

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS (NAPE)**

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOOL BULLETIN

Community Radio Edition



UGANDA COMMUNITY GREEN RADIO

Talk Green

Listen Green



Baza Green

Hurra Green

December, 2014

The Sustainability School Bulletin

Community Green Radio Edition, December, 2014

Editorial

We welcome you to 4th edition of the Sustainability School bulletin. This particular issue has been dedicated to the Community Green Radio Project which has been born out of the Sustainability School programme. This bulletin like the previous three editions has been published with financial support from the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung of Germany (RLS). The purpose of the bulletin is to bring you information regarding the implementation of the Sustainability School programme and particularly the Community Green Radio which was born this year.

Since 1999, NAPE has been implementing the Sustainability School programme in Uganda under the overall objective of, “ To create a critical mass composed of communities, community leaders, growing Civil Society Organization (CSOs), able to hold the government, individuals and global institutions accountable for the impacts of their actions on people’s livelihoods and national development” NAPE initiated the sustainability School to create awareness among communities on mismanagement and abuse of natural resources and what they can do to reverse the situation. In addition to creating awareness on natural resources management, the School also aims at helping the communities to realize their own rights and entitlements

and how they can defend them. It is envisaged that once the school gets fully entrenched, the communities will be able to carry on the good work of advocating for proper utilization of natural resources and defending their rights even when NAPE is no longer working closely with them. The Community Green Radio has therefore come in to help in amplifying further the voices of the communities in the Albertine region that are an important target of NAPE in natural resources management processes/ debates.

We thank those who gave their comments on the previous editions and those who have contributed articles for this edition. We like it so much when we get feedback from our readers

This bulletin is for the time being printed twice a year but it is within our plans to have it printed four times a year beginning with next year. This is because we believe that the best way of tackling the Sustainability challenges of today is by talking about them, writing about them and sharing experiences and information on probable and practical solutions to them.

Enjoy your reading. For any feedback, please send your comments to nape@nape.or.ug or at.kalangi@nape.or.ug



Justice James Ogoola hands over a tree to Mr. Siegfried Schroeder of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation after the launch of the Community Green Radio at Fairway Hotel in Kampala

NAPE launches a Community Environmental Radio in Uganda

By Shillar Kyomugisha

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) on Friday, July 4th, 2014, launched a community environmental Radio which now broadcasts from Hoima in Western Uganda. The NAPE Executive Director Mr. Frank Muramuzi said that the radio that has been named the Uganda Community Green Radio broadcasts through affiliation with Liberty Radio on 89.0 FM

Muramuzi said that the radio has been established to fill the gap left by many other radio stations in Uganda in covering environmental issues.

“The environment is a very critical sector for all of us but the current media in Uganda have still not made covering environmental issues a top priority,” he said.

Muramuzi said that the radio is aimed at amplifying the voices of the local communities in the eco-sensitive Bunyoro Region to effectively participate in natural resource management processes.

He said that in the past, Bunyoro had huge forests, intact wetlands and rivers flowing to



Radio staff and committee members during the training at Hotel Florida in July, 2014 just before the official launch of the Community Green Radio

the brim with fresh water. He said that the environment in Bunyoro is now being degraded at a fast rate mostly because of unsustainable methods of agriculture that have seen farmers encroaching on wetlands. He said large commercial agriculture for example tobacco growing has also contributed to environmental degradation in the Bunyoro area. He said that the primary role of the radio therefore is to mobilise the local communities to know their roles and responsibilities in natural resources management and protection of the environment. Muramuzi added that the radio would also be used to mobilize the communities in the Albertine region to seize up opportunities presented by the oil industry.

Mr. Allan Kalangi the NAPE Programme Officer in charge of overseeing the implementation of the Community Green Radio said that the Radio is not for NAPE but for the communities in Bunyoro region. “NAPE has over four years worked with communities in Bunyoro under the Sustainability

School Programme over issues to do with community rights and sustainable livelihoods and it’s them who expressed their wish to have a radio to further amplify their voices,” he said.

Rev. Fred Musimenta a farmer from Butimba village in Hoima District who is a member of the Radio Steering committee said that they were very excited about the coming of the environmental community radio in their region which he hoped would go a long way in mobilizing the local communities to improve their livelihoods especially through good agricultural practices that do not degrade the environment

The Retired Principle Judge Justice James Ogoola was the Chief Guest at the official launch of the community Green Radio which took place at Fairway Hotel in Kampala on 4th July, 2014 at 2:00 PM.

The author is the NAPE Gender Officer



Justice James Ogoola speaking at the launch of the community Green Radio at Fairway Hotel in Kampala. On his right is Mr. Frank Tumusiime, NAPE's lawyer while on his left is the Executive Director of NAPE Mr. Frank Muramuzi

Justice Ogoola hails NAPE for starting an Environmental Radio

By Allan Kalangi

Justice James Ogoola the retired Principle Judge of Uganda has hailed NAPE for initiating and starting the first environmental community radio in Uganda. He said that protecting and conserving the environment is key to the survival and sustenance of life on planet earth.

Justice James Ogoola, a retired principal judge and judge of the East African Court of Justice was the chief guest at the launch of the Uganda Community Green Radio which took place at Fairway Hotel in Kampala on July 4, 2014 at 2:00 PM.

He said that NAPE's initiative of starting up a community radio focusing on environmental issues is good and should be encouraged. He said that environmental education is important because some people don't know what their roles are in conserving the environment. He said

that it is for this reason that initiatives aimed at mobilizing communities to participate in seeking for environmental justice should be supported. Justice Ogoola appealed to all people despite what their standing or status might be in society to participate in environmental protection activities. He said that activities like tree planting are a responsibility of every human being.

Justice Ogoola said that actors in the environment sector should also use the courts of law when things appear to be going wrong. He said that anyone one is free to approach courts of law in search of environmental justice. He gave an example of when the East African Court of Justice recently passed a judgment that halted plans by the Tanzanian government to construct a road through Serengeti National Park.

Ogoola said the case was filed by a Kenyan citizen and supported by nationals from East Africa, emphasizing that environmental law knows no border and should be preserved. Serengeti National Park, comprising 1.5 million hectares of savannah, has at least four globally threatened or endangered animal species which include; black rhinoceros, elephant, wild dog, and the cheetah. It is also a UNESCO world heritage site.

Frank Muramuzi, who is NAPE's executive director, said the new radio has been established to fill the gap left by many other radio stations in Uganda in covering issues on environment.

He said that the Bunyoro region which was once endowed with huge forests, rivers and swamps was being degraded at a very high rate most because of unsustainable methods of agriculture.

“Large commercial methods of agriculture for example tobacco farming have contributed largely to environmental degradation in Bunyoro region,” he said.

Muramuzi said that just like in the Serengeti case, NAPE and its partners have also taken an investor in Uganda to court for degrading huge chunks of Lutembe wetland near Lake Victoria to pave way for commercial flower growing.



Bunyoro receives the community Green Radio with a lot of zeal

By Peter Akugizibwe Araali

The people of Bunyoro who are the primary targets of the community Green Radio have welcomed the programme with a lot of enthusiasm. The community green radio hit the airwaves on August 1, 2014. When the King of Bunyoro His Majesty Iguru Gafabusa heard about the radio and how it is aimed at mobilizing communities to participate in environmental protection activities, he asked his people to support it together with other NAPE activities. The former Principle Private Secretary of the King (PPS) Mr. Yolam Nsamba is a member of the Steering committee of the radio that goes under the name, “The Radio Committee”

The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda His Grace Stanley Ntagali has hailed NAPE for coming up with a very important programme for the people of Bunyoro and the country as a whole. “This radio is good news to the people of Bunyoro and I am happy that they like it. Wherever I go, I find people talking about the Community Green Radio and how good it is in covering environmental issues, farming issues and other issues that cover community livelihoods. I personally listen



Some community members (the first two left) giving feedback on the radio programmes to the community Green Radio staff at their office at Muganwa Centre in Hoima Municipality. In the Red T-shirt is the Radio Station Manager Julius Kyamanywa

to the Green Radio whenever I am at home in Hoima” the Archbishop said while meeting reporters at his country home in Kiziranfumbi sub-county, Hoima District recently.

Hoima District Chairman Mr. George Tinkamanyire has also embraced the Community Green Radio and he usually uses it whenever he wants to communicate to wider audiences on environment related issues. “It is good that we have this radio in Hoima. We thank NAPE for that. However, the radio should not stop at advising the people to protect the environment only. It should go ahead to organize practical demonstrations on how the environment can be preserved,” Mr. Tinkamanyire said.

The Hoima District Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Mr. Godfrey Nyakahuma is also one of the leaders that have embraced the Community Green Radio. “This is a very good radio. We like it because it has come targeting environmental protection and conservation which as you are all aware is a top priority of the NRM and President Yoweri Museveni’s Government” he said.

The Radio has not only been hailed by leaders but by the target communities themselves. Many community members have come to the Radio offices to talk to the staff while others usually call in live programmes to give their views. Even when the radio has been on air for just four months, about six listeners clubs have already been formed in the Districts of Hoima and Buliisa.

The author is the Assistant News Editor of the Community Green Radio

Community Green Radio brings the government closer to the people

By Precious Naturinda

The Community Green Radio has made a deliberate attempt through its programming to bring the people closer to their leaders by providing free airtime to government leaders every week. According to the Station Manager Mr. Julius Kyamanywa, every Friday from 3:00 -3:30 PM, free airtime is given to government leaders every week to talk to the people about their programmes and also to answer the questions of listeners. Kyamanywa said that ever since the radio hit the airwaves, many leaders especially those in Hoima have used the opportunity of the free airtime to reach out the masses and talk about their development agenda. He said that prominent among those who have appeared on the radio during the free airtime allocated are; The RDC Mr. Godfrey Nyakahuma, the Mayor, Ms. Grace Mary Mugasa, The RDC, the Town clerk Mr. Emmanuel Banya among others.

The NAPE Programme Officer in charge of the Community Radio Mr. Allan Kalangi said that the decision to allocate free airtime on the radio was reached at after the realization that there is always a gap in communication between the leaders and the people they lead. He said that since mass media was one of the fast channels of bringing the leaders closer to the people they lead, NAPE decided to allocate some free airtime to the Government. Kalangi said that Sustainable development can only be realized if the leaders interact regularly with the people they lead and share ideas with them.

The author is an assistant editor of the Community Green Radio and also in charge of Gender at the Station



Representatives of Community Radio Listeners' Clubs and the radio staff after a capacity building training at Riviera Hotel in Hoima Municipality

Listeners want the Community Green Radio to broadcast daily

By Vincent Nyegenya

Listeners of the Community Green Radio have asked NAPE Management to work out an arrangement where the radio can be on air every day so that it can serve better their interests. Representatives of Listeners Clubs from Hoima and Buliisa who were attending a capacity building training in November, 2014 said that the people like the programmes of the community radio so much and would want to listen to it all the time. "This radio covers the issues that concern our daily lives and aspirations and we would like it to be on air all the time," Said Jessica Buteraba a member of Butimba Listeners Club in Kiziranfumbi sub-

county. At the moment, the radio operates through affiliation with Liberty FM and is usually on air from Thursday -Sunday, 1:00 -3:30 PM.

The Executive Director of NAPE Mr. Frank Muramuzi said that NAPE appreciates the fact that the people in Bunyoro have embraced the community Radio so much and that plans are underway to make it a fully-fledged radio operating independently in the near future.

The author is the NAPE field officer in charge of the Bunyoro Region



Vincent Nyegenya of the Community Green Radio talks to Listeners' Club members at Sebagoro fish landing site recently

Listeners' Clubs, the wheels that move Uganda Community Green Radio

By Julius Kyamanywa

Anything referred to as a community radio worth its name rides on the wills and wishes of the community to it claims to serve. Uganda Community Green Radio, right from its inception embarked on a campaign to form Listeners clubs in the areas that it covers. The idea was received with joy and the first listeners' clubs were formed in Butimba and Kigaga villages in August and September, 2014. Since then, a total of seven clubs have been formed, particularly in Buliisa and Hoima districts. The other clubs are Nguedo

and Buliisa Town council in Buliisa District, Sebagoro, Kaiso-Tonya and Kyakatamba in Hoima district.

Listeners clubs play a central role in the work of the radio through participating in programming, fundraising for the radio and giving feedback to radio management. They are a link between radio Management and the community.

Mr. Robert Kyamanywa Kasana, the Chairman Buliisa Town Council Listeners Club says the radio

has helped them tell leaders their (Community) wishes.

“We are now able to express our desires and aspirations and leaders just listen and act where possible”, he said.

Ms. Bagadira Betty, a member of Kaiso -Tonya Listeners Club says Community Green Radio has helped to amplify the voice of women.

“We can also speak and our voices are heard clearly”, she explained.

Club membership is voluntary and free. Clubs are led by an executive committee elected amongst the community members.

The process of creation of more listeners clubs is underway as the desire for community members is growing day-by-day.

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*Ms. Bagadira Betty,
a member of Kaiso - Tonya
Listeners Club says ...*

“
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”

BELOW: Julius Kyamanywa and Peter Akugizibwe of the Community Radio talk to members of Kakindo Sustainability village at the initiation of the Listeners' Club there





Community Green Radio takes stance to agitate for Human Rights Protection in Uganda's Oil Development

By Robert Katemburura

Life in Rwamutonga village in Buseruka Sub County Hoima district continues to worsen after a hundreds of local residents were evicted from their homes following a High court order in a suit that was filed by business man Joshua Tibagwa. Tibagwa claims that over 200 families have been living illegally on his land totaling to 485 hectares. News reaching the Community Green Radio indicates that Tibagwa had planned to lease the land to a U.S based

McAlester Energy Resources Limited which wanted to construct waste management plant.

As the evictions started, the Community Green Radio rushed to the scene and kept covering the proceedings which evidently tantamount to gross human rights violations. Houses were destroyed, property lost and people were left stranded and homeless. According to the area LC1 chairperson Aloysius Onzima, the

destruction did not just stop with the houses. People's gardens of maize and cassava were slashed to the ground. Banana plants were also cut down; potatoes uprooted and dried maize and beans burnt. Even goats were looted.

The evictions were especially controversial, as there was no due notice. The district Councilor for Kabwoya sub- county Vincent Opio told Community Green Radio that People were neither compensated for interests on the land nor were they given alternative homes. One of the neighbouring community members acted as a good Samaritan and gave them land where they set a camp.

Community Green Radio staff have since followed up the appalling living conditions in the newly established camp near the controversial camp. In this camp, People live in visibly inhuman and degrading conditions.

The Community Green Radio continues to appeal to relevant authorities and other well-wishers to come to the rescue of these people who are undergoing intense suffering. According to them, the land they were evicted from belongs to them and they have launched an appeal against the ruling of the High Court in Masindi which gave the land to Tibagwa. Their appeal is yet to be heard.

The photos below show the plight of the people who have been displaced from their homes in Rwamutonga village in Hoima District. They now live in makeshift huts



Fisher Folk hail Green Radio for Educating them on Productive Activities

By Robert Katemburura

The ongoing oil exploration and the anticipated production in Bunyoro sub region have attracted several sections of the society, each intending to reap from the new industry. The problem is that even when many people have a feeling that they can reap much from the oil industry, they don't know what exactly they can do and the opportunities available. Community Green Radio whose mission is to amplify community voices has moved to engage locals on what they can do to earn a living even when they are not in the mainstream oil production. The Fisher folk and farmers are the latest group to have fallen for the attraction of the money from the industry.

Extensive oil exploration activities are taking place in Hoima and Buliisa districts where most of the country's oil wells are located, while a process to establish an oil refinery at Kabaale village, Hoima district is also underway. The activities have focused attention of many to the region with the hope of cashing in.

Fr. Joseph Birungi, the Executive Director of Hoima Caritas Development Organization, the official socio-economic arm of Hoima catholic diocese, says that the number of women involved in commercial sex work in the area are increasing instead of shifting the attention to agriculture crafts making and meaningful fishing. He hailed Green Radio programs for attempting to change people's mindset on economic activities.

Community Green radio field team Precious Naturinda and Peter Akugizibwe are taking the lead in the campaign for alternative activities especially along Lake Albert shores, where they meet community members and offer platforms for members to share Knowledge. The pre-recorded messages are then relayed on air to encourage others to change their mindset. Some of the alternatives the fisherfolk are discussing is going

into farming to supply food to the increasing number of people in the area and bee keeping which can fetch them a lot of money if they produce large quantities of honey.

In one of the many radio outreaches conducted at Sebagoro and Kaiso-Tonya Landing sites Ben Ngando and Asuman Irumba leaders of the fisher folk respectively hailed Green radio for setting precedence in their programming that targets changing lives of its listeners.

Ben Ngando says by constantly appearing on radio programs, members of the communities have changed their lifestyles and can now develop themselves.

Recently, a survey by the National Association of Professional Environmentalists said that while oil production was likely to generate direct social benefits to the citizens such as local employment and infrastructure development to benefit approximately six million people, it would also generate costs in form of limited access to livelihood values and resources within the oil production areas.

The survey added that other costs of the new industry would include culture mix-up and changes in social fabric. It noted that the oil industry would also most likely lead to a decline in livelihood activities such as farming and fishing as viable economic ventures therefore increasing the propensity for women to choose commercial sex work for income generating purposes.

The discovery of commercially viable oil reserves in Uganda has generated excitement and fear in equal measure since 2006 when government announced the discovery and embarked on active exploration with hopes of launching the production soon.



Community Radio staff pose for a photograph with members of Kaiso-Tonya Listeners Club. In red trousers is Ms. Precious Naturinda who is in charge of gender affairs at the radio.

Community takes keen interest in Reporting Gender Issues

By CGR Editorial Team

Oil exploration and exploitation usually has direct economic, social and cultural impacts on local communities especially women and children. It is for this reason that the Community Green Radio has come up with programmes targeting women with the aim of amplifying their voices in oil debates.

Mr. Julius Kyamanywa, the radio Station Manager says “since the approach of our programming

is Community-based, we have segmented our programs to cater for all but with particular attention on women and children hence the program Nyinabwenge among others.”

“Gender equality is enshrined in Uganda’s national laws and policies, including affirmative action clauses, but this had not been well exposed to the semi-illiterate communities in Bunyoro, until this Community Green Radio

was established”, said Beatrice Rukanyanga, a gender activist in Hoima, who appeared in a pre-recorded interview on a popular gender show on the Community Green Radio locally known as Nyinabwenge. Nyinabwenge literally meaning the “Mother of Knowledge” represents the voice of women on the Community Green Radio.

This deliberate move targeting women is aimed at mitigating the under development indicators as the station strives to contribute towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal number 3 (promoting gender equality and empowering women).

However, challenges remain in closing the gender gap. Limited access to and control over productive resources - notably land - is a primary example.

“The National Oil and Gas Policy (NOGP) has the eradication of poverty and creation of lasting value to society as its two overarching goals, but the existing media before we came could not break this information into the most understood messages”, says the station’s News Editor Robert Katemburura.

Katemburura added that, “we have other programs that address such issues like Orukurato the hot debate in which the affected communities interface with state actors to discuss the issues. Then we also have a government show which addresses all community issues.”

Precious Naturinda is the officer in charge of

Gender issues at the community radio. She told the *Sustainability School Bulletin* that “in order to amplify the voices of women and other marginalized groups we identify gaps in the gender setting of this region during our weekly editorial meetings and jump to the field to meet the affected whose voices we bring and play air. In response the key actors then respond.”

Green Radio has been top on following up how Compensation was given for the crops affected by oil exploration activities rather than for land surveyed, which did not adequately compensate for the long-term damage to people’s livelihoods

The discovery of oil in Buliisa and Hoima districts which has been accompanied with drastic increase in Local prices for land, basic goods and infrastructure thus putting women and children at risk has also been one of the radio stations after it broke many stories forcing the authorities to intervene.

In Buseruka Sub County for instance the women were given platform on air to express how the compensation scheme left them out after their husbands took away the money.

Evelyn Mwambe, a resident of Nyamasoga village says her husband participated in negotiations of the compensation since he was the head of family on the land. He later fled with the compensation money worth over 5 million shillings, leaving her with two children in the already sold land. This forced her to go back to her parents after failing to cater for the children.

