

# DANIDA ALUMNI ACTIVITY REPORT

Prepared by: Peter Okwoko



<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>Danida alumni in collaboration with AfriGreen Sustain held a mini conference with the theme “Sustainable Waste Management through Innovative Solutions”. This activity brought together different stakeholders to discuss the best practices towards achieving sustainable waste management in Gulu.</p>
<p><b>Date of the activity</b></p>	<p>4th May 2019</p>
<p><b>Venue</b></p>	<p>BSU Conference Hall, Gulu University.</p>
<p><b>Time</b></p>	<p>2:00PM - 5:00PM</p>
<p><b>Funding</b></p>	<p>Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs &amp; Danida Fellowship Centre</p>
<p><b>Alumni in attendance</b></p>	<p>Peter Okwoko, Olok Tabo, Awokorach Judith, Oguti Sebastian</p>
<p><b>Total number of participants</b></p>	<p>35</p>
<p><b>Activity aim</b></p>	<p>The activity was aimed at engaging different stakeholders in discussing approaches towards encouraging and supporting innovative waste management solutions.</p>
<p><b>Stakeholders present</b></p>	<p>This event brought together stakeholders from both the private and public sector. The panelists at the event were from academia, private businesses, CSO and the municipal council. The panel discussion was followed by presentation of different innovative solutions currently being developed by AfriGreen Sustain in collaboration with Gulu University Students and other stakeholders.</p>

<p><b>Presenters</b></p>	<p>Peter Okwoko - Danida Alumni and Founder of AfriGreen Sustain, a waste management initiative in Uganda.</p> <p>Okot Patrick - Lecturer at the Department of Computer Science, Gulu University</p> <p>Paige Balcom - PhD fellow from UC Berkeley researching about plastic waste management in Uganda.</p> <p>Luke Ofungi - Program Manager CEED Uganda, a non profit organisation that empowers young people to become positive and global change agents.</p> <p>Benark Lakony - Executive Director of Aspire Green a social enterprise that produces chacoal briquettes as an alternative source of energy in northern Uganda.</p>
<p><b>Key areas of focus</b></p>	<p>The main focus was on identification of the key areas towards sustainable waste management and the roles that different stakeholders can play in addressing the challenge.</p> <p>There were five key presentations highlighting different approaches towards solid waste management.</p> <p>Okot Patrick a researcher and lecturer at Gulu University presented how GIS and remote sensing can be used in site selection for urban municipal waste disposal management. He pointed out that there exists indiscriminate dumping of solid waste and this has impacted both human health and the environment.</p> <p>Peter Okwoko gave a presentation about the state of plastic waste management in Gulu and Uganda at large. He presented findings from his interactions with different stakeholders and how AfriGreen Sustain is embarking on the move towards a green city with support from partners like Danida Alumni Network. He also noted how the public-private partnership is key in the fight against climate change and waste management in particular. He highlighted how the four eco clubs established in Gulu as a result of the 1st Danida Alumni grant was progressing and the need to establish more clubs. So far, the four in the pilot activity are among the 'green' schools in Gulu.</p> <p>Another presenter Paige Balcom from the UC Berkeley presented on the topic "The Ugandan Plastic Waste Crisis—Engineering-based Solutions to a Public Health and Environmental Danger". She pointed out that there are currently no recycling options by the Municipality of Gulu. Also waste is not sorted and either buried or burned. She highlighted that there is a great potential in transforming plastic waste into construction materials. She also pointed out the members present that a plastic collection centre will soon be opened in Gulu in collaboration with AfriGreen Sustain, a move that all stakeholders welcomed.</p>

	<p>Luke Ofungi presented about climate change from a civil society perspective. He highlighted the need to have partnerships between civil society, academia and the public sector in addressing climate change.</p> <p>The last presentation was made by Benard Lakony, the ED of Aspire Green, a company that makes and promotes the use of clean energy. He highlighted how the use of charcoal briquettes which is made from biomass can play a part in reducing waste in landfills. He urged participants to advocate for the usage of charcoal briquettes as it greatly reduces on deforestation and carbon emissions.</p> <p>This was followed by a panel discussion on key areas that ought to be addressed and later a question and answer session which actively involved members in the audience.</p>
<p><b>Challenges</b></p>	<p>This activity was delayed due to the low numbers of alumni who had confirmed attendance. It is a fact that most alumni love to participate in activities related to their areas of interest. Unfortunately waste management is among the areas that attracts very few individuals in developing countries due to the negative perception of people in regards to what waste management entails. As thus very few turned up during the activity.</p> <p>Also, it was impossible to offer transport facilitation to alumni from distant places as the grant does not cater for such costs.</p> <p>Despite an invite to the Danish embassy, there was no representation. However updates were shared to the embassy during the alumni network meeting.</p>
<p><b>Achievement</b></p>	<p>Members present appreciated the endeavors by the Danida Alumni Network to support such an awesome event.</p> <p>The activity improved the knowledge base of the participants as far as climate change and waste management is concerned.</p> <p>It was agreed that stakeholders present will regularly meet to discuss issues related to waste management. Members also emphasized the need to use various media platforms in a bid to change the perception and practice of members of the community when it comes to waste management.</p> <p>A database of waste management initiatives in Gulu was created. This to identify the different projects addressing waste management challenges and how they can be complimented.</p> <p>8 students from Gulu University volunteered to be waste management ambassadors in their respective faculties. They were from the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Agriculture and environment. These have so far been active members in both</p>

	<p>advocating for best waste management practices and contributing to the building of plastic waste management tools headed by AfriGreen Sustain in collaboration with Gulu University.</p>																												
<p><b>Way forward</b></p>	<p>A database of Danida Alumni still needs to be created indicating clearly their areas of interests. As such when activities of their interest come up, it is very easy to connect with alumni and make the activity more fruitful.</p> <p>The local network of participants with a zeal in waste management and a move towards a green city will be kept and new members invited through social media campaigns and use of other media like radio. . Also informal meetups with the members will be done to foster the outcomes of the mini conference.</p>																												
<p><b>Publicity and publication</b></p>	<p>Choowo willy - Choice FM  Flier depicting the essence of the activity  Facebook page  Emails sent to different stakeholders  Whatsapp group for the local alumni network</p>																												
<p><b>Activity agenda</b></p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="657 835 1474 1640"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="657 835 1068 890">Time</th> <th data-bbox="1068 835 1474 890">Activity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 890 1068 945">01:00PM - 2:00PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 890 1474 945">Arrival &amp; registration of participants</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 945 1068 1026">2:00PM - 2:10PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 945 1474 1026">Opening remarks by the Moderator (Ojok Micheal).</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1026 1068 1081">2:10PM - 2:30PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1026 1474 1081">Presentation by Peter Okwoko</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1081 1068 1136">2:30PM-2:50PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1081 1474 1136">Presentation by Patrick Okot</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1136 1068 1190">2:50PM-3:00PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1136 1474 1190">Break</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1190 1068 1245">3:00PM-3:20PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1190 1474 1245">Presentation by Paige Balcom</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1245 1068 1299">3:20PM-3:40PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1245 1474 1299">Presentation by Luke Ofungi</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1299 1068 1354">3:40PM-4:00PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1299 1474 1354">Presentation by Benard Lakony</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1354 1068 1409">4:00PM-4:30PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1354 1474 1409">Panel Discussion</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1409 1068 1463">4:30PM-4:50PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1409 1474 1463">Q &amp; A session</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1463 1068 1518">4:50PM-5:00PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1463 1474 1518">Closing remarks</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1518 1068 1572">5:00PM-5:30PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1518 1474 1572">Speed dating + Refreshment</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="657 1572 1068 1640">5:30PM</td> <td data-bbox="1068 1572 1474 1640">Departure</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	Activity	01:00PM - 2:00PM	Arrival & registration of participants	2:00PM - 2:10PM	Opening remarks by the Moderator (Ojok Micheal).	2:10PM - 2:30PM	Presentation by Peter Okwoko	2:30PM-2:50PM	Presentation by Patrick Okot	2:50PM-3:00PM	Break	3:00PM-3:20PM	Presentation by Paige Balcom	3:20PM-3:40PM	Presentation by Luke Ofungi	3:40PM-4:00PM	Presentation by Benard Lakony	4:00PM-4:30PM	Panel Discussion	4:30PM-4:50PM	Q & A session	4:50PM-5:00PM	Closing remarks	5:00PM-5:30PM	Speed dating + Refreshment	5:30PM	Departure
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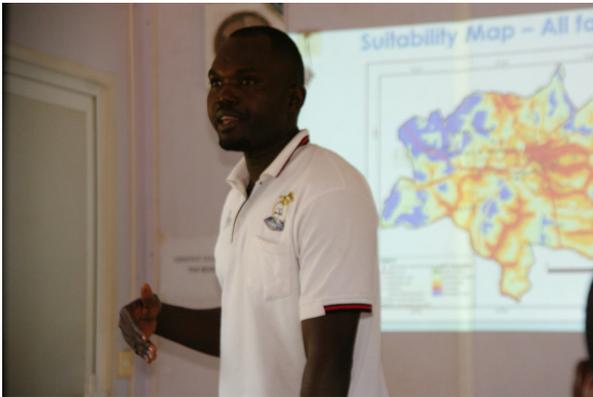
## Some Photos from the event



Okwoko Peter, a Danida alumni giving his presentation on the state of waste management in Gulu.



Paige Balcom from the UC Berkeley presented on the topic "The Ugandan Plastic Waste Crisis— Engineering-based Solutions to a Public Health and Environmental Danger".



Okot Patrick a researcher and lecturer at Gulu University presented how GIS and remote sensing can be used in site selection for urban municipal waste disposal management.



Participants during the speed dating session.



Participants keenly listening to a presentation by Paige Balcom



Some of the participants interacting with Peter Okwoko, one of the organizers of the mini conference



Esther, one of the participants during the Q & A session.



Bernard the ED of Aspire Africa explaining how charcoal briquettes work and how they play a part in waste management