



# POWERING YOUNG INITIATIVES

2019 ACTIVITY REPORT

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***BRIEF ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION*** - On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Powering Young Initiatives was founded by an Alumni African Change Makers Cohort 2, John Kakandelwa as a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political Youth organization. The organization was established as the will of youths to participate actively in protection and conservation of environment, as well as to take an active role in the civil society development through protection of biodiversity and realization of the sustainable development concept in Zambia

We were registered as a Not for Profit Making youth organization with registration No.120190005227, on 5th July 2019 under Patents and Companies Registration Agency in Livingstone as a Novel communication channel for learning about the 17 sustainable development goals, climate change Mitigation and adaptation, Eco-inclusive Enterprise Development and Entrepreneurship leadership and Social Innovation Education.

Our main goal is to empower a diverse group of Young leaders with leadership and entrepreneurial skills to be used right now to address climate change. By engaging them in Powering Young Initiatives' learning journey, we expect to raise their awareness and help them to go from theory to action, to "walk the talk". We will be empowering Children, Youths, Women and social-environmental organizations towards the future that needs to emerge. Through our network, they will be able to join forces and influence their impact in the following years, ensuring that their local efforts be part of a larger global movement.

We are also advocate for environmental preservation and protection, biodiversity conservation and implementation of sustainable development principles. Powering Young Initiatives is also dedicated to the environmental protection and environmental improvements which will strengthen sustainable future and lead towards social and economic improvements of the social communities at national level. In order to achieve the mentioned goals above, Powering Young Initiatives is committed to work with different range of stakeholders in order to foster cooperation and joint work for the purpose of achieving sustainable future.

### **Range of Activities: Our work is divided into 8 programmes**

- Climate Change Public Advocacy
- Environment & Waste Management
- Eco-Inclusive Enterprise Development
- Climate Change Mitigation and adaptation
- Entrepreneurship leadership Social Innovation
- Project Green Schools
- PYI Youth Farm
- Environmental Forum Initiatives

### **Cooperation/Membership**

We consider cooperation as necessary tool for development processes. Therefore, we maintain partnerships with different stakeholders, being aware of the importance of every single pillar: local communities, authorities, other organizations and individuals at national and international level.

#### **Cooperation/Membership at International Level**

Powering Young Initiatives is partnering with Future Point 4 Business, based in the UK. Future Point 4 Business will be working on the development of the Powering Young Initiatives brand and brand collateral, including websites Development and Video animation material. Future Point 4 Business came to Zambia last year to conduct training. They want to develop business opportunities in Zambia, Supplying high quality branding and marketing services. Powering Young Initiatives is already benefiting from Future Point 4 Business see the Draft website [www.poweringyounginitiatives.com](http://www.poweringyounginitiatives.com) by Future Point 4 Business.

#### **Cooperation/Membership at National Level:**

1. Office of the President - District Commissioner Livingstone
2. Livingstone City Council
3. Zambia Development Agency
4. African Impact
5. Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia
6. Zambia National Broadcasting Cooperation
7. Ministry of Tourism and Arts

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS REALISED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES**

Education and Partnership actions for biodiversity protection in Western Province Sesheke and In Livingstone Southern Province of Zambia

### **THE AIM OF THE PROJECT:**

Support the capacity building and activities of Project Green Schools Educators

### **IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES:**

In cooperation with Environmental conservation Society of Zambia and forest department under the Ministry of land and Natural Resources, Powering Young Initiatives Participated in the Planting of Cocoon Trees in Sesheke District of Western Province.



**Figure 1** Cocoon Tree

The Cocoon has two primary benefits to the **seedlings** it houses: a safe shelter from the harsh surrounding environment and an adequate water supply to develop healthy roots during its first year. The cylindrical shelter also protects seedlings from becoming lunch for small animals, as its high walls surround the tiny plant.

The process results in strong adolescent trees that do not require external irrigation, and the Cocoon disintegrates into the surrounding soil as the tree's root structure expands.



**Figure 2 PYI Members in Sesheke**

Water-efficient, low-cost and biodegradable, COCOON helps trees and plants to survive and thrive with little watering or irrigation – even in arid, desert-like climates. This super sustainable planter technology increases seedling survival rates up to 80-95% and it could have a great effect on rehabilitating degraded land and deforested areas. So how does it work? Cocoon is made up of four key elements: a water reservoir, mycorrhizal fungi, an evaporation sheet and a tree shelter.

The circular, trough-shaped water reservoir is made from organic waste and pulp. Planted just below the ground's surface, the trough is filled with water. The tree, which grows through a hole in the center of the reservoir, absorbs water through bamboo wicks running from the trough to the roots. The reservoir is only filled with water at the time of planting. Once the water is used up, shallow pits in the reservoir act as a micro-catchment, collecting run off when it rains. The reservoir's cardboard material contains an insect repellent and is covered with a wax coating, protecting the seedling during the first year while it establishes itself.

In Livingstone Powering Young Initiatives Planted 100 tree on different locations Namely, Villa ground, Zambezi Primary school and David Livingstone Secondary School. The planting of trees where done in partnership with African Impact and Environmental Conservation society of Zambia with the Blessings from Livingstone city council and the office of the Commissioner District Administration After the planting our Project Green schools volunteers were assigned to look after the trees by watering and also protecting them from fire.



The DEBS office was also recognized during the tree planting exercise and steps were taken whereby 10 trees were adopted for Maintenance at the former DEBS office. Powering Young Initiatives Livingstone chapter, continued its Campaign for Beat Plastic Pollution in the streets of Livingstone where all public events are conducted, for example the just ended Zambia Southern Tourism exposition and Investment forum. After the Expo Powering Young Initiatives also took part in the celebration of National Independence day at Golf Club respectively.

### **National Cleaning Day**



Powering Young Initiatives Participated in the National Cleaning day which brought to together both the Civil Society organizations and Different Government Departments in the tourist capital city of Zambia which is Livingstone, while doing the Cleaning along the railways Line from Dambwa site market to Nakatindi Compound, Powering Young Initiatives Conducted some door to door awareness campaigns on the importance of Waste Management to the residences of the mentioned areas above and it was interesting to note that most households which were visited lacked information on the effects of wastes, especially the Plastic Pollution and Waste Management Procedures and at community level. It's is still very clear that most people still lack vital information on the effects of plastic Pollution to human beings and all animals. Powering Young

Initiatives has embark on picking the Plastics which shall be used for Eco-Bins Making to be placed in strategic points of Livingstone town.



Figure 3 Livingstone City Council

**POWERING YOUNG INITIATIVES –PROPOSES A WASTE MANAGEMENT AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR LIVINGSTONE CITY COUNCIL.**

Powering Young Initiatives would like to work with Livingstone city Council in the area of West Management by Introducing a Theater for Life New concept for expanded use of Climate change Community Communications and the following are the Problems that we would like to address by working with your office. Our Theater for Life concept addresses two of the most fundamental barriers facing climate change interventions today:

1)The lack of knowledge among the young Leaders and the general public about climate change, in general, and specifics of how their behavior is affecting climate change( Plastic Pollution) and vice versa, in particular.

2) The feeling of disconnect, apathy or helplessness among those already aware of climate change. Most people nowadays have heard of climate change and are familiar with the term. However, people also do not understand the relationship between their personal behavior/lifestyle and the devastating effects of Plastic Pollution ( Climate Change)They distance themselves from the problems because a) they do not directly experience the severe effects, b) they think this is something that is in the future and therefore do not need to worry about it right now and c) they lack a feeling of self-efficacy(the issue is too large for them to handle) and therefore perceive it to be a problem that the local government and experts should tackle. Rapid economic progress in the past decade has brought in a culture of abundance of material goods and choices for consumption, and people are not inclined to curb waste since they can afford it

It is a conscious decision to target this class of community because, as the ones with spending power, they are also at the root of many of the problems contributing to Plastic Pollution (climate change) they are the most prolific consumers and polluters. Wealthier



urbanites consume in excess and produce waste at a ratio that tilts the scales in disfavor of the rural sections of society. On a daily basis they consume more energy, gas, food and natural resources such as water and, reversely, they produce more waste (solid, liquid) and pollution (traffic, industrial) which contributes to increased greenhouse gases and carbon in the atmosphere.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM INITIATIVES (EFI)**



### **THE AIM OF THE INITIATIVE:**

- Establish Youth Forum which provides dialogue and information exchange among the youths and Government Ministries to fight Climate change.
- Develop capacities of environmental Youth Groups/Project Green Schools to establish a constructive dialogue with national authorities.
- Institute an ecosystem of change – i.e. establish a process of analysis, planning, action-taking and learning founded on citizen involvement and responsibility,
- Exercise agency – i.e. access information, engage in dialogue and take initiative to improve their situation, improve opportunities – i.e. improve quality and relevance of information, create new opportunities and utilise existing opportunities to full potential,
- Improve Services (education, health care, culture) – i.e. exercise greater control over resources that have a bearing on these services and access services that are of better quality,
- Enrich, as well as improve lives – i.e. engage in cultural and artistic endeavors that enrich life experience and, in the process, help initiate, and institute improvements in areas of concern.

## **IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES**

Several meetings of Powering Young Initiatives Members, NGO representatives, experts and other stakeholders interested in our work were held in Livingstone at Mukuni Park and were able to have discussions on the following topics: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Entrepreneurship, Eco-Inclusive Enterprise Development, and mindset. Youths have formulated their concerns and discussed challenges facing individual Communities of Livingstone and the Country as a whole. And we would like thank the government for providing space for our Environmental Initiatives Forum. It's from those meeting were we can find solutions for the Current an employment challenges faced by our youths. In Livingstone our youths have resolved and decided to make farming as a business hence Machinery and land is required for farming Production Purpose, by doing so we hope to create over 100 sustainable jobs because we will venture into serious agribusiness activities where we shall be producing deferent types of Products such as cassava, Maize, and Many varieties of pure local vegetables and Fruit Juices for Values (Income) with More 5,000 membership Country Powering Young Initiatives is committed at supplementing the Governments efforts and we there for hope that our goals shall be achieved.

### **Eco-Beat Plastic Pollution Camping.**

Beat Plastic Pollution campaign is one of the interventions that Powering Young Initiatives has put in Place to reduce plastic Pollution in Livingstone tourist Capital of Zambia, and we have so far made our first eco-bins placed at Mukuni Park. Currently, the eco-bins can be a source of income for many youths in Zambia, we have made it to show the youths that plastics are useful and can create employment among the youths. Plastics take more 500 years to decay, hence the need to come up with innovations such as making of eco-bins and Pencil casers which can help in raising income for the poor Households. We shall be empowering youths and women to venture into projects of this nature so as to create jobs.

Plastics have been reported as one of the major pollutants among various pollutants that are disposed of in the environment. They play a pivotal part in human life as they are cost-effective and are versatile. Plastics are known to have a mixture of many chemical components and are used for various domestic applications. Despite various useful applications, plastics take a long time to degrade. The burning of plastics releases chemicals such as phosgene and dioxides that are considered a hazard to the ecosystem.



The toxic debris that is released from the plastics enters the food chain and water bodies in the form of microplastics. Microplastics-polluted foods and the presence of meager amounts of phthalates in toys lead to serious health consequences such as congenital diseases and malignant cancers.

The dioxins released from the plastic polymers are lethally persistent organic pollutants which cause tumor and neurological damage in humans. Inadequate waste management practices have led to significant plastic pollution of water bodies.

Plastics tend to settle on beaches, which decreases esthetic and recreation values. We are the first in Zambia to make Plastic Eco-bins and this remain our Initiative under our beat Plastic Pollution Project in Zambia.

### **TV Programs**

During the year 2019, Powering Young Initiatives was feature on Radio and National Television stations on TV1 & TV2. Discussed the importance of land Conservation Powering Young Initiatives was represented by Kafula Mankata PYI Environmental educator.



## **Making PYI- Zambezi Project**

### THE AIM OF THE PROJECT:

The aim of project is to solve the problem of waste disposal in the Zambezi River.

The problem of waste disposal was created because of the lack of containers, which created illegal wild landfill.

### THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- Increase and change the awareness about the selective waste disposal;
- Educate people about the benefits of sustainable using of natural resources;
- Promotion of Sustainable Tourism;
- Preservation of the natural and cultural resources of the National Park and Zambezi River.

### IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

The containers for selective waste disposal in cooperation with local community were installed;

### IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES:

- Signs with information for important cultural and tourist places with the aim to promote touristic values in the area of Zambezi river Lake Musi-o- Tunya National park were posted on all our Social Media Platforms.
- Cleaning action in Musi-o-Tunya National Park together with local community representatives and distribution of promotional materials for the selective disposal of waste that is tailored to the local people were organized, in order to introduce the local community with the deleterious effects of waste on the environment and health.



Message from the Chief Executive Officer- Powering Young Initiatives

To All Powering Young Initiatives Members Country-Wide

Welcome to 2020! All of our staff are now back to work, ready to do all we can to stop and reverse the climate breakdown we are seeing unfold before our very eyes.

Like many of you, we are grappling with mixed and overwhelming emotions - grief, anxiety, frustration, anger, disbelief - but also hope.

We are seeing people speaking out who have not done so before - people who are influential and from all sides of politics.

We must not lose this moment, and when the dust and smoke settle we must keep working to build upon it. We all have a role to play in fixing this problem before it is too late. No matter who you are and whatever climate action you have taken so far, we ask you to look to the year ahead. Seize this moment, and commit to making this your biggest year of climate action yet. As to how best to do that, there are many options. Stay tuned and stay active as we share various ways you can have a meaningful impact. Please stay safe, and look after yourself and others during these difficult times.

**Conclusion:** This report offers a roadmap for individuals, the private sector and business to come together to combat one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. Each and every person on this planet has an important role to play in Climate change fight by reducing much of the plastic we use in our daily lives, replacing it with alternative, environment-friendly options. There is no time like the present to spur entrepreneurship and innovation to reduce our dependence on single-use plastic. Equally important is for us to raise mass awareness about plastic pollution and influence people to seek out alternatives. Ultimately, there is no single, one-size fits all solution to the current plastic crisis. Governments, businesses and individuals all have a major role to play, in steering us clear of a future where plastic pollution destroys our environment.