

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE WWF – UNESCO JOINT FLAGSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH LEADERS IN AFRICA

A two- day workshop was conducted for 44 ESD Youth leaders from 14 countries in Africa to include Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Benin, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Somalia, Zambia, Madagascar, Senegal, and South Africa. The workshop comprised of 13 young women and 31 young men within the age bracket of 18 -35 years. The participants were trained on Leadership, Systems thinking, SDGs, Project Management Tools, Communication and Networking.



ESD Youth Leaders in the Nairobi during February 16 -17, 2017

Since the ESD Youth Leaders had their capacity built, they have gone ahead and conducted further trainings, started also new projects to empower other youth and also mentored other youth who have also gone ahead with additional trainings and action projects. Since the UNESCO / WWF workshop held in Nairobi during February 2017, over 3,800 additional students and youths have had their capacity built on SDGs, ESD, project management, communication and networking, peaceful conflict resolution, climate change, renewable energy and also implementation of action projects like making of energy saving stoves, solar and biogas installation. Out of those workshops some have been second generation workshops by the participants and their colleagues in their organisations. Additional topics covered by the youth during the youth trainings in the different countries include, sustainability, leadership, systems thinking, localising ESD, environmental conservation and 21st Century skills. The youth workshops have strived to have a gender balance ensuring the participation of both young men and women.



Outreach programmes conducted by the youth have reached a far much wider audience, for example Dan Misaki in Uganda conducted an outreach awareness programme for 10 primary and 7 secondary schools on wildlife conservation around Queen Elizabeth and Ruwenzori National Parks and reached out to 2,300 students..



Awareness Event in a school in Kasese, Uganda



Youth Reporters on Power FM Radio, Zambia discussing climate change and drought

Brighton Kaoma in Zambia through their Agents for Change Organisation have had an annual broadcast of 146 radio shows addressing climate change, child health and the environment with 4 million weekly listeners. A clip of their work can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLomc9-XhGc&authuser=0>

Ange Boni Yeye from Ivory Coast held a series of 9 workshops that trained 880 participants on SDGs, ESD, Climate Change, Gender, Green Economy and Sustainable Consumption, and the link between information communication technology (ICT) and SDGs.



Youth workshop in Ivory Coast

The Youth Leaders have also collaborated with UNESCO offices in their countries, for example, Edna Baniakina of Pan African Youth Network of a Culture for Peace based in Congo Brazzaville participated in a workshop organised by UNESCO for different organisations and networks during December 2017, and helped to facilitate in the workshop which had 29 youth.

Monique Ntumngia a youth from Cameroon has conducted 35 workshops and trained 200 girls in three regions in Cameroon on SDGs, renewable energy and on solar and biogas installations. This has led to over 3,000 households having clean cooking gas.. Some of her work can be found here:

<http://www.businessincameroon.com/energy/2408-7339-cameroonian-monique-ntumngia-wins-prize-for-promoting-renewable-energy-organised-in-rwanda>;
<http://www.wwf-congobasin.org/news/?uNewsID=314030>; <http://www.investiraucameroun.com/energie/2308-9287-la-camerounaise-monique-ntumngia-remporte-un-prix-sur-la-promotion-des-energies-renouvelables-au-rwanda>
<https://www.jewanda-magazine.com/2017/05/portrait-monique-ntumngia-camerounaise-apprend-produire-biogaz-domestique/>
<https://sheleadsafrica.org/monique-ntumngia/>

Through her achievements she received the WWF Youth Leadership Award for 2016 and has since continued to build capacity of young girls on clean energy and recyclables at a Pan African level.

Major Outcomes of the ESD Youth Leaders Training :

The trained ESD youth leaders have demonstrated a lot of dynamism, vibrancy and engagement with some of them participating in diverse international fora where they have been able to not only network with other youth but also showcase their activities.

Ange Boni Yeye a youth from Ivory Coast participated in the Africa Youth Leadership Summit held during September 21 – 25, 2017 in Marrakech, Morocco. Brian Waswala through attending diverse fora has been able to share the UNESCO and WWF ESD Youth Leaders initiative to between 115 - 140 international delegates in various international platforms. These fora include the: Pan-African Youth

Conference <http://web.unep.org/training/events/programme-meeting/pan-african-youth-conference> ; 9th World Environmental Education Congress: UNEP Side Event <http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/21770>. and First RCE Thematic Conference: Towards Achieving the SDGs, where he presented "Kenya Youth Engagement in Climate Change Mitigation Adaptation" www.okayama-u.ac.jp/up_load_files/event/Programme_as_of_1_December_FINAL4.pdf to 25 international delegates.

The youths have been motivated to develop their own proposals for projects that empower other youth. Innocent Mbanda from Rwanda trained 21 girls who had dropped out school in a Kigali city suburb in Rwanda on ICT. These young girls were able to be linked to e-commerce businesses and all had an internship with Jumia an international online shopping e-commerce business.

Some of the youth have been motivated to advance their careers, for example, Gideon Olanrewaju from Nigeria got a scholarship and is pursuing his Masters Programme with a University in the United Kingdom.

Victoria Ibiwoye attended the Regional Workshop for ESD and Cities hosted in Nairobi during December 2017 by the UNESCO Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office and was a key panellist representing youth voices in one of the sessions.

Lessons Learnt:

One of the key lessons learnt from the implementation of the project is that the youth have a lot of potential and with capacity they can achieve tremendous impact. The multiplier effect of the training indicates that they youth just need support, and mentorship and they can be able to greater impact.

Networking is a key factor that has helped to keep the members of this ESD youth network alive. Constant engagement and creating a platform where the youth can share their success stories has led them learn from and motivate each other to even carry out more activities to promote capacity building in the region on sustainability.

Future Recommendations:

One recommendation is to create a large global network of the youth leaders to not only include Africa but also other regions of the world that have been part of the larger project.

There is also a need to create opportunities not only for virtual platforms but an annual or bi-annual face to face meeting that brings the youth together to share their achievements, lessons and best practices that can be taken forward.

There are different professional segments within these youth to include journalists, those working in business and industry mainly in private sector, academia, civil society organisations and other lines of profession. It would be useful to develop training for the youth targeted at different sectors as they can be influencers in their own sector which can drive great impact in an entire society as countries work towards green economies.

UNESCO and its GAP Partners need to continue working to promote ESD both with the youth and the other GAP Priority areas as there is still a lot that needs to be done to promote sustainability, and ESD is a powerful tool for that.