



THE GREAT IMAGINING AFRICA

GREENER . FAIRER . WISER

Issue 2024 #1

GRASSHOPPERS: UGANDA'S INSECT SNACK



How the changes in weather patterns have affected Uganda's insect snack reproduction.

INSIDE>>>



THE GREAT IMAGINING AFRICA podcast

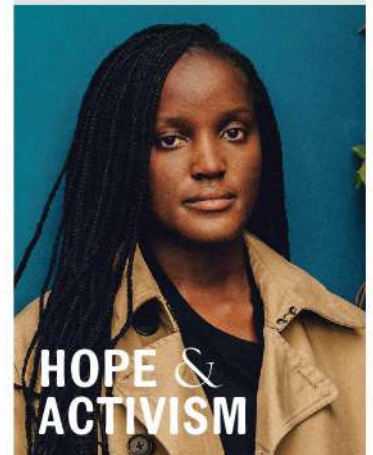
Earth Day, 2024.

LAUNCH



YOUNG AND RELENTLESS

Who is set for the 2023 Ashden Award for Integrated Energy Africa.



HOPE & ACTIVISM

Meet Africa's leading faces in climate activism.

USING POLYTHENE AS A WEAVING MATERIAL



WHAT A SUSTAINABLE SKILL FOR THE FUTURE

Declaring to act due to our concern with the changing trends in climate and furthermore with emphasis on the role of art and culture in supporting climate and skilling people through visual communication and structural textiles as tools to realize the impact and proper use of these plastic bags in the society. We have learned a perfect skill.

ORGANISATIONS

Humans are a very social and collaborative species, which lives, works and plays in small groups and networks. How we organise ourselves has been studied in every branch of anthropology and field of experience from indigenous communities to social media. With the dawn of the internet we can now organise ourselves internationally as well as locally. Are our organisations keeping up with the urgency of our times and are our laws still fit for purpose? Over the last century in Africa as well as other regions of the world, the rights of minorities and workers have been being protected in regional, national and international laws and treaties. We have also been negotiating standards and measures that can help protect us from the construction industry to supply chains. What are the organisational and political systems that can work for everyone including the natural world and how can we enshrine these dreams into laws that protect them?



BANANA FIBRE

A NEW FASHION REVOLUTION

We are not just here to revolutionize the fashion industry but to create an empowered community of farmers and younger people through Banana Fiber Production, Extraction.



>> WEAVING NEW TEXTILES: >> REUSING PLASTIC BAGS

More than ever there is an urgent need for recycling and rethinking the use of materials, in Uganda and across the globe. Our work focuses on understanding the impact on our environment and the land, and we explore how to use all the materials we find around us.

The surplus production and widespread use of plastic bags directly impacts our climate. When they are discarded they not only cause water and soil pollution but also air pollution when they are burnt as waste. With plastic taking many years to breakdown, this prolonged disintegration chokes the soil and prevents water soaking through.

Roadside littering makes places look untidy, but their effect on the landscape isn't

always deliberate. Up to 7% of wind borne litter is plastic bags which end up across our towns and cities, forests, grasslands, waterways and oceans.

Concerns about the changing climate lead our declaration for action. We believe art and culture have an important role in visual communication about climate change and can support people by developing their skills. Transforming plastic bags into practical textiles creates a way of discussing their impact on the environment and society.

Our project analyses, designs and weaves materials together to create new fabric. We focus on reusing plastic polyethylene bags to create a structural textile material. Through this work we hope to highlight the impact of plastic material on the environment, the need for thoughtful disposal and other solutions, including paper and fabric shopping bags.

By reusing already available plastic bags as a new structural textile material, we have created a range of woven upholstery products designed for everyday use. Our aesthetic promotes taking care of the environment as part of Uganda's vision for 2030, Go Green.

MUKIIBI YOSIA

SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING: CHANGING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT



Sustainability is the ability to maintain a process continuously over time. Sustainable packages use any form of eco-friendly material to carry or wrap any product.

Here are some examples: paper packaging for carrying silver plates, paper wrappers for Shawarmer and paper wrappers for gifts or hampers. Other eco-friendly packaging materials include industrial compostable PLA plant-based starch or cellulose which can biodegrade if disposed of properly. Cloth bags can be reused several times without accumulating plastic; they become part of the circular economy and

sustainable consumption. Carrying groceries home in petroleum-based polyethylene bags only increases your carbon footprint.

These packaging materials are considered sustainable because they enable you to reduce your carbon footprint and recycle your waste. Paper bags decompose faster, since they tear and split especially if they get wet; its compatibility with soil means it can be used as mulch. Whereas plastic takes long to break down and turns into tiny micro plastics which remain on the earth's surface and pose health risks for humans and aquatic life.

Materials: paper bags are from renewable natural resources like trees and in Uganda, paper is made from banana fibres using locally available technology. Plastic and polyethylene is derived from crude oil residue which is a non-renewable fossil fuel source.

BABIRYE ALLEN

NANTONGO Nature's Love Packaging

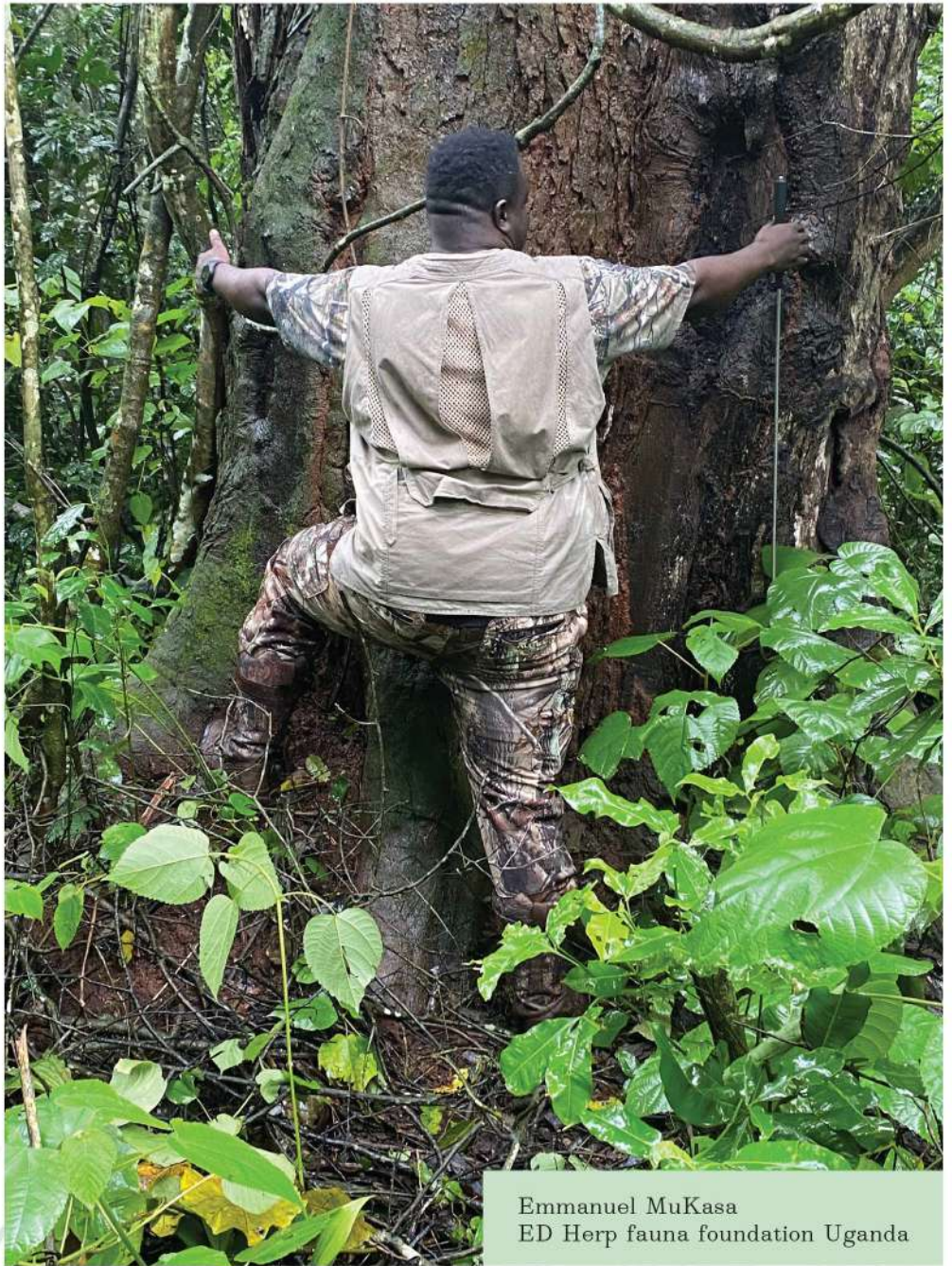


FOREST CONSERVATION & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Forests in Buganda have greatly determined the local way of life. People depend on them both physically and spiritually, and the tangible and intrinsic values of the forest influence Bugandan heritage in all corners of life: religion, medicine, art, culture, geography, history, language and all forms of communication. Forests are valued as a resting place for ancestors, highly respected and considered sacred.

Leaders of the Buganda Kingdom have been vocal on matters of environmental conservation and sustainable development because of the forest's many cultural values and the ceremonial and symbolic functions ascribed to them.

In collaboration with the government and the Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund (UBTF), the Buganda Kingdom launched the E'kibira Kya Kabaka Initiative (EKKKI or the Royal Forest Initiative) in October 2023. This initiative aims to combat climate change by replanting and conserving these depleted forests, improving the water network within the Buganda region and mobilising resources for biodiversity conservation.



Emmanuel MuKasa
ED Herp fauna foundation Uganda

UPHOLDING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF BUGANDA KINGDOM

TRADITIONS

People in Buganda hailed from forests and have conserved them for generations. These forests contained important trees for social, religious and cultural reasons and trees are still preserved because of their range of uses, for example Girikiti and Kifabakazi. Trees like ficus natalensis (mutuba) played a crucial role in upholding traditional values as it was used to make bark cloth (lubugo) which is still used in cultural practices.

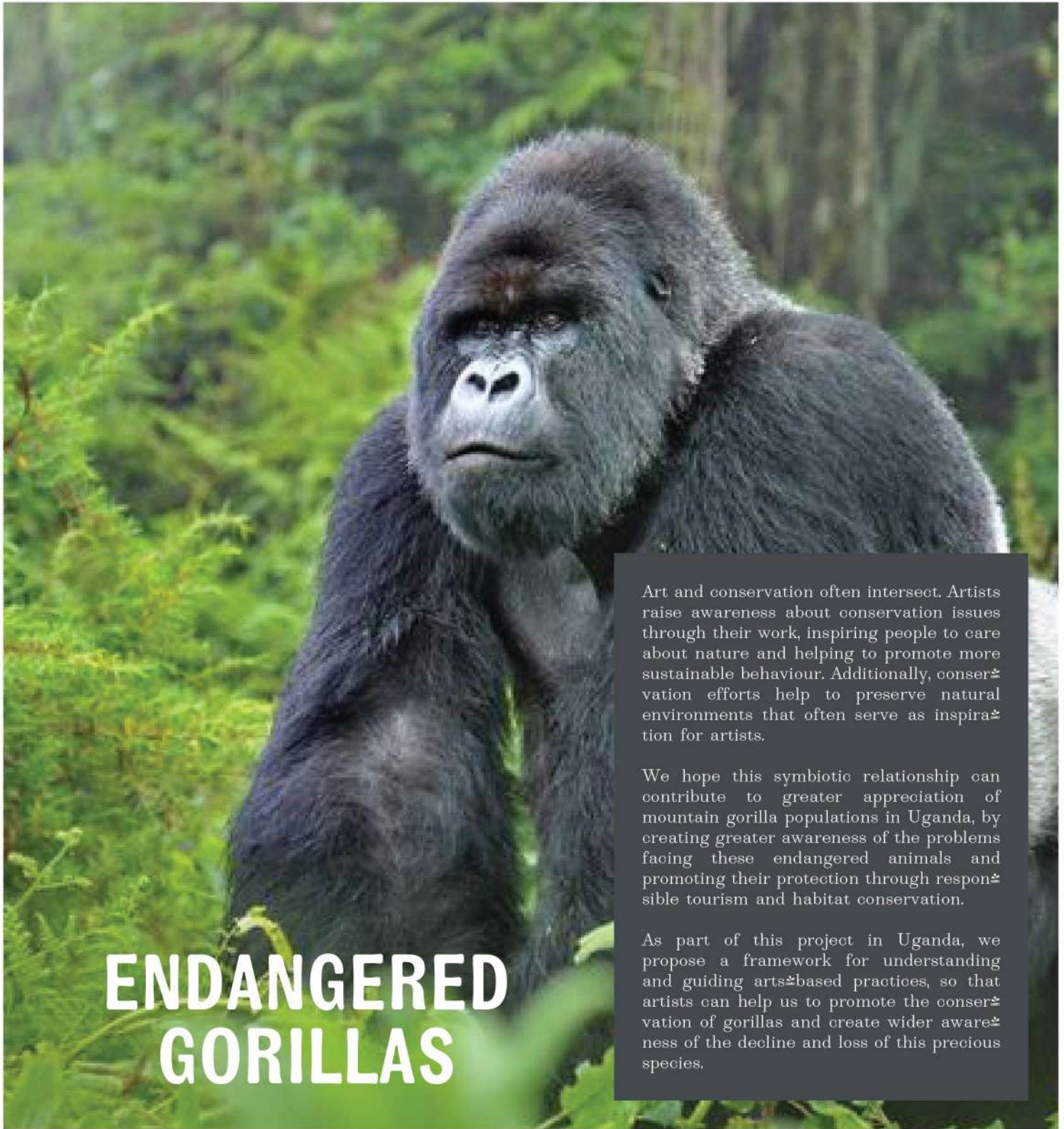
UPHOLDING CULTURAL HERITAGE

In Buganda, forests have sacred importance in the cultural wellbeing of people. The tombs of Buganda kings on the Kasubi hillside, protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are surrounded by forest which is considered sacred as part of this major spiritual centre. Bugandan kings still hold the Damula stick, passed down by generations and made from a tree protected by the python spirit in the Bugala Island forest; this stick will give the kingdom victory in battle.

As Baganda people, we greatly appreciate the use of trees for healing different sorts of diseases. The Mugavu tree is used to treat skin diseases among children, Ntasesa is used to detoxify the urinary system, Mukuzanume is used as a treatment for coughs, flu and many other illnesses.

We call upon all stakeholders to support the restoration of all depleted forests in Central Uganda through the E'kibira Kya Kabaka, Royal Forest Initiative.





ENDANGERED GORILLAS

Art and conservation often intersect. Artists raise awareness about conservation issues through their work, inspiring people to care about nature and helping to promote more sustainable behaviour. Additionally, conservation efforts help to preserve natural environments that often serve as inspiration for artists.

We hope this symbiotic relationship can contribute to greater appreciation of mountain gorilla populations in Uganda, by creating greater awareness of the problems facing these endangered animals and promoting their protection through responsible tourism and habitat conservation.

As part of this project in Uganda, we propose a framework for understanding and guiding arts-based practices, so that artists can help us to promote the conservation of gorillas and create wider awareness of the decline and loss of this precious species.

Figures reported by The World in Data show a huge decline in wildlife populations, with an average of 69% decline since 1970.

A study by WWF identified the key vulnerabilities of a species based on four factors: Sensitivity: the inability of the species to persist under changing climatic conditions. Adaptive capacity: the ability of the species to respond to changes in climate. Exposure: the extent of climatic change and variation that the species encounters and is projected to encounter. Other threats: including human responses to climate change that exacerbate these conditions.

CALL FOR PROTECTIONS

To raise awareness and emphasise the rapid demise of mountain gorillas in Uganda, we are inviting the public to take part in a PUBLIC ERASURE. This interactive exhibition invites people to participate in erasing a lifelike drawing of gorillas, offering a powerfully visceral experience of the vanishing of a species.

★ Hikima G. AVIAS FOUNDER



Why do we learn how to solve quadratic equations but not how to live in a world that is 2, 3 or 4 degrees warmer?

We deal with the topic of climate change in geography and, depending on our teachers, also in other scientific subjects such as chemistry. But I taught myself everything about global warming and what our use of the earth's resources means for humanity, the Global South and the ozone layer.

I believe we can still influence certain aspects. But we need more than complex mathematical skills to deal with the climate crisis. It can no longer be banned from classrooms but must be taught and discussed openly. Educators need to talk to us about fears and despair, hope and solutions.

EDUCATION: LIVING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE



NEW IMAGINATION

As the younger generation immerses themselves in the art of crafting, they not only cultivate a more sustainable lifestyle but also cultivate wisdom in understanding the interconnectedness of our choices and their impact on the world. Let the hands of today craft a future that is not only aesthetically pleasing but also greener, fairer and wiser for generations to come.

NEW TOOLS

In the face of escalating climate challenges, Africa is experiencing the brunt of environmental shifts, impacting its communities, ecosystems and economies. Amidst this adversity however, design thinking and imagination have emerged as vital tools to foster innovation and combat the climate crisis; they are playing a transformative role in Africa's fight against climate change.

We support young people's imagination in schools and communities as a mechanism of learning about climate change. We are harnessing education through project-based learning, encouraging questions and providing opportunities for students to express their unique perspectives.



SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

By embracing crafts, young people hold the key to sculpting a greener, fairer and wiser future. Crafting not only fosters creativity but can instill a profound sense of responsibility towards our planet. By developing sustainable practices and using eco-friendly materials, young people can contribute to the preservation of our environment.



CLIMATE CONSCIOUS AFRICAN YOUTH: THE UJANA EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

The Ujana Empowerment Foundation (UEF) is a youth-led initiative based in the heart of Entebbe,

Uganda with a mission to empower the young people of Africa and enable their growth into global citizens equipped to thrive in an interconnected world.

At the forefront of their agenda lies a passionate commitment to combating climate change and preserving the environment.

The global climate crisis encompasses long-term changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels, food and water shortages, population displacement and increasingly extreme temperature fluctuations. The use of fossil fuels across industries and rapid deforestation have increased global warming, with repercussions felt across the world's environments, societies and economies.

CLIMATE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The UEF recognises the urgent need to educate young people about the far-reaching implications of climate change. As part of their educational programme, the Foundation organised a series of online webinars, providing a platform for experts to share their insights and inspire action. These webinars have focused on youth engagement in climate action, green entrepreneurship and Africa's efforts to mitigate the climate crisis. Additionally, the Foundation conducts street interviews to gauge youth opinions and identify knowledge gaps regarding climate change.

Six schools have participated in this initiative, strategically selected from various regions of Uganda: Busoga College Mwiri, St. Andrew's College Moyo, Gayaza High School, Light Academy Secondary School, Lango College, and St. Joseph's Vocational School, Mbarara. The primary objective is to

inspire research, increase participants' knowledge and foster a spirit of climate action.

To further its climate education agenda, in April 2023 the UEF launched an essay competition centred on "the impacts of climate change on the youth in Uganda and innovative solutions to the crisis".

As the UEF concludes its essay competition, plans include partnering with responsible stakeholders to implement the innovative solutions proposed by the top essay writers. This transformative approach ensures that knowledge acquired through the competition is translated into practical, tangible actions which can contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change.



A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS

The Foundation is a beacon of hope for the future of Uganda's youth and the environment. By equipping young minds with knowledge and inspiring them to take action, UEF is nurturing a generation of climate-conscious leaders who understand the gravity of climate change and are committed to safeguarding our planet.

Barbra Ujana Foundation.



A RABBIT PROJECT TO REMEMBER! UNVEILING THE ENCHANTING WORLD OF BUNNIES

Step into a world of fluffy ears, twitching noses and boundless cuteness as we take you on a mesmerising journey through our Rabbit Project. A labour of love and dedication, this exhibition showcases the captivating world of rabbits, a testament to our passion for these furry companions.

With immense pride and excitement, our exhibition aimed to educate and inspire visitors with the joys of rabbit companionship and responsible pet ownership. At the heart of this project lies a deep love for animals and a fascination with rabbits.



It all began with our quest to learn more about these gentle creatures and offer them the care and love they truly deserve. As we embarked on this journey we discovered the vast world of rabbit breeds, their unique traits and the art of understanding their behaviours.

With this newfound knowledge as the driving force behind our exhibition, we were eager to share the enchanting world of bunnies with others.

Months of hard work and preparation culminated in a meticulously designed exhibition space that brought the essence of a rabbit's world to life. Visitors were greeted with colourful posters featuring stunning images of different rabbit breeds and their habitats. Every exhibit was crafted with precision, showcasing the diversity of rabbits, their personalities and the bond they form with their human companions.

To make the exhibition an unforgettable experience, we incorporated hands-on learning and interactive activities. Visitors were encouraged to engage with live rabbits under the watchful eyes of our knowledgeable handlers. Children delighted in feeding and petting the rabbits, and their smiles revealed the magic of this unique connection between humans and animals.

As much as we celebrated the joys of rabbit companionship, our exhibition also emphasised the importance of responsible pet ownership. Educational material, brochures and pamphlets were available to visitors, offering invaluable tips on rabbit care, nutrition and the significance of creating a safe and comfortable

environment for these furry friends. A highlight of the exhibition was the opportunity to share personal stories and lessons learned throughout our rabbit project journey. We spoke of challenges we encountered, the joy of witnessing a rabbit's growth and development, and the profound bond we formed with our rabbit companions. This emotional connection resonated with our audience, inspiring them to see rabbits in a new light.

As our Rabbit Project came to a close, we were overwhelmed by the positive feedback for our exhibition and the lasting impact it had on our visitors. Through our passion and dedication we hoped to foster a deeper appreciation for rabbits as sentient beings deserving of love and care. The exhibition left an indelible mark on all who attended, instilling a sense of responsibility towards animal welfare and a desire to make the world a better place for these furry friends.

ELECTRIC GARDEN



this for pest control on a large scale; for example, devices can be installed to emit ultrasonic sounds to deter pests and protect crops.

Electric garden setups may also include sensors to monitor environmental conditions. These sensors measure temperature, humidity, light levels and even air quality. This data is useful for optimising plant growth and identifying problems at an early stage.

The setup of an electric garden normally depends on the specific goals of the gardener, the types of plants being grown, and the available technology. A system is typically designed to optimise plant health and yield, conserve resources, and reduce the manual labour required for gardening. In our case, the electric garden system helps us to incorporate automated irrigation. It includes soil moisture sensors and timers that can be connected to water pumps and valves. When the soil moisture levels drop below a certain threshold, the system automatically turns on the water supply to ensure plants receive adequate hydration. We can also use

These electric garden systems ease agricultural practices in a modern way for our modern world.





REVOLUTIONARY SUSTAINABLE FASHION



Maweje Creations is a social business revolutionising the fashion industry using plant-based materials and textile waste to mitigate the challenges created by fast fashion and climate change.

Developing plant-based materials like banana fibres & organic cotton, alongside reusing textile waste including fabric offcuts & secondhand clothes, Maweje Creations is building an empowered community of farmers and young people.

By supporting the production and extraction of banana fibre, this enterprise enables banana farmers to earn an extra income from banana biomass, creating job opportunities for disadvantaged young people and promoting sustainable, eco-friendly fashion.

ABOUT COMMUNE FABRIC

“Commune” stands for a community with shared values, beliefs and resources, developing a greater vision and responsibility.

“Fabric” is the structure that holds the community together and makes it what it is, through weaving different materials like cotton, linen and other fibres.

SUSTAINABLE FIBRES

Over the past 3 years, fashion and material innovators Maweje Creations developed Commune Fabric in collaboration with their local community and a weaving specialist, both based in Uganda. Their social enterprise has successfully developed Uganda’s first durable material made purely from the natural waste of the banana plant.

Prevalent across Uganda and grown within a natural ecosystem of sustainable mixed agriculture, the banana plant is self-sufficient and requires no pesticides, fertiliser or extra water. These sustainable qualities have secured its important place in the food market.



With the support of this new enterprise, banana farmers are developing their skills, turning banana stems into a fibrous material which can be used to create a range of affordable products, including table mats, fabrics, earrings, card holders and even clocks.

Commune Fabric is incredibly strong and durable while remaining soft, lightweight and supple. With a natural off-white colour, the fabric from these woven fibres has a distinctive, handmade texture.

This new material provides answers to questions of environmental, economic and social sustainability. As a new opportunity, it offers the fashion industry a truly circular alternative to the synthetic fabrics that currently dominate the market.

Dimma Maweje from Maweje Creations, explains:

“We have developed a process to convert raw banana fibre yarn into textile grade yarn. Banana fabric is a sustainable green apparel of the future and an alternative solution to synthetic and other resource-intensive fabrics like cotton.”

MAWEJE CREATIONS



The public erasure in Uganda will focus on creating awareness about mountain gorillas as one of the endangered animal species as per the international union for conservation.

Beetles, bats and birds
TGI network hosts Public Erasures by artist Frances Gynn

When The Great Imaging network held a series of activations for Earth Day 2023, TGI Exeter began looking at earth systems with a beetle's eye, as the UK parliament debated the protection of wild landscapes on Dartmoor.

Exeter contacted artist Frances Gynn whose long-standing project of Public Erasures involves inviting members of the public to rub out – literally erase – her drawings of wildlife. Fran not only created a huge canvas covered with endangered Blue Ground Beetles, but also a drawing of rare Horseshoe bats for the TGI activation in Bath.

Now Fran is bringing her Public Erasure to Uganda for TGI Africa. Her artwork of Mountain Gorillas will focus attention on the importance of protecting wild habitats for this endangered animal which is such a vital part of Uganda's prestigious tourism industry.

Members of the public will be invited to erase this artwork during the exhibition. We hope that by participating in this activity, it will raise awareness of the impacts of climate change. Habitat loss is leading to a dramatic fall in gorilla populations, which are vanishing from this landscape.

These Public Erasures are part of TGI Africa's programme of future learning through art, using art as a way of sharing and communicating complex issues of climate change. We support government and community programmes that provide wildlife conservation in Uganda and work towards transformational change through art by facilitating dialogue and learning.

THE ARTIST

Frances Gynn works as a painter with drawing, installation and printmaking. With a deep interest in the natural world, she has tackled environmental issues such as plastic pollution and the effects of climate change, with a particular interest in artistic and human intervention in conservation of wildlife.



Vanishing wildlife Mountain Gorillas in Uganda.

Fran explains, "My work has for some time been informed by nature and human engagement with it, particularly more recently environmental issues. As plastics became more evident in the landscape, my artistic practice reflected a growing concern for the human effect on the environment. What does it mean to relate to nature?"

Her artworks have been exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts, London; the Royal West of England Academy, and are held in private collections all over the world. Fran calls these pieces Public Erasures, Whitewashes and Green Washes.



Frances Gynn



The IACS Nairobi Declaration: A Common African Position proposed by African leaders

The Intercontinental Africa Climate Summit (IACS) took place in September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. African government leaders and other key stakeholders met to discuss how to drive green growth and provide climate finance solutions for Africa and the world.



During the summit, AU member state leaders signed the Nairobi Declaration which will serve as a basis for Africa's common position in the global climate change process, to COP28 and beyond. It calls for economic transformation that is in line with Africa's climate needs including:

Increasing Africa's renewable generation capacity from 56 GW in 2022 to at least 300 GW by 2030

Establishing a new financing architecture that is responsive to Africa's needs including debt restructuring and relief, and the development of a new Global Climate Finance Charter through UNGA and COP processes, by 2025

Introducing a global carbon tax regime, including a carbon tax on fossil fuel trade, maritime transport and aviation, that may also be augmented by a global financial transaction tax (FTT) to provide dedicated, affordable and accessible finance for climate-positive investments at scale.

Civil society activists felt the summit agenda promoted 'the position and interests' of the Global North. Carbon credits and carbon sequestration were specifically criticised for being false solutions that give polluters a free ride. The summit was also criticised for its inadequate focus on strengthening climate adaptation capacities within African communities.



Africa is experiencing the brunt of environmental shifts which are directly impacting communities, ecosystems and economies in the face of escalating challenges in the climate crisis.

In the midst of this adversity, design thinking and imagination have emerged as vital tools. Fostering innovative solutions and empowering local communities, these ways of thinking are playing a transformative role in Africa's fight against climate change.

DESIGN THINKING

A creative problem-solving approach that focuses on empathy, collaboration and iteration, design thinking encourages designers, engineers and communities to think beyond traditional boundaries especially useful when seeking new ways to tackle the complex impacts of climate change. In Africa, design thinking has been harnessed to develop sustainable approaches to infrastructure, resilient farming practices and adaptable housing. These innovations are tailored to the unique challenges faced by different regions on this continent, including drought-resistant crops for arid areas and flood-resistant housing for coastal communities.



DESIGN THINKING, IMAGINATION & THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN AFRICA

Design thinking and imagination are indispensable tools in the fight against climate change in Africa. By encouraging innovative solutions, fostering community participation and inspiring a vision of a greener future, these ways of thinking are empowering Africans to adapt and thrive in the face of environmental challenges.

★ Brian M

IMAGINING NEW FUTURES

Imagination fuels the innovation process by pushing boundaries and envisioning a future that transcends the current crisis. African artists, storytellers and visionaries are using their creativity to raise awareness about climate change and inspire action. Their art, music and literature involves communities in imagining new possibilities, encouraging everyone to take ownership of their environment. Imagination also fuels technological advancements, driving the development of renewable energy sources like solar and wind power, which are revolutionising Africa's energy landscape.

INSPIRATIONAL PROJECTS

As the continent faces the urgent need for climate action, nurturing these creative forces can be the key to a sustainable and resilient Africa. The Great Green Wall initiative is a remarkable example of design thinking and imagination in action. Stretching across 21 African countries, this project aims to combat desertification by planting a massive wall of trees. Design thinking principles have been employed to create sustainable land use plans, inspiring communities to imagine a greener, more prosperous future.

Young African entrepreneurs are also harnessing design thinking tools to develop climate friendly businesses. From eco-friendly fashion brands to renewable energy startups, these innovators are creating job opportunities, reducing emissions and contributing to sustainable development.

EMPOWERING REFUGEES

HARNESSING TALENT AND SKILLS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE



The Aliferous Universe Foundation (AUF) is leading the way in acknowledging the potential of refugees and actively involving these communities in climate change solutions through talent and skills development.

Refugee communities are often at the forefront of the climate crisis. They face environmental challenges that are exacerbated by their already vulnerable status. But their voices are rarely heard. It is imperative that we recognise the critical role that refugees can play in combating climate change and mitigating its impacts.

In Uganda, as in many parts of the world, refugee camps experience the adverse effects of climate change, such as prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall patterns and extreme weather events. These environmental changes have severe consequences, particularly in the form of food crises, affecting the livelihoods and well-being of refugees and host communities alike.

AUF recognises the unique position of refugees in addressing climate change. By harnessing their talents and skills, we can tap into a valuable resource for implementing effective climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. The Foundation is committed to a holistic approach to combating the multifaceted challenges and is promoting this skills development among refugee communities in Uganda.

AUF collaborates with local and international partners to provide training and resources that enable refugees to play an active role in climate resilience and mitigation efforts. This includes programmes in agriculture, renewable energy, water management, and sustainable livelihoods. The Foundation acknowledges that climate change knows no borders and affects everyone, including refugees, and seeks to empower these communities to adapt, thrive and contribute to a sustainable future.

This dedication to empowering refugees in Uganda through talent and skills development is testament to the vital role that refugees can play in climate change mitigation and adaptation. As the global community grapples with the far-reaching consequences of climate change, it is crucial to harness the resilience, knowledge and capabilities of refugee populations. By involving refugees actively in climate change solutions, we can work towards a more sustainable and inclusive future, where the impacts of climate change are minimised for all, regardless of their background or status.

There are several key reasons why actively involving refugees in climate change through talent and skills activities is of paramount importance:

Resilience: Refugees have often faced displacement and hardship, making them resourceful and resilient. They bring diverse experiences and skills that can be applied to climate adaptation efforts, such as sustainable agriculture, water management and disaster preparedness.

Adaptation: Refugees are intimately connected to their environments and have a deep understanding of the challenges posed by climate change. They can offer crucial insights into the most effective and context-specific solutions for their communities.

Economic: By providing refugees with opportunities to develop their skills and talents, they are empowered to contribute to their communities' economic development. Sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurship can play a significant role in mitigating the impact of climate change.

Inclusivity: Involving refugees in climate action sends a powerful message of inclusivity and solidarity. It highlights the shared responsibility of addressing climate change and demonstrates that no one should be left behind in the fight against this global crisis.

Sustainability: Empowering refugees to actively participate in climate change solutions builds capacity within these communities. This not only ensures short-term relief but also contributes to the long-term sustainability of their livelihoods and environments.



During the summit, AU member state leaders signed the Nairobi Declaration which will serve as a basis for Africa's common position in the global climate change process to COP28 and beyond. It calls for economic transformation that is in line with Africa's climate needs including:

- Increasing Africa's renewable generation capacity from 56 GW in 2022 to at least 300 GW by 2030.
- Establishing a new financing architecture that is responsive to Africa's needs including debt restructuring and relief, including the development of a new Global Climate Finance Charter through UNGA and COP processes by 2025.
- Introducing a global carbon tax regime including a carbon tax on fossil fuel trade, maritime transport, and aviation, that may also be augmented by a global financial transaction tax (FTT) to provide dedicated, affordable, and accessible finance for climate-positive investments at scale.
- Civil society activists felt the summit agenda promoted 'the position and interests' of the Global North. Carbon credits and carbon sequestration were specifically criticised for being false solutions that give polluters a free ride. The summit was also criticised for its inadequate focus on strengthening climate adaptation capacities within African communities.

With the youth at the forefront of climate advocacy, COP28 is anticipated to embrace and encourage the active involvement of young leaders. The expectation is for the conference to provide a platform for youth-driven initiatives, fostering innovation and amplifying the urgency of climate action.

The ACS Nairobi Declaration: A Common African Position put forward by African leaders. The Africa Climate Summit (ACS) took place in September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. African government leaders and other key stakeholders met to discuss how to drive green growth and provide climate finance solutions for Africa and the world.



The 2023 Ashden Award for Integrated Energy Africa

Africa is bursting with new and exciting clean energy innovation. But the continent faces a major challenge – connecting diverse systems to make sure clean energy is accessible and affordable for everyone.

The Ashden Award for Integrated Energy Africa is open to energy companies, finance and technology providers, and other businesses creating integrated clean energy solutions in and around the continent's towns and cities. Their work should bring together multiple

energy services to power up transport, homes or enterprises, in harmony with wider national energy systems. Community involvement is key – the winning solution will be designed and delivered with input from people facing energy poverty, and bring change in areas of greatest need. **BE PART!**



NEW WAYS OF LEARNING: The Kwaji Environmental Education Foundation

With growing concerns about the impacts of climate change, it is crucial to educate younger generations about the importance of taking care of our planet. The need for climate education and environmental awareness cannot be over emphasised.

Lovelyn Andrawus and the Kwaji Environmental Education Foundation have developed an innovative approach to addressing this need through the establishment of climate education and environment initiatives: Eco Clubs and Eco Comics.

These initiatives provide students with a comprehensive, immersive learning experience focused on environmental sustainability and climate action. The aim is to instil a sense of responsibility and awareness of environmental issues from an early age. By doing so, students can develop the knowledge and skills to become future leaders in addressing the global climate crisis.

UNIQUE CURRICULUM

The Foundation's first project targeted pupils aged 5 to 8 years old, including approximately fifty students at the Wonder Kids Academy in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

The curriculum at these pilot schools covers a broad range of topics related to environmental science, climate change, renewable energy and sustainable living. Students are taught about the impacts of human activities on the environment and are encouraged to think critically about ways to mitigate these effects. They also learn about the importance of conservation and preservation of natural resources, as well as the role of biodiversity in maintaining ecological balance.

In addition to traditional classroom learning, these initiatives also prioritise hands-on experiential learning. Students are given opportunities to participate in projects such as planting trees, recycling initiatives, and creating sustainable gardens. They also engage in field trips to ecological sites, where they can observe the natural world in action and understand the impact of human interventions. Furthermore, these pilot schools strive to create a culture of sustainability within the school community. This includes implementing eco-friendly practices within the school, such as energy-efficient systems, waste reduction initiatives and promoting the use of environmentally friendly products.



By doing so, students are exposed to real-life examples of how sustainability can be integrated into everyday life.

POSITIVE CHANGE

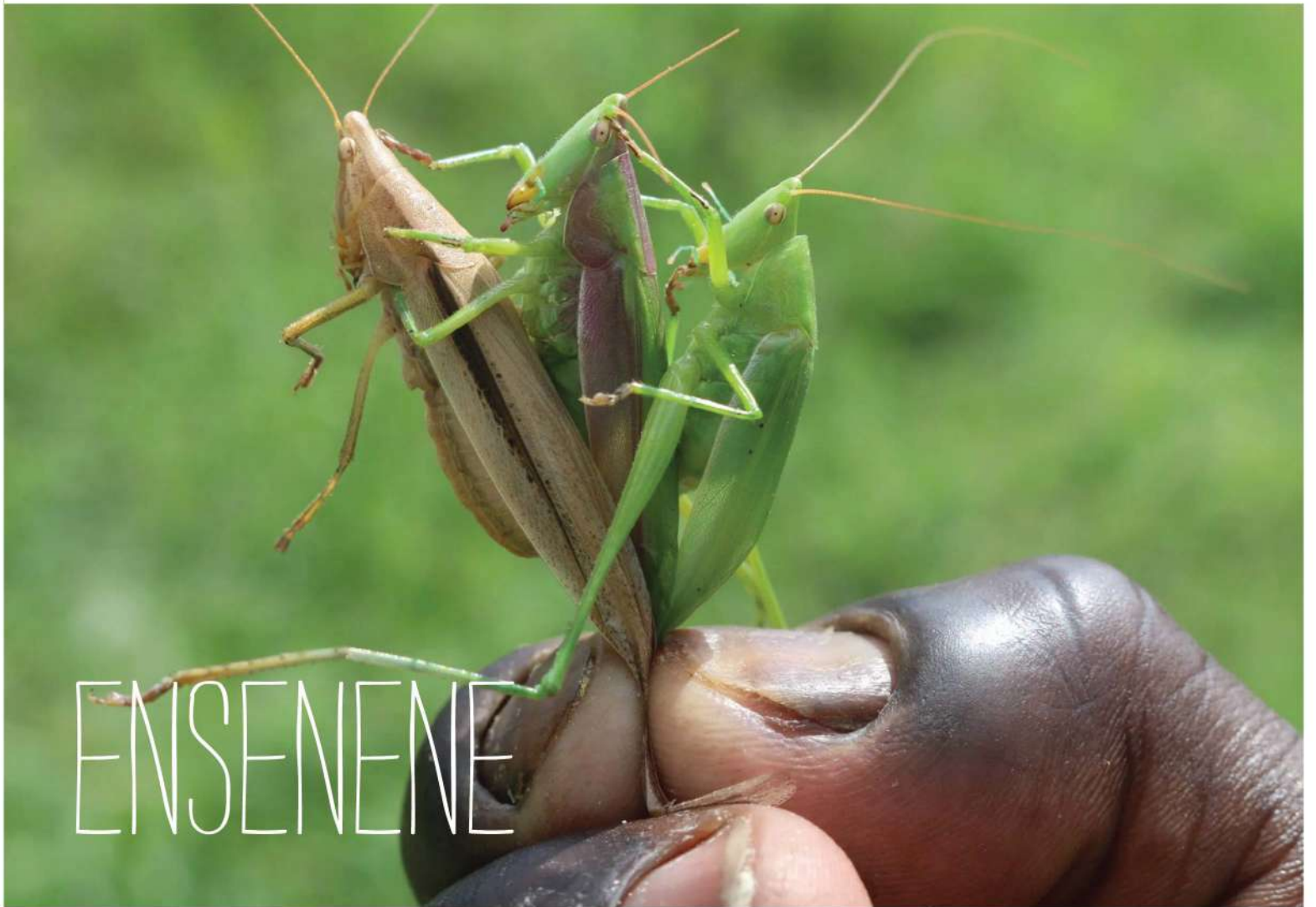
Schools have responded positively to the pilot project and are looking forward to further partnerships with the Kwaji Environmental Education Foundation. Students asked intelligent questions and were eager to start Eco Clubs in the school. Lovelyn signed her books for students and donated Eco Comics to the school library.

One of the key benefits of these pilot schools is the ripple effect they can have on the wider community. By empowering students with the knowledge and skills to be environmentally conscious, they are likely to influence their families and peers to adopt more sustainable behaviours. This in turn contributes to creating a more environmentally-conscious society.

In conclusion, climate and environmental education for young pupils has proved a valuable initiative in addressing the pressing issue of climate change. By providing a holistic and immersive educational experience, these pilot schools are equipping the next generation with the tools to become environmental stewards and advocates for sustainable living.

KEEF Founder Lovelyn Andrawus commented, "It is crucial that we continue to support and expand such initiatives to ensure a brighter and more sustainable future for generations to come."

Lovelyn Andrawus is a climate activist, educator and environmentalist from Nigeria. She recently produced a book on climate education for young African audiences, titled "The adventure of Zira and Kuve". Lovelyn is the founder of Kwaji Environmental Education Foundation.



GRASSHOPPERS: UGANDA'S INSECT SNACK

Travel entails a lot more than wildlife viewing and since food is an integral part of all our lives while travelling, many may blend local cuisine into their itineraries to experience a different culture.

It could be a full-blown meal such as *luwombo*, food prepared in banana leaves or just a snack like the sought-after Ugandan grasshoppers that flock in two seasons.

These little beings are extremely delicious and addictive too, to say the least. I find myself anticipating the rainy season knowing these goodies will be available to keep me food company.

GREEN MONEY

Grasshopper hunting provides Ugandans with cheap nutritious food and sometimes big money. However, insect numbers are dropping due to deforestation and climate change.

GRASSHOPPER HARVEST SEASONS

If not for global warming effects, the rainy seasons in Uganda are in April-May and Oct-Nov when the shores of Lake Victoria are visited by swarms of *Nsenene* as they are known locally.

Harvesting grasshoppers is done at night by putting lights in barrels to lure them. Attracted by these bright lights they fly towards them until they're blinded, diving right into the barrels which lead to their downfall. Perhaps in the future we will invent smarter methods of capturing these flying creatures. For now, each morning the barrels are emptied into sacks and transported to markets.

FROM MARKET TO STOMACH

At the market are different types of buyers: retailers and some immediate consumers. For the most part vendors sell *Nsenene* by the roadside, both fresh uncooked and cooked. Preparations involve plucking off legs and wings - trust me when I say this is the hardest part. Imagine picking a hopper, plucking its legs and wings, piling each of them up for sale. I do believe this is the reason they tend to be quite costly for a roadside snack.

Cooking preparations may involve boiling, roasting, smoking or deep-frying and seasoning with onions, garlic, green pepper and salt to taste. Don't take my word for it, visit and try it yourself, then tell me if it's as delicious as I think.

I will admit that growing up I didn't think of insects as food. Grasshoppers were like bugs, and considered pests. But now I find myself keeping grasshoppers in the freezer for the off-season, to keep me company until the rainy seasons are in full swing again.





ACTIVISM



While I may still qualify as a youth in my country #South Africa, the grey hair I've collected for my troubles as a social justice and climate activist will tell you a very different story. Mine has been a decade-long journey, and I am only just beginning to see the impact of this work; yet there is a whole new generation of African climate youth activists who are already making waves with substantially fewer years under their belt.

Gabriel Klaasen
SOUTH AFRICA



Remy is an African climate youth activist living in the Congo Basin, the world's second largest rainforest. He is no stranger to the impacts of environmental degradation, especially with the constant threat that industrial logging poses on the forest and the communities that live there. The geology graduate is very passionate about climate change because it directly affects every one of us. He feels that world leaders are far from taking decisive action on the climate crisis, which is why we all need to get involved in the climate justice movement.

Twitter:
Remy Zahiga

Yero Sarr
SENEGAL



Yero is student and co-founder of the Fridays For Future movement in Senegal. He first got involved in the youth climate activist space at the age of 16. Fears around the future of young people across the planet prompted him to become very active in the fight against climate change - and to make sure that others join him too. He believes that collective action is far better than individual action. Yero's strength is mobilising people; he works with several environmental organisations on many issues important to him including the impacts of harmful industrial fishing on West African communities.

Twitter:
SarrYero2
Yero Sarr
SENEGAL



This environmental science student has a massive ambition. He wants to plant one million trees in his home country, Uganda, to counter the impact of the climate crisis there. He says that more than 200 lives have been lost in his home country since 2017 due to severe floods and landslides exacerbated by climate change. He fears that the situation will get worse due to lack of political will and has decided to tackle the issue head-on. Dixon has already planted more than 100,000 trees in the space of a year - using more than 10 different species and teaching local people to take care of the plants until they are fully grown.

Twitter:
BahandagiraD
Dixon Bahandagira
UGANDA



In their final year of high school, Raeesah led a school boycott to demand that the country's environmental department declare a climate emergency. Fast-forward to a year later, and they have been invited as an observer to COP26 commencing in Glasgow later this month. The Johannesburg-based intersectional activist strives to decolonise Africa, connecting to activists around the continent to make activism more inclusive and accessible with the organisations Stage For Change and 65 Years.

Twitter:
raeesahnm

Raeesah Noor Mahomed
SOUTH AFRICA



Winnie is a young conservationist, blogger, climate activist, volunteer, and Communication Lead at Kenya Environmental Action Network. Growing up in extreme poverty had silenced her for a great part of her life; but, her passion for wildlife and nature helped her find her voice again - one of the loudest voices in the African youth climate movement. Her activism journey started off online with tweets and posts on matters concerning wildlife welfare and climate change issues. Making social media posts grew into writing blogs and thought leadership, and eventually handling communication strategies for one of the organisations leading the Kenyan climate justice movement.

Twitter:
WinnieCheche

Winnie Cheche
KENYA



Anisa aka Nissa Bek is a media personality, an African youth climate activist, and the founder of Project Mulan - a youth-led project that aims to spread and achieve the United Nations Development Plan's sustainable development goals in Libya. In addition, she is the national leader of Let's Do it World and Fridays for Future in her home country. Nissa believes that a prosperous future where no one is left behind is possible, but it will take hard work. Her hard work over the past 9 years has not gone unnoticed, having recently received the 2021 Diana Award.

Twitter:
Nissa bek
Anisa Bek Derna
LIBYA



Somewhere between being a hardcore academic - whose expertise range from engineering to language studies - and an accredited English teacher, Fatna somehow managed to find time to co-found the Youth for Climate Morocco movement. She is also working to tackle discrimination in her role as ambassador for Morocco's AFCD Foundation. Her vision for the future entails beating climate change, poverty and violence, as well as a world where the word racism does not exist.

LinkedIn:
Ikrame elfanne
Fatna Ikrame El Fanne
MOROCCO





When her friend Vanessa Nakate made international news with a one-woman strike in Uganda's capital, Kampala, Evelyn was so moved that she promised to join her on the frontlines. As she learned more about the climate crisis, the African youth climate activist began to understand the inter-sectionalities between climate change and race – and why it was so important to include it in her home country's school syllabus. As the national coordinator of the Rise up Movement, Evelyn remains at the forefront of the Ugandan climate movement, organising climate strikes and calling for divestment from fossil fuels.

Twitter:
eve chantel

Velyn Acham
UGANDA



The IACS Nairobi Declaration: A Common African Position put forward by African leaders.

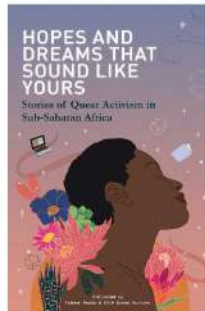
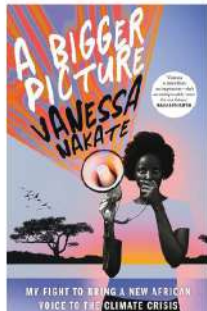
The Intercontinental Africa Climate Summit 'IACS' took place in September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. African government leaders and other key stakeholders met to discuss how to drive green growth and provide climate finance solutions for Africa and the world.

During the summit, AU member state leaders signed the Nairobi Declaration which will serve as a basis for Africa's common position in the global climate change process to COP28 and beyond. It calls for economic transformation that is in line with Africa's climate needs including:

Increasing Africa's renewable generation capacity from 56 GW in 2022 to at least 300 GW by 2030. Establishing a new financing architecture that is responsive to Africa's needs including debt restructuring and relief, including the development of a new Global Climate Finance Charter through UNGA and COP processes by 2025.

Introducing a global carbon tax regime including a carbon tax on fossil fuel trade, maritime transport, and aviation, that may also be augmented by a global financial transaction tax 'FTT' to provide dedicated, affordable, and accessible finance for climate-positive investments at scale.

Civil society activists felt the summit agenda promoted 'the position and interests' of the Global North. Carbon credits and carbon sequestration were specifically criticised for being false solutions that give polluters a free ride. The summit was also criticised for its inadequate focus on strengthening climate adaptation capacities within African communities.



LET THE HANDS OF TODAY
CRAFT A FUTURE THAT IS
NOT ONLY AESTHETICALLY
PLEASING BUT ALSO
GREENER, FAIRER, AND
WISER FOR GENERATIONS
TO COME.





We are a diverse group of cultural sector declares. We tell Truth, take Action, seek Justice in the face of climate crisis.

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We are on board



**The Great Imagining
Cannock Chase
2023/2024**



**THE GREAT
IMAGINING
STRATFORD**

GREENER • FAIRER • WISER

The Great Imagining Stratford opened on Thursday, 30th November 2023 and the residence is open till Sunday, 7th January 2024. The project is running on good will and now called the Gift Economy.

We are filming and capturing as much as we can for a wider education program.



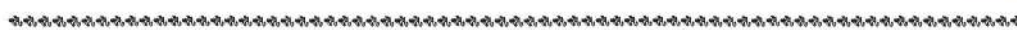
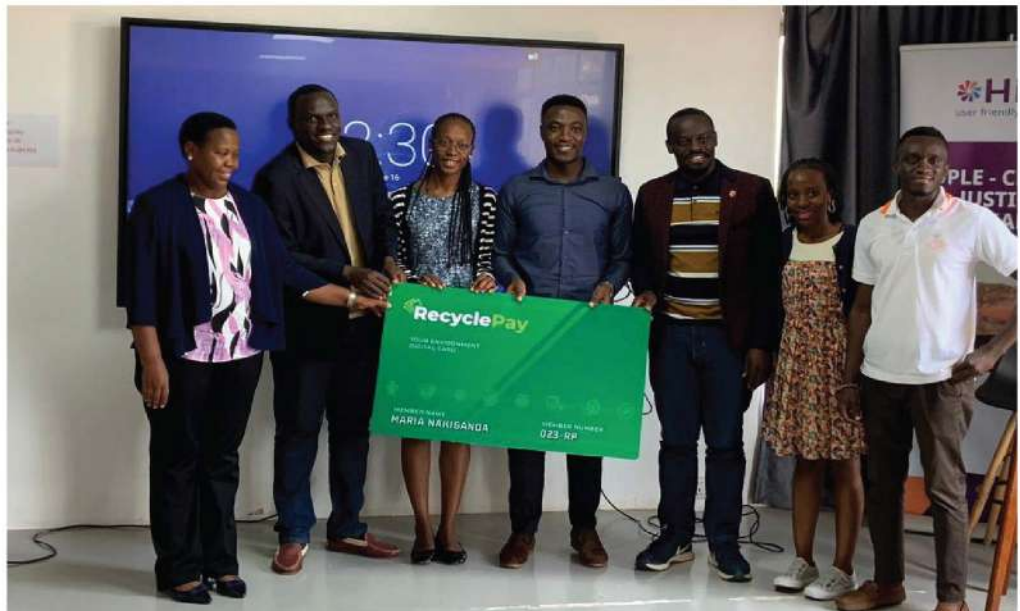


Social media offers abundant opportunities. What began as a LinkedIn post by HiiL Uganda seeking ideas to promote land justice has given rise to our innovative solution. It mitigates land conflicts stemming from landfills and plastic waste dumping in underdeveloped areas. We're excited to announce that **RecyclePay**, a digital environmental activist card, was recognized as the best at the Jenga Haki festival hackathon and also third runner-up at the FITSPA Women in Tech competition, 2023.

Our reward system allows individuals to earn points for waste collection efforts, redeemable for essential services like school fees or healthcare credits. This innovative approach not only transforms waste into a valuable resource but also addresses crucial needs in underserved communities, promoting social and economic development. Since winning the hackathon, the prize money has enabled us to accomplish much. We've completed the first version of the RecyclePay mobile app, distributed cards to over 20 users, and, most importantly, redeemed school fees for at least 20 students despite resource challenges. This means over 3000 Kg of plastics have been removed from our environment.

We've also partnered with two landowners facing illegal dumping challenges to help resolve land conflicts arising from poor waste disposal practices.

By Maria Nakiganda
C.E.O RecyclePay





Nurturing the Seeds of Equity: The National African American Reparations Commission's Quest for Restorative Justice and a Greener Future

In the pursuit of justice, equity, and a sustainable future, the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) stands as a beacon of hope and resilience. United by a shared commitment to rectify historical wrongs and restore African American communities, NAARC envisions a fairer, greener, and wiser future. Beyond the reparations themselves, the positive effects of this endeavor extend to fostering a transition to a thriving, fossil-free future for both African and Caribbean nations.

The call for reparations is deeply rooted in the historical injustices faced by African Americans, from slavery and segregation to systemic racism that persists to this day. The NAARC recognizes the urgent need to address these historical wrongs and advocates for reparatory justice as a means of healing and empowering the African American community.

NAARC's mission transcends mere financial compensation. It is a call for holistic reparative measures that encompass economic, social, and environmental aspects. The commission aims to dismantle systemic barriers, invest in education, healthcare, and affordable housing, and create opportunities for economic advancement. By addressing the root causes of inequality, NAARC seeks to pave the way for a fairer and more just society.

In tandem with its commitment to reparations, NAARC recognizes the importance of environmental justice in building a sustainable future. The reparations received can play a pivotal role in funding initiatives that promote a transition to a fossil-free future. Investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly infrastructure can create jobs, reduce carbon

emissions, and contribute to global efforts to combat climate change.

The positive effects of reparations extend beyond the borders of the United States. African and Caribbean nations, which have endured the legacy of colonialism and exploitation, stand to benefit from the ripple effects of NAARC's mission. Reparations can be channeled into projects that bolster sustainable development, support clean energy initiatives, and strengthen communities against the adverse impacts of climate change.

Reparations can also fuel educational initiatives and technological innovation, empowering African and Caribbean nations to leapfrog into a green and sustainable future. By investing in education and research, NAARC aims to cultivate a generation of leaders, scientists, and entrepreneurs who will drive positive change in their communities and contribute to global sustainability efforts.

The National African American Reparations Commission's pursuit of reparatory justice is not just a quest for financial compensation; it is a visionary journey toward a fairer, greener, and wiser future. By addressing historical injustices and investing in the empowerment of African American communities, NAARC is sowing the seeds of positive change. The potential positive impact extends beyond borders, fostering a transition to a thriving, fossil-free future for African and Caribbean nations. As we collectively strive for a world built on justice, equity, and sustainability, NAARC stands as a testament to the transformative power of reparations in shaping a brighter tomorrow for us all.

***TGI AFRICA

The Great Imagining network shares messages of hope for a Greener, Fairer, Wiser future for us all. Our newspapers celebrate activations and innovations by artists and makers, experts in sustainable business and young people making a difference across the world.

We are delighted to support this newspaper by TGI Africa, on its journey to COP28

We need to transform our world at speed and that requires everyone in the grassroots of all our communities to focus on what is possible for us, our families, our societies and our world. That is why we are so excited to be working with the amazing team at AVIAS to produce The Great Imagining Africa and create links between people and nations in the Global South and people and communities in the UK and Europe. We are all working together like mycelium to bring the nourishment, ideas and information where it is needed.

TGI Exeter reaches across continents to exchange the language of imagining with TGI Africa.

Our collective imagining connects our communities and our collaboration creates bright visions for sustainable futures together, in active spirals of hope.

You take our hope and hearts with you to COP28.

Kate Jago
Deborah Curtis
TGI - UK

With thanks to;
Deborah Curtis
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Munyanganizi Brian.