



## Satoyama Initiative National Network Workshop for Uganda

*7-10 August 2016, YMCA Conference and Training Centre, Jinja Uganda.*

### Summary Report.

Organized by Environmental Protection Information Centre (EPIC) a member of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), in conjunction with the Institute for Global Environmental Services (IGES), the workshop focused on Participants experience and brought together knowledge and good practices through presentations and dialogue. A study tour took the participants to three landing sites on the shores of Lake Victoria where they interacted with lake side communities, and tested the three fold approach of Satoyama Initiative; they also visited the Bujagali power Dam and the source of River Nile.

## **Background**

The Satoyama Initiative National Network Workshop for Uganda was the first of its kind in Uganda. It served to launch the Satoyama Initiative National Network for organizations and institutions working in SEPLS. The workshop introduced to participants the concept of Socio Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS) which is new to many organizations thereby promoting the global Initiative that seeks to realize societies in harmony with nature through revitalization and sound management of SEPLS, where biological diversity values and social aspects are integrated with primary production processes such as forestry, agriculture and fisheries.

The workshop was held at a time when Lake Victoria region is facing serious threats that have far reaching social and ecological repercussions. During the study tour Participants were able to interact with three lake side communities at three different landing sites in meetings that were pre-arranged. Through sharing the challenges fishermen and women encounter in their daily lives especially those associated with the predator Nile perch which was introduced in the lake by colonialists in 1950 and has devastated the population of indigenous fish species the Haplochromine Cichlids, adversely affecting livelihoods of people that depend on the lake as a source of food and income, besides causing loss of fish species diversity and disrupting the food chain for the entire aquatic life, participants were able to test the three fold approach of the Satoyama Initiative.

The Satoyama Initiative National Network Workshop therefore aimed to contribute to sustainable development in the country by strengthening the knowledge base related to SEPLS, as well as to share the concept of Satoyama Initiative more widely. This will help to create more shared understanding of issues related to SEPLS and promote more effective communication among participating organizations, and to identify effective ways for Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) the event organizer to contribute and develop networking in Uganda.

## **Overview**

The theme of the workshop was *“Enhancing benefits for people and biodiversity in Socio Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes in Uganda”*.

Participants arrived at YMCA Conference and Training Centre Jinja on 7th August Sunday evening for orientation and dinner was served by YMCA.

On 8th August Monday, the workshop commenced with opening remarks from the Chairman Board of Directors EPIC. This was followed by the Panel discussant Dr. Jerome Lugumira a soil scientists working with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), who presented his paper on land management in mountainous and hilly landscapes. His presentation was followed by explanation on formation of working groups and discussions procedure, by the Executive Director of EPIC.

Participants formed three groups for in depth discussions of issues facing Socio Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes and those working on their revitalization and sustainable management. The groups were formed according to ecosystems in which Participants carryout their activities. Three groups were formed namely: 1. Agricultural Landscapes, 2. Forestry, 3. Inland Waters and Wetlands.

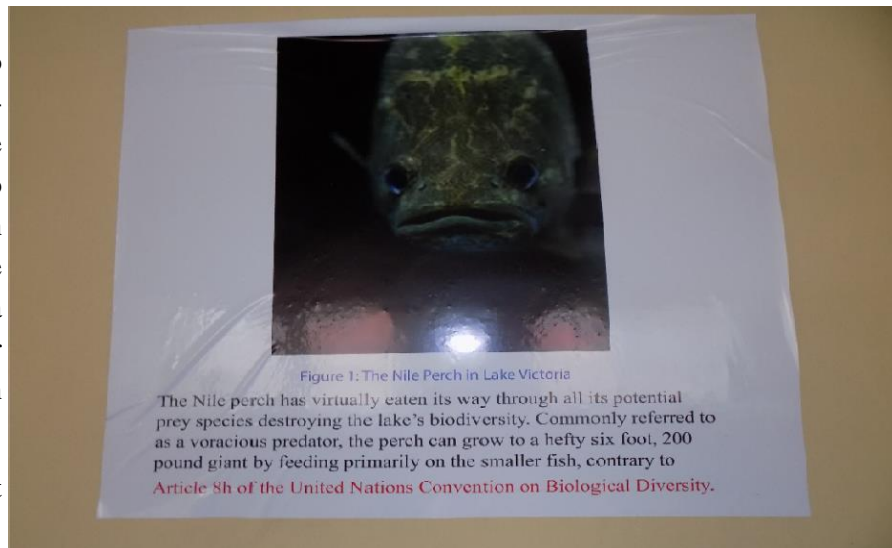
On the second day participants were first briefed on the procedures of the meetings with lake side communities by the executive Director of EPIC and each group was allocated a facilitator and a note taker. The study tour was organized to enable participants test the three fold approach of Satoyama Initiative and it took them to three landing sites on the shores of Lake Victoria. Participants split into three groups and each group addressed one of the three fold approaches of Satoyama Initiative. The meetings with the communities were guided by three to four questions relating to a particular approach being tested.

After meeting with lakeside communities participants were treated to an excursion on the source of River Nile and the newly constructed power dam at Bujagali on the river Nile. The study tour

gave participants a chance to reflect on the discussions they held the previous day and to see with their own eyes some of the threats Lake Victoria is facing and other ongoing conservation issues.

On 10th August Wednesday, groups

reported back to the plenary through their representatives. One of the outcomes of the workshop was a recommendation to lobby government to support conservation efforts aiming at restoration of the degraded biological diversity in Lake Victoria region and to enhance sustainable livelihoods of lakeside communities through eradication of the predator Nile perch.



## SCHEDULE

### PROGRAM FOR SATOYAMA INITIATIVE NATIONAL NETWORK WORKSHOP FOR UGANDA,

7-10 August 2016, YMCA Conference and Training Centre, Jinja.

Workshop day 1.08/08/2016

08:30 – 09.00am	Registration	EPIC Secretariat
<b>Opening Ceremony-Chair Mr. Gershom Onyango</b>		
09.00- 09.10am	Opening remarks	H.E The Ambassador of Japan to Uganda (Chief guest)
09.10- 09.20am	Address from the chair	Mr. Gershom Onyango Board Chairperson - EPIC
09.20 – 09.30am	Address by the commission of Forestry –Uganda Government	Commissioner of Forestry
09.30 – 09.35am	Group photograph	
<b>09.35 – 10.00am</b>	<b>BREAK TEA</b>	<b>YMCA Conference and Training Centre, Jinja</b>
<b>Plenary session Day 1.</b>		
10.00 – 10.15am	Panel Presentation 1	Dr. Jerome Lugumira-National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
10.15 – 10.20am		Q&A
10.20 – 10.35am	Panel Presentation 2	Mr. John Diisi, National Forestry Authority(NFA)
10.35 – 10.40am		Q & A
10.40 – 10.55am	Panel presentation 3	
10.55 – 11.00am		Q & A
11.00 – 11.10am	Explanation of working groups sessions	Executive Director EPIC
<b>Working groups Session 1</b>		
11.10 -01.00pm	Working groups Discussions	facilitator
<b>01.00 -02.00pm</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	<b>YMCA Conference and Training Centre, Jinja</b>
02.00-02.30pm	Working groups discussions continuation	
<b>Plenary Session 2</b>		
02.30 – 03.00pm	Answering the 4 main questions addressed by the workshop	facilitator
03.00 – 04.40pm	Benefits, Threats, Challenges and Opportunities ( <b>BTCO</b> ) Analysis.	facilitator

4.40 - 05.00pm	Explanation of the field visit	Group facilitators
<b>05.00 -05.30pm</b>	<b>EVENING TEA BREAK AND END OF DAY 1 SESSIONS</b>	

**Workshop day 2. 09/08/2016**

<b>07.30am-08.30am</b>	<b>BREAK FAST</b>	<b>YMCA</b>
08.30am – 09.00am	Registration for Study tour and departure.	<b>EPIC</b>
01.00pm-02.00pm	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	<b>YMCA</b>
02.00pm-06.00	<b>Excursion to the source of the Nile and Bujagari.</b>	<b>EPIC</b>
<b>06.00pm – 07.00pm</b>	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>YMCA</b>

**Workshop day 3 -10/08/2016**

07.00-08.00am	<b>BREAK FAST</b>	<b>YMCA</b>
08.00 – 09.00am	Preparation of group reports	Group
<b>Plenary session 1</b>		
09.00-09.15am	Group 1 presentation	Group presenter
09.15- 09.20am	Q & A	
09.20-09.35am	Group 2 presentation	Group presenter
09.35 – 09.40am	Q & A	
09.40 – 09.55am	Group 3 presentation	Group presenter
09.55 – 10.00am	Q & A	
<b>Plenary Discussion</b>		
10.00 – 11.00am	Qn 1. What are the status of, trends in, and threats facing SEPLS in Uganda? Qn 2. What should be done for the revitalization, conservation and sustainable management of SEPLS in Uganda?	Moderator
<b>11.00 -11.30am</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	<b>YMCA</b>
<b>Closing Session</b>		
11.30 – 11.45am	Plenary Discussion round up	Moderator
11.45 – 12.10pm	Feedback comments	Consultant
12.10 -12.40pm	Wrap up and way forward	Moderator
12.40 – 01.00pm	Closing remarks	Board Chairperson EPIC
<b>01.00 -02.00pm</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	<b>YMCA</b>
<b>DEPARTURE</b>		

## **Workshop Events:**

### **Day 1**

Arrival of participants at YMCA

### **Day 2**

#### **The Opening Ceremony**

The ceremony started with opening remarks from the Chairman, Board of Directors EPIC. He welcomed participants to the venue and wished them fruitful deliberations during the workshop.

He informed participants that EPIC joined IPIS (International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative) in 2013 and has since then participated in various activities organized by IPIS Secretariat. These include the Satoyama Initiative Regional Workshop for Africa, held in Accra Ghana in August 2015. EPIC was among the three organizations that were drawn from Uganda. At the end of the regional workshop, the “natural resources management project by Rwoho forest edge community”, was among the 20 SEPLS selected in the African region, that will appear in a publication that will be one of the outcomes of the regional workshop

The Chairman informed the audience that EPIC also attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Conference of IPSI held in January 2016, in Siem Reap Cambodia. The Satoyama Initiative National Network Workshop for Africa, being organized by EPIC in conjunction with Institute for Global Environmental Services (IGES) is yet another activity of IPSI Secretariat financed by Satoyama Development Mechanism.

Talking about EPIC the Chairman told participants that Environmental Protection Information Centre (EPIC) is registered in Uganda by the National Board of NGOs. Its membership is open to the public. EPIC is a non-governmental and not for profit organization that aims at informing minds, reforming lives and protecting biodiversity for human wellbeing. Its work has resulted in improved quality of lives of several marginalized and poor communities through protection, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Its multidisciplinary orientation provides a strong platform for discussing rural policy issues and increasing awareness of why investment in natural resources management and rural development is critical in reducing poverty, improving food security and enhancing biodiversity conservation.

On Ongoing activities, EPIC supports small holder farmers to apply the Vetiver grass technology for soil and water conservation in Rwoho Forest in Western Uganda and mountain Elgon ecosystems. We are also developing an intervention in the Lake Victoria region aiming at the restoration of the degraded biodiversity and enhancing livelihoods of lake side communities through eradication of the predator Nile Perch from Lake Victoria and ex-situ conservation of the indigenous fish species, the Haplochromine Cichlids, prior to their reintroduction in the Lake.

EPIC is planning to establish a knowledge Centre for Rwoho forest edge community to enable farmers especially small holder, in this remote area access value chains and global market information systems.



He said that, the Satoyama Initiative National Network is being launched to create a mechanism for information and knowledge sharing as well as to create synergies in addressing biodiversity management related issues in the country. It will also contribute to sustainable development in the country through its input in local and national policy making processes. He concluded his remarks.

The panelist Dr. Jerome Lugumira from National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), took the floor next and described in details regulations guiding the use of hills and mountains which were passed in 2000, but remarked that they have never been implemented. Efforts are under way, he continued, to popularize these regulations before they are revised. Dr Lugumira informed participants that work to assess good practice, in conformity with these regulations is under way in south western Uganda and interesting observations have been made regarding, one, weakness in guidelines, two, readiness by the regulated community, three, the politics of the regulations.

In his concluding remarks he outlined plans for sustainable land management in the government's strategic investment framework and hosting of the United Nations University on restoration of tropical landscapes in Uganda by NEMA and the Government of Iceland.



## **WORKING GROUPS SESSIONS**

The afternoon session was devoted to working groups discussions. Three working groups were formed according to the primary ecosystems in which participants' activities are carried out (Agricultural landscapes, Forest and Wetlands). Working group discussions generally included: 1) presentation of their activities by each group member; 2) discussion of these activities in terms of the status, trends and threats facing SEPLS in Uganda by seeking answers to the following questions:

1. What benefits can SEPLS provide to Uganda?
2. What threats do SEPLS face in Uganda?
3. What challenges have you faced when working in SEPLS in Uganda?
4. What opportunities have you discovered through working in SEPLS in Uganda?

Their conclusions were presented in the plenary on day 4 of the workshop.





## **Group 1: Agricultural landscapes**

The group was facilitated by **MR. Gideon Bukko Galiwango**

Note taker-**Ms. Edwina Nakitende**

The first Presenter: **Mr. Ababo Stephen, Coordinator-HEAR International-Arua.**

### **Title: Bee keeping for restoration of degraded ecosystems and improving livelihoods.**

Ajia Sub County is located 12km South East of Arua town. The vegetation of the Sub county is characterized by open lands with equatorial type of savannah grassland with small pockets of natural forests. The predominant soils in the Sub County are *ferralitic soils* and *sandy loams*. The main production activity in the sub county is farming and over 90% of the population in the sub county are engaged in agriculture especially tobacco production as the main cash crop. This project focused on promoting climate-smart farming practices, providing nutritional education and counseling to 20 People Living with HIV/AIDS, 90 caregivers and 90 OVCs especially those from the extremely low income families.

HEAR receives support from the US Embassy in Uganda. Its target group includes people living with Hiv-aids and at present they have 200 members.

### **Objectives:**

The ultimate goal of the project was to strengthen the abilities of the beneficiaries to innovatively, creatively and sustainably manage their natural resources and develop income earning activities to offset risk, ease shocks and meet contingencies.

### **Specific objective:**

1. To support 200 People Living with HIV/AIDS, OVCs and Care givers in climate smart farming skills.
2. To train 200 People Living with HIV/AIDS, OVCs and Care givers in nutritional education and counseling skills.
3. To engage 200 project beneficiaries in bee keeping for sustainable environmental protection and conservation.

Hear International (HI) used Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology in implementing this project. Eight (8) farmer groups consisting of 200 members were formed and one of the farmer groups we focused on is called *Alio atrizu* which literally means “to eradicate poverty”. This group was formed in May, 2014 and is located in Ngulunyaku village, Olevu parish in Ajia Sub County. The farmers were trained in Good Agronomic Practices, nutritional education skills, modern bee keeping practices, business planning and management and Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) skills. This group was supported by HI to establish vegetable gardens, apiary unit and VSLA scheme to improve household nutrition, generate income and conserve the environment. In summary, the group has been able to increase crop production, generate income & save and conserve the environment.

**Results:**

1. Increased household income, through farming, beekeeping and VSLA scheme. Improved household food security.
2. The integration of beekeeping in this project has resulted in conservation of ecosystems in the village. The farmer group members have strength, abilities and opportunities to develop their own organization, resources and activities.
3. Reduced discrimination against People Living with HIV/AIDS in the village.

**Lessons learnt:**

- Investing in profitable enterprises under prevailing market conditions through Farmer Group Models (FGMs) of good governance is a stimulant towards sustainability of such enterprises.
- Modern beekeeping is a win-win intervention in degraded ecosystems that satisfies both socio-economic and ecological demands. It can therefore be used for improving household incomes and, conservation of ecosystems and/or restoration of degraded ecosystems.
- Never ever neglect indigenous knowledge (IK) because it can be a masterpiece for success of such a project in rural communities.
- Changing mind set of people is a very gradual process and therefore nobody should rush communities in their development.

**Challenges:**

- ◇ Land ownership disputes between landlords and administrative units
- ◇ Loss of soil fertility due to soil erosion and use of chemicals.
- ◇ Land fragmentation due to the land tenure system in Arua.

**Questions and answers:**

What is the direct link of environmental conservation to the area's landscape?

ANS: Beekeeping project goal was that the degraded ecosystem should be rebuilt through tree planting. Vegetable growers trained in water conservation skills.

QN. What are your recommendations for effective SEPLS management?

ANS. Sensitize community on natural resource management and integrate traditional knowledge in modern science.

**PRESENTER: Mr. Rwabubare Robert**

**Rukararwe Partnership for Rural Development -Bushenyi.**

The organization partners with France, Germany and Uganda governments. Activities include tree planting, zero grazing, health services with three herbal clinics. They also do training and research. The organization has established a school where agro forestry is taught to the youth.

RPRD also conducts research on medicinal values of various trees. The organization has planted 1 hectare of medicinal trees where they get medicine for three clinics. They produce unbaked bricks and promote zero grazing for women.

**Challenges:**

Lack of funds

**Questions:**

QN1. What animals are given for zero grazing?

ANS: They are given both local and Friesian cows.

QN2. How do they help the poor to maintain and take care of the project cow?

ANS: They give one cow to five members who cooperate in raising the cow and share the calves.

**PRESENTER: Mr. Tom Benjamin D**

**Organization: Environmental Conservation and Agricultural Enhancement Uganda / Peace Corps Uganda / Utah State University**

**Title: Climate change perceptions and adaptation among small-scale farmers in Hoima District: A community based approach.**

This research targets vulnerable rural and peri-urban communities in Hoima district who rely primarily on agriculture as their primary livelihood. Much of the population in these communities can be classified as subsistence farmers, meaning that what they grow goes towards feeding themselves and their families. Consequently, community members in these areas have a strong connection to the land and the environment where they farm since they depend on it to survive. This close connection has resulted in the accumulation of a large body of traditional and indigenous knowledge that guides farmers by way of various environmental indicators, like the arrival of certain species of birds indicating the coming of rains. With the onset of climate change though, environmental indicators are becoming less apparent and indigenous knowledge is failing local farmers. To overcome the changing climate, these local farmers must adapt their agricultural systems.

In light of the very complex issues surrounding climate change, it was decided that participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methods would be the best way to analyze the problems and develop solutions to overcome them in the target area. PRA ensures that the community participates at all stages of data collection in processing so that they have an active role and take the lead in developing their own community action plan. This is done through various techniques that enhance discussions around things like resource identification, past historical events, and even gender. Ultimately, by utilizing this bottom-up approach to empower the community it is believed that any project implemented will be much more sustainable and focused around the actual problems facing the community. Furthermore, PRA offers field agents and researchers an alternative to traditional top-down methods, which are often not as effective.

**Observations:**

This project is currently on going, but preliminary observations have shown that target communities are very responsive to the ideas of PRA. It is anticipated that sustainable solutions to major problems will involve a combination of human capacity building and improving access to local services. For example, target communities may develop action plans based around increasing their knowledge of climate-resilient agricultural techniques as a way to adapt to change. Alternatively, they may develop action plans that seek support from local institutions to enhance their water resources as way to adapt to longer dry seasons. Another positive outcome of the approach is anticipated to be the empowerment of communities to problem-solve and improve self-advocacy. Past research of this nature has been very successful and is continuing to become more popular as it produces positive results.



**Presenter : Julius Sande Kakooko**

**Rwera Fruit dryers.**

**Rwampara Mbarara District.**

The organization consists of ten members and they dry passion fruits, pineapples and sweet bananas.

**Achievements:**

- Improved family income.
- Creation of Employment.
- Helped farmers to put their land to better use.
- Dried fruits have helped to fill up the gaps in times of low supply of fresh fruits.

**Challenges:**

- ◇ Tree planting on fertile land living little land for cultivation.
- ◇ Price fluctuation in the market of dry fruits.
- ◇ Lack of funds for project expansion.

**Questions and Answers**

QN 1. How have you managed to market your bulk produce in your group?

ANS. By linking up with potential buyers.

QN2. Do you grow the fruits organically or not?

ANS. No they are grown conventionally.

QN 3. How come the prices of sweet banana are low during the dry season and high during wet seasons?

ANS. During the dry season prices are low due to increased harvests. Bananas tend to ripe very fast in dry spells.

**PRESENTER: David Lubaramira**

**Rwoho Ruzo Twimukye group.**

**Mbarara District.**

**Beekeeping and Tree planting Project**

The organization has 32 members and was conceived in 2001. It runs an apiary project with 100 hives both local and modern. Women engage in crop production while men are into beekeeping and tree planting.

**Achievements:**

They produce and sell honey. Wax from beehives is melted and used to make candles. Woodlots are used for bee farming and the harvested timber is used to make furniture for schools and homesteads.



**Challenges:**

- ◇ Cattle keepers graze their cattle from farmers' crop fields.
- ◇ Climate change effect
- ◇ Cattle keepers start bush fires to regenerate grass for grazing their cattle.
- ◇ Crop pests and diseases
- ◇ Lack of awareness on biological diversity values and environmental issues.

**Questions and Answers:**

QN.1. Were hills initially forested or grass lands?

ANS. Yes they were forested but poorly harvested and we are now replanting.

QN 2. Did you consult the authorities on the tree planting project?

ANS. Yes we consulted the authorities.

QN 3. Which tree species have been planted?

ANS. Eucalyptus and pines.

**PRESENTER: George Agaba.****Reign business development agency.**

Area covered includes Kabale and Kisoro Districts. The agency gets funding from the International Fertilizer Development Centre, and offers services in farm management and farmer training services. The project operational area was selected based on the following:

1. Topography,
2. Land degradation

These areas were facing serious land degradation which was hindering farmers from practicing agro forestry. The area is hilly and mountainous; it receives between 1000-1500ml of rainfall on average and temperatures reach 23 degrees Celsius maximum and 10 degrees Celsius minimum. Soils are loam and loess which contain Aluminum and iron.

**Activities:**

Farmers' associations supported by reign agency are engaged in crop production such as Irish and sweet potatoes, millet and sorghum; and fodder for animals, art and crafts, stone quarrying, charcoal burning and tree planting.

**Challenges:**

Areas with steep slopes experience soil erosion that deposit silt in check dams and fill them.

**Answering the four main questions, that forms the objectives of the workshop.**

**Question 1.**

**What benefits can SEPLS provide in Uganda?**

Answers:

1. They maintain diversity of landscapes and the associated ecosystem.
2. Conservation of soil and water.
3. Support life of living things.
4. They maintain harmonious interaction between nature and culture through protection of landscapes.
5. They provide livelihoods through agriculture and eco-tourism.

**Question 2.**

**What threats do SEPLS face in Uganda?**

Answers:

1. Population explosion
2. Privatization
3. Political interference.
4. Poor economic policies.
5. High levels of corruption.

**Question 3.**

**What challenges have you faced when working in SEPLS in Uganda?**

Answers:

1. Lack of community motivation to conserve SEPLS.
2. Limited technical staff
3. Land tenure system

**Question 4.**

**What opportunities have you discovered when working in SEPLS in Uganda?**

Answers:

1. Job creation.
2. Promotion of eco-tourism.
3. Donors are willing to support projects in SEPLS.

In analyzing BTCO, the group came up with the following strategies:

1. Strengthening partnership between government and local /international organization.
2. Climate change adaptation strategies
3. Community sensitization on SEPLS
4. Advocate for proper policy implementation.
5. Integrate indigenous knowledge into modern science

6. Decentralization of management of SEPLS.
7. Engaging decision makers at different levels.
8. Designing a skills development program for farmers and extension staff.
9. Zero tolerance to corruption.
10. Employ bottom –top planning methodology.

## **Group 2 Forest**

The Group was facilitated by Mr. John Diisi from National Forestry Authority (NFA).

The note taker was Ms. Daisy Muhwezi from Makerere University

**The first Presenter: Ajok Roseline**

**Title: Contribution of Bio-Diversity In Sustainable National Development:**

Jing Cwinyi youth group was established in 2007 after the government of Uganda started resettling the people who were displaced in the camps, to their original homesteads. Due to the war situation in the region, and since this area was relatively nearer to the camps, most people travelled from the camps to cultivate the land hence making it not all that very fertile.

It constitutes of fish farming, agro-forestry and livestock rearing. It is located in Koro Sub county some 11 km from Gulu town.

It started as a family initiative under the technical guidance of Aswa community development activity such that they started by agricultural activities like growing of food crops like ground-nuts, maize, vegetable and later cash crops e.g. Bananas and tobacco whereby they raised some revenue in addition to the support from other funding sources and established fish farm and later pine forestry and banana plantation after the environmental impact assessment. People in this region therefore interact with and benefit from nature through fish farming, agricultural productivity, livestock rearing, forestry to mention a few.

**The objectives of Jing Cwinyi youth group in light of issues the areas is facing includes:-**

- \* To preserve the environment and its eco-system through encouraging bio-diversity conservation.
  - \* To diversify the sources of income of members and the entire community other than depending only on subsistence farming.
  - \* To improve the standard of living of the group members and surrounding community and not depending on humanitarian relief services.
  - \* To support the vulnerable people in the community since the insurgencies in northern Uganda caused many death leaving many orphans and vulnerable people.
  - \* To build peace unity, love and harmony so as to end gender based violence.
- \* To encourage community participation in development programmes and not depending only on decisions from development agencies.



**The key element are;**

Organization of resources by group members i.e. Financial and human resources, acquisition of the community land for construction of the project site, hire and purchase of construction materials, channeling water into the fish pond and stocking and maintaining the fish, buying of seedlings for the agro-forestry activities, raising them in nursery beds and transplanting them in the fields, and in the livestock sector there is livestock rearing.

**Expected outcome**

Basing on the above observation we therefore expect the following outcome of the project

Expansion of the number of fish ponds due to high quality and demand for fish, forest and agricultural products, future self sustainability of the project, establishment of its own grinding mills in the long run, purchase of deep freezers and refrigerated vehicles to preserve and transport the fish and perishable agricultural products to the market places, planting more trees on vast hectares of land, expansion of the estuaries where the fish feeds are stored and expansion of the agricultural farms.

**Presenter :Mr. Ahereza Cranmer  
Uganda Red cross Bushenyi**

**Title: Environmental protection, our responsibility.**

Uganda Red Cross society operates in the five (5) districts (Bushenyi, Mitooma, Rubirizi, Sheema and Buhweju) that initially formed Bushenyi District. Our wide interventions differ as per the need and urgency in a given area.

As of recent, due to the rapid growth and developments in the outskirts of Bushenyi town, people have resorted to encroaching on the swamps, have cleared forests hence putting the region at a stake of being hit by climate hazards like droughts, landslides, soil exhaustion etc. Looking upon this, Red Cross decided to intervene and give assistance like free trees, sensitization sessions on the dangers of poor environmental protection and the benefits.

#### **Objectives and explanation of the project**

- There is soil and water conservation
- Through tree planting, standards of living have been improved
- There are minimized costs of building materials like timber and logs
- Soil erosion has been prevented

#### **The key elements of the activity**

- ◇ Environmental protection awareness
- ◇ Soils and water conservation
- ◇ Income generation

#### **Lessons learnt**

Environmental degradation comes up as a result of high population that has resulted in lack of enough land for the practice of agriculture. Under constant sensitization, our environment can be protected.



**Presenter: Mr. Patrick Byensi**  
**Rwenzori Herbal and Environmental Activist.**

Following a survey conducted in ten schools we discovered that each institution use 21 tons of fuel wood every month hence the need to embark on energy saving stoves project for schools.

We recently started a tree nursery project with the capacity of producing 40,000 seedlings each season. We want to expand it to a central nursery with the capacity of producing 200,000 seedlings. We supplied 40,000 seedlings free of charge to the community.

We encourage herbalists to have medicinal plant gardens in their homes. So far 60 households have medicinal gardens in their homes. They however lack resources to establish large scale nurserie

It is hoped that the activities will contribute to enhancement of livelihoods of local people and mitigate the impacts of climate change,

**Presenter: Alifonso Mwesigye**

**Kyokaki farmers Group Rwoho.**

Conceived in 2007 the group has 40 members who have acquired 43 hectares of land in Rwoho Central Forest Reserve for tree planting. So far they have planted 36.7 ha. Seedlings are provided by National Forestry Authority (NFA) and the World Bank project. The group joined carbon project, and they expect to sell carbon credits when their trees mature.

**Challenges:**

- They lack seedlings to plant in the remaining area.
- Climate change impact is causing prolonged draughts that make rising of seedlings almost impossible.
- Fire outbreaks damage the trees.

**Presenter : Baguma Anaclet**

**Rwoho Environmental Conservation and Protection Association (RECPA)**

Founded in 2003 by ten members, RECPA has grown into a 250 member organization.

They acquired 60 hectares of land under Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) from NFA. So far only 55 ha have been planted.

**Challenges:**

- Lack of funds to carry out tree planting in remaining area. Some of their trees are stolen by thieves.
- Climate change and prolonged draught.
- Fire outbreaks and inadequate resources and poor planning to maintain fire lines.

**Presenter: Banyanga Arah****Kanyinya Agroforestry Group- Bushenyi.**

Started in 1994 by 14 homes in Bushenyi with training in tree nursery establishment and management, Kanyinya group provides advisory services to their members on tree planting. Through team work the group carries out its activities without external labor input.

They train their children those that have attained primary four level of education and above, in tree planting skills and raise awareness on environmental protection.

**Group discussions, on activities of each presentation, in terms of status, trends and threats facing SEPLS in Uganda, by seeking answers to the four main questions that form the objectives of the workshop.**

**Question 1. What benefits can SEPLS provide to Uganda?****Group 2 responded with the following Answers:**

1. They enhance livelihoods of local people through increased income generation and a healthy environment.
2. Protection of biological diversity and natural habitats.
3. They improve working conditions for local communities especially women
4. Stimulate growth of other income generating projects such as apiculture.
5. Micro climate stabilization
6. Accessing money through the sale of carbon credits
7. Sensitizing rural people on modern scientific methods of farming.
8. Local communities gain knowledge in energy saving technologies.
9. A wider section of society will come to appreciate biological diversity values.

**Question 2. What threats do SEPLS face in Uganda?**

**Answers:**

1. Pests and diseases.
2. Unpredictable weather conditions.
3. Political insecurity.
4. Drought
5. Early dry seasons
6. Bushfires
7. HIV AIDS Scourge.

**Question 4: What challenges have you faced when working with SEPLS in Uganda?**

**Answers:**

1. Financial constraints.
2. Uncontrolled bush burning
3. Poor enforcement of tree harvesting regulations.
4. Land disputes and shortage of land
5. Poor survival rates of seedlings due to Climate change
6. Poor grazing habits
7. Food insecurity affects labor supply.

**Question 3. What opportunities have you discovered through working in SEPLS in Uganda?**

**Answers:**

1. Free exchange of ideas with different stakeholders.
2. Access to donor funds e.g. World Bank.
3. Interaction with researchers of diverse disciplines.
4. Capacity building.
5. External funding.
6. Extension services from government and other bodies.



**Group 2 came up with the following strategies after analyzing BTCO:**

How can we use the benefits to overcome the threats identified?

**Threat:** Pests and diseases.

Through training and exchange programs we have been able to acquire knowledge to fight pests and diseases.

**Threat:** Unpredictable weather conditions.

Through workshops and exchange of ideas some practices are discovered and discussed such as climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

**Threat:** Political Insecurity.

Through National Forestry Authority, farmers groups and through community sensitization an appeal can be made to the government to improve the situation.

**Threat:** Drought

Through training tree growers can be advised to plant more trees of diverse species especially indigenous and early plating, to ensure high survival rates of seedlings and young plants.

**Threat:** Bush fires

Through improved income we have been able to construct fire lines.

**What do we need to overcome the identified challenges in order to take advantage of the opportunities?**

**Answers:**

1. Sensitization of the local communities
2. Continued lobbying for funds and support from donors.

**How can we use the benefits to take advantage of the opportunities?**

Answers:

1. Coordination and networking
2. Remain focused.

**S4. How can we minimize the challenges in order to overcome the identified threats?**

**Answers:**

- 1 Constant sensitization and training to solve problems caused by limited knowledge.
2. Plant indigenous tree species.



3. Government to provide microfinance to famers.
4. Government to improve security
5. Extension of electricity to avoid deforestation.

### **Group 3. Wetlands and Inland Waters**

**Presenter: Mr. Vincent Kataate– Environment Officer Bushenyi local government**

**Title: Environment and Natural Resources Conservation**

#### **Background of the project site**

Bushenyi District is found in South Western Uganda. It is a hilly area with wetlands covering approximately 10% of the entire district. This means that the land available for arable farming is small. Within the last ten years, the wetlands have been encroached and degraded and the mountainous areas have been cultivated and settled in due to increased population. This has resulted into mass wasting, rock fall and landslides that have killed a number of people. Due to wetland degradation, water quality and quantity have deteriorated. The people of Bushenyi are largely Banyankole. The majority of the people are peasant farmers constituting over 90% of the total district population. They carry out subsistence farming which results in very little or no production surplus for exchange. The nature of the peasantry farming impacts very negatively on the environment as it promotes wetland encroachment, drainage and soil deterioration especially on hill tops that consequently brings about wetland siltation. The peoples` source of income and livelihood is mainly derived from wetlands from which they draw water for domestic purposes and livestock feeding purposes, grass for thatching houses and mulching plantations, sand, and clay papyrus for roofing without forgetting the global function of climate modification and climate change impacts mitigation. It's on this background that the district of Bushenyi decided to conserve the existing wetlands, restored the degraded ones and started on the campaign to restore hill tops by planting trees on hill tops

#### **Objectives**

- It will help to conserve natural resources especially soil and water
- It advocates for sustainable development
- It leads to introduction of environmental friendly technologies on the farm lands It advocates for a halt on the resource degradation
- It will encourage tree planting on hill tops which will result in soil conservation, rainfall formation reduced siltation of wetlands and climate modification
- People's livelihoods will be enhanced.

**The key elements of the activity are**

- Water and soil conservation
- Introduction of agro forestry practices that protect the ecology of the area
- Awareness creation amongst communities
- To disseminate modern agricultural practices that benefit the community and environment

**Results**

- ✓ Reduction in environmental degradation like decreased siltation in wetlands and water bodies
- ✓ Improved agricultural productivity
- ✓ Presence of skilled and responsive community
- ✓ Improved health conditions
- ✓ Conservation of natural resources and provision of clean water
- ✓ Sustainability of the environment
- ✓ Conserved mountainous areas free from erosion, rock falls and land slides
- ✓ Improved food security
- ✓ Improved household income and livelihoods.

**Lessons learnt**

- ◇ Environmental degradation is the root cause of climatic change
- ◇ A well conserved and protected environment means a healthy stable and good living conditions
- ◇ Good soil management practices increases agricultural productivity and improved livelihood.
- ◇ Conserving wetlands provides raw materials for craft and other activities hence improving livelihoods.

**Presenter: Vincent Okonera-Executive Director**

**Happy Childhood Foundation,**

**Title of presentation:**

**Enhancing community participation and contribution towards quality and quantity of inter- national waters. The case for “status of River Malaba project” Eastern Uganda.**

**Mission**

To contribute, and strengthen capacities of children in vulnerable families and communities to respond to human rights protection, nutritional support, education, environment and health need

**Vision**

An empowered, healthy community capable of developing interest in improving their own situation and protecting their rights and the environment

**Objectives**

- \* To improve health, prevent diseases, mitigate suffering, provide care, support and education to vulnerable children
- \* To provide Advocacy and dissemination of children’s rights, provide legal support to abused children and fight against gender based violence
- \* To protect and preserve the environment and mitigate the impact of climate change and promote biodiversity values.
- \* To offer nutritional and livelihood support to vulnerable communities through agricultural services.
- \* To increase access to safe and adequate water and improved sanitation at household and community level.

**project site** (location- CHAWO PARISH) sub-county- BUSITEMA, District BUSIA )

Chawo Village is located adjacent to west Bugwe Forest reserve, Chawo parish, in Busitema Sub County busia District. The village is also crossed over by Malaba River and wetlands

The main pre occupation of the community is farming, live stock keeping and Charcoal burning. The community is also engaged in local businesses.

The surrounding community has encroached on the forest and depleted the trees.

This has affected the habitat for the local animals like Baboons, and monkeys. As a result, the wild life has nowhere to feed and have ended up destroying crops for surrounding communities thus causing human wildlife conflict.

There is severe food shortage due to limited agriculture and most children don't go to school as they have to keep watching animals not to eat crops. As a result there is rampant malnutrition due to poor feeding, low income due to limited economic activities as well as limited land for agriculture due to over population.

Other community members have abandoned agriculture completely for fear of the wildlife destroying their crops. The River Malaba project was therefore intended to improve on the livelihoods and reduce the human-wildlife conflict by investing in short term alternative productive ventures which are not affected by the wildlife and don't require a lot of land.

Due to population pressure, the community has encroached on wetlands and the forest reserve. The wildlife habitat has been destroyed.

River Malaba is shared between two countries – Kenya and Uganda and therefore activities on one side of the country have an impact on the other. Busia has two main drainage systems i.e. L. Victoria and Kyoga, therefore any activity that affects smaller systems like River Malaba has similar effect on River Nile through reduction of water level and pollution.

The Nile Trans-boundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) of NBI in collaboration with GEF SGP supported our organization to implement this project.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the project is to improve the tree cover along River Malaba in Chawo parish in order to conserve the water catchment thus contributing to the maintenance of the water quality and quantity in the long run

### **Observations from the activities**

There is increased community knowledge and skills in natural resource management especially tree planting. Over 50,000 trees were planted.

There has also been a reduction in the use of wood fuel for cooking by the participating households. They can now use solar ovens for cooking on regular basis. There is a 70% reduction in the amount of charcoal used for cooking in the households. Charcoal burners have been involved in alternative income generating activities that do not degrade the environment. They now report increased income out of the business activities and this has made them to stop cutting trees for making charcoal.

## **Lesson learned**

- ◆ Modern technologies like solar ovens are very good energy saving technology but costly and not sustainable. Traditional and cost effective energy saving technologies should be promoted.
- ◆ All community environmental related projects should integrate climate change resilience and adaptation.
- ◆ Community led livelihood projects are more sustainable and create more impact than those imposed on them.

**Presenter: Mr. Ely Kirya-Program Assistant**

**Mid Western Region Centre for Democracy and Human Right (MIDCOM) Title of presentation: School Environment Clubs in Budongo, Masindi.**

15 schools are involved in the project. Activities carried out include, training, community Sensitization, distribution of fruit trees such as Mangoes, Guavas and Citrus to schools; and Eucalyptus seedlings to community.

### **Objectives:**

- To generate income
- To improve nutrition
- To secure ecological services and goods
- To protect the environment.

### **Challenges:**

- ◆ Restrictive space
- ◆ School leadership change.

This was followed by discussing participants' activities in terms of Status, trends and threats facing SEPLS in Uganda, by seeking answers to the following questions:

### **QN 1. What benefits can SEPLS provide to Uganda?**

Answer:

1. Provides employment opportunities such as crafts making, brick making and pottery.
2. Medicinal products
3. Source of thatch and mulch



4. Beekeeping and fishing
5. ECOtourism
6. improved Nutrition

**Ecological benefits:**

1. Source of water
2. Water purification
3. Habitat for Biodiversity
4. Mitigating climate change impacts

**Hydrologic benefits:**

1. Flood control
2. Stabilization of water table

**Climatic benefits:**

1. Carbon sinks
2. Climate modification.

**QN 2. What threats do SEPLS face in Uganda? Answers:**

1. encroachment
2. Siltation and drainage problem
3. Eutrophication
4. Lack of local leadership
5. Lack of awareness
6. Burning
7. De-vegetation
8. Human-wildlife conflicts
9. Population explosion
10. Sand mining
11. Pests and diseases
12. Land conflicts
13. Shortage of food
14. Water scarcity

15. poor land use practices

**QN 3. What challenges have you experienced while working in SEPLS in Uganda? Answers:**

1. Limited funding for both local government and civil society organizations.
2. Low technical capacity among technical officers and land users.
3. Ethnic issues and language barrier
4. Scattered communities
5. Inappropriate application of the laws and regulations
6. Political interruption
7. Migration of schools and communities and its effect on sustaining activities.
8. Inaccessibility to resources.

**QN 4. What opportunities have you discovered through working in SEPLS on Uganda? Answers:**

1. political will regionalized
2. willingness of communities to participate
3. Existence of laws and institutions.
4. Alternative land uses
5. Membership of stake holders e.g. C.S.O, NGOs, Academia

**Analysis of BTCO and strategies:**

**1. How can we use the benefits to overcome the threats identified?**

- ◆ Having alternative sources of income like beekeeping, employment e.g. fish farming will solve/reduce dependency on wetlands hence solving the problems of encroachment, burning and DE vegetation.
- ◆ Being water sources (wetlands) they will reduce the problem of water scarcity.
- ◆ Water purification will reduce the threat of siltation, drainage and contamination.

**2. What do we need to overcome the identified challenges in order to take advantage of the opportunities?**

- Need for carrying out advocacy for law enforcement to protect wetlands.
- Promoting alternative land use practice will reduce on the pressure on the wetlands.

**QN 3. How can we use the benefits to take advantage of the opportunities?**

## Answers:

- i. Exploit political will to carryout sensitization programs through political gatherings like councils to advocate for sustainable use of wetlands to achieve the listed benefits.
- ii. Decentralization of management policy to local level.

## QN 4. How can we minimize the challenges to overcome the identified threats? Answers:

- \* Writing proposals to soloist funds from potential donors to fund wetland conservation activities.
- \* By creating synergies to utilize diverse expertise, share knowledge and good practices.
- \* Translating existing law in local languages and disseminating to local communities for implementation.

## Day 3

### Study tour and excursion to the Source of River Nile.

Participants broke into three groups for the study tour along the shores of Lake Victoria where they tested the three fold approach of Satoyama Initiative in three community meetings at three different landing sites namely: **1.Ripo landing site, 2. Masese landing site and 3. Wanyange site. landing**

Each group addressed one approach during the prearranged meeting with the lakeside community. Each meeting was guided by three to four questions relevant to the approach being tested. The community meeting together with participants at Ripon landing site addressed approach **1. Consolidate wisdom on securing diverse ecosystem service and values**. The meeting at Masese landing site looked at approach **2. Integrate traditional knowledge and modern science**, while the meeting in Wanyange tested the third approach **3. Explore new forms of co management systems**.



Figure 1 Participants meet fishing village community at Wanyange landing site

## Satoyama Initiative National Network Workshop for Uganda. Participants meet with the fishing village at Masese landing Site.

9th August 2016, start time 11.00am.

The meeting was conducted in local language LUSOGA/LUGANDA.

### Attendance list (see annex 1)

The meeting started with a short prayer led by Mr. Francis Bogere, secretary Village Health Team Masese. The chairman Mr. Charles Okello took the floor next and gave his opening remarks. He informed the community that participants of the SINN Workshop had come to share with lakeside communities, issues and knowledge related to the management and eco- logical functioning of the lake. The chairman invited the participant's facilitator to take the floor next.

### Communication from Miriam Talwisa (facilitator)

She welcomed members and briefed them on the objectives of the meeting. She shared about sustainable usage of water re- sources. She invited the community to express their concerns.

The following is the list of the problems identified by the community:-

1. Poor fishing methods
2. Lack of government involvement
3. Political interference
4. Beach Management Units don't deliver
5. Pollution from surrounding industries
6. The water hyacinth weed
7. Fish stocks are depleted
8. Government does not consult community members
9. Poor leadership
10. Over taxation
11. Hot water from industrial discharge kills fish in the lake
12. Buffer zone has been sold off to private investors
13. Fish in the lake is sterile.



Wanyange landing site: Grounded boats due to a decline of fish stocks in lake Victoria.

**Approach: Integrate traditional ecological knowledge and modern science to promote innovations.**

**Guiding Questions:**

**QN.1 Tell us your traditional methods of preserving or using this lake.**

**Answers:**

- ◆ We used right size fishing nets.
- ◆ We Isolate breeding places
- ◆ We had local committees that planed for lake management
- ◆ Buffer zone was left for preserving the lake
- ◆ We had associations or cooperative societies
- ◆ Population on the site was small and easily organized.

**QN.2 Other than the traditional methods, what modern science methods have you learnt with regard to preserving and using this lake?**

**Answers:**

- ◇ Formation of Beach Management Units.
- ◇ Caging system.

**QN.3 What new innovations have been a result of traditional methods combined with modern science methods to preserve or use this lake?**

**Answers:**

- Tree planting
- Aquaculture
- Boarder restrictions

**QN.4 what other new combined innovations (traditional and modern) can be used to preserve or use this lake appropriately.**

**Answers:**

- Government should provide patrolling boats to boost efforts on lake management
- Restoration of the buffer zone which was taken up by industries.
- Joint efforts to remove the water hyacinth weed.
- Local committees to be democratically and locally elected
- Government to do monitoring by deploying security agents like UPDF.
- Government should reduce on taxes levied on fishermen
- NGOs should help fishermen to organize themselves
- NEMA to control pollution caused by industries.
- To enforce fishing regulations

- Register all fishing sites for proper management
- Establishment of a common shop with standard fishing nets.
- Sensitize the lake side community on better fishing methods and biological diversity values
- Enforce waste management policy
- Financial support.

The meeting was closed at 2.30 pm and members left after refreshments of soda and mineral water. Participants went back to the workshop venue for lunch.

**Satoyama Initiative National Network Workshop for Uganda, participants meet with the fishing village at Wanyange landing Site.**

**Theme: “explore new forms of co-management systems or evolving frameworks of commons while respecting communal land tenure system.”**

**9th August 2016, start time 11.45am.**

**The meeting was conducted in local languages LUSOGA/LUGANDA.**

The meeting commenced with opening remarks from the chairperson of the Beach Management Unit-Wanyange Mr. Waiswa Dani. This was followed by the opening remarks from the Executive Director EPIC Mr. Imran Ahimbisibwe who invited participants to introduce themselves to the community. He briefly defined Satoyama and the issues it addresses and explained why the meeting was convened. There after the floor was opened to the members of the lake side community to share the challenges they face in their communities. The following is a record of concerns expressed by the local people:-

1. Water hyacinth weed and papyrus narrow the beach making landing difficult.
2. Crocodiles in the lake scare away fishermen.
3. Extinction of indigenous fish species with high commercial value and a source of food.
4. Lake waters are polluted by BIDCO factory for soap and cooking oil located a few meters from the lake shores.
5. Chasing away charcoal sellers affects them since charcoal is their main source of energy for preparing food.
6. Water borne diseases like bilharzia are becoming common due to ecological degradation of the lake. Snail eating fish have been decimated by the predator Nile Perch. The population of snails has increased and so has the outbreak of bilharzia.
7. Corruption in public service is very high.

**The community members posed the following questions:-**

1 Are hunters allowed to hunt in the swamp?

**Answer:** no it is a criminal offense. Those who do it are criminals.

2 Where can fishermen get financial support?

**Answer:** microfinance institutions can help since they were created for that purpose.

3 How can you know that it is the breeding period for fish in the water?

**Answer:** use observation skills. You can also utilize research findings from the fisheries department and from NGOs such as EPIC.

4. How are we supposed to survive when we stop going to lake during the breeding period?

**Answer:** Be innovative and start other income generating activities such as beekeeping and poultry where you can get off season income.

**Issues addressed in the meeting:-**

The executive director of EPIC advised the community that, the swamp around the lake acts as a buffer, it filters nutrient loaded runoffs and contaminated water from the surrounding watershed and industries. It also provides habitat and shade for fish and other aquatic life. The swamp therefore should not be perceived as an obstacle to the landing site but rather as an essential ecological element of the lake's ecosystem with very high biological diversity value.

The Haplocromine indigenous fish species also known as the cichlids (ngege) feed on detritus hence keeping it checked, by introducing in the lake alien fish species such as the Nile perch which has decimated the population of the cichlids, the lake's ecology has been thrown out balance. When the organic matter decays it sinks in the water consuming oxygen as it decomposes. Reduced oxygen levels in the water affect aquatic life causing death of some plants and other living organisms deep in the lake water hence disrupting the food chain therein.

The Nile Perch can be caught using expensive sophisticated gear which is unaffordable to local fishermen; in addition the perch has devastated indigenous cichlids which used to be source of food and livelihood for the 30 million people that depend on the lake. The introduction of the Nile perch in Lake Victoria is therefore a threat and a typical environmental problem that has caused ecological change whose effects are unacceptable with respect to societal norms of the lake side community. It also a problem with an international dimension in that the perch is exported to European markets where it is consumed as a luxurious treat.

***Approach: Explore new forms of co management systems***

***Guiding Questions:***

**QN. 1. What traditional management system did you have on the lake?**

**Answer:**

1. We had Gabunga, a traditional elder who had a committee that helped him to manage fishing activities on the lake.

2. Under the system we had only two types of fish nets, one was made out of kamba (sisal) and the other from pamba(cotton)

3. The following rules and regulations were put in place by Gabunga

- \* We were not allowed to catch young fish.
  - \* Used recommended nets only.
  - \* People under alcoholic influence were not allowed to go fishing.
  - \* We were not allowed to cultivate along the shores.
- \* **QN. 2. How is the lake managed now?**

**Answers:**

1. The lake management is under Beach Management Unit with the following regulations:-

- They use various new types of nets
- They don't allow pig rearing on the lake shore
- Use only the allowed size of boats and nets.
- wear a life jacket when fishing
- They protect fish breeding areas.

**QN. 3 How can the lake be managed by different stakeholders?**

**Answer:**

1. We want to choose our own local leaders .we don't want government to choose for us a leader of the beach management unit..
2. Government should pay BMU Staff
3. Local people should be part of the policy making process.
4. Government should not send money because it is embezzled it should send tools.

**Way forward:**

The community agreed to form a local committee that can take their concerns to the elected representatives in their area for consideration and action; they will write a letter and give EPIC a copy.

Sodas and mineral water were served to the members of the community and the meeting closed at 2.30pm. Participants returned to the workshop venue for lunch before they were treated to an excursion of the source of the Nile and Bujagali Power Dam.





**Satoyama Initiative National Network Workshop for Uganda, participants meet with the fishing village at Ripon landing Site.**

**Theme: “Consolidate wisdom on securing diverse ecosystem services and values.”**

**9th August 2016, start time 11.30am.**

**Attendance list see Annex 2**

**The meeting was conducted in local languages LUSOGA/LUGANDA.**

Welcoming remarks from the chairman of Ripon landing site Musa Dauku were followed by communication from the facilitator who then opened the floor for community members to share their experiences with SINN Workshop for Uganda Participants.

The following are challenges faced by the lakeside community at Ripon landing site:-

1. They would like to plant trees but lack support.
2. Poor waste management
3. Government imports fish, which undermines the market for local indigenous fish.
4. Land disputes
5. The fishing gear used to catch the giant Nile perch is expensive locals cannot afford to buy it.
6. Reduced income
7. Overfishing
8. Lack of law enforcement
9. The government sends army men to pickup and capture fishermen's equipment.
10. The community lacks skills for fish farming.

**Guiding questions:**

**QN.1 What services and values have been lost as a result of introducing the Nile Perch in the lake?**

**Answer:**

The Nile perch has not brought any negative impact on the lake, according to Ripon community.

Consequently the meeting was derailed into irrelevances and repetition of challenges due to lack of facilitation guidance.

It is therefore imperative to state that ignorance and failure of Rippon community to identify the Nile perch as a major threat to habitats and species in the lake, depicts the information gap that disqualifies lakeside communities as capable managers of the lake resource. It makes the need for public awareness creation and training to strengthen management ability at local level even greater.

The meeting was closed at 2.30pm followed by refreshments. Shortly after participants left for YMCA.

## Day 4

**Report back to plenary session.**

**Group 1 presentation.**

**The group gave the following answers to the four main questions that form the workshop objectives:**

### **1. What benefits can SEPLS provide to Uganda?**

- ◆ They maintain harmonious interaction between nature and culture through protection of landscapes.
- ◆ They provide livelihoods through sustainable agriculture and Eco-tourism
- ◆ Conservation of soil and water.

### **2. What threats do SEPLS face in Uganda?**

- Increasing population
- Privatization
- Political influence
- Land tenure system
- Lack of awareness of biological values
- High level of corruption
- National policies have not been implemented as expected.

### **3. What challenges have you experienced while working in SEPLS in Uganda?**

**Common responses:-**

- ◇ Lack of motivation for communities to conserve biological diversity
- ◇ Lack of research capacity
- ◇ Land tenure system
- ◇ Bad agricultural policies such as conventional farming methods

### **4. What opportunities have you discovered through working in SEPLS in Uganda?**

- Donors are willing to fund SEPLS projects.
- Promotion of eco-tourism
- Acquired skills in environmental conservation
- Integration of indigenous knowledge with modern Science.
- Job creation

## **Group 2 Forest**

### **1. Benefits**

#### **Economic benefits**

- ◆ Source of income through sell of timber and carbon credits.
- ◆ Eco-tourism center

#### **Social benefits**

- Source of cheap wood
- Stimulated growth of other projects,
- Increased supply of wood products

#### **Environmental Benefits**

- \* Controlled soil erosion
- \* Rainfall formation
- \* Stabilization of micro climate
- \* Air purification

### **2. Threats**

- Pests and diseases
- Prolonged droughts
- Political insecurity
- Bushfires
- Poor health of workers
- Lack of enough rains
- Wind throw

### **3. Challenges**

- Limited knowledge on environmental protection
- Financial constraints
- Lack of funds to carryout research activities
- Lack of credit facilities for small holder
- Scarcity of energy saving stoves.

## **Opportunities:**

- i. Exchange and sharing of ideas with different stakeholders.
- ii. Access to donor funding
- iii. Capacity building
- iv. Interaction with researchers
- v. Extension services from government and other bodies.

## **Group 3 Wetland and inland waters**

### **1. Benefits (socio-economic)**

- a) Employment e.g. brick making, pottery and crafts making.
- b) Medicinal plants
- c) Source of thatch and mulch material
- d) Hunting
- e) Beekeeping and fishing
- f) Ecotourism

### **Ecological benefits**

- i) Water sources
- ii) Water purification and desalination
- iii) Biodiversity habitat
- iv) Mitigating climate change impacts

### **Hydrological benefits**

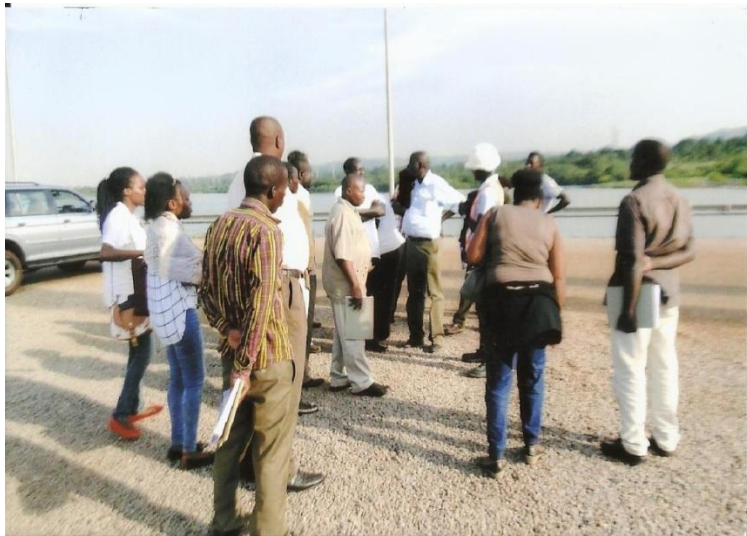
- \* Flood control
- \* Stabilization of water table

### **Climatic benefits**

- ◆ Carbon sinks
- ◆ Climate modification

### **2. Threats**

- **Encroachment**



Participants visit the new power dam at Bujagali on River Nile.

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- Siltation and drainage problem
- Lack of local leadership
- Eutrophication
- Lack of awareness
- Bush burning
- DE vegetation
- Human-wildlife conflicts
- Population extension
- Sand mining
- Diseases
- Land conflicts
- Poor land practices.

**Challenges:**

- ◆ Limited funding
- ◆ Low technical capacity
- ◆ Ethnic issues and language barriers
- ◆ Political interference
- ◆ Lack of enforcement of laws and regulations

**Opportunities:**

- ◇ Political will regionalized
- ◇ Willingness of communities to participate
- ◇ Alternative land uses.

## **Plenary discussion**

Two main questions were addressed in the plenary discussion. Each participant was given two cards on which to write answers for each question. The answers were pinned on the wall, analyzed and put on record as findings and recommendations for the workshop thus:-

### **What are the status of, trends in and threats facing SEPLS in Uganda? Responses from participants:-**

#### **Status of SEPLS:**

1. Protected areas in SEPLS are widely encroached.
2. Not given attention.
3. Unawareness of the SEPLS concept.
4. Political interference in the management and use of natural resources.
5. Projects in SEPLS are poorly funded.
6. Stressed.
7. Severely degraded.
8. Lack of law enforcement and policy compliance.

#### **Threats:**

- a) Overexploitation
- b) Poor land use policies
- c) Climate change
- d) Bush burning
- e) Encroachment
- f) Human-wildlife conflicts
- g) Tribal conflicts



A fog of dust and fumes from vehicles and industrial emitters hang above Mbuya hill in Kampala city. Photo credit EPIC ©2016

#### **Trends:**

There is a downward trend in all SEPLS in Uganda.

## **What should be done for the vitalization, conservation and sustainable management of SEPLS in Uganda?**

Responses from participants:

1. Strengthen community level management ability through training.
2. Create public awareness on biological diversity values.
3. Formulate good policies, enforce and revise where necessary the existing laws.
4. Integrate biological diversity Values with social aspects in primary production processes.
5. Form partnership between stakeholders to create synergies.
6. Ensure good governance and inclusiveness through community involvement and participation.
7. Secure funds for projects that promote sustainable management of natural resources.
8. Identify and secure support for projects that contribute to the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity targets and sustainable development goals.
9. Operationalizing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing arising from utilization of genetic resources.

### **Way forward:**

**The members of the Satoyama Initiative National Network attending the workshop resolved to pursue the following objectives:-**

1. Increase knowledge and understanding of SEPLS addressed by the Satoyama Initiative and make information widely accessible that is of relevance to decision making on their values,

History, status and trends including the factors influencing them positively or negatively as well as the traditional and modern knowledge that sustained and continue to sustain them, consistent with existing national legislation and international obligations.

2. Address the direct and underlying causes responsible for the decline or loss of biological and cultural diversity as well as ecological and socio-economic services from SEPLS, so as to maintain those that are functioning well and/or rebuild, revitalize or restore lost or degraded SEPLS.

3. Enhance benefits from SEPLS including by supporting factors and actions that increase the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services for human well being.

4. Enhance the human, institutional, and sustainable financial capacities for the implementation of Satoyama Initiative. In the same context issues relating to SEPLS and their value are mainstreamed and appropriate policies effectively implemented.



### **Recommendations:-**

1. The Satoyama Initiative National Network for Uganda shall through EPIC create a mechanism for generating, processing and disseminating information pertaining to SEPLS addressed by the Satoyama Initiative.
2. The SIN Network members shall meet once every year, subject to availability of funds, to share good practices and experiences; and assesses progress in terms of achieving the above objectives.
3. EPIC shall host the Secretariat of SINN and will seek funds from the government of Uganda, GEF, international NGOs and development agencies to establish an independent board of researchers, practitioners, conservation experts, natural resources managers and policy makers to ascertain the status and trends of SEPLS in the country; and monitor work progress in terms of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Sustainable Development Goals and advise local, National and international policy making processes on sustainable management of SEPLS in Uganda.
4. SINN Secretariat shall spear head efforts to eradicate the Nile Perch from Lake Victoria in line with Article 8h of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and ensure reintroduction of the indigenous fish species the Haplochromine (Cichlids) into the lake to restore fish species diversity and enhance sustainable livelihoods of the lakeside communities.
5. A Vetiver grass hedges technology for soil and moisture conservation shall be promoted by SINN through a pilot project in the water shades of the Nile Basin, to protect farmers' crop fields and halt soil nutrients loading in the Nile Basin through runoffs at the same time increase crop yields.

### **Closing session:**



The workshop was greatly honored by the presence of His Excellence the Deputy Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, **Mr. Yutaka Nakamura** who was the chief guest at the closing ceremony. In his closing remarks the Minister had this to tell the audience.

“Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to join you here today at the closing of Satoyama Initiative National Network Workshop organized by Uganda’s Environmental Protection Information Center in partnership with the Institute for Global Environmental Services based in Japan. Japan hosted the 10th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya in October 2010. The Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted in Nairobi, in May 1992, was originated from a growing recognition that biological diversity is a global asset of tremendous value to present and future generation.

The Convention represents a dramatic step forward in the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components. As the host country chairing the Conference, Japan introduced to the Conference its traditional and characteristic way of co-existing human-nature relationships. That was Satoyama Initiative. Satoyama Initiative was jointly developed and initiated by the Ministry of Environment of Japan and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies with an aim to protect and preserve human-influenced natural environments such as farm lands and secondary forest.

Let me first explain what the Japanese word, Satoyama, means. The word is made up with two meaningful parts, sato and yama. Sato is a small community normally found in the countryside, whereas yama means a mountain. Combined, Satoyama refers to mountains adjoining a rural community where local people live harmoniously with the ecosystem in a sustainable manner. Some of you may have already had chances to visit Satoyama in Japan; they offer breathtakingly beautiful Japanese traditional landscape where farmers peacefully coexist with nature.

Satoyama is an example of how nature and humans can interact and coexist in a sustainable way. In Satoyama, people carry out activities such as farming. What is very special about Satoyama is that because of their activities, the nature can also sustain. While rapid urbanization and large-scale intensive agricultural production threaten the natural environment, human activities in Satoyama protect and preserve the nature including biodiversity.

Acknowledging the grave impact of climate change across the globe, sustainable development has been mainstreamed within the development policy discussions globally. In line with the global trend in placing importance on sustainability, Uganda Vision 2040 raises a concern over deterioration of the quality and quantity of natural resources due to increased pressure from high population growth and economic activities. It sets out that efforts will be undertaken to attain green and clean environment while adding value to the ecosystems. Satoyama initiative is one of the ways to achieve such a goal.

Japan has been supporting Uganda in its effort to sustain natural environment while undertaking development activities. For instance, one of our development projects in the Central and Eastern region aims at preserving biodiversity and wetland resources through proper management and intervention.

In closing, it is my sincere hope that agricultural development in Uganda will be looked at from the sustainable point of view, and that this workshop was an occasion for as many as people in Uganda to recognize the importance of the Satoyama Initiative and to actively take part in promoting sustainable development in Uganda.

Thank you for your kind attention.”

**End of the event**