

NAPE LOBBY

Special Edition

Fourteen Years of NAPE's Environmental Struggle in Uganda



NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

The Board of NAPE

NAPE has nine board members who oversee the day to day running of the organizations activities.



(L-R) Geoffrey Kamese N, Franklin Mushabe, Frank Muramuzi, Ephraim Newagaba, Caroline Kizibaziba, Martin Musumba, Florence Nyombi

NAPE Staff



NAPE has seventeen (17) staff who coordinate and implement the activities of the organization.

NAPE's Vision

A Ugandan society that effectively participates in the sustainable management of natural resources

Vision Mission

A national environmental organisation that lobbies and advocates for the sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of all

NAPE Development Goal

Improved management of natural resources in Uganda

This will be achieved through the following strategic objectives:

- Promote gender parity in the management of natural resources
- Enhance good governance in the management of natural resources
- Increase public awareness on best practices in natural resources management
- To mitigate effects of environmental / climate change through sound management of natural resources
- Develop and enhance the capacity of NAPE to achieve its objectives

NAPE's Mandate

To promote sustainable, and equitable management of natural resources

NAPE Core Values

- Professionalism – Believes in employing well trained, highly knowledgeable and skilled staff to deliver high quality services through conducting research and confidently advocating for best practices in natural resource management.
-
- Teamwork & Commitment- NAPE gives due importance to working together to achieve a common objective, respecting each other's contribution, realizing and appreciating that togetherness is prime to accomplishment of tasks.
-
- Transparency & Accountability- NAPE believes in being open in all ways and at all times, telling the truth, ensuring that resources are effectively and efficiently used, in the interest of every one.
-
- Respect- NAPE places high value on the preservation of life, property, and the environment.
-
- Integrity- NAPE expects its members and other networks/partnerships to conduct themselves in a manner beyond reproach



4



10



14

CONTENTS

Table of Contents

.....iii

Editorial

.....1

Executive Summary

.....2

Major Lobby and Advocacy Activities

.....4

Partners NAPE works with

.....33

Press Clippings

.....34

Pictorial

.....35

Editorial

We welcome you all to this special edition of NAPE Lobby in which we reflect on NAPE'S fourteen years of environmental advocacy. In this edition, NAPE takes stock of its work, with a focus on the successes registered, challenges encountered and lessons learnt during this period. This is intended to inform the wider public on where we started, the contributions we have made towards the development of this country, region and also at the global level.

NAPE started humbly in 1997 as an environmental lobby and advocacy Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). In June 1998, NAPE was registered as an indigenous environmental NGO by the NGO Board to work on a number of environmental issues countrywide. Like many other young organizations, NAPE's beginning was not easy. It started with limited resources – staff, premises and funds to make things move. All along, NAPE had been nurturing a dream of seeing a Ugandan society that effectively participates in the sustainable management of natural resources.

The journey towards having a society effectively participating in the sustainable management of natural resources has not been an easy one. There have been ups and downs along the way; campaigns have been won, while others are still ongoing. NAPE has the will and zeal to cause change in the governance of the environment in Uganda. There is cause and need to ensure that NAPE continues to evolve into a strong and reputable organization that lobbies and advocates for sustainable management of natural resources in Uganda for the benefit of all. Today we can proudly say that NAPE has made enormous contributions to ensure that people's livelihoods, human rights and the environment take centre stage in development processes in Uganda. Environmental advocacy has become a crucial and critical instrument in forging, not only environmental sanity in decision-making in natural resources management, but also in promoting good governance, rule of law and the respect for human rights.

NAPE has since 1997 been involved in a number of advocacy campaigns to promote sustainable development by ensuring that all planned and on-going development projects comply with national and international guidelines and good practices. NAPE can now boast of making contribution towards Uganda's development process and significantly raising stakeholder awareness on environmental and social issues. In doing this, however, there has been a number of challenges. These challenges have on the whole informed our strategy and programme focus that has guided our interventions. Our partners in their different entities have played a significant role in enabling NAPE to mobilize for a formidable and coherent civil action towards all the aforementioned achievements. We would like to thank NAPE Board members, staff and development partners that have ensured that NAPE remains on a steady path of progress and continues to grow from strength to strength.

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

Executive Summary

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) has for the last fourteen years been involved in a sustained struggle to promote sustainable management of natural resources and the environment in general. During this period, a number of achievements have been made while at the same time there have been a number of challenges. NAPE is happy to share with you some of its most prominent achievements and challenges during last 12 years of existence.

The achievements

Institutional Capacity: NAPE started as a humble organisation in 1997 and by 1998, it only had a volunteer staff of four (4) persons. During that time, there was no fully paid staff. NAPE has since been building its capacity and it is currently comprised of 17 multiskilled personnel, including accountants, environmentalists, lawyers, gender specialists and economists, all of whom constitute the fully paid staff of the organisation.

Organization Membership

The membership of NAPE has grown from 26 persons in 1998 to 237 fully registered members in 2010. This membership is comprised of individuals and organizations who subscribe to the vision and objectives of NAPE.

The structure of the Organisation

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the organisation. NAPE started with a small executive Committee in 1997, which did not have a clear vision and mandate. Today NAPE has a fully fledged Board of Directors that oversees the activities of the Secretariat.

Registration Status of the Organisation

In 1998, NAPE was registered by the Uganda NGO Board as a national NGO. In 2003, it was incorporated under the Companies Act; this meant that NAPE became a legal entity, it can sue and be sued.

Office Premises

NAPE began under a tree, with no furniture, later on rented space in Makerere Kavule, a very poor Kampala suburb. Today the organisation owns its own home on Entebbe Road that is spacious, well furnished and decent.

Programmes and Activities

When we started, the organisation had only two major areas of focus; the Bujagali dam campaign and waste management. Today, NAPE boasts over 12 projects which among others include; Water Governance, Water and Sanitation, Chemicals Management, Forest Management, Oil and Gas, Campaign against Biofuels, Climate Change and Energy, among others.

Influencing policies on the management of Chemicals

Since its inception, the organisation has promoted the sound management of chemicals at national and regional level. NAPE is part of a regional network that is promoting the implementation of SAICM.

The Sustainability School

To help address the challenges of community participation and empowerment in national development processes, NAPE pioneered a Sustainability School in Uganda. The Sustainability School seeks to build a critical mass of Ugandans that contributes to national development while demanding for good governance and accountability from their leaders.

Networks (Local and International)

NAPE enjoys good relationships with a number of local and international organizations. It is this good relationship that has enabled it to establish and maintain a number of networks. Today, the organisation hosts a number of networks and coordinates a number of others. It is a member of many other big networks such as Friends of the Earth International, Climate Action Network, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Oil Watch International, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), Oil Watch Africa, Global

Anti-Incinerator Alliance (GAIA), African Biodiversity Network (ABN) and many other networks

Some of NAPE's Successful campaigns

- NAPE was able to influence the Bujagali Dam development processes. As result of NAPEs intervention, the project development was closely monitored by the Inspection Panel of the World Bank, the Compliance Review Mechanism of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The Bujagali Dam Project has been forced to adhere to some good International Development practices. Government has had to accept setting aside the Kalagala Falls for tourism as an offset of the Bujagali Falls and to protect the Mabira Central Forest Reserve which is an important ecosystem in the conservation of Lake Victoria.
- As a result of NAPE's campaign, the Mabira forest reserve has been saved from being degraded by government and the Mehta Group of Companies who wanted to convert it into a sugarcane plantation.
- NAPE has also contributed to and supported debate on the declining waters of Lake Victoria and the general health of the lake.
- NAPE has been involved in ongoing oil debates and has together with others contributed to the call for sustainable management of the industry in Uganda. It was involved in the lobby and advocacy that led to the relocation of the mini refinery from the Kabwoya Wildlife Reserve.
- NAPE has successfully participated in activities that are aimed at promoting the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). It has also participated in lobby activities against the use of DDT in Uganda.

Major Challenges

- NAPE staff have been exposed to harassment of different sorts in the course of implementation their activities.
- NAPE and its staffs have been labeled economic saboteurs and other names.
- At different times, we have been called members of the opposition and at worst, we have been called charlatans because conservation is what many people in government do not want to hear.
- At times we have been denied justice in courts of law while in some other cases justice has been delayed.

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

Major Lobby and Advocacy Activities

1. Bujagali Dam campaign

In 1996, government of Uganda proposed the construction of a hydropower facility at the Bujagali falls. This was vehemently opposed by environmentalists. NAPEs campaign against the Bujagali dam project started in early 1997. In the mid 1997, the dam development process started under AES Nile Power, an American company. The project was widely criticized by civil society organizations inside and outside the country for its environmental, social, economic, spiritual and cultural impacts on the livelihoods of its victims. The Bujagali Falls are among the world's magnificent waterfalls. The falls are situated in Dumbbell Islands on River Nile, some 10km from the source of River Nile.



The Bujagali Falls on River Nile, that will be drowned

To government the Bujagali Falls had to go at any cost, while to NAPE there was need for a thorough cost - benefit analysis. Similarly many Ugandans believe the dam is not the best option for meeting the country's energy needs. As Ugandans eagerly wait for the commissioning of the Bujagali Dam project, they have been seeing the cost of electricity and the construction cost of Bujagali rise steadily.

Fears have been growing that the dam is likely to lead to further tariff increases. While there were promises to the project-affected communities, what seems to be clear today is that the people who were resettled to give way to the dam will never see any electricity from it, and will instead continue to suffer from its poor planning process and lack of attention to benefit-sharing for generations to come. And, most importantly, the big dam, when completed, will destroy the living space of thousands of local dwellers together with the scenic beauty and historical sites at the Bujagali falls region on the Upper Nile River. Besides, like other dams elsewhere, it will contribute to climate change, food security and poverty generation in its immediate vicinity.

In 2001 NAPE, dam-affected persons, local and international NGOs petitioned the Inspection Panel of the World Bank and other International Credit Agencies on the controversies surrounding the project.

The Inspection Panel of the World Bank visited Uganda to investigate the claims made by civil society and the dam-affected person the project.

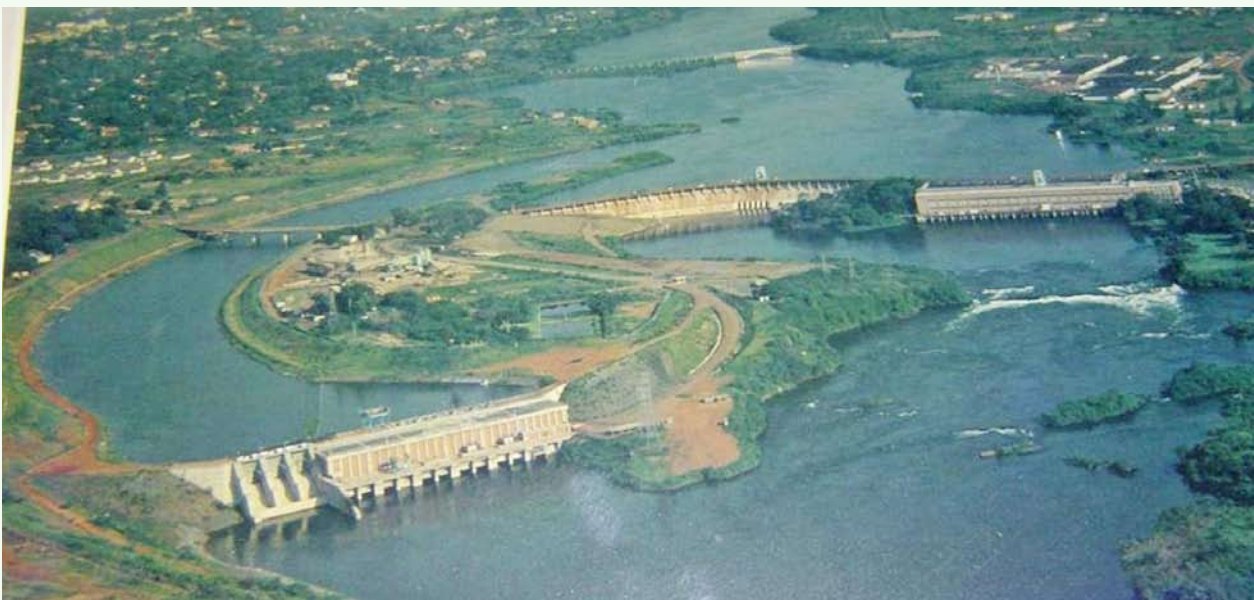


Inspection Panel team meeting requestors, NAPE Offices

The report of the Inspection Panel found AES in breach of the national and the World Bank's policies. This forced AES Nile Power to leave Uganda abruptly in 2003 after resettlement had begun. AES's abrupt departure left about 100 families in limbo, in a resettlement camp far from their traditional lands, without many promised amenities, and living in houses that did not meet their families' needs. This act totally contravened the World Commission on Dams recommendation that stipulates that before a decision is taken to build a new dam, the project affected people should be able to negotiate mutually agreed and legally enforceable agreements to ensure the implementation of mitigation, resettlement and development entitlements.

In 2002, NAPE opposed the construction of Kiira Dam (Owen Falls Extension dam), which is constructed almost parallel to Nalubaale dam (Owen Falls dam) and drawing water from the same point. The developer diverted water flow through a channel created to run the turbines of the Kiira dam. The Kiira dam was planned to generate 200MW of power, but currently it produces less than 40MW. There was no Environmental Impact Assessment done for both Nalubaale and Kiira dams.

Aerial View of Kira and Nalubaale Dams in Jinja



In 2004, with funding from Ford Foundation, NAPE organized a national workshop under the theme; "Towards making the World Commission on Dams (WCD) outcomes a reality in Uganda" to publicize the World Commission on Dams report of 2000. NAPE launched the World Commission on Dams (WCD) Report, entitled Dams and Development: A New Framework For Decision-making in Uganda. The WCD made recommendations that form the basis for many decision-making processes for dams around the world and constitute international soft law. The workshop gave birth to a national dams-dialogue process in Uganda.

The other key outcomes, among others, was the recognition of the need for consensus among the various stakeholders in order to improve and strengthen decision making regarding development of dams in the country. The dialogue started as the Uganda WCD forum. In response to the multi-stakeholder recommendations, the forum was renamed the Uganda Dams Dialogue (UDD). A steering committee was put in place to spearhead the multi-stakeholder dialogue process.

The first assignment of the steering committee was charged with the responsibility of critically reviewing the WCD recommendations, and put them into the Uganda perspective, provide a mechanism for ensuring broad participation by the government, the private sector, civil society, dam affected communities and academia, to positively contribute to decisions regarding dams development in Uganda.

The UDD developed and published a summary of guidelines of dams development in Uganda.

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

Since then, the UDD has evolved as an inclusive and independent "institution" that focused on sharing information views and perspectives through effective dialogue among the various stakeholders. It provided a neutral platform for dialogue aimed at strengthening collaboration between the various parties in dams' development in Uganda.

The role of NAPE in the Uganda Dams Dialogue

NAPE initiated the process that formed the Uganda Dams Dialogue. Having been concerned with the issues and gaps that surrounded the development of Bujagali dam, NAPE saw localizing the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams as an opportunity of bringing the dams developments in Uganda to the world standards. NAPE was elected the Secretariat to the UDD, while the then, Ministry of Water and Environment elected as Chair to the UDD committee.

The composition of the UDD Steering Committee

- The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), as chair of the UDD
- The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD)
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)
- The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED)
- Directorate of Water Development (DWD)
- Water Resources Department
- Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
- Uganda Nile Basin Discourse Forum
- Green Watch
- IUCN-the World Conservation Union
- Buganda Kingdom
- Busoga Kingdom
- Mukono and Jinja District Councils
- Dam-affected Communities
- Eskom, representing the private sector
- NAPE as Secretariat to the UDD

The observers of the Uganda Dams Dialogue process include the World Bank, German Technical Corporation (GTZ) and United Nations Environment Programm (UNEP)

Priority recommendations for Uganda Dams Dialogue

- To propose definition for dams that reflects Uganda's situation.
- To support Government of Uganda to develop policy guidelines for the development and management of dams based on credible information generated from comprehensive feasibility studies and considering core values of equity, stakeholder participation, sustainability, rights and socio-cultural values, with a view of developing a home-grown code of conduct and core values.
- To support government to develop a comprehensive policy on resettlement and equitable compensation of dam-affected people.
- To support government to establish mechanisms for engagement of stakeholders such as civil society, dam-affected communities, private sector, etc. in appraisal of dam development projects at the onset.
- To provide a neutral platform for arbitration for cases of conflicts related to dam development.
- To lobby for and monitor compliance of dam construction to national engineering regulations and



standards.

- To regularize the Uganda Dams Dialogue with national institutional frameworks to recognize the forum as a viable entity in Uganda.
- To lobby government to undertake institutional capacity reviews to identify gaps and weaknesses in existing institution with a view of establishing remedies.

Benefits of the dialogue process in Uganda

- The Uganda dams dialogue process gave birth to dialogue processes in Uganda. A number of multi-stakeholder dialogues have been formed to deal with issues of development projects that are potentially disruptive such as oil and gas, and limestone mining in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- The local communities, especially those affected by the Bujagali Dam process, are using the materials and the information whenever they are advocating for their rights to fair compensation and resettlement packages.
- To some extent the World Commission on Dams (WCD) guidelines has guided the Bujagali dam development process especially, in revising the compensation packages for the dam-affected people, the improvement of livelihoods at the resettlement and in the incorporation of the peoples' views in project implementation.
- Government is applying some aspects of the WCD principles in their discussions regarding the proposed Karuma Dam on River Nile. The government is not fast-tracking the proposed Karuma project as they did with
- Bujagali dam. They say they want to concentrate on more consultation and participation of the stakeholders including NGOs and dam-affected people.

Unfortunately, the government of Uganda, the World Bank and other financial institutions are still reluctant to embrace the WCD principles despite the remarkable achievements

Challenges faced by the Uganda Dams dialogue process

Government and dams companies trying to dismiss WCD that it will delay the development process.

- The WCD is not a legally binding document; it can only assist in the courts of law if there are existing legal frameworks that allude to it.
- Projects still dehumanizes affected people, they do not consult extensively, and neither do they compensate fairly.
- Government, under the Ministry of Energy is taking a key role in the process of a developing a parallel process to WCD, headed by Hydropower Power Association (IHA)
- Lack of CSO's funding to advance WCD processes.

Lessons Learned from the Uganda Dams Dialogue

- As a result of the WCD processes, government has recognized that involving people in decision-making processes regarding the development of big dams is necessary. Involving people does not delay the process of building dams, but actually saves government and developer's time and resources.
- The research done by the Forum is being incorporated into projects and studied at local educational institutions.
- Importantly, a number of multi-stakeholder dialogues have been formed to deal with issues of developing other potentially disruptive projects, such as oil and gas, and mining in Queen Elizabeth National Park
- In oil and other extractive industry, the WCD is being used in principle on the basis of the concept of multi-stakeholder dialogues and, following the model of Dams Dialogues. We hope it will make a difference for people living where the oil is being extracted.

Lake Victoria Water level before 2002

Lake Victoria Water level in 2003

The Lake Victoria forum

In 2006, NAPE organized a stakeholder's consultative forum to discuss the issues of Lake Victoria water decline. The forum brought together government technocrats, members of parliament, civil society organizations, experts, industry, researchers, community leaders, the media, and academia.

Lake Victoria is the most important source of water for the East African lake region. It supports the livelihoods of over 32 million people especially for transport, water supply, agriculture, hydropower generation, trade,

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

commerce and tourism.

The lake is also a very important resource for the Nile Basin riparian states that include; Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Somalia. Since 2002, Lake Victoria has registered a decline in its water level. In 2003, the lake reached the lowest level when it receded more than 2.0 meters. The decline has had significant negative impacts on the social, economic and cultural aspects in the whole region. It has also generated a lot of issues, conflicts, challenges and debates within the riparian countries.



Water level at the Source of the Nile in 2002



Water level at the Source of the Nile after 2003

The forum discussed the causes of the decline. The main outcome of the consultative meeting was a strategy, whose purpose would be to contribute to on-going initiatives and inform future interventions in salvaging the lake. According to the government of Uganda, the main cause of the decline of Lake Victoria is drought in the region. However, studies carried out from 2002 suggested that the main causes of the decline was over-release of water through the power stations at Jinja, at flow rates way above the agreed curve. In general, the causes of the decline in the water level include;

- Wetland and forest degradation in the Lake Victoria catchments;
- Excessive water extraction for human users;
- Evaporation as a result of increase in the temperature;
- Climate change as a result of global warming;
- Geological changes;
- Earth movements that cause depression;
- Annual changes in sunspot numbers over time; and
- Siltation as a result of river banks and lakeshore line encroachment for agriculture, and industry, settlements and water run-off;

Other factors that lead to the water decline include;

- Inappropriate policies regarding natural resources management and environment planning;
- Inadequate knowledge and awareness of natural resources management;
- Inadequate capacity for management of natural resources sector;
- Failure to integrate indigenous knowledge and traditional conservation practices in natural resources management;
- The increasing population that exerts pressure on the natural resources in the lake basin

Impacts of the low water levels include;

- Insufficient water supply for industrial and domestic use and electricity generation
- Electricity shortage leading to blackouts, load shedding, increased tariffs and high costs of industrial products that have negatively affected economic growth and development in the riparian states
- Decline in water quality which leads to dirty-water based diseases
- Reduced fish production and supply that affects the livelihoods of people who entirely depend on fish

- resources for their living; and
- Increased potential for conflicts and water resource use

In 2007, government of Uganda revamped the Bujagali project under a new developer, Bujagali Energy Limited (BEL), a subsidiary of the Aga-Khan Foundation. The project was also backed by the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), European Investment Bank and a number of European export credit agencies (ECAs)

Like it was in the previous project by AES Nile Power (Bujagali 1), Bujagali 2 under BEL did not address outstanding concerns regarding the project but went ahead to implement the project. NAPE together with the dam-affected persons and some international NGOs petitioned the banks to bring to its attention the unresolved issues and controversies surrounding the project.

In November, 2007, a joint team of investigators commissioned by the three banks – the Inspection Panel of the World Bank, the Compliance Review Mechanism of the African Development Bank and a team from the European Investment Bank visited Uganda on a fact finding mission on the project. This was the second time the project was being investigated. The reports of the three teams of investigators again found out that the project had once again fallen short of the bank policies, and made recommendations. Despite these recommendations, government of Uganda and the developer went ahead with the project.

In 2009, an international NGO – Counter Balance together with NAPE petitioned the European Investment Bank (EIB) for financially supporting a project that would negatively impact on the environment and the local communities in the project area. A team of investigators from EIB visited Uganda and investigated the project. The report of EIB investigations too, found that the Bujagali project had not complied with the bank guidelines. This was the third time the project was being investigated.

Despite all the recommendations of the three reports, the Uganda government, the World Bank and African Development Bank marketed the project as the best option for the country to escape energy scarcity and spur development. The Bujagali dam project has been championed by government and its construction has been overseen by heavy military gear.

NAPE can now proudly say that the contribution it has made has significantly raised environmental and social awareness of the dangers of unquestioning commitment to huge dams and hydropower by these means. The issue of alternatives is now a critical challenge in the country which cannot be just wished away.

Today, the role of civil society in decision-making can no longer be dismissed as an “unnecessary inconvenience” in environment and development dynamics. The rise in significance of environmental advocacy has revealed that true development is not “business development” but environmental development in which the public and government are equal partners whose responsibilities, obligations and duties should never conflict but complement each other.

2. Campaign to promote alternative energy options in Uganda

NAPE has been promoting alternative energy options to big hydropower in Uganda. Alternative energy options are a very critical drive to sustainable development that has been missing in the energy balance of Uganda. Many of these options are directly near to the communities and are more reliable in this era of climate change.

In 2003, NAPE was recommended by International Rivers to Siemenpuu Foundation (Finland) and Wellspring (UK-based Charity organization) for financial support to organize a national meeting to popularize geothermal energy in Uganda.

Since 1954 when Uganda got its first hydropower plant, the country has highly depended on hydropower from large dams for almost all of her electricity needs. Unfortunately, donors and government have been more interested in large, centralized hydropower plants rather than smaller scale projects that could share the energy wealth around the country. Secondly, the cost of extending power from the main grid to rural communities scattered in different areas has been a challenge. With the current global climate change scenario,

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

the sustainability of large hydro remains in balance! Alternative energy options seem to suggest the best way to go.

In a bid to contribute to the development of alternative energy options that could salvage Uganda from a severe energy deficit, NAPE identified geothermal as one of the key energy options for the country. Uganda is endowed with sufficient geothermal potential, mostly concentrated along the rift valley areas in Western Uganda. The prospects for Uganda's geothermal potential stand at 450MW, and could go higher by tapping into naturally occurring steam wells.



Geothermal Prospect at Katwe-Burange, Western. Uganda

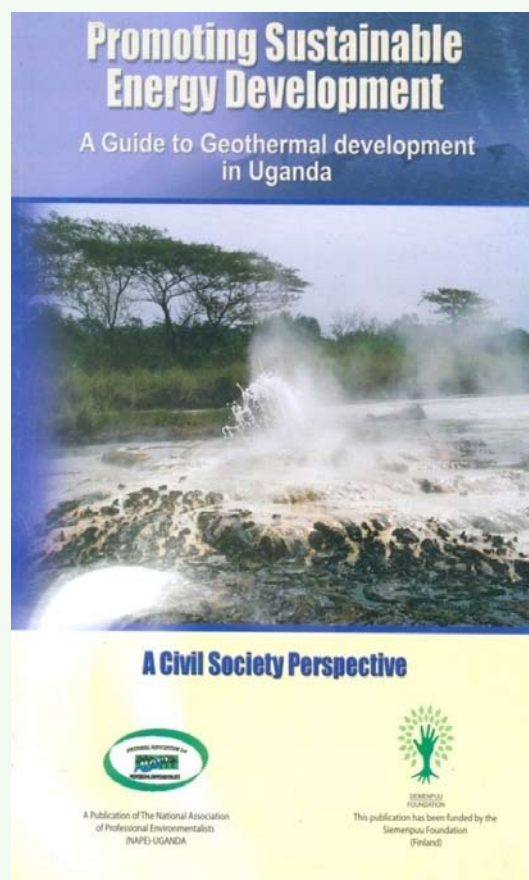
In 2003, NAPE organized a regional conference to popularize geothermal energy in Uganda. The meeting brought together civil society organizations in Uganda, government, academia, geothermal experts from Kenya and the US, and the media. The recommendations of this high-level meeting went a long way to inform government of the need to develop Uganda's geothermal resources.

In April, 2004 NAPE carried out a site visit to the rift valley area of Naivasha, Kenya with an aim of understanding how Kenya has managed to develop her geothermal resource. The findings of this visit have helped us to inform government about suitable approaches to develop Uganda's geothermal resources.

In 2005 NAPE developed and published a civil society guide to geothermal development in Uganda. This information is now being used by government, researchers and educational institutions. One thing we looked at with the guide was how to ensure projects are accepted by local communities, and that these communities benefit from them.

In August, 2007 NAPE carried out awareness campaigns on benefits of geothermal energy for communities living around geothermal prospects in the rift valley areas in Western Uganda.

Although Uganda has not yet developed her geothermal resources, the government now recognizes geothermal options as an ideal option for rural transformation. The challenge remains the initial cost of developing the resource, and a longstanding prejudice in favor of large dams. This is slowly changing, but geothermal still has a long way to go. The latest news is that our government has created a "broker" to help facilitate and finance smaller renewable projects, including geothermal plants.





Massive deforestation, Kibale, Western Uganda

3. Campaign against forest degradation and land grabbing

Since the last century, Uganda's forests have faced severe degradation. Population explosion has exacerbated for more land for agriculture, charcoal, grazing, timber and policy failures.

Since the 1990s, government of Uganda has been hatching plans to grant large chunks of natural forest land to foreign investors to turn it to plantations in the name of development. With the current climate change phenomenon, Uganda risks to suffer severe impacts of climate change.

In 2006, Government decided to grant over 7100 hectares (over 17,544 acres) of Mabira Central Forest Reserve (CFR) to Sugar Corporation of Uganda Limited (SCOUL) for sugarcane growing against public protests as well as against any technical, professional and expert advice. Government's uncompromising position culminated in the resignation of the board and staff of the National Forestry Authority (NFA) in protest.

NAPE promotes the sustainable use of natural resources in Uganda. It is in this spirit that on 12 April, 2007 NAPE led Ugandans in the capital city of Kampala, to demonstrate against the proposal by government to give away Mabira Central Forest Reserve (CFR) to the Mehta Group, a Ugandan business of Indian origin to expand its sugar cane production. To NAPE this was another case of modern land grabbing done in the name of development and job creation.

Mabira is one of the few remaining tropical rainforests in Uganda. The NAPE led demonstration against the give away was a climax of civil society expressing discontent and rejection of governments' plan to degazette this critical and ecologically important forest resource within the Lake Victoria Basin.

Mabira is a low lying forest, characterized by a wide range of species of fauna and flora. It covers a land mass area of about 30,600 hectares. It is estimated that Mabira CFR has more than 312 species of trees and shrubs, 287 of birds, 23 of small mammals, 218 of butterflies and 97 of moths (Howard 1996). The forest is a good conservation area for various assemblages of fauna and flora species. It also has a very interesting history of management that dates back to its time of gazettelement, when villages were enclosed within the forest as enclaves.



Mabira Central forest Reserve

When NAPE realized that a trend had emerged in which government was irregularly seeking to change land use to accommodate the desires and interests of private developers against all tenable advice, it decided not to sit

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

down and be complacent. Therefore, the first news on government's plan to give-away Mabira CFR triggered a multifaceted approach to work against this infamous plan. Government was advised to find alternative land for sugarcane growing elsewhere in the country and conserve the forest for its social, economic and ecological purposes, but this continued to fall on deaf ears! NAPE decided to take a painful road; one that had to be tackled without fear or favor.

A number of activities were done to help NAPE and the people of Uganda achieve their goal. These activities included:

1. NAPE began building a critical mass of civil society organizations, academia, Members of Parliament, religious leaders, local leaders, the communities and politicians of all walks of life. Several planning meetings were held to discuss the Mabira give-away and find a possible solution. "Save Mabira Crusade" – a loose network that was chaired by NAPE was formed to spearhead this struggle.
2. NAPE then focused on influencing key political leaders. An initiative was made to meet the Minister of Water and Environment (MWE), to discuss the likely impacts of the forest give away, on the economy, environment, on peoples socio-cultural way of life and on the health of Lake Victoria in particular. It was also believed that the voice of NAPE would eventually be taken to the president. This however did not work out as had been expected.
3. The district leaders of Mukono were visited to solicit their support and to request them to urge the president together with other officers of government to do the country a favor and conserve the forest. Fortunately, the district was also on the side of NAPE.
4. NAPE engaged cultural leaders on the need for conserving the forest. Most cultural leaders who were engaged shared the same concerns as NAPE and were also concerned that despite the efforts to talk to different authorities, their concerns had fallen on deaf ears.
5. The forest was going to be given away to the Mehta Group to replace the forest with sugarcane. The corporation was visited by a multi-stakeholder team led by NAPE. Unfortunately, the company chose not to accept honest requests from stakeholders, but instead insisted that they wanted Mabira and nothing less than this forest.
6. Efforts were then made to talk to the chairman of the Asians Community in Uganda who seemed to understand NAPE's cause; he assured NAPE that he would convey the concerns to Mehta. Surprisingly however, he was not listened to and later informed NAPE that he had not been able to convince the corporation to give up its interests of converting the forest into a sugarcane plantation.
7. A petition was then made to the honorable speaker of the Parliament of Uganda to request him to bring government to order regarding the Mabira give-away. However, NAPE was cognizant of the fact that its previous petitions to the speaker of parliament had not been responded to despite getting assurances that parliament would do every thing possible to address them.
8. The Save Mabira Crusade (SMC) used all possible means at its disposal to try and convince government to drop the Mabira give-away idea. On its part, government chose to remain adamant, insisting that the only way forward for Uganda's economic development was to give away the forest. The Save Mabira Crusade was left with no option but to hold a peaceful demonstration but with explicit permission from government.



Members of SMC at Mehta's Office, Lugazi



Members of SMC presenting a Petition to Hon. Speaker of Parliament

9. Unfortunately, the peaceful demonstration in Kampala was mismanaged by police and it later turned rowdy. Government turned around and arrested the leaders of Save Mabira Crusade accusing them of an unlawful assembly. For more than four years the leadership of the Save Bujagali Crusade were moving to and from court in respect of their bail conditionality. The case was only dismissed in December 2010.

Achievements made during the crusade

The Save Mabira Crusade was very successful in a number of ways and it was very important in the conservation of natural resources in Uganda. The crusade also relayed the message to government regarding the commitment Ugandans had towards conservation of the forest. The Save Mabira Crusade campaign was historic for a number of reasons including:

- The unity in diversity that was exhibited by Ugandans of different walks of life all in the name of a common cause; conservation of the Mabira forest.
- Ugandans were able to collectively carry the message to the different stakeholders on the importance of not only the Mabira but also on the importance of all the other forests in Uganda.
- The crusade also brought together people of different nationalities who formed a global coalition to strive for the conservation of the Mabira forest. At the end of the day, the Mabira forest campaign became a global issue.
- It also exposed government hidden plans of degazetting many other forest reserves in the country.
- The campaign attracted both national and international media which did a great deal of work in sensitizing the local and international community on government lack of commitment towards the conservation of natural resources.
- The campaign has also opened the eyes of government and investors that actually investment can take place without necessarily degrading the environment; you do not need to degrade natural resources for you to develop.
- The campaign enhanced the value of professionalism and integrity of NFA and other government agencies including parliament, cabinet, and police NRM caucus.
- For the first time, the voices of the peasant citizens who are always marginalized by the elite prevailed.
- Ugandans forgot their political difference to amplify a common voice for the conservation of the Mabira forest.
- The campaign brought issues of climate change in Uganda in the limelight.



Members of SMC protesting Mabira forest give-away



Members of SMC in the dock, Kampala High Court

Challenges associated with the Save Mabira Crusade

While the Mabira crusade can largely be classified as a successful campaign against unsustainable use of natural resources in Uganda, it is also true that the campaign had a number of challenges. These challenges can be attributed to the unwillingness of the state to engage into constructive dialogue with genuine and concerned Ugandans regarding the management of natural resource whom it chose to refer to as charlatans. The major challenges however, included;

1. The campaign resulted into damage and loss of property worth millions of money.
2. The loss of lives during the riot as a result of the use of excessive force on the side of government.

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

3. There was an extensive arrest of the demonstrators including the arrest of the leaders of Save Mabira crusade.
4. There was investor arrogance; because some investors are proud and enjoy protection by government, and some investors have tricked government so that they can grab land.
5. There was a lot of intimidation from government technocrats that culminated into the resignation of the Board of Director of the National Forestry Authority (NFA) as well as some staff.
6. There was some racial animosity which among other things, was a threat to international relations and resulted into the burning of some parts of Mehta's sugarcane plantation and boycott of Lugazi sugar
7. There was gross violation of people's rights, which among others, included arrests of demonstrators and political threats.



Community meeting to discuss issues on community forest, Mukono and Bunyoro respectively

Finally, the conservation of natural resources in Uganda is supposed to be a collective effort of all citizens of the country. The Mabira demonstration will remain an example of community resolve to protect natural resources for posterity. It also shows that conservation of natural resources does not know political divides; it is a responsibilities of all people regardless of their political colors.

NAPE will continue advocating for the sustainable use of our country's natural resources regardless of whether there is political intimidation or threats. We will continue to speak for the voiceless groups of Ugandans, for example the children today and those yet to come. The future generations, whose ability to meet their own needs, is compromised by our selfishness and greed.

3. Campaign to promote Community Ecological Governance

The productivity and sustainability of Africa natural resources in general and Uganda in particular are highly dependent on how they are managed. Many of the resources on the continent that mankind is struggling to conserve, but have suffered severe degradation in recent times, have survived over centuries as a result of conservation based on indigenous cultural and spiritual knowledge by the people. This knowledge and the resultant practices are now what are called Community Ecological Governance (CEG).

Community Ecological Governance implies that the local communities have their treasured beliefs, norms and knowledge much closely interwoven with nature. Destruction of nature was seen as direct destruction of the community. Forests, rivers, lakes, swamps, Caves and mountains are believed to be dwelling places for ancestors and spirits (gods) of the community/ people. People's livelihoods and survival were not separated from these natural resources, the reason why they were seriously conserved.

It is not surprising to see that some of the few existing cultural (natural) forests in the regions of Buganda, Bunyoro and Busoga have been conserved for the last 500 years. Generations after generations have preserved these cultural forests that are of cultural and spiritual significance to them. The term "Community Ecological

Governance” therefore means that communities have power and authority to govern their natural resources and what surrounds them (ecology). NAPE appreciates this power and authority of the community. We believe that this knowledge embedded in people’s beliefs and norms manifested in preservation of natural resources should be recognized and promoted if some of our remaining forests, rivers, lakes and wetlands are to be conserved.

In 2006 NAPE carried out a study to identify the challenges and opportunities of community ecological governance in Uganda. The study revealed that there are a number of forests, rivers and lakes managed using indigenous knowledge. It was also found out that for a long time the local communities in Uganda have generated and regenerated knowledge that has been effectively utilized to sustainably manage natural resources. The study was conducted in three kingdoms, namely Busoga, Buganda and Bunyoro because of the presence of culturally governed natural resources and a long history of renowned cultural heritage. NAPE compiled and published a report on challenges and opportunities for community ecological governance in December, 2007.



An elder sharing indigenous knowledge on conservation, Mukono, near Kampala



A Sacred River in Uganda believed to cure many diseases

In 2008 NAPE identified Kintu forest in Mukono district, near Kampala. This forest is of important significance to the Buganda kingdom. The forest is believed to be the home of the first king of Buganda and because of this has been conserved for more than 400 years now by the Ngo Clan of Buganda. It has since expanded with indigenous tree species to provide for more cultural, medicinal and other purposes. Other forests which have been conserved include Kihagya forest in Hoima and others in Buganda.

In 2009, with support from the African Biodiversity Network (ABN), several meetings for cultural leaders and custodians of these forests were conducted. A lot of experience sharing on the different cultural practices for conservation and significance of these forests was done.

In August 2010, NAPE with financial support from P.K Feyerabend Foundation conducted a study on identifying the contribution of traditional cultural practices in forest management with a focus on reducing climate change impacts in Uganda. The study identified good practices and made recommendations to improve resources management.

4. Campaign against illegal mining in protected areas

Uganda’s heritage lies in conserving her natural resources. National parks are a vital heritage that has made Uganda one of the leading destinations for tourism. Queen Elizabeth National park is the second largest National park after Murchison Falls in tourist attraction. Tourism is the second largest foreign exchange earner for Uganda. This does not only bring in foreign exchange but also upholds Uganda’s heritage.

In 2007 Government of Uganda permitted Hima Cement Limited, a subsidiary company of Lafarge group to start mining limestone at Dura in Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) in western Uganda. However, the wildlife Act (Article 24) prohibits extractive use of park resources. Therefore, mining limestone at Dura

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

which constitutes extractive use of national park resources is not permissible. Mining in Queen Elizabeth National park will endanger and threaten a variety of species of flora and fauna and the general ecosystem. NAPE believes that mining licenses for the quarry were issued unlawfully. This contention is being tested in the Ugandan courts of law.

Dura limestone deposit lies within the boundaries of Lake George which is a Ramsar site in Queen Elizabeth National park. Article 3.2 of the Ramsar Convention to which Uganda is a signatory, requires all contracting parties “to be informed at earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the list has changed or is likely to change as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human activities.” The government flouted this requirement, yet, mining at Dura will have ecological effects on this wetland. While in the 1980s Government of Uganda notified the Ramsar Convention over the spillage of wastes from copper tailings along river Nyamwamba, this time it has not.

In 2007 NAPE together with other NGOs castigated the government, National Environment Authority (NEMA), and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) for issuing a license to Hima Cement Factory, allowing it to carry out mining in Dura.

In 2008 NAPE carried out a number of awareness campaigns on the impacts of mining in ported areas. NAPE developed and published materials in both English and local languages and disseminated them widely.

In late 2008 NAPE together with other NGOs took government to court over illegal mining in a protected area. The case has been in court since 2008; however, there has been no hearing of this case court since then.



Hima Cement factory, Kasese, Western Uganda

5. Campaign to stop construction of a golf course in Murchison Falls National Park

In early 2010, Government of Uganda instructed the state-run Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to allow the Madhvani Group of companies to construct a golf course and a swimming pool in Murchison Falls National Park. Government argued that there was no evidence the facilities would harm the park's ecosystem and they would draw more visitors to the park.

NAPE and Uganda Wildlife Authority maintained that large numbers of people in one area would scare animals and also escalate poaching. The buildings and fences would disrupt natural movement patterns. Uganda has laws that clearly describe the kind of investment projects that can be undertaken in nature reserves. These laws do not permit projects like golf courses. The project has now been put on hold.



Giraffes at Murchison Fall National Park

6. The Climate change campaign

NAPE has been campaigning about climate change in Uganda, Africa and at the global level for several years. Noticeably, climate change has today emerged as one of the major local and global issues of concern. Uganda is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, and its impacts have been severe frequent and unpredictable. This include persistent and severe droughts, floods and a number of climate related diseases; many of which were unheard-of in the country. These impacts have significantly affected many Ugandans who have eventually become helpless. Unfortunately however, Uganda and the world in general seem to be far from coming up with a workable solution to this problem.

Uganda being a country that is largely dependent on rain fed agriculture, any slight change in rainfall patterns severely impacts its agricultural productivity. Erratic rainfalls significantly affect agricultural production and water supply for domestic use. Millions of rural communities, who have for several years depended on stable rainfall to sustain their livelihoods through agriculture and the natural resource base, have become exposed to extreme poverty, hunger, disease and to extreme climate stress. Prior to the climate change phenomena, communities comfortably and sustainably depended on nature for food, income and for social security. Many rural agricultural communities are today bearing a very big share of the climate burden, largely because they depend on the natural environment for survival and as the impacts become severe these communities also become more vulnerable, helpless and hopeless.

These impacts require well thought response measures to help build the degree of community resilience to climate change. Without serious intervention, it is feared that climate change may significantly reverse several years of development effort in Uganda, through destruction of existing infrastructure like roads, schools and hospitals among others. Certainly, these impacts will make it difficult for Uganda to easily achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Efforts are therefore needed to demand for good climate policies, build capacity, raise community awareness and resilience, identify appropriate technologies and develop capacity to predict climate change to be able to develop strategic actions for coping, adapting and mitigating.



Women walk long distances in search of firewood, Karamoja

NAPE's work on climate change has been mainly in the areas of adoption, mitigation and influencing climate change policy both at local and international levels.

Influencing policy

NAPE has been working towards influencing policy on climate change both at local and international levels. At international level, NAPE has been participating in global debate on climate change. it has for several years, participated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) pre Conference of the Parties (COP) sessions and in the COPs. NAPE has also participated in a number of other climates debates, including the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. This has been done in collaboration with a number of its partners who among others include the Friends of the Earth International (FOEI), Climate Action Network – International (CAN-I), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), African Biodiversity Network (ABN), Global Forest Coalition (GFC) and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA).

On the local scene NAPE, among other things, has been working towards influencing policy on the management of natural resources, vital for a good climate. NAPE has been lobbying and advocating for sustainable forest

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

management, sustainable wetland management, sustainable land management, development of renewable energy options and sustainable water resource management. NAPE has also been participating key policy debates on climate change. The organization has been lobbying against false solutions to climate change; for example the introduction of biofuels in the country which are accelerating forest degradation.

The discovery of oil is one of the major challenges to the future climate of not only Uganda but of the entire globe. The consumption of fossil fuels has been identified as one of the major contributors to the rampant changes in the global climate. In Uganda, these fossil fuels are located in the Abertine region which is a known ecologically sensitive region. NAPE has been lobbying and advocating for better policies that will help the country exploit its oil resources without compromising its rich biodiversity. It has also been advocating for sustainable community livelihoods for without stable incomes, communities will encroach on key natural resources for survival.

Adaptation

Uganda like many other vulnerable countries has been struggling to adapt to a number of climate change impacts. However, government alone cannot stretch out and reach all communities. Civil society has to complement government's efforts for the impact to be realized. It is in this spirit that NAPE has been reaching to a number of communities to help them adapt to climate change impacts. For example, NAPE has reached out to a number of water stressed communities with whom it has worked to make sure that the water stress of such communities is reduced. To this end, NAPE has been able to work with the communities of Kashari in Mbarara district which lies within the dry cattle corridor, to construct rain water harvesting reservoirs. Such services have also been extended to some communities in Luwero district, Mukono and in the district of Buikwe.



NAPE constructed a water reservoir (700,000m³) for a water stressed community in Kashari, Mbarara



NAPE constructed a rain water harvesting tank (300,000m³) for a water stressed community in Luwero

Mitigation

The climate threat in Uganda is growing while the degradation of the environment has been going on at alarming rate making it a necessity that actions are taken to mitigate against the danger of climate change. NAPE has to this effect been carrying out a number of activities that help in the mitigation of climate change. These activities are not limited to but include:

- Influencing policy and government policy and decisions on the use of key natural resources like forests, wetlands and water among others.
- Raising community awareness through audio and audio-visual media
- Through its Community Ecological Governance (CEG) initiatives mobilizing communities to participate in forestation and reforestation activities. Through the CEG, NAPE has promoted the use of indigenous knowledge in the conservation of natural resources.
- Advocating for the conservation of protected areas which are among the major natural resource areas that are critical in regulating climate change.
- Participating in both local and international debates on mitigation for example, NAPE has been part of the mitigation working under the Climate Change Unit (CCU) of the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Challenges

There are a number of challenges involved in carrying out some of these activities more especially when government does not fully realize the importance of the work that civil society does. Some of these challenges are not limited to but include:

- Being labeled economic saboteurs leading to harassment, although it may not compromise NAPEs work and resolve.
- Climate change activities are costly to undertake and require stable funding.
- The political will and resolve are still inadequate.
- Community expectation from NAPE outmatch the available resources.

The Way Forward

Amidst all the challenges, NAPE is determined to continue doing its climate change work and to empower communities so that they can be able to meet some of their climate change related challenges and to be able to speak out on their own on key issues that affect them. The organization will continue its lobby and advocacy activities to influence government policy on climate change and to demand for space for participation on key environmental issues. Efforts will also be continually made to fundraise so that the organization is able to meet key community support needs. NAPE will continue to work with its partners at local and international levels so that it may be able to achieve its mandate.

7. The REDD Campaign (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)

Forests are expected to play an increasing role in policies for combating climate change. In the current climate regime, reforestation and afforestation projects are promoted in addition to forest management activities. In the new climate regime, currently being negotiated, the focus is expanded to include reduction of carbon emissions from forests through reduced deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in tropical countries.

While REDD is a climate mitigation measure, countries need to establish administrative structures/processes and policy instruments in order to make REDD activities materialize. Uganda is in the process of developing an effective REDD policy to guide the implementation of REDD projects in Uganda.

Civil society organizations have the role to monitor and ensure that the REDD project do not remain false solutions to climate change, but help improve the livelihoods of communities living around natural forests. Many times such projects displace the indigenous people and impact negatively on the environment.

In 2009 NAPE started working to monitor the implementation of REDD in Uganda. NAPE has been working with communities living around forests in central Uganda in the areas of Kalangala Islands in Lake Victoria, Kintu forest in Buikwe, Mabira forest in Mukono, Kiliagye in Hoima and Manga forest in Mpigi.

In 2010, NAPE carried out awareness meetings and workshops aimed at educating communities on the benefits and challenges of REDD. NAPE developed and published a number of lobby and advocacy materials and disseminated. NAPE also developed a documentary - *“Back to Our Roots”* and shared with the forest communities.

8. Campaign Against Biofuels

Government of Uganda has been promoting the introduction of biofuel crops in the country in the recent times. The renewable energy policy for Uganda (2007) for example, proposes the production of ethanol, biodiesels, methanol (gasification) and biogas. The policy further identifies Uganda’s potential to produce substantial amount of biodiesel feedstocks from a variety of oil seeds, such as cashew nuts, simsim, sunflower, groundnuts, soya bean, jatropher and oil palm. It is envisaged that Uganda will be able to cut its diesel and gasoline imports through supporting biodiesel and ethanol production.

Growing of biofuel crops require large areas of agricultural land which usually leads to conversion of fertile food growing land, forested and wetlands into monoculture plantations for producing these feedstock crops the. While NAPE agrees that not all biofuels have negative impacts on the environment, there is a growing concern that current trends in development of biofuels will greatly harm the population in a number of ways.

Already, many foreign companies are scrambling to seize not only the marginal lands in the country, but also fertile lands for production of agrofuels.



Palm oil Plantations in Kalangala

Uganda today is one of the countries where agrofuel development is treasured, and therefore, gaining a firm ground. Multinational companies and some individuals are opting to convert their land and forests into production of the feedstock for agrofuels for alternative fuel and alleviating poverty.

On Kalangala Islands in Lake Victoria, for example, government gave concession of about 10,000 hectares of natural forest land to BIDICO, a Malaysian company, to establish palm oil plantations. This project has had a number of impacts on the communities in the area and in the surrounding districts. While agrofuels fronted as a way of dealing with climate change through production of biodiesel to complement fossil fuels and reduce green house gas emissions, the full benefit of this project has not yet been realized. The push for agrofuels as a “solution” to energy crisis, especially in Europe and North America, is greatly impacting on the developing world. In Uganda, this corporate capture is presented as an opportunity for business, energy security and employment opportunity that will eventually alleviate poverty, and improve peoples’ livelihoods.

However beneficial this may be, biofuels are a threat to food security, tenure rights, forests, biodiversity conservation and declined people’s livelihoods; they create more problems than will actually solve. Some of the problems biofuels are likely to exacerbate include:

- Distraction of sensitive biodiversity in developing world, including harming of endangered species, wildlife, deforestation among others;
- Acceleration of climate change through production of emission similar to those of fossils;
- Encouraging widespread growing of genetically modified crops;
- Creating completely new organisms with unknown impacts today therefore impacting negatively on the local genes;
- Biofuels have been associated with soaring of food prices;
- Increase cases of land grabbing and land conflicts in the scramble for land for agrofuels (Land grabbing); and
- Intense use of fertilizers and pesticides.

It is against this background that NAPE, with support from African Biodiversity Network (ABN), the Gaia Foundation (UK) and Eonexus decided to launch an awareness campaign in Uganda on the potential dangers of agrofuels; tenure rights, food security, environment and biodiversity as well as people’s livelihoods. The overall objective of the project was to create awareness on the negative impacts of agrofuels on food security, land tenure (land grabbing) and biodiversity loss in Uganda.

NAPE organized a number of national workshops to engage with likeminded NGOs, local leaders, and members of parliament, academia and other stakeholders to create awareness and disseminate the findings from a quick scan carried out by NAPE.

Advocacy materials on agrofuels were developed and disseminated to raise awareness on the subject. In general awareness has been created through radio programmes, pamphlets, on the impacts of agrofuels, print media and other agrofuels campaign materials, such as calendars.

Now communities are aware that destruction of rainforests for growing of agrofuels will lead to loss of

biodiversity, variations in the microclimate, low productivity and consequently climate change. In the case of palm oil growing in Kalangala, the communities have been demanding that BIDCO adheres to the mitigation measures as stipulated in the environmental impact studies (EIS) and for comprehensive studies to be done on the effects of agrochemicals on marine biodiversity and terrestrial ecosystems.

Lessons learnt

Bottom-top approach helps in campaigns in that it becomes possible for the issues raised during community meetings be shared with other stakeholders at national level. To NAPE this is very important as it helps build a critical mass, which can stand out in the crowd and raise issues on their own. We have seen this happen among the communities we have worked with. Leaders are tasked to explain the way things are happening, for example, in cases of land grabbing and in the right to access information among others. In a nut shell, we have learnt that:

- Government listens to collective voice. The more scattered the peoples voices are, the less they can be heard and considered.
- Government will always push forward with a project regardless of its social and environmental impacts; government mainly looks at the economic benefits.

Challenges

- Political interference and intervention in the projects implemented, by making information on projects “classified”;
- Lack of information on the project information on the part of the communities;
- High levels of corruption by local leaders; and
- Low levels of income, which prohibit communities from independent thinking. This is largely due to lack of reliable incomes that has lead the communities rely on handouts making it difficult for nonprofit organizations to deal with some communities.

Way forward

NAPE will continue to raise awareness through the use of different communication media including the use of documentaries, TVs and radio talk shows. We will build the capacity of communities that depend on forests, lakes and other highly fragile ecosystems to among other things, utilize natural resources sustainably and for them to be aware of their entitlements, access rights and how they can engage and question the status quo. The communities will be empowered with new conservation skills, like agroforestry on top of promoting their indigenous knowledge and skills on natural resource conservation. Efforts will be made to promote the conservation of local plant genes as well as the conservation of other cultural forests in the country. The communities will be encouraged to adopt new and alternative income generating activities so that they can live independently and be free from being compromised.

On the other hand, efforts will continue to demand government to upscale implementation and enforcement of environmental policies the country.

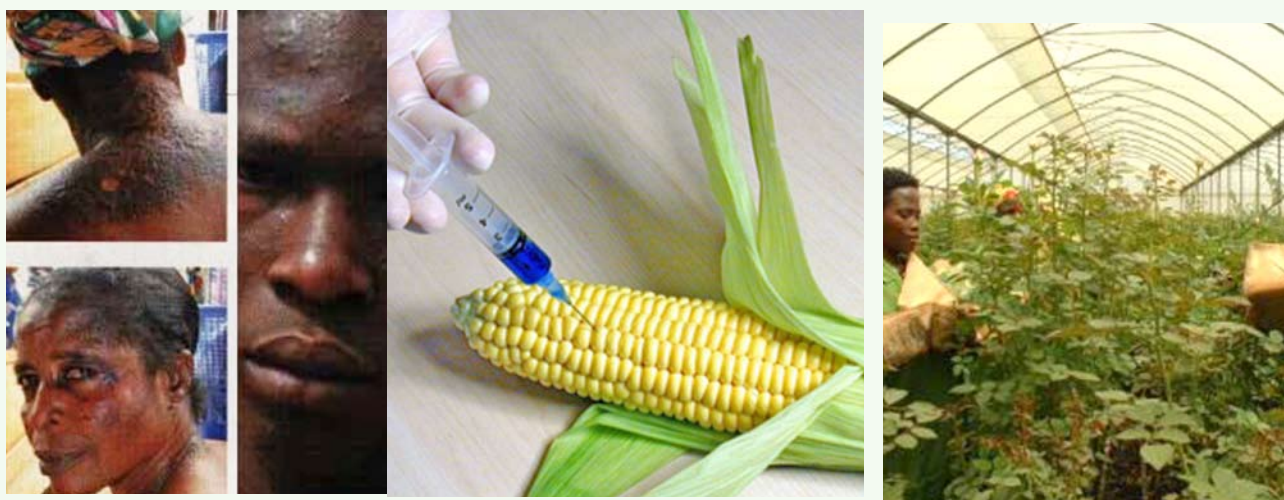
9. Campaign to promote Sound Management of Chemicals in Uganda

NAPE has been promoting in Uganda, the Inter-organization Programme For Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC), led by the World Health Organization. Chemicals today play a vital role in trade, agriculture and in economic development in general. In the agricultural sector, chemicals play an important role in resisting harmful pests and controlling weeds among other things. Chemicals also play an important role in ensuring that the health of people is maintained. Undoubtedly, chemicals have become an essential part of people’s livelihoods not only in Uganda but world over. Their manufacture, storage trade, transportation, use and disposal in Uganda, has been growing.

While chemicals play a vital role in our lives, they however, have many intrinsic dangerous properties, which require that they be used judiciously for their benefits to be maximized, and their adverse effects on human health and the environment to be minimized. As the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) noted: “The sound management of chemicals is essential to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in all countries at all levels of development” (SAICM 2006).

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

Uganda is faced with a number of challenges relating to availability of information, more especially to the end users of chemicals: inadequate capacity to effectively monitor use of chemicals, lack of access to cleaner production systems and technologies for waste management, as well as poor capacity to deal with poisoning and contamination and the tendency of government to limit public access to information about the chemicals. The management of obsolete chemicals and waste presents serious threats to human well-being and to the environment. On the other hand, the degree of chemical abuse in the country has also been growing. The factors responsible for the growing abuse of chemicals include: lack of awareness, inadequate laws and policies, poor disposal, poor storage and poor transportation. Chemicals management in Uganda is also characterized by poor institutional capacity to address the everincreasing management challenges of chemicals.



NAPE has been raising awareness on the dangers of chemicals misuse that lead to undesirable impact on health and environment

Uganda is party to number of global conventions and protocols including the Stockholm Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which advocates for the sound management of chemicals. The aim of SAICM is to ensure that chemicals are produced, transported, used and disposed in manners that ensure minimal or no adverse effects to health and the environment. It was agreed by consensus at the first International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-1), held in Dubai, February 2006. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is an international policy framework that was put in place to foster sound management of chemicals globally. Its aim to achieve sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. Sound management of chemicals is critical if sustainable development is to be achieved; it has a great bearing on poverty alleviation, the fight against disease, improved human health, improved environment and the elevation and maintenance of people's standards of living.

Objectives of SAICM:

- Reduce risk on human health and the environment from chemical exposure.
- Promote knowledge and information sharing on chemicals and chemicals management. This ensures that available policies, laws, and regulations, are sufficient and well disseminated. Information that relates to human health and safety and the environment should not be regarded as confidential.
- Promote good governance of chemicals. This will be achieved through multi-sectoral, comprehensive, effective, efficient, transparent, coherent and inclusive national, regional and international mechanisms, and they should ensure accountability. Civil society should be allowed meaningful participation in regulatory and other decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety, particularly women and workers. Government, the private sector and civil society are encouraged to cooperate in achieving sound chemicals management at all levels.
- Enhance capacity building and technical cooperation. Sustainable capacity building strategies should be

developed and implemented while promoting cooperation among countries.

- Eradicate illegal international traffic. Illegal international traffic in toxic, hazardous, banned and severely restricted chemicals should be prevented. This includes products incorporating these chemicals, mixtures and compounds, and wastes. The capacity in the country for preventing and controlling illegal international traffic should be strengthened and information sharing be promoted.

The role of NAPE in promoting the sound management of chemicals

Since its inception, NAPE has been promoting the sound management of chemicals in Uganda. Its major role has been:

- To promote corporate social responsibility in order to reduce human and environmental risks for all;
- To reduce risks posed by chemicals to human health and the environment, with a focus on measurable indicators;
- To ensure that children, women and other vulnerable populations are protected from the risks posed by chemicals, while increasing chemical safety at all levels;
- To promote best practices in the manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution, trade, use and disposal of chemicals;
- To assess and advocate for the updating and bringing chemical laws in Uganda in line with current scientific knowledge; and
- To advocate for clarification and harmonization of responsibilities of the different institutions that are responsible for the management of chemicals.

Achievements so far

NAPE has been working with government and other stakeholders to promote the sound management of chemicals:

- It participated in the development of the National Chemicals Profile for Uganda and in the development of the National Implementation plan (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention.
- In 2005 NAPE with support from the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) carried out a study on a hot spot in Uganda to establish the quantities of obsolete chemicals; with specific emphasis on POPs that were being stored at Kawanda Agricultural Research Institute (KARI).
- NAPE has carried out awareness campaigns about the undesirable impacts of chemicals misuse to human health and the environment through the electronic media.
- NAPE has developed, published and disseminated a number of advocacy and awareness materials on potentially harmful consumer products, the legal and policy gaps, chemicals misuse, as well as the good management practices of chemicals.
- In 2009 NAPE, with support from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and with financial support from UNEP-QSP and the SAICM Secretariat, started work to promote the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Uganda. This is a regional project that is being implemented in three countries of East Africa. NAPE has been working with iLima and AGENDA together with several other NGOs to promote the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC).
- In 2010, NAPE with support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and in collaboration with a number of other organizations, formed a network of NGOs called the Network on Sound Management of Chemicals – Uganda (NESMAC-U). The purpose of the network is to promote the Sound Management of Chemicals in Uganda.
- In 2011, NAPE part of the multistakeholder committee that was put in place by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to develop a methodology for revising and harmonizing existing legislation and policies on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and other related areas.

NAPE will continue to mobilize other CSOs to effectively participate in the Sound Management of chemicals in Uganda. It will also continue advocating for legal, policy and institutional reforms for the sound management of chemicals. Efforts will continue to be made to sensitize and raise community awareness on the need for sound management of chemicals.

10. Campaign to promote Water Users Multistakeholder Dialogues

Since 1997, water and sanitation development was conducted under the auspices of the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) which has now evolved into the National Development Plan (NDP), within which water

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

and sanitation features. This is within the sector policy framework which includes the national water policy, national environment management policy, the wetland policy, the National Health policy, the national gender policy and the legal framework comprising the constitution of the republic of Uganda (1995) and several others.

In Uganda there is competition for financial resources allocation for the water sector with other sectors, such as energy, agriculture, defence and roads. The government of Uganda comprises sixteen sectors but the Water, Sanitation and Hygeun (WASH) sector ranks only number aleven and accesses only 2% of the national Gross Domestic Product.

CSOs in WASH are fewer than those in electoral processes or health, and this implies that the sector has fewer stakeholders complementing the government in the achievement of the WASH targets. As stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector in Uganda, the CSOs are increasingly participating actively in the official processes in which planning and budgeting decisions are made at both national and local levels and are continuously using advocacy to enhance participatory nature of these processes in various ways like budgeting and planning. This involvement has served to increase credibility and coordination among actors in the WASH sector.

Both government and non-government actors are increasingly aware of the need for coordination of service delivery efforts at all levels and this has allowed CSOs use their mandate to give voice to the demands and needs of the citizens by using advocacy efforts to influence the WASH decision-making processes and improving accountability and transparency.



A community in Mukono rehabilitating a protected well with support from NAPE



A community meeting for experience sharing on issues of sanitation, Luwero

NAPE has been working to improve transparency and accountability in the WASH sector by promoting water user's multistakeholder dialogues in Uganda. The WASH initiative brings local communities, leaders and service providers together in an active and participatory decision-making process regarding water and sanitation service provision. Unfortunately, the sector is not widely attractive to participation of civil society despite being very important.

Major successes

In pursuit of promoting access and rights to WASH, NAPE has undertaken the following:

Promoting multistakeholder Dialogues

The dialogue meetings have provided an avenue for citizens and local leaders to redesign strategies for better service delivery in WASH. Furthermore the local leaders have now started accepting to have a platform with the local citizens. This has improved access, equity and value for money within the sector there is a now a direction towards establishing mechanisms to generate and foster community voices. Communities' voices are continuing to be amplified. This is a right direction towards influencing policy. There has been significant progress in terms of successful engagement with all the stakeholders. Clear evidence of actions and practice reflecting changes as a result of the engagements have been encountered. For example in Mukono, there is now monitoring of the water budget, the local water and sanitation groups were finally legally recognized by the

municipality. There has been a general acceptance among political leaders that community members can play an integral role in improving service delivery in the WASH sector. In most of the intervention areas, the budget and information on water and sanitation is now displayed on the notice boards of the local area and council offices as a result of the advocacy actions by NAPE.

Awareness through media coverage (community radio talk shows)

NAPE conducted community talk shows on popular local radio/television stations. The media have become an effective strategy for highlighting issues of governance and accountability in the WASH sector. Cases of corruption and misuse of resources have been put on public agenda and exposed. This is beginning to have multiple effects as seen from improvement in the service delivery media coverage and reports on WASH have increased dramatically and pro-WASH political commitments have been made by relevant government officials. NAPE has succeeded in getting the media on its side. Through the media the community voices were amplified and the campaign messages reached the other parts of the country particularly through radio. In all the targeted areas the use of media tools has been very effective in making an impact of the water governance programme at all levels. In all the targeted areas these tools have created an opportunity for citizens to be better informed and empowered to share their water and sanitation issues for better accountability and responsiveness by the duty bearers. The communities have used radio to demand more affordable safe piped water.

Civil Society (CSOs) platforms

Facilitated CSO platforms to discuss critical issues on water and sanitation. This has been very important since CSOs increasingly play an important role in monitoring government policy and service delivery. Before the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) programme, the CSOs in Mukono and Kampala were in a nascent stage and not effectively playing their role as watch dogs. Currently the CSOs are well coordinated to heighten the drive for community mobilization and advocacy and policy monitoring. The CSOs have utilized the efforts for community sensitization and mobilization by way of meetings and dialogue processes. The political will at various levels of government has improved. More civil society and interest group now than before are being engaged in advocacy, policy formulation, policy implementation, participation in WASH decision making and service delivery.

Exchange visits

The learning visits have fostered relationships and networking between communities benefiting from the water governance interventions. Through exchange visits, some of the best practices have been adopted. This include tasking the leaders to display budgets at their local council offices some of the water sources and sanitation facilities have been improved

Information and communication

There have been many efforts made to ensure that citizens at all levels have greater information and knowledge on their water and sanitation entitlements and rights. Over the years, a wide range of tools and approaches was used to improve access to WASH related information

More popular and simplified versions of the water and sanitation policies have been published and distributed to the local leaders, our partners, schools and communities members and other stakeholders. The popular versions are serving as critical advocacy tools for engagement dialogues with the local leaders and service providers for better service provision. The citizens are now able to access relevant information on their water rights, public resources and policy documents on WASH. The popular versions on water and sanitation policies have also enlightened the local leaders who also did not understand the roles and responsibilities. There are indications that WASH issues will be tackled from an informed point of view

Sustainability

The water governance programme has relied on the continued enthusiasm and voluntarism of the citizens and the financial support from our development partners to meet critical unavoidable costs and to sustain its momentum. The project activity is also sustainable as citizens have been empowered to take up the mantle themselves sometimes independent of NAPE. The project is sustainable because the communities were involved in the project from inception. This means that a one voice has been created that will continue working to ensure good service delivery. The people themselves will continuously come to know about their rights to water and

sanitation and this will sustain their in development at community and national levels.

Replication

The NAPE water governance approach is transferable across other parts of the country. There are indicators of a multiplier effect as citizens have been trained and empowered as a strategy especially during exchange visits to communities where there are water and sanitation governance interventions. The media has provided a platform for the project to be replicated in other parts of the country

Evidence/Impact

The interventions are making great changes in terms of quality of water, access to it, affordability and sustainability because now the citizens have a sense of ownership. Community participation has been enhanced through improved governance because the grassroots who are the beneficiaries are now getting involved in decision- making process and monitoring.

Challenges

- Inadequate visibility and low funding commitment on water, sanitation and hygiene in the National Development Plan (NDP).
- Community members prefer real service delivery other than governance issues.
- The local leaders are a bit skeptical when you talk of transparency, accountability and participation. It is a notion that they do not take lightly.
- Misrepresentation and misinformation of the intentions of the Village Action on Water and Sanitation Committees (VAWSCs).
- Difficulties of translating key policy documents into local languages for mass dissemination.
- Poor knowledge by community members on government projects.

Key leanings

- Involving all stakeholders in the interventions right from the start is very important.
- Building on indigenous experience and practices is key in designing subsequent strategies in water governance.
- Working together with the communities and regular follow up builds confidence among local community members.
- Establishing a direct interface with local leaders, service providers and policy makers and users helps to find binding solutions.
- Dialogue between service providers. Local leaders and communities usually creates a mutual understanding among them in search for solutions.
- The project has taught us that policy matters require time and that people should be involved. The right to water will be meaningless if people are not involved, and government will not respect it if people do not participate.
- We have also learnt that the right to water involves appropriate equity and good governance. There is also need to disseminate information from top to bottom for everyone's active participation and this will make people know what to demand from government through an acceptable participatory approach which is the right thing to do.
- It is also important that all stakeholders be able to interpret the right to water and sanitation and work towards achieving the vision 2025 and the MDG by 2015.
- The Media is very strategic in the fight against corruption because it helps to put the case on public agenda and also exposes corrupt people.
- Degree of success or failure of dialogue initiatives depends upon active and sustained state support.
- Leaders must always listen to the voices from the grassroots particularly when it comes to the alternatives.

Key opportunities for our Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) work

- The local leaders have begun to appreciate the role of the Village Action Water and Sanitation Committees (VAWSCs).
- There is room for discussions during the district technical planning meetings and council meetings where issues on water and sanitation are discussed and action taken.

Proposed undertaking for the future

We are planning to consolidate the efforts of the citizen's advocacy groups that are in place by strengthening their capacity to hold their leaders accountable and also be able to demand for better services in the WASH sector. By so doing, they will influence budgetary allocations and this will be compounded by the budget monitoring processes.

Specifically we shall aim at:

- Increasing the capacity of citizens to participate in effective dialogue with decision-makers in the water and sanitation arena and build pressure to secure pro-poor service delivery.
- Increasing and improving the allocation of resources for the water and sanitation sector. This will be through a series of activities that will enable civil society actors to develop local understanding of budgeting processes and increase their advocacy actions for improved sector financing.
- Increasing the impact of the strengthened voice of civil society in the water sector.
- We shall continue to develop and disseminate advocacy materials for better service delivery in WASH.
- We shall continue to build capacities of VAWSCs to advocate for people's rights effectively.
- We shall use an integrated approach which encompasses issues such as long-term perspective and participatory planning that is broad based.

11. Campaign to promote Good Governance of Oil Resources in Uganda

Oil in Uganda has a long history, beginning when commercial oil was first confirmed in the 1920s. The first oil well was drilled in 1938. However, testing of the prospect did not go ahead despite the confirmation. More shallow wells were drilled between 1940 and 1950, for strategic purposes. The period between 1950 and 1980 saw little or no oil exploration activities in the country, largely because of instabilities. This meant oil remained in the ground while as agriculture, wildlife and tourism flourished.

Since 1986 there has been an influx of foreign investors including oil companies such as Tullow, Heritage, Tower Resources, Dominion and others. Oil rediscovered! Over 34 oil wells have since 1996 been drilled with 32 of those wells encountering hydrocarbons. Approximately 2.2 billion barrels of oil per year for 20 years is now estimated. This has put Uganda in the complex geopolitics of oil.

NAPE has over the years claimed its position in the political stream of Uganda, of which all civil society is a component. While the NGO has effectively played its civic role of putting human rights, environmental security, accountability and transparency at the centre of the socio-political culture of Uganda, it is not until 2007 that it began to work to ensure that the profile of these values is raised in the oil-rich Albertine rift.



Ngasa Oil Well near the shores of Lake Albert

In March 2007 NAPE commissioned a study to analyze the viability of constructing a mini Oil refinery in Kaiso-Tonya area, Block 2, the Albertine region. The findings of the study were shared with local partner and civil society organizations (CSOs). Together with these CSOs NAPE initiated engagement meetings with government and oil companies. The engagements that were held between May 2008 and August 2008 were based on a number of issues and concerns regarding the so-called Early Production Scheme (EPS), which included:

- The establishment of a mini oil refinery in a biodiversity hot spot, Kabwoya Wild Life Reserve.
- Comprehensive analysis of the laws and policies that would guarantee safe exploitation of oil and gas in an environmentally sensitive region, and issues of ownership and tenure of oil and gas resources.
- The EIA for the EPS at the time did not explicitly demonstrate either the full impacts or the sanctity and healthy of biodiversity in the region.
- In the second quarter of 2010, NAPE established a network of host communities in the oil region in

NAPE: Fourteen Years of Environmental Struggle in Uganda

Western Uganda to sensitize communities on oil issues and empower them to demand transparency and accountability from their leaders. NAPE also organized an African regional meeting with support from Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) to discuss the issues of oil and gas in Uganda.

- NAPE in the last quarter of 2010 organized a workshop for its staff and partner advocacy CSOs on investigative skills for conducting action-oriented research, the process of Extractive Industry Transparency Initiatives (EITIs) and Social Movement building.

In 2011, NAPE hopes to maintain the momentum on advocating for good governance on oil and building the capacity of groups and communities that are already affected and those that are prone to being affected in the near future. Among other things, NAPE will focus on Environment Impact Assessment (EIAs) for oil pipelines; organize further engagements with government and oil companies; recruit more host community groups into the Oil Watch Network with more emphasis on women; and take legal action against government officials violating the rights of host communities through harassments and illegal arrests.

NAPE intends to raise the visibility of civil society work in the Oil region through its Sustainability School programme.

Challenges

NAPE has encountered a lot of challenges during implementation of her work in the Albertine oil region. The major challenges include:

- State security interference especially in the oil region. Some field staff have been arrested for organizing meetings to talk about oil issues.
- Limited participation of the communities in issues of oil that affect them.
- Complacency and docility of the communities to engage their leaders on issues of transparency and accountability in the oil development process.

12. Building community cohesion and resilience through the Sustainability School

In 2009, NAPE started implementing a programme called the Sustainability School. The overall objective of the School is to “create a critical mass composed of communities, community leaders, growing Civil Society Organization (CSOs), able to hold the government, and global institutions accountable for the impacts of their actions on people’s livelihoods and national development”.

The Sustainability School is not a physical school with structured classrooms and learning periods but is based on popular education. It is ideological and philosophical in its the transmission of values and ethics which emphasize community empowerment. It is a combination of functional and coherent organizations where decision-making is participatory, with linkages across and within “classes” with power to challenge and hold the leaders accountable to the people they serve.

In this Sustainability School everyone is both teacher and learner. Because the school professes community resilience, cohesion, and sustainability, everyone is a professor.

NAPE realized that even some policy makers do not have adequate and timely information concerning the impact of national, private development actions and human rights abuses that affect communities. At the same time, the communities cannot freely express their views about the sustainability issues that affect them because they are fearful and complacent. NAPE has adopted a strategic approach to combine in its work with social and environmental aspects of development.

In late 2009, NAPE carried out a community survey in different parts of Uganda to identify the sustainability issues to be addressed by the programme.

Based on this, in February 2010, NAPE started the actual implementation of the Sustainability School programme with financial support mainly from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation of Germany. The School also later attracted some funding from the Open Society Initiative of East Africa (OSIEA) and the American Jewish World Service.

The Programme is currently spread in eight districts of Uganda, which are Kampala, Mukono, Buikwe, Kalangala, Buliisa, Hoima, Kiryandongo and Kamwenge. The School currently focuses on the following seven thematic areas:

- Good Governance, Accountability and Human Rights
- Oil Governance
- Large dams and energy
- Water and Sanitation
- Climate change
- Forests and Large Plantations
- Land use and food Security
- Mining in Protected Areas

The School targets NAPE partner CSOs, local communitybased organizations in thematic areas of operation, the media, community leaders, religious and cultural leaders, women groups, youth groups, the elderly and communities. The program works through sustainability villages where community members come together for continuous community learning to help them in tackling emerging sustainability problems. The community trainings are facilitated by Community Sustainability Educators who were trained by NAPE.

NAPE has established 12 sustainability villages in eight districts and trained 24 community educators. The sustainability school emphasizes gender mainstreaming in all its work and ensures that out of the two educators picked from each village, one is a woman. In March 2011, the NAPE sustainability school was officially launched to popularize the Sustainability School programme.

13. Campaign to promote Gender Parity

One of the pillars of the Millennium Development Goals publicized by National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) is the promotion of gender equality as well as women's empowerment. Like any other international or national NGO working for the achievement of the millennium development goals, NAPE actions have been contributing to the implementation of the millennium development goal on gender and equality through mainstreaming gender in its core program areas.

The year 1995 marked the beginning of the recognition of the international need to use gender mainstreaming as a tool to promote gender equity and equality. This was officially stated at the Beijing UN Women's Conference. Similarly in Uganda there is national awareness that gender mainstreaming is an important tool for national development.

Therefore at an early stage of NAPE's inception, it realized that the number of women participating in its activities was dismally low, lack of women in management positions in the organization, lack of knowledge about gender and the effect of gender on career development, absence of gender responsive research in specific projects that do conduct research, gender centered projects, and lack of a gender desk among others needed instantaneous attention.

In response to this, NAPE recognized the importance of mainstreaming gender in national conservation and in sustainable development. Since 1998 NAPE has worked with communities in water stressed areas, oil region, communities living around Lake Victoria, dam-affected, communities affected by impacts of large palm oil plantations in Kalagala among others in fulfilling its organizational goal, mission and objectives. Strategies were laid to reduce the gender



NAPE staff and their spouses

gaps. But this did not gain better shape until 2000 when NAPE established a functional gender desk to manage and address gender concern.

Achievements

Institution mechanisms for mainstreaming gender: The following systems and mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that gender is mainstreamed

- A gender Policy for NAPE was developed;
- A functional gender desk with a full time staff in charge of gender and community support;
- A committee on gender composed of 5 members (3 women and 2 men) was formed to work hand in hand with the gender officer for effective results; and
- A gender compliance framework to track progress

Building capacity for mainstreaming Gender

There has been continuous training of NAPE staff and board members on how to mainstream gender concerns and issues in their programmes. The training specifically focused on the following on: Gender: A historical perspective, Importance of addressing gender issues, reasons for focusing mainly on women and facts about gender, affirmative action in relation to gender, definition of key gender concepts, identification of gender issues, socialization process and facts about gender (what gender is all about). Other areas of focus are: The concept of gender mainstreaming, the gender mainstreaming process, gender and sustainability, gender focused advocacy issues and gender focused advocacy methodologies and Strategies for eliminating gender inequalities in community action. Others are gender analysis and gender analytical tools, the policy and legal framework, Gender and Development (GAD) and Women in Development (WID).

- The trainings have created a critical mass of staffs that are able to incorporate gender in their projects, draw measurement indicators (on small scale), evaluate and report in a gender sensitive manner. The board was able to incorporate gender mainstreaming as one of the appraisal measure of staff. Every was required to expound on how they have mainstreamed gender.
- There is increased equal participation of staff both women and men in NAPEs programs and activities. For example, women staff chairing organized staff meetings, projects coordinated by female staff.
- NAPE has stretched its gender mainstreaming by training its staff and their spouse on gender issues and challenges of a working spouse for great impact. NAPE management, the staff and their spouses appreciate the gender dimensions of work vis-à-vis the household gender relations.

Community Capacity Building for mainstreaming Gender

NAPE has built the capacities of its partners and the communities it works with to enable them appreciate gender as a development and human rights issue. Increased awareness of community members on their gender, gender and development, human rights and gender mainstreaming has been undertaken through community awareness trainings.

14. Building Effective Information and Communication Base

NAPE has taken advantage of the fact that access to information is essential for informed decision-making at all levels of society. Everyone is a user and provider of information considered in the broad sense that includes data, information, appropriately packaged experience and knowledge. Over the years NAPE has developed a strategy for boosting her knowledge base and ability to share information and experiences with strategic allies, brings people together to build and shape partnerships, and a joint programme of action on common issue themes.

In 2002, NAPE started a lobby and advocacy magazine called the NAPE Lobby. The NAPE Lobby is a bi-monthly magazine through which NAPE communicates our lobby and advocacy issues to the public, both within and without Uganda.

To date, NAPE has developed and published thirty six editions of NAPE Lobby that feature a wide range of topics and issues on environmental justice, human rights and good governance in Uganda. The magazine has gone a long way to inform and change the thinking of the public and policy makers on resources management issues and good governance in Uganda.

In addition, NAPE develops and publishes other lobby and advocacy campaign materials, including reports, fact-sheets and audio-visual materials in the different programme areas of the organization.



NAPE partners in the computer lab



NAPE library

In 2005, NAPE developed a website, www.nape.or.ug and has posted a lot of information to be shared with the public. NAPE website is also linked to a number of websites run and managed by many of our partners.

In 2007, NAPE established a computer lab for members to access internet and desk research. Students from higher institutions of learning and researchers make use of this computer lab.

NAPE has also built a good relationship with the media, both national and international. The media has helped amplify NAPE's campaign actions nationally and globally, hence changing the thinking and actions of many development actors in the different areas of environment and development and, to some extent, achieved environmental justice.

15. Host to other Networks

NAPE has been a secretariat to some of the networks of which, she is a member. NAPE has provided time, space and facilities and coordination of the activities of these networks. NAPE hosts the following networks;

African Rivers Network

Since 2005, NAPE has been a host to an Africa-wide network – African Rivers Network (ARN)- a network of over twenty five organizations that work on issues of social justice, environmental and human rights in regards to huge dam's development in Africa. ARN works to stop destructive dams and promote better methods of meeting energy and water needs of the African peoples.

NAPE has been providing a secretariat, chair, coordinator, and enabling facilities to run the activities of the network in conjunction with ARN partner members in other African countries.

ARN has been working to promote the World Commission on Dams (WCD) recommendations to ensure that project-affected people benefit from the projects. ARN works to empower the project-affected people to demand for transparency and accountability from their governments and the project developers.

ARN has been working with dam-affected communities in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Mali, Senegal, Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco, Cameroon, Mozambique, Zambia, South Africa and Swaziland. It has not been a smooth ride in the areas of advocacy and lobby for non-destructive project, but ARN has made the dam lobby movement a strong force.

In late 2009, ARN conducted a study on the impacts of Bujagali dam on gender and affected-women in the Bujagali resettlement areas. The research found out that women and children are the most affected by displacement. They lose their access to safe drinking water, fish in flowing waters, fertile land for farming food

and familiar spaces in the village where they have lived and rooted themselves. The report of this study can be found on ARN website; <http://sites.google.com/site/africanriversnetwork>

In 2010, ARN conducts campaign-related research on river ecosystems, the African energy and water sectors, dam building plans and better solutions to meet water and energy needs in Africa. The network also monitors specific destructive dam projects, and assesses their impacts, and analyzes cross-cutting issues such as the impacts of climate change on African rivers and dams.

Network on Sound management of chemicals in Uganda (NESMAC-U)

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is an international framework for sound management of chemicals. The framework recognizes the important role played by all stakeholders including NGOS in complimenting efforts of governments, since NGOS directly work with the communities who use the chemicals.

Since 2010 NAPE has been providing a secretariat to a national network of thirty five NGOs working to promote the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in Uganda. Civil society organizations spearheaded by NAPE formed a network called NESMAC-U to promote sound management of chemicals. NAPE has also been providing a secretariat, chair, coordination to run the activities of the network in conjunction with NESMAC-U partner members in the East African region and internationally.

The use of chemicals and chemical based consumer products in Uganda is steadily growing, and so is the chemical industry. Today the chemical industry is one the most important industrial and commercial sectors in the country. A number of consumer products on the market can be classified as being potentially harmful to human health and the environment.

NESMAC-U aims at attaining sound management of chemicals in Uganda by 2025. Its vision is to have an environment that is free from chemical hazards and a mission of having a Uganda that safely utilizes and sustainably manages chemicals.

Objectives of NESMAC-U

- To raise awareness among the public, government workers organizations industries, development partners and other sectors on sustainable chemicals management;
- To create a forum in which members can share information, plan and work together;
- To enhance the capacity of members institutions and individuals in areas of chemicals management;
- To advocate and lobby for better policies and laws that promote sound management of chemicals and strengthen enforcement;
- To carry out research, document and disseminate information on sound management of chemicals;
- To promote collaboration with government, civil society and private sector on the sound management of chemicals;
- To mobilize resources to meet the objects of the network;
- To carry out any other lawful activities that may assist the network to achieve its objectives.

NESMAC-U will therefore promote collaborative NGO action towards sound management of chemicals. It is an important tool in mobilizing and coordinating NGOs and significantly contributes to the cause of sound chemicals management.

Partners NAPE works with

In an effort to contribute to the development of Uganda, NAPE has been working with various stakeholders, and these include, among others:

a) Communities

- Communities affected by dam projects (Bujagali and Karuma dams)
- Communities living near protected areas and reserves (Forests and National parks)
- Communities living around Lake Victoria
- Communities living in the oil region
- Communities in water stressed areas (Mbarara, Luwero and Mukono)
- Communities affected by large plantations (Kalangala, Mabira)
- Communities living near cultural forests and cultural sites

b) National coalitions and networks

- Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD)
- East African Communities for Management of Lake Victoria Resources (ECOVIC)
- Network on sound management of chemicals (NESMACK)
- Uganda Forest Coalition (UFC)
- Friends of the Earth Uganda (FoE-U)
- Oil Watch Network – Uganda
- Climate Action Network – Uganda (CAN-U)
- Pesticide Action Network (PAN – East Africa)
- Uganda Nile Discourse Forum (UNDF)
- Publish What You Pay (PWYP)
- Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET)
- Nile Basin Discourse (NBD)
- Uganda Wildlife Society (UWS)

c) International coalitions and networks

- International Rivers (IR)
- Living Lakes International
- African Rivers Network (ARN)
- Friends of the Earth International (FoEI)
- Global Forest Coalition (GFC)
- Climate Action Network (CAN)
- Pesticide Action Network (PAN)
- Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)
- International Pesticides Action Network (IPEN)
- African CSO Network on Water and sanitation (ANEW)
- African Biodiversity Network (ABN)
- Oil Watch International
- World Forest Movement (WFM)

d) Development Partners (National and international)

- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
- Open Society for East Africa (OSEA)
- Friends of Lake Victoria (OSIENALA)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Fund for Global Human Rights
- Wetlands International
- Global Green Grants (GGF)
- Artists Project Earth (APE)
- United Support of Artists for Africa (USA)
- African CSO Network on Water and sanitation (ANEW)
- African Biodiversity Network (ABN)
- Bank Information Centre (BIC)
- Siemenpuu Foundation
- American Jewish World Services (AJWS)
- Global Association for People and the Environment (GAPE)
- Water Aid - UK

17. Pictures of some of the activities of NAPE featured



NAPE working with a community in Kashari to construct a water reservoir, 2011



NAPE petitioning Parliament over high electricity tariffs, 2006



NAPE meeting with a community in Buliisa over sustainability issues, 2011



NAPE in a national workshop to popularize geothermal energy in Uganda, 2004



NAPE with Kalangala community at the periphery of a Palm oil plantation, 2010



NAPE with Inspection Panel team of the WB & AfDB meeting Bujagali dam-affected people, 2007



**A Publication of the National Association
of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)**

P. O. Box 29909 Kampala, Uganda

Phone: +256 - 414 - 534453

Fax: + 256 - 414 - 530181

E-mail: nape@nape.or.ug

<http://www.nape.or.ug>