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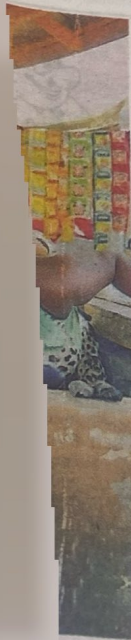
eral conservation and
community-based initiatives,
including, the National
Uganda Conservation
Strategy, expansion of
tourism in Kibale National
Park, Kaniyo Pabidi, and
Mungo Forest, as well as
restoration of the Albertine
Riparian Corridor.

These efforts have involved
connecting fragmented
savanna habitats through
large-scale tree planting,
expanding community
forests through
sustainable income activities
such as beekeeping, coffee
farming, and agroforestry,
reducing dependence on
external resources.

Additional interventions
include empowering girls
through mentorship and
leadership programmes
aimed at reducing school
dropouts and promoting
gender equality, addressing
wildlife conflict through
the construction of
habitat corridors and
protection of key
resources such as the
Bwindi Impenetrable National
Park which recorded 426
deaths.

The organisation has
strengthened youth
engagement through the
roots programme
with over 204 clubs
spanning 12,000 active
youth across 20 districts,
leading to a global
reach of over 10,000 groups
and millions of
community-based
action.

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Youth groups push zero-waste strategy to transform Kampala



Youth clean up Kampala. The zero-waste initiative is centred on a public-private partnership model. PHOTO/COURTESY

SHABIBAH NAKIRIGYA

Environmental activists and development partners have intensified calls for a city-wide zero-waste strategy aimed at turning Kampala's growing garbage problem into an economic opportunity for young people and farmers.

On regenerative agriculture and waste management in Kampala, Isaac Ndyamuhaki the Executive Director Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO), says stakeholders were working together to promote cultural regenerative agriculture and sustainable waste management through partnerships involving government and the private sector.

"We want young people to learn from each other so as to scale up interventions that promote regenerative agriculture and zero waste," Mr Ndyamuhaki says.

He explained that the initiative is centred on a public-private partnership model designed to reduce waste dumping in landfills while creating jobs and improving livelihoods.

"We are implementing a strategy where government and the private sector each make a contribution in driving waste away from dumping sites and landfills. Instead, the waste can be turned into something productive through job creation for young people and supporting green economic transformation in Uganda," he says, noting that the initiative had already registered some success and stakeholders were optimistic about expanding it further across the country.

"So far, this has been successful and we are looking forward to doing more together with other stakeholders going forward."

Zero-waste strategy

Mr Ndyamuhaki added that experts are also focusing on developing what he described as 'a zero-waste strategy for Kampala', which is expected to guide future interventions in waste collection, recycling and sustainable urban farming.

Experts emphasised that waste management should no longer be viewed solely as a sanitation challenge but also as an opportunity for economic growth and environmental conservation.

Mr Dennis Kabiito, the Uganda National Young Farmers Association

says Kampala's waste crisis could be transformed into a source of income and agricultural productivity if properly managed.

"It brings us to look at how we can change our city challenges of waste disposal into an opportunity that can help farmers produce more food while also protecting the environment," Mr Kabiito says.

He urged residents to begin thinking about how waste generated in homes and communities can be reused instead of discarded.

"Everybody should ask themselves whether the waste they produce can be transformed into something useful for another person," he says.

Mr Kabiito explained that recycled waste could generate income while also creating ecological value through composting and organic farming.

"We can use waste to provide income, but also to create environmental value for everyone. If we all work towards this, it can create employment especially for young people," he says.

Climate Action

The workshop also attracted development communication experts and climate change campaigners who are supporting awareness efforts through radio and community outreach programmes.

Stephen H. Justin, the Country Manager at Farm Radio Uganda, says the organisation was partnering with youth-led groups to promote climate action and regenerative agriculture across Uganda.

"We work with different partners and one of the key organisations we are working with in climate change and regenerative agriculture is GAYO," Justin says.

He described GAYO as an important youth organisation championing zero-waste management initiatives in urban areas.

"One of the major areas they are focusing on is zero-waste management in cities, which aligns with our climate change work," he says.

"We are using radio and other communication platforms to ensure communities understand what they need to do to address waste issues in their households," he said, revealing that Radio Simba was among the stations being used to spread awareness messages, especially in central Uganda.