

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies

Wangari Maathai Institute's pioneer graduands conferred and awarded with degree of the Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Governance and Management by the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi at the University of Nairobi's 53rd graduation ceremony



University of Nairobi

NEWSLETTER

2015: A Year in Review

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was honored to graduate its graduands at the University of Nairobi's 53rd graduation ceremony. In this colorful ceremony held on September 4th 2015, Dr. Kweyu Raphael Mulaha and Dr. Mutune Jane Mutheu were conferred and awarded with degree of the Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Governance and Management by the Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi. Dr. Kweyu's study was on, "**Linking**

the social and the spatial in forest related conflicts: The case of **Eastern Mau Forest Adjacent Communities, Kenya**", while Dr. Mutune's worked on, "**Livelihood impacts of decentralized forest management: A case study of Eastern Mau Forest Reserve, Kenya.**" The duo demonstrated discipline and commitment to their studies as they worked closely with their supervisors.

The Institute is grateful to the supervisors, Faculty members, and



"One aspect of a love of nature that we need to foster is experiential. Nature – and in particular, the wild – feeds our spirit and a direct encounter with it is vital in helping us appreciate and care for it. For unless we see it, smell it, or touch it, we tend to forget it, and our souls wither." - Professor Wangari Maathai, *Replenishing the Earth*



From the left, Prof. David M. Mungai, Deputy Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, Dr. Mutune Jane Mutheu, Dr. Kweyu Raphael Mulaha and Prof. S.G. Kiama, Director Wangari Maathai Institute after the UoN's 53rd graduation ceremony

wPOWER Hub led an African Delegation to India for an India-Africa Exchange on Sustainable Clean Energy Entrepreneurship

The wPOWER Hub at the Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) led a 24-member team from Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania to India as part of an India –Africa exchange program. The project is supported by the U.S. Department of State. This exchange visit focused on experiential learning of the major domestic energy opportunities and technologies, including solar and clean cooking solutions.

The team also experienced the work of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) at the grassroots and witnessed a Training of Trainers (ToT) session in and around Pune, India. While in India, the team also attended the wPOWER global partnership forum, sponsored by USAID India and Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP). The forum was held in New Delhi at the India Habitat Center on April 16th-17th, 2015. Over 100 women entrepreneurs and

climate, gender & energy leaders convened to discuss the pivotal role played by women in last-mile distribution of clean technologies and celebrated their successes and shared experiences about overcoming their barriers to success. As part of the India-Africa exchange, the team also visited the Headquarters of The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), TERI University and TERI Gram in India where they learnt and experienced best practices in Clean Energy Entrepreneurship and training

During the forum, Ms. Wanjira Mathai, Director of the wPOWER Hub, & Chair of the Green Belt Movement (GBM) spoke during the opening plenary and participated in a panel discussion on Leveraging Women's Leadership & Networks for Inclusive & Sustainable Development. Prof. Kiama Gitahi, Director of WMI spoke on forging partnerships and the role of Institutional stakeholders in strengthening women entrepreneurs, their capacities and networks through multi-stakeholder partnerships.



Prof. S.G. Kiama, Director, WMI together with other delegates during the India _Africa exchange visit



mentoring the two.



Participants learning about the mini grid and solar lighting products

Learning by Doing at the Institute (SLUSE 2015)

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University conducted a successful two weeks experiential training in Lari District, Kiambu County, from the 27th February to 11th March 2015.

The course was attended by 20 international students (from both University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University) and 10 local Kenya students. The theme was “Challenges faced by Communities in Sustainable Natural Resource Management”. The students were hosted by the local communities and KENVO for the entire period and were clustered into five groups each dealing with a specified thematic areas namely Livestock, Agriculture, Water, Forestry and Domestic Energy. On the last day of the field study, the students gave feedback to the community on their findings and recommendations.



From the left, David Kuria, Director, KENVO, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, Faculty members, WMI and University of Copenhagen, students from both University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University and the University of Nairobi, Wangari Maathai Institute and Community members group photo after successful conclusion of SLUSE 2015



Prof. Wahome receiving his certificate of appreciation from Prof. Kiama Director, WMI

Learning by Doing at the Institute (Global Field Exercise (GFE) 2015

Global Field Exercise (GFE) is an experiential training which was held from 14th February to 28th February 2015. It involved graduate students and professors from Graduate Program in Sustainability Science, Global Leadership Initiative (GPSS-GLI), University of Tokyo and Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi. The main theme of this field training was "Sustainable Urban Development". The field exercise was carried out in Kibera in collaboration with Umande Trust (an NGO in Kibera).

The students were grouped into three thematic areas i.e. Solid Waste Management, Alternative Energy and Livelihoods and Assets. The Solid Waste Management group carried out their study in Makina area of Kibera, Alternative Energy - Laini Saba area of Kibera and Livelihoods & Assets - Sarang'ombe area of Kibera. The students were in the field for 10 days collecting data according to their thematic area of study.

With the help of guides appointed by Umande Trust, the students were able to go round the three identified villages in Kibera interviewing the residents and generally collecting data. On the last day, there was Community feedback whereby the students presented their findings and recommendations to the Community.



WMI PhD students together with their counterparts from University of Tokyo while in the field at Kibera collecting data

Wangari Maathai Institute launched Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Auditing (EA) Course

The Institute conducted the Integrated Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit (EIA) Certificate Course for potential Lead and Associate Experts on 7th to 24th April 2015

Six (6) participants registered for the training and successfully completed the short course and were awarded their certificates in a ceremony held on the 15th of May 2015 at 10:00am at the Upper Kabete Campus.

The course participants came from a wide range of professional backgrounds – banking, small-scale mining, law research and reporting, and community forest associations among others. The course was facilitated by experienced environmental assessment practitioners drawn from the University, Kenya Bureau of Standards, NEMA and independent consultants and it was facilitated by Prof. David N. Mungai, Deputy Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies.



From the left 1st row; Ms. Gitau, Ms. Mlagui and Mr. Mithamo, 2nd row from left; Ms. Mbaabu & Mr. Lupao, 3rd row from left; Prof. C.M. Mulei, Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Prof. A.W. Mwang'ombe, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and Prof. S.G. Kiama, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, 4th row from the left ; Mr. Kirui, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Prof. David N. Mungai, Deputy Director, WMI and Mr. Tirop, LARMAT.

Wangari Maathai Institute held a collaborative meeting with representatives from the Women Foundation for Africa.



From the left Alicia Cebada, Juan Jose' Conde from Women Foundation for Africa, Jane M. Mutune, Wangari Maathai Institute, Dr. Jane Wambui, African Women's Studies Centre and Prof S.G. Kiama, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute.

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies held a meeting with Alicia Cebada and Juan Jose' Conde from the Women Foundation for Africa on the Implementation of a joint project on Kenyan Women's Business Ecosystems with a view to preparing a report on the major obstacles and opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Kenya. Ms. Jane Mutune, Wangari Maathai Institute and Dr. Jane Wambui, African Women's Studies Centre were identified to work with the team for the implementation of the project.

Guest Lecturers share their experiential knowledge with WMI students



Dr. Dan Kiambi, the Executive Director of African Biodiversity Conservation and Innovations Centre (ABCIC), delivered a thrilling seminar on, **"Biodiversity: A Resource for Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods,"** on 23rd September 2015.

Dr. Dan Kiambi is the Executive Director and Founder of the African Biodiversity Conservation and Innovations Centre (ABCIC). Dr. Kiambi holds an MSc in Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources and PhD in Biological Sciences (plant molecular diversity and eco-geographical surveys) both from the University of



Ms. Monica Lengoiboni delivered a Seminar on **"Pastoralists Seasonal Land Rights in Land Administration"** on 6th Thursday August 2015.

Ms. Lengoiboni is an Assistant Professor at University of Twente, Netherlands. She is a Geographer whose research concerns pastoralists' seasonal migrations; the spatial and temporal components of their customary land rights; and how such flexible land rights could be accommodated, instead of being left out in the formal system of land administration and cadastres.



Reva Prakash delivers a Seminar on, **"Understanding environmentalism in the global south: analyzing select readings from Kenya on justice, equity and rights"** on Friday 8th May, 2015.

Reva Prakash is a Senior Research Fellow (University Grants Commission, India), a PhD candidate at the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and a visiting researcher at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies. She has an M. Phil in International Politics and an M.A. in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University.



Mr Amane Kobayashi delivered a seminar on **"Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Regional Security: a case study of Kajiado District,"** on Monday 23rd March, 2015.

Amane Kobayashi is a PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Media and Governance; Research Associate, Global Environmental System Leaders Program, Keio University, Japan and an affiliated researcher at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi. He also holds M.A in Media and Governance and B.A. in Policy Management from Keio University, Japan

Wangari Maathai Institute Celebrates Wangari Maathai and Africa Environmental Day on March 6th 2015

The Institute led the Community at Kereita, Lari District in Kiambu County to Celebrate the Wangari Maathai Day. This day was set aside by 2012 AU summit to be known as Wangari Maathai day and African Environmental Day.

The day was marked with pomp and color. The community of Kereita joined the students at KENVO resource Center to celebrate the day. Entertainment was provided by KENVO traditional dancers.

The guest of Honor was Hon. Esther Njuguna, Minister of Environment Kiambu County who attended accompanied by Mr. Bernard Kinyua Deputy County Commissioner and Mr. Stephen Kiiru Lari Sub-County Administrator and other local leaders. Our SLUSE participants both local and international students attended the event too.

Several trees were planted to commemorate the event.



One aspect of a love of nature that we need to foster is experiential. Nature and in particular, the wild-feeds our spirit and a direct encounter with it is vital in helping us appreciate and care for it. For unless we see it, smell it, or touch it, we tend to forget it, and our souls wither".

From Replenishing the Earth, by Wangari Maathai



1. Seated from Left: Mr. Bernard Kinyua Deputy County Commissioner, Prof. Mungai Deputy Director, WMI, Mr. Stephen Kiiru Lari Sub-County Administrator, Hon. Esther Njuguna, Minister of Environment Kiambu County, Prof. Stephen G. Kiama, Director Wangari Maathai Institute together with Director KENVO, WMI Faculty Members, Community Members and Msc students from University of Copenhagen and Wangari Maathai Institute
2. Hon. Esther Njuguna, Minister of Environment Kiambu County planting a tree
3. KENVO dancers entertaining the guests
4. Mr. Stephen Kiiru Lari Sub-County Administrator planting a tree
5. Mr. Bernard Kinyua Deputy County Commissioner planting a tree as Prof. Kiama, Director WMI and Dr. Thenya look on

Ms. Claire Nasike Akello wins the third Wangari Maathai Scholarship Award

Ms. Claire Nasike Akello's love for the environment can be traced back at her tender age of eight years in her flood prone village of Port Victoria in Budalangi. Her late grandmother, as she puts it, was her biggest influence as she grew up while following in her footsteps for caring for the environment. Claire is currently leading a project dubbed "Return to Sisterhood", a project that seeks to empower school children to regain control of their environment. She has so far reached out to more than 400 girls in various schools within her community.

Ms Claire was the third recipient of the Wangari Maathai Scholarship that was awarded on 9th June 2015 in a colorful event hosted by the Green Belt Movement at Kilimani. **The Wangari Maathai Scholarship Fund** is an environmental innovations fund set up in memory of Prof. Wangari Maathai that is aimed at developing action-oriented young people with strong values and commitment to the conservation of the physical and social environment in Kenya.

The event was presided over by Dr. Isaac Kalua, Foundation Chairperson, Green Africa Foundation. Others who spoke during the event included, Ms. Janet Mawiyoo the CEO of Kenya Development Foundation, Ms Mwihaki Muraguri the Associate Director, Rockefeller Foundation, Ms Wanjira Maathai the Chair of the Green Belt Movement and Prof. Kiama Gitahi, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute.

Prof. S.G. Kiama underscored the value of the scholarship which is named after Prof. Wangari Maathai. He emphasized that a scholarship normally reflects the value of the donor or the person it is named after. In this case, it is named after Professor Maathai who epitomized the value of sacrifice, volunteerism, passion and commitment to whatever she undertook. Prof. Kiama wished Clare all success in her studies and community work and encouraged her to continue being a good example to her community and all other people she relates with.



Prof. S.G. Kiama, Ms. Wanjira Mathai, Dr. Isaac Kalua, Ms. Claire Nasike and other guests

WANGARI MAATHAI INSTITUTE HOLDS 3RD STAKE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20TH AUGUST 2015

The Wangari Maathai Institute was excited to hold the 3rd STAKE Project Steering Committee meeting held on 20th August 2015 at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, University of Nairobi. The STAKE project is an exciting partnership between the Wangari Maathai Institute, the Green Belt Movement (GBM), Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. It is expected to contribute to stability in Kenya by understanding and targeting the underlying factors that lead to conflicts over forest related resources. This 3-year project funded by the Danish Development Agency (DANIDA) will also contribute to Kenya's long-term development by mentoring and training the next generation of talented, young academics through provision of scholarships for Masters and PhD training.

The project provides for a Project Steering Committee (PSC) which is responsible for Strategic project management as well as external advocacy (in policy and practice). The steering committee is expected to meet annually to receive progress report on the accomplished activities, to provide directions on upcoming activities and on any policy issue that may arise



From right front row; Prof. Iben Nathan, UC, Prof. Vibeke Vindelov, UC/STAKE Projector Coordinator, Aisha Karanja, Executive Director, GBM, Prof. Linda Nielsen, UC, Mr. J. Kagombe, KEFRI, Ms. L.N.S. Kong'ani, WMI, back row from the left, Mr. C. Mwangi, GBM, Dr. B. Chikamai, Director, KEFRI, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, Prof. R.G. Wahome, UoN, Prof. Jens Emborg, UC & Dr. Thuita Thenya, UoN/STAKE Projector Coordinator after the 3rd STAKE Project Steering Committee.

Wangari Mathaai Institute Staff Participate in the 4th GPSS-GLI International Symposium at the University of Tokyo, Japan, 19th - 23rd November 2015



Lilian N.S. Kong'ani (M.Sc. student, WMI) receiving the best poster award (third place) from the Chairman of the Poster Evaluation Committee, Prof. Makoto Yokohari of the University of Tokyo)

Lilian Kong'ani participated in the 4th International Symposium organized by the University of Tokyo's Global Program in Sustainability Science – Global Leadership Program (GPSS-GLI) which was held on 19th-20th November, 2015 at the Kashiwa-no-ha Conference Centre in Tokyo, Japan. Participating faculty and students were drawn from leading universities from around the world including Lund University (Sweden), Clark University (USA), University of Wisconsin – Madison (USA), National University of Singapore, the University of Nairobi (Kenya), Harvard University (USA), the Australian National University (Australia), National Cheng Kung University (Taiwan), among others.

During the Symposium, Lilian Kong'ani won the best poster award – third place, for a poster titled **“Adoption and Use of Clean Energy Cooking Technologies for Sustainable Communities: The Case of Nairobi Urban Poor”**.

Dr. Mutune Jane, Mutheu, Wangari Maathai Institute, University of Nairobi successfully participates in Intensive Core (IC) Courses at the United Nations University- Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability



Jane and colleagues during an excursion at Kamakura

Dr Mutune Jane, Mutheu, participated in the Intensive Core (IC) Courses at the United Nations University- Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability in Japan held between 7th September to 9th October 2015.

Every year UNU- IAS organizes the regular session of its five-week Intensive Core Course at United Nations University Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. The intensive course has been on offer since 1998 and is designed to provide analyses of global issues from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. Although advanced in nature, the course is open to postgraduate students and professionals in various occupations who are not necessarily specialists in the field. The IC courses autumn 2015 had four components that included: UN systems and Global Challenge, Global Change and Resilience, Human Development and Global Sustainability, Natural Capital and Biodiversity

Experiential Learning at Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies continues to expose the students to practical issues through Field training.

This year the students visited Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO), a Community Based Organization in Lari County working with the community to conserve Kereita Forest; Makomboki Tea Factory Murang'a County where they learnt about the briquette energy pilot project. They also visited Bishop Masika Model farm in Yatta, Machakos County where they saw community transformation at work. Bishop Dr. Masika is teaching the communities to be food secure and stop the dependency on relief food. The students also visited Karura Forest to learn about Friends of Karura success story as a Community Forest Association (CFA) and Dandora dumpsite where they fully appreciated the challenges of solid waste management in Nairobi City County



Director WMI, students, Dr. Mary Njenga and staff of Makomboki Tea Factory pose for a group photo after a brief

wPOWER Hub at Wangari Maathai Institute conducted a Series of Community Trainings on Sustainable Clean Energy Entrepreneurship



Prof. S.G. Kiama, Director Wangari Maathai Institute & Academic Director, wPOWER Hub leads participants to plant trees during the Community Training on Clean Energy in Muranga County

The wPOWER Hub held five community training on sustainable clean energy entrepreneurship in 2015. The training aimed at enhancing agency and skills in women-led entrepreneurship in sustainable clean energy market places in the region. The activities of the partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewable ("wPOWER") are supported by the US State Department

The Hub is targeting to train 950 grassroots women and youth from 19 regions in Kenya . Both trainings have benefited a total of 155 trainees. These series of trainings form part of .

wPOWER Hub at the Wangari Maathai Institute is working together with the Green Belt Movement, MacArthur Foundation, Global Alliance for Clean Cook stoves, CARE International, Solar Sister, Women for Women International and the Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) India, to empower women energy entrepreneurs across Africa and Africa.

Message from the Director



Prof. S. G. Kiama, BVM, MSc, PhD
Director,
Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace &
Environmental Studies
Email: kgitahi@uonbi.ac.ke

2015 was an exciting year for Wangari Maathai Institute. The teamwork at the Institute was excellent. I am grateful to the core staff at the Institute, the associated faculty members and the wPOWER Hub staff for their contribution to the success of the Institute in meeting its mandate. The number of Students registered for our PhD and MSc. programs have continued to increase. The wPOWER project and the STAKE project led by Wanjira Maathai and Dr. Thenya, Prof. Vibeke and Prof. Wahome respectively have remained our flagship projects and have performed exemplary.

In April 2015, the Institute conducted two international experiential learning courses, one with the University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University and the other involving the Graduate Program in Sustainability Science, Global Leadership Initiative (GPSS-GLI), University of Tokyo. The two courses were life changing to all students who participated in them.

Without key partners WMI cannot fulfill its ambitious vision. In a networked society, partnerships are increasingly becoming important to optimize use of resources and to create synergies. Thus, WMI has forged new strategic alliances in the years 2015 and continued to build on the existing partnerships.

The procurement process for establishing the WMI campus was completed in 2015. I am grateful to the University of Nairobi Management, the Government of Kenya and the African Development Bank who have continued to support the Institute to establish an experiential learning sustainable campus. Thanks to their support, the construction of the campus will commence in 2016. The procurement process has been tenuous and lengthy. However, am glad that this is now behind us.

VISION: Excellence in experiential learning, transformational community outreach and research for sustainable environment and cultures of peace

MISSION: To cultivate positive ethics, values and practices towards the environment by training stewards who foster peace, holistic sustainable development and link theory with practice