



# Sustainability School Bulletin

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# Editorial

**Mr. Frank Muramuzi**  
Executive Director NAPE

## WELCOME TO THE 19TH EDITION OF THE SUSTAINABILITY SCHOOL BULLETIN.

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; [greenradio.ug](http://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](mailto:nape@nape.or.ug) or [at.kalangji@nape.or.ug](mailto:at.kalangji@nape.or.ug)

# ENCHROACHERS REFUSE TO VACATE KIYANJA WETLAND DESPITE ONE MONTH ULTIMATUM

*By Edison Ndyasiima and Peter Nsamba*

Residents occupying Kiyanja trans-border wetland have refused to leave despite government's one month ultimatum to voluntarily vacate.

Towards the end of January, government started demarcating the wetland- which covers Kiboga, Mubende, Nakaseke, Kasanda, Mityana and Luweero district - to avert further encroachment and gave occupants up to the end of February to harvest their crops and voluntarily pull down their structures.

The exercise, that will be was carried out in sub counties of Bukomero, Dwaniro and Bukomero Town council, involved tracing the boundaries and planting the pillars.

However, appearing at Akatuti program at Community Green Radio, the Kiboga District Environment Officer Esther Nampela said they have already started destroying the pillars while others have gone ahead to prepare for the coming seasons. Nampela said the district authorities



*Some of the encroachers on the Kiyanja wetland*

have served the encroachers with the last warning letters before forcefully evicting them.

"The exercise consumed government money therefore they can't sit and see people frustrating government work. We shall investigate those destroying the pillars and whoever will be found guilty will be brought to book," she said.

The environment officer said government will continue using the radio to sensitize people to voluntarily leave the wetlands and if they fail, they will flush them out by force.

Nicholas Magara, the coordinator of wetlands in central region,

who spearheaded the boundary demarcation, said the threat being imposed by human activities on the wetlands forced them to demarcate its boundaries.

Records from the Kiboga District environment department was indicate that 60 per cent of wetlands in the district have been degraded through human activities such as farming, house construction, bricklaying and sand mining.

Akatuti program is a daily talk show on Community Green Radio which discusses topics for community benefit with focus on environmental, health and education issues among others

## WOMEN CELEBRATE THEIR DAY WITH PRACTICAL TRAINING ON CHARCOAL BRIQUETTES MAKING



By Precious Naturinda

For a 60-year-old Norah Bahongye, a resident of Kigaaga village in Buseruka sub county Hoima district, cooking with a traditional three-stone stove has been not only physically exhausting but also mentally draining exercise for all her life.

According to Bahongye, a member of Kigaaga Listener's club, three-stone stoves consume much fire wood

and trekking long journey that takes women to dangerous places far from their homes in search for firewood is a daily routine for many women in rural areas like Kigaaga.

She explains that the exercise that is also time wasting comes with challenges of women being raped, attacked and sometimes getting accidents.

Bahongye is among over 30 rural women who took part in practical

training organized by National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) on how to make charcoal briquettes out of organic waste on Women's day held on 8th this year in Butimba Village in Kizirafumbi Sub County in Kikuube district.

The training which was facilitated by local trainers NAPE's sustainability school of Kaiso-Tonya was to reduce on dependence on firewood for



[A] Sorting the ash to remove impurities, [B] Inserting the ash mixed with soil and cassava porridge into the briquettes maker machine, [C] Laying out the made charcoal briquettes in the sun to dry.

cooking, reducing on deforestation and also helping to protect women and girls.

The women went through the process of making charcoal briquettes out of the locally available materials together. They gathered the peelings from people's homes and dried them.

"After collecting the peelings, we spread it under the sun for some hours until they get dry. The dried peelings are then burnt slowly until they become ash. It can be in a drum or in open as long as there is no much wind to blow away fire," explained Sylvia Kemigisa, the chairperson of Kaiso Tonya women's group.

The peelings were then converted into briquettes. The ash was mixed with soil and cassava porridge and then poured into a charcoal presser machine to come up with briquettes. "The ash is left to cool. We then add cassava porridge and soil to make it stick together. The solution is then

poured in charcoal presser machine which helps to partition it into briquettes," she explained as women did the work.

Ruth Kasimba, another beneficiary from Butimba Sustainability Conservation Association expressed excitement saying she could not believe that throw-way garbage like banana and cassava peelings could turn into fortune to save women from the long distance walks to collect firewood and equally conserve the environment.

"I will also train women in my area who have not got a chance to attend the training since we are all affected when it comes to collecting firewood," she said.

NAPE also supported women in Butimba with three charcoal presser machines to help them sustain charcoal briquettes making to train other women in the community.

Sostine Namanya, the NAPE's Gender and Food Security officer said NAPE was piloting charcoal briquettes making in Butimba village as an innovative clean energy alternative for rural women.

She said the community demonstrations will be rolled out to other villages and districts to help women overcome the challenge of firewood crisis and reducing on deforestation.

"Charcoal briquettes can be a best substitute for firewood and charcoal that people are using which has disastrous effects on environment," she says. She adds, "As the Women's day theme for 2019 says, women need to think, build smart and innovate for change, that's why NAPE decided to come up with this innovative initiative that helps women to outsmart the challenges they face just because they are women."

## NAPE STARTS A YOUTH LED MOVEMENT TO GIVE A VOICE TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE



Members of the Youth Movement during a training on Sustainable livelihoods conducted by NAPE recently in Kalangala District

By Peruth Atukwase

In oil rich region of Uganda like elsewhere in the world, the young people form a constituency of dynamic groups in society who have the capacity to play crucial roles in positively transforming the current capitalistic exploitative development models, and build foundations of democratic, just and sustainable societies.

Unfortunately, the potential of young people is missing in the development equation. To this, one of the priority areas of NAPE has been to developing a youth program that targets building the potential of young people and strengthening their capacity to promote sustainable use and good management of Uganda's natural resources.

To enhance this program, NAPE in January 2019, started a grass root

Youth-Led Movement to give a voice and a platform to the young people to organize and mobilize themselves as one strong voice to be able to address social and environmental injustices. The youth have unique and diverse perspectives that can enhance environmental justice movement that NAPE, other likeminded organizations and the youth desire.

The movement currently consists of the youth and youth groups in the already existing structures of NAPE, like the sustainability school villages, listeners' clubs of the NAPE Community Green Radio among others. We hope to scale up the movement to cover all the operational areas of NAPE by 2021.

Shaba Jacenta, a member of Kigaaga Oil and Gas Affected Youth Group (part of the movement) says the young generation has not been involved in

development processes yet if involved they can take part in innovative ways of finding solutions.

"Like women, many children and youth trek long distances to collect water and firewood but I believe when we sit together, we can say, let us start making charcoal briquettes as a solution to firewood. So finding solutions are one the reasons we decided to form a group and requested NAPE to start a movement of young people so that we can raise their views, concerns and hopes and influence decision makers," Jacenta explained.

With oil infrastructural development that requires more land, many people in the Oil region are faced with evictions and displacements to pave way for development. The challenges that come with such heavily fall on vulnerable groups including children and youth.



The NAPE Executive Director, Mr. Frank Muramuzi (right) shakes the hand of Mr. Joris Van Bommel, the Deputy Dutch Ambassador to Uganda during a field visit to the oil palm affected areas in Kalangala District. The Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs funds NAPE's Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) Programme through a strategic partnership with IUCN Netherlands, Tropen-bos International and Friends of the Earth Netherlands.

The field visit that comprised of other stakeholders such as representatives from IFAD, OPUL, VODP, Kalangala District officials, CSO representatives and local communities was aimed at looking at the impacts of the palm oil industry in Kalangala District and how to mitigate the negative ones.

The stakeholders were also keen on drawing key lessons from the Kalangala experience for new areas earmarked for oil palm growing in Buvuma, Buikwe, Mayuge and Masaka Districts. They agreed that the errors that were done in Kalangala should not be repeated. These include land grabbing, inadequate compensations, encroachment on buffer zone, deforestation among others.



*Stakeholders discussing the impacts of oil palm growing on the environment and people's livelihoods*



*NAPE staff and some community members from Kihagya village look at the degraded Kihagya cultural forest. The new Sustainability village of Kihagya has committed itself to ensuring that this community forest is restored and conserved*