



Topics

- How to make economically effective transitions to sustainable economies.
- Developing circular economies using circular socio-economics (bottom-up and top-down)
- Creating impactful youth entrepreneurship

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Delphin KAZE

Green Economy Entrepreneur, Investor & Speaker

Delphin Kaze founded Kaze Green Economy ("KAGE") in 2017 while still at University in his native Burundi. With over 98% of the population reliant upon firewood and wood charcoal for cooking energy, he was concerned about the rapid rate of deforestation and the serious impact of indoor air pollution on the health of women and children in particular.

With just \$30 he devised a means to create a clean cooking energy source from agricultural waste. These charcoal briquettes are cheaper, longer lasting and burn with a higher calorific value than both firewood and wood charcoal and they have had an immediate impact on deforestation and improving respiratory health. Not only that, but it has also provided Burundian farmers with an additional source of revenue for their waste products and stopped rotting or burning waste contributing to CO₂ emissions.

Five years on and KAGE now manufactures more than 50 metric tonnes of biowaste briquettes every day, which are sold throughout Burundi and overseas. The company has expanded into other clean energy sources as well as locally-made biodigesters and improved cookstoves, and biochar natural fertilisers. He has also founded KAGE Advisory, a consultancy that assists governments and the private sector in making the transition to the green economy.

Since 2020, Delphin has been recognised by the President of Burundi for his contribution to green entrepreneurship and innovation in environmental protection and been appointed an ambassador for the African Youth Climate Hub (part of the Mohamed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection). He works with the UNDP on the empowerment of women, young people and marginalised groups (including the Batwa indigenous people).

Delphin was the first businessman under 30 ever to be elected to Board of the East African Business Council (EABC), a part of the EAC and the apex organisation for private sector organisations and businesses in the East African Community. He has recently been appointed the Deputy Chair of the Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability.

At twenty-seven years old (2023) Delphin is fluent in Kirundi, Swahili, French and English, and he is a regular commentator on Burundian television and radio on environmental and green economy matters as well as youth entrepreneurship. He is regularly sought after as a speaker at regional and global environmental and entrepreneurship events.