

KENYA GREEN UNIVERSITY NETWORK
INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING
Conference Room 14, UN Complex
9 April 2014



Background

- The Kenya Green University Network (KGUN) was proposed in 2012 after deliberations between the Greening Kenya Initiative (GKI), World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD), the University of Nairobi (UoN), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Multimedia University of Kenya (MMU) and UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) as a follow-up to the World Student Summit for Sustainability and the International Day for Biodiversity celebration. The network would aim at developing a functional network of higher education institutions that would incorporate environment, low carbon-climate resilience development strategies and sustainability aspects in their education, training, campus operations/management and enhanced student engagement;
- Kenya currently has 48 Universities, of which 22 are public, 14 are private and 12 in transition. Of these, 15 are members of UNEP's MESA and GUPES initiatives;
- The informal meeting was attended by over 20 representatives drawn from National Environment Management Authority (NEMA-Kenya), GKI, WSCSD, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Egerton University, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), MMU, University of Eldoret, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenyatta University (KU), UoN, Centre for Natural Resources and Development (Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Germany), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Tongji University (China) and UNEP-EETU;
- The informal meeting sought to assess current and emerging environmental sustainability trends in higher education, discuss performance contracting requirements for Kenyan Universities, and brainstorm institutional aspects for the proposed network;
- Three key presentations were made on the "KGUN - Preliminary Thoughts"; "Greening Universities Toolkit"; and "Sustainability Reporting and Performance Contracting in Kenya" by UNEP and NEMA;

Discussions

- **Performance Contracting:** There is a need to develop capacity to assist Universities with their performance contracting reporting requirements. Currently there are 8 environment and sustainability related performance targets for Universities, for which weightage is relatively low at only 2%. These targets should encourage environmentally responsible behaviour; socio-economic sustainability practices; sustainability research; eco-designs of universities; and transformative learning. The 8 sustainability targets are: Domesticating Environmental Policy at the workplace; Developing and implementing environmental awareness creation programmes; Waste management; Instituting measures to mitigate against water, air, noise and other forms of pollution; Developing and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives such as energy saving, water harvesting; Planting trees; Protection of

riverbanks by enforcing riparian regulations; and Promoting environmental protection and conservation through partnerships with stakeholders. These targets can be updated on an annual basis, by providing feedback to NEMA.

- **KGUN Pillars**

- i. **Green Campus**

- Seeks to champion and promote green campus initiatives and engagement with policy leaders;
 - Promote of environmental ethics and values such as reduction on energy consumption (energy use campaigns), promote renewable energy, rain water harvesting (resource efficiency) and waste management;
 - *to be initially led by UoN;*

- ii. **Curricula**

- Actively incorporate green growth development agenda, green philosophy, environment, development and sustainability as core units within university curricula;
 - Develop guidelines for sustainability research tools in universities, government institutions and communities;
 - Promote the adoption of research tools across the universities;
 - Conducts a baseline-study on greening initiatives, ideas and trends in Kenya;
 - *to be initially led by CUEA;*

- iii. **Community engagement**

- Promote environmental community engagement and public-private partnerships through corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives and outreach;
 - Develop training programmes for communities, policy makers and industry on priority issues;
 - Share of best practices through the MESA/GUPES networks;
 - *to be initially led by Kenyatta University;*

- iv. **Student Engagement**

- Build the capacity of university students to green universities and communities around them;
 - Enhance student engagement through formal, informal and non-formal avenues;
 - Promote green innovation, green enterprises, green clubs (botanical gardens) and environmental awareness competitions amongst students;
 - Should focus on community outreach and coordinated internship / attachments which result into tangible sustainability target outputs;
 - *to be initially led by JKUAT and WSCSD.*

Way forward

1. NEMA to lead on Performance Contracting, including allocation of seed funding for the following:
 - Develop a core group of experts to assist with sustainability mainstreaming and monitoring;
 - Develop sustainability tools and indicators which can guide the change process;
 - Provide recommendations to NEMA on possible new target areas; and
 - Develop guidelines for quality assurance amongst universities.
2. UNEP to prepare a paper on KGUN institutional mechanisms and secretariat options;
3. NEMA, GKI, WSDSD, UNEP and Kenyan Universities to work together for a joint launch of KGUN, possibly in the last quarter of 2014.