



EARTH DAY

KABERAMAIDO DISTRICT



**“RESTORE
OUR EARTH”**

REPORT

22 APRIL, 2021



GRÖW
FOOD. LIFE. PLANET.



PARTNERS





Table Of **CONTENTS**

01. Editorial	Page 1
02. Background	Page 2
03. Introduction	Page 3
04. The Buildup Events	Page 4
05. Tree Planting	Page 5
06. The Community Dialogue	Page 6
07. Radio Talk Show	Page 7
08. The Cleanup	Page 8
09. Launch of School climate reality club	Page 10
10. Earthday Commemoration	Page 12
11. Highlights of the Press conference	Page 13
12. The Policy Dialogue	Page 14
13. Actions and Recommendations from the policy dialogue	Page 16
14. Comitments and Actions from the policy Dialogue	Page 18
14. Brief Profiles of participating Organizations	Page 19
15. The Core Organising Committee	Page 23

Editorial Team:

Katende Robert

Rapporteur and Editor-in-Chief
Managing Partner
Ultimate Business Strategies



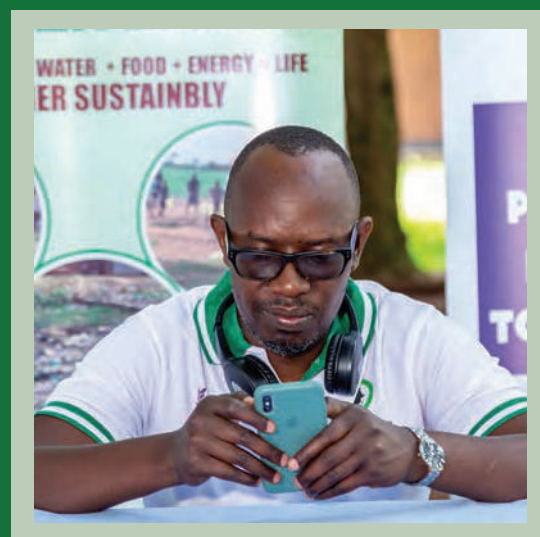
Hellen N Kasujja

Editor
Deputy Executive Director
Community Integrated
Development Initiatives



Ddembe Simon

Editor
Focal Person – Uganda Chapter
Africa Climate Reality Project





Background

Earth Day commemoration was born out of the world's largest environment conservation movement. It is an annual global event, observed on April 22 of every year. This day celebrates and commemorates the environmental movement and raises awareness about degradation and ways to maintain a clean habitat. It was first celebrated in 1970 when Senator Gaylord Nelson sought to bring the global environmental condition onto the US national agenda. Over the years, a global Earth Day Network (EDN) has evolved and is responsible for coordinating and galvanizing conservation efforts on a worldwide scale. EDN has declared and unveiled "Restore Our Earth" as the theme for Earth Day 2021.

In Uganda, a cross section of nongovernmental organisations, civil society, local governments and individual activists came together to leverage the power of this one day event and raise a concerted and unified voice about restoration of the environment on which humanity depends for survival. These agencies and persons, under the leadership of Climate Reality Uganda Chapter alongside Creative Initiatives for Enterprise Development (CIFED) and with funding from OXFAM and Community Integrated Development Initiatives, agreed to hold a joint awareness event in the Teso Sub-region. Kaberamaido Town Council, Kaberamaido District hosted the main celebration which was preceded by a series of buildup events. These events were spearheaded by community leaders and involved deep and pertinent conversations and dialogue meetings about the environmental concerns affecting the livelihoods of the communities. Local observations in the Teso sub-region have confirmed the reality of climate change or ejulujuluta nu ikwamin in Ateso, the local dialect. The community generally agrees that there is a significant change in the weather patterns. This is characterized by their inability to predict when the rains will start, prolonged rains, prolonged drought, flooding, heavy hailstones and other related phenomena. Not only is this destroying food crops, it is also steadily changing the vegetation patterns of the area and this has impact on availability of firewood, reduction in food diversity, abundance of fruit trees (which used to be a big resilience mechanism), game (a source of animal nutrients) and the rendering of once lush forests into struggling rangelands. The locals reported that since the turn of the millennium, the Teso region has experienced food insecurity so much so that cassava has now replaced millet which is the cultural food crop of the area. There are more pests and diseases, and new types of weeds have evaded the land.

It was upon that background that it was agreed to celebrate the Earth Day 2021 in the Teso sub-region. The ultimate goal was to support the local community to amplify its voice and call upon the residents, the local governments, the concerned ministries, elected leaders, civil society and development agencies to rise to the occasion and save Mother Earth. The decision was also taken in order to demonstrate to the community that by working together, they can become part of the solution by doing something to reverse environmental degradation. By using this demonstration effect, the community was meant to innovate and use the power of unity to not only demand for action from duty bearers but also to do something!



Introduction

The Earth Day 2021 celebration was a culmination of planning at various levels, both in Kaberamaido and in Kampala, mainly spearheaded by Climate Reality Corps of Uganda and CIFED in Kaberamaido, Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI), Africa Climate Reality Project (ACRP) and Oxfam. Other participating agencies and organizations included: Royalway Media, National Youth Advocacy Platform (NYAP), Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform (UFCVP), Strong African Women Uganda (SAW – UG), Sustainable Path Africa, Arise Africa – Uganda (AAU), CISU, Danish People’s Aid (DPA) and POPOW . Various individual activists also participated in the planning and execution activities both at national and local level.

A detailed brief about each of these organisations is provided at the end of this report.

The inspiration for this event was birthed at a cleanup event that took place at Gaba landing site in January 2021 in response to the ACRP regional #beatplasticpollution campaign. The event was organised by the Climate Reality Leadership Corps (CRLC) of the ACRP and its goal was to educate the community about the dangers of polluting Lake Victoria, the largest single fresh water lake in the world.

It was also intended to carry out a plastic audit so that bottling companies and plastic bag manufacturers can be called to action using concrete evidence of the waste retrieved from the lake shores. It was upon the success of this event that CIFED, whose programmes coordinator is a CRLC, mooted the idea of holding the Earth Day celebrations in the Teso Sub – region to galvanise local and national action about environment conservation. CIFED offered to organise grassroots activities in collaboration with local agencies and the local government. CIDI, ACRP and the CRLCs took on the mantle of fundraising and organising at national level. These fundraising efforts are credited with bringing Oxfam on board to finance the activities.

While the main event was held on Thursday April 22, 2021, there were various build up events that were held prior to that day in order to achieve the above objective. These events took place in the communities and each event was preceded or succeeded by a dialogue involving the community members, the local leaders and participating agencies (including the local and national media). These events included but were not limited to the following:

Community Tree planting and dialogue | Radio Talk Shows | General cleanup of Kaberamaido Town Council and awareness campaign | Launching of a School Climate Reality Club | Press Conference | The Policy Dialogue

OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the celebration was to mobilise the communities and the local leaders in the Teso Sub – region for Climate Action to Save Mother Earth.

The organisers set out to achieve three key specific objectives. These were:

- 1). To raise awareness of communities on environmental degradation impacts on mother earth for increased climate action
- 2). Convening key stakeholders in a policy discussion on environment and climate for generation key commitments for implementation
- 3). To demonstrate doable actions on small scale adaptation and mitigation actions for scaling



The buildup events were organised as a way to get as many community members as possible involved in the activities. They were informal in nature, involved a lot of discussions and conversations from the different perspectives of the local inhabitants themselves. The purpose was to generate debate or dialogue that could unlock local solutions to local problems. They were also designed as safe spaces for learning and knowledge sharing so that the community itself can define the agenda, control the narrative and agree on sustainable actions that they themselves can take with or without external support. There were five (5) buildup events that were held and these are described below:



Tree Planting to Restore Angutawele Central Forest Reserve Angutawele Central Forest Reserve (CFR) is located in present day Kaberamaido District. According to National Forestry Authority (NFA) the CFR covers a total of 280 hectares but the reserve has now been allocated to private tree planters to develop it. This decision was based on the fact that the reserve had been completely degraded and

“ In 1971, the place was a dense forest and it would rain on a daily basis. There was a lot of forest food at the time, including game meat. All that is no more. **Ajoro Janet Enyau**, a resident of the place since 1971 ”.

turned into a mere grassland or rangeland. CIFED was allocated a total of five (5) hectares by NFA and this is the area that the organisation is replanting with the involvement of the surrounding communities.



Tree Planting to Restore Angutawele Central Forest Reserve

According to the community surrounding Angutawele CFR, the complete obliteration of the forest reserve has had major negative impact on their livelihoods. During the community dialogue held in Alwa A Village, Alwa Sub-county, Kaberamaido District, the people reported that:

They are finding a lot of difficulty in getting firewood, a major source of energy for all households.

There is reduced rainfall and this is making it difficult to grow crops to feed their households and to sell.

The rainfall pattern of Angutawele has completely changed as they are not sure when the rains will come and when it will be dry. This has affected planning at farm level and besides, when it rains, there are floods

“ Even with the cutting down of forests, overfishing and degradation of hills in the pursuit of wealth, we are still poor. It is time to examine our ways and behave differently.

Anyumel Janet Etumu,
a resident of the place since 1976.”

which are punctuated with long dry spells.

There are less indigenous fruit trees yet the forest reserve was a happen of these fruits and people would use them as a resilience mechanism.

All the wild game that they used to hunt as a source of animal protein is now gone. Instead they now have bats that are invading their houses as they have no trees to use as shelter.

Because of the absence of trees, there are no windbreaks and this is affecting crops like maize as well their houses.

Through engagement with NFA, CIFED was able to secure a total of ten thousand seedlings (10,000) to be planted in the districts of Kaberamaido and Kumi. Out of these, CIFED retained 7,200 to be planted in part of the 5 hectares that have been allocated to the community reforestation effort. The rest were sent to Kumi for tree planting in Ngero Sub-county. To mark the Earth Day 2021, the community under the leadership of Abangasi Farmers Association and with support from CIFED planted two (2) acres of tamarind and two (2) acres of shear tree. CIFED is working with the farmers' association as the latter have ventured into commercial tree growing and are focusing on the indigenous trees as they have better potential for sustaining their enterprise.



THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

While the community is already responding to the call to be providers of local solutions, the dialogue revealed that the task at hand is huge. It is so huge that it surpasses their abilities and meager resources.

They made three key requests to government, the private sector, civil society and the development organisations:

- 1) .They need support to build more partnerships and collaborations with the private sector especially as investing in tree planting is an expensive venture.The community is unable to sustain it except with additional support from bigger players in the CFR and with additional support from the district local governments
- 2) . Political interference in the work of restoring the degraded forest should be minimised so that the community can move forward as one.This is because when the forest is restored, the benefits will not discriminate anyone based on political affiliation. Politicians should encourage encroachers to vacate the reserve so that tree planting by the concessionaires can proceed unhindered.
- 3) .The indigenous people of the Teso region should be given first priority when recruiting conservation officers. This is because they have sentimental attachment to these ecosystems.They will pay a lot more attention than other people as they not only part of the communities but because they want to support the places that nurtured them.
- 4) . While entering into Public-Private Partnerships of Forest Management, the people bordering the forests should be prioritized as they will do a better job of protecting the forests than business people whose cardinal objective is profit.





THE EARTH DAY 2021

RADIO TALK SHOW

CIFED was able to obtain free airtime from Radio Dwan Wa, a local FM station based in Kaberamaido Town Council.

The management of the radio station was happy to contribute free airtime towards the event as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) towards the activities marking Earth Day 2021. It was an evening radio talk show that focused on the buildup activities as well as the major event. It was attended by four people:

- Akiteng Ann Grace – Programme Coordinator of CIFED
- Echelus John – Chairman Business Community, Kaberamaido Town Council
- Osidi John – Director, Arise Forestry Enterprises
- Onyinge Justine – Agricultural Researcher with deep knowledge about the Teso Sub – region
- Onyinge Michael – Journalist/Reporter for Etop Radio, Etop Newspaper and New Vision

The programme highlighted the deteriorating environmental condition in the sub-region and made reference to the dialogue at Alwa A Village, Alwa Sub-county that had been held earlier in the day in order to bring the point home. The panelists also made reference to the common flooding in the area and pointed out the expansion of the Lake Kyoga shoreline that has claimed farmlands and even cut off some roads. They also used that opportunity to call people to action so that they can save their own environment on which they depend for their livelihoods. The Chairman of the business community used the radio talk show to mobilise the business community to participate in the cleanup exercise and to participate in all the remaining activities in commemoration of the Earth Day 2021.





CLEANUP

of Kaberamaido Town Council

The cleanup was spearheaded by Echelus John, Chairman Business Community, Kaberamaido Town Council.

He mobilised the business community, most especially the vendors from Kaberamaido Central Market using a spirited door-door approach and through the radio programme the night before. With support from CIFED, the town council offered a truck to be used during the cleanup. However, this truck was not used because it was not fueled, a very unfortunate event.

The exercise started off with a briefing from the town council officials, the chairman of the business community, CIFED and the CRLCs. The briefing touched on various aspects but the major talking points were:

- i) Keeping a clean town is a responsibility of each one of us and we must do what is necessary to observe hygiene at an individual basis every day
- ii) There is money in waste, if it well sorted and organised. It can be turned into briquettes, used in the making of manure and the sale of recyclable plastic material. This requires discipline.
- iii) The business community should not wait for people from other places to come and persuade them to clean up. It should be a culture that the people should develop and keep.
- iv) The town council is still weak financially and the district is new as well. The resources are not adequate and therefore the business community has to lend a hand to clean the town instead of working from a dirty environment.
- v) Collect all the reusable plastics and find better ways of giving it to the community to continue using those items.

The more they reuse them the longer they take before they pollute the environment.

The business community cleaned the Market Street, the Market and the garbage dumping site. At the end of this exercise, the community was invited to a dialogue organised underneath one of the sheds in the market. The chairperson of the business community moderated the dialogue with support from CIFED. The community was also addressed by Oxfam and CRLCs. The major outcomes of the dialogue were:

a) There is need to forge a public/private partnership to manage the garbage situation in the town. The town council should contract a private firm to manage the waste at a fee that will

be paid by the business community. This is because the town council is not in position to collect the waste due to its very weak financial muscle.

b) The market management committee has to sit with the vendors to design proper waste management procedures that take into account recycling and reusing.

c) Since most of the market waste is biodegradable, the vendors should be supported to learn about making briquettes and composite manure. Both of these products have market value within and beyond the Teso sub – region.

d) The business community should designate special weekly or monthly town council cleanup days and where possible this can be made a bylaw or an ordinance. This will help in building a culture of keeping the town clean and will be a firm foundation for getting the people to take personal responsibility. The community was supposed to watch a video about the impact of poor waste disposal on the environment but this was interrupted by rain. The CRLCs promised to find an appropriate day in the future to show the video and hold a discussion as well. CIFED committed to follow up with the business community to see how they can be supported to actualize the suggestions and commitments that they had made during the dialogue.

“The business community cannot handle their own waste irresponsibly and then blame the filth in the town on the local government. We share some of the blame and we must be part of the solution. We have to clean our town and set a good example. **Echelu John** – Chairman Business Community, Kaberamaido Town Council.”





Sensitization and launch of the school climate reality club

CIFED runs a number of environmental awareness clubs in various schools within the Teso sub – region. The clubs are intended to inculcate the culture of conservation in the young generation from an early age. By working with the District Education Officer’s departments at the different districts, CIFED forges a partnership with the school administrations to run these clubs as part of the co-curricular activities. The clubs have elected student leaders who are supported by a patron who is a member of staff delegated by the school head.

CIFED used this opportunity to launch a School Climate Reality Club at Teete Primary School, Alwa Sub-County, Kaberamaido District. Although the school had a semblance of an environmental conservation club, CIFED and CRLCs used this buildup activity to prop the elected leaders of the club and their patron so that they understand the cardinal principals of their mandate.

The club has five elected members – Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Mobiliser, with a total of 42 registered members.

Various organisations and agencies that attended the launch spoke to the pupils about the need to keep the environment green and to avoid littering. The highlight of the launch was a speech delivered by Valentine Abraham Jagwer, visiting pupil who had just completed his Primary School Leaving Examinations. His speech touched many aspects from a child’s perspective in as far as he understands climate change and what he thinks needs to be done to deter degradation. Valentine stressed that the environment is our source of livelihood as we depend on it for food and plants help us to generate the oxygen that we breathe. So we must protect it. At the end of the speeches there was a quiz about the environment and the best pupils won various prizes.



“ Whoever cuts down a tree is an enemy of humanity. You young people are the inheritors of the earth. You must protect your inheritance.
David Sempala –
Regional Coordinator,
Africa Climate Reality Project. ”



The Earth Day 2021 Commemoration



Two events were held on April 22, 2021 to commemorate the Earth Day. The day kicked off with a Press Conference which was intended to voice out and amplify the sentiments of the different actors through the various media. The icing on the cake was the Policy Dialogue that brought together the community, political leaders, district local governments, civil society, private sector and nongovernmental organisations into a conversation about restoring mother earth. The two events attracted over 250 people.

“ Climate Change is the world’s biggest problem at the moment. Local leaders must encourage the communities to protect the earth because protecting the earth is a good deal for everyone.

Hellen Kasujja –
Deputy Executive Director, CIDI.”

The Press Conference

The press conference was well attended by both national [NBS, NTV, BBS, Daily Monitor, New Vision, Capital] and local [Etop, Dwan Wa] media houses based within the Teso Sub-region. A panel of 10 resource people representing; District Local Government, Farmers, Civil Society, Private Sector and Law Enforcement Agencies. Organizations represented included; CIFED, Oxfam, Kaberamaido District Farmers Association, CIDI, ACRP, NYAP, UFCVP, Kaberamaido Business Community and the Police.



HIGHLIGHTS of the press conference:

Despite the fact that the Uganda Police Force has a whole directorate of environment police, many districts in the Teso Sub-region do not have environmental police officers. This is hampering the law enforcement efforts, especially with people who are encroaching on protected zones. To make matters worse, The DPC informed the media houses and local stations present that the ordinary police can hardly support as they are inadequately facilitated and are few in number.

There is need to enforce the directive of the president on forceful eviction of all people that have settled in the wetlands across the country. There are many people that have settled in the wetlands in the Teso Sub-region, many of them armed herdsmen. These people need to be evicted as they are destroying important ecosystems that benefit whole communities, especially water sources like rivers and other swamp resources. The press conference was informed that this issue is being handled but there is a lot of interference from politicians. The wetland and other conservation areas are also not well demarcated and this is making enforcement difficult.

There is need to localize national policies and other regulatory frameworks. There is a big gap between what the policies and related frameworks say, what the communities know and what is being done. There is little effort that is being taken to ensure that these documents are brought to bear on the unique circumstances in which the communities find themselves. Because of this, communities are finding it challenging to organize locally and the local leaders are at a loss in far as offering enabling support is concerned.

There is need to fund environmental conservation efforts at all levels of government. Conservation efforts need to be allocated a clear budget line from the national budget, ministry, district, sub county and parish level. Also, money collected for environmental purposes such as the environmental levy on cars should specifically be used to address environment related challenges.

There was a call for communities to be supported to access climate change adaptation technologies. As well promote land use practices that enhance biodiversity.

The towns in the region are growing quickly. The rate of urbanization is high but the level of physical planning is low. Many towns are mushrooming but there is little or no solid waste management mechanism in place, especially for the non-biodegradable waste. This needs to be urgently addressed by the concerned ministries and the related district local government departments.

There is a knowledge gap on better agricultural practices among the farmers in the region. This is a major contributor to climate change and is mostly associated the widely used practice of slash and burn. This practice is responsible for the disappearance of forests as the logs are used for charcoal burning and production of firewood.



THE POLICY DIALOGUE

The stage for the policy dialogue was set by the press conference. The community members and other stakeholders were present throughout the proceedings even though they were only quietly following the proceedings. The policy dialogue was attended by over 250 people 60 percent of whom were women and men 40 percent. The major issues presented during the presser and those presented by the communities during the smaller dialogue meetings were not very different. These were re-echoed by the moderator at the beginning of the engagement. To put all these matters in perspective, an Issue Paper was presented by Onyinge Justine, an agricultural and spatial researcher based in Kaberamaido.

The Issue Paper

The issue paper presented several issues of a broader spectrum but there were also issues specific to Teso Sub – region. Below are the highlights of those issues:

The entire Teso region is experiencing unpredictable rainfall patterns. Unlike in the past, there are reports of either delayed rains or below average rains received year after year over the last ten years and more. This is a major stress factor for the farmers as they are unable to plan their production cycles effectively. This situation is even made worse by the inability of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and the Meteorology Department to provide accurate and dependable weather forecasts.



There has been widespread flooding in the region over the last decade. At the time of the celebration, the shoreline of Lake Kyoga had eaten into farmlands far beyond its catchment and had even cut off roads to some villages. This is affecting production, increasing prevalence of pests, diseases and vectors especially mosquitoes that cause malaria, polluting clean water sources such as springs and boreholes and many more.

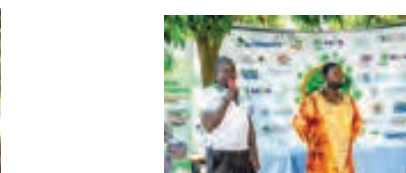
The region is synonymous with prolonged droughts which are characterized by declining crop yields, increased food prices, declining nutritional levels and spike in wild fires that incinerate critical flora and fauna. This has serious implications on livelihoods and exacerbates the need to over exploit available natural resources to survive. The net impact of this is extensive degradation.

Flooding, prolonged droughts, increased urbanization and a high population growth rate are leading to encroachment on fragile ecosystems such as swamps and forest reserves. Unfortunately, the capacity of the local administrations to enforce evictions is diminished by a weak legal framework, lack of financial and technical resources, political interference and extreme poverty of some of the community members.

The districts in the Teso region hardly have budgets for environmental conservation and this is a major gap. Without a budget, the conservation officers cannot organize outreach programs, they are unable to innovate ways of domesticating national policies to respond to local challenges.

There is lack of coordination during design and implementation of key infrastructural development projects where key District environmental technical people are often left out. This is a major failure that needs to be addressed urgently.

There are major knowledge gaps at all levels about the full scale impact of climate change. This is a blinding truth as it is not possible to make decisions and coin innovative ways of dealing with the enormous task of protecting mother earth. These knowledge gaps are closely related to the acute lack of accurate and detailed documentation of area specific climate change attributes. Most of the available information is general in nature and this makes it difficult to support communities with specific interventions that are based on customize data.



Actions and Recommendations from the policy dialogue

The actions and recommendations that emerged out of the policy dialogue are detailed below;

The recommendations were Major made by the community as they were the main discussants.

Encourage family planning so that population growth can be managed. This will reduce pressure on land and related resources. It will also have an effect on the level of encroachment on critical ecosystems as well as reducing slash and burn activities.

The district local governments should use their policy and legal instruments and undertake a thorough demarcation of wetlands and forest reserves. This should be in addition to DLGs intentionally budgeting for environmental management activities and enforcing the law transparently and universally.

The Teso sub – region must manage urbanization. There is urgent need to make use of the physical planning policy to manage the many towns that are emerging. This is the best time to sort this mess out before growth outstrips the capacity of the DLGs physical planning units. This should be addressed through development of land use and sanitation plans to facilitate organized urban growth. It is only through this planning that the menace of solid waste management will be dealt with.

DLGs and other stakeholders must work together to find alternatives to those activities that are known contributors to climate change. It is difficult to stop degradation in the face of extreme poverty without providing a new source of livelihood. Some community members proposed commercial tree farming, fish farming in the swamps, apiary and others that enhance the environment as opposed to those that destroy it. Various examples were shared from across the Teso sub region and beyond.

The community called on the District and NFA to support with providing tree seedlings specifically indigenous and fruit species to restore biodiversity, that serve multiple purposes and can be used sustain-ably.

There was a community call suggesting that environment education should be made a subject on the curriculum at primary and O'level. This would make the citizens grow up with a sense of respect fr mother earth and would do what is necessary to protect it. It would produce a class of citizens that are more aware of their place in the conservation arena. These are the people that communities would rely upon to lead action and to ignite continuous dialogue.

Premised on the National Laws , DLGs should enact bylaws and ordinances to address the key Climatic Challenges in the area .The law needs to be customised in some ways to communicate to unique circumstances that communities find themselves in.This would support the actions of stakeholders and activists in the conservation of nature and holding everyone accountable.The Kalaki District LC5 Chairperson committed on working with council to enact an ordinance on Climate Change mitigation measures in his district.

It is critical to get the religious and the cultural leaders on board the climate change mitigation and adaptation agenda.These efforts will benefit greatly from their influence.

The MP elect for Kaberamaido urged the technical people to get out of their offices and meet the people that badly need their knowledge on matters of climate change and environmental conservation. He pledged to advocate for more funding to the district so that the officials can be facilitaed to undertake their roles.

At the end of the dialogue, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) for Kaberamaido offered one month of free FM radio airtime to the office of the District Environment Officer to educate the communities about climate change matters. She also offered one free radio airtime hour per week at the end of the one month period to continue the dialogue. She emphasized that one need not to have a forest to be a tree planter but only needs to plant one tree anywhere at a time. She urged the communities to embrace continuous dialogue on the issues of environmental degradation so that they can build momentum towards finding local solutions to the challenge. She also reiterated the importance of partnerships and collaboration as the government cannot solve all the problems that the communities are facing at a go. She noted that collaboration provides a good platform for leveraging resources and expertise to provide solutions, even at a little fee. She officially closed the event with a vote of thanks to the organisers and invited them to continue working with Kaberamaido district even in due course.



COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS FROM POLICY DIALOGUE

Nos.	Key Policy Asks	Duty bearer	Action
1.	Create Massive sustainable awareness on Existential Threats to Mother Earth	DLG, Local Leaders, Religious and Cultural Leaders Civil Society Organisation	RDC -Kaberamaido Committed to Providing Air Time MPs and Local Leaders committed to undertake awareness creation Private sector led initiatives need to be undertaken
2.	Inadequate Financing for Climate change action especially at local levels	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Water and Environment Parliament of Uganda	CSOs to continue advocating for financing by government. Push for use of Environmental Car Levy to be ploughed back for Environment Protection
3	Weak Policy and Regulatory Framework and the Need to have Local Ordinance to ease enforcement	DLGs OPM	Develop Ordinances /Bylaws on Tree Planting and relevant Environment Challenges Fast track the Disaster Risk Management Bill
4	Poor Sanitation and Land use Management	DLG	Establish Sanitation and Land Use Plans for the Districts.

Brief Profiles

of Some Key Agencies and Organisations that organised the Earth Day 2021 Activities:



Oxfam Uganda

Oxfam is a global movement of people, working together to end the injustice of poverty. That means we tackle the inequality that keeps people poor. Together, we save, protect and rebuild lives when disaster strikes.

Oxfam envisions a Uganda free of extreme inequality and injustice; a society where citizens and particularly women across all age groups claim and exercise their rights and responsibilities and are able to influence decisions that affect their lives.

Oxfam Uganda Country Program is hinged on three thematic goals which aim to promote women's rights, good governance and accountability, resilient livelihoods, as well as enhance preparedness, reduce vulnerability to disaster and ensure an effective response to humanitarian crises.

The realisation of these goals requires that we work in partnership and alliance with others from the local to global levels. Importantly it calls for giving power to the people to increase their voice in influencing the decisions that affect them.

When considering participants, targets and beneficiaries of our programmes, a conscious effort is placed on women and girls as their rights are consistently compromised. Our conviction is that promotion of women's rights is key to addressing drivers of poverty and inequality.





Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project is focused on climate change education and advocating for climate solutions available today. The organization is a consolidation of two environmental organizations, the Alliance for Climate Protection and the Climate Project, both founded in 2006 by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. The Climate Reality Project is one of the world's leading organizations dedicated to mobilizing action around climate change. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leaders, the Climate Reality Project is spreading the truth of the climate crisis to communities everywhere and creating cultural momentum to solve it. The Climate Reality Project also addresses climate change through a network of approximately 31,000 Climate Reality Leaders, which the organization calls the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. As of 2019, The Climate Reality Leadership Corps has conducted 43 training events to prepare Climate Reality Leaders to communicate and conduct effective advocacy events within their local communities. Climate Reality Leaders come from 154 countries. Members of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps lead educational events and encourage activity to address climate change in their local communities.



Community Integrated Development Initiatives

CIDI is a local National NGO that was established with the major aim of mobilising and organising communities in tackling poverty with in Uganda. She envisions Communities enjoying a decent life free of hunger, poverty and disease . CIDI's strategic focus aims at improving livelihoods and building community resilience through increasing access to safe water and improved sanitation(WASH) , health promotion, increased food security and enhanced incomes for improved household livelihoods, Disaster risk reduction strategies, Policy advocacy in the areas that are least served or unserved focusing on the rural and urban poor and refugees, women and Youth.



Strong African Women Uganda

Strong African Women Uganda is not for profit women led Organization that operates in various Districts of Uganda with an aim to economically empower women and youth by equipping them with life survival skills.

The vision of SAW Uganda is “a strong African woman driving the social, economic and political agenda.

SAW Uganda mission is to empower women and youth to champion governance and their social, economic, political, environmental and cultural rights through strengthened collaboration and networking.

Strong African Women Uganda espouses; transparency, accountability, inclusion, non – discrimination, professionalism, honesty and service above self.



Sustainable Path Africa

Sustainable Path Africa is a registered nonprofit operating in Uganda and dedicated to promoting an agenda that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations. The Organization focuses three pillars of Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: End Hunger, SDG 13: Climate Action.

Sustainable Path Africa brings together a diversity of stakeholders to encourage innovation and best practices to promote the creation of a more sustainable approach across our social, economic and environmental value chain.

Sustainable Path Africa works with partners across Uganda to promote sustainable agendas within Business environments and community chains. Our focus centers on promoting realistic pathways that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations.

Our goal is structured into two major dimensions- One way is to promote the understanding of sustainability and particularly how the economic, Social, Environmental, & Cultural factors fit together. Secondly suggest solutions on how to make Societies more Prosperous, Fair and also Environmentally Sustainable.



National Youth Advocacy Platform

NYAP's overall goal is to provide a conducive platform where youths contribute towards improved service delivery through meaningful participation in programs and influencing policies that affect them. NYAP's theory of change is grounded in the beliefs that IF youth are organized and have their capacity enhanced to enable them identify and appreciate the issues affecting them and IF the youth have a collective channel of engagement, THEN, youth would believe in them-selves and have confidence to effectively engage their duty bearers, hold them accountable, influence them to change policies in their favor and demand for better social services. NYAP is dedicated to achieving gender equality and, thus, it cooperates with individuals, institutions, and coalitions encompassing grassroots organizations and uses their knowledge and connections to local communities to achieve change. NYAP strives to influence her member organizations to adopt gender equality policies. NYAP continues to advocate for policy changes on key issues where gender directly affects the lives of young women and men at local, regional and national levels. NYAP aspires to activate women and girls to transform their lives, families and communities through investing in local solutions and strengthening leadership but also creating safe spaces for young people to question gender norms and benefits of shared decision-making.



Muhindo Jackson Rukara

Muhindo Jackson Rukara Holds a Master of Science in Development Management, A bachelor's degree in Adult and Community Education of Makerere University, a post graduate Dip. Development management, Post certificate in Managing development, post graduate certificate in war intervention and development, post graduate certificate in development context and practice. Jackson Muhindo Rukara supported Capacity building of Local governments civil society organisations staff in Karamoja, Rwenzori and Elgon Sub regions in understanding climate change and disaster Risk reduction. He has trained groups of small holder farmers on climate change and its effects on food production and general livelihoods. Jackson is supporting Oxfam local and national partners inclusive of farmer organisations to enhance implementation of climate change adaptation interventions in agriculture. Some of the achievements include, adaptation technologies like flood resistant bridges in the Rwenzori, Elgon and Teso sub- regions, Water harvesting technologies and energy saving practices for small holder farmer households in Rwenzori, Karamoja, Elgon and Teso sub regions of Uganda supported by UNDP. Early warning information dissemination technologies like the use of mobile phones and Radios in the Elgon Rwenzori sub regions. Jackson Muhindo Rukara engages with both electronic and social media in dissemination of information and campaigning for adaptation and mitigation planning and financing at both National and International level.. (WhatsApp, Facebook, twitter, Television and Radio)

Hellen N Kasujja

Helen is a development practitioner with strong backgrounds in Gender Economics and Policy Analysis. She is well grounded in governance and policy analysis in WASH, Agriculture, livelihoods and health promotion sectors in both crisis and stable environments. Hellen is well grounded in facilitating social research, policy advocacy, programme management, fundraising, civil society and civic engagement initiatives. She also supports learning, organizational development and documentation. Helen is a specialist at conducting Gender Analyses across the different social service sectors as well supporting organisations in gender mainstreaming.

Simon Ddembe

Simon Ddembe is a Climate Reality Corp trained in 2020 and currently the ACRP Uganda Focal Person. Simon has over 25 Acts of Leadership and 8 badges, Simon Ddembe is doing incredible work and taking lead as a Climate Reality Leader in Uganda. He is a Social Economic Development practitioner from Uganda, East Africa with experience in project planning and management and Business Growth Development. Simon Ddembe is enthusiastic about championing human rights and social accountability. He has previously managed over 20 projects with Indigenous and International Organizations across the Country. He has documented a wide range of publications including; research reports, annual reports, impact stories, manuals, policy briefs, and project reports to a wide range of clients. He has previously undertaken work in Livelihoods, WASH, Social Accountability, education and economic empowerment. Ddembe has a good understanding of market systems development approaches, project evaluations and assessments, policy advocacy, entrepreneurship, organization behavior, organization development, human rights and climate change. Ddembe is a Monitoring and Evaluation Director at Work for Life and Senior Consultant at Ultimate Business Strategies (UBS) and holds a MBA in Project Planning and Management from Makerere University Business School.

Akiteng Ann Grace

Ann is a Climate Reality Leader from Uganda trained by the Climate Reality Project. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPA- U); Reg No. FM 1120. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Uganda Management Institute. She has over 16 years' of progressive career growth in financial management for National, International Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and the private sector. Founder member and Programs Coordinator at Creative Initiative for Enterprise Development (CIFED), a community based social enterprise whose focus is community empowerment, through alternative livelihoods like; Community tree growing and agroforestry to contribute to climate change mitigation and enhancement of livelihood of the participating communities.

David Sempala Regional Coordinator-East Africa Climate Reality Project.

David Sempala is an experienced Media & Communication Entrepreneur, Climate Change defender and Sustainability Activist based in Kampala, Uganda, and was trained as a Climate Reality Leader in 2018 in Los Angeles USA. He holds a Master of Business Administration of University of Leicester UK, B(SS) MUK, and Post Graduate certificate in Sustainability-University of Columbia-USA. He engages numerous stakeholders including businesses, government, media, and communities on sustainable agendas and has over the years spearheaded numerous programmes and initiatives in green growth and natural resource conservation, fighting poverty, and hunger. David is a Founder of Sustainable Path Africa a local Ugandan registered Not for profit spearheading efforts towards No Poverty SDG- 1, Eliminating Hunger-SDG 2, and Climate Action SDG 13. David brings valuable contributions, talents, & project coordination skills, along with proven ability to optimise the success of Climate activities in the East Africa region. He can be reached on email; sempala@royalwaymedia.com

Rapporteur Katende Robert

Katende is a poet, story teller and a runner. He is also market systems development consultant with close to 20 years' experience in private sector development. He has spent the last 8 years supporting systems related projects in Uganda, Mozambique, Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda and Senegal. Through his work with global development agencies like FAO, DFID, USAID, World Vision, DANIDA and their implementing partners, Katende has accumulated experience and knowledge in private sector engagements that enhance the way markets serve the needs of the poor that live in the developing economies. Robert is a Founding Partner at Ultimate Business Strategies (UBS) and holds various professional and social positions in Uganda.

SPECIAL THANKS

Ultimate Business Strategies

[Documentation]

Five Star Images Ltd

[Photography and Filming]

Denis Mwendu

Julius Kato

Aguti Betty Rose

Mumbere James Cleto

Pauline Nabwire

Nambi Viola

Pai Neto



