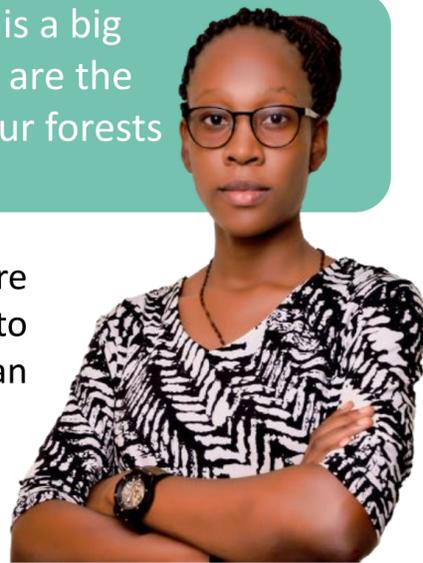




March 21, 2022 is the World Forestry Day. The Green champions had chance to offer their views on the sustainable use of forests.

Knowing that the construction sector is a big consumer of forestry resources, what are the green building options to safeguard our forests eco systems?



Timber is a raw material for roofing. There is need for sensitization of communities to embrace roofing using metallic rods as an alternative to avoid cutting down trees.

- Nakiganda Maria, Woman Leader, Kajjansi Town Council

Fairventures Worldwide (FVW) ([www.fairventures.org](http://www.fairventures.org)) combines forestry and modern technologies to restore degraded forest land in the tropics.



Simon Bosch  
Project Manager MTCEA  
FVW- Uganda

FVW works along the entire timber value chain by promoting the use of engineered timber products such as Glue Laminated Timber (Glulam) and Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) to transfer the construction sector from concrete and steel towards timber construction.

Green Building Designs are a climate change motivation to reduce the adverse effects from a Renewable energy sources and technology perspective. Uganda like many countries relies much on biomass including the forest cover for its housing developments in both the rural and urban communities.

So there idea not to restrict use of wood and timber for construction but to reduce levels of over extraction and depletion of forest ecosystems for the accrued benefit known to all. There are therefore many alternatives such as proposals to plant private or community forests that are for energy production and for construction.

The country is also resourced with stone and rock that could be an opportunity for semi arid communities such as the far Northern such West Nile and Mid west. Uganda also launched the Bamboo strategy (2018) which highlights the benefits of bamboo for its fast growth rate, ease of harvest, among others. Green building promotes the tree planting and conservation plans so that forest cover is protected to enhance green buffer zones.

With engineered timber products the mechanical properties can be increased, and bigger dimensions and longer spans can be produced. FVW set up a Glulam press in a workshop in Uganda to start manufacturing Glulam beams locally. FVW is in the process of constructing a Timber Innovation Center, to exhibit, train and show the opportunities of timber in the construction sector.



Due to conservation, there is need to adopt and conform to use of vernacular building designs during materials which are long lasting materials for construction such as reed, mad and wattle. These are enablers for reduced demand for forest products materials in communities.

- Hamba Richard  
Executive Representative, Uganda National Urban Forum



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Substantial funding should be channeled into the production of blocks, bricks, pavers and other building materials made from recycled plastic to substitute timber use. In Such an arrangement, we not only solve a great deal of deforestation but also rehabilitate the environment since plastic which is a raw material in this production chain is so readily available and at lowest or no cost at all.



Repair the Earth is currently running a skill development program on this Production chain, and a great number of youth are benefiting through acquiring of skills and sales of numerous plastic recycled products.

- Richard Kajubi Holmes  
Executive Director, Repair The Earth

Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) is one of the best green building materials and green home design to conserve the forest eco systems. SIPs are energy efficient, cost effective and produce less waste as panels arrive at the site ready for installation. Let's Go Green to Save the Environment.

- Milly Kemirembe  
Global Green Growth Institute Uganda Office Administration Officer



## Save mother nature, our forests for today and tomorrow.



Broadly, we must enhance development, but it's very imperative that development remains inclusive and equitable in benefit to the communities they are to impact. Pere (2005) describes the disappearance of Kyewaga Forest in Uganda as a result of sand mining activities, and this is attributed to the construction sector, here is the good news, we could resort to eco-friendly ways of construction by use of earthen floors which are constructed by use of marram, road side rain washed soil (silt sand) and clay instead of sand and cement, these floors have been broadly used in America, Rwanda and Uganda particularly Eastern region, they are cheap, durable and environmental friendly ([www.earthenable.org](http://www.earthenable.org)).

Each year, nearly 3% of Uganda's forests are cut down for fuel thus natural conventional resources are diminishing very fast. This can be controlled by use of renewable and sustainable energy such biomass briquetting as a fuel switch from use of non-renewable biomass to reduce charcoal demand and preserve our forest resources. We could also opt for use of improved cook stoves such as solar cooker stoves (ECOCA).

- Tugabirwe Sumaya  
Carbon Expert, Uganda Carbon Bureau