Winnie Nankya, who denied them bail, arguing that some of the activists were recurring protesters.

On September 5, 2025, the activists appeared before the same court, which declined to consider the activists' renewed bail application and adjourned the proceedings to October 1, 2025.

The activists again appeared before the same court on October 1, 2025, and their hearing was again postponed to October 16, 2025.

On October 16, 2025, the activists again appeared in court for the fourth time, and their bail application was not heard by Buganda Road Chief Magistrate's Court, marking the fourth failed attempt to secure their provisional release. The activists have now spent nearly three months in arbitrary pre-trial detention.

The last court appearance on October 20, 2025, involved the magistrate denying the bail application again, claiming that the case was at an advanced stage. This justification is not



## YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE ACTION

Address: Plot 9, Centre Building, Ntungamo  
Mob +256702677016, Email: info@yecaug.org

### YECA FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### LEGAL EMPOWERMENT, A KEY TOOL TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF ABUSE IN UGANDA.



*Youth Climate Activists from youth-led organizations after a two-day capacity-building workshop.*

#### INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader, welcome to our February 2025 Newsletter.

The newsletter discusses the legal and policy gaps that have limited youth to fully exercise their rights and suggests recommendations that need to be put in place. Further, the newsletter discusses the activities the organization implemented in February 2025.

#### Background

More than five billion people around the world are denied meaningful access to justice. They are driven from their land, denied basic services, and intimidated by violence. In Uganda, many young people remain ignorant about their rights and this has made them suffer injustices in their everyday work. With over 70% of the total population being youth, Uganda's youth population continues to face numerous challenges, including limited awareness and understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities. This ignorance of the law has led to various issues, including exploitation, abuse, and unjust treatment.

It should be noted that Uganda has put in place many documents to safeguard youth's rights including the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995), especially Article 32 which recognizes the rights of youth to participation, protection, and development, the Youth Act (2011) that Provides for the promotion of youth development, empowerment, and participation and the Children Act (2016) that Protects the rights and welfare of children and youth. However, despite the existence of these laws, many youths in Uganda remain unaware of their rights and responsibilities, leading to various issues, including exploitation, abuse, and limited access to justice

among others. The ignorance of the law among youth in Uganda is a significant challenge that needs to be addressed by providing youth with access to information, education, and legal aid to empower them to claim their rights and participate in decision-making processes. Policy reforms and sensitization programs are also crucial in addressing the issues faced by youth due to ignorance of the law. Every day we see youth climate activists being arrested whenever they come out to exercise their rights to peaceful assembly. It should be noted that most of these youths being arrested have no understanding of the law and they end up being victims of injustice. They do not know the laws that allow them to organize peaceful protests and this has

#### Section 1

On February 20-23, Youth for Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA) organized youth capacity-building workshop to empower youth about their human and land rights in pursuit of their climate justice work. The training happened at Hotel J-flight in Kikoni where youth participants were drawn from youth-led organizations, individual youth activists, and other civil society Organisations. The training aimed at empowering youth climate activists to understand, use, and shape the laws that affect them and train youth as paralegals with law and policy skills like mediation, organizing, and advocacy to help



September 30, 2025

**COMMUNIQUE: UGANDANS CANNOT TRUST STUDIES AND FINDINGS BY  
TOTALENERGIES ON OIL IMPACTS ON MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

On September 23, 2025, Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) held meetings with oil-affected communities from Hoima and Buliisa districts. Among others, the meetings discussed the environmental, social and economic challenges faced by communities due to the ongoing oil exploitation activities in Uganda. AFIEGO also held discussions on the aforementioned subject with civil society partners.

The meetings and discussions were organised following an article titled, *Murchison Falls Wildlife Safe from Oil Activities –Experts*, being published in the *New Vision* newspaper of August 28, 2025. In the article, the *New Vision* informed the public that TotalEnergies in partnership with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda Conservation Society, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and others had conducted a survey and concluded that oil activities under the Tilenga oil project were not having a negative impact on wildlife in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP).

Oil-affected community members and civil society groups discussed the above survey and observed as follows.

**2. OBSERVATIONS**

- (a) **Elephant movements:** First, the community members and civil society partners noted that the *New Vision* reported that experts had collared 15 elephants in MFNP in 2020 and monitored their movements. The experts reportedly observed that none of the collared



YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE ACTION  
Address: Plot 9, Centre Building, Ntungamo  
Mob +256702677016, Email info@yacaug.org

August 14, 2025

**YOUTH COMMUNIQUE ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY: THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT YOUTH INITIATIVES THAT DRIVE PROGRESS OF SDGs AT LOCAL LEVELS.**

**INTRODUCTION**

On August 12, 2025, Youth For Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA) Uganda joined the rest of the world to commemorate the international youth day themed "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond" which places a strong emphasis on the transformative role of young people in the localization of the SDGs and translating the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into local realities.

The 2025 theme recognizes that young people are not merely beneficiaries of development but are active agents of change, innovation, and leadership. It acknowledges the need for youth inclusion in local governance processes, as their creativity, energy, and community knowledge are essential for addressing the complex and interconnected challenges of our time.

Over the past decade, global institutions have increasingly acknowledged that achieving the SDGs by 2030 will depend on how effectively they are localized and translated into concrete actions at the community level.

According to recent reports by UN-Habitat and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), it was revealed that at least 65 percent of SDG targets relate directly to the mandates of local and regional governments (LRGs). Consequently, there is a growing imperative to empower youth as partners in SDG localization processes, as they are often deeply embedded in their communities and possess unique insights into local development needs.

Youth for Environmental Justice commends the government for its leadership and support towards youth through various programs and initiatives in collaboration with partners to implement SDGs, especially SDGs 6, 7, and 13. However, these efforts must be scaled up to reach those who are most disadvantaged. Youth are the resource and backbone on which the country must rely to advance sustainable development and generate innovative solutions.

To commemorate the International Youth Day, YECA organised a clean-up exercise with youth around Makerere University, and this was followed by a youth discussion to understand issues that have limited implementation of SDGs in Uganda, with emphasis on SDGs 6,7, and 13, which are on clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, and Climate Action.



**YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE ACTION**

Address: Plot 9, Centre Building, Ntungamo  
Mob +256702677016, Email: info@yecaug.org

## APRIL, 2025 NEWSLETTER

### THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE: STOPEACOP YOUTH ACTIVISTS DEMAND JUSTICE.



*Youth activists at Nakawa Chief Magistrate Court*

Dear reader, welcome to our April Newsletter.

In April 2025, YECA engaged youth activists against East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) who have been arrested, intimidated, and detained in police cells due to their opposition to the EACOP project. Since the kick-off of the EACOP project, environmental defenders against the fossil fuel industry have been criminalized with continuous arrests, detentions, and Human rights violations. On April 25, 2025, YECA participated in a court hearing for youth climate activists who were arrested at KCB bank Uganda when they had gone to deliver a letter calling on KCB bank to withdraw its funding for EACOP project.

The mentioned youth were arrested at the KCB bank premises while attempting to peacefully deliver a letter to KCB bank demanding the bank to withdraw its finance support to the EACOP project. The 11 arrested youth appeared in Nakawa Court on April 25, 2025, but unfortunately, the activists were remanded to Luzira Maximum prison until May 8, 2025.

#### YECA APRIL, 2025 NEWSLETTER

Seeking justice in Uganda has become complex and frustrating experience for the youth activists against the construction of EACOP. The Judiciary continues not paying attention to these activists and some are students who need time to concentrate on their studies. The judiciary keeps postponing their cases a situation that has affected the lives of the affected activists, which has made them doubt the judicial systems in place.

It should be noted that since January 2025

April, for example on April 7, 2025, YECA supported the legal representation of 20 Youth activists, including oil-affected community representatives, who had been violently arrested in August 2024 and charged with common nuisance. Fortunately, the case was dismissed and activists were set free, we thank all partners that supported these activists.

Furthermore, on April 17, 2025, we supported the nine stopEACOP youth activist with legal representation at Nakawa Magistrate Court.

## SECTION 5: APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Staff profiles

**Arijuka Andrew.** Mr Arijuka is the Current Executive Director at YECA. He holds bachelors in social work and social Administration and a holds a diploma in crop science from the Bukalasa Agricultural Institute. Previously, Andrew worked as an intern at the Ministry of Water and Environment, and he's passionate about Natural resource governance and climate activism.

**Muzoora Amon;** Amon works as head of programs at YECA. He holds a bachelor's degree in Library and Information Science from Makerere University. He previously interned at the Parliament of Uganda. He is passionate about youth led cantered initiatives focusing on environmental sustainability, community engagement, and climate action.

**Asiimwe Nangongi Mary:** Ms Mary is a communications officer at YECA. He holds Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, specialising in Project Management from Makerere University Business School. Previously, Mary worked as an intern at Yombo Associates and as a CPA and is passionate about women's rights and gender-responsive climate justice.

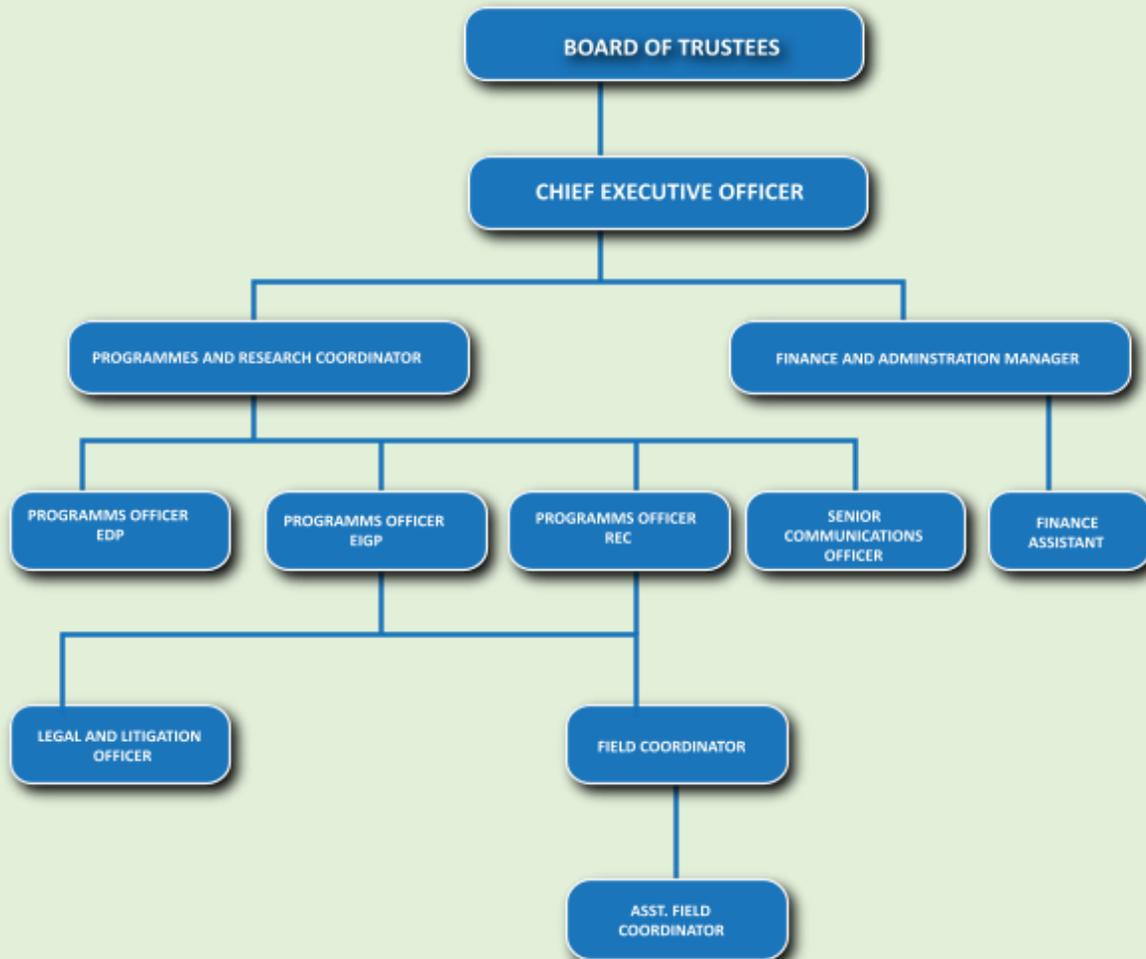
**Ninshaba Patience:** Ms Patience works as a finance officer at YECA. She holds bachelors in accounting and finance from Kyambogo University.

**Akampa Rodgers;** Mr Rodgers works as a Field Officer at YECA. Rodgers holds bachelors in social work and social administration from Makerere University. He's passionate about community mobilising and organising.

**Phiona Ahebwa:** Ms Ahebwa is the legal officer at YECA. Ahebwa holds bachelors in law from Uganda Christian University with a postgraduate diploma from the Law Development Centre (LDC). She is a passionate lawyer with a keen interest in energy and humanitarian law.

## SECTION 5: APPENDICES

### Appendix II: Organisation structure





STOP OIL IN  
AFRICA!!!  
INVEST IN RENEWABLE  
ENERGY!!!

FUND CLIMATE  
SOLUTION,  
NOT DESTRUCTION

STOP!!!  
DISPLACING US  
OF  
OIL!!!

Youth for Environmental  
Justice and Climate Action



Website: <https://yacaug.org/>  
Twitter/ X: @yecaug  
LinkedIn: YECA  
Email: [yecaug@gmail.com](mailto:yecaug@gmail.com)

P.O.Box: 40004, Kikoni Makerere Kampala, Uganda