



The Inaugural National Symposium on Environment and Peace (NSEP) held at the Wangari Maathi Institute



University of Nairobi



NEWSLETTER

2018: 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

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) in collaboration with Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, One Nation under God Kenya and a host of other Environmental Peace Building organizations held a National Symposium on Environment and Peace on September 21, 2018 at the Upper Kabete Campus. The symposium was held under theme dubbed, **"Advancing Environmental Sustainability for Peaceful Co-Existence"**, with an aim of mobilizing, inspiring and commissioning the women/youth and key stakeholders to lead in Environmental Peace Building.

The symposium attracted over six hundred (600) participants drawn from about sixty (60) institutions from all over the country involving the Public Sector, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Private Sector, High School, Primary School and University Student Leaders and Entrepreneurs among others.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Njeru emphasized on the core mandate of WMI that advances peace within communities and promotes good environmental stewardship. He proposed the symposium to be an annual event.

The symposium included key note presentations, panel discussions and parallel sessions that discussed critical issues on peace and environment, creative leadership, cultures of peace, green economy and entrepreneurship.

The Wangari Maathai Institute awarded the best performing Institute/School/Faculty/Centre - 3rd Place during the UoN's Inaugural annual staff award ceremony



From the left, Prof. Mbechi, Ag. DVC A&F, UoN, Prof. Mbithi, VC, UoN, Prof. Ojiambo, Chairperson, UoN Council and Prof. Mutembei, Director, WMI during the award ceremony

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was honoured 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. The colourful ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor Prof. F. Mbithi.

The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Science (CAVS) was also awarded 3rd place under the category of College/Campuses.

The Institute is grateful for the recognition and the continued support it continues to enjoy from the University of Nairobi fraternity and also thanks all staff, students and stakeholders who may have contributed to this achievement in one way or the other. WMI looks forth to the continued improvement to enable elevate its standing locally, regionally and globally.

Prof. H. M. Mutembei, Director, WMI participated in the Tenth International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific 2018 (ISAP 2018) at Pacifico Yokohama, Japan



Prof. H. M. Mutembei, Director WMI (Center) and on his left is Prof. K. Takeuchi, Distinguished Chair WMI & President (IGES) during the ISAP 2018 forum in Japan

Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies participated in the concluded Tenth International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific 2018 (ISAP 2018) held on July 18-19, 2018 at Pacifico Yokohama, Japan. The forum was organized by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in conjunction with the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS).

The ISAP 2018 was held under theme dubbed, “Driving Transformative Actions through Integrated and Innovative Approaches,” to commemorate IGES’s 20th year since its establishment. As one of the Distinguished Speakers, Prof. Mutembei participated in the discussion on, “Advancing Sustainable Development within Planetary Boundaries,” which was one of the key agenda of the meeting.



Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, WMI and on his left is Ms. Yamamoto and the EON Environmental Foundation group

The Institute extended its appreciation to Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President, (IGES) and the Distinguished Chair, Wangari Maathai Institute, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) for their immense support and contribution to the success of the forum. WMI values the continued collaboration and looks forth to enhancing the same and contribute to sustainable development for the benefit of all.

Wangari Maathai Institute participated in the International Symposium on Development of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Human Health Impacts in East Africa



Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute giving his opening remarks during the Symposium

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Tokyo successfully held an International Trans-Disciplinary Symposium on, "Development of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Human Health Impacts in East Africa." The symposium was held on December 5-6, 2018 at the University of Nairobi, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Clinical Studies Seminar Room. The aim of the international symposium was to create an opportunity to exchange research ideas and discuss ways of building effective collaboration between academic institutions from both Kenya and Japan under the above mentioned theme.



International Symposium Group photo

The two days symposium attracted about fifty (50) local and international participants who participated in sessions on Climate Change, Health Risks and Diseases and Agriculture-Nutrition-Health Nexus respectively.

Wangari Maathai Institute holds Closing Ceremony for the 6th of Cohort of Integrated Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit



From the right, Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy Director, WMI/Course Coordinator, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVs, Ms. Abisagi Kasoma, 2nd row from the left, Mr. Areri N. Charles, Ms. Grace N. Wafula, Ms. Mary W. Wanjohi, and Mr. Mutuku Charles Muthama after the closing ceremony

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies successfully mounted the August, 2018 class for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit course. The five (5) course participants were drawn from diverse professional backgrounds including training and research institutions among others. The participants were trained by experienced environmental assessment practitioners from the University, NEMA and independent consultants.

The closing ceremony was held at the Office of the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences on August 29, 2018 at 2:00pm. In his remarks, Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal CAVS/Chief Guest, narrated to the Course participants a brief history of the late Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai, how the Institute was conceptualised and eventually established. Prof. Kiama said that he was happy to interact with the course participants and indicated that offering short courses is one of the reasons why the Institute was founded to enable equip practitioners and professionals with practical knowledge, skills and attitudes in the environmental conservation.

He concluded by challenging the participants to practice what they had learnt and to remain true to their professional ideals.

Wangari Maathai Institute in collaboration with Danish Universities celebrate Wangari Maathai Day at Gatugi Girls



Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS, planting a tree to mark the celebration of the Wangari Maathai Day on March 3, 2018 at Gatugi Girls Secondary School. On looking is the Principal, Gatugi Girls and Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy Director WMI (2nd first row) among others.

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) in collaboration with the Danish Universities celebrated the Wangari Maathai Day at Gatugi Girls Secondary School in Othaya, Nyeri. The Wangari Maathai Day was endorsed to be celebrated on the same day as African Environmental Day every March 3 during the 18th African Union summit at the auspices of the New African Union Headquarters Complex in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This decision was made in recognition of Prof. Wangari Maathai's numerous achievements in her capacity as the first Presiding Officer of the African Union's Economic, Social and Cultural Council, African Union Peace Ambassador, Founder of the Green Belt Movement, Goodwill Ambassador to the Congo Basin Forest Initiative, UN Peace Messenger for Environment and Climate, and the UNEP Champion of the Earth.

A parallel event was also held by the WMI in conjunction with the GBM at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences which was concluded by planting of the tree at the Wangari Maathai Institute site.



Wangari Maathai Institute in conjunction with the Green Belt Movement at the WMI Site planted a tree to commemorate the day

Learning by Doing at the Institute (SLUSE 2018)



WMI-UoN and students from University of Copenhagen and University of Roskilde, Denmark presenting their preliminary findings on livestock production

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi continues to bridge the gap between theory and practice just as Prof. Wangari Maathai hoped. The institute in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and University of Roskilde, Denmark successfully implemented the 2018 experiential field learning course dubbed, “Sustainable land use management system – (SLUSE),” which is the 6th in series after the SLUSE 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. The program was held in Othaya, Nyeri County, from March 2-13, 2018. It incorporated students from various disciplines including environmental governance, agriculture, sociology, anthropology, economics, forestry, livestock production and law and was attended by thirty four (37) students, twenty seven (27) international students from both University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University and ten (10) from the University of Nairobi-Wangari Maathai Institute.

The students were hosted by the local communities for the entire period (12 days). The SLUSE research areas hinged around six (6) thematic areas including application of citizen Science in management of pest and diseases; Livestock Production as driven by prevailing milk market; Microfinance support for SLUSE; Household governance in relation to SLUSE; Irrigation support for SLUSE and Coffee production. The students were supervised by the faculty from the Wangari Maathai Institute, including Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Dr. Thuita Thenya, Dr. Karatu Kiemo, Dr. Jane Mutune, Dr. Cecilia Onyango and Dr. Catherine Kunyanga. The supervisors from the University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University included Prof. Christian Pilegaard Hansen and Dr. Lise Tjørring. The field exercise was concluded with a community feedback meeting during which students presented their preliminary findings and recommendations. The feedback meeting involved the host families, government officers and the general public. The Institute appreciates the University of Copenhagen for the support and continued collaboration and all for contributing in one way or the other to the success of the 2018 SLUSE programme.

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts closing ceremony for the SLUSE 2018 programme



Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS, Prof. H. Mutembei, Director WMI, Prof. Maingi, Dean, FVM, Prof. Ki-menju, Dean, FoA, Prof. Christian P. Hansen and Dr. Lise Tjørring, University of Copenhagen, Faculty, UoN & WMI, Students, WMI -UoN and Danish Universities group photo after the SLUSE program closing ceremony at the WMI Campus.

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies' joint Sustainable Land Use Management (SLUSE) programme with the University of Copenhagen was successfully concluded in a colourful closing ceremony that was held on March 13, 2018 at the WMI Campus in the Cafeteria area. This event saw the award of certificates of successful participation in the experiential field training course on Sustainable Land Use Management 2018 held in Othaya, Nyeri County to the thirty seven (37) participants of the programme drawn from the University of Nairobi - Wangari Maathai Institute, University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University. The students will proceed to write conclusive examinable reports and also publish their research works to contribute to the much needed scientific evidence.



Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS addressing participants

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts closing ceremony for the SLUSE 2018 programme

The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. N. Maingi, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Prof. J. Kimenju, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Christian Pilegaard Hansen and Dr. Lise Tjørring, University of Copenhagen, Mr. P. Wekesa, College Registrar, Mr. S. K. Kimele, College Bursar, Mr. Nganga, College Auditor, Dr. T. Ndiwa, UoN and course instructors represented by Dr. J. M. Mutune, Dr. C. Kunyanga and WMI staff.



Prof. Christian Pilegaard Hansen, University of Copenhagen addressing participants



Prof. Maingi issuing a certificate of successful participation to Ms. Gakuhi, WMI student

Wangari Maathai Institute Participates in the University of Nairobi's 59th Graduation Ceremony



From the left, Dr. K. Mbali, Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute and Dr. Masaba Sowedi and Dr. B. E. Kathambi during the UoN's 59th graduation ceremony,

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was delighted to have participated in the University of Nairobi's 59th graduation ceremony held on September 14, 2018 by producing 7 graduands. The institute was honoured to have three (3) doctoral students and four (4) Masters Students conferred and awarded with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Governance and Management and Master of Science in Environmental Governance respectively.

The Ph.D graduands included Dr. Masaba Sowedi, Dr. Bessy Eva Kathambi and Dr. Kenneth Mbali while the Masters graduands included Mr. Alexander Dunbar, Ms. Sylvia Rotich, Ms. Grace Uwamwezi and Mr. Benson Ouma

Congratulations to the graduands!

Wangari Maathai Institute Participates in the University of Nairobi's 60th Graduation Ceremony



Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute , Dr. Jacob Dodoo, Prof. Nzioka Muthama, Deputy Director, wmi together with Dr. Dodoo's family after the graduation ceremony

Wangari Maathai Institute yet again participated in the 60th graduation ceremony held on December 21, 2018. The Institute was proud of producing 4 graduands i.e. two (2) PhD students and two (2) MSc students who were conferred and awarded Doctor of Philosophy degree in Environmental Governance & Management and Master of Science degree in Environmental Governance respectively. The PhD graduands included Dr. Jacob Dodoo, Dr. Shadrack Kipkemoi while the MSc graduands were Ms. Patricia Nzano and Dr. Virginia Ng'endo.

The graduands studies were diverse including Evaluation of the Sustainability of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) In Kenya: A Case Study of Lake Naivasha Basin by Dr. Dodoo, Natural Resource Based Conflicts in Tana River County by Dr. Kipkemoi, Increasing Kavuko Community's Appreciation of Bee Conservation as a Food Production and Security Strategy by Ms. Nzano and Evaluating the Impact of Subdivision of Group Ranches on Livestock Dependent Livelihoods at Aimi ma Kilungi, Makueni by Dr. Ng'endo.

The colourful ceremony was presided by the Chancellor Dr. Vijoo Rattansi.

Guest Lecturers and students share their experiential knowledge with WMI students



Dr. Bayo Ogundipe

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies held a Fascinating and Insightful Seminar on Appropriate Technology and Appropriate Culture that generated discussions on what drives/influences the other between culture and technology and most importantly, how the environment comes in.

This seminar was delivered by Dr. Bayo Ogundipe on July 12, 2018 in the FVM's Small Pathology Lecture Theatre. Dr. Ogundipe is an Associate Professor in the Department of Engineering at James Madison University.

He obtained his PhD in Environmental Engineering and M.Eng in Chemical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, and B.Sc in Chemical Engineering from the University of Lagos, Nigeria.



Ms. Patricia Nzano delivering the Seminar

Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) holds a seminar on July 4, 2018 where two MSc. Students, Patricia Njoki Nzano and Cohen Ang'u, presented their research findings.

The research topics presented included: "Increasing Kavuko Community's appreciation of bee conservation as a food production and security strategy" and "Establishing relationships among Oil Shocks, Electricity Prices, Resilience Metrics and Electrical Energy", by Ms. Njoki

and Mr. Ang'u respectively.

Ms. Njoki is a Master's student at WMI, while Mr. Ang'u an Msc. Student at Pan African University, Institute of Water and Energy Science (including climate change) – PAUWES.



Mr. Ang'u presents his research findings

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies held a fruitful seminar on Regulation as a Belief System? Public and Private Pathways for Controlling Pesticide Use.

This seminar was delivered by Dr. James S. Krueger on April 25, 2018 at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Small Pathology Lecturer Theatre.

Dr. Krueger is a postdoctoral fellow at the Atkinson Centre for a Sustainable Future at Cornell University, USA and is currently attached to the Wangari Maathai Institute as a Research Associate.



Dr. James Krueger delivering a seminar

The second ESDA Sustainability Workshop held at the University of Nairobi, Main Campus, Old Council Chambers



Dr. Sam Owuor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies delivering a paper presen-

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies participated in the Education for Sustainable Urban Development in Africa- Sustainable Development (ESDA-SUD) workshop that was held at the University of Nairobi, Main Campus' Old Council Chambers on April 19, 2018. The workshop was held under theme, "Sustainable Urban Development: Theories and Methods," with an aim of enhancing the understanding and quality of the ESDA-SUD Masters programme in order to achieve the mission and vision of the ESDA Master programme of training leaders for sustainable development in Africa. The workshop brought together University of Nairobi's ESDA-SUD Faculty, Students and stakeholders to discuss sustainability issues in Kenya.

A total of forty participants drawn from four institutions including University of Nairobi, Pan African University- Algeria, Monash University and Kiambu County government were in attendance. The workshop was opened by Prof. Enos Njeru, the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor who reiterated the importance and relevance of ESDA Programme in addressing Sustainability issues connected to urban development and Rural Development among others.

He also noted with satisfaction the increasing collaboration being fostered by the programme. Eight paper presentations were delivered during the workshop which ended at 2:00pm.

Wangari Maathai Institute facilitates a workshop on Environmental Social Impact Assessment in Naivasha, Nakuru County



Director Climate Change - County Government of Kiambu, alongside Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy Director WMI, in conversation with a staff member from VegPro

From June 25-29, 2018, officials from the Kiambu County Government participated in a training workshop on Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). Deputy Director WMI, Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Prof. David N. Mungai, Dr. J. Moronge, and Ms P. Wambua also of WMI, took the lead in facilitating the workshop, which was held at Masada Hotel in Naivasha, Nakuru County.

As part of the training, participants visited the VegPro Group Flower Farm and were able to develop a more informed understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the large flower industry in Kenya. To conclude the training, the group toured the Gorge Farm Energy Park, which is an 800ha vegetable farm for further experiential learning.

Gorge Farm has the largest Anaerobic Digester (AD) power plant in East Africa, generating 2.4MW of energy for use on the farm and selling the surplus to the Kenyan national grid. This cuts on carbon dioxide emissions through the production of clean energy, therefore advancing Kenya's Climate Change Action Plan. Gorge Farm is managed through a partnership between Tropical Energy as the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) arm of the project; Biojoule Kenya and; VegPro Group, which also utilizes the energy generated at the farm.

Ms. Bessy Eva Kathambi, PhD student at the Wangari Maathai Institute participates in the International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability 2018



Ms. Bessy Eva Kathambi among other participants after the conference, group photo

Ms. Bessy Eva Kathambi was selected to present her academic poster on 'Factors affecting governance in adoption of the green concept in environmental management' which was held at the UN Environment – Tongji University in Shanghai, China from the 2nd June to 7th June 2018. Bessy did her presentation and won the second prize in Natural Science presentation in the group for **Eco-city Group + Ecosystem Management and Wildlife** during the conference. Her presentation highlighted the importance of the green concept as a framework through which sustainability can be achieved and the practical platform of effecting change in the environment. She presented the green concept as the framework for sustainability in environmental management and governance explicating the avenues through which institutions can create synergies in co-designing and co-implementation which form key pillars in environmental sustainability.

She was also involved in the Global Youth Tongji Declaration in the UN Environment Day celebration dubbed, "Beat Plastic Pollution".

Ms Kathambi extended her appreciation to the UN Environment-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD), for sponsoring the travel and accommodation, the International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability (ISCES) for their support and the awesome learning experience, Prof H. M. Mutembei, Director, WMI for being supportive and keen to have experiential learning, and WMI staff for their relentless efforts in encouraging the students and creating the best environment for learning.

The Regional Workshop for Food Security Centre, “Youth and Innovation Summit: Sustainable Solutions towards ZERO Hunger in Africa,” at the Wangari Maathai Institute



From the left, 1st row, Prof. J. Mburu, Chairman, Dept. of Agric. Economics, Prof. G. Cheminingwa, Dean, FoA, Dr. C. Kunyanga, Dept of FSN&T, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS, Prof. J. Imungi, Dept. FSN&T, Prof. H. M. Mutembei, Director, WMI, Dr. B. Bugusu, Prudue University and Mr. A. Ngosi, AGRA group photo

The Regional workshop for Food Security Centre, University of Nairobi on “Youth and Innovation Summit: Sustainable Solutions towards ZERO Hunger in Africa” was held on 25th-26th October, 2018 at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies in the University of Nairobi. The summit was organized by the University of Nairobi as a strategic partner and sponsored through grants from DAAD under the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany in conjunction with the Food Security Centre of the University of Hohenheim in Germany with the theme of the summit centred on SDG 2; Sustainable solutions towards zero hunger in Africa and SDG 1: No poverty. The aim of the regional summit was to aggregate all innovations and technologies developed by young scientists especially targeting the youth for agriculture (#CoolAgriculture) that can be used to address food insecurity which will later be disseminated for up take by households and farmers.

According to the Coordinator, Dr Catherine Kunyanga, the aim of the summit was to aggregate all innovations developed by the youth for agriculture (#AgriCool, #CoolAgriculture) and later dissemination to households and farmers. The summit speakers emphasised on the “Youth Power and Potential” in transforming agriculture in Africa through science, research and innovations. The Youth were encouraged to have patience and persistence in starting up business from their innovations and technologies for better commercialization of the same. The summit which had over 10 nationalities representing Africa was a major success and the youth attending had positive remarks and wished to be engaged in future FSC activities.

The Principal CAVS emphasized that youth are an important generation. In their various disciplines, they have the power to cause change. He also encouraged the youth to be risk takers since it is an important aspect especially in social entrepreneurship. The Keynote speakers included Dr Betty Bugusu from Purdue University and Mr Anthony Ngosi, Senior Program Officer (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, AGRA).

Wangari Maathai Institute participated in tree planting event, CAVS



Prof. Henry Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute delivering his presentation on climate change, forced migration and conflicts during the 7th Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference at Safari Park, Nairobi

The Wangari Maathai Institute was honoured to participate and contribute in the 7th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-VII) held on October 10-12, 2018 at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi. The conference was organized by the African Climate Policy Centre in collaboration with the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, Think Renewable and the World Meteorological Organization. Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute delivered his presentation on how migrations and mobility induced by climate change contribute to conflicts alongside other presenters.

Africa has become an epicentre of violent conflicts and forced migration thanks to frequent eruption of natural calamities linked to climate change, experts said. According to the experts, global warming that has escalated resource based conflicts in Africa bodes ill for the continent's quest to sustain economic growth, stability and cohesion.

Prof. Henry Mutembei, Director, WMI warned that the continent's stability is at stake as climate change-linked disasters fuel inter-communal skirmishes and forced migration of productive segment of the population. "The nexus between climate change and surge in conflicts, insecurity and migration in Africa is overwhelming thus placing a heavier responsibility on governments to address this phenomenon with urgency," said Prof. Mutembei. He further noted that the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions have become flashpoints as famines and water stress disrupt the livelihoods of agro-pastoral communities.

"Rapid desertification is already causing a migration crisis and sporadic conflicts in the Sahel region. These climate refugees that are increasing in numbers pose serious threats to global security," said Prof. Mutembei. He stressed that targeted investments in resilience projects including climate-smart agriculture and restoration of vital ecosystems could forestall resources-based conflicts in Africa.

Delegates attending the three-day conference renewed call for governments and multilateral lenders to realign climate resilience in the continent with security, peace and inter-communal harmony.

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts the 2018 Annual tree planting Event



Pupils from Vetlab Primary during the WMI's tree planting event

On April 6, 2018, the Wangari Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was honoured to host a tree planting event where about 10,000 indigenous trees were planted. The theme of the event which was **“Growing Trees for Clean Environment,”** was commemorated in conjunction with the University of Nairobi fraternity together with stakeholders including the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), the Green Belt Movement (GBM), Kenya Research Forest Institute (KEFRI), Kenya Professional Association for Women in Agriculture and Environment (KEPAWAE), Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Environment Institute of Kenya (EIK), the Lions Club, Ecopreneurs, University of Nairobi Alumni, Tumaini Africa Foundation, Embakasi, Vetlab Primary and Secondary School, Loresho Primary and Secondary School, WMI and UoN students, among others.



Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, WMI planting a tree

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts the 2018 Annual tree planting Event



Participants keenly listening to speeches during the tree planting event

The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Prof. Japheth Ntiba, the Principal Secretary for University Education and Research who on his part commended the tree planting initiative at the University of Nairobi underscoring its long term contribution in mitigating climate change effects. The value of increasing the forest cover in the country was also emphasized across all key note speeches as delivered by Dr. Vijoo Ratansi, the Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principals, CAVS and Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, WMI.

Dr. Ratansi also paid tribute to the late Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai for her exemplary role in conserving the environment by mobilizing women groups to plant over 30 million trees in various schools and churches while, the Vice-Chancellor University of Nairobi challenged all staff and students to continue promoting environment sustainability initiatives for the benefit of both present and future generations. The WMI's post graduate students also took an advantage of the event to urge all to do their little thing to conserve the environment just as Prof. Wangari Maathai did.

WMI and UoN fraternity led by Peter Mbithi, the Vice Chancellor extended their appreciation to all stakeholders who donated the tree seedlings as well to those who participated in this noble initiative of planting trees.

“When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope,”

.....Prof. Wangari Maathai.....

News In Brief

Deputy Director, WMI participates in the Regional Dialogue on Climate Change and Conflicts in the Horn of Africa, Hilton Hotel, Nairobi

The workshop brought together scientists, experts and relevant stakeholders from the Civil society, policymaking, academia, and implementing communities to discuss various critical and emerging issues pertaining to climate change and conflicts in the Horn of Africa .

The main goal of the workshop was to interrogate how conflicts and migration in the horn of Africa are induced by climate change and to develop adequate measures for conflict prevention and regulation.

Prof. Muthama made a key note presentation titled “Migration, Mobility, Conflict and Security in the Context of Climate Nexus.”

The University of Nairobi Council Housing Committee Tours the Wangari Maathai Institute Campus

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies appreciates the immense support from the entire University fraternity.

On the morning of November 12, 2018, the University of Nairobi Council Housing Committee, led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. M. F. Mbithi, toured the Campus to assess its status of completion. The construction of the Campus is majorly completed, awaiting the furniture to enable occupation and operationalization of the facilities.

Receiving the team was Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute.



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

The BBC Holds Interview with the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) London journalists held an interview on September 6, 2018 with Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies on the compliance with the recent ban on the Single Use Plastic bags. The aim of the interview was to establish the compliance levels one year down the line, what informed the ban including its implications on the traders and the general public. The interview was held with the Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy Director together with Mr. E. Odhiambo, a masters student at WMI who is carrying out a study on the plastic ban.

News In brief

Wangari Maathai Institute collaborates with Babson College in hosting the 2nd Webinar on Hiring and Firing

“For an entrepreneur is it better to hire staff who are from large corporates with experience or better to “grow your own crop”? Is it always best that the Managing director does not deal directly with staff or Should there always be a middle manager in-between?” These were some of the key questions that the webinar series 2 on Hiring and Firing sought to answer. The Wangari Maathai Institute was pleased to collaborate with the Babson College in the implementation of this webinar session, series 2. This key session on “Hiring and Firing,” was held on November 6, 2018.

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts Climate Change Governance Project Implementation Meeting

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) in collaboration with the Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation (ICCA) held successful planning meeting to facilitate Climate Change Governance research. This research implementation meeting was held on November 5, 2018 at the WMI Offices. The research will be focused on situational analysis of climate change and climate change governance focusing on mitigation, technology, knowledge management and climate finance across the 47 counties and in the light of the big four agenda and while ensuring that considerations of gender, youth and marginalized groups are included.

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts Bitmax Solar Light investors and innovators

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies hosted Bitmax Solar Light investors and innovators in deliberations of a potable and rechargeable solar light prototype. The solar lamp is integrated with high efficient solar panel with a capacity of 10 hour continuous lighting and an in-build audio radio for advertising. It is hoped that the foldable solar lamp will revolutionize the welfare and dignify small and medium enterprises through solving challenges of insecurity, unemployment and pollution in major towns of Kenya.

Wangari Maathai Institute in conjunction with Babson College hosts the 1st Webinar for the Launch and Grow program's 3rd Edition

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was honoured to implement the 2nd phase of the Launch and Grow: The Kenyan Women's Entrepreneurship Leadership Program in collaboration with Babson College and Fundacion Mujeres Por Africa (FMxA). The 2nd Phase entails the three (3) webinar series which will be held together with the local workshops and the graduation ceremony for the participants who will have successfully completed the mentorship process.

Wangari Maathai Institute participates in the 1st National Conference on Climate Governance – October 9, 2018 at Safari Park Hotel

Climate change is acknowledged as a crossing cutting issue with significant potential to impact on every aspect of life while undermining the ability to attain the Sustainable Development Goals. The governance of climate change is complex and hence calls for participation of all stakeholders from the local to the global scale. Towards this end, the 1st National Conference on Climate Governance organized by Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance brought together 47 regional governments from the country's counties, policy makers as well international stakeholders who engaged in the discussions on climate governance for the benefit of both the present and future generations. The conference was attended by the Wangari Maathai Institute Faculty led by Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, WMI and Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy Director. The Institute looks forth to developing a framework for Participatory Climate Change Governance for National and County Governments.

News In Brief

The Wangari Maathai Institute holds the Inaugural End of Year Sports for Peace

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) held the first End of Year Sports for Peace 2018 activity on Saturday December 08, 2018 at the Wangari Maathai Institute Green Campus. WMI was established to institutionalize and advance the ideals, works and walks of Prof. Wangari Maathai.

The Institute is driven by a vision of lasting peace founded on responsible and accountable governance principles and practices that focus on promoting a culture of peace whereby beliefs and values of others are respected. Sports are a great asset in contributing towards peace building and conflict resolution. It encourages team work, team spirit and breaking of cultural and ethnic barriers. It has an empowering effect in that the youth will be able to develop skills and knowledge necessary to ensure that they have more control of their lives and engage meaningfully in their communities.

Wangari Maathai Institute Holds the 2nd Student Led Activity Dubbed “Tuko Pamoja Solai 2nd Edition

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) held the second student led activity dubbed ‘Tuko Pamoja Solai 2nd Edition’ that took place on **September 29, 2018** at Solai Nyakinyua Primary School. The activity involved expert talks on mental wellness, funding and youth and sustainability, Community Empowerment, Tree Planting as well as distribution of necessary stationery and material for KCPE candidates.

Following the flood disaster in Solai dam on 9th May 2018, many people unfortunately lost their lives with over 2000 people displaced. This drew the attention and empathy of WMI students as it served as evidence of the catastrophes that follow when policies are ignored, non-existent or inadequate. The first student led outreach to Solai following the tragedy dubbed Tuko Pamoja Solai 1 was held on June 30, 2018 at the Assistant County Commissioner Grounds. This activity involved collection and distribution of donation amongst affected households and learning institutions, tree planting session, clean up activity and performance art.



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

Wangari Maathai Institute in collaboration with the Ecopreneurs for the Climate Kenya participates in the Wangari Maathai Eco Festival

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) in partnership with Ecopreneurs for the Climate Kenya participated in the Wangari Maathai Eco festival on April 12, 2018 at United Nations Environment Programme. WMI made a presentation on the role played by Wangari Maathai Institute in promoting the one billion tree campaign. This campaign was championed by UNEP under the patronage of Wangari Maathai and the Prince of Monaco. The aim was to raise awareness on the adverse effects of Green House Gases on the Environment. The solution was to plant more trees as they trap carbon dioxide and release oxygen.

WMI has played various roles in promoting the one billion tree campaign such via projects such as the wPOWER Hub which dwelt on clean energy technologies, STAKE whose aim was to contribute towards stabilizing Kenya through solving forest related conflicts and forest governance, Launch and Grow; a women entrepreneurial mentorship and leadership program which dwells on capacity building of women entrepreneurs thus contributing towards SDG 5 (Enhance equity for women and girls) and the annual tree planting activities among others. The guests in attendance at the Wangari Maathai Eco-festival included Dr. Yulita Mitei, Deputy Governor Nandi County, Ms. Vicky Ondari, Director E-waste Kenya, Mr. Mulo, Green Kenya, Mr. Calvin, Secretary Micro and Small Enterprises Leaders Summit and Ms. Susan Kirui, Miss Earth Kenya 2018.

News In brief

Wangari Maathai Institute participates in the Animal Disaster Management in Makueni County

Led by Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace Environmental Studies, the University of Nairobi, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Emergency Response Unit in collaboration with the World Animal Protection and the Makueni County Government conducted a successful livestock disaster response in Makueni County. An estimated 30,000 livestock were de-wormed, vaccinated and treated from June 3 - 9, 2018. Simultaneously, a survey on effects of disasters on communities' livelihoods, livestock in particular and cost benefit analysis was also conducted and will be used to enable sustainable disaster response activities.

Wangari Maathai Institute participates in the Community Engaged Scholarship and Pedagogy Course training

The Community Engaged Scholarship (CES) and Pedagogy Course training took place on Wednesday July 11, 2018 at the Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine's Boardroom from 9am - 12 noon. The course is championed by Dr. Jane Mutune, Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) and Prof. Bessy Muhonja, James Madison University, USA. The course aims to develop expertise of graduate students to engage in applied research that addresses the needs of all stakeholders.

This is in line with Prof. Wangari Maathai's philosophy of raising leaders within communities by training our Masters and PhD students to become the kind of scholars who are connected and responsive to the communities, and produce relevant and accessible scholarship and technologies for the communities they work within and on. The participants included the WMI Masters and PHD students, Kenya School of Law students and the Department of Geography, University of Nairobi Masters Students.

Prof Muthama, Ag. Director WMI represents the University of Nairobi at a stakeholder Forum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Stakeholder Forum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) was held on Tuesday 17, July 2018 at the Boma Hotel Nairobi. It was convened by National Environment Authority (NEMA) and brought together Education for Sustainable Development stakeholders to discuss sustainability issues in Kenya. Participants, drawn from key organisations, including NEMA, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Education, Kenya Institute of Curriculum development, Kenya Education Management Institute, Kenya Forestry service, University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, Technical University of Kenya, among others.

The workshop started at 9:00 am and total of 31 participants attended the meeting. In her opening remarks, Madam Catherine Mbaisi of NEMA noted that the ESD initiative started in Kenya eight years ago and eight focal themes have in the past been addressed. She reiterated the importance and relevance of ESD efforts in fostering Sustainable development in Kenya. Oral presentations were delivered in three sessions, namely: Policy issues; practitioners; and the Proposed National Environmental Education Conference/Congress. Prof Muthama made an oral presentation, titled "Education and Sustainable Development: University of Nairobi's experience". The workshop ended at 5:30 PM.

Ms. Bessy E. Kathambi, PhD student at WMI participates in the 6th GPSS-GLI symposium at the University of Tokyo

Ms. Bessy Eva Kathambi, a PhD student at Wangari Maathai Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies was honoured to have been selected to participate in 6th Graduate Programme of Sustainability Science – Global Leadership Initiative (GPSS-GLI) symposium at the University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences.

The symposium was held on March 2nd to 3rd, 2018.

Ms. Kathambi presented a poster on factors affecting Sustainability in adoption of the Green Concept in Environmental Management in Nairobi, Kenya at the symposium whose theme was dubbed, "Framing into Action, Bringing sustainability thinking into practice." Her presentation highlighted the importance of the green concept as a framework through which sustainability can be achieved and the practical platform of effecting change in the environment.

She presented the green concept as the framework for sustainability in environmental management and governance explicating the avenues through which institutions can create synergies in information and technology sharing through co-designing and co-implementation which form key pillars in sustainability science.

Message from the Director



Prof. Henry M. Mutembei
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