



FAITH-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP IN UGANDA

Pope Paul VI Memorial Hotel, Ndeeba, Kampala, Uganda
24th - 25th March, 2014

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

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Acknowledgement

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The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) and Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) are highly appreciated for organizing the workshop. The Jane Goodall Institute-Uganda (JGI Uganda) and Uganda Faiths Network on Environmental Action (UFNEA) are greatly indebted for co-hosting the workshop.

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Introduction

The two-day workshop on developing faith-based environmental education in Uganda was organized by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) and the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) in Uganda, in partnership with the Uganda Faiths Network on Environment Action (UFNEA) and the Kenya Organization of Environmental Education (KOEE). It brought together 120 stakeholders drawn from various fields, including religion, environment, education, civil society, government policy institutions and development partners, to discuss the role of faith-based environmental education (EE) in Uganda's formal education system (schools etc) and in its non-formal sector (youth groups, Sunday schools etc). The guest of honor was Hon. Flavia Nabugere Munaaba, the State Minister for Environment.

Background

The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) is a UK-based secular international organisation that works with major faith groups around the world to help them develop environmental programmes based on their own teachings, practices and scriptures. For the last four years, ARC has been working with faith communities in sub-Saharan Africa on sustainable land and water management, with support from the World Bank, the Norwegian Government and USAID (via the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG)). In September 2012, 27 Christian, Muslim and Hindu faith communities launched long-term action plans on the environment in Nairobi, Kenya. Their plans prioritised widespread engagement of faith communities in environmental and climate change awareness through the faiths' influence, trust and leadership, including promotion of faith-based environmental education through schools as well as for congregations, using avenues such as Sunday schools (for Christian groups) and Madrassas (for Muslims), for example.

Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots has already developed curricular materials that integrate EE into Madrassa syllabus for muslim schools. The goal of Roots & Shoots in the classroom is to provide the educational community with a network of resources to engage youth with their local ecosystem through the development of meaningful service campaigns. The goal is to teach students the importance of giving to their community and develop within them a sense of empowerment that comes from helping others. The programme therefore encourages environmental action learning (EAL) as an aspect of Education for Sustainable Development, as does the Eco-Schools strategy promoted by KOEE in Kenya.

The March 2014 workshop for Uganda looked at the need for integrated faith-based EE; identify gaps, challenges and opportunities in the Ugandan curriculum; discuss developing a faith-based EE initiative for Uganda; and provide a forum for the development of joint initiatives. In particular, it sought to achieve the following objectives: Promoting an integrated faith-based approach to EE, Sharing best practices in EE from Kenya and Tanzania (in the formal education and non-formal systems), initiating the establishment of a network of faith-based partners in EE and Finding a way forward for developing faith-based EE in Uganda. In addition, the workshop sought to highlight experiences from Tanzania and Kenya as well as JGI's Roots & Shoots programme, and the Faith-based Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Teacher's Toolkit developed by ARC and the Kenya Organization for Environmental Education (KOEE). The newly constituted Uganda Faiths Network (UFNEA) will also share its vision of inspiring faith-based environmental action.

IMAGES FOR WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS



Participants join the guest of honor Hon. Flavia Nabugere Munaaba (Front row seated in the middle) for a group photo. In total, 120 delegates attended the two day workshop.



Mary Bellekom, the Education Programmes Manager, ARC welcomes participants to the workshop. Together with Susie Weldon, they introduced participants to ARC activities.



Dr. Panta Kasoma, the Executive Director-JGI Uganda introduces participants to JGI activities in Uganda.



Roots & Shoots Pupils of St. Peter's Primary School Nsambya presented an exciting skit and environmental song to the participants



Roots & shoots pupils of St. Peter's Primary School Nsambya were excited to have a group with Minister for Environment (Middle front row) who was the



Hon. Flavia Nabugere Munaaba, the Minister for Environment and Guest of Honor pledged on behalf of government to offer support for the faith-based ESD initiative.



Suzie Weldon (ARC) together with Haji Hammed Muguluma (UFNEA) present grafted fruit seedlings to the Guest of honor in appreciation for her participation at the workshop despite her busy schedule.



Ms. Rosie Agoi, the Assistant Secretary General at the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO attended the workshop and donated 100 copies of the ESD strategy for Uganda. UNESCO is the UN body charged with responsibility of implementing the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development



Ms. Beatrice Adimola, the Director of Education at the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) updated participants about the state of Environmental Education in Uganda



Dr. Dorcas Otieno, the Executive Director Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education (KOEE) shared with participants their experiences in developing the ESD teachers' toolkit. The toolkit is supposed to be adapted by all East African Countries so as to come up with their own.



Mary Bellekom (ARC) presents the ESD toolkit for teachers to participants. The toolkit integrates faith values into ESD and it is meant to be used by Primary School teachers.



Suzie Weldon (ARC) facilitating at one of the workshop sessions



Shadrach Kamyori (Left) of JGI Tanzania and Umar Tumwine (Right) of JGI Uganda, share their experiences with participants on integrating faith values into Roots and Shoots activities.



Group presentations by participants as the workshop was highly interactive and participatory



Sara Juko (Standing) of JGI Uganda gives advice to participants about the best ways of using ARC's seed grant. ARC has a small grant that they would wish to give to Ugandan faith groups or Roots & shoots to implement conservation activities.



Dr. Fr. Lucian Arinaitwe, the Head of Education at the Catholic Secretariat was impressed by the Roots & Shoots Pupils of St. Peter's Primary School Nsambya, one of the Catholic founded Schools in Kampala with amazing Roots & Shoots activities.