



Sustainability School Bulletin

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Mr. Frank Muramuzi
Executive Director NAPE

Editorial

This is the 22nd edition of the Sustainability School bulletin which has been prepared both in hard and soft form for your convenience.

This is also the last edition to be printed in 2020. 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



Community Green Radio
Boza Green. Hurra Green

Currently the **COMMUNITY GREEN RADIO** broadcasts full time from its own studios on Kiboga Hill in Kiboga town. It can be accessed via frequency 103.9 FM
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NAPE WINS 2019 UGANDA RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT (URI) AWARD AS THE BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

By Allan Kalangi

National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) has received the 2019 Uganda Responsible Investment (URI) Award for being the best environmental protection organisation of the year.

NAPE was recognized and appreciated for its contribution towards attainment of Uganda Vision 2040 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SGDs) through promoting and upholding international best practices and standards.

The certificate of award was received by the NAPE Executive Director, Mr. Frank Muramuzi on 22nd November, 2019 during a high level Uganda Responsible Investment Summit and award ceremony that was presided over by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The ceremony that was held at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala was organised by Public Opinions and Office of the Minister of State for Privatization and Investment.

Addressing the participants, President Museveni expressed concern over massive degradation of wetlands and forests which he said he will not tolerate any longer. He attacked irresponsible investors who have degraded forests and



President Yoweri Museveni shakes hands with some NAPE staff shortly after they had received the award

wetlands thinking they are promoting sustainable development yet they are greatly contributing to climate change.

Mr. Muramuzi said the award manifests the visible achievements by NAPE especially in areas of environmental protection and human rights.

“Now that the government has come out to recognize our efforts, it means that NAPE has hit its target and goals as an environmental organization,” Muramuzi said while addressing staff. Mr. Rajab Bwengye, the Coordinator of Projects at NAPE said that receiving the award is a clear sign of the firm footprint that NAPE has put in the

struggle to protect and conserve the environment in Uganda and beyond. “NAPE has been criticizing big environmental polluters and degraders, manufacturing industries, mining companies, oil companies, companies producing consumer products using chemicals and others.

So being awarded as the best environmental organization in the presence of sector players is an indicator that we have done our part to ensure that these private sector companies observe the laws, guidelines and best practices for environmental protection,” Mr. Bwengye said.



NAPE Staff display the award certificate at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala

NAPE has been at the forefront in campaigns against environmental degradation which among others include; campaign to save Mabira Forest, campaign against Bujagali falls destruction and the save Bugoma Forest campaign.

In 2007, NAPE disputed the giveaway of around 27 square kilometers of Mabira forest to Sugar Corporation of Uganda Limited (SCOUL) owned by Mehta Group of Companies for sugarcane plantations. The government in collaboration with SCOUL had proposed to de-gazette this part of the forested land and transfer its ownership to the sugar company.

NAPE in conjunction with other civil society groups in Kampala formed a pressure group codenamed 'Save

Mabira Crusade' which mobilized Ugandans across the country and beyond to protest the forest de-gazette plan. The government bowed to pressure and abandoned the plan to de-gazette the forest.

However, in 2011, the government again attempted to resurrect the de-gazette plan but NAPE and other civil society met the president who suggested a joint research between the activists and State House on economic values of the forest which would inform the government on their next step. Since then, the government has kept silent on the Mabira forest issues.

NAPE was also against the construction of Bujagali power dam saying it would not benefit Ugandans and it presented numerous

social, economic and environmental problems.

However, the Government and World Bank did not listen to the concerns of environmental activists and went ahead to approve the dam project in 2001. Today the dam that was expected to add 250 MW to the national grid is unable to produce 180 MW and electricity demand continues to rise in the country. NAPE had at that time warned that Bujagali would not generate the projected megawatts.

In Albertine Region, NAPE has campaigns against Bugoma forest give-away for Sugar cane plantation, campaign on food security and seed sovereignty and protection of sacred natural sites.

CGR NEW LISTENERS CLUBS PLEDGE TO RESTORE INDIGENOUS SEEDS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY



By Dorcus Drijaru

Although food security initiatives such as agricultural trainings and food banks sustain the nutritional needs of communities through all seasons and any unforeseen environmental challenges, the indigenous seeds that aid sovereignty are presently rare.

The Community Green Radio (CGR), newly formed listeners' club members have pledged to restore the lost indigenous seed varieties by mobilizing and liaising with other communities other than planting new breeds often cherished as "improved varieties".

"As a group, it is important that we mobilize and encourage different community members towards restoring the indigenous seeds that have disappeared to ensure food security" says Joseph Kisule from Lwamata listeners' club.

The new Community Green radio listeners' club members from Lwamata town council and Nabidondolo in Kiboga and Kyankwanzi districts respectively engage in different livelihood activities like cash revolving fund. They now want to engage in the restoration of indigenous food species.

Some listeners of the Community Green Radio with some NAPE staff in the studios of the Community Green Radio in Kiboga Town in December, 2019

Asuman Ssembatya from Nabidondolo listeners club says community members are resorting to modified seeds that mature within short period yet the varieties can't be stored for long.

"The community has also kept off the practice of storing indigenous seeds for restoration purposes and they no longer use granaries to fight food insecurity" Ssembatya said.

The indigenous and traditional seeds that have been eroded due to the

introduction of quick maturing seeds include Maize, beans, sorghum, millet, cassava and many more.

Besides planning to cultivate indigenous crop varieties, the clubs are into poultry ventures, fruit growing and apiary among others. According to Jannat Kengonzi of Lwamata Listeners' club, indigenous seed varieties can be restored through sensitisation of masses because there are many households that are not aware about the importance of planting these varieties.

"We have both indigenous and traditional fruits that help the population during food crisis. Cultivating them for other purposes is also not bad other than resorting to modified plants" Anna Mary Nakitende from Nabidondolo Listeners Club explained.

NAPE through the sustainability school programme introduced the food security and sovereignty campaign in 2013 to enable different communities adopt indigenous seed varieties so as to promote food security through planting and establishment of granaries for food storage.



The Community Green Radio Station Manager Julius Kyamanywa addressing listeners of the radio in Kiboga recently

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOOL ACTIVISTS AGREE TO PUT MORE FOCUS ON LAND RIGHTS IN 2020



By Julius Kyamanywa

Sustainability School activists have agreed to put more focus on fighting for increased land rights for grassroots communities in the 2020 period.

The over 40 activists drawn from Sustainability villages and listeners clubs of the Community Green Radio made the assertion during the end of year planning and review workshop held at Atkon Hotel in Kiboga Town in November, 2019.

Mr. Peninah Ruhindi from Kigaaga Sustainability village in Hoima District said that development at the community level can only be sustained

if people were assured of their land rights. "Everything that we do including agriculture, environmental protection activities, etc have to be done on land. As you have heard from the presentations of colleagues here many of us feel threatened that our land may be grabbed from us.

We therefore need to concentrate more on activities aimed at safeguarding our land. With our land secure, we can then continue with our development activities with more confidence," Mrs. Ruhindi said

In the workshop, the activists shared experiences about their work. The new listeners clubs were appreciative of the exchange visits to the sustainability school projects in other areas that they say has encouraged them to start up their own projects for sustainability.

Some of the activists who attended the 2019 end of year Sustainability School review and planning meeting in Kiboga Town

Allan Kalangi, the sustainability school manager said NAPE was still interested in the land question and would continue to work with different stakeholders to contribute to reducing land grabbing in the country.

He called upon the activists to use all means possible to defend their land but also to add value to their activities on the land. He said that one such avenue was the Community Green Radio. He said all the School activists had the radio at their disposal free of charge and that they should use it to amplify their voices and in sharing useful information on their community projects.

TIMELY COMPENSATION REMAINS A NIGHTMARE IN UGANDA AS OIL DEVELOPMENTS TAKE TOLL ON OIL HOST COMMUNITIES

By Precious Naturinda

The public hearings for the Environmental Impact Assessment (ESIA) report of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project that were held in October 2019 were marred by the outcry of the project affected persons (PAPS) over delayed compensation.

During one of the public hearings held in Kikuube district, the projected affected persons expressed dissatisfaction over the delayed compensation yet they were cut off from using their land.

"We have been waiting for close to two years for compensation in vain. We are unable to use our land as one of the conditions given after completion of the surveys and mapping of the pipeline route yet payments are also not forthcoming" said Joseph Katongole, one of the affected residents.

According to the report by New Plan, a company which was contracted to undertake the process of verification

of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs), about 4000 people are affected by the project from the districts of Hoima, Kikuube, Ssembabule, Luweero, Kakumiro, Rakai, Kyankwanzi, Mubende, Kyotera and Gomba.

The PAPs have high expectations of getting a lot of money and change their lives for better while others are living in fear of losing their land since most of them derive their livelihood from agriculture.

However, a look at similar developments that call for relocation and compensation show that things have not been good and the compensation target was missed



making the affected people live a miserable life.

Hoima

A case in point is the 29 square kilometer piece of land in Kabaale Parish in Hoima district where government compulsorily evicted people to pave way for an oil refinery. The Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) that was developed by Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to guide compensation and resettle the PAPs indicated that the compensation was to take just 8 months from 13th June 2013 and was expected to end by 13th February 2014.

But according to the value for money audit that was conducted by the Auditor General in 2017 to assess whether the ministry adequately compensated the affected people in a timely manner, there were delays in compensation and resettlement.

The report says the PAPs were affected is that by the time they received their money, the price of land in neighboring villages had risen, making it difficult for them to acquire land of equivalent size.

For those who opted for resettlement, construction of the houses and other resettlement infrastructure such as schools and health centres that was supposed commence in October/ November 2013 was delayed by two years.

The residential houses and Buseruka Health Centre III were completed in 2017 while the construction of the schools was not yet complete by the time of audit in November 2017. This saw many children drop out of school due to long wait. Up to now, the PAPs are still pursuing the land titles, piped water and good roads that were in the RAP to no avail.

Innocent Tumwebaze, the secretary for Oil Refinery Affected Residents Association (ORRA) says they are



One of the CPF affected residents in Buliisa District standing in front of the house being constructed for her by the government. She says it is too small to accommodate her family

continuing to put pressure on government to ensure that the promises made are fulfilled.

Buliisa

In Buliisa, poor and delayed compensation has frustrated the livelihoods of the residents affected by Central Processing Facility (CPF) in Ngwedo Sub-county. Government acquired land measuring about 310 hectares which will host the CPF, access road and base camp during the petroleum activities, according to the Resettlement Action Plan, leaving over 700 people affected.

According to the Sub-county Chairperson, Steven Kaliisa Munange, the compensation for the property has been marred by delays and low rates, which has affected the residents especially women, who derive their livelihood from agriculture.

He explains, "Three years down the road, government has gone silent on 8 people who preferred cash compensation for their land after rejecting 3.5 million shillings per acre, those who preferred land to land compensation have waited in vain while those who were compensated

for crops and property were inadequately compensated." Margret Nyakato, 42, a mother of 8 says she was given 20 million shillings as compensation for the crops and a single roomed house which is undergoing construction. She says, "I received the money but because it delayed, it found me in debts. I have now resorted to selling firewood for survival since I have nowhere to cultivate."

Alice Kazimura, the Executive Directive for Kakindo Orphans care, a local advocacy group in Buliisa that works with National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) says they continue to advocate for the rights of communities by engaging the government and oil companies. She says they are also sensitizing women to come up with alternative income generating activities apart from selling grass and firewood.

Allan Kalangi, the Manager for sustainability school program at NAPE says government and oil companies should consider a holistic approach to compensation that enables projects affected persons to be better off after displacement.

NAPE Launches Women Hold Up The Sky Film in Hoima Western Uganda; Women Activists Pledge to Hold Up Resistance Struggles to End Men's Dominance



Some of the Women activists at the launch of the "Women Hold Up the Sky Film" in Hoima Municipality recently

By Sostine Namanya and Precious Naturinda

With some of the characters from Hoima and Buliisa, the documentary, *Women Hold Up the Sky* tells the story of how women activists affected by mining and other forms of large-scale extractives in Uganda, South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are deeply engaged in resistance and active struggle to take back the control of their land, rights, bodies and their lives.

"Now that we are back on the land, nobody should interfere with our rights as women. If they come to evict us again, we shall die to the last person standing," said Lucy Ongiera a community group leader for Rwamutonga women savings group in Hoima district in the film.

The film reveals the experience and activism of women in the three African countries but tells a much bigger story of the ongoing exploitation of natural resources and marginalization of poor communities, particularly women.

"The oil companies destroyed our crops, driving through with the tractors, graders, wires and trucks. When they came to pay, I realized the money they brought was not the right amount, so I rejected it. When I complained, they said they didn't care. I went to court to sue them. And the case has been in the high court since 2011, motionless. We are like squirrels against an elephant because the elephant is huge and can run over you and squash you," said Margaret Kagole, the chairperson of the Tulime Hamu Mbibo Zakadde Women's group

in Buliisa, another character in the film.

The film that was done with support from the WoMIN-an, African Gender and Extractives Alliance, in partnership with the National Association of professional Environmentalists (NAPE) The Uganda film launch was attended by women affected by oil developments, women activists, government leaders who pledged to

unite together to strongly hold up their struggles on land and their rights in the era of oil development. "I have heard in the documentary one women saying that her husband was beaten and left unconscious during eviction in Rwamutonga. What if it was my husband, me who has no eyes, who can't see? How would I have looked for him? Some of these real life stories make us emotional but it's a lesson for us as women to stand up

and fight for our land. We need to come together as women," said Joy Nalongo Rufunda, the Chairperson of Blind Women Association.

Margret Kagole from Buliisa said women should not give up in fighting for their rights on land and be organized in groups to be able to have one strong collective voice. "I thank NAPE for empowering me. I have been empowered to stand up and fight for what belongs to me. Like for my land case that has been in court since 2011, I think the people I am battling with have now feared me. They have started calling me for peace talks but I refused because I have my lawyer. I have heard it in corridors that I will be compensated. This is what we need as women. We hold on, we don't give up," Kagole said.

Bernadette Plan, the Secretary for Gender for Hoima District asked women to work hard and hold up to their struggles against the injustices that have come with oil development in the district with the sky being the limit.

Catherine Byenkya, the Minister for Health in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom hailed NAPE for going on ground to bring out the untold stories of women. She asked women to work together as women and build a platform where the voices from the grassroots to national level can be heard. "Thank you NAPE for loving women. Let's work together as women to build ourselves. Let's stand bold

and speak up in defending our rights on land," said Catherine Byenkya.

Sostine Namanya, the Gender and Food Security Officer at NAPE applauded women who took part in the documentary. She said land issues, environmental degradation and climate displacements affect women most and the documentary gives a lesson on what women face in other countries compared to Uganda and how they are taking on their resistance struggles.

She added that "Women hold up the sky" is a character-driven film about African women who are deeply engaged in struggles to take back control of their land, their rights, their bodies and their lives. The film tells us about women's experiences and their dreams for development.

The film will be used by allies in the global North will use it for training, political education, lobbying and advocacy. The film will also be the centerpiece of a women-led women's rights African campaign on fossil fuels, energy and climate justice.

The film will cultivate greater awareness of the costs of extractives-driven development, and its gendered costs, amongst civil society organizations and the wider public, and it will be used to advocate and campaign for the needed development alternatives to governments and multilateral bodies, like the African Union and the United Nations.



“Women hold up the sky” is a character-driven film about African women who are deeply engaged in struggles to take back control of their land, their rights, their bodies and their lives. The film tells us about women’s experiences and their dreams for development.

– Sostine Namanya, Gender and Food Security Officer, NAPE

NAPE STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN ACTIVISTS AT GRASSROOTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



Women activists within the NAPE Sustainability School network join the campaign against gender based violence

By Precious Naturinda

November 25 marks the International Day of elimination of violence against women, which begins the 16 world wide activism campaign against gender-based violence that goes up to December 10.

The day is observed every year to raise awareness on the fact that women are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence around the world.

Following on from last year, this year's global theme once again focuses on violence and harassment in the world of work.

As one of the activities to raise awareness campaigns, NAPE organized media interactions with Women human rights Defenders (WHRD's) in Bunyoro region to share experiences, strategies and struggles in the face of violence against women.

The women expressed concern over the rising cases of gender based- violence that often go unreported for fear to speak out, impunity by perpetrators and gender inequality.

Peninah Ruhindi, a woman activist from Kigaaga in Kabaale Sub County in Hoima says the compensation of persons affected by oil developments has triggered violence in the oil-rich region as men want to take control all the compensation money.

Harriet Kemirembe, the chairperson of Kijayo camp of people who were evicted for Sugarcane growing in Kijayo in Kikuube district says many women who have undergone sexual harassment and rape in the camp have suffered in silence due to fear to break their marriages and shame. She says women are instead freeing their homes in the camps due to the psychological torture they undergo. "Women fear to pass through the sugar plantations because they have been raped and sexually harassed by the employees in the sugar factory but they can't speak. Where do you start from? Even back in the camp, we are sexually harassed by our husbands in the face of our children due to the nature of the makeshift huts we sleep in. A man wants to have sex with you when the children are listening. It hurts," she said.

Jenipher Beitwamaswa, from Navigators of Development Association (NAVODA), a community Based Organization in Hoima says efforts to take up legal actions on sexual harassment and rape have become hard because the victims fear to speak out to give evidence.

"There is a case of rape from Kijayo camp that we were following where a man pushed the woman out of the house only to be raped by the sugarcane workers. However, we failed to take it on because the victim has failed to speak out," she said.

Despite the challenges, women activists who have been empowered by NAPE are coming up together as a collective power to mobilize other women in communities to speak up in the face of violence. They say through their women groups, they talk about the challenges affecting them including gender-based violence and how to find solutions.

Evas Katusiime, a resident of Kakindo in Buliisa says violence is used as a mechanism that suppresses women

yet women should have equal access to resources, opportunities and services as men. She said women should join groups to be able to stand together to fight the challenges.

"I thank NAPE for empowering us, it has opened our eyes. Gone are the days when women were violated against and remained silent because there is widespread advocacy through trainings and forming groups. I believe together, we can speak up and fight for our rights," Katusiime said.

WHRD's urged the government leaders to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace by putting in place and

implementing sexual harassment policies by regularly and promoting the policies, translate into relevant community languages. Put in place reporting mechanisms and promote gender equality. Provide regular trainings and information to women workers and activists.

Women human rights defenders like Evas face many risks to protect their rights, so NAPE and its allies will continue standing in solidarity with women in addressing violence through sensitization, amplifying their voice and bring out the untold stories that women and girls face.

