

Sustainability School Bulletin

23RD EDITION | MARCH 2020



Editorial

Mr. Frank Muramuzi
Executive Director NAPE



Welcome to the 23rd edition of the Sustainability School bulletin which has been prepared both in hard and soft form for your convenience.

This also is the first edition to be published in 2020. We therefore use this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. We started publishing this bulletin in 2013 as a way of keeping

a track record of the key activities implemented within the Sustainability School Programme and also generating debate on contemporary sustainability issues of concern in Uganda and the world at large. Previous editions are available online at; www.greenradio.ug

In 2014, the Community Green Radio (CGR) was born out of the main Sustainability School Programme. This bulletin therefore carries articles about the Sustainability School Programme

and the Community Green Radio. We thank those who have contributed articles and those that gave feedback on previous editions. Our special thanks go to the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation of Germany whose financial support has enabled us to continue publishing this Sustainability School bulletin.

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

NAPE'S COMMUNITY GREEN RADIO RECEIVES THE LIZ HUGHES AWARD FROM FARM RADIO INTERNATIONAL

By Samuel Kakeeto

NAPE's Community Green Radio (CGR) on Sunday 8th March, 2020 received the 2020 Liz Hughes award from the Canada based Farm Radio International.

The award was handed over to the NAPE Executive Director Mr. Frank Muramuzi by Mr. Stephen Ecaat, the Farm Radio Country Representative at a colourful function held at the CGR offices in Kiboga Town Council.

In his remarks, Ecaat said the radio won the award because they devote enough time to women issues.

"What made you stand out was the huge amount of time you give to women to discuss their issues. You have also allowed women to speak for themselves on radio", he said.

Ecaat said that CGR beat 59 other radios picked from all over the world to win the award. He said that the award is given annually in memory of Liz Hughes who was a renown Canadian broadcaster on women emancipation issues. Some of the other radios that participated in the 2020 Liz Hughes



NAPE staff and officials from Farm Radio International pose for a photo with the award certificate. Extreme left in a green shirt is Mr. Frank Muramuzi, the Executive Director of NAPE. In the middle in white African wear is Mr. Stephen Ecaat from Farm Radio International.

Award for **Her Farm Radio** include RTB Gaoua from Burkina Faso, Radio Munyu from Burkina Faso, Radio Kwizera from Tanzania, Kitulo FM from Tanzania and Fana Broadcasting Cooperation from Ethiopia

rewarded. We are committed to giving more space on the radio to women to air their views," Muramuzi said.

He congratulated the staff that work on the Community Green Radio for the many milestones achieved in the short lifespan of the radio. For this particular achievement, he thanked in a special way Ms. Precious Naturinda and Ms. Sarah Kyeyune who gather information and host live radio talk-shows for the **Nyinabwenge** Programme.

Muramuzi expressed unreserved gratitude to NAPE development partners for their support to the work and development of the Community Green Radio. He particularly singled out the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (RLS) of Germany, the Open Society Initiative for East (OSIEA), the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and the Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR) that

While receiving the award, Muramuzi thanked Farm Radio International for recognising the efforts of the CGR in championing the cause of women. He promised that more efforts would be put in to amplify the voices of grassroots women especially those facing challenges arising out of the extractive industry and climate change.

"We are so delighted that our efforts in amplifying the voices of grassroots women are being



The award that NAPE received from Farm Radio



Some of the listeners of the Community Green Radio that attended the award giving ceremony

have since 2014 provided funds for the operations of the radio and capacity building of the staff.

The award giving ceremony coincided with the International Women's Day celebrations. The function was attended by local leaders and the radio listeners, predominantly women.

Ms. Sarah Nakitende, a woman councilor at Kiboga District Local Council decried the high level of gender based violence in mid-western Uganda. She said that most violence at home arises out of conflicts related to home property use.

"There is need to keep sensitizing men to allow women to use land and

determine what happens to the proceeds. The right of women to inherit property and be heirs also needs to be recognised," she said. Israel Yiga, the Kiboga District chairperson praised the radio for giving ample time to programmes that address women issues.

"I have been listening to this radio and following the time they accord to women issues. Therefore, this award is not a surprise to me. I implore them to continue promoting women issues", the chairperson said.

The CGR **Nyinabwenge** programme which was singled out for the award runs every Saturday evening for two

hours. This time is convenient for rural women who are often busy during the day. The programme is aired in local languages focusing on issues important to rural women in their area, like farming, environmental conservation, food security, domestic violence, health, and social issues among others.

The Community Green Radio was established by NAPE in 2014 in the oil region of Uganda to fill the gap left by many other radio stations in Uganda in covering environmental and natural resources governance issues. Much as the radio still has a lot of requirements in the infrastructure development section, NAPE right from its inception has always refused to compromise on the quality of its programming and service to the listeners. The main studios of the radio are in Kiboga Town but the radio covers many Districts which include Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Hoima, Kikuube, Masindi, Kibaale, Mubende, Luwero among others.

The radio currently has over 20 listeners clubs based in those districts. During the 5 years of its existence, the CGR has stood out as a mouth-piece for the grassroots communities promoting food sovereignty, rights of marginalised people such as women and giving a voice the communities affected by the oil activities.



Some of the representatives of NAPE development partners that attended the function. Mr. Samuel Kasire (left) from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and Mr. Richard Mugisha from the Open Society Initiative For East Africa (OSIEA)

ARTISANAL MINERS WANT MORE SENSITIZATION ON BORAX TECHNOLOGY TO PHASE OUT MERCURY USE IN GOLD MINING

By Precious Naturinda

Artisanal gold miners in Kasanda District are calling for more awareness and sensitization on other methods in gold extraction to completely phase out mercury use which is hazardous to environment and harmful to human health.

According to artisanal gold miners, most of them still use mercury in extraction of gold despite its

visible dangers on their health and environment.

Mr. Ivan Kauma, a member of Kitumbi-Kayonzo Miners' Association (KKMA) in Kasanda says though the safer borax method has been introduced, the miners are still stuck on old technology of mercury use which calls for intensive trainings.

Mr. Kauma explains that many artisanal miners are used to mixing mercury with gold ore before exposing the mixture to the heat to separate the gold from the rock. He explains that the miners are poisoned by mercury vapor released in the process of heating.

Mr. Bernard Mutesasira, another gold miner, notes that most miners use mercury without protective gears and that the washed water polluted with mercury is just poured on the ground; contaminating the soil and underground water.

"Those who have been in the business have complained of absorption of mercury into the skin causing corrosive skin, headache, back pain and constant shaking which is highly attributed to the use of mercury," Mutesasira says.

Ms. Joyce Katusiime, a woman miner dealing in buying and crushing the ore at Lubali mining site in Kasanda District says that though the

TURN TO PAGE 6 



An artisanal miner using mercury to extract gold

// Borax is advantageous over mercury since the former increases productivity and high gold recovery that results in better overall economics of miners, borax is readily available on the market, cheap and its use in mining legal in Uganda.

Ms. Peruth Atukwatse, the Officer in charge of Chemicals Management and Climate Change at NAPE

demonstration on how Borax works has not yet been done, the theory trainings they have had so far show that use of borax is better if adopted by all the miners.

She explains that much sensitization is needed to ensure that gold miners work in a mercury free environment in addition to further awareness rising on the effects of mercury.

National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) with support from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)-Uganda, a small grants program under United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has been working with other partners and government to reduce mercury use and promote use of borax as an alternative technology in Kasanda and other mining districts in Uganda.

Ms. Peruth Atukwatse, the Officer in charge of Chemicals Management and Climate Change at NAPE is delighted that the artisanal gold miners now know and appreciate the dangers associated with use of mercury and are willing to uptake other safer alternative technologies.

She says the introduction of Borax is in line with Minamata Convention on mercury which was adopted in 2013.



A miner exposed to mercury poisoning through direct contact without personal protective equipment (PPE)

The convention, which Uganda is a signatory, set clear time-bound targets to phase out the manufacture, export and import of mercury and mercury added products.

Ms. Atukwatse explains that as NAPE, they aim at reducing the health and environmental risks of mercury and they will continue to sensitize miners on borax use until mercury use is completely phased out.

She says borax is advantageous over mercury since the former increases productivity and high gold recovery that results in better overall economics of miners, borax is readily available

on the market, cheap and its use in mining legal in Uganda.

The survey carried out by NAPE and other partners between July and August 2018 established that the levels of mercury pollution in the blood of miners, soil, and water and food crop contamination were very high in the mining districts of Busia, Buhweju, Mubende, Namayingo and Karamoja.

The Community Green Radio has continued to sensitise the artisanal miners on the dangers of using unsafe methods of mineral extraction and the safer options available.

REAPING THE FRUITS OF NYINABWENGYE RADIO TALK-SHOW



By Precious Naturinda

A 50 year old Ruth Kasimba lives in Butimba village in Kikuube District; a few kilometers near where Uganda's proposed oil refinery will be constructed in Kabale parish in Uganda's oil-rich Hoima district.

Like any other rural woman, Kasimba collects firewood for cooking- the exercise she describes as physically exhausting but also mentally draining.

However, as a peasant farmer who grows different types of crops for food and sale, Kasimba could not believe that the daily-throw away garbage like banana and cassava peelings could turn into fortune to save women from the long distance walks to collect firewood.

In one of the Nyinabwenge radio talk shows at Community Green Radio, Kasimba learnt about how to convert peelings into charcoal briquettes.

"I learn on radio that after collecting the peelings, they are spread under the sun for some hours until they get dry. The dried peelings are then burnt slowly until they become ash," she said.

"The ash is then mixed with soil and cassava porridge and then poured into a charcoal presser machine to come up with briquettes or one can use hands to make the briquette size of their choice," she added.

Kasimba, who is a member of Butimba Listeners Club in Kikuube District, sold the idea 15 other group members and now they are currently making briquettes for home use and are trying to expand the business for economic venture.

Kasimba is among many listeners who are trying to put into action what they listen to on radio.

Away from making charcoal briquettes, Butimba listeners club is engaged in making indigenous tree nursery beds

Ms. Precious Naturinda (extreme left, white dress), the presenter of the Nyinabwenge Programme and Miss. Sostine Namanya (extreme right, flowered dress) pose for a photo with some women who listen and contribute content to the Community Green Radio

to conserve the environment.

Butimba Listeners Club is one of the pioneer clubs that started with Community Green Radio during its inception in 2014. The radio started with 11 listener's clubs from Hoima, Kikube and Buliisa Oil-rich districts. Currently, more listeners clubs have been created in districts of Kyankwanzi and Buliisa.

The women-dominated listeners' club members don't only listen. They put into action what they have learnt and also train other new listeners clubs about what they are doing.



Mrs. Peninah Ruhindi

Penina Ruhindi, a member of Kigaaga Community Radio listeners club in Kabale village in Hoima district- which is adjacent to the oil refinery says they are putting into action the lessons from the radio to ensure sustainable agriculture by planting indigenous trees which encourage agro-forestry and also defend their rights as women.

“When we listen, we reflect on our community and identify the challenges talked about. We then try to find the solutions. Like now we are taking it upon ourselves as listeners club members to encourage women to gain confidence and speak up on issues affecting them and defend their rights.

We encourage women to go on radio, as women we have started practicing boundary tree planting to defend our land from grabbers,” she said. Norah Bahongye, a member of Kigaaga Listener’s club says she is happy to listen to her favorite women’s program-Nyinabwenge in evening

“ When we listen, we reflect on our community and identify the challenges talked about. We then try to find the solutions. Like now we are taking it upon ourselves as listeners club members to encourage women to gain confidence and speak up on issues affecting them and defend their rights.

time when she has retired from her day’s duties on Saturday.

“This radio has changed the lives of many women. I did not know that me as Bahongye, a rural peasant farmer can be on the radio. I thank the radio management for aiming at elevating the status of women in society. I have

indigenous knowledge on farming like best seed selection and pest control which I have shared on radio and even people come looking for me to learn. I also know that as a woman I have a right to protect my crops from being sold by my husband from the garden. This has been common by the way because men knew we can’t defend ourselves. But listening to my voice on radio itself makes him think am empowered and I can do anything to protect myself,” she said.

For close to seven years now, Nyinabwenge show- Women’s program has played an important role in women’s lives by amplifying their voices so that they can be heard, engaging them in policy making and protection of property rights, improve food security and address gender gaps in the environmental arena.

Women are engaged in conservation efforts and addressing climate change being leading by examples in their communities and disseminating their expertise using the radio.

Butimba Listeners Club in Kikuube District, Kigaaga listeners club in Hoima District and Ngwedo Listeners Club in Buliisa among others are all engaged in raising indigenous trees and distributing to community members.

They are also engage in food security and seed sovereignty campaigns by constructing granaries at households and having group seed multiplication gardens(of indigenous seeds which are facing extinct) which are then distributed amongst themselves.

According to Allan Kalangi, the officer in charge of the Radio at NAPE, many women contribute a lot towards development but their contributions and success are underreported. However, giving them a program has become a platform for them to sensitize others and they feel they are recognized in society.

INJUSTICES, POOR LIVING CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO HAUNT OIL REFINERY AFFECTED RESIDENTS IN KYAKABOGA RESETTLEMENT CAMP IN HOIMA DISTRICT

By Precious Naturinda

Residents of Kyakaboga resettlement camp in Buseruka Sub-County in Hoima District have decried the devastating conditions in the camp in addition to injustices resulting from delayed promises from government.

The residents, who opted for resettlement after being evicted from their land to pave way for oil refinery in Kabaale parish, say they are fed up with government's 'empty promises' of first class murram roads, land titles and safe water as it was indicated in the Resettlement Action Plan.

Sadam Tekakwo, the Chairperson of the resettled residents says they feel insecure without land titles in the oil-rich district where land grabbing is high.

"Seven people in the resettlement camp have been affected by the oil pipeline, however, they have failed to sign consent forms because they have no land titles. Even us who prefer to sell our houses in the camp due to poor living conditions and shift to other places, can't sell due to lack of land titles," says Tekakwo.

Phabis Shabohurira, a resident says poor roads have cut off access to markets for their produce affecting their livelihood. She adds that though they have water tanks, women trek long distances to water points where one has to even join a long cue.

"The roads are very poor; we are forced to sell our produce cheaply because we have no option. This is affecting us women since most of us depend on agriculture for livelihood," she says.

The residents also say that congestion in the camp has led to conflicts and poor hygiene.

"The toilets, which are close to the



// The roads are very poor; we are forced to sell our produce cheaply because we have no option. This is affecting us women since most of us depend on agriculture for livelihood,"

houses, have already started smelling with in just 2 years of our stay here. Besides that Buseruka is known for having cholera outbreak during rainy season. We are worried the future is not bright for us," says Ketra Musinguzi.

Grace Cupato another resident says conflicts among residents are on increase due to cultural differences and congestion. "One cannot leave a goat or chicken at home, you find when it has been either stolen or killed," says Cupato

One of the almost impassible roads leading to the resettlement camp in Kyakaboga in Hoima. Women say they have been cut off accessing market for their produce and health centres

Innocent Tumwebaze, the secretary for Oil Refinery Affected Residents Association (ORRA) says they are continuing to put pressure on government to ensure that the promises made are fulfilled.

Tumwebaze says with empowerment from National Association Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) and other civil society organisations, they will keep the pressure on in their quest for justice.

"If we do not fight for ourselves, no one will fight for us. Recently when I contacted one of the officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, he told me they are still processing our land titles. We shall not give up until we get what we were promised," says Tumwebaze

RURAL WOMEN IN KIKUUBE DISTRICT IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BUGOMA FOREST GIVE AWAY

By our reporter

Ever since Masindi High Court gave a green light to Hoima Sugar Limited to use 22 square miles of Bugoma Central Forest Reserve for sugar cane growing, pressure has been mounting to clear the forest.

Hoima Sugar limited has already submitted the Environment Impact Assessment (ESIA) to National Environmental Management Authority, which once approved will see the clearance of native vegetation woodlands for sugarcane.

Amidst this, the communities adjacent to the forest have also intensified their fight using Community Green Radio, door to door campaigns against the giveaway and engaging National Forestry Authority Authorities to avert the destruction.

"Hoima sugar Limited has failed to involve us to explain why they are interested in the forest we have

protected for long. We are engaging the communities adjacent to resist the giveaway of the forest," says Aida Mbabazi, the Chairperson of Kaseeta Collaborative forest Management in Kikuube district.

Over 30 women organised under Kaseeta Collaborative Forest Management from Kaseeta Parish in Kabwoya subcounty-where Bugoma forest sits- in Kikuube district, say they are determined to use the available platforms to raise awareness against the forest destruction in addition to planting trees.

During the visit to the group for a pre-recorded show to appear on Community Green Radio in March, 2020, the members said they embraced agroforestry and boundary tree planting on private land to protect the forest from being encroached on by local communities.

They however, said that they feel demoralized that the forests is being

taken away by people who have not lived nearby to appreciate its importance.

Flora Kyomuhendo, a resident of Nyanseke village, a few meters to Bugoma forest says owing to the traditional set up that women are responsible for growing food and collecting water and firewood, they intensely feel the impacts of environmental destruction.

The women are spearheading the campaign against Bugoma Forest giveaway in collaboration with the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE).

In an effort to conserve the forest, NAPE sensitizes communities and gives them a media platform-Community Green Radio where they appear in radio programs or their voices are recorded to raise awareness.



Some of the women of Kaseeta CFM with the banner of save Bugoma Forest campaign



Mbabazi Addah in Mutoha stream that originates from Bugoma forest

RESIDENTS RETURN TO THE LAND EARMARKED FOR THE OIL PIPELINE IN HOIMA

By Precious Naturinda

Several residents affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Hoima, and Kikuube districts have lost patience and returned to the demarcated areas to cultivate crops.

The decision stems from the delayed compensation of the affected families and lack of activity on the land.

Samuel Tugumisirize, the Butimba village chairperson in Kikuube District says the affected people returned to their land and cultivate maize, beans, tomatoes, sweet and Irish potatoes since they are uncertain when the pipeline activities will resume.

"Many people have resorted to using their land that the government had earmarked for the oil pipeline because it is idle. The challenge I foresee is when years pass and the government comes back to utilise the same land. Conflicts are likely to arise then," Tugumisirize said

Kirungi Kadri, the Hoima District Chairperson says the suspension of the oil pipeline activities have since triggered mixed feelings among the affected residents.

He reveals that government hasn't engaged the affected communities on the next course of action, adding that the PAPs have to keep track of the pipeline process through regular sensitization, which is not being done.

Total Uganda contracted NewPlan Limited to carry out the mapping and valuation exercise.

However, government suspended the oil pipeline project in September 2019 following the collapse of Tullow-Total deal, which slowed the project. In 2020, government entered a joint venture partnership and resumed the project. The new deal was expected to be signed early this year.

However, the Energy and Mineral Developments Minister, Mary Goretti Kitutu Kimono, says the matter was left to the president, saying she has nothing much to comment on the matter at the moment.

The Ugandan section of the pipeline is about 296km and passes through 10 districts, 25 sub-counties and 172 villages, of the total length of 1,443km from the proposed pump station in Hoima to Chongleani terminal near Tanga port on the Indian Ocean.



Some residents of Kikuube District look at posters displayed in their communities by the Ministry of Energy showing those to be affected by the oil pipeline. This was in March, 2019.