

# **UGANDA LANDCARE NETWORK**

## **REPORT ON THE STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS**

VENUE: INNOVATIONS HOTEL, MUKONO UGANDA

DATE: 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

## 1. Background

The stakeholders meeting of the Uganda Landcare Network (ULN) held at Innovations Hotel Mukono was strategically convened to bring on board key institutions and individual relevant to the cause of ULN. The institutions that participated in the stakeholders meetings include:

- Government of Uganda central ministries and agencies- Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), National Agricultural research Organisation (NARO), National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE),
- Landcare Chapters: Masaka and Kapchorwa district local governments
- World Vision Uganda
- Beyond Subsistence Uganda
- Makerere University
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
- World Agro-forestry Centre (ICRAF)
- Landcare International
- CABI

## 2. Opening Remarks

**Dr. Francis Byekwaso, the Chairman of ULN welcomed participants and outlined the objectives of the meeting as:**

1. Initiate the formulation of ULN development strategy
2. Align activities of ULN with those of the Africa Landcare Network and International Landcare
3. Bring on board key stakeholders for their buy in
4. Agree on a 12 month work plan and budget
5. Plan and budget for the national stakeholders forum

Dr. Byekwaso informed participants that this meeting was part of the consolidation of the achievements of the process that has been going on for a longer time. He articulated that the meeting is positioned to act as a planning / inception meeting for the proposed national stakeholder meeting to be held in the early part of 2015.

The Chairman outlined the history of Landcare in Uganda. He reported that Landcare started in Uganda in 2003 in Kapchorwa as part of African Highlands Initiative (AHI)<sup>1</sup>. Following the Landcare International Conference held in 2006 in Melbourne Australia in which Uganda participated, a national coordination committee was established and housed at the NAADS Secretariat in Kampala.

### **3. Presentations**

#### **a. Landcare - A Community Based Model for Promoting Sustainable Agriculture: Mr. Mathias Wakulira**

The presentation provided definitions of Landcare and the context for the activities undertaken to date in Uganda.

Landcare is defined as a community based approach to fixing agricultural production and environmental problems, protecting the future of the country's natural resources and a cornerstone of participatory approaches to Natural Resource Management. It involves people working together in Landcare groups, as part of a formalized program structure based on partnerships between Local government, community organizations and the private sector. Landcare in Uganda has focused largely on improving livelihoods, which has included facilitating:

- Income generating activities
- Community tree nurseries / Tree planting

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<sup>1</sup> AHI is an eco- regional collaborative research programme started in 1995 focusing on issues of natural resource management, in selected benchmarks sites in Eastern African highlands.

- Sustainable Land Management activities
- Junior Landcare Clubs

He highlighted on the existing platform activities in Masaka, Lwengo, Kalungu, Kapchorwa, Bukwo, Kween, Masindi, Ntungamo, Rubirizi, and Kabale.

#### **b. Uganda Landcare Networks: Continental and Global Links: Dr. Joy Tukahirwa**

The presentation outlined that district level platforms as sustainable land management (SLM) scaling nodes already thriving and there are opportunities to connect the activities to the national, regional (Africa Landcare Network) and international landcare platforms (Landcare International). She explained the Vision, Mission and Goals/Objectives of ULN.

##### ***Vision***

*Land resources sustainably managed to improve the quality of life of Ugandans.*

##### ***Mission***

*To provide a national platform for knowledge generation and sharing, capacity building and resource mobilization for sustainable land resource management.*

##### ***Goals:***

**Goal 1:** *Improved knowledge management for natural resource management outcomes among communities, policy makers, technocrats and partners.*

**Goal 2:** *Capacity built for ULN member organizations (chapters), Government officials, implementing partners and community leaders to improve their abilities to initiate, implement and supervise natural resource management/ Landcare projects in the communities. This will include capacity to develop and utilize modules and approaches for sustainable land use and management.*

**Goal 3:** *Institutional mechanisms developed for Landcare in Uganda<sup>2</sup> through supporting the establishment of landcare platforms as well as institutionalizing Management Information System (MIS) for landcare activities and maintenance of SLM data base for experts/practioners.*

**Goal 4:** *Allies, development / conservation partners identified and linked directly to communities to initiate natural resource management projects, with special focus on Improving land use and land management, landcare innovations for special interest groups ( schools / junior landcare, PWDs), Evergreen Agriculture, Tree Planting, Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, Solid waste management, URBAN environmental parks and community empowerment.*

**Goal 5:** *Catalyse dialogue on Trans-border natural resource management issues in the EA region*

#### **c. Uganda Landcare in the International Landcare Community – Clinton Muller**

The presentation discussed the multifaceted definition of landcare highlighting the importance of having a clear definition that captures the context landcare as a Movement, as an Approach, as a Body of Knowledge and as an Ethic and Philosophy. He further explained the importance of not limiting Landcare as sustainable land management but to put n the broader context of six principles as defined by South Africa, which include:

1. *Integrated Sustainable Natural Resource Management* addressing *primary causes* of natural resource decline
2. *Community led* natural resource management within a participatory framework
3. Development of *sustainable livelihoods* for individuals, groups and communities utilising empowerment strategies
4. Government, community and individual *capacity building* through targeted training, education, and support mechanisms

5. Development of active and true *partnerships* between governments, Landcare groups/ communities, non-government organisations and private sector.
6. Blending together of appropriate upper level *policy processes* with *bottom up feedback mechanisms*

Specific examples of global Landcare programs were provided, including the program development and models in Australia, Philippines, South Africa, Iceland, Germany, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo and also Uganda. The role of international networks, including the African Landcare Network, Landcare International and Australia Landcare International were also highlighted as supporting resource mobilization and providing technical skills and capacities.

#### 4. Discussion

##### Reactions from participants

<b>Pamela</b> <b>World</b> <b>Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Vision (WV) is already in Masaka, so there are opportunities to engage with Masaka District Landcare Chapter (MADLACC).</li> <li>• Advocacy is an important area that needed to promote what has been achieved in terms of protecting land and the sustainable methods</li> <li>• Informed participants that 2015 is an international year of soils which provides an opportunity for ULN and other stakeholders to work towards making a contribution to this theme.</li> </ul>
<b>Kizza</b> <b>Makerere</b> <b>University</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future issues that need to be considered including the degradation of terraces and risks to food security, particularly in Kabale, with agricultural land being replaced with trees.</li> <li>• Need to be proactive with preventing degradation from emerging industries such as pineapple in Ntungamo district</li> <li>• Support for use of integrated catchment management approaches</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of linkages with emerging platforms those proposed by FAO in the cattle corridor stretching from Ntungamo across Sembabule, Nakasongola to Karamoja region.</li> </ul>
<b>Proscovia</b> <b>MADLACC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MADLACC has done a lot of advocacy, including organizing Landcare days one of which was attended by MPs including on the agricultural committee – follow up is necessary</li> <li>Junior Landcare has been a success, although only in 3 schools, but a lot of potential for up-scaling</li> </ul>
<b>Choice</b> <b>NARO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NARO have been working with farmer groups on soil and water conservation technologies hence, the importance of establishing linkages with landcare approaches in terms of site specificity.</li> </ul>
<b>Paul</b> <b>FAO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What external investments are required to run a Landcare group?</li> <li>Need to improve documentation so the information can be shared, increasing usability of such information for local people is an issue</li> <li>Sustainability of existing Landcare Chapters – how have they managed to continue to run their activities</li> <li>From capacity assessment, districts are very interested in new institutions, because existing institutions are either dormant or not active</li> </ul>
<b>John Peter</b> <b>FAO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Taskforce for Climate Smart Agriculture, is Landcare Networking with this taskforce?</li> </ul>
<b>Francis</b> <b>ULN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge sharing – so many interventions already, based on our concept, Landcare has the potential to share broadly. Community based extension officers were flagged in the past but discounted.</li> </ul>
<b>Proscovia</b> <b>MADLACC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability, MADLACC built on existing groups that were in place already and provided support such as tree nurseries, establishment of income generating activities and soil conservation activities</li> </ul>
<b>Mathias</b> <b>MADLACC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability – identification of groups themselves to keep mobilizing Landcare activities, knowledge sharing takes place, otherwise issues of</li> </ul>

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SLM alone is not a priority

<b>Rowland</b> <i>ICRAF</i> <i>Uganda</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the key motivators for these groups to continue? Need to know what keeps them going. If it's voluntarily, people will drop off and what strategies do we have to address those that drop off?</li></ul>
<b>Simon</b> <i>KADLACC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In Kapchorwa, Landcare came from tragedy, and it brought people together. In terms of sustainability, recognition that we need to work on this ourselves through a platform, with our own resources, but attract technical services and support. The government is a member, but not the lead.</li><li>• With or without money – the problem is yours. We don't have enough money, but we mobilise what we can with our little resources through good social capital.</li></ul>
<b>Joy</b> <i>Kabale/</i> <i>Beyond</i> <i>Subsistence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In terms of advocacy, ULN is prioritizing alignment with the 2015 year of Soil while planning the stakeholders meeting.</li><li>• Among priority areas for the ULN, research is a critical. Awareness building should be undertaken, but we miss out to hold the flag high when something wrong is going on.</li><li>• Extension needs to be underpinned by continuous capacity building and engaging others.</li></ul>
<b>Frederick</b> <i>Masindi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incentives don't necessarily need to be money, appreciation also goes a long way to encourage adoption</li></ul>
<b>Paul</b> <i>FAO</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the Landcare approach look at rehabilitation only or prevention as well?</li></ul>
<b>Mathias</b> <i>MADLACC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Groups are community owned, district is doing the role of facilitation. What these groups need is facilitation to give them more knowledge of broader issues such as production and marketing, institutional building.</li></ul>
<b>Simon</b> <i>KADLACC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protecting or restoring – Landcare is a strategy or an intervention. Landcare can be both, before and after.</li></ul>
<b>Clinton</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landcare is a key agent in community education and awareness</li></ul>

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<b>Muller</b>	building, so while activities may originate through rehabilitation, it
<b>ICRAF</b>	provides a platform to discuss other areas for prevention
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy is key aspect, and Landcare International provides this in a number of global conventions, including the UNCCD</li> <li>• Documentation is very critical and it is important to do so, but traditional written documentation is not always suitable for grassroots groups</li> <li>• Sustainability is a very interesting aspect, and Uganda has demonstrated this with Landcare activities taking place for over 10 years now with minimum external intervention.</li> </ul>
<b>Joy</b>	• Social capital in Landcare is a very important input and contributes
<b>Kabale/</b>	significantly to sustainability. Having the infrastructure in place attracts
<b>Beyond</b>	project partners as the institutional arrangements are already in place
<b>Subsistence</b>	and operational.
<b>Paul</b>	• FAO has substantial information available on line with regards to soils
<b>FAO</b>	and it is important to give visibility to soils

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### Recommendations

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<b>World</b>	• Can engage with the platform, already working with communities and
<b>Vision</b>	want to focus more on implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land issues are becoming more prominent in our work, including activities like FMNR</li> </ul>
<b>FAO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving our understanding of Landcare</li> <li>• See opportunities for interaction with Farmer Field Schools (FFS) as they integrated a lot of issues</li> <li>• Can benefit from Landcare around issues of soil and water management, in FFS we tend to give the basics, but Landcare appears to be more practical</li> <li>• Collaboration could involve training FFS facilitators for technical</li> </ul>

	<p>content as they identify needs for more knowledge on soil and water management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Landcare is a well established they could be engaged in the delivery of FFS.</li> </ul>
<b>Makerere University</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested in research component, and would support publications to seriously look at drivers of Land degradation</li> <li>• Opportunities to engage in soil and water management capacity and integrated watershed management network</li> <li>• Introduced a Masters Degree in Integrated Watershed Management</li> </ul>
<b>MAAIF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working on areas of alignment including watershed and micro-catchment management and developing a Climate Change resilience plan</li> </ul>
<b>NARO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value in scaling up technologies and making them site specific through development of fit for purpose technologies.</li> <li>• Opportunity for interaction with SLM National Coordinator</li> <li>• A lot of literature is available, such as from Rwanda, on different soil and water conservation, but it's not correctly disseminated</li> </ul>

## 5. Cross Cutting Issues identified

- Capacity Building
- Exchange Visits / Knowledge Sharing
- Master classes
- Resource Mobilization
- Networking – participation in relevant forums
- Updating Uganda Landcare Brochure – Broader communication / dissemination strategy
- Issues of Sustainability

## 6. Next Steps

- Engage with existing networks already in place including FAO, SLM Coordinator, Integrated watershed management
- Stakeholder identification – who's missing?
- Stakeholders Workshop (2015) to present – use platform of Year of Soils
- Scale up Junior Landcare model
- Advocacy roles – alignment to global networks
- ULN Meetings and to invite more stakeholders (visibility, streamlining and governance) – support the national platform
- Improve the documentation
- Communication / Dissemination of Landcare information (Uganda Landcare Brochure)
- Engage with the National Climate Smart Agriculture Task Force (Chaired by MAAIF)
- Meet with the parliamentary committee on agriculture & NRM
- Develop a strategy to address land degradation issues – pineapple in Ntungamo
- Year of Soils 2015 – theme should be able to capture this
- Impact Studies
- Research in Landcare – Biophysical, Social & Economic

## Participants

ATTENDEE	ORGANISATION
Wakulira Mathias	NAADS/MADLACC
Tukahirwa Joy	Beyond Subsistence
Rowland Wabwire	ICRAF Uganda
Kizza Charles Luswala	Makerere University
Choice Agaba	NARO / NARL – Kawanda
Ouma Peter	Volunteer / Intern
Pamela Ebanyat	World Vision
Proscovia Mutumba	Masaka District Landcare Chapter (MADLACC)
Clinton Muller	ICRAF ESA
Kasozi Frederick	Masindi District Local Government
Francis Byekwaso	NAADS / ULN
John Peter Opio	FAO – Uganda
Paul Emuria	FAO – Uganda
Nyangas Simon	Kapchorwa District Landcare Chapter (KADLACC)
Byamugisha Andrew	MAAIF

## Absent with apology

Dr. Mulema John Mary – CABI

Mr. Sande Bueno- SPGS/ Ministry of Lands and Water (MWE)

Mr. Chemangai Awadhi- KADLACC



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