Winners of Youth Social Media Activists

Top three winners:

Carlos Ruiz, who started his activism to promote conservation of nature at the age of 17 in 2011, has been pitching his passion to companies to drive their engagement in fulfilling social responsibility to nature. He has led several educational programmes and initiatives and launched a volunteering programme to spread the importance of conserving nature. Carlos also sensitized indigenous communities about their right to protect nature and advocated for climate change issues in his city, Quito. Despite ground actions, Carlos has been actively using social media platform to reach out large number of audience. His continuous activism has won him the “Quito Metropolitan Sustainable Environmental Distinction”.

Clips of records:

More information: https://www.facebook.com/CarlosRuizEc/?ref=bookmarks

Courtney Dehn-Gurbacki, the founder of Agri Connexions Africa, crossed the continental border from the United States to Namibia to promote better livelihood in Namibia. Her activism includes helping rural communities in Namibia securing their food access and to find local solutions to improve their livelihood conditions. One of her initiative – Namibian Market Garden is about connecting people, women in particular, with opportunities to improve their livelihood. Despite sharing knowledge with the communities on water conserving technologies, Courtney and her team also use social media platforms to spread positive stories of African communities on their success of overcoming challenges. Courtney also managed to raise $6,611 through crowd funding that aims to expand their
initiative to other communities. Their effort was also recognized as one of the 2016 SEED Africa Awardees.

Clips of records:

More information:
[www.facebook.com/agriconnexionsafrica](http://www.facebook.com/agriconnexionsafrica) [https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/namibian-market-gardens/x/12653561/] [www.agriconnexionsafrica.org](http://www.agriconnexionsafrica.org)

**Wangechi Kiongo**, a blogger and writer for *The Platform* started her activism at Nature Club Karatina University during her university days. She co-founded “Save Lake Turkana Movement”, to avert an impending environmental catastrophe on Lake Turkana and also to voice the rights of marginalized communities which depending on Lake Turkana for their livelihood. Currently, Wangechi and her team are planning a Turkana awareness raising concert to highlight their plight. She also actively supported campaigns such as “Rivers of Love” and “Our Arboretum” through blogging, writings and posted her activism through social media. Besides, writing, Wangechi also led tree planting and mentorship activities at over 15 primary and high schools to engage young people to join her activism.

Clips of records:

More information:
[preciouswangechi.wordpress.com](http://preciouswangechi.wordpress.com), [International Rivers](http://International Rivers), [International Rivers2](http://International Rivers2), [Wangechi Kiongo](http://Wangechi Kiongo)
[Save Lake Turkana Movement](http://Save Lake Turkana Movement), [Our Arboretum](http://Our Arboretum), [Nature Club Karu](http://Nature Club Karu), [Rivers of Love Campaign](http://Rivers of Love Campaign)
[@Wangechi_K (Environmentalist)](http://@Wangechi_K (Environmentalist))
Finalists:
Ahmed Bazama, whose community Gallo located in Benghazi, Libya suffers from severe pollution from oil and gas industry, has been promoting and raising awareness on importance of community rights to access to clean air and environment. Through his activism, Ahmed organized campaigns and educational activities to sensitize his communities and school children on health hazards related to environmental pollution and know- how to protect the environment. He also communicated his concerns through media (Almriah-audio) and social media to outreach more audience. Through his own initiative, Ahmed gather facts and data on the impacts of the pollution from his community and has been using the evidence to lobby government authority for better monitoring of regulation control of gas emission from oil & gas companies.

Clips of records:

More informations: https://www.facebook.com/wahtjalo.web/, https://www.facebook.com/%D9%85%D9%86%D8%B8%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%88%D9%82%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%A7-%D9%82%D9%8A%D9%88%D8%AF-1427462407483414/?fref=ts

https://www.facebook.com/frsly/?fref=ts

Ahmed Maswadeh, a peace and environment advocator and the co-founder of “Jerusalem Art” initiative led a group of volunteers to turn neglected and dirty places in Jerusalem to places of dialogue, culture exchange and collaborative art. The initiative promotes peace and dialogues among communities through art using recycling materials. Ahmed and his team used Facebook as a tool to spread the peace and environmental messages. Despite the tensions and conflicts, the initiative has successfully mobilized volunteers from diverse communities, cleaning up two big open spaces in the
old city and turned these places into public meeting space, organizing events and spread the message that the land can connect people instead of dividing them.

Clips of records:


Bamidele Oni, who participated the youth activities at UNFCCC COP17 was inspired and started his own activism after returning home in 2011. He organized and facilitated knowledge sharing related activities in secondary schools. His success of sensitizing young people has led him to recruiting volunteers and expanding his networks of activism. Bamidele is now leading a group of volunteers planting local fruit and medicinal trees. Through this activity, he aims to educate local communities about the importance agro-forestry and to empower them about the value of these trees e.g. provision of medicine and food. To reach out broader audience, Bamidele also wrote blogs and posted his activism through social media.

Clips of records:
Benson Dotun Fasanya, an activist for community empowerment led the campaign “Voting for Water Sanitation and Hygiene (Vote4WASH)” to sensitize local communities about rights to access clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene facilities. Benson and his team weekly radio programme and social media campaign #Vote4WASH through Twitter-chat to drive the campaign outreach strategy. The campaign had successfully reached over eight million people from Plateau and five other states in Nigeria. In addition, Benson also founded the Centre for earth works (CFEW) online platform to empower more young people and local communities on environmental related issues. So far, CFEW has been able to engage and mobilize over 475 young people through implementation of project green in schools’ environmental club activities. He mobilized the school clubs members to plant 392 Moringa seedlings and 300 fruit trees in schools.

Clips of records:
Enricka Julien, a keen writer and activist for sustainable agriculture and land management related issues, aims to outreach her peers to join her path in getting youth attention to these global issues and care for environment conservation. Besides drawing attention of her audience through her blogs and article posted on social media, Enricka participated actively in different local and international events and campaigns to spread her message on her activism. She had co-led communication activities of Youth in Landscape Initiative that had resulted in 150 youth participation.

Clips of records:

More information: Facebook : Ebites1blog/ Twitter : @Enrickaj


Francis Boafo Asamoah, a wildlife conservation activist, started his cause of activism after seeing the cruelty of a friend killing a frog. Using social media platforms as outreach tool, Francis communicates with his audience on the importance of the conservation of species and landscapes. He relates how environmentally friendly activities such as tree planting and effective waste disposal help to conserve nature. Francis also led the online campaign “Save the Frogs”in Ghana and had mobilized some 500 university students to plant 500 trees in Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology of Ghana as part of habitat restoration activities. Besides, he also helped to outreach school children at Young at Heart Ghana by developing educational modules on wildlife conservation.

Clips of records:
Gallimard Yvan N Ngassa, the 16th Eco-generation Regional Ambassador to Turkey, advocates for environmental friendly policies and fair business practices that protect and conserve nature. Gallimard has been actively using different social media platforms to reach out his audiences and peers, posting environmental related issues globally to raise awareness about the importance of conserving our natural resources. He was also a Digital Advocate for World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to engage broader range of stakeholders in WHS campaigns.

Clips of records:

Luke Smith, an activist for sustainable agriculture, is the ICT director of WHYFARM, who has designed and introduced Agricultural Educational Entertainment (AgriEduTainment). WHYFARM through its AgriEduTainment such as AGRIman, AGRI comics and other educational activities aims to attract and engage young people on the world food problem and to grow the future feeders of 2050. Luke and his team have developed a comic series along with other creative materials e.g. colouring books, poems and games to raise the youth awareness on sustainable agriculture and food issues. Luke’s creativity of transforming Agriculture to AgriCOOLture has attracted many young people in Trinidad and Tobago. His WHYFARM team also uses social media tools engage and outreach young people outside Trinidad. They have extended similar projects in Haiti, Zambia and Rwanda.

Clips of photos

More information:

Mac Donald Nyirenda, a climate activist in Malawi, actively promotes the importance of protecting and conserving environment through clean energy. Mac Donald led YEEP and has empowered and mobilized young people to get involved in clean energy by becoming solar lamps distributor agents. He has been actively sensitizing public on benefits of adopting clean energy using social media and organized road shows to promote this green business. Mac Donald also captured his audience attention through his stories writing posted on social media.

Clips of records:

Sagarika Bhatta, a climate activist, is a fellow of Climate Tracker Initiative who advocates for environmental justice in particular climate related issues to policy makers and stakeholders in Nepal. She wrote articles on print and social media to draw the attention of her audience to be aware of climate related issues. Sagarika also led and organized series campaigns such as “I am a Power Shifter”, climate march, public sharing, and staging public drama to sensitize public on importance of creating a climate friendly and sustainable world. Other related activities included promotions of household alternative energy solution, eco-friendly business, climate change research and policy, cleaning parks and tree planting were organized to engage young people and public to support her activism. In addition, Sagarika is also active in building capacity of young people on green business through a YOU.COM programme.

Clips of records


https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHL8wHNUSKsXggdpsgvaw
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVOylbC-x13_5H3daPV2toQ
itter.com/powershiftfnp?lang=en
http://world.350.org/Nepal/
http://climatetrack.org/author/sagarikabhatta/

Zaira Gambino, started her activism after observing the long standing local emerging issues in her community. With anticipation to mobilize locals to take actions to improve their living conditions, Zaira and her team founded Eco Jovenes en Accion par Sonora A.C., an ecological club, with only 12 members, in 2010. Today, their club has reached 233 members. Their direct engagement with
different levels of school institutions has inspired young people to follow their footsteps. Zaira and her team had also successfully mobilized 1300 young people to participate in reforestation activities; distributed ecological stoves to indigenous communities and outreach 65 young people from drug addictions to join their cause.

Clips of records:

![Images of people participating in activities]

More information:

https://www.facebook.com/ecojson/
https://www.instagram.com/ecojovenes_por_sonora/