



REGIONAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES PERMACULTURE PROGRAMME (RESCOPE) NEWS

Our values and principles of effectiveness which we use to evaluate ourselves are:

- Promote deep and thoughtful care for the environment.
- Emphasis on identification and use of local and indigenous resources and knowledge
- Inclusive and active participation of the school community.
- Genuine and wide participation of young people at all levels of our activities.
- Make learning fun, practical and relevant Systematic / regular learning from experience and planning ahead strategically.
- Ensure implementation of activities based on creative and well thought out designs and plans.
- Ensure documentation and transparent information sharing.
- Encourage sharing of knowledge, skills and practices among school communities.



A Message from the Editor:

We trust that you and your loved ones are keeping safe during the COVID 19 pandemic. The ReSCOPE Team is working from home but at the same time ensuring that our work through our dedicated Country Chapters is ongoing despite the challenges which I believe we shall overcome. We are also using this opportunity to network and catch up with individuals, organizations for the purpose of partnerships and networking.

ReSCOPE is very much concerned that our immediate beneficiaries, youth in and out of school have been greatly affected by the pandemic as all the schools in Africa and globally have been closed. We are working to ensure that this does not mean that we lose our engagement with them.

We have ensured continuous close communication with our implementing partners and with teachers in the schools we are working with. We are also utilizing the available communication channels to stay in contact various other stakeholders including policy makers and parents who then pass our messaging to individual learners. We are seeing that some learners have introduced the permaculture knowledge and skills they learn from school into their family gardens and this will hopefully slowly cascade into the community. Some of our schools which are commonly known as, 'Beacons of hope' or Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) learning centres are doing well with close monitoring from our Country chapters and their members in Eastern and Southern Africa.

We are using this opportunity to also encourage our network to continue to be guided by our principles of effectiveness and to deepen their practice in caring for mother Earth and for each other. ReSCOPE collected interesting and educative stories from our members through country chapters, individuals and partners which we hope you will hopefully enjoy reading and learning from. Do keep safe and stay healthy.

Karen Nekesa Samukoya
*Communications and Advocacy
Coordinator
Regional Schools and Colleges
Permaculture Programme*

From degraded school land to a food forest - Kiyimba Mugagga, National Coordinator SCOPE Uganda.

We started working with Butaaya Primary School in March 2017. This school had a total of 136 children of which 98 come from hunger-stricken families. Our member organization there discovered that 80% of children were dropping out of school before completing primary seven and only 6% were joining secondary schools. This created urgency for us to design a food forest so that they get the practical skills that would prepare children to become empowered and self-sufficient. A food forest training workshop was organized for all stakeholders who included children, teachers and parents. To them, it was like a dream to turn their bare land into a food forest. We started earthworks for food forest establishment. Within six months, there were very happy that crops were flourishing on the formerly bare ground.



Fig 1 Top: Learners and stake holders establishing a food forest on a degraded ground

Fig 2 Bottom: An upcoming food forest on a formerly degraded ground after 6 months

“If you develop a food forest out of this dust then..... I will believe your ideology” Said Semwogere David “We are watching you” said the representatives from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). This food forest started on a very dusty ground in one of the driest districts in Uganda (Karamoja Cattle Corridor). Everyone who had not seen the past success in greening bare grounds doubted the success of this food forest! “At a certain point I also doubted because it was my first time in this region”, said the SCOPE Uganda Country Coordinator. but I said to myself “God knows the importance of food forests and he will never allow nature to let us down when we are on the journey of healing unproductive landscapes”. To our Amazement, five months down the road, a thriving food forest was there and the World Food Program

requested us to support them to have a hunger free Karamoja.



Fig 3 Top: Establishment of the food forest in Karamoja.

Fig 4 Bottom: The food forest after five months.

Updates:

African Organizations amplify Agroecology messages during the International Earth Day – By Karen Nekesa, ReSCOPE

During his year’s Earth Day commemorations, ReSCOPE was part of the online campaign which was launched by the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) a continental network that brings together African organizations to take action on food sovereignty, climate change and promote agroecology. To observe Earth day, the continental network published and disseminated a press release, “Agroecology: the real deal for climate crisis in Africa”. Dr Vandana Shiva recently on one of her very educative messages said, “During the crisis and in the post-lockdown recovery due to COVID 19, we need to learn to protect the earth, her climate systems, rights and ecological spaces of diverse species, indigenous people, women, farmers and workers.”

AFSA Members including ReSCOPE participated in the online campaign in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, to call for action on climate change and promote agroecology. They shared Agroecology messages on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. The official hashtag for the campaign was #Agroecology4Climate. Dr Million Belay, the General Coordinator of AFSA, said, "Holding a social media campaign on Agroecology for Climate is of urgent importance to AFSA. This is to quickly adapt to.

The ReSCOPE Programme uses the Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) process as a tool for School communities to develop demonstrations of agro-ecology that meet local needs.

The Programme seeks to work closely with relevant government Ministries, NGO's and CBO's. The different partners are assisted to establish comprehensive in-country schools sustainable land-use projects and programmes that share experiences at a regional level.

In this edition, we feature Bernadette Chanda a single mother aged 48 and living with disability. She is a member of *Twatasha* women group, a member of a local organization located in *Kapiri Mposhi* known as KEEP which is a member of SCOPE Zambia. With technical support from SCOPE Zambia, the group has gained knowledge on making mats, baskets, soap by utilizing locally available resources. They also have gained skills on value addition.



Fig 5: Bernadette's group members

Bernadette and group can also now make shoe polish and organic fermented manure called bokashi. They prepared some bokashi at home and shared among the group members. Bernadette applied her's on a 25/40 farm and planted different crops. She is now growing *Bambara* nuts which she never used to grow. The group's major challenge is access to land for farming. In addition, it faces a challenge of finding a market for their products and produce. They thanked us for the trainings they have had so far. Bernadette's group member's hope that in future this will change their lives more including those of their families and the community around them.

Contact Us:

For more information, please contact us:

Zambia:

rescope@seedingschools.org
scopezambia2018@gmail.com

Skype: Mugove.Habitats

Kenya: scopekenya7@gmail.com

Malawi:

chifundo@seedingschools.org

Uganda: scopeug@gmail.com

Zimbabwe:

linda@seedingschools.org

Website:

<http://seedingschools.org>

Facebook: Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme @RescopeAfrica

Twitter: Rescope Programme @Rescopeprogram

Instagram: Rescope Programme

WhatsApp: +260 978 402378

