

Workshop on the Role of Churches in Addressing Climate Change

with an exposure visit to RDIS's Stove project

Nyamata, Rwanda, 16 – 18 March 2016

SUMMARY REPORT



Prepared by the local preparation team with assistance from other participants:

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Report Outline:

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1. Purpose, Objectives and Background:

Since mid 2010 the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) is implementing a special programme -- Climate Protection Programme -- to help member churches in the South not only to overcome the current effects of Climate Change but also to avert the worst effects of climate change in the future. The program has so far been successful in not only raising the awareness for environmental protection in member churches, but also in offering technical and financial support for a number of adaptation and mitigation projects.

This programme is going to end in the mid of this year 2016. There was a need of evaluating the programme and to discuss how the work of Climate Protection Programme is going to be carried on further by member churches in the future. The UEM's JPIC department and Africa department in collaboration with the hosting Church -- the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda (EPR) -- planned therefore this workshop for member Churches in Central Africa: "Workshop on the role of Churches in addressing Climate Change in Rwanda, from 16th to 18th March 2016".

During the workshop we made an exposure visit to an example of climate protection projects, namely the Carbon project for producing and disseminating Energy Saving Stoves and Ceramic Water filters in Rwanda, which is being implemented by the Anglican Church in Rwanda (EAR).



Objectives of the workshop:

Day one:

1. Learn about environmental challenges and the role of Churches in addressing Climate Change.
2. Find out the opportunities for the Churches to embark on Carbon compensation projects.
3. Sharing from the Churches on implemented activities, challenges and future plans.

Day two:

4. Conduct an exposure visit to RDIS's Stove project to understand it and to hear success stories from beneficiaries.

Day three:

5. Discuss how to address Climate challenges effectively and continuation of Climate Protection Programme.

2. List of Participants:

Workshop on the role of Churches in addressing Climate Change with an exposure visit to RDIS's Stove project In Rwanda, from 16th to 18th March 2016

No	Name	Email address	Church/Organisation
1	Ms. Lillian Lwakatare	llwakatare@yahoo.com	NWD
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8	Mr. Epimu Epimaque Munyankindi	epimunya@gmail.com	EPR
9	Rev. Rosemary Ibyishaka	akimana_rose@yahoo.com	EPR
10	Mr. Fulgence Mpayimana	fulgence.mpayimana@rdis.org.rw	EAR/RDIS
11	Mr. Vincent Minani	minavicent@yahoo.fr	EAR
12	Mr. Emmanuel Kwiizera	emma.kwiizera@gmail.com	EAR
13	Mr. Martin Doemke	mdomke@kk-ekvw.de	German Churches
14	Ms. Gloriose Umuziranenge	u.gloriose@gmail.com	PIASS
15	Rev. Dr. Jochen Motte	Motte-J@vemission.org	UEM
16	Mr. Richard Madete	rmadete@gmail.com	UEM
17	Rev. Mr. Chediël Sendoro	csendoro70@yahoo.com	UEM
18	Rev. Mr. John Kabango	Kabango-J@vemission.org	UEM
20	Facilitator: Mr. Djoma Nsanzimana		REMA
21	Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Elisee Musemakweli	ejmusema@hotmail.com	PIASS
22	Ms. Kirsten Gade	kirsten.gade@brot-fuer-die-welt.de	BFDW - Online connection
Special functions for participating church leaders:			
23	President Dr. Pascal Bataringaya	bataringayapascal@yahoo.fr	EPR - Opening remarks, Farewell message
24	Bishop Dr. Jered Kalimba	kalimbaj60@yahoo.fr	EAR - Opening remarks for the exposure visit
25	President Dr. Kakule Molo	kakulemolo@yahoo.fr	CBCA - Closing prayer

3. Content & Process:

Prepared by Sr. Editha Sylvester & Rev. Badesire Baleke Basile

DAY 1:

The day started with morning devotion led by Rev. Rosemary Owishaka from EPR church. The reflection was from Psalm 100:1-3, whereby she encouraged the participants to serve the Lord with gladness.

After the morning devotion and a round of self introduction by all participants, the workshop was officially opened by the president of the hosting member church, namely EPR church, Rev. Dr. Pascal Bataringaya, who encouraged the Churches to maintain a harmonious relationship between people and the nature.

Afterwards, Rev. Dr. Jochen Motte, head of JPIC department and deputy general secretary of the United Evangelical Mission (UEM), presented a Word of greeting from UEM, whereby the head on UEM's Africa department, Rev. John Wesley Kabango also presented greetings from members of staff and the entire leadership of the mission in Germany. On behalf of the local government, the facilitator from Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA), Mr. Djoma Nsanzimana welcomed the international participants to the workshop in Bugesera area, which he said is recovering from drastic effects of climate change.



As it was planned, Rev. Dr. Jochen Motte presented an Introduction of UEM's Environmental Programmes, where he elaborated how Eco-justice and Climate Spirituality Became a Priority for Members of the United Evangelical Mission in Germany, in Asia and in Africa. He explained further that, "As members of the UEM, we also see our own responsibility to protect and care for God's creation and to promote good stewardship in our regions and countries. This is why we started and continue to promote for example the use of renewable energy sources and sustainable agriculture and forestry to protect the environment and combat extreme poverty."

This introduction was followed by a brief presentation of Climate Protection activities in the German Region by Rev. Martin Doemke, who elaborated how member Churches in Germany also struggled to initiate successful climate protection interventions for addressing global warming and climate change.

After tea break, the consultant for Environmental and Climate Management in the African region, Mr. Richard Madete presented a review of Climate Protection Programme in the past six years. He said, “The program has so far been successful in not only raising the awareness for environmental protection in member churches, but UEM has also facilitated technical and financial support for a number of adaptation and mitigation projects.” The achievements by member Churches in the African region – as the subsequent sharing by member Churches will reveal -- are encouraging, but Africa is still suffering high economic costs due to extreme events due to climate change. He therefore said, “There is still a lot to be done in combating the effects of climate change, especially for the smallholder farmers who are suffering from low crop and livestock yields due to drought and floods.”

This presentation was immediately followed by sharing from the UEM member Churches on implemented activities, challenges and future plans from five member churches, which were represented at the workshop namely, EPR, EAR, CBCA, ELCT-KAD and ELCT-NWD. The presentations were made by managers and coordinators of Climate Justice activities in UEM Africa, who are in most cases directors of Planning, Development or Diakonia departments in the respective Churches.

In the afternoon, the expert from REMA, Mr. Djoma Nsanzimana made his presentation on “Rwanda's policy in relation to environmental protection”, which was followed by an online presentation (www.gotomeeting.com) by Kirsten Gade from Bread for the World in Berlin on the “Impact and opportunities for the Churches in Africa to embark on Carbon compensation projects”. Each presentation was followed by Questions and Answers from the participants.



Participants in workshop sessions



Participants in working groups



In the evening, the participants went into three different working groups, which were divided according to the countries where they came from. Three questions were to be discussed, Question 1: What are the main challenges you are facing with regards to climate change?; Question 2: What are your needs?; Question 3: How can we link climate change with food security?; Question 4: What kind of community oriented actions can we propose?

The diverse and very interesting findings from the working groups were later on presented in plenary for further discussion. The results of these working groups were finally taken up in the “5. Conclusion and recommendations” (see below).

According to the evaluation of the workshop on this day, the participants were satisfied and the objectives of the day were achieved.

Summary of the findings of the working groups: Awareness building, advocacy for reduction of Carbon emissions, importance of Climate Consultancy, Ecological responsibility, Theology and Spirituality, Emphasis on tree planting and tree protection activities, maintenance of tree nurseries, extensive fabrication and dissemination of improved cook stoves through development projects, alternative methods for purification of drinking water, training for church leaders including women, youth and children, recycling initiatives, energy efficiency, adaptation and mitigation strategies.

DAY 2:

The day started by morning devotion, which was prepared by participants from ELCT-KAD Church? Afterwards, as it was planned, the participants travelled by minibus to the Anglican Church – Shyogwe diocese for an exposure visit to RDIS's Stove project to understand it and to hear success stories from beneficiaries. This project is successfully being implemented by RDIS under the heading “the Carbon emission Reduction for Self Sustainable Environmental Care Project” and it is funded by United Evangelical Mission (UEM) and Bread for the World.

The bishop of the Anglican Church – Shyogwe diocese, Rev. Dr. Jered Kalimba welcomed the participants to his church. This was followed by an official opening of Shyogwe Diocese’s multipurpose hall and a demonstration kitchen that is using Improved Cook Stoves. Later on, Mr. Fulgence Mpayimana, the acting head of RDIS introduced the RDIS stove project to the international guests.

Afterwards, the participants had the opportunity to visit the production site of the core part of the stoves. This fabrication site is managed by a 15-members-cooperative, which is producing the combustion chambers for the improved cook stoves. The participants were very much impressed by the explanations of visited beneficiaries, that the improved cook stoves have helped them not only in reducing emissions, but also in improving their livelihood due to the savings.



Exposure visit to RDIS's Stove project – Pottery cooperative



Official opening of Shyogwe Diocese's multipurpose hall

In the afternoon, the participants visited some beneficiaries in three groups. During the visitation of the users of stoves in their respective homes gave testimonies that the improved cook stoves have helped them to save money, to reduce smoke and that they spend shorter time for cooking compared to traditional three stones stoves. In addition, the beneficiaries are using Ceramic Water Filters, which are also distributed along with the improved stoves to purify drinking water without boiling. The Ceramic Water Filters are also helping the community members in the area to reduce water born diseases and consumption of firewood.



Head of the pottery cooperative addressing visitors



Member busy with fabrication work



Ceramic Water Filter in use



One of the best users is awarded with certificate

The exposure visit was concluded by a symbolic act of celebrating the stove project, whereby different speeches were delivered, just to mention a few, a speech was delivered by a representative of the mayor of local government, the representatives from UEM and the representative of the Anglican Church in Rwanda. The colourful event was accompanied by performances of traditional songs and dances by a local group. Furthermore, certificates were given to the stove best users and a stove was lit by Rev. Dr. Jochen Motte from UEM to symbolise the successful continuation of the stove project.

DAY 3:

The morning devotion on the last day was led by Bishop Dr. Jered Kalimba (see below). Afterwards participants were asked to share what they learnt from the field visit on the day before.

Later on that morning, Rev. Dr. Elisee Musemakweli from PIASS presented his paper on Theology and environmental Crisis. This presentation helped the participants to prepare themselves for the winding up of the workshop as they were reminded that; man is a steward of God's creation and that God entrusted his creation to man for management purpose so as to keep the earth for the Glory of God.



Participants in working groups



Discussions continued also during tea breaks



After the presentation and fruitful discussions on this philosophical topic, the participants went into final working groups to deal with the question of how UEM member Churches should continue to address Climate and environmental challenges as well as the continuation of Climate Protection Programme. The findings and recommendations of the groups were presented and discussed by all participants in plenary, followed by a session of summing up of the findings and formulation of conclusion, commitments and follow up plan.



Group picture of participants on the grounds of the Golden Tulip La Palisse Kigali in Nyamata, Rwanda

4. Evaluation of the workshop:

Compiled by Mr. Innocent Semaringa

According to the overall evaluation of the workshop by a special form that was distributed to the participants, the majority of the participants were satisfied by the results of the workshop and they said the objectives were achieved.

DAY	Question	Average
DAY 1 We received 18 forms	1) What is your overall assessment of the event? (1 = insufficient - 5 = excellent)	4.3
	2) Which topics or aspects of the workshop did you find most interesting or useful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66.6% appreciated the Churches presentation on climate change 33.4% appreciated the presentation by Mr Djoma Nsanzimana on Rwanda's policy in relation to environmental protection. 	
	3) Did the workshop achieve the programme objectives? If no, why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% responded YES that the workshop achieved the program objectives 	
	4) Knowledge and information gained from participation at this event? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and information gained: 100% responded YES 	
	5) Please comment on the organization of the event (from 1 = insufficient to 5= excellent)	4.9
	6) Comments and suggestions (including activities or initiatives you think would be useful, for the future) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the participants vowed to improve their work related to climate change 	
DAY 2 We received 16 forms	1) What is your overall assessment of the event? (1 = insufficient - 5 = excellent)	4.7
	2) Which topics or aspects of the workshop did you find most interesting or useful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93.75% appreciated the RDIS project for Improved Cook Stove 6.25% appreciated the presentation of the project by RDIS 	
	3) Did the workshop achieve the programme objectives? If no, why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% responded YES that the workshop achieved the program objectives 	
	4) Knowledge and information gained from participation at this event? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and information gained: 100% responded YES 	
	5) Please comment on the organization of the event (from 1 = insufficient to 5= excellent)	4.7
	6) Comments and suggestions (including activities or initiatives you think would be useful, for the future) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% propose that the project should be implemented in other Churches as well 25% want UEM to promote tree planting activities in all member Churches Further comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UEM should organize workshops/seminars every year All UEM member Churches should make climate and environmental protection a priority in their programs Churches should promote alternative sources of energy 	
DAY 3 We received 23 forms	1) What is your overall assessment of the event? (1 = insufficient - 5 = excellent)	4.7
	2) Which topics or aspects of the workshop did you find most interesting or useful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% appreciated the presentation by Rev. Dr. Elisee MUSEMAKWELE on Theology and ecological Crisis. 	
	3) Did the workshop achieve the programme objectives? If no, why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% responded YES that the workshop achieved the program objectives 	
	4) Knowledge and information gained from participation at this event? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and information gained: 100% responded YES 	
	5) Please comment on the organization of the event (from 1 = insufficient to 5= excellent)	5.0
	6) Comments and suggestions (including activities or initiatives you think would be useful, for the future) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most comments stressed on importance of integrating eco-theology/theology of creation and environment in theological and other training programs including development programs. Some comments were about a pledge for the strengthening and continuation of programs on climate justice and environmental protection. 	

5. Conclusion and recommendations:

Compiled by Mr. POLISI KIVAVA Jean-Marie Baudouin

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We, delegates, experts, UEM staff and guests from the UEM communion in Western Tanzania, Rwanda, Eastern Congo and Germany have met in Nyamata, Rwanda, from 16 to 18 March 2016 to reflect on the role of the churches in addressing climate change. We appreciate the presence of our church leaders in the workshop.

The different exchanges and presentations have reminded us of the danger we and the whole creation are facing if we continue to destroy the environment and contribute to climate change. In fact, the recurrent natural calamities such as floods, land sliding, hurricanes, excessive heating, droughts, some plant and human diseases are all consequences of bad uses of land and nature

As stewards of God's creation in accordance with Genesis 2:15, we understand that it is our responsibility to take care of all creatures, including human beings, animals and especially nature, without which no other creature can live.

We appreciate the efforts done by the churches to address the issue of climate change as we heard from the reports of the churches and encourage them to keep it up.

However, we heard also about the challenges they are facing in their endeavours, including:

1. Low community awareness about the risks of climate change which constitutes an obstacle to ownership of protection measures;
2. Lack of knowledge and skills among community and church members in relation to climate protection;
3. Difficult cooperation between environment actors (churches, civil society, foreign agencies and government services);
4. Lack of resources to implement projects to address climate change;
5. Absence of measures of law enforcement in some countries;
6. Illegal exploitation of natural resources, including minerals and timber;
7. Land grabbing and replacement of food crops by eucalyptus;
8. High development rate/economic improvements without taking account its consequences on the environment.

In order to overcome those challenges, we commit ourselves to:

1. Include and strengthen climate justice and environment protection in our church Agenda and develop a policy to make Climate change a crosscutting issue and mainstream it in all church programmes;

2. Cooperate with other Churches and Institutions (NGOS, Government.) in addressing climate change issues wherever possible
3. Create a network of churches in the Great Lakes Region to promote climate justice and environmental protection, mainstream of climate justice in our churches, facilitate exchange and dissemination of relevant materials and network on youth action plan and environmental projects.
4. Implement similar projects like RDIS in other member churches as development projects, including training and support, and facilitate exchange of experiences with churches having such projects.
5. Promote conservation agriculture for land restoration through agro forestry, reforestation, and other modern land friendly farming techniques;
6. Integrate eco-theology/theology of creation and environment in theological and other training programmes including development programmes.
7. Make use of media (local magazine, radio station and website) to promote climate justice and climate spirituality.
8. Organize participatory appraisal of climate change related risks and help people at grassroots level to identify available resources for resilience against climate change effects;
9. Create a task force to continue reflecting on experience learning between churches in view of new development, improvement and forward continuation of climate justice. This requires external expertise;
10. Organize capacity building programs for church leaders at different levels;
11. Promote renewable energy to reduce pressure on forests;
12. Advocate for human rights against land grabbing and for the enforcement of existing laws and introduction of new laws to protect people and the environment.
13. Link climate justice with development to put human life and creation at the centre of our work.

We recommend to UEM to continue with the program on climate justice and environmental protection, to support and integrate in its work initiatives from member churches in the Region.

6. Appendices:

The presentations and other materials from this workshop are available for download for a limited period under this web address: www.uem-climate-africa.info/workshop/

Here is a brief list of downloadable documents:

1. Introduction of UEM Environmental Programmes -- Climate Justice and Environmental Protection as a Challenge to Churches in Asia, Africa and Europe (Rev. Dr. Jochen Motte UEM) - [Link - PDF 0.2MB](#)
2. Theology & Ecological Crisis (Rev. Dr. Elisee Musemakweli EPR/PIASS) - [Link](#) - PPT 0.2MB
3. Review of Climate Protection Programme (Dipl.-Ing. Richard Madete UEM) - [Link - PDF 0,4MB](#)
4. Impact and opportunities for the Churches in Africa to embark on Carbon compensation projects (Ms. Kirsten Gade - Bread for the World) - [Link](#) - PPTX 3MB
5. Rwanda's policy in relation to environmental protection (Mr. Djoma Nsanzimana - Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA)) - [Link](#) - PPTX 4MB
6. Morning meditation on closing day, Bishop Dr. Jered Kalimba - [Link - PDF 0.1MB](#)