

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies

Trainers course on Sustainable Clean Energy Entrepreneurship and India-Africa Exchange Program



University of Nairobi

NEWSLETTER

2014: A Year in Review

In sub Saharan Africa over 72% of urban and 98% of rural households use wood-fuel for energy and kerosene for lighting. Inefficient lighting and cooking technologies contribute to climate change and degradation of natural resources. Furthermore, it increases indoor air pollution thereby exacerbating respiratory problems mostly affecting women and children.

To promote women's critical role in solutions to these problems, the Department of State launched the Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables ("wPOWER") in January 2013. wPOWER aims to empower more than 8,000 women clean energy entrepreneurs in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda), Nigeria and India who will be trained in transformative leadership, environmental stewardship, and clean sustainable energy entrepreneurship. Wangari Maathai Institute was identified to serve as the Hub for this partnership. As a first step in support of the partners WMI conducted an India-

Africa Exchange visit and Training of Trainers course on Sustainable Clean Energy Entrepreneurship in July 2014. The course was attended by 26 participants drawn from Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Nigeria, Kenya and India. Several facilitators drawn from within and outside the University conducted the training. This course was aimed at nurturing change agents and equipping them with the skills and tools they need to bring about community transformation in clean energy, environmental stewardship and livelihood improvement as Wangari Maathai hoped.

The training was unique for its holistic and experiential focus. It contained lessons that engaged the participants through field excursions, class activities (lectures, exercises), brainstorming, case-based group work, and individual assignments. In addition, the participants benefitted from guest speakers and practitioners who reinforced the classroom learning.



"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



Trainers course on Sustainable Clean Energy Entrepreneurship and India-Africa Exchange Program



1. Participants making briquettes from charcoal dust

2. Ms. Wanjira Maathai conducting training in the field during the TOT

Photos: Participants being taught how to make briquettes from charcoal dust



Prof. Mungai conducting training

Learning by Doing at the Institute (SLUSE 2014)

Wangari Maathai Institute in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University in Denmark conducted an experiential learning course at Nyeri South Districts from 27th February, 2014 to 12th March, 2014. The course was sponsored by the University of Nairobi and University of Copenhagen. Thirty four students participated in the course and represented several nationalities namely Kenya, Denmark, France, Spain, Germany, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Thailand and Sweden.

The students were hosted by the local communities for the entire period and were clustered into five (5) groups representing different thematic areas namely: Addressing the challenges of soil fertility management; the importance of livestock production to household livelihood;; Community participation in Karima forest management; the opportunities and challenges in coffee production and marketing and; the opportunities and challenges in milk production and marketing. The SLUSE 2014 course was coordinated by Prof. Wahome and Dr. Thenya on behalf of WMI, Christian Pilegaard on behalf of University of Copenhagen and Ebbe Prag on behalf of Roskilde University

On the last day of the field study, the students gave feedback to the community on their findings and recommendations.



Prof. Mungai, Deputy Director WMI awarding Prof. Wahome certificate of appreciation for his facilitation of the SLUSE Program



Dr. Thenya addressing the participants during the closing ceremony of the 2014 SLUSE Course



1. Principal CAVS Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe addressing the 2014 SLUSE class
2. The SLUSE 2014 students having a discussion in the field
3. Ms. Grace Kemunto participant of the SLUSE 2014 class giving feedback to the community on their group findings



Wangari Maathai Institute Holds a Nile Project Sustainability Workshop

To promote this dialogue for the Nile river, The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies held a successful Nile Project Sustainability Workshop in 2014.

River Nile, the longest river in the world runs through the political borders of 11 East African countries. Due to population growth, climate change and ecosystem degradation, Nile countries are increasingly challenged to satisfy their booming water, food, energy, and employment needs. This mounting resource scarcity has contributed to a geopolitical conflict between upstream and downstream riparian states. One of the primary obstacles to productive dialogue is that the Nile has not historically been conceptualized as a shared ecosystem that connects its residents with each other and with their natural environment. For the Nile Basin to be sustainable, its inhabitants must be connected, its governance participatory, and its communities resilient.

The Nile Project was founded in 2011 by Egyptian ethnomusicologist Mina Girgis and Ethiopian-American singer Meklit Hadero to address the Nile Basin's cultural and environmental challenges. Using music, education, and innovation programs, the Nile Project inspires, informs, and empowers university students to work together to foster the sustainability of their ecosystem.



Nile Project Music team performing on stage at the Institute



From left: AlSarah, Dawit Seyoum, Selamnesh Zemene, Prof.S.G. Kiama, Prof. David Mungai, Sophie Nzayisenga, Jane Mutune. Second row from left: Dinah Elwedidi, Endris Hassen, Janet Nodoro, Lilian Kong'ani, Yasin William Sumits. Third row from left: Steven Sogo, Nder Esl Shaer, Dafaalla El Hag and Jakline Kasiva Mutua after the Nile Project Sustainability and Musical Workshop at Wangari Maathai Institute.



Students dancing to the tune produced by the various musical instruments during the Nile Project Workshop

Guest Lecturers share their experiential knowledge with WMI students



Dr. Mary Njenga delivered a Seminar on “Multiple Perspectives of Biomass Energy and the Role of Research and Development” on 26th November 2014. Mary Njenga, is a Post-doctoral Fellow in Bio-energy at World Agroforestry Centre. She holds a PhD in Management of Agroecosystems and the Environment of the University of Nairobi, where she studied fuel briquette technologies and their implications on greenhouse gases and livelihoods in Kenya. Dr. Mary Njenga is a visiting lecturer with the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi, where she contributes to programs in sustainable clean energy, the environment, and women's empowerment. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at North Illinois University.

Dr. Dennis Garrity delivered a Seminar on Creating an Ever Green Agriculture in Africa for Food Security and Environmental Resilience on 24th October, 2014.

Dr. Garrity is the Drylands Ambassador, UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Distinguished Senior Research Fellow, World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi. He is a systems agronomist and research leader whose career has been focused on development of small-scale farming systems in the tropics. Dr. Garrity is currently leading an effort to reinvent agriculture in the 21st Century by deploying unconventional ways to build more productive and environmentally sound farming systems through a global Partnership to Create an Evergreen Agriculture. He also chairs the Steering Committee for Land care International, a world wide effort to support grassroots community-based natural resource management



Cathy Anne Rodgers gave a Public Lecture on “Sustainability & Building a Smarter Planet” on 20/01/2014. Climate change, carbon emissions, deforestation, energy and water conservation are critical challenges facing our planet. Moreover, the increase in the world's population and related consumption all contribute to the need to think and act with a sustainable mindset. Never have the challenges been more complex, more challenging, nor more critical. This lecture explored the impact of these converging demands on a planet with finite resources and how and why being a responsible global citizen and planetary steward is key to the world we now enjoy and the world we will leave to future generations. Carthy is IBM Vice President & a PhD Student at WMI,



Mr. Joshua Williams delivered a public lecture on **the Politics of Animality in Kenyan Cultural Production, 1933-1991**, on Wednesday, 26th March 2014. Mr. Williams is from the University of California, Berkeley and was an affiliated researcher at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi. His academic research concerns the political figure of the animal in East African theatre, performance and social life.

Wangari Maathai Institute Celebrates Wangari Maathai and Africa Environmental Day on March 6th 2014

In 2014, the Institute led the Community at Nyeri South District 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 very colorful. The students from Gatugi girls Secondary School attended and entertained guests during the occasion. More entertainment was provided by the Nairobi University Travelling Theater with their play "the Mugumo tree".

The guest of Honor was the MP for Othaya who attended accompanied by the MP for Kieni and other local leaders. Our SLUSE participants both local and international students attended the event too.



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From Replenishing the Earth, by Wangari Maathai



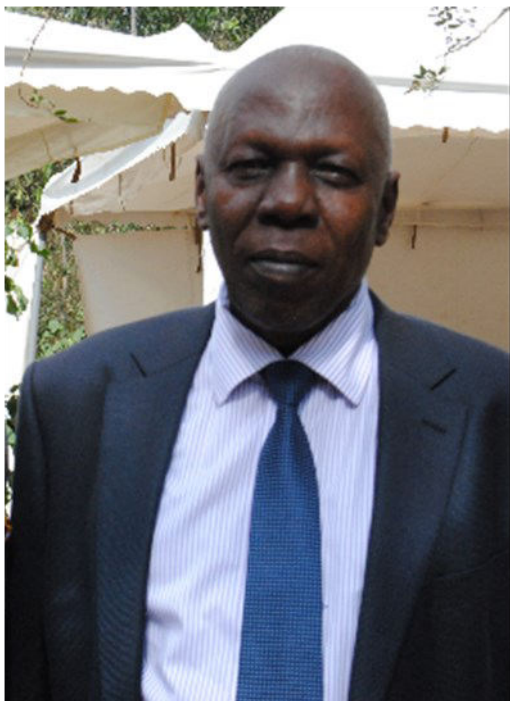
Accreditation of the Institute by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to train Environmental Impact Assessment experts

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies has been accredited by National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) to train Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit Experts.

The course is primarily intended for Trainers of Trainers, Decision makers and specialists at environmental authorities, Lead Agencies, people in industry and organizations, using EIA to identify and monitor environmental impacts of policies, plans, programmes and projects, potential lead & associate experts and EIA as an environmental performance and evaluation tool.

Prof. David Mungai Appointed as Deputy Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies

Prof. David Mungai was appointed to the Institute as the Deputy Director. Dr. David Mungai is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Nairobi. He has a Ph.D. degree in Geography (Agro forestry Meteorology) obtained in 1991 from the Faculty of Science, University of Nairobi. His



core areas of research and teaching are environmental hydrology and environmental planning and management with special reference to environmental impact assessment in its broadest definition. He has interests also in environmental education.

Prof. Mungai collaborates with a number of local and overseas advanced research institutes in the field of impact assessment of land use changes. He has considerable experience in environmental impact assessment.

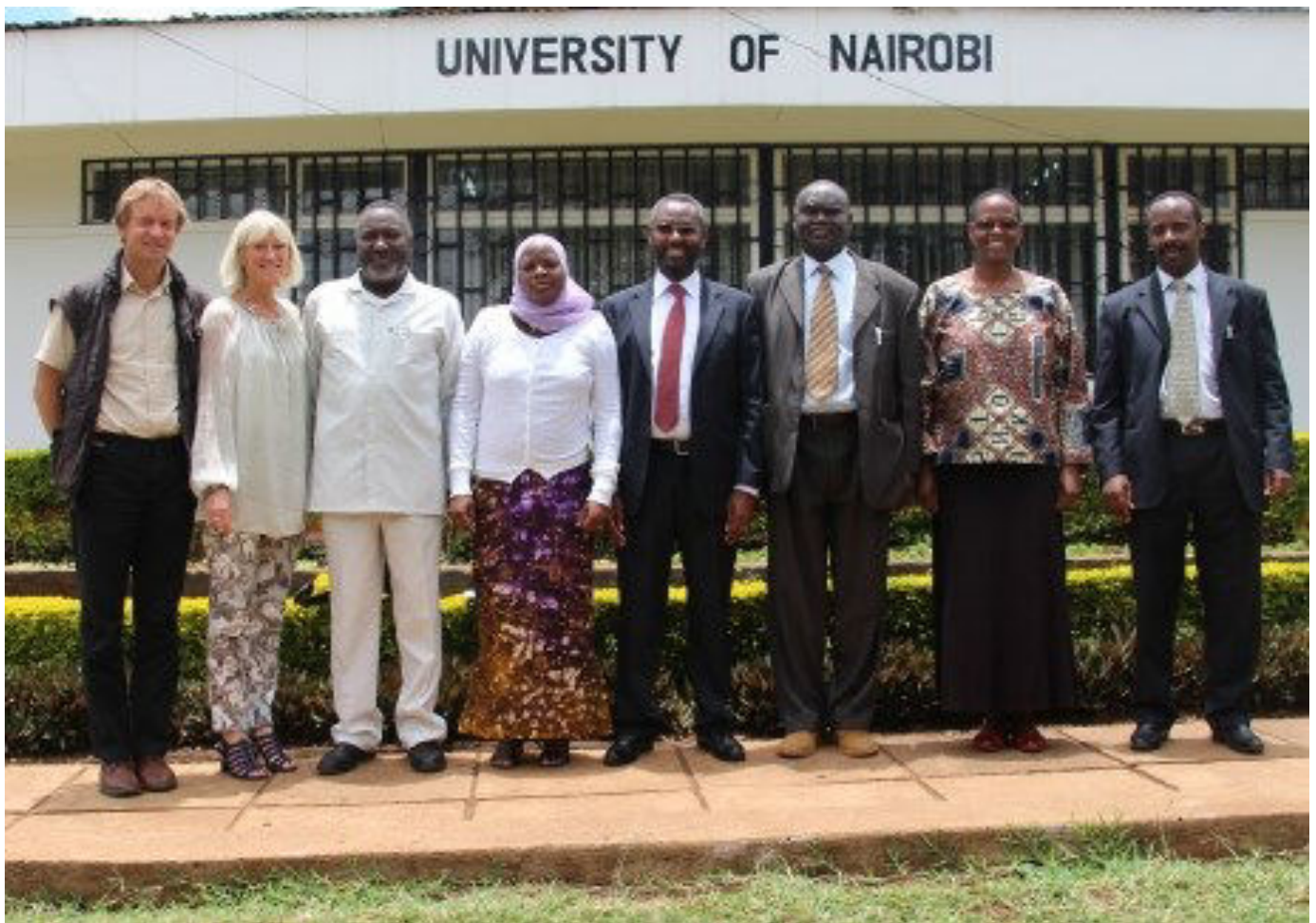
Prof. Mungai is also responsible for environmental sustainability at the University of Nairobi. He was recently appointed to serve in the International Advisory Board of the Graduate Program in Sustainability Science-Global Leadership Initiative (GPSS-GLI) of the University of Tokyo

WANGARI MAATHAI INSTITUTE HOLDS 2ND STAKE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 8TH OCTOBER, 2014

The 2nd Steering Committee meeting for the STAKE project was held on 8th October 2014.

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 left, Prof. Jens Emborg, UC, Prof. Linda Nielsen, UC, Prof. R.G. Wahome, UoN, Aisha Karanja, Executive Director, GBM, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, Joshua Chebolwo, KEFRI, Ms. Wanjira Mathai, GBM Board Chair/WMI Board Member and Dr. Thuita Thenya, UoN/STAKE Projector Coordinator after the 2ndSTAKE Project Steering Committee meeting held on 8th October, 2014 at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, University of Nairobi.

Faculty Members who Contributed to Teaching and Research at the Institute in 2014



Prof. Vibeke Vindelov
University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Visiting Professor



Prof. Linda Nielsen
University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Visiting Professor



Prof. David Mungai
Deputy Director, WMI



Prof. Raphael Wahome
Department of Animal Production



Dr. Thuita Thenya
Department of Geography &
Environmental Studies



Dr. Kiemo Karatu
Department of Sociology & Social
Work



Dr. Robert Kibugi
Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP)
CASELAP



Dr. Jones Agwata
Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP)



Dr. Thumbi Mwangi
Washington State University



The Late Claude Muthee
Tutorial Fellow



Dr. Catherine Kunyanga
Department of Food Science & Technology



Dr. Yazan Elhadi
LARMAT

Faculty Members who Contributed to Teaching and Research at the Institute in 2014



Prof. Jens Emborg
University of Copenhagen,
Visiting Professor



Prof. Nathan Iben
University of Copenhagen
Visiting professor



Prof. Jens Friis Lund
University of Copenhagen
Visiting Professor



Prof. Gideon Nyamasyo
School of Biological Sciences



Dr. Geoffrey Kironchi
Department of Land Resource Manage-
ment and Agricultural Technology.



Dr. Cecilia ONyango
Faculty of Agriculture



Dr. Fred Mugivane
Department of Agricultural Economics



Prof. Christian Pilegaard
University of Copenhagen,



Jane Mutune
Tutorial Fellow

Message from the Director



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

I am happy to present to you the 2014 WMI's newsletter. The year has been very exciting for the Institute. This newsletter highlights some of the memorable events that have taken place within the year. One of the most memorable events is the creation of the wPOWER hub at the Institute. The partnership of women entrepreneurship in renewable (wPOWER) was created by the US department of State. wPOWER Hub was created at WMI to build the evidence base on women, energy access and climate solutions; hold train the trainer workshops; facilitate African and Indian women entrepreneur and leadership exchanges to build a network of women climate leaders, and build public awareness. In July 2014 the Institute held a trainers training and an Indian-Africa Exchange Program. This training drew participants from India, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. The trainees have continued to train and impact on communities in their countries. Early in the Year, the Vice chancellor appointed Prof. David Mungai to serve as a Deputy Director to the Institute. This was very timely, as the Institute required an experienced scholar of the stature of Prof. Mungai's to continue expanding the linkages and collaboration; solidifying and strengthening the academic programs; and development of short courses at the Institute. Nevertheless, the Institute had its low moment when we lost a hardworking and very promising Scholar, the late Mr Claude Bernard Muthee Kamau who was serving as a tutorial fellow. Muthee was writing his PhD thesis for examination when he collapsed in his

apartment..

The teamwork at the Institute has been exemplary. I am grateful to the core staff at the Institute and the associated faculty members. The number of Students registered for our programs have continued to increase. The teaching and research work has continued to be conducted by the various faculties associated with the Institute. The STAKE project lead by Dr. Thenya, Prof. Vibeke and Prof. Wahome has continued to be a flagship project at the Institute. I look forward to the feedback to the community on the results obtained so far beginning in 2015.

Experiential learning has remained the pillar of the Institute. All the learning taking place at the Institute has taken an experiential Approach. In April 2014, the Institute teamed up with the University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University to mount a three-week experiential course in Nyeri South District. This course was life changing to all the students who participated in it.

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 this support, the construction of this campus will commence in the year 2015.

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