

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies

*Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies
campus officially handed over to University of Nairobi*



University of Nairobi

NEWSLETTER

2019 A Year in Review



"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



Prof. Rose Nyikal, Ag. Principal College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences presents keys of the WMI Campus to Prof. Henry Mutembei (left), Director, WMI during the handing over ceremony at the WMI campus. Witnessing the exercise is Prof. Stephen G. Kiama (background), Mr. Peter Wekesa, college registrar, contractors and representatives from the Green Belt Movement. *Photo credit, Ms. Wamaitha*

The WMI campus was officially handed over to the University of Nairobi by the contractor in a special handing over ceremony conducted on May 6, 2019 at 02: 00 pm at the same venue. The contractor handed over the facility to the university in a colourful event marked by myriad of activities (tour of the building, tree planting, speeches and photo sessions among others).

The event was witnessed by various stakeholders including the university management represented by Prof. S. G. Kiama, Ag DVC Human Resource and Administration, Prof. Rose Nyikal, Ag Principle College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), Prof. Henry Mutembei, Director WMI; the Green Belt Movement (GBM), Ministry of Education, and the contractor. Prof. Kiama noted that the WMI Campus is an indication of great steps so far realized in the institutionalization of the great works and ideas of Prof. Wangari Maathai. On her part, Prof. Nyikal urged the College Academic Board to take advantage of the new campus by utilizing the available facilities within the campus.

Prof. David N. Mungai appointed as the New Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies



On the left, Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, the outgoing Director, Wangari Maathai Institute handing over to Prof. David N. Mungai, the newly appointed Director, Wangari Maathai Institute

Prof. David N. Mungai, Ph.D, was appointed as the substantive Director of the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies for the next three years (August 12, 2019 – August 11, 2022). Prof. Mungai is a renowned scholar in Environmental Sustainability Studies. He previously served as the Deputy Director of the Institute between 2014 - 2017.

Prof. Mutembei was the second Director of the Institute after the founding Director Prof. Stephen Kiama. The Institute thanks Prof. Mutembei for his service to the Institute and wishes him well in his future endeavour.

Thanksgiving Service for the fulfilment of Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai's Vision to commemorate the 8th Memorial anniversary held at the Wangari Maathai Institute



Prof. S. G. Kiama, Deputy Vice Chancellor, HR&A, UoN giving his remarks during the thanksgiving service

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) in collaboration with the Green Belt Movement (GBM) held a thanksgiving service on September 25, 2019 at WMI, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Upper Kabete Campus along Kapenguria road. The service was held to celebrate the fulfilment of Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai's vision i.e. the completion of the first phase of the Institute as well as to commemorate her 8th memorial anniversary. Prof. David N. Mungai, Director, WMI, welcomed the guests and gave a highlight of the development of the institute including of its various components.

In his remarks, the Chief Guest, Prof. S. G. Kiama, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Human Resource and Administration, University of Nairobi and the first Director of the Institute, expressed the joy of seeing the vision of Prof. Wangari Maathai come into a reality. He pointed out some of the struggles of bringing on board every key player and ensuring that the intended goals were achieved, especially after the demise of Prof Wangari Maathai.

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) Co-hosted the Climate Change Walk



Climate change action enthusiasts march to the Wangari Maathai Institute during the climate change walk on September 27, 2019

On September 27, 2019 the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) held the climate change walk which marked the climax of the Global Climate Week. The walk was organized in partnership with OXFAM, 350.ORG, the Kenya Platform for Climate Governance, Christian Aid among others. Mr. Charles Mwangi, the Thematic Lead for Resilient Economies, Societies and People led the walk. He mentioned that the choice of WMI as the final stop was symbolic as this was in honor of the late Prof Wangari Maathai and her efforts in championing climate justice. The theme of the walk was *One Voice Climate Action* focusing majorly on two sub-themes: 100% Renewable Energy and Climate Induced Migration and Conflicts. Mr. Alvin Munyasia from OXFAM highlighted the key challenges resulting from climate change as per a study carried out after the Cyclone Indie and Kenneth. The study found that 13 million people were suffering from climate affiliated problems mainly food insecurity and diseases.

Prof. D. Mungai, Director WMI, welcomed and applauded the efforts of PACJA, their partners and the participants for making an effort to impact change on climate justice. He noted that Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies is dedicated to working hand in hand with organizations that front for climate change action. He pointed out that the issue of climate justice is long overdue and that all sectors should play their roles to bring the issue to realization.

Wangari Maathai Institute co-hosted the 2019 Food Security Centre Regional Workshop



A group photo of the participants during the Food Security Centre Regional Workshop

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) was honoured to co-host the Food Security Centre Regional Workshop. The event was organized by the University of Nairobi team in collaboration with the Food Security Centre and a consortium of local and regional Universities.

The three day workshop was held from September 23- 25, 2019 under theme dubbed, "Sustainable Safe Food Systems in Africa: Moving towards a Sustainable Food Future."

The workshop brought together participants from all over the region with the aim of discussing issues surrounding the safety of food for consumption.

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies co-hosted the 2nd Kenyan Organic Food Festival and Exhibition



Organic Farmers exhibiting their organic produce

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI), University of Nairobi was privileged to co-host the 2nd Kenya Organic Food Festival and Exhibition (KOFFE).

The two day festival was held from September 20-21, 2019. This important event was officiated by Prof. Rose Nyikal, Ag. Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences who in her remarks, acknowledged the efforts of disseminating crucial information about healthy and organic food.

Professor David Mungai, Director WMI welcomed the stakeholders and gave a brief overview of the Institute. He also pointed out that WMI is currently working towards establishment of an organic and herbs garden that is meant to educate and benefit the community.

Experiential Learning at the Institute



The WMI students and staff engage with the COREC Director Dr. Aghan Oscar on sustainable solid waste management during a field experiential trip which is a unique component of training graduate students at the institute, photo credit, Dr. Mutheu Mutune

Solid waste is a key environmental concern not only to the national but also to county governments who may have scanty knowledge that waste is not just waste but a resource. Nairobi County alone generates more than 1500 tons of waste per day which goes uncollected and if collected by private garbage collectors, mostly, ends in the landfills thus contributing to greenhouse gases mostly methane. The Wangari Maathai Institute's January 24, 2019 experiential learning trip for the postgraduate students was held at the Continental Renewable Energy Co Ltd (COREC) to enable engage the company on its waste management initiatives. COREC's contribution to waste management is commendable. The company is playing an important role to reduce the amount of waste in landfills, curb deforestation rates, mitigation of climate change and stem slum proliferation and vandalism.

The company recycles about 100 tons of plastics waste into building materials per month. The hardware is sold to developers whose problem is high material cost thus COREC provides alternative affordable and durable construction products. The Eco-friendly building materials recycled from plastics include poles, pathway cabros besides manufacture of aluminum chain links. These products are ideal for fencing on farms, homes, national parks, forest reserves, and commercial places. A case in point, the plastic poles has been used to fence off and conserve Aberdare Conservancy (a major water tower) which has reduced conflicts between humans and wildlife in the areas. The fence has also become the World longest conservation fence nearly 400km protecting over 2,000 sq. km of the prime forest and water catchment of the Aberdare Conservation Area. Other sister companies to COREC include BENTOS whose core mission is to make briquettes and Vanguard company that manufactures cement.

The COREC is an employer to more than 30 youth self-help groups mostly constituted of street boys and girls. Dr. Oscar Aghan spends time and trains these youth on waste segregation and handling besides linking them with commercial banks. Needless to say, COREC activities are a milestone in the governments' four big agenda particularly manufacturing and affordable housing and remarkably to sustainable development goals 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Learning by Doing at the Institute (SLUSE 2019)



Students from the WMI-UoN, UoC and UoR, Denmark presenting their preliminary findings on macadamia farming

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and University of Roskilde, Denmark successfully implemented the 2019 experiential field learning course dubbed, "Sustainable land use management system – (SLUSE)," which is the 7th in series after the SLUSE 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. The program was held in Kibugu, Embu County, from March 1-12, 2019. It incorporated students from various disciplines including environmental governance, agriculture, sociology, anthropology, economics, forestry, livestock production and law and was attended by thirty five (35) students, seventeen (17) international students from both University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University and ten (18) from the University of Nairobi-Wangari Maathai Institute & the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

The students were hosted by the local communities for the entire period (12 days). The SLUSE research areas hinged around five (5) themes including the the role of irrigation schemes in improving livelihood, analysis of dairy production and marketing, Macadamia – production and marketing, formal and informal financial institutions for sustainable agricultural practices and agricultural practices for soil fertility management. The students were supervised by the faculty from the Wangari Maathai Institute and from the University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University. The field exercise was concluded with a community feedback meeting during which students presented their preliminary findings and recommendations in a forum attended by the host families, government officers and the general public.

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts closing ceremony for the SLUSE 2019 programme



WMI-UoN, UoC and UoR students and instructors pose for a group photo during the closing ceremony

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies' joint Sustainable Land Use Management (SLUSE) programme with the University of Copenhagen was successfully concluded by a colourful closing ceremony that was held on March 12, 2019 at the WMI green campus. This event saw the award of certificates to the 35 participants after successful completion of the experiential learning course on Sustainable Land Use Management Systems (SLUSE) in Kibugu, Embu County. The participants were drawn from the University of Nairobi - Wangari Maathai Institute, University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University. The students are expected to write examinable reports and also publish their research findings to contribute to the much needed scientific evidence.

The event was graced by Prof. Roselyne Nyikal, Ag Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and Prof. Christian Pilegaard Hansen of Copenhagen University.

Thank you all for making the SLUSE 2019 programme a success. Let's do this again in 2020 so that we can continue bridging the gap between theory and practice.

Wangari Maathai Institute launches book on “Forest Resources Utilization, Livelihoods and Conflicts- Synthesis of research under the STAKE project”



From the left, Ms. W. Muthee, Mrs. M. Kamau, Chairlady, GBM Board, Mr. E. Muthee, Mrs. M. Muthee, Prof. J. Ogeng'o, DVC, AA, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Ag. DVC, HR & A, Prof. R.G. Wahome, Dr. T. Thenya, Prof. Maingi, Dr. E. Mutitu and Prof. H. M. Mutembei, Director, WMI during the launch of the book

The book titled; *Forest Resources Utilization, Livelihoods and Conflicts- Synthesis of research under the 'Stabilizing Kenya through Solving Forest Related Conflicts (STAKE) project'* was launched on Wednesday, 20th March, 2019 at the Vet Lab Golf Club, Kabete. STAKE Project was an exciting partnership between the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI), the Green Belt Movement (GBM), Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark and funded by DANIDA. During its five years period (2012-2016), the project granted scholarships to PhD students and contributed towards stabilizing Kenya by solving forest related conflicts.

Conflict over natural resources is common as result of diverse interests, legal fails and governance structure. The Mau Eco-system provided an excellent case of such conflicts area, having had a long history of competing claims over forest resources, forest excisions, encroachments, evictions, and violent struggles among ethnic groups. Analysis of access to forest for grazing, wood, water and recreation in multiplicity of legislation, guidelines and practices makes it a good context to study drivers of natural resource conflicts in relation to livelihoods. The book highlights different types of conflict and their drivers resulting from access to benefits accruing from forests. The key drivers being ethnicity, legal pluralism, political incitement, and perception. Stereotyped perceptions of unfairness in granting access to benefits and traditional ethnic animosity are easily fueled into violence. The study results are of immediate policy relevance to communities facing such conflicts and the findings can also be of use in conflict early warning. The book which is a culmination of five years of hard work by a vast range of South and North academicians, researchers, students and members of the East Mau Forest Block adjacent communities will benefit students, community leaders, forest managers, and policy makers.

The event was graced by Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, DVC Academic Affairs who was representing the Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Stephen G. Kiama, Ag. DVC, Human Resource and Administration among others. In his remarks, Prof. Ogeng'o noted that one of the University's core mandate is to generate, reserve and disseminate information and knowledge through research. On his part, Prof. Kiama passionately reiterated Prof. Wangari Maathai's ideas and efforts towards environmental conservancy which laid the foundation for the establishment of the Wangari Maathai Institute. Notable partners present included; the GBM and KEFRI which assured the Institute of their support on future projects. The STAKE project beneficiaries articulately shared their experiences and noted that meritocracy was clearly evident in the STAKE programs. Speaking on behalf of supervisors, Dr. Kiemo noted that interdisciplinary approach adopted in the STAKE project enabled its fruition. The project coordinators present were in undisputable agreement that research findings ought to be synthesized and simplified for easy understanding by the communities. The launched book is also dedicated to the late Mr. B.C. Muthee, one of the scholarship beneficiaries and Tutorial Fellow at WMI who passed on a year before his graduation. Every participant of the launch was issued a copy of the book. WMI sincerely appreciates all those involved in the STAKE project including the Southern and Northern Teams led by Prof. R. G. Wahome and Prof. Vibeke Vindelov respectively among others. WMI also extends its appreciation to DANIDA for funding the project.

Wangari Maathai Institute Participates in the University of Nairobi's 61st Graduation Ceremony



From the left, Mr. Owiti, Ms. Mugo, Ms. Tubman, Prof. Muthama, Deputy Director, WMI, Ms. Ndinda, Prof. Mungai, Director, WMI and Mr. Tutana during the UoN's 61st graduation ceremony

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) participates in the University of Nairobi's 61st graduation ceremony held on September 6, 2019.

Prof. David N. Mungai, Director, presented five (5) masters students who were conferred and awarded with the degree of Master of Science in Environmental Governance.

The graduands include Mr. J. Owiti, Ms. S. Mugo, Ms. C.L. Tubman, Mr. S. Tutana and Ms. G. Ndinda. The graduation ceremony was presided over by the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi who conferred degrees and awarded diplomas to total of 4,107 graduands. These graduands consisted of 20 Ph.Ds, 429 Master Degrees, 3,082 Bachelor Degrees, 1 Postgraduate Diploma and 575 Diplomas.

Congratulations to the graduands!

Wangari Maathai Institute Participates in the University of Nairobi's 62nd Graduation Ceremony



Mr. Elmah Odhiambo (left) and Prof. David Mungai, Director WMI, during the 62nd graduation ceremony held at the University of Nairobi on December 20, 2019

Wangari Maathai Institute yet again participated in the 62nd graduation ceremony held on December 20, 2019. The Institute was proud of producing 4 graduands i.e. two (2) PhD students and two (2) MSc students .

Prof. David N. Mungai, Director WMI, presented four (4) graduands from the Institute during the ceremony. Among the graduands were Victor Boiyo and James Kinyua who were awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Governance and Management while Elmah Odhiambo and Phyllis Wamaitha were awarded the degree of Master of Science in Environmental Governance.

The graduation ceremony was presided over by the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi who conferred degrees and awarded diplomas to 8,428 graduands.

Seminar on Technology and Innovation Policies



Margaret Maimba, NACOSTI making a presentation during the seminar at Wangari Maathai Institute

NACOSTI Chief Science Analyst Margaret Maimba shared insights on the role of NACOSTI in formulation and implementation of public policies with staff, students, policy experts and practitioners at the Wangari Maathai Institute on Wednesday November 13, 2019.

She started by highlighting the lack of proper definition of public policy and the existence of policies in many forms such as written statements, oral or even presidential decrees. The NACOSTI science Analyst elaborated the stages of policy formulation as initiation, research, negotiations and public participation, drafting, cabinet approval, parliamentary approval, ascent by the president/governor and finally publication. She underscored that policy formulation is not a preserve of a few people but can originate from any person and brought to the attention of the relevant institution. She noted that the constitution offers the foundations for the involvement of all persons in decision making through the principle of public participation in policy formulation.

She urged researchers to play their role in policy formulation by providing evidence-based information to policy makers which enriches policy formulation. Students were encouraged to write policy briefs for their theses as the best way to communicate their research findings to policy makers. Among the roles of NACOSTI include accrediting research institutions and linking with researchers and academic institutions to provide evidence-based policy advice to the government. She concluded by noting that duplication of roles, bureaucracies in administration and donor influence are among the challenges facing policy formulation and implementation in Kenya.

Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, deputy director, WMI, moderated the discussion where participants including Prof. David Mungai, Director, WMI took turns to react to the presentation by Margaret Maimba. Accreditation of research institutions, acquisition of research permits, lobbying during policy formulation and preservation of scientific knowledge were discussed at length.

Seminar on The Future of Forests: REDD+ Readiness



Dr. Jane Mutune presents on the Role of Forests in climate change during the seminar on the Future of Forests; REDD+ Readiness held at the Wangari Maathai Institute

The Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) hosted a seminar on the “Future of Forests; REDD+ Readiness” on November 27, 2019. The seminar was delivered by Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy director, WMI, Dr. Jane Mutune and Dr. Bessy Kathambi and attracted a wide range of participants including students, staff, policy experts and practitioners among others. The seminar introduced participants on the REDD+ process in Kenya and where the country is regarding the implementation of REDD+.

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) aims at mitigating climate change by reducing net emissions of GHGs through enhanced forest management in developing countries. It involves payments to developing countries that prevent deforestation or degradation that would otherwise have taken place. REDD+ takes a phase approach with three phases - Readiness, Implementation and Result Based Action. Kenya is at the Readiness phase.

In her presentation, Dr. Mutune noted that forests are a key adaptation strategy to climate change mitigation because of their role as carbon sinks. She highlighted the existing mitigation opportunities in the country which include participatory approach (good governance), afforestation and re-afforestation. She emphasized that in developing a national strategy plan for REDD+ there ought to be consideration of indigenous people, gender and full participation of relevant stakeholders. Dr. Kathambi gave insights into the Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level, an element required for REDD+ readiness. She pointed out that forest cover has been on the decline over the recent years due to increased demand for farmland and settlement. Kenya has five water towers which if properly managed can form a good carbon sink. She discussed case studies of Ghana and Brazil as some of the success examples of the REDD+ program. Prof. Muthama wrapped up the presentation sessions by a presentation on REDD+ safeguards and safeguard information systems. REDD+ safeguards ensure no harm from REDD+ activities and aim to enhance social and environmental benefits. He emphasized the importance of having an accessible safeguard information system and the vital role of research and information in moving to the next phase of REDD+.

Participants took turn to react to the presentations and key issues in the discussion included the role of leadership in REDD+, participatory forest governance and the opportunities for REDD+.

Guest Lecturers and students share their experiential knowledge

Mr. Gitau James Kinyua delivered a seminar on evaluation of efficiency and adoption of biochar producing cooking system in smallholder farms in Kwale County, Kenya at the Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) on October 1, 2019. Mr. Gitau is a PhD student at the WMI. The seminar presented the opportunity to share the findings of his PhD thesis and also get feedback on his work from those present. His study aimed at reducing indoor air pollution and associated health problems and reduction in firewood consumption. The gasifier cookstove studied has more benefits than open fire three-stone traditional cooking system because its designed for efficient use of fuel, emits less smoke and can also be used for charcoal production. Key points of discussion in the seminar included the cost of the gasifier which may be prohibitive to majority of the rural population. However, formulation of supportive policies could enhance long term usage of the new stove and lower the cost.



Wangari Maathai Institute holds a Student Led Seminar on 'Compliance with the Plastic Carrier Bags Ban' and 'Effects of Sub Catchment Governance on Management of Wetland Resources'

Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) held a seminar on May 15, 2019 where Mr. Elmah Odhiambo, MSc. Student, WMI and Ms. Eunice Muthoni, PhD candidate, WMI presented their research findings. Their research topics are: "An Assessment of Compliance with the Ban on Plastic Carrier Bags in Nairobi's Karen and Kibera Estates, Kenya" and "Assessment of Effects of Sub Catchment Governance on Management of Wetland Resources at Rwamathambi Sub-catchment, Tana Basin, Mt. Kenya Region" respectively.



Mr. Elmah Odhiambo MSc candidate, WMI



Ms. Kumunga, PhD Candidate, WMI

WMI conducted a seminar on Wednesday 27th March, 2019 at Small Pathology Lecture Theater from 02:00 pm. Mr. Boiyo Victor Kiprotich, a PhD candidate at WMI made a presentation on *Implementation and Performance of Participatory Forest Management: A Comparative study of Urban and Rural Forests in Kenya*.



Mr. Boiyo, PhD candidate, WMI

Mr. Salad Jilo Tutamna, an MSc candidate at WMI presented research findings on the *Influence of Water Resource use patterns on the Lorian Swamps Ecosystem*.

The participants were mainly WMI staffs, supervisors, MSc and PhD students among others. This seminar provided a forum for a shared interaction among students and Pro-



Mr. Salad, MSc candidate, WMI

fessors.

Wangari Maathai Institute receives a New Van



Third from the right, Prof. S.G. Kiama, DVC, HR&A, UoN making his remarks during the handover of ceremony of the new Van at the WMI Campus

On Monday October 14, 2019, the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) was honored to receive a new van that will serve the transport requirements of the Institute.

The handover ceremony was presided over Prof. S.G. Kiama, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Human Resource and Administration, Prof. Rose Nyikal, Ag. Principal College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, University of Nairobi, Prof. David Mungai, Director WMI. In his remarks, Prof Kiama indicated that he was honoured to handover the van to Institute which would enable the smooth implementation of the Institute's experiential learning activities.

The institute usually takes its students for experiential learning activities every month.

Wangari Maathai Institute - Environment Institute of Kenya MoU signing Ceremony



From the left, Mr. R. K. Kimtai, CEO, EIK, Ms. S. Manyasi, SG, EIK, Ms. W. Ngugi, WMI, Mr. A. Abdi, Mr. T. Tirop, WMI/CAVS, Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy Director, WMI, Dr. J.M. Mutune, WMI, Ms. M. Nyaboke, WMI, behind her is Mr. H. Kahi, WMI/CAVS, Ms. L.N.S. Kongáni, WMI and signing the MoU is Mr. Mutua P. Nzoka, Treasurer, EIK Photo credit, Mr. C. Angu, WMI

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) was honored to host the Environment Institute of Kenya (EIK) for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony. This important meeting was held on July 24, 2019 at the WMI's Humming Bird Boardroom. The MoU signing meeting was graced by Mr. Mutua P. Nzoka, Treasurer, EIK on behalf of the President of the said Institution, Mr. R. K. Kimtai, CEO, EIK and Ms. Susane Manyasi, Secretary General, EIK. Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy Director, WMI and other faculty members from the WMI. Prof. Muthama highlighted that the Institute was delighted to formalize the partnership with EIK which will facilitate joint efforts in providing practical solutions to environmental issues.

On his part, Mr. Nzoka indicated that there is need for the institutions involved in production, operation and regulation like the Universities, EIK and NEMA respectively to work together to produce demand driven graduates. He emphasized that all stakeholders have a critical role to play in conversation of the environment and there is need to emulate Prof. Wangari Maathai's spirit of reaching out to the grassroots community and bridge the gap between theory and practice. Mr. Nzoka donated two copies of a Magazine titled, "Focus on Property," a July – August 2019 Complementary copy to the Institute.

Prof. Muthama indicated that it was exciting to forge partnership between the two institutions which provides room for actualization of ideas from both institutions based on five key areas including capacity building on environmental management, environmental education and awareness programmes, research and dissemination of environmental knowledge, suitable financing arrangements for joint activities and other areas of common interest as stipulated in the memorandum of understanding. He encouraged that both institutions should therefore, work towards implementing these activities for environmental conservation to realize sustainable development.

***Wangari Maathai Institute Hosts the Utu Conference on
Community Engaged Scholarship and Advocacy***



Group photo of participants during the Utu Conference on Community Engaged Scholarship and Advocacy on June 20, 2019

Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) in partnership with James Madison University organized a one-day Utu conference on community engaged scholarship and advocacy on June 20, 2019 at the WMI Green Campus. The conference presented an interdisciplinary space for academicians and advocacy practitioners to dialogue with one another on issues related to the multi-dimensional ways in which collaboration and reciprocal partnerships can be activated between advocacy.

The event was graced by Prof. Kuvutha Kibwana, Governor Makueni county, Prof. Heather Coltman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, James Madison University, Prof. Rose Nyikal, Principal College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), University of Nairobi and Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, deputy director WMI. Prof Heather Coltman challenged the participants to shun away from individualism noting that to make impact, we need to embrace a collectivistic approach as opposed to the current norm of fiercely guarding our creativity. Prof. Kivutha Kibwana noted that community advocacy is a very new concept. He stated that community involvement in research should go beyond the current way of viewing the community as just respondents.

The next conference will be held in 2020 at the WMI campus.

The Wangari Maathai Institute - University of Nairobi co-hosts the first mega African Symposium on Sustainability Science

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi was honoured to host the first African symposium on Sustainability Science 2019. This high profile forum was held on March 4, 2019 at the University of Nairobi's Chandaria Centre for Performing Arts. The main objective of this symposium was to promote sustainability education and Science in Africa. The symposium brought together a wide range of participants (local, regional and international) including the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Japan, Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) and the Ministry of Education, Kenya.



Prof. Kazuhiki Takeuchi, Distinguished Chair WMI, gives his remarks at the African Symposium on Sustainability Science

The symposium was graced by the University Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Distinguished, Wangari Maathai Institute, Prof. Kazuhiki Takeuchi, the College acting Principal Prof. Rose Nyikal, University of Nairobi's staff and students, Amani Club, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance and Tharaka Nithi County among other stakeholders. During the symposium, captivating keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. Takeuchi on Sustainability Science as a Discipline in Higher Education: role of universities in fast tracking the implementation of SDGs in Africa and on Sustainability Science Thinking: the role of Stakeholders in promoting sustainability science initiatives/programs in Africa by Hon. Prof. Kilemi Mwiria, the Former Assistant Minister of Education and Visiting Professor, WMI. Of great note also, were the panelist discussions which were steered by Prof. Stephen Simukanga (Ministry of Education, Zambia) on Sustainability Thinking-The Role of stakeholders in promoting sustainability science initiative/programs in

Africa, Dr. Christine Auclair (UN Habitat) on Sustainability Science for Urban Development in Africa, Prof. Frans Swanepoel (University of Pretoria) on Sustainability Science for Integrated Rural Development in Africa, and Dr. Pankaj Kumar (IGES) on Sustainability-Environment and Natural Resource Management in Africa respectively.

The symposium generally provided a platform to exchange and share sustainability knowledge and experiences among academia and practitioners and also offered opportunity for relevant stakeholders to discuss and share experiences on how sustainability science, education and research can help create solutions to Africa's sustainability challenges. One major resolution as ascertained during synthesis of the symposium by Prof. Henry Mutembei (Director, WMI) was that Climate Change has a great impact on Sustainability and that all stakeholders must come on board to address sustainability challenges if a sustainable future is to be realized. ***A cross-section of participants***



The day-long active participants consented to have such a symposium annually. The WMI was also pleased to launch its first journal, Journal of Sustainability, Environment and Peace (JSEP) during this important symposium. The symposium was sponsored by Africa Development Bank, University of Nairobi and Pan African Climate Justice Alliance among others.

News In Brief

Mama Ngina Secondary School pays a courtesy call to the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies 2019

On Wednesday the 18th September, 2019, students and teachers from Mama Ngina Secondary School paid courtesy call to the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies for experiential learning activities.

The School was welcomed by Prof. David Mungai, Director WMI who then handed over to Dr. Mutune and Mr. Kahi to take through an experiential learning activities at the Campus.

Dr. Mutune gave an overview of the Institute including it being founded in 2009 in honour of the Prof. Wangari Maathai. The vision of the Institute is, "Excellence in experiential learning, transformational community outreach, and research for sustainable environments and cultures of peace."

The Institute was established as a Centre of Excellence to cultivate positive ethics, values and practices towards the environment by training stewards who foster peace, promote holistic sustainable development, and link theory with practice. The latter is well in line with the newly adopted Competence Based Curriculum (CBC).

Capacity Building Workshop to Celebrate the International Day of the Youth

On 13th August 2019 WMI organised a youth capacity building workshop to mark the international day of the Youth. The workshop involved expert presentation on Apiculture, Briquette-making, mindset change. and experiential learning on tree species. A total of 55 participants were drawn from organised youth groups such as: Kayole Mtaa Safi, Uthiru Young Entrepreneurs and One stone youth group.

The key points of the day were: Mind-set Change by Prof. J. Nzioka. Muthama which emphasised the youth to embrace a Growth Mind-set as opposed to the Fixed Mind-set; Briquette Making by Mr. Cohen Ang'u which brought to light the importance of value addition in waste management for energy production; Apiculture also called bee keeping/farming whereby the youth were enlightened on best methods to rear bees as an alternative to livestock keeping for subsistence and commercial purposes;

finally, Experiential learning on the Tree Species whereby the youth were able to understand the importance of trees and their significance to the 44 tribes, at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environment Studies Green Campus by Mr Henry Kahi.



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

News In brief

Mururia Boys High School's Experiential Learning at the Wangari Maathai Institute- July 19, 2019

On Friday 19th July 2019, the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was honoured to host students from Mururia Boys High School for experiential learning activities.

This involved experiential learning on the different tree species at WMI planted by members of the different communities to represent their culture, the significance of various structures and the architecture at WMI Green Campus including the water tower and the concept of sustainable development, the Wangari Maathai Water Fountain of peace which embodies Prof. Wangari Maathai's ideals and concepts of inter-generational, pan-African and global co-operation in environmental governance, democracy and cultures of peace for a stable society.

Wangari Maathai Institute Hosts Finance Department, University of Nairobi in a tree Growing Exercise

Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) was honoured to host the finance department, university of Nairobi in a tree planting exercise held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at the WMI Green Campus.

The exercise which started at 10:00 am was graced by Prof. Nzioka John Muthama, deputy director, WMI and Mr. Peter Busienei, finance officer. Growing trees at WMI is an exercise that is most treasured and the institute has adopted the Miyawaki approach in the quest for a greener environment.

Miyawaki technique involves planting dozens of native species in the same area which achieves faster growth and a forest that is much higher in density than usual. One hundred tree seedlings were planted by staff of the finance department.

Wangari Maathai Institute partners with Wildlife Students Association, County Government of Kiambu and Edens Stewards in a Clean-Up Exercise at Ndumbuini Trading Centre

The One day clean-up activity was conducted on Thursday 28th March, 2019 between 09:00 am and 12:00 noon at Ndumbuini Trading Centre. The objective of this activity was to create a clean environment through proper waste disposal practices. Addressing participants earlier at the Green Campus, the College acting Principal Prof. Rose Nyikal urged the organizers of this event to consider having a long term sustainable solution on waste management for the centre.

Over hundred participants mainly students from CAVS, Edens Stewards representatives, WMI and Kiambu County Government staffs took part in this exercise. Activities carried out included; slashing, sweeping, collecting solid waste and clearing of water ways. The waste collected was ferried for proper disposal by the County trucks. The residents were very receptive and promised to embrace the idea. Prof. Muthama, the Deputy Director, WMI was very central in coordination of this partnership. Speaking on behalf of Wildlife Students Association leadership, Ms. Neliah Njeri expressed her gratitude to the participants and encouraged them to participate in similar upcoming events. On behalf of the organizers, WMI wishes to thank all the participants.

News In Brief

Ms. Kong'ani's presentation on Social Science during the 2019 International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability (ISCE) was awarded Excellence presentation

Ms. Lilian N. Sarah Kong'ani, Ph.D Student at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies successfully participates in the 2019 International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability (ISCE). The conference was held by Tongji University and UN Environment, and organized by UN Environment -Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD), Shanghai, China from 10-15, June 2019 under theme titled, "Air Pollution."

It brought together over 200 students from different countries who convened and discussed issues hinged around four themes including Education for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Eco-city and Environment and Health.

Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) hosts a Mega Commemoration of the World Environment day

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi was honoured to host the World Environment day in partnership with Kiambu County Government, Kenya Association of Manufacturer's, UN environment, Eden Stewards among other partners.

The event dubbed "Keep Ndumbuini Clean, Keep Me Healthy" was held on June 5, 2019 at the Wangari Maathai Green Campus after being flagged off at Uthiru Polytechnic. The aim of the event was to promote a cleaner, healthier and Sustainable Ndumbuini by mobilizing residents to collect solid waste for safe disposal, offering free diagnostic and curative healthcare services, promoting legal and environmental awareness, offering free veterinary services, tree growing and team building through soccer matches.

The activities brought together a wide range of participants including students (University, secondary and primary schools), the county government, entrepreneurs, community organizations and youth groups.



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

World Environment Day 2019 Sports Activity

Wangari Maathai Institute marked the World Environment Day sports activity on 5th June 2019 by organizing a sports activity to enhance team spirit amongst the youth in Ndumbu-ini. The winner's trophy was donated courtesy of Kenya Association of Manufacturers. A total of 4 teams participated in the activity; kayole Mtaa Safi Initiative, One Stone Youth Group, University of Nairobi CAVS and Cooperation Bodaboda Sacco. The teams were divided into 2 pools. Pool A; One Stone Youth Group versus Kayole Mtaa Safi Initiative, the winner being One Stone Youth Group with 1-0. Pool B; University of Nairobi CAVS versus Cooperation Bodaboda, the winner being University of Nairobi CAVS with 3-2. The final match will be organized at a later date between One Stone Youth Group and the University of Nairobi in order to crown the World Environment Day Football Champions.

News In brief

Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) and Kiambu County Government conduct a Tree Planting Exercise at Ndumbuini Trading Centre in preparation for World Environment Day

WMI in partnership with Kiambu County Government and Wildlife Students Association conducted a tree planting exercise at Ndumbuini Trading Center on Saturday May 18, 2019 from 10:00 am. The exercise was graced by Mr David Kuria, the Deputy County Commissioner – Kiambu County, Mr. Lameck Nyamai, the County Executive Committee member for Environment and Forestry – Kiambu County, Director WMI, Deputy Director WMI and attracted a wide range of participants including WMI Staffs, University of Nairobi students, youth groups, Ndumbuini residents among others. Approximately 200 tree seedlings were planted at Ndumbuini Trading Centre and Uthuru round-about area. This exercise served as a build-up to a host of activities to be conducted on June 5, 2019 during the World Environmental Day at the Wangari Maathai Institute Campus.

Deputy Director, WMI, attends the National Environmental Complaints Committee Validation Workshop, KCB Leadership Centre

Prof. Nzioka Muthama attended the validation workshop, held on 20th February 2019 was attended by senior management of key institutions in the Environment sector, experts, and relevant stakeholders from the Academia, line ministries, policymaking, standardization, and implementing communities to discuss and validate the National Environmental Complaints Committee (NECC) Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Manual.

The main goal of the workshop was to validate the draft PIL Manual.

Wangari Maathai Institute Celebrates the 2017/2018 Performance Contract (PC) Achievement

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was privileged to have been awarded the best performing, 3rd place under the category of Schools/Faculties/Institutes/Centres based on the 2017/2018 performance contract.

This award was presented during the University of Nairobi's Inaugural Annual Staff award ceremony held on December 14, 2018 at the University's Taifa Hall where the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Science (CAVS) was also awarded 3rd place under the category of College/Campuses.

The Institute was also recognized by CAVS where it was awarded the certificate of special recognition for exemplary performance in the year 2017/2018 on January 25, 2019.

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies takes part in the College Open Day

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies participated in a two day Open Day organized by the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS). This forum was held on March 8-9, 2019 at the Upper Kabete Campus. The two day event was graced by Prof. R. Nyikal, Ag. Principal, CAVS and attracted participants from learning institutions and the general public. The learning institutions represented included high schools, colleges, technical institutions and universities.

The aim of this event was to inform the public about the programs offered by the Institute, the projects underway and the achievements realized. The Institute extends its appreciation to the participants who visited the WMI desk to learn more about the Institute's activities.

Message from the Director



Prof. David N. Mungai
Director,
Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace &
Environmental Studies
Email: wmi@uonbi.ac.ke

VISION: Excellence in experiential learning, transformational community outreach and re-search 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