

New Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) listed



All striving for a POPs-free future (Source: Stockholm Convention Secretariat)

By Christine Abonyo Kasedde

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty that seeks to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have adverse effects to human health or to the environment. Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can lead serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and even diminished intelligence. The Stockholm Convention which was adopted in 2001

Turn to page 2

INSIDE

African countries recognise Rajera Shende of UNEP.....	4
Enhancing Environment managers capacity.....	5
NEMA Bits.....	6
Enviro Calendar 2010.....	8
Children's corner: Sportsmen in Environmental conservation.....	10
Biodiversity Policy formulation.....	11
District Environment:	
Poverty and Climate change.....	12
Changing people's health with a glass of water.....	12
A Biblical perspective of Biodiversity.....	14
Why we must conserve Biodiversity.....	15
CBD Notification 2010-2013.....	16

2010 has been the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). All environmental events have focused on the solutions and the opportunities for countries, companies, communities and individuals to appreciate their connection with nature. Many of these events were very colourful and messages were by all standards clear. We can all note that we are losing our biodiversity at a very rapid rate so much that we are not so sure of what might befall us tomorrow! Our forests and wetlands have not been spared despite the fact that we have regulations in place to monitor their sustainable utilization.

Dear readers, as we end the year, we request you to take it as a personal responsibility to conserve the environmental resources. Let us plant more trees, conserve the existing forests, wetlands and other fragile ecosystems. We should always share conservation knowledge in our communities so as to form conservation teams for our immediate environment.

In this edition of *NEMA NEWS*, we look at a list of new Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to watch out for and the recognition of Head of UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch for Ozone protection. We share what took place during the Annual Environmental Officers' training in Hoima. Read about the 'environmental conman' who has cheated investors since 1998. We also share the good in drinking water among many biodiversity conservation related stories.

Keep those opinions coming and let us welcome 2011 as better environment managers.

Happy reading!

New Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) listed

From page 1

and entered into force in 2004 requires Parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. Uganda acceded to the Convention on the 20th July 2004, and was obligated to develop, transmit and implement National Implementation Plan (NIP) in an effort to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. In fulfillment of Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention, Uganda developed and transmitted her NIP to the Secretariat in January 2009. Today, various implementation activities are going on in the country in line with priority areas identifies in the NIP. National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) coordinates the convention on behalf of government of Uganda.

Initial 12 POPs

Initially, twelve POPs have been recognized as causing adverse effects on humans and the ecosystem and these can be placed in 3 categories:

1. **Pesticides:** aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, toxaphene;
2. **Industrial chemicals:** hexachlorobenzene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs);
3. **By-products:** hexachlorobenzene; polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDD/PCDF), and PCBs.

What are the Nine new POPs?

At its fourth meeting held from 4 to 8 May 2009, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention, adopted amendments to Annexes A (elimination), B (restriction) and C (unintentional

production) of the Stockholm Convention to list nine additional chemicals as Persistent Organic Pollutants. These are:



Christine Kasedde

1. Chlordecone

Past use: Agricultural pesticide (banana plantation); used in 1966-1975 in the USA for ant and roach. Also known as «Kepon». Properties similar to Mirex.

Currently: No production and use reported. The French island of Martinique is heavily contaminated with chlordecone
Alternatives: Available



A bunch of bananas (top) and a can of chlordecone (bottom)

2. Hexabromobiphenyl

Past use: Flame retardants. Added to plastics used in products such as home electrical appliances, textiles, plastic foams, laptop cabinets,

Turn to page 3

New Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) listed

From page 2

etc. to make them difficult to burn.

Currently: No production and use reported.

Alternatives: Available. The chemical is listed in Annex A (Elimination)

Production: No exemption Use: No exemption.



A TV set that was saved from fire since it had Hexabromobiphenyl in it.

3. Lindane

About 600,000 tons of lindane was used globally from 1950-2000 as pesticide and veterinary and human applications. Some countries are still known to produce or use lindane (for example, for seed dressing, control of termites, head lice, etc) Alternatives to this chemical exists but are not readily available in some countries especially for control of head lice and scabies.

The chemical is listed in Annex A (Elimination).

Production: No exemption.

Use: Specific exemption for human health pharmaceutical for control of head lice and scabies as second line treatment.

4. Alpha-HCH and 5. Beta-HCH



Termite (above); Sachet of Lindane (below): Lindane used for termite control amongst others.

These are high-volume by-products of lindane. The production of one ton of lindane generates approximately up to 8 tons of alpha- and beta-HCH. Currently, large stockpiles of alpha- and beta-HCH exist. There is no commercial use of alpha- and beta-HCH; therefore alternatives are not needed. The chemicals are listed in Annex A (Elimination).

6. Pentachlorobenzene

This chemical is a component in PCB products, fungicide, flame retardant. It is currently used as intermediate for production of quitozene

(pentachloronitrobenzene: fungicide). It is also unintentionally produced during combustion, thermal and industrial processes. Alternatives of this chemical are available. It is listed in Annex A (Elimination) and Annex C (Unintentional production).



Unintentional POPs are produced during combustion, thermal and Industrial Combustion processes.

7. TetraBDE (BDE-47) and 8. pentaBDE (BDE-99)

“Commercial mixture of pentabromodiphenyl ether Mixture of brominated organic chemicals, main components are BDE-47 (tetraBDE) and BDE-99 (pentaBDE). The formulation used in North America and Europe contains 4-12% hexaBDE. PentaBDE is most commonly used as a flame retardant in flexible polyurethane foam (PUF). Production ceased in Europe, Japan, Canada, Australia and the US; however, it is possible that production continues elsewhere in the world. It is listed in Annex A (Elimination).

Turn to page 7

African Countries Unite to Recognise Rajendra Shende, Head of UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch, for Ozone Protection Leadership

Bangkok, 11 November 2010

Mr. Rajendra Shende, Head of the OzonAction Branch in the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE), was awarded with a certificate of appreciation today during the opening ceremony of 22nd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on the Protection of the Ozone Layer in Bangkok.

The certificate was presented by the Minister of Uganda, Her Excellency Jesca Eriyo, on behalf of all 53 African countries in recognition of Mr. Shende's dedicated and creative leadership in assisting the African countries to successfully comply with the Montreal Protocol.

Through the OzonAction Programme, Mr. Shende has continuously supported the African continent and other developing countries to meet the compliance targets of the Montreal Protocol, an international agreement for the protection of the Ozone Layer that operates under the auspices of the United Nations. As a whole, the 147 developing countries which are Party to this multilateral environmental agreement continue to achieve outstanding results with regard to the total phase out of ozone depleting substances (ODS), in line with the agreed time-targeted phase-out targets for the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made ozone destroying chemicals. The OzonAction Programme has already been credited with a number of innovative



Hon. Jesca Eriyo, State Minister for Environment-Uganda, presents the certificate to Mr. Rajendra Shende

mechanisms to assist developing countries to meet their environmental targets under this global agreement.

Besides today's appreciation by African countries, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has also recognized the important work done by the OzonAction Programme, and its Head, Mr. Shende, for providing policy advice and technology support for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. In 2005, USEPA bestowed its Stratospheric Ozone Protection award on the OzonAction Programme, and in 2009, it gave a Climate Protection award to him individually for his related work in that field.

When implementation of the Montreal Protocol started in early 1990, the majority of the financial and technical assistance was focused initially on larger ODS-consuming countries like India, China and Brazil. Through continuous dialogue and engaging interested

parties, Mr. Shende promoted the provision of targeted assistance in parallel to the low-volume ODS-consuming and less economically-advantaged countries, including those in Africa. The control measures under the Montreal Protocol are applicable equally to large as well as small countries. He therefore initiated the special assistance programme for such countries in late 1990s.

The African countries recognized that the results of Mr. Shende's work are evident. All 53 countries in the African continent are now in full compliance with the Montreal Protocol. Their capacity is also built now to tackle other environmental challenges. The statement of appreciation has been signed by all the government representatives from Africa participating in the Bangkok meeting.

*For more information:
IISD Reporting Services' MOP-22
Highlights for Thursday, 11 November
2010*

Enhancing Environment managers capacity

By Edward Adraku Odipio

Uganda is faced with a number of emerging environmental challenges. These include the discovery of oil and gas in the Albertine Graben, Climate Change, Solid Waste, loss of biodiversity, wetlands degradation, deforestation and soil erosion among others. These impact negatively on the well being of the people and affect the economy of the country which is largely dependant on natural resources.

In an effort to increase awareness and enhance the capacity of Environment managers at District and Municipal Council levels, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) organized a three-day training workshop for Environment officers. The training took place at Riviera Hotel, Hoima from 14-17th December 2010.

The workshop was well attended by District, Urban Authority and Kingdom Environment Officers and District Natural Resources, Officers as 104 out of 107 (planned) attended. Under the theme, **“Enhancing Capacity of Environment Managers to handle emerging environmental issues”** the following topics were given priority:

- Oil and Gas: Socio Economic and Environmental issues and

mitigation measures

- Role of Districts in the Oil and Gas Industry
- Climate change: Mitigation and adaptation initiatives in Uganda: Practical Initiatives at District Level
- Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines on Telecom Masts
- Payment for Ecosystems and Operationalising of the Environmental Protection Force
- Wetland Demarcation.

Participants were also introduced to Environmental Education in the Oil and Gas industry through a field trip to Kaiso Tonya - Tullow oil well sites and the Hydromax -Buseruka Small Scale Hydro Power Project.



Participants discuss environmental issues related to Oil and Gas waste management at Kisinja Waste Containment Site.

The workshop was opened by Dr. Aryamanya-Mugisha, the Executive Director, NEMA who represented Hon. Jesca Eriyo, the Minister of State for Environment. Aryamanya urged the participants to improve

environment management at local government levels through increased and sustained funding,

Environment mainstreaming into Development Plans, restoration of degraded areas, creating partnerships with environmental management institutions and promoting public awareness among others. He also noted that the Environment Protection Force will contribute greatly to enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and standards.

On Oil and Gas discovery in the Albertine Graben, he assured the participants and the country at large that government was committed to ensuring that the resources are utilized to contribute to economic growth and social transformation of Ugandans while ensuring that potentially negative environmental impacts are mitigated to make oil wealth a blessing and not a curse.

The author is the District Support Coordinator at NEMA



Edward A. Odipio



A cross section of the workshop participants.

NEMA BITS

Leader of 'environmental conmen' netted

By Mugambwa Everest Kizito

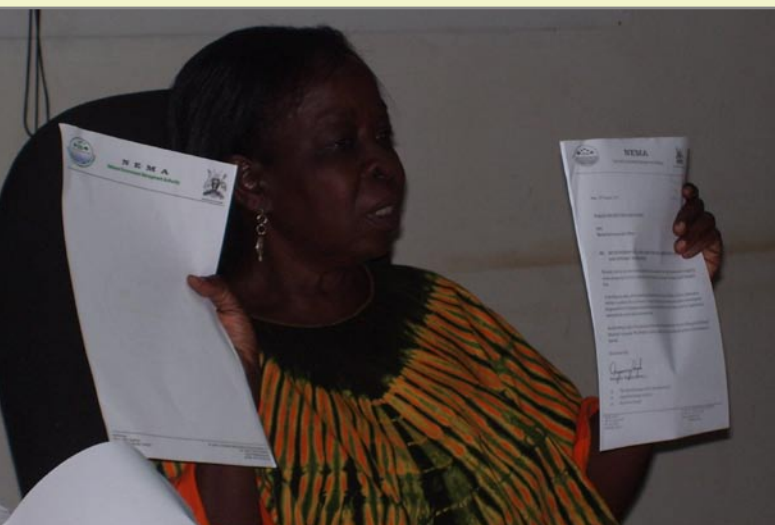
On the 24th of December 2010, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) paraded one Hamuza Lubega, the man who is alleged to have been issuing fake licenses to investors in and around Kampala since 1998. This was at a press conference attended by Hon. Maria Mutagamba, the Minister of Water and Environment, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, the Executive Director of NEMA among others at the Ministry Headquarters at Luzira. It is said that Lubega a Senior Six drop-out first tried Journalism in one of the local media houses where he got chance to attend one workshop organized by NEMA way back. Here, he got hold of some environmental education documents that had the NEMA logo which he later used to develop his version of different licenses. He was netted after a tip-off from a number of investors who had been conned by Hamuza Lubega. Lubega had also managed to secure himself a retainer allowance of 2,000,000/- from one school where he has been issuing fake environmental inspection reports on an annual basis. Below are some photos of the press conference.



Hamuza Lubega (in striped shirt) being paraded before newsmen by the CID Environment Officer.



The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment, Mr. O.O Obong; Hon. Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Water and Environment, and Dr. Aryamanya-Mugisha, Executive Director, NEMA during the press conference.



The Hon. Minister displays the fake report and tries to differentiate it from the true copy of NEMA's official documents.



Newsmen at work during the conference.

Uganda Benefits from the African Sustainable Development Monitoring project

By Goretti Kitutu

Uganda is one of the countries that has benefited from the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMSED) project in the IGAD region. The main objective of this project is to identify the extent and severity of land degradation at the regional and national levels and to identify local spots for comprehensive assessment. The outputs are envisaged to support policy decisions for combating land degradation at regional level and to give more detailed information of the sections of the IGAD countries experiencing severe degradation so that appropriate planning of the national resources could be instituted. Another objective is to provide to decision makers with a regularly updated tool to assess the state of Protected Areas (PA) and to monitor and prioritize them according to biodiversity values and threats. Details of this project to be covered in our next NEMA News issue.



AMSED dish being installed on the rooftop of NEMA House station.

New POPs listed

From page 3

9. Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and PFOS fluoride

PFOS is both intentionally produced and unintended degradation product of PFOS-related substances (PFOS precursors). Examples of use include: electronic appliances, fire-fighting foams, water proof for textile, leather, etc. PFOS is still produced and used in several countries. There are some types of use of this chemical but no known technically (semi-conductor, photo imaging, aviation hydraulic fluids). It is listed in Annex B (Restriction) (Fire fighting foam, Insect baits for control of leaf-cutting ants).

Specific exemptions:

Photo masks in the semiconductor and LCD industries, Hard metal plating, Decorative metal plating, Electric and electronic parts for some color printers and color copy machines, Insecticides for control of red imported fire ants and termites, Chemically driven oil production, Carpets, Leather and apparel, Textiles and upholstery, Paper and packaging, Coatings and coating additives, Rubber and plastics.

For more information on Stockholm Convention, visit, www.pops.int

The author is the Environment Impact Assessment Officer/Focal Point Person for the Stockholm Convention at NEMA

Special Days Enviro Calendar 2011

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T
JAN						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28								
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
		World Water Day				World Meteorological Day													
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
		World Heritage Day							World Earth Day										
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Museum Day						International Day for Biological Diversity				World Anti-Tobacco Day							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
		World Day to Combat Desertification																	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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		International Day of the Girl			International Day for the Eradication of Poverty			World Tourism Day											
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
		Standards Day			World Food Day														
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
		Universal Children's Day			World Fisheries Day														
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
						Christmas Day			Boxing Day										



Sportsmen should play a role in Environmental conservation

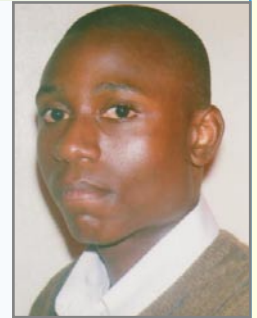
By Iga Isima

As a sportsman, I have realized that many games of international importance have been rescheduled to at times uncertain dates due to changes in weather (climate change). I have heard fellow sportsmen and women complaining in a way suggesting that there is nothing that can be done to have better and well predictable plans in the future.

In my personal experience, I have come to realise that our safety is determined so much by the environment in which we live, play and carry out all regular socio-economic activities. Should we think that the role of environmental conservation is only to NEMA, then we are heading for an ugly future. Besides, sports is one of those activities that attract a lot of people that we should look at it as one of the tools we should use to pass on our environment education

among communities.

It is upon this background that I call upon all sports stakeholders to team up with agencies like NEMA to see to it that the environmental conservation messages are taken in and communicated by all within different sectors at all times.



Iga Isima

Therefore, before we blame we blame the legal environmental managers, we need to account for our roles for we have a common future. Environment is worsening during our time and we should not simply look on to pass on a totally unliveable environment to our future generations.
'For God and my country'.

The author is a Student of BSC in Sports Science, Makerere University



A Ugandan Rugby team

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*NEMA Caring for our
environment*

Biodiversity Policy formulation should consider economic value and property rights

By *Jamil Kusiima*

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) desired to ensure that developing countries that were rich in biodiversity were given an economic incentive to preserve their natural heritage.

However, Government policies have not been well implemented to see such a desire realized. The environment has many a time been sold off for unsustainable levels of 'development'. Many industrial, transportation, natural resource, and urban development policies usually fail to value environmental resources correctly and sometimes even hasten resource depletion and biodiversity loss. Whether or not resource and trade policies of Uganda do take biodiversity's potential benefits into account is a question that needs to be honestly answered. Indeed, some policies explicitly invite the over-exploitation of species, conversion of valuable habitats, and oversimplification of agricultural ecosystems. Enhanced food security, economic development, and improved medical care

are all based on biological productivity and the diversity of genes and species. But to reap these benefits, Uganda must first develop a sound policy framework. It is even unsurprising that many nations fail to provide incentives for either the development or acquisition of the technical skills needed to conserve biodiversity, or to explore its capacity to yield new products.

As already mentioned, the key reason the failing biodiversity conservation is the fact that environmental amenities often fall into the category of "public goods", that is, they have characteristics that make them difficult to integrate into market economies without some form of government policy. The economic value of biodiversity is still unknown in Uganda where such nonmarket valuations are still in infant stages if any at all. It seems most people think of biodiversity as if human society were not part of nature.

The economic value of biodiversity is still unknown in Uganda



Jamil Kusiima

Sometimes the most vocal lobbyists of nature advocate face strong interventions by the state.

An effective conservation approach is one in which people who have control over the resources that donors and practitioners want to see preserved are provided incentives sufficient to preserve such resources.

It seems most people think of biodiversity as if human society were not part of nature

Donors or Government could offer property owners incentives that may make them more likely to pursue eco-friendly activities. This is something government agents like NEMA should look into among other conservation methods.

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Extreme poverty leading to Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

By Buwembo Ezekiel

Uganda has a relatively good climate, which supports variety natural resources. Uganda's biodiversity has many a time attracted a lot of ecotourism activities and thus employment opportunities. However, the current trends of environmental degradation put the country's livelihood and the economy at stake.

As of 2002 close to 40% of Uganda's population were living below the poverty line, which made Uganda number 142 out of 162 countries. Poverty is the worst enemy of the environment because it gives rise to poor life styles in terms of production, consumption and living conditions which cause environmental degradation through resource depletion, eventually leading to reduction in production and perpetuation of poverty.

A poor person will not be concerned with environmental quality. The foremost concern is to provide members of the family with daily sustenance of whatever quality. Unless a solution to poverty is found, environmental problems will continue. For instance, with an annual forest loss of 2% Uganda scores among the highest in Africa. The forest cover went down from 4.9 million to 3.6 million hectares between 1990 and 2005. In comparison to the 70% forest cover 100 years ago, today forests cover 24% of the total land and at this pace Uganda's forests would have disappeared in fifty years time.

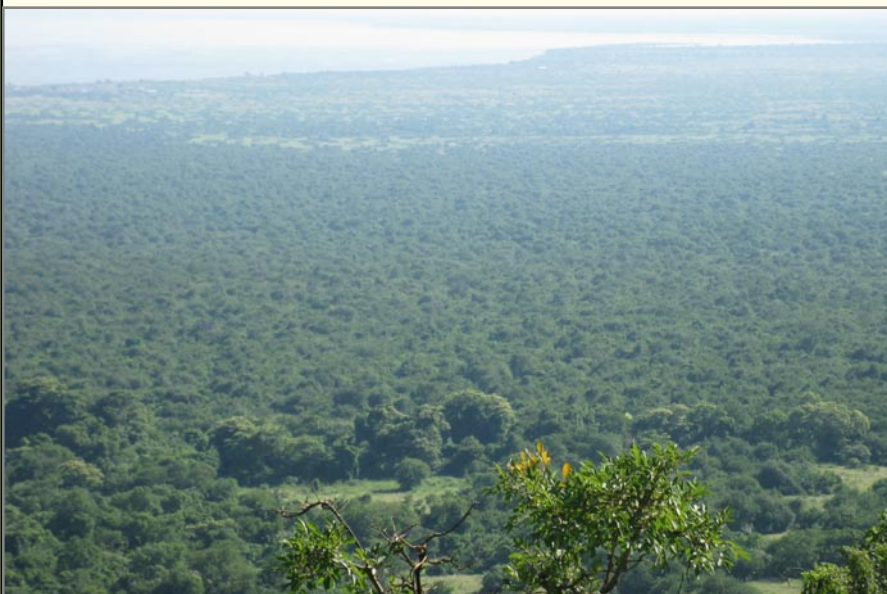
Agriculture is the backbone of Uganda's poor as it employs about 80% of the population though it contributes only about 15% of the national GDP. For such a country like Uganda that is already exposed to increasing resource demands and

unsustainable natural resource utilization, climate change is unavoidable. Adaptation is accepted as a vital response because even if existing agreements to limit emissions are implemented, they will not stabilize atmospheric concentrations of green house gas emissions and climate (Wigley, 1998). More over, many communities (poor and well off) are not even well adapted to their current climates, necessitating efforts to be directed towards adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development.

However, this choice of measures may be constrained by lack of implementation due to beliefs and cultural practices. Despite of these obstacles farmers and others at risk from climate change need to be given external assistance.

Education is critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issues. This is because through education (public awareness and training) human beings and societies can reach their fullest potential. This in turn increases community stewardship and public responsibility; develops environmental literacy and social change; triggers critical thinking and problem solving skills.

The author is the Director, Integrated Environment Conservation and Disaster Assessment for Africa (IECDAA)



Maramagambo forest, rich in Biodiversity.

Changing People's Health with a Glass of Water

By *Lwetute Katula Martin*

Thanks to the Commonwealth Short Story competitions for offering me a chance to share with the world the wonders of drinking water. A lot has been done to ensure that people's health is improved world over. This includes the invention of very modern medical equipment and medicines.

More attention has been put on disease like AIDS, Cancer, Malaria and many others but the number of people dying due to dehydration related conditions is in most cases ignored. The fact is lack of adequate water in the body is killing more people than we can imagine. People have not been educated enough on the benefits of drinking enough water. Instead they prefer drinking other sweet drinks and spirits.

For every country, improving peoples' health is among the first items on the list of priorities. However, in most parts of the world including

common wealth nations, leaders have ignored some simple, cheap and natural ways of healing.

One of them is teaching their people to drink water as a therapy. This means drinking safe water and in adequate amounts. It is true that all people know that they have to drink water and safe water. But very few know that they have to drink ENOUGH water.

This poor culture of water consumption especially in the developing countries has not only caused health and economical problems to these countries, but also to the donor community. It is true that there is scarcity of water in some parts of the world, but even where water is available, people don't drink it adequately. In some communities drinking water is considered to be inferior and some take it to be luxurious. Most people only drink it when they are thirsty.



Lwetute Katula Martin

Every year millions of dollars are spent on health related programs like manufacturing and buying of very expensive medicines and training of medical practitioners. This would not be bad, but we could use lesser money to educate the people on the benefits of drinking ENOUGH water, but not only stopping at safe water.

The efforts that have been used to educate people on disease like AIDS, Cholera, Ebola, Swine flue and others should be the same effort put on teaching them the effects of not drinking enough water. The world is hotter today due to global warming. People are using more machines which are not only hot but release dangerous fumes. This is why people should be encouraged to drink enough water.

Water has the healing powers that we need for so many illnesses. Leaders should teach their people to always keep with them a bottle of drinking water. This should be done in schools, churches, organizations and in all communities.

The author is the Programme Manager, Water For Health Foundation



Drink water as a therapy: this means drinking safe water and in adequate amounts.

A Biblical perspective of Biodiversity

By Odoi Robert

Christians are many a time reluctant to get involved in environmental issues. This is because the environment is rarely connected to God's creation. We need to understand God's purposes for creation and must not forget that we are simply part of God's creation; and that Jesus died and rose again not only to reconcile us with God, but other creation as well. The following are a number of Bible passages to help us remember what God thinks about the environment and what our response should be.

We seem to be familiar with the creation story. However we often focus on what God created and forget why God chose to create us. **Colossians 1:16-17:** *what was God's purpose in creating the world and everything in it?* **Genesis 1:** *How did God create?* See verses 3, 6, 9, 20, 24, 26.

Creation

Human beings are part of creation, but we have a unique role to play. **Genesis 1:26-28:** God gives human beings authority to care for his creation: In **Genesis 2:15**, God explains his command to us. Different Bible translations use words such as *work, serve, keep, take care, look after, guard and tend*. *How can this verse be used to challenge the idea of selfish rule?*

Philippians 2:5-7. We are made in God's image, our rule should be modeled on God's rule and reflect his character. In the Garden of Eden God, humans and the rest of creation existed in perfect harmony.

Genesis 3:1-19: Due to human disobedience, relationships were broken. Look at what the passage says about how relationships changed between: *God and human beings; God and creation; Human beings and creation.*

Our role at this time is not to wait passively but to work to see God's kingdom come on earth. Until God makes everything perfect, we should follow God's passion to see everything reconciled to him.

Humans depend on God's creation (the environment) to survive. For example, we all need food. The majority of the world's populations depend directly on the land for growing crops to eat or sell. People living in towns and cities may buy their food from shops or markets, but they still depend indirectly on the environment for food.

Sadly, humans do not have equal access to the world's natural resources. Poverty means that some people are not able to access the resources, due to social or economic injustice. People who are rich often use more than their fair share and as a result, other people suffer. One example of this is deforestation for timber production which destroys biodiversity. Another example is the use of fossil fuels, mainly in the richer North, which have made a large contribution to global climate change.

Learning from Old Testament law

There is a lot to learn from Jesus' teaching in the



Odoi Robert

New Testament about our responsibility to each other.

Mark 12:28-31

- *We would not want to be treated unjustly, so what does it mean to love someone who is being treated unjustly? What kinds of injustice do people experience today? What kinds of injustice related to the environment today?*

How do we contribute to this injustice? Consider whether our lifestyles are contributing to climate change. What attitudes do we have towards our natural environment?

Practical response

There is much that we can do to put our biblical understanding of God's creation and our role in caring for it into action in our work practices and in our own lives. Christians do not care for the environment purely for practical reasons, or for humanitarian reasons. We are also motivated by the desire to love, understand and protect the environment in order to glorify our creator God. Brethren, for this reason, our ministry of Water and Environment should be taken seriously. Did I hear someone say Amen? AMEN.

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Why we must conserve biodiversity

Oh Uganda my mother land! You are known as the pearl of Africa because of the gifts of green grass, forests, swamps, lakes and rivers, the lovely climate which include the dry and wet seasons that God granted you. Uganda, people from other countries yarn to belong to you.

Fellow Ugandans, we should only be praising and thanking God for what we have but why are we so determined to destroy what already exists? Please mind about the future generations.

In trying to understand Biodiversity, I went back to my primary school notes. The subject is science. We read, "Science is the study of living and nonliving things." Ladies and gentlemen, biodiversity is that living part of the science we were taught some years back. Biodiversity is a term used to describe a variety of life on earth. It refers to the wide variety of eco systems and living organisms like animals, plants, their habitants and their genes. Biodiversity is what we rely on for our survival but due to unsustainable human activities, it's being lost at a greatly accelerated rate.

Biodiversity can be classified in various forms including; ecological diversity and natural or species diversity. Ecological diversity refers to the sum of different types of environment, ecosystem present in a region or habitat which is the sum total of climate, vegetation and geography of a region.

Ecosystem includes grassland and wetland aquatic ecosystem. Species diversity on the other hand refers to the variety of different species in a given area, most of the species are said to be found near the equator and a few at the poles.

Natural and ecological diversity provide essential economic benefits and services to human society without which we couldn't survive. These include; Food, shelter, fuel and building materials; Air and water purification; Weather (floods) control by swamps which store rain water and later released it in a dry season; Control soil erosion; Plant pollination;

We must not leave biodiversity conservation to Government agencies alone



Prossie Nakigudde

Stabilizes waste through nutrient recycling; Source of medicines among others.

We must not leave biodiversity conservation to Government agencies alone like the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National Forest Authority (NFA); and Non Government Organizations (NGOs). Everyone must have a role to play. Biodiversity conservation is a matter of life and death, conserve it for the present and future generations and for national prosperity.



Lake Bunyonyi in Kabale District: Aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, important homes of biodiversity

CBD Notification 2010-213 - International Year of Biodiversity wins Green Award for Best Green International Campaign

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is pleased to announce that the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) was awarded the 2010 Green Award in the category of Best Green International Campaign. The Green Awards illustrate the crucial role that green marketing and sustainability communications play in informing people about green issues, products and lifestyle choices. The awards showcase examples of excellence and best practice in communicating sustainability and green issues.

The awards ceremony took place at London's Natural History Museum on 2 December with the participation of more than 400 distinguished guests, including the Right Honourable Mr. Chris Huhne, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. Details of the event can be found in the Press Release

available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2010/pr-2010-12-03-greenaward-en.pdf>

The full text of this notification is available on the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-213-greenaward-en.pdf>

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New Environment Monitoring Dish mounted on NEMA House

The African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMSED) project in the IGAD region has installed a data collection device on top of NEMA House. This dish-like device is to assist in identifying the extent and severity of land degradation at regional and national levels. The outputs are to support policy decisions for combating land degradation. The device has capacity to record and provide decision makers with regular updates on biodiversity values and threats.

NEMA NEWS

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