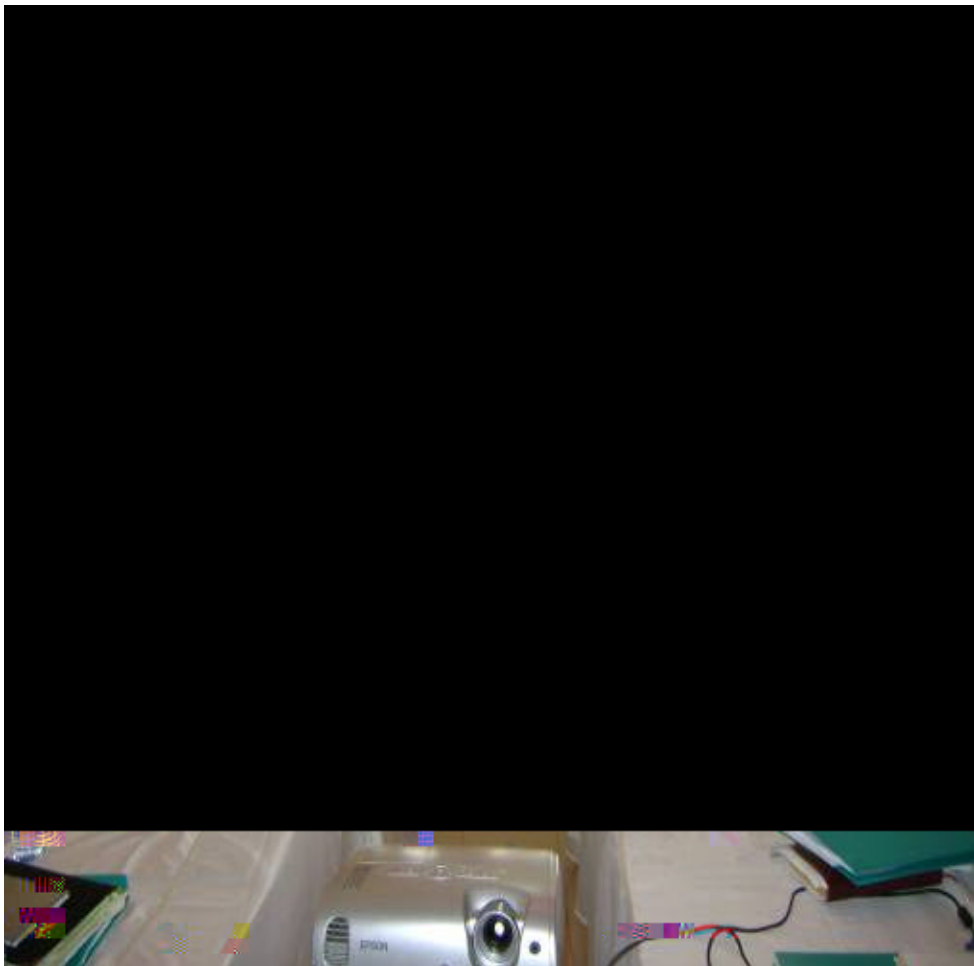




**National Community Networking and Advocacy Training  
HIV/AIDS & Environment Linkages  
Uganda**

**27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October 2008**



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## List of acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CBO	Community based organisation
FHI	Family Health International
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
PLWHA	People living with HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority







- update the suggestions with experiences from the current situation and therefore
- validate the HIV/AIDS and Environment linkage issues for community advocacy and networking

During this session, participants shared four elements of their current ongoing work around the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment. Each group then summarized a particular experience in Kapchorwa Region, Pader Region or Mbale Region and presented it in the plenary. The results of this group work are outlined below.

### **Current work experiences on the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment**

#### **Kapchorwa Region**

Activities	Successes	Difficulties	
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Activities	Successes	Difficulties	Achievements
making and using energy saving stoves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IGAs reaching PLWHA and orphans</li> <li>Training in making and using energy saving stoves taken off</li> <li>Increased community demand for training in making and use of energy saving stoves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High levels of HIV/AIDS prevalence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>breaking the silence and living positively</li> <li>Diet supplements increasing life expectancy</li> <li>Reduced land degradation</li> </ul>

### Pader Region

Pader experiences were projected for the future since they have not been active around the HIV/AIDS and environment linkages in the past.

Activities	Successes	Difficulties	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food production</li> <li>Income generation</li> <li>Animal traction</li> <li>Nutrition training</li> <li>Use of herbs e.g. oculup, opok bel, alceno and moo yaa</li> <li>Alternative energy saving sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in food production</li> <li>Increased acreage and food security</li> <li>Diversified sources of nutritious food</li> <li>Decrease in opportunistic infection rates</li> <li>Self replenishment of herbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal traction is a threat to the environment</li> <li>Dependency syndrome has developed</li> <li>Energy/fuel scarcity</li> <li>Water scarcity and pollution</li> <li>Lack of information on medicinal herbs</li> <li>Inadequate capacity on use of fuel saving stoves</li> <li>Inadequate livestock extension services</li> <li>Limited access and control of land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced dependency syndrome on natural resources</li> <li>Improved health condition of PLWHA and vulnerable persons</li> <li>Increased rate of permanent resettlements</li> <li>Reduced expenditure on medicine</li> </ul>

These experiences were then further summarised into themes of common interest. The table below illustrates the results of the exercise.



**Themes on establishing linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment - from ongoing community activities around Mt Elgon (Mbale and Kapchorwa) and Pader Districts**

Themes developed from common issues	Themes developed from issues that are not similar but are of interest	Themes developed from issues not mentioned but implied
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Sustainable agriculture in support of livelihoods, conservation of the environment and mitigating impact of HIV/AIDS

Promoting best practices for agriculture, conservation and in support of mitigating HIV/AIDS impacts

- v Undertaking soil and water management - to improve catchment areas, increase agriculture yields, decrease soil erosion and improve sanitation (by reducing pollution in water sources);

- v Organic farming - e.g. fruit tree sources); e.gc 03 TD 0.4583 Tw (-)

Themes developed from common issues	Themes developed from issues that are not similar but are of interest	Themes developed from issues not mentioned but implied
<p><b>Nature-based energy and alternative energy sources and technologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Awareness raising activities on reducing illegal cutting of trees for energy</li> <li>ii) Promoting alternative energy sources:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v Energy saving stoves (yuya, multiple, rocket elbow) and solar cookers in support of reforestation and easily accessible, affordable sources of domestic energy (including for afflicted and affected)</li> <li>v For improved respiration and adaptation to climate change</li> <li>v To lessen burdens for vulnerable groups and enable them to undertake other responsibilities in support of livelihoods</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p><b>IGAs for improved livelihoods</b></p> <p>Tree nursery establishment for income and reforestation</p> <p>Apiary development for improved income</p> <p>Vegetable growing for improved income and nutrition</p> <p>Revolving funds in support of IGAs</p>		

The thematic areas were then validated in comparison to the issues identified for advocacy and networking in the community action plans of 2007. It was agreed that the issues had been well represented in the current situation analysis and had a linkage with what had been presented in 2007. The above mentioned themes then formed a basis for launching the advocacy learning process.

### 3.0 Advocacy –Understanding and skills for effectiveness

Using participatory methods, participants constructed a working definition of their understanding of “advocacy”.

The following were the definitions brought forward:

- § Advocacy is the art of identifying issues affecting the community and highlighting them through a campaign of sensitization with a view of exposing and addressing them, for example, the issue of genital mutilation of females
- § Advocacy is building a consensus to influence a positive change for a particular issue to be supported
- § Advocacy is raising issues of concern, mediating and speaking on behalf of the vulnerable or voiceless to influence policies in their favour
- § Advocacy is lobbying and emphasizing issues in society to influence change
- § It is a process of influencing for positive changes to achieve a goal
- § Advocacy is the pleading, highlighting and raising of issues of concern to create awareness and bring about the desired change

Key words in the definitions were identified and interpreted as:

<b>Words</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<i>Influencing</i>	<i>Ability to put an issue on the decision makers' table</i>
<i>Identifying issues</i>	<i>Problem identification or issues for which change is desirable.</i>
<i>Change</i>	<i>Solution to the identified problem</i>
<i>Raising issues of concern</i>	<i>Action towards realising change</i>
<i>Speaking on behalf /lobbying/highlighting</i>	<i>People taking responsibility</i>
<i>Community/society, vulnerable, voiceless</i>	<i>People's representation/mandate</i>
<i>Issues/activities/actions</i>	<i>Advocacy is an engagement process</i>

A commonly agreed understanding and definition of advocacy was therefore formulated as being "people's initiatives to influence decision makers in the formulation and implementation of public programmes and policies". It was understood that advocacy embraces various activities undertaken to gain access to and influence decision makers on matters of importance to a particular group or society in general. It was important

information given in the handouts to enrich their advocacy undertakings. Each of these elements required asking oneself a number of questions at different levels as outlined below.

<b><i>Critical element</i></b>	<b><i>Requirement</i></b>
<i>Seeking knowledge</i>	<i>Know as much about the subject as possible</i>
<i>Gaining approval</i>	<i>Let many people agree with you</i>
<i>Consolidating intention</i>	<i>Have the intention to learn more as you engage</i>
<i>Thinking about the practice</i>	<i>Practice what you preach, lead by example, be exemplary</i>
<i>Undertaking advocacy</i>	<i>Mobilise others to carry out the initiatives designed for legitimacy</i>

Participants formed three groups according to regions they were from to brainstorm on the first four elements in relation to a particular thematic linkage issue. They later presented their work in the plenary. The exercise was a building block for action planning.

The second group activity consisted of analysing and identifying advocacy problems for each region participants were from. The final results are outlined below.

### **Pader Region**

Pader Region identified and analysed problems revolving around food insecurity and poor nutrition among persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). This was in response to the linkage theme of ***sustainable agriculture in support of livelihoods, conservation of the environment and mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS***. Participants from Pader planned to contribute to solving the problems through addressing some of the causes identified using the following flow diagram:

### **Food insecurity and poor nutrition in Pader**

<b>The problem</b>	<b>Causes</b>	<b>Symptoms</b>	<b>Who suffers most?</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Food insecurity	Lack of inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deforestation</li> <li>• Fuel and energy shortages</li> <li>• Shortages of fuel in households</li> <li>• Malnutrition among children and PLWHA</li> <li>• Opportunistic infections among PLWHA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLWHA</li> <li>• Vulnerable persons e.g. children, the elderly, widows</li> <li>• The general community</li> </ul>	<p>HOPPE, SWAPPO and Fountain of Hope are spearheading the activity.</p> <p>There is a funding gap and low capacity to deliver the services to reach all the targeted persons</p> <p>The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in PADER stands at 7%</p> <p>The activity is</p>

The problem	Causes	Symptoms	Who suffers most?	Remarks
				<p>already being implemented in 6 sub counties in Pader with over 1200 beneficiaries who are directly or indirectly affected by HIV/AIDS</p> <p>The environmental degradation rate in areas occupied by the camp is of concern</p>
Poor nutrition among PLWHA	Inability to produce food Low incomes			
Low income s among PLWHA	Displacement into camps			

Limited fuel and energy sources for PLWHA

War, poor technology  
i n c o m e s

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## Kapchorwa Region

For Kapchorwa Region, the linkage issue chosen for redress was ***Landscape and environmental restoration in support of mitigating HIV/AIDS' impacts***. Kapchorwa Region wanted to contribute towards reversing the effects of soil erosion and landslides on their community, especially on those affected and afflicted by HIV/AIDS, through activities for land restoration and conservation of the environment.

Participants from the region therefore thought out the causes of the problems and agreed on specific interventions to reverse the effects using a flow diagram.

### Efforts suggested for addressing problems identified by Kapchorwa participants

Issue: Landscape restoration to stem soil erosion and landslides				
Activity	Space	Time/period	Institutions to work with	Prioritisation
Tree planting	Parishes § Kaseko § Kwoti § Njege § Tuikat	Time : 4 years	§ Tuikat Watershed § KACODA § Kapchorwa Local Government § UWA § Other CBOs § Development partners e.g. IUCN, LLS, UNDP, AHI, FHI and churches.	Tree planting for restoration of landscape through; • Soil and water conservation • Bee keeping • River bank management • Boundary demarcation • Establishment of ethno-botanical gardens

In addition, Kapchorwa Region highlighted some activities they would undertake in support of environmental restoration as follows:

- § Establishing community tree nurseries of different species
- § Sensitisation of communities and other stakeholders on tree planting and selection of tree species for specific areas
- § Tree planting for communities on their land
- § Contour siting and construction by individual farmers
- § Siting of bee hives
- § Developing a data base on traditional healers and knowledge of medicinal value of forests and trees

## Mbale Region

For Mbale Region, the linkage issue chosen for redress was



#### 4.0 Networking for effective advocacy

Following the identification of areas for advocacy, participants were then engaged in an exercise to clarify the concept of networking and the reasons for developing an effective network. The following table illustrates considerations on effective networking.

Considering networking	Deciding whom to network with	Establishing a network	Networking advantages	Networking risks
Define group roles and relationships while maintaining integrity of each member organization	Who shares your values?	Be clear about the advocacy issue	Source of useful information, skills and resources	Can be time consuming to speak to others
Cater for decision making and action whenever practical and possible	Who is already working on the issue?	Develop membership criteria and mechanisms for including new members and sustainability	Members less likely to be targeted than individuals working alone	Competition between members/groups in seeking credit for success
Think of how to sustain active membership and attract new membership	Who can provide something that you need, for example, information?	Resolve what the network will do and will not do	Strength in numbers means it is more difficult to ignore demands	Not everybody will be open about plans and views
	Who would cooperate with you?	If the group is large, select a steering committee	Avoids duplication and saves time	Disagreement about who should join the network
	Who has the capacity to act?	Establish task forces to plan and coordinate different activities		
Would things be worse if you did not work together?		Develop a code of conduct to ensure mutual respect and responsibility		

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#### **4.1 Effective communication, lobbying and negotiating tips**

Using role play, participants were taken through basic principles in effective communication, lobbying and negotiating as tools in advocacy and networking.

A list of tips was highlighted from this session.

Here are some helpful tips:

- Understand and articulate your issues very well. This therefore implies conducting research where necessary.
- Rehearse difficult questions and responses prior to meeting with various target audiences.
- When in meetings or undertaking campaigns, start by introducing yourself and the group you represent
- Express appreciation for past support if any and also for making time to see you.
- Be personal, when possible congratulating the person on a recent occurrence, such as the birth of a child, an appointment, etc.
- Be prepared for a conversation aware that the decision maker may want to have a  
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## **5.0 Drafting advocacy and networking action plans**

Participants were introduced to an action planning matrix and given details of what should be considered and how it should be presented . This was aimed at making the logic behind the formulation of the ideas visible and therefore easily memorable at any other point of

## Advocacy action plan for establishing linkages between HIV/AIDS and Environment

Issue 1: Sustainable Agriculture Practices Contributing to Improved livelihoods and Mitigation of HIV/AIDS						
Issues and Activities	Reason/why	How	Which resources	Time frame	Outputs	Responsible centre/person
Procurement of inputs (Oxploughs, hoes, pangas, seeds, agro chemicals)	Address problems of inaccessibility to inputs, low income among PLWHAs and low agricultural productivity	Lobby for donations and grants from and Local Government, D.P. Section, NUSAF, Forestry Officers and the Community  Mobilise the community for ownership and skills transfer	Community mobilizers  Action plan and budget  Time	2009 to 2014	Increased household incomes Improved nutrition status Improved health status	SWAPPO HOPPE FOH
Train and demonstrate on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Soil and water conservation</li> <li>§ Agro-forestry</li> <li>§ Organic farming</li> </ul>	Address problems of inadequate skills, lack of inputs and negative attitudes to the practices  Build capacity of the communities and the network	Raise awareness  Lobby stakeholders for support  Undertake learning and exchange visits  Establish demonstration sites  Mobilise communities for participation	Foresters, agrics, vets  Training materials  Land for demonstration plots (from community members)  Materials for demonstration e.g. seeds, watering cans, potting materials, hoes, spades, wheel barrows  Time	2009 to 2012	Improved land productivity  Increased household income  Improved nutrition status  Skills for sustainable agriculture  Community empowerment	UWA District Environment Officers

Issue 2: Community Based Landscape Restoration in Mitigation of Effects of HIV/AIDS						
Issues & Activities	Reason/why	How	Which resources	Time frame	Outputs	Responsible centre/ person
Tree planting	<p>Ensure adequate availability of: firewood, building poles, medicine, food, fruits, sites for beehives, handicraft materials and shade.</p> <p>Increase household incomes</p> <p>Improvement of soil fertility management, water conservation, carbon sequestration, fodder and milk and egg production</p>	<p>Sensitisation of target groups</p> <p>Tap into ongoing tree planting plans and programmes</p> <p>Mobilise communities for identifying nursery bed operators, securing nursery sites, distribute seedlings, supervise planting and seed collection and management</p> <p>Train nursery bed operators in management of tree nurseries</p> <p>Train network members in tree management and seed collection and management</p> <p>Establish a seed centre at host farmer sites</p> <p>Lobby stakeholders for support</p> <p>Organise, hold and participate in tree planting campaigns</p>	<p>Land from the community</p> <p>Potting materials and watering cans</p>	2009 to 2014	<p>Sustainable availability of foodstuffs, medicines and income generating sources</p> <p>Improved use of soil and water conservation practices contributing to mitigating effects of HIV/AIDS in the communities served.</p>	

### Networking Action Plan on the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the Environment

This plan is developed to detail what the newly developed learning and exchange network will be dealing with as its core business. It is therefore presented to put the advocacy plan in effect as networking is one of the advocacy strategies. Other advocacy strategies include lobbying and negotiating, organising or mobilisation, education, sensitisation and media or press work. This network plan is generally intended to build capacity of network members to deliver on advocacy initiatives to be undertaken by the network.

Learning and Exchange Issue 1:				
Marketing of nature based enterprises for promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving livelihoods and mitigating effects of HIV/AIDS in communities.				
<i>Learning objective: Building capacity of network members to adopt and train others in best practices in marketing nature based enterprises in their communities</i>				
Action	Expected outputs	Resources required	Time frame	Responsible centre/person
Organise meetings/forums for members to share and learn from one another on best practices in marketing especially the 4Ps (Product, packaging, price and place)	Members' success stories in marketing collected, documented and shared with other network members  Minimum marketing standards for nature based enterprises agreed upon and adopted/practiced Network members engage in collective marketing through an established centre	Documented set minimum marketing standards  Finance  Guidelines and policy documents  Personnel  Stationery	March to Apr. 2009	MEBKC
Organise for network members' orientation in community documentation around li				

applicable to their situations

Documents on various  
community  
documentation tools

**Learning and exchange Issue 2:**

**Knowledge management and its effective usage in promoting linkages between HIV/AIDS and Environment**

## **6.0 Future Action Points**

Future action points for both participants and IUCN were agreed to as follows:

- Participants would continue to reflect on the name of the newly formed learning and exchange network so that it would have a name in due course. Participants agreed that Mr. Herbert Wepondi would be the network's point of contact/centre for the time being.
- IUCN was willing to work with the participants in their newly formed network assisting where possible, beginning with a training session in communication and other basic learning tools suggested for a time between April and June 2009 in the networking action plan.
- IUCN would arrange for all participants to access a workshop CD with photographs, participants' list, IUCN's presentation and action plans developed. Certificates of attendance would also be provided together with the CDs and would be forwarded to the respective regional offices where participants would pick them up.

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Uganda Advocacy and Networking Workshop

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>
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## **Appendix 2: The Uganda Community Learning and Exchange Network on HIV/AIDS and Environment Linkages**

This network was established on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and comprises community representatives from Mbale, Manafwa, Kapchorwa and Pader Districts of Uganda. The main objective that led to the formation of this network was the keen interest of community members in these districts to learn and exchange with one other on HIV/AIDS and Environment linkages affecting them and the communities they represent.

The following are profiles of the current founder members and their respective organisations. Please note that no particular order has been followed in presenting these members.

### **Mr. Kamwania Jafari- Tuban – Tuban Organic Farmers Association (TOFA)**

Kamwania has expertise in community agricultural practices. The overall goal of Tuban Organic Farmers' Association is to have a society free from poverty and hunger through ecological land use and sustainable management of natural resources. Activities that the association is currently involved in include: promotion of environmental conservation through tree planting; promotion of sustainable organic agriculture based on the use of available resources to improve the communities' livelihoods and incomes and creating awareness on HIV/AIDS among the farming communities.

### **Mr. David Chepsikor - Kapchorwa District Environment Officer**

David has extensive experience working with communities on environmental management. His role as an environment officer includes advising communities and the local government on environmental conservation and related policy issues.

### **Mr. Bosco Kisaali - Mt Elgon Beekeeping Community (MEBKC)**

Bosco is a trainer in apiculture and has some experience in marketing of honey and related by-products. He has supported and coordinated community based apiculture initiatives around the Mt Elgon ecosystem.

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James has been involved in community capacity building programmes such as nursery bed preparation and zero tillage. The organisation is involved in the promotion, protection and conservation of the environment. They raise seedlings and distribute them to community members. They are involved in rural health programmes and promote water and sanitation in the community.

**Mr. Herbert Wepondi - BUSIU Development Foundation (BUSIDEF) - Mbale District**

**(NETWORK SECRETARIAT FOCAL POINT)**

Herbert has experience in proposal writing, report writing, project planning and community public health. He is a trainer of trainers in community response to disaster and emergencies. The vision of Busiu Development Foundation (BUSIDEF) is improved quality of life and its programmatic areas include water and sanitation, sustainable agriculture, environmental management and conservation and nutrition and reproductive health (including HIV/AIDS). BUSIDEF has undertaken various projects including rainwater harvesting for HIV/AIDS affected people, rainwater harvesting for women and the elderly, emergency response to cholera outbreaks in Mbale and pig farming income generative initiatives. Herbert is currently serving as this network's secretariat or focal point.

**Mr. Stephen Rubanga - CTPH**

Stephen is a field programme coordinator and has worked with communities around protected areas promoting public health. The mission of CTPH is to promote conservation and public health by improving primary health care for people and animals in and around Africa. CTPH has three main programmes: i.e. WHM, HPH and ICT. The organisation has developed informative brochures as well as conducting interactive drama shows and instructive health messages. It is also involved in promoting community focused family planning activities and education on prevention and control of HIV, scabies and dysentery.

**Mr. Adwadh Chemangaei - IUCN LLS Project Coordinator**

Awadh has experience in facilitation and ToT in addition to skills in fundraising. He is currently coordinating a landscape-wide project for IUCN known as Landscape and Livelihoods (LLS). He is a member of the East Africa Land Alliance Network and therefore brings extensive experience in networking to this group.

**Ms. Filder Ladwar - Humanistic Opportunity for People's Progress Empowerment (HOPPE) - Pader District**

Filder is an experienced community mobiliser working in Pader District. She has field work experience and has worked as a facilitator on HIV/AIDS related matters. HOPPE is a community based organization based in Pader District. The organization is involved in health, livelihood and peace building. It is involved in food production, environmental conservation as well as in training and empowering vulnerable HIV/AIDS groups such as women.

**Mr. Francis John Oringa - Humanistic Opportunity for People's Progress Empowerment (HOPPE) - Pader District**

Francis identifies himself as a change initiator and promoter. He is a trainer of trainers and also has some skills in administration. He has provided support on the promotion of advocacy in Pader. Recently he played a lead role in a drama on HIV/AIDS. He has also been involved in promoting income generating activities in support of food security.

**Pastor Gabriel Lajul - Fountain of Hope Ministry**

Gabriel identifies himself as a “bridge builder” .....

**Mr. Paul Kalamya - Nambale Widows Association - Manafwa District**

Paul is a community mobiliser. His organization provides counselling for HIV/AIDS widows and orphans. It is also involved in various environment related activities such as promoting the use of energy saving stoves, sanitation and hygiene and educating the community on modern farming technologies and income generating activities (e.g. micro-finance).

**Mr. George Davidson Wanakina - Manafwa District**

George is an advisor to the DLG/LLG on sustainable NRM within assigned areas of jurisdiction in the district. He enjoys making contributions towards activities that conserve the environment and improve communities' livelihoods.

**Ms. Anna Nakayenze - Mbale District Environment Officer**

Anna identifies herself as a team player and has been given the mandate to promote the sustainable utilization of the environment and natural resources in the district. She has been involved in district wildlife related issues, population health and environment issues. She has been involved in mainstreaming community action planning and lobbying at district level for various issues. As a DEO, she coordinates environmental programmes and networks with various other organisations.

**Mr. Kenneth Kibwota – Pader District**

Kenneth has been involved in community based population health and environment activities. His organization is actively involved in promoting nature based livelihood activities. It has undertaken tree planting activities with the youth and agricultural activities with widows as well as providing each one of them with a goat. It has been involved in undertaking awareness raising activities using drama and skits which have proven to be successful. He has also conducted HIV/AIDS open air awareness campaigns at schools and within IDP camps in the District.