

OUR PORTFOLIO

ABOUT

Najimudu Empowerment Initiative is a leading Public Benefit Organization, proudly registered in Kenya under Charity Number 218/051/22-306/12855 in accordance with the NGOs Coordination Act. With a visionary commitment to fostering a just, innovative, economically efficient, and sustainable society, NEI operates directly in Kilifi, Kajiado, Kisumu, Busia, and Meru.

Our dedicated focus involves collaborating with local communities to develop and implement bespoke climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions. These initiatives are meticulously designed to empower marginalized women, youth, and persons with disabilities. At NEI, our solutions not only effectively reduce carbon pollution but also address local needs, champion gender equality, promote social equity, and elevate human dignity.

MISSION

To improve the socio-economical welfare through the use of innovative and sustainable solutions to realize an empowered, just and equitable society.

VISION

To foster a just, innovative, economically efficient and sustainable society.

CORE VALUES

Innovation
Teamwork
Integrity
Commitment

FOCUS AREAS

Najimudu Empowerment Initiative strategically focuses on key areas:

1. Climate and Nature: In our commitment to addressing climate change, we actively engage in research to advance innovative solutions. Through strategic resource mobilization, we undertake initiatives focused on tree planting, knowledge dissemination, community Empowerment and the promotion of alternative green energy sources. Additionally, we foster social enterprise models to ensure sustainable and impactful interventions, contributing significantly to curtailing the rise of global temperatures by 1.5°C.

2. Women's Empowerment: Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women in African communities, we are committed to fostering gender equality. We amplify women's involvement in leadership and provide opportunities for their advancement.

3. Youth Development: Harnessing Africa's youthful population, we tap into renewable energy alternatives to create opportunities, particularly in production. Through research, resource mobilization, and transfer, we equip the youth with the capacity for active engagement in sustainable change.

4. Persons with Disabilities (PWDs): Acknowledging the diverse needs of this minority group, spanning mobility, visual, intellectual, and hearing impairments, we aim to invest in foundational empowerment. Our objective is to enable PWDs to build resilience and pursue green livelihoods, ensuring a just transition without inequalities.

MEET OUR LEADERSHIP

Our team stands out as a dynamic force, driven by a diverse group of young individuals overseeing both the board of directors and management. With a youth-centric approach complemented by a seasoned senior advisory director, our leadership ensures a vibrant mix of talent and representation. The seven member board is strategically composed to facilitate comprehensive analysis, effective implementation, and inclusivity, all aligned with our organizational culture and values. This robust leadership structure positions us for strategic decision-making and impactful solutions in our pursuit of excellence.

Introduction

Petronilla, a Student-Doctor at Mt. Kenya University, is the Chairperson and Co-founder of Najimudu Empowerment Initiative.



Petronilla Wakio

*Chairperson
Board of Directors*

I. Professional Development: She is a GreenPeace International graduate fellow in Climate and Nature, specializing in Climate Justice, Advocacy, Youth Engagement, and Innovation. Petronilla is also a UNESCO - UNICAF trainee in Youth Innovation with a focus on Cybersecurity

II. Youth Empowerment and Advocacy: Petronilla actively trains youth on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Menstrual Hygiene, combining philanthropy with advocacy to end menstrual poverty through sustainable solutions.

Key Skills

Leadership: Founding Committee Member of the Health Students Association at Mount Kenya University and a dedicated LED-advocate in the Climate and Health Professional Guild.



Glain Naneu Kimer
*Vice Chairperson
Board of Directors*

Introduction:- Passionate Kajiado-born aviation enthusiast with 100 flight hours.

- Aspires to be the first commercial pilot from the region.
- Holds a civil aviation management degree from East Africa School of Aviation.

I. Professional Development:- Founder of Omom Elite, dedicated to empowering youth and challenging societal norms.- Active mentor at Young Aviators Club of Africa.

II. Leadership Roles:- She Leads Project and Country Network Committee leader, advocating for girls' rights.- Project Assistant at Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children, showcasing four years of impactful work.

III. Commitment to Impact:- Committed to making a positive impact in the skies and on the ground.- Uplifts the voices of the next generation in Kajiado.

Introduction: Bill Kaunda Gwendo is a dynamic professional with a strong background in mobilization, leadership, and expertise in climate and nature. Currently serving as the Founder and Director of Strategy, Research, and Innovation at Najimudu Empowerment Initiative, he brings a wealth of experience and commitment to social causes.

I. Leadership Experience:- Chairperson, Mount Kenya University Students Association: Elected in 2021-2022 - Chairperson, Pharmacy Students Association of Kenya (KPhSA): Elected in 2020-2021

II. Environmental Expertise:- Certified Climate and Nature Training Course, Planet One: with skills in climate Justice, Advocacy, Innovation and engagement- Volunteer, Greenpeace International: Actively engaged in 'breakfreefromplastic' campaign - Lead Member, Climate Change Action inHealth Professional Caucus: - Focus on Community-Centric Climate Solutions Champion :that ensure equity, equality, and overall improvement of human dignity, reflecting a commitment to inclusive and sustainable practices.

III. Academic Pursuits:- Student Doctor, Mount Kenya University: Currently pursuing a degree in Pharmacy.



Bill Kaunda
*Founder and Director
of Strategy, Research
and Innovation*

PROFILE OF EVENTS

Successfully launched and implemented community-based climate mitigation projects, leading to measurable increase in decarbonization that include:

1. Planting of more than two thousand trees at Alliance High School in partnership with Global Peace



2. Planting of fruity trees in General Kago Primary (2021 and 2022)



3. Empowered over 800 women and youth, providing them with skills and resources to actively participate in environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods.



4. Organized workshops and training sessions, reaching out to thousands of individuals, and fostering environmental awareness at the grassroots level.



5. Promoted gender equality in climate action, with women holding key leadership positions within the organization and actively participating in decision making processes.



6. Received recognition from local and international organization or our innovative approaches to climate change mitigation and community empowerment.



7. Conducted a youth empowerment workshop at Ubunifu Hub, equipping participants with the skills needed to engage actively in environmental conservation and contribute to efforts in mitigating climate change and building resilient communities.



8. In line with our commitment to sustainability and our dedication to driving green change in Kenya and beyond, Najimudu Empowerment Initiative actively participated in the Africa Climate Summit, held at KICC Nairobi, where we contributed to discussions on driving green growth and climate finance solutions for Africa and the world. Our engagement in this week-long event exemplifies our strategic focus on addressing critical global challenges and advancing impactful initiatives in accordance with our mission.



9. Conducted a Climate and Wellness Medical Camp themed "Climate Resilient Health for Our communities" at Full Gospel Churches of Kenya, Kitengela: Reaching out to more than 1200 community members spanning across Children, youth, the elderly and individuals with disabilities. With a team of more than 30 medical practitioners, pharmacists, Community Health Promoters nurses and students we delved deep into the intricacies of climate change, environment and health equipping the community with a blend of research-based knowledge and indigenous wisdom. We also distributed seed balls and offered a range of medical services, including consultations, PICT, counseling and pharmaceutical care.



10. In the heart of nature's canvas at MKU Botanical Garden, we united for the National Tree planting event. Together, we took a stand for a more sustainable tomorrow. We planted more than 3000 trees, both medicinal and fruity trees. These included Moringa, Mhoite and Mkoigo. Each tree planted is a brushstroke of hope, painting a greener, more vibrant future. Amidst the blossoming flora, we cultivated not just roots but a community dedicated to nurturing our planet. We appreciate the various partners that made this event a possibility including Kwinta Limited, GBFA, Africamo, Kiambu County Government and Mount Kenya University



11. At the core of collaborative change, the Earthwise Summit, where we actively participated, unfolded with a profound impact. Engaging in vital discussions on agriculture, climate policies, energy transition, and the imperative role of youth, the summit marked a collective commitment to shaping a sustainable future.



12. In the midst of this climate crisis, where positive news is a rarity, emerges a beacon of hope – Planet One. This groundbreaking initiative, a collaborative effort by Fryshuset Sweden and Greenpeace International, amplifies the resounding voices of extraordinary young individuals. Against the backdrop of a looming existential threat, these remarkable youths, hailing from Sweden, Armenia, Kenya, South Africa, Cameroon, and Hungary, converged in Stockholm under the Planet One program. The culmination of this transformative week saw a tapestry of presentations, including one by Najimudu Empowerment Initiative delivered by our Co-founder and board Chair Petronilla Wakio, delved into the imperative of holistic inclusion for climate resilience. Specifically, focusing on the illuminated intersection of renewable energy transition and the vital role it plays in empowering Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).



13. In commemoration of International Women's Day, we successfully held a Women Empowerment Forum that was visioned to Inspire, Educate and Elevate young women to embrace Leadership roles with confidence. The forum witnessed an impressive assembly of over 30 Youth groups, Associations, and Organisations. We engaged in progressive dialogue by participating in Roundtable discussions on critical themes such as Unapologetic Leadership, Breaking Gender Stereotypes, Entrepreneurship, Dating & Marriage, and Mental Health. The event's zenith was marked by a Wall-painting session, where our handprints served as collective symbols of Empowerment. Due to the impact sparked by the event, we are now emboldened to broaden our horizons, and are aiming to conduct bigger forums in the near future.



14. With a strategic focus on harnessing technology, we've orchestrated and engaged in a myriad of online discourse platforms, spanning podcasts, X spaces, webinars, and live sessions. This concerted effort allows us to seamlessly connect with and draw upon the extensive digital literacy within our community, fostering dynamic conversations and invaluable insights.



15. Gathering at the esteemed USIU Africa environmental leaders convened to tackle the pressing issues surrounding waste management while exploring the myriad opportunities it presents. The discussion fervently advocated for the steadfast implementation of extended producer responsibilities, heightened consumer education, financial backing for sustainable solutions, and fostering collaborative networks to address the urgent triple planetary crisis.. Key resolutions emphasized the imperative need for inclusive stakeholder involvement and the commitment to present a comprehensive report to the Nairobi County government.



16. Reflecting on the inaugural United Nations Civil Society Conference held in Africa, it's evident that the gathering at the UN Complex in Nairobi was a pivotal moment for non-state actors dedicated to societal progress. Over the course of two days, the conference showcased a myriad of dialogues, workshops, and coalitions, setting the stage for the upcoming Summit of the Future in New York this September.



17. As part of our core objective to involve youthful groups in solutions curation, we partnered with mkumrec and other institutions to actualize the first Undergraduate Research Symposium focused on community and healthcare. Among the research presented to the esteemed judges were studies aimed at improving youth access to SRH healthcare. As we gear up for the African Renaissance, it is vital that the voices of young people lead the way through research, from fact-finding to implementation and scaling.



17. On June 5th, 2024, World Environment Day marked a monumental milestone in our pursuit of ecological restoration, particularly in biodiversity hotspots. We gathered at Marurui Primary and Junior Secondary School for the official unveiling of the Michuki Wetland Restoration Working Group. This initiative is led by three youth organizations: Wetland organization , Roysambu Green Foundation, and Najimudu Empowerment Initiative.



18. Our youth-led non-profit organization formally established a strategic partnership . with Mount Kenya University . This alliance, finalized on the 19th of August 2024, represented a significant step forward in our collective mission. Through this partnership, we aim to foster meaningful progress in addressing the intersectional issues of climate action and social inequality. Our collaboration underscores a shared commitment to sustainable and equitable outcomes. This partnership is a unified endeavor to create lasting community centric solutions.



19. The second Earthwise Summit, held at the Kenya Wildlife Service Club House in Nairobi and organized by Nation Media Group, brought together influential leaders and professionals to discuss urgent sustainable solutions for the region. Over two days, the event underscored the pressing need for collective action to secure a livable planet for future generations. A key message throughout the summit was the importance of transitioning to sustainable systems that not only drive economic growth but also protect the environment.



20. The Second Edition of the Climate Health Camp 2024 brought impactful change to Kitengela, advancing our mission under the Climate Health Nexus Campaign. This transformative initiative focused on creating sustainable solutions where climate action and public health intersect. Over 400 patients received essential healthcare services, with necessary referrals ensuring continued care, 150 Casuarina saplings planted, reinforcing local efforts in environmental conservation, over 600 community members equipped with practical knowledge on waste management and climate resilience and 50 stakeholders participated in engaging panel discussions and a vibrant art exhibition exploring the climate-health connection. The camp underscored the power of collective action, meeting its goals despite challenges, and paving the way for even greater community-driven impact.



21. In January 2025, we journeyed to the banks of Lake Victoria in Kisumu County and discovered the Dunga Community Eco Craft initiative, where artisans upcycle invasive water hyacinth into beautiful, sustainable handicrafts. What struck us was how this simple practice not only tames the sprawling vegetation choking the lake but also provides reliable income and strengthens community bonds. Experiences like this reaffirm our conviction that empowering local ingenuity with nature-based solutions can spark genuine environmental and social progress.



22. The Najimudu Empowerment Initiative proudly participated in the 2025 People Dialogue Festival at Uhuru Park, Nairobi, in March, where our founder was honored to speak on the critical theme: “Policing Protests in Kenya: Losses, Gains, and Pathways to Building a Safer Kenya for All.” In this session, our founder shared grassroots perspectives on the impact of law enforcement practices on civic freedoms, especially within marginalized and youth-led movements. Drawing from our community engagement and advocacy work, the discussion highlighted the need for accountability, human rights-centered policing, and inclusive policy reforms. This platform elevated our voice in national dialogue and reinforced our commitment to democratic participation, justice, and safe civic spaces for all Kenyans.



23. On the International Day of Zero Waste, the Najimudu Empowerment Initiative proudly participated in a UN event in Nairobi, joining global leaders and environmental advocates in vital conversations on sustainable waste solutions. As pollution continues to impact ecosystems, public health, and climate resilience, our presence at the forum reinforced our commitment to advancing zero-waste practices. From policy advocacy to community empowerment, we're taking action to reduce single-use plastics and promote circular economy models. Together, we're working toward a cleaner, more sustainable future-because protecting our planet is a shared responsibility.



24. In April 2025, the Najimudu Empowerment Initiative attended CGIAR Science Week, where policymakers, scientists, youth, and civil society leaders gathered to explore sustainable solutions for Africa's future. A key side event, "The Power of Research Partnerships to Deliver at Scale," emphasized the importance of collaboration in addressing urgent challenges-particularly in light of the fact that only 9% of African youth enroll in university. Discussions underscored the need to strengthen education, scale agricultural innovation, and invest in capable leadership. A lunch featuring Kenya's rich culinary heritage-from sweet potatoes to kienyeji chicken stew-celebrated the continent's resilience and creativity in shaping data-driven, food-secure futures.



25. On May 17, 2025, the Najimudu Empowerment Initiative participated in the Lang'ata Clean Air Run, an 8.1 km run and 5.5 km walk organized by UrbanBetter and Cityzens to spotlight air pollution and environmental inequality in Nairobi. The route offered a real-time experience of how urban design shapes air quality, with data collected along the way using air-quality monitors. A post-run reflection brought together diverse voices on health, justice, and shared urban spaces. Our involvement underscored the deep connection between environmental justice and social equity-principles that remain central to our mission.



26. The Najimudu Empowerment Initiative proudly participated in the Inclusive Africa Conference 2025, held from June 3–5 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Nairobi and hosted by inABLE, where our founder Bill Kaunda joined global leaders to explore the theme “Scaling Digital Accessibility through Innovation & Entrepreneurship.” This pivotal forum deepened our engagement with African-led assistive technologies, inclusive design, and policy frameworks. Strengthening ties across sectors, the experience affirmed our commitment to ensuring persons with disabilities are not just included, but empowered as architects of Africa’s digital future.



27. On 7th June 2025, Najimudu Empowerment Initiative marked World Environment Day at Mathare North Primary under the theme #EndingPlasticPollution. The event brought together more than 30 youth, focusing on young women, for a hands-on cleanup, tree growing and an engaging session on sustainability and the 7Rs. Participants learned practical ways to tackle plastic pollution and co-created an action plan for ongoing community impact.



28. On June 10, 2025, the inaugural Cityzens Assembly on Air Pollution brought together a diverse range of voices to address one of our city's most pressing challenges. Najimudu Empowerment Initiative was honored to participate in this landmark gathering, which blended scientific insights, community experiences, and urban planning expertise to co-create a shared vision for a healthier, more sustainable future. This marked a meaningful step toward a city where clean air is a right for all. We are deeply grateful to UrbanBetter and Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) for their leadership in this timely and impactful initiative.

