



Sustainability School Bulletin

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Editorial

*Frank Muramuzi - Director
National Association of Professional
Environmentalists (NAPE)*



We thank you for the continued interest in reading the editions of the Sustainability School bulletin as they keep coming. In the last edition we introduced you to the Community Green Radio; a new project born out of the mother Sustainability School programme.

I am happy to report that this 'young child' has continued to grow, thrive and carry on the crusade that the 'mother' started five years ago. In this edition and in the coming editions, we shall therefore be giving you both the highlights from the Sustainability School programme as well as the Community Green Radio.

We would like to extend our thanks to the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation of Germany whose financial support has enabled us to continue publishing this Sustainability School bulletin.

The purpose of the bulletin is to bring you information regarding the implementation of the Sustainability School programme and now the Community Green Radio. The bulletin can however, carry some other general information related to the issues covered by the School.

Since 2009, 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 Sustainability school works through the establishment of sustainability villages which are issue based and not political localities. In each village, selected people are trained as community educators so that they can continue facilitating and guiding trainings in their areas using the problem solving and action oriented approach.

Of the educators to be chosen per village one has to be a man and another a woman for effective gender balance in the work of the School right from the grassroots. We currently have 28 Sustainability villages spread in the District of Buikwe, Kalangala, Kiryandongo, Mbarara, Kasese, Hoima and Buliisa.

The School also works with growing community based organizations (CBOs) in the areas where it operates. Because the Sustainability School works through community mobilization and, sharing of good practices and lessons, in 2014, NAPE established a community green radio in Bunyoro to further ease this process.

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



Currently the **Community Green Radio** broadcasts through affiliating with Liberty Radio on 89.0 FM. The radio is always on Air from Thursday to Sunday between 1:00 PM-3:30 PM

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The Sustainability School hosts Friends of the Earth (FoE) partner members

By Allan Kalangi

NAPE under its Sustainability School programme recently hosted the Friends of the Earth Africa member group representatives; South Africa, Tanzania, Mali, Ghana, Nigeria, Tunisia and community representatives from Bunyoro, Kalangala, Kihagya, Buikwe and Kasese.

They were interested in studying how the Sustainability can be used as a tool for resistance and resilience of communities at the grassroots level against negative impacts of globalization and neoliberalism policies that are being promoted by many capitalistic governments in the world.

The Africa member representatives were joined by Mr. Erick Burke, the FoE Programme officer in charge of membership development based in Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Friends of the Earth is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 75 national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent. With over 2 million members and supporters around the world, FoE campaigns on today's most urgent environmental and social issues.

The FoE members focus on challenging the current model of economic and corporate globalization, and promote solutions that will help to create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies. NAPE is a member of FoE and it is also known as Friends of the Earth-Uganda.



In solidarity: FoE members pose for a photo with representatives of the oil host communities in Butimba, Kizirafumbi sub-county, Hoima District

During the visit of the FoE members, they interacted with communities from Buikwe that were affected by the Bujagali hydro power project, those from Kalangala affected by the Palm oil project and those from the Bunyoro sub-region that are currently grappling with challenges posed by the oil industry.

"We have noted that in all these areas in Uganda where there are large industrial projects, the local communities are the ones mostly bearing the negative consequences", Mr. Burke from the FoE International observed.

The members agreed that governments need to be sensitized to realize that what they call development is usually bad or pseudo development because it does not take into consideration issues and rights of the grassroots people and vulnerable

people, women, children, who are usually the majority.

Economic development is promoted at the expense of social development. Participants for example noted that in places where these government supported/encouraged projects are located, the problem of land grabbing is very rampant hence human rights violation, environmental degradation, food insecurity ensue among others.

The FoE groups made a field visit to Bunyoro sub-region and interacted with the oil host communities who expressed many challenges that they are undergoing as a result of the oil and gas activities. They made a solidarity statement with the affected communities in Uganda. Below is a press release developed out of that solidarity visit:



Friends of the Earth Africa

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AFRICA GROUPS PUSHBACK ON EXTRACTIVE ACTIVITIES, LAND GRABS IN AFRICA

Friends of the Earth Africa (FoEA) groups have decried the impact of extractive companies' operations across the African region, cautioning that if communities are not adequately empowered to advocate for and defend their rights, more of them will be displaced leading to conflicts.

The groups made the call during a solidarity mission to oil host communities in Bunyoro sub-region (Albertine Region, Uganda) currently grappling with the challenges associated with the developing oil industry in the country.

Participants in the solidarity visit were Friends of the Earth International, FoEA member groups from Uganda, Nigeria, Togo, Tanzania, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Tunisia and South Africa.

Community representatives in Uganda affected by unsustainable development projects were also part of the team. The

FoEA team was particularly concerned that residents of Kabale parish who have been asked by government to vacate the place to pave way for the oil refinery have received inadequate or no compensation at all for their lost properties.

Allan Kalangi of Friends of the Earth Uganda who conducted the team around the so called oil region of Uganda said, "The Government needs to open its eyes to the suffering of the communities affected by oil extraction related activities. Any development that does not put people first is undesirable and unsustainable"

Affected communities in Kyapalooni and the whole of Kabale parish in Buseruka sub-county who have not received their compensation packages are experiencing severe food shortages after they were asked by the government not to grow any crops while the sanitation situation within

the communities is appalling. The education of children in the affected communities hangs in balance and Kyapalooni Primary School has now been turned into a police post even before the government completes settling the disputes of the affected communities.

Away from the refinery area, other communities in the region such as that of Kaiso-Tonya in the Hoima district have had their traditional fishing activities significantly affected by the drilling of oil wells in Lake Albert.

Stemming from the visit, the groups observed that the increasing extractive activities on the continent have spurred land grabs and displacement of local communities even as they noted that these developments have contributed largely to the food sovereignty challenges on the continent.

The groups were of the view that

// The Government needs to open its eyes to the suffering of the communities affected by oil extraction related activities. Any development that does not put people first is undesirable and unsustainable”

Allan Kalangi of Friends of the Earth Uganda

extractive companies, through their activities threaten and drown community voices in their propaganda rhetoric in concert with governments across the continent in the push for profits.

Some of the elements of the propaganda rhetoric are misinformation and deliberately keeping communities in the dark about projects that may have far-reaching implications on their livelihoods and well-being.

The situation has been made worse by the fact that the profit oriented companies and the government which is supposed to be on the side of the people all seem to speak the same language.

The members stressed that there was a need for richer understanding and definition of the concept of ‘Sustainability’ which FoEA believes should be built upon in the needs and experiences of people at the grassroots level, this being at variance with the way corporates and governments in

Africa perceive it to be. The FoEA groups urged that the narrative of **Keeping the Oil in the Soil** and investment in sustainable alternatives be vigorously promoted in all spaces – government, communities, in the media. It was also recommended that communities have ongoing access to information relevant for their efforts to advocate for the respect and recognition of their human rights.

IN SOLIDARITY

Friends of the Earth - Togo

Friends of the Earth - Ghana

Friends of the Earth - Tunisia/l’AssociationTunisienne pour la Protection de la Nature et de l’Environnement (ATPNE)

Friends of the Earth - Mali/Guamina

Friends of the Earth - Nigeria/Environmental Rights Action (ERA)

Friends of the Earth - Tanzania/Lawyers’ Environmental Action Team (LEAT)

Friends of the Earth - Cameroon/Centre pour le Développementetl’Environnement (CED)

Friends of the Earth - South Africa/groundWork

Friends of the Earth - Uganda/National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)



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His Majesty Omukama Iguru Gafabusa

Bunyoro King backs NAPE's campaign against GMOs

By Robert Katemburura

The King of Bunyoro Kitara kingdom His Majesty Solomon Gafabusa Iguru has thrown his weight behind the food sovereignty campaign that is being spearheaded by NAPE in the Albertine region in Western Uganda.

The food sovereignty campaign aims at mitigating the challenges associated with the growing of genetically modified food (GMFs/GMOs) such seeds which can't be recycled and farmers have to depend on markets if they are to plant for the next season, degradation of the environment due to over dependence on fertilisers and other chemicals and some health risks to their consumers.

The King said that western countries want to recolonize Africa through putting controls on food production systems and that they should be resisted.

Omukama Iguru said these words recently while officiating at the opening of a conference organised by NAPE) at Hoima Resort Hotel.

The conference was aimed at laying strategies for preserving Africa's indigenous seeds and it was attended by ministers and chiefs of Bunyoro Kingdom as well CSO representatives, the media and the general public.

The King said that the promoters of genetically modified foods were a menace to African traditional seeds and asked NAPE and other actors to support the people of Bunyoro to shun GMOs.

NAPE senior programme officer Geoffrey Kamese said his organisation would support Bunyoro to set up indigenous seed banks to preserve Africa's traditional foods.

Sustainability School team attends training on Political Economy at Nyerere Resource Centre in Dar es Salaam

By Julius Kyamanywa

The Manager of the Sustainability School Programme Mr. Allan Kalangi and the Community Green Radio Station Manager Mr. Julius Kyamanywa were among the participants that attended an intensive course on political economy that took place at Nyerere Resource Centre (NRC) in Dar es Salaam Tanzania from 20th-27th June, 2015. The Course was attended by 20 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The coordinator of NRC Prof. Issa Shivji said the course was intended to give the participants knowledge on how the world especially developing countries like those in Africa were suffering under neoliberalism policies dictated upon them by capitalistic bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). "Many of you come from the civil society organisations while others are in the academia field. This course is to add to the knowledge that you may already have on political economy and to provoke you to research more on the subject," Prof. Shivji said at the beginning of the course.

He said that all people fighting for good

governance and human rights need to understand the current and past global political economic tendencies.

The course was conducted in three ways; Lectures, seminars and tutorials. The first two days of training were facilitated by Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi. Prof. Adebayo took the participants through "the theoretical premises of Keynesianism, Monetarism

// This course is to add to the knowledge that you may already have on political economy and to provoke you to research more on the subject,"
- Prof. Issa Shivji

and Developmentalism". Then he tackled "The Financial architecture of Neo-Liberalism" and "The Way forward out of Neo-Liberalism".

Prof. Sam Moyo discussed "the theory of Rent" and its application while Dr. Ringo Tenga took the participants through "The Legal Architecture of Land Regime and Mortgages in Tanzania". Prof. Issa Shivji discussed

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Mr. Allan Kalangi of NAPE discusses with Mr. Samuel Kasirye of RLS during the training

Training on Political economy at Nyerere Resource Centre in Dar es Salaam - continued

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“the theory and forms of Primitive Accumulation” and “the Historical trajectory of Primitive Accumulation in relation to Africa” while Dr. Ng’wanza Kamata led the participants through a discussion on “Agro-Fuels and Appropriation of Biodiversity as forms of Primitive Accumulation”.

All the topics discussed during the training clearly brought out how capitalism and financialisation of everything including natural resources such as water were leading to impoverishment of people in developing countries especially in Africa and East Africa in particular.

Throughout the course, there were intense and animated discussions with some participants pledging there and then that they were going to intensify campaigns denouncing capitalism.

The two participants at the course from NAPE were sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (LRS) Mr. Sam Kasirye and Ms. Joan Leon from the RLS East African Regional office also attended the training.

Mr. Kasirye said that they interested NAPE into participating in the course after looking at the modules which looked very relevant to the Sustainability School programme. “I am hopeful that the knowledge acquired during this training will energise you to steer the Sustainability School to greater heights”, Kasirye told the two NAPE participants after the training.



Some of the participants at the training. Front in black shirt is Prof. Shivji

“ I am hopeful that the knowledge acquired during this training will energise you to steer the Sustainability School to greater heights”

Mr. Allan Kalangi of the Sustainability School programme said that the course was very relevant to their work because what it covered is what prompted the School to be established.

He said that the government of Uganda in a bid to transform the country’s socio-economic development had adopted the international monetary fund (IMF) driven-policies which include liberalization, privatization and capitalization of the economy.

“The government came out whole-somely to implement these policies

without carefully studying them. To make matters worse, they were formulated and implemented without participation of the majority of the citizens and they backfired badly leading to rampant corruption, abuse of human rights and natural resources.

The Sustainability School was established to address those challenges that resulted from the reckless implementation of these neoliberal policies,” he said.

NRC said they would be arranging other training courses in future

Community Green Radio staff undergo more training



By Precious Naturinda

In April, 2015, the Community Green Radio staff received training as part of the capacity building programme designed to equip them with enough skills to run and manage a community radio.

The training was facilitated by Ms. Elke Kuhne a community radio expert from Berlin and it took place in Hoima town as well as in Kiziranfumbi Subcounty in Hoima District where the Green Radio has some listeners Clubs.

The training was practical in nature and it concentrated on how the staff could make the radio more attractive to the listeners, ensure that there is participation of the

targeted communities in programming for the radio at all times and making the radio well known to other stakeholders who live away from its area of coverage.

The training therefore covered issues with marketing tools such as the website, social media sites and using other media. It also tackled use and mobilization of listeners clubs to make the radio well embedded in the communities.

While in the communities, members of the listeners clubs requested NAPE and its partners to work hard to ensure that the radio gets its own studios so that it can be listened to at all times. NAPE promised push that idea forward.

“Let’s not tire until we have our own station and we are satisfying the demands of the target communities,” - Ms. Elke Kuhne

At the end of the training, Ms. Elke said that she was happy with the giant strides Community Green Radio was taking and implored the staff to work hard so that the dream of the initiators of the project is fully realized.

“Let us all put our heads together and work hard to ensure that this Green Radio gets fully on its own feet and start running. Let’s not tire until we have our own station and we are satisfying the demands of the target communities”, Ms. Kuhne said.

The Sustainability School Manager and the Station Manager both pledged to put in extra efforts to ensure that the radio grows not only to become the best radio in Hoima, but the best environmental community radio in the whole of East Africa.

Currently the Community Green Radio broadcasts through affiliating with Liberty Radio on 89.0 FM. The radio is always on Air from Thursday to Sunday between 1:00 PM-3:30 PM.



Ms. Elke Kuhne the Consultant trainer of the Community Green Radio staff hands over a Radio diary to them after training them on best practices in record keeping at their offices in Hoima in April, 2015. [ABOVE] she extends her practical training session to the studios of the Community Green Radio



Most Sustainability School activists have registered to be full members of NAPE as seen in this photo taken at the AGM of 2014



The Manager of the Community Green Radio Mr. Julius Kyamanywa addresses FoE members and the listeners of his radio in Kiziranfumbi Sub-County, Hoima District



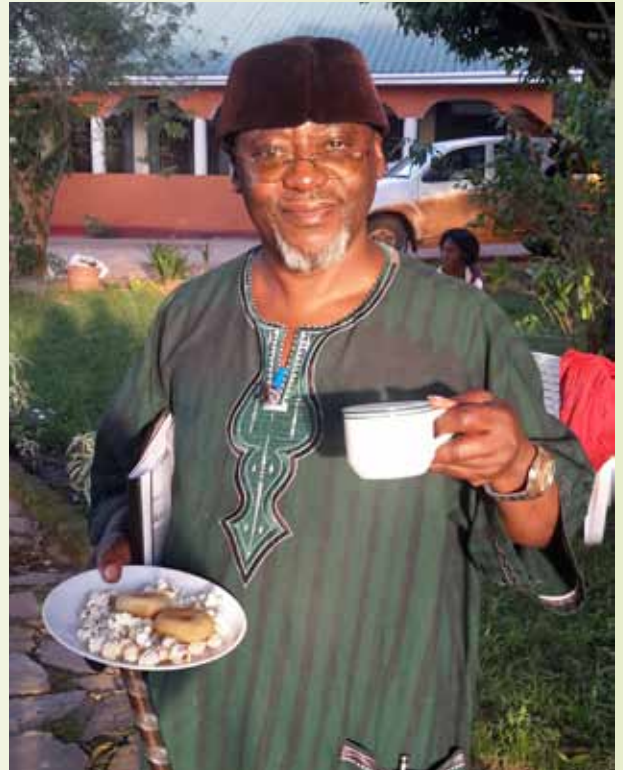
The drama group of Kaiso-Tonya Sustainability village on the shores of Lake Albert entertain visitors from Friends of the Earth on their visit to the area recently.

Friends of the Earth activists enjoy a bus ride on the way to the oil region in Western Uganda recently





Ms. Elke Kuhne and the Community Radio staff receive a gift of Honey from Rev. Fred Musimenta of Butimba Radio Listeners Club



[ABOVE] The former Manager of the Sustainability School. Mr. Oweyegha Afunaduula enjoys a cup of tea and some bites after a training on the "Negotiated approach and Analog Forestry" for NAPE Partners in Kalangala District recently



[LEFT] Rosa Luxemburg staff Mr. Andreas Bohne (in black T-shirt) and Mr. Samuel Kazirye in (long sleeved shirt) pose for a photo with some listeners of the Community Green Radio in Hoima, December, 2014



[BELOW] NAPE Executive Director Mr. Frank Muramuzi introduces some NAPE staff during the Annual General meeting in December, 2014



The King of Bunyoro speaking at a workshop on Food sovereignty organized by NAPE in February, 2015



The King of Bunyoro poses for a group photo after the workshop on food sovereignty at Hoima Resort Hotel



TRAINING IN THE BUSH:

Rev. Fred Musimenta an Educator of Butimba Sustainability village in Hoima District sensitizes environmental activists on good conservation practices in the Albertine region recently

[BELOW] Musimenta conducts journalists around the bee keeping project of his community. They do bee keeping as an income generating activity which does not degrade the environment





At the new Sustainability village of Kigaaga in Hoima District which neighbours the area designated for the Oil refinery, community members have embarked on a tree planting campaign to keep their air fresh. For continuity purposes, even young school going children are participating in the tree planting exercises. Photo taken at their nursery bed recently



Mr. Arndt Hopffman of Rosa Luxemburg Foundation speaks at an experience sharing meeting of Community Green Radio Listeners Club members at Hotel Riviera in Hoima in December, 2014

The Sustainability School field Officer for the Oil Region Mr. Vincent Nyegenya and the Community Green Radio Manager Mr. Julius Kyamanywa demonstrate what is known as, "Service with a smile"



Community Green Radio gets new logo, new website look



Community Green Radio
Boza Green. Hurra Green

The community Green Radio has just acquired itself a new logo.

The designer of the logo Miss Ronah Arinaitwe says that the logo can be interpreted to mean that the Community Green Radio is talking to the world and that the whole world is listening.

She said that the green leaf refers to life and the environment while yellow colour refers to the sun which greatly contributes to life on planet earth as well as light and enlightenment. The radio station manager described the logo as “the perfect symbol for our radio”

Meanwhile the Community Green Radio has had its website redesigned to have better resolution/display and fit the modern corporate standards.

The NAPE Executive Director Mr. Frank Muramuzi said that efforts will always be put in place to ensure that what is covered on the Green Radio reaches out to all people on the worldwide web. “We are constantly looking for better ways of ensuring that information about what we stand for reached you in time and conveniently,” he said.

The Sustainability School Manager said that though the new website is now up, new information is being uploaded on to it.

Kindly check it out at:
www.greenradio.ug



Hoima chokes on Kaveera as government remains undecided on its total ban

By Precious Naturinda

The government of Uganda remains undecided on whether to completely implement a ban on the manufacture and sell of polythene papers (kaveera) that was passed by parliament more than four years ago. This indecision on the part of the government means that traders continue to churn kaveera to the population with abandon.



Geoffrey Kamese

The effects of polythene bags on the environment and health are quite devastating. While there is a sluggish step taken both by the communities and government to implement the ban based solely on their convenience, the damage to the environment needs to be controlled.

The biggest problem is that once soiled, they end up in the trash, which then ends up in the landfill or burned. Either solution is very bad for the environment. Burning emits toxic gases that harm the atmosphere while



Disposed buveera at Kibati compost site in Hoima district



Kaveera poorly disposed in Kijangi landing site in Buseruka Sub County in Hoima District

landfills hold them indefinitely as part of the plastic waste problem throughout the globe.

Geoffrey Kamese, Officer in charge of Sound Chemical use and Waste management at National Association of Professional Environmentalists, NAPE says because the toxic gases from burnt polythene bags are persistent organic pollutants (POPs), it can cause breast cancer.

Unless banned completely, there is no way to strictly limit the effects of plastic bags on the environment because there is no disposal method that will really help eliminate the problem.

Aggrey Ntakimanye, the Chairperson for Sound Chemical Management Network, Bunyoro Region says as a network, they will have to ensure people are sensitized about the dangers of burning the polythene papers and ensuring that they are eliminated.

Meanwhile, NAPE Management has banned the use of Kaveera in its premises. The Executive Director Mr. Frank Muramuzi said that whether Government implements the ban on Kaveera or not, NAPE will not allow anyone to come to its premises with kaveera because it (NAPE) knows how dangerous it is.



The Premier of Bunyoro (2nd R) with staff of the Community Green Radio at their offices in Hoima

Bunyoro Premier Hails Community Green Radio

By Peter Akugizibwe

The Omuhikirwa (Prime Minister) of Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, Norman Lukumu has thanked the Community Green radio for the good work it is doing in mobilising the people in the region to care for the environment and to cherish their culture.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Community

Radio for mobilising the people to participate in the recently concluded celebrations to mark the coronation anniversary of Omukama Iguru Gafabusa (Empango).

The premier said this recently at the Community Green Radio Offices in Hoima where he had gone to pay a courtesy call to the staff.

He, just like the King of Bunyoro said that he is opposed to the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in their Kingdom.

Mr. Lukumu explained that the Kingdom is determined to ensure that its subjects continue growing the indigenous seeds for sustainability and continuity.

“We have to conserve our own. We don’t need to conserve for another person”, He explained.

The premier was accompanied by Mr. Allan Bamuha, the Kingdom Deputy Minister for Works