



YOUNG AFRICAN
LEADERS INITIATIVE

Meet the YALI Alumni

Elizabeth Wathuti Cohort 37 (2020) - Kenya

Elizabeth Wathuti is a YALI RLC EA alumna Cohort 37/38 and a young environmentalist from Kenya. She is the founder of Green Generation Initiative, a non-profit youth led organization that is creating a generation of environmentally conscious individuals by educating and empowering children and communities to love nature. The organization runs programs that are focused on tree growing to help communities implement nature-based solutions to the climate crisis, while simultaneously addressing food insecurity.

Elizabeth is determined to address environmental and climatic issues through education, tree growing for impact, advocacy and activism. As the fourth recipient of the Wangari Maathai Scholarship Award, she strives to find solutions to climate and ecological challenges not only in her community but across Africa as well. According to Elizabeth, the environment has undergone drastic changes today compared to how it was during her childhood days.

As part of her objectives to advocate for climate change mitigation, Elizabeth has been on the forefront in terms of activism, advocacy and education. Her initiative Green Generation has grown more than 30,000 trees to maturity, with over 20,000 people and over 35 schools impacted.

At the United National Climate Change Conference in 2021 (COP26), she urged the world leaders through her moving speech to 'Open their Hearts' and this held the world leaders into a moment of compelling silence. The following year during COP27, Elizabeth wrote a letter demanding climate justice for those bearing the worst effects of climate change. The letter which received over 140,000 signatures worldwide was



delivered to the world leaders at COP 27. After the COP27, one of the outcomes of the summit was the establishment of a funding mechanism to compensate vulnerable nations for loss and damage from climate -induced disasters.

In September 2022, Elizabeth was named among Times Magazine's list of 100 most influential personalities in the world.

Elizabeth was appointed the 2023 Amnesty International Chair Defenders Life at the university of Ghent in Belgium in March 2023. In the same year, she was appointed by President of the Republic of Kenya Dr. William Samoei Ruto to the Nairobi Rivers Commission to represent the Civil societies and the youths.

For more information on USAID's
Young African Leaders Initiative
visit www.usaid.gov/yali

