

Young Sustainability Initiative

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW & CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITIES

Sierra Leone | Freetown | Evidence before scale

From cleanup to system change.

Waste systems | Circular economy | Coastal protection | Wetland recovery

5 September 2026 | ysiafrica.org | info@ysiafrica.org

WHO YSI AFRICA IS

A Sierra Leonean environmental nonprofit built on direct field experience.

20,000+ kg waste removed - current public impact claim; historic mass record is under reconstruction and future monitoring is moving to auditable weights.

Legally incorporated in 2026 as a Sierra Leone Company Limited by Guarantee.

Primary geography: Sierra Leone. Initial operating concentration: Freetown.

Community-driven, independent, nonpartisan and not youth-led.

THE OPERATING MODEL

Cleanup gives YSI access to real waste streams and operational learning.

The institutional progression is:

CLEANUP -> MEASUREMENT -> CHARACTERIZATION -> SORTING -> MATERIAL RECOVERY

-> VALUE CREATION -> TECHNICAL VALIDATION -> SCALABLE MODEL

Scale is earned by evidence - not assumed from ambition.

YSI builds or connects only the missing function after existing capacity is tested.

WASTE PROJECT - PHASE 0

Freetown Circular Waste Recovery Project: Evidence & Operational Design.

Measure first. Build second. Current phase is non-thermal.

Find leakage | Measure | Characterize | Route | Cost | Decide

The product is a defensible operating dataset and tested routing model.

RDF/SRF, shredding, washing, densification and thermal conversion remain later

technical hypotheses - not current Phase 0 deliverables.

WORK INSIDE FREETOWN'S SYSTEM

YSI is not positioning itself as the official municipal waste collector.

FCC and appointed providers retain their waste-service roles.

YSI's complement: localized evidence, measurement, characterization, recovery chain testing, and authority-aligned interception or cleanup where approved.

Duplication test: if an existing provider can perform the function, link capacity.

If not, define the evidence-backed gap before proposing new infrastructure.

ABERDEEN CREEK

Aberdeen Creek Protection & Recovery Project: baseline before intervention.

Current product: authority pathway, georeferenced baseline, stressor diagnosis, community/resource-use context, technical review and a decision framework.

Doctrine: natural regeneration first; planting only where evidence justifies it.

Planting, hydrological modification and other habitat-altering work remain gated by evidence, authority, technical, safety and financing requirements.

GOVERNANCE & DEPLOYMENT CONTROLS

YSI is building the control environment before presenting itself as mature.

Controls include legal identity, financial discipline, safeguarding, health and safety, competent technical review and an independent pre-deployment audit.

Internal controls strengthen readiness; they do not authorize deployment.

No individual strength - funding interest, method or visible need - overrides a failed critical gate elsewhere in the project.

CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Freetown Circular Waste Recovery Project - bounded Phase 0 evidence work.
2. Aberdeen Creek - bounded baseline and ecological recovery planning.

Funding follows scope -> method -> site -> authority/provider conditions -> people/equipment -> downstream route -> local quotations -> controls -> budget.

Recovered-material revenue stays at zero in the base case until a usable current offer is evidenced. Contact: info@ysiafrica.org | ysiafrica.org