

WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM (WEF-UGANDA)



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

December 2025



Women's Environmental Forum – Uganda (WEF-Uganda) continues to strengthen its role as a national movement advancing environmental justice, gender equity, democratic governance, and climate-resilient livelihoods. Through high-level policy engagement, grassroots mobilization, digital empowerment, and youth leadership, WEF-Uganda is shaping inclusive pathways for socio-economic transformation across the country.

Highlights & Key National Engagements

WEF Champions the Fight to End Violence Against Women and Girls

WEF-Uganda was honored to participate in the opening national campaign to end digital violence against women and girls, held at Makerere University Rugby Grounds. The campaign brought together civil society actors, youth, women leaders, and advocates to confront the growing threats of online harassment, cyber intimidation, digital exclusion, and non-consensual sharing of content.

As digital spaces increasingly shape education, civic participation, activism, and economic opportunity, women and girls remain disproportionately exposed to harm.

WEF-Uganda reaffirmed its commitment to digital safety, dignity, and rights-based digital governance, recognizing that ending digital violence is fundamental to ensuring women and girls can fully participate in leadership, environmental advocacy, and democratic processes—both online and offline.



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Growing a National Network for Environmental Justice & Democratic Governance

WEF-Uganda continues to expand and strengthen a nationwide network of youth and women environmental leaders, connecting communities, universities, and regions across Uganda.

This growing movement is a strategic investment in Uganda's future. By organizing women and youth around natural resource protection, environmental justice, and democratic accountability, WEF-Uganda is building a people-powered movement that positions environmental sustainability as a pathway to social, economic, and political transformation.

A national movement led by women and youth means:

- Stronger community stewardship of land, water, forests, and biodiversity
- Greater accountability and transparency in governance systems
- Inclusive participation in policy-making and development planning
- Sustainable livelihoods rooted in climate resilience and environmental protection

Through collective action and civic engagement, WEF-Uganda is helping shape a future where development is equitable, inclusive, and environmentally just.



Engaging youths and students at the School of Agricultural Sciences on Environmental justice and governance



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University Youth Engagements

Voices of the Future We Create Today



Discussion with students at Makerere University on the campaign on "The voices of the future we create today" ahead of the official launch.

WEF-Uganda has officially commenced nationwide university youth engagements, mobilizing young people to actively shape Uganda's environmental and governance future. These engagements are building momentum for WEF-Uganda's flagship national campaign: "Voices of the Future We Create Today."

Implemented through a national podcast and documentary series, the campaign amplifies the lived experiences, insights, and aspirations of youth, women, and girls across Uganda. Through storytelling and digital platforms, the initiative aims to influence public discourse, policies, and institutional practices.

The campaign seeks to:

- Elevate grassroots voices into national and policy conversations
- Influence laws, policies, and action plans affecting youth, women, and the environment
- Promote gender-responsive and youth-inclusive natural resource governance
- Build youth capacity in digital skills, storytelling, media literacy, and advocacy
- Nurture a new generation of environmental leaders grounded in justice and accountability

We have so far engaged over 300 university students in Makerere University, Kyambogo Cavendish, Gulu University, Busitema University, culminating in a national launch in February 2026.



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WEF-Uganda at the High-Level Coffee Tourism Strategic Summit 2025.

WEF-Uganda was proudly represented at the High-Level Coffee Tourism Strategic Summit 2025, held at the Africa Coffee Park in Ntungamo.

Our Founder, Ms. Resty Mbwali, alongside Ms. Akello Elizabeth Priscilla, Head of Programs, participated on behalf of the organization. This high-level engagement reflects WEF-Uganda's growing role as a national actor in environmental governance, climate resilience, and sustainable socio-economic transformation.

Coffee Tourism as a Pathway for Inclusive Development

Uganda's emerging Coffee Tourism Strategy presents a powerful opportunity to integrate:

- Women's economic empowerment
- Climate-smart production and value addition
- Sustainable land use and natural resource stewardship
- Community-centered and inclusive tourism models

WEF-Uganda's participation ensured the meaningful inclusion of gender equity, environmental protection, and strategic natural resource management in discussions shaping this fast-growing sector.

It also amplified the voices of women and girls in national dialogues that will influence livelihoods, conservation, and community resilience.



Ms. Mbwali Resty and Ms. Akello at the Africa Coffee park in Ntungamo



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Empowering Coffee & Cocoa Farmers for Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Busoga.

In December 2025, the Women's Environmental Forum Uganda (WEF-Uganda) advanced its climate-resilient livelihoods agenda through targeted engagement with coffee and cocoa farming communities in Buyengo Subcounty, Jinja District—laying the foundation for the ECOCO-BUSOGA TriNutri Trace Nexus Initiative.

Over 200 smallholder farmers from multiple villages were mobilised and sensitised on the potential of coffee and cocoa as sustainable, high-value cash crops, grown through agroecology, mixed cropping, and agroforestry systems. Farmers learned how integrating food crops alongside coffee and cocoa strengthens household incomes, nutrition, and food security, while restoring soil health and biodiversity.



Unlocking Value Addition & Reducing Post-Harvest Losses

WEF-Uganda also promoted zero-loss value chains by introducing farmers to practical post-harvest and value-addition opportunities, including:

- Processing coffee and cocoa into powder and other products
- Converting cocoa pods into organic manure and animal feed
- Using coffee husks in poultry deep-litter systems
- Exploring cocoa by-products such as cocoa juice
- Improving storage and preservation to minimise losses

These approaches directly respond to Busoga's high post-harvest losses (40–60%), while creating new income streams for women and youth.



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Restoring Landscapes Through Agroforestry



Community leaders and local chiefs welcomed WEF-Uganda's vision of transforming abandoned, bare, and rocky hills into climate-smart demonstration sites for agroecological coffee and cocoa farming. These sites will serve as learning hubs for farmers, youth, and local institutions—restoring degraded land through agroforestry, ecosystem-based adaptation, and regenerative practices.

A Pathway to Scale: ECOCO-BUSOGA Initiative

This engagement directly feeds into WEF-Uganda's flagship ECOCO-BUSOGA TriNutri Trace Nexus Initiative (2026–2029), which aims to:

- Digitally integrate 10,000 farmers (60% women & youth) into climate-smart value chains
- Plant 1.5 million coffee, cocoa, and shade trees
- Reduce post-harvest losses by 40–60%
- Establish 150 green enterprises across farming, processing, and agro-tourism
- Position Busoga as a national model for climate-smart, digitally enabled agriculture

Through agroecology, digital traceability, green entrepreneurship, and agro-tourism, WEF-Uganda is building nature-positive livelihoods that empower communities while restoring ecosystems.

2025 reaffirmed our commitment to WOMEN. JUSTICE. PLANET — placing women, youth, and frontline farming communities at the centre of climate-resilient development in Uganda.



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ADVANCING OUR STRATEGIC VISION (2026–2030)

These engagements directly support the implementation of WEF-Uganda's Strategic Plan (2026–2030), which prioritizes the following flagship initiatives:

- **Voices of the Future We Create Today**

A national storytelling initiative (podcasts and documentaries) advancing inclusive environmental leadership and advocacy.

- **Uganda National Natural Resources & Digital Empowerment Lab**

A national hub for innovation, research, storytelling, and community capacity strengthening.

- **WEF-Uganda National Environmental & Climate Archive**

A platform preserving indigenous knowledge, community insights, environmental histories, and climate action data.

- **Scaling Digital Empowerment through DI-GLiN**

The Digital Green Livelihood Navigator (DI-GLiN) connects communities to:

- Real-time climate and production information
- Market linkages and value-addition services
- Financial inclusion pathways
- Digital skills for women and youth
- Tools for resilience and natural resource security

Digital empowerment remains a cornerstone of WEF-Uganda's strategy for socio-economic transformation and climate-resilient communities.

LOOKING AHEAD: UPCOMING CONVENINGS

- National Launch – Voices of the Future We Create Today
📍 February 2026
- National Annual Environmental Justice Summit
📍 Tentatively June 2026
- Africa / East Africa Natural Resources Governance & Strategic Security Forum
📍 Tentatively November 2026

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

WEF-Uganda remains steadfast in its commitment to center women and youth, advance justice, and protect the planet. Through advocacy, storytelling, leadership development, and high-level engagement, we are building a movement that transforms governance systems, protects natural capital, and creates inclusive development pathways. Together, we are creating the future—today.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

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