



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

27th-30th 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

Acknowledgements

This workshop was organised by the IUCN Uganda Country Office in response to a request by community participants who had attended a previous workshop that disseminated the findings of a national desk study on existing linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment in Uganda. This workshop was designed to train community participants on networking and advocacy in a bid to mobilize communities in exploring linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment at local levels.

This workshop was part of a larger project, *Making the Linkages – Conservation as a Core Asset for Livelihood Security in Eastern Africa*, funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The project aims to improve the understanding of the importance of sustainable natural resource management for livelihood security and economic growth in Eastern Africa. The project focuses on the following poverty-environment linkages: HIV/AIDS and the environment, drylands and marine natural resources and livelihoods.

The major activities of the project are: 1) conducting community workshops and producing community lessons learned brochures to improve the understanding and awareness of the linkages at the community level; 2) carrying out more in-depth studies on the linkages; 3) initiating community-policy dialogues and interactions to improve understanding at the policy level and 4) influencing policy at the IGAD level through studies and conferences of directors of conservation and health and economic planners to facilitate the dialogue between the different sectoral senior decision-makers.

We would like to acknowledge all the workshop participants who were keen to learn and share with one other and who took interest and contributed actively to the success of this workshop. Finally, the event would not have been a success without the technical, logistical and resourceful support of the workshop coordinators - Millie Nakabugo, Chihenyi Mvovi and Florence Tumwine - who played a pivotal role in designing and conducting this workshop.

1.0 Background

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) embarked on a process leading to establishing linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment and harnessing the same for better livelihoods. The process began with commissioning a national desk study on the relationships between HIV/AIDS and the environment. A study report was written which highlighted the fact that not much was known about the linkages although there were indications that the two variables had both a strong influence and impact on each other.

Following the completion of the desk study, IUCN organised a workshop to disseminate the findings and share identified knowledge and information on the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment in Uganda. The workshop took place from 10th to 13th December, 2007. This workshop was attended by about 30 participants from conservation, health, agriculture and HIV/AIDS Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as well as some donors based in the country. The same workshop enabled participants to share their lessons as well agree on Community Action Plans on establishing the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment, which were to be implemented as part of their ongoing activities. Among the many desirable actions mentioned in these Community Action Plans was the need for communities to network and undertake advocacy activities to strengthen the existing linkages and explore synergies further.

The subsequent workshop, held from 27th to 30th October 2008, was attended by selected community representatives, NGOs and Government representatives from the Health and Environment sectors in Pader, Mbale and Kapchorwa Districts. It was, therefore, organised and undertaken as the third step in the process to train communities on advocacy and networking and agree with them on possible plans for the future. The training need was identified as an important step towards establishing credible and sustainable community learning networks on linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment. It was envisaged that acquisition of skills in advocacy and networking would enable planning and integration of HIV/AIDS and the environment as part of development agendas at both local and national levels. Community representatives participating in the training would therefore be effectively contributing to establishing and enhancing these linkages through influencing conservation and health agendas and carrying out pilot activities and projects.

The workshop was successful in revising the community action plans on implementing activities that would demonstrate the linkages as developed in 2007. It not only trained participants on advocacy and networking, but a Community Learning Network for Uganda was also established around the linkages. The objectives and achievements of the workshop are outlined below.

1.1 Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to train and equip community representatives, selected NGO representatives and health practitioners in networking and advocacy so as to enable them to:

- Further explore the linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment and effectively communicate them to others in order to develop pilot activities and projects that would enhance the existing linkages
- Influence through their networks conservation and health agendas

1.2 Anticipated outputs

The expected workshop outputs were:

- The validation of key issues on linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment at community level (based on documented national community action plans)
- Training of workshop participants on various networking and advocacy tools
- Community networking action plans
- Community advocacy action plans

1.3 Process undertaken

The process undertaken to achieve the anticipated outputs listed above was as follows:

- Reflection on community action plans developed at a previous workshop to review the existing linkages between “HIV/AIDS and Natural Resources Management in Uganda”, held in December, 2007
- Advocacy understanding and skills for effectiveness
- Networking as one of the main strategies for effective advocacy
- Developing networking and advocacy plans

1.4 Participants' profiles

Participants introduced themselves mentioning their names, organisations they came from, work of those organisations, their roles in those organisations and at least one skill they possessed and were therefore able to share with others at the workshop (refer to Appendix 2). Their expectations of the workshop were written on cards which were then sorted according to four categories i.e. skills, knowledge, networking/advocacy and workshop outputs) and then pinned up for discussion.

2.0 Reflection on Community Action Plans developed in 2007

During the previous workshop organised by IUCN in 2007 to disseminate findings of a desk study on linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment, participants from Mbale, Mount Elgon, Manafwa, Kabale, Moyo and Adjumani Regions had developed Community Action Plans on the linkages. At that time, participants had reiterated the need for strengthening advocacy skills and networking amongst themselves so as to achieve the desired change in harnessing the linkages. The 2008 workshop was organised partly to meet this need; consequently, the Community Action Plans developed were an important resource to kick start the learning process.

The Community Action Plans were revisited in order to:

- bring on board new participants to the process i.e. especially participants from Pader and Kapchorwa

- 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	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting • Water and sanitation, spring protection, rain harvesting • Sustainable agriculture • Seedbed management and community tree care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting learning • Soil and water conservation structures built and in use • Mobilisation of communities around protection of water points • Improved sanitation and hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil erosion • Landslides • Brown river water • Long distances to fetch water and firewood • Animal trampling • HIV/AIDS stigma • Medicinal healers withholding information • Over production leading to misuse of land • Burial sites using undegradable materials on productive land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced distance for collection of water and wood for fuel • Improved food production • Increased household incomes • Guidance and counselling service for HIV/AIDS

Mbale Region

Activities	Successes	Difficulties	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS • Mitigation of the impact of HIV/AIDS • Fruit tree planting • Training communities in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit tree seedlings nursery in place • Mature fruit trees are already distributed • Awareness on HIV/AIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative community attitudes • Negative cultural practices • Low income levels/poverty • Low literacy levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better natural resources management practices • Reduced death rates in the community • Reduction of stigma among PLWHA leading to

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

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

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
<p>Sustainable agriculture in support of livelihoods, conservation of the environment and mitigating impact of HIV/AIDS</p> <p>Promoting best practices for agriculture, conservation and in support of mitigating HIV/AIDS impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 planting for nutrition v Agro-forestry - increased yields and nutrition v Increased household incomes and food production v For food security 	<p>Promotion of animal traction as a cultivation mode; the need to promote exchange about best practices in agriculture</p> <p>Prevention and spread of AIDS and mitigation of HIV/AIDS impacts</p> <p>Capacity building in mainstreaming guidelines from the two components in both sectors and others (e.g. planning)</p> <p>Information on indigenous knowledge (herbs) - collect and disseminate ocukup, opok pel, alceno, moo yaa – (shea butter) for treating various opportunistic infections</p>	<p>Policy advocacy - influencing decision makers and decision making processes. Why do we want to influence them? What do we hope to achieve in terms of change?</p> <p>Environmental and HIV/AIDS education - in schools and other areas of our community</p>
<p>Environmental degradation and its relation to mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS</p> <p>Reforestation Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v Planting Trees - income generation for afflicted and affected plus related nature-based enterprises e.g. apiary, fodder v landscape restoration - support climate change and carbon sequestration - cleaner air for all v Trees - energy (fuel wood) v Trees - medicinal purposes and treating immunosuppressant diseases v Trees - for burial rites 	<p>Empowerment of vulnerable groups to secure their land resources - land tenure (access, ownership and control for vulnerable groups)</p> <p>Dependency syndrome - in relation to rehabilitation programme in Northern Uganda</p> <p>Loss of skilled manpower to HIV/AIDS (in both conservation and health sectors)</p> <p>Database of traditional healers</p> <p>Building on existing knowledge, e.g. economic valuation studies on the impact of HIV/AIDS on household incomes, ecosystems and livelihoods</p>	

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>Nature-based energy and alternative energy sources and technologies</p> <p>i) Awareness raising activities on reducing illegal cutting of trees for energy</p> <p>ii) Promoting alternative energy sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) v For improved respiration and adaptation to climate change v To lessen burdens for vulnerable groups and enable them to undertake other responsibilities in support of livelihoods 		
<p>IGAs for improved livelihoods</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:

Words	Interpretation
<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 clarified that decision makers existed at all levels beginning with individuals in their own right. It was emphasised that the advocacy arena had three things at play: i.e. people/citizens, power relations and public values thriving on the democracy principle. A little more was said on the three levels of power (being visible power, hidden power and invisible power) and the participants were asked to read further from the handouts presented about the different dimensions of power.

3.1 Tools for analysing and identifying an advocacy problem

Must haves/dos in the advocacy process

Participants were introduced to the five critical elements to consider in an advocacy situation or environment: i.e. seeking knowledge, gaining approval, consolidating intention, thinking about the practice and undertaking advocacy. It was explained that these elements, once clarified or refined, helped put into effect the eight advocacy steps listed in the handouts: i.e. identify and analyse the problem, formulate the proposition, analyse the decision making space, analyse channels of influence, do a SWOT analysis, design advocacy strategies, develop an activity plan and carry out continuous evaluation. Participants were however, cautioned that they should try think out of the box and exercise innovativeness when using

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.

<i>Critical element</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
<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

The problem	Causes	Symptoms	Who suffers most?	Remarks
Food insecurity	Lack of inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deforestation • Fuel and energy shortages • Shortages of fuel in households • Malnutrition among children and PLWHA • Opportunistic infections among PLWHA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLWHA • Vulnerable persons e.g. children, the elderly, widows • The general community 	<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
				already being implemented in 6 sub counties in Pader with over 1200 beneficiaries who are directly or indirectly affected by HIV/AIDS The environmental degradation rate in areas occupied by the camp is of concern
Poor nutrition among PLWHA	Inability to produce food Low incomes			
Low income s among PLWHA	Displace ment into camps			
Limited fuel and energy sources for PLWHA	War, poor technolog y			

Suggestions on coverage, time span and other stake holders for Pader

Space	Time/period	Institutions to work with	Prioritisation
Six sub counties namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lukole • Lira Paluo • Omot • Kitale • Pajule • Town Council 	Five years initially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NUSAF • NAADS • District Planning Unit • Communities • Food for the Hungry Project • ZOA refugee care 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tree planting 2. Crop production 3. Bee keeping

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kaseko ▪ Kwoti ▪ Njege ▪ Tuikat 	Time : 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 ***Environmental restoration in mitigating HIV/AIDS' impacts***. Mbale Region wanted to contribute towards reversing the effects of deforestation, soil degradation and water pollution on their community through restoration of forest and land resources and by so doing, improving human wellbeing and health consequences brought about by the disease. Participants from the region therefore thought out the causes of the problems and agreed on specific interventions to reverse the effects using flow diagrams.

Efforts suggested for addressing problems identified by Mbale Region participants

Issue 1: Restoration of Forest Resources				
Activity	Space	Time/period	Institutions to work with	Prioritisation
Tree planting	6 districts, 9 sub-counties and 15 parishes (Bukusu – Buyinza and Bukofu, Bumwori – Bukiabi, Bukhoma, Butemulani, Bungokho Bukhumwa, Busoba, Busiu, Buwagogo, Wamale, Budwale, Bumbo, Bugitimwa, Bugibone, Kisali, Buwetye	5 years	UWA, NFA, D.F.Os, Other relevant CBOs and NGOs, HIV focals, DEnVO'S	
Apiary	Eight Parishes (Buyinza, Bukhofu, Butemulani, Ssono, Bugitimwa, Kisali, Buwetye, Bugibone)	5 years	UWA, NFA, District Environment Officers, MEBKC, Other relevant CBOs and NGOs	
Energy saving technologies and alternative energy sources i.e. Rocket Lorenas, Yuya stores, Biogas, Solar heaters	Bumboni sub county, Bukusu, Buyinza, Bupoto, Kaato, Bugitima	5 years	UWA, NFA, D.F.Os, Other relevant CBOs and NGOs	
Issue 2: Restoration of land resources				
Tree planting	Do	Do	Do	Do
Train and demonstrate on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and Water conservation • Agro forestry • Organic farming • Crop rotation • Use of cover crops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bukusu • Bumwoni • Bupoto • Kaato • Bugitimwa 	Do	Do in addition DAOs	
Diversification in Entrepreneurship				
Issue 3: Health and sanitation improvement				
Raise awareness through home improvement campaigns and competitions	Busiu, Bukusu, Bugitimwa, Kaato		In addition D. Comm.Os Private sector	

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		
		Assess progress periodically and make whatever changes are necessary		

Following the discussion on networking, participants brainstormed on the decision to form a network. They unanimously agreed to form a network with the core business being learning and exchange on linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment. The network structure was agreed upon as one that brings them all together as stakeholders irrespective of the regions they come from. Mr. Herbert Wepondi (email: bude_f7@yahoo.com) volunteered to become the Secretariat focal point in the interim.

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 conversation rather than hear a presentation. Listen and respond constructively.
- Do not avoid controversial topics, but remain calm providing clear and succinct answers to questions. Pre-empt areas of controversy before they become an issue.
- Try to get a commitment from the decision maker.
- Leave information about your efforts like brochures or fact sheets on your organisation and work for future reference. Stress that you would be happy to provide additional information.

These actions are not helpful:

- An emotive approach -using subjective or emotive words.
- Being defensive and not listening to the other point of view.
- Listing arguments, reasons and information to strengthen your suggestion.
- Anger -shouting at someone could discredit your message and suggest that you have weak arguments.
- Disrespect will cause the other person to close up and may even close the meeting early.
- Interruptions can annoy the person speaking and others who think you are not listening and they may do the same to you.
- Making it too personal can lead to people getting offended and insulted and may not necessarily address the problem.

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 reference. The facilitator guided participants in linking issues, problems, activities and resources identified or developed on day three to filling in the matrix appropriately.

It should however, be noted that the overall advocacy plan should incorporate networking (working with others) as a one of the strategies. In this case, this can be traced from the “how” column in the advocacy plan which has catered for all the strategies including networking. Although draft plans are presented below, a follow up training on tools for advocacy and networking will be necessary to support this network.

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"> ▪ Soil and water conservation ▪ Agro-forestry ▪ Organic farming 	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 linkages between HIV/AIDS and the environment	Network members equipped with skills to do community documentation and train others. Network members applying community documentation tools	Stationery Consultants Finance and Time	April to June 2009	MEBKC

	applicable to their situations	Documents on various community documentation tools		
<p>Learning and exchange Issue 2:</p> <p>Knowledge management and its effective usage in promoting linkages between HIV/AIDS and Environment</p> <p><i>Learning objective: To widen the knowledge base of network members on the impact of linkages between HIV/AIDS and Environment in their communities so they can effectively advocate.</i></p>				
Action	Expected outputs	Resources required	Time frame	Responsible centre/person
Carry out a base line survey on existing indigenous plants, herbs and roots in treatment of HIV/AIDS	<p>A data base on indigenous plants, herbs and roots in treatment of HIV/AIDS established.</p> <p>Networking linkages with THETA, Government Chemist and other individuals who administer plants, herbs and roots for treatment fostered.</p>	<p>Focal persons from the network teams</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Stationery</p> <p>Time</p>	Nov to Dec. 2008	
Engage in secondary data collection, documentation and usage i.e. making documentaries, community journals, brochures, flyers etc.	<p>Network members actively participating in making and using documentaries, journals, brochures, flyers in their advocacy work.</p> <p>Data bank on linkages between HIV/AIDS and Environment regularly updated with current data</p>	<p>Resource persons</p> <p>Printing and distribution support</p> <p>Stationery</p> <p>Time</p>		
Hold a seminar/workshop to train in communication and other basic learning tools	<p>Network members communicating advocacy messages effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>Network members' ability to articulate effectively boosted</p>	<p>Stationery</p> <p>Personnel, facilitators, resource persons</p> <p>Finance</p>	June to July 2009	

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.

Appendix 1: Participants List

	NAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	POSTAL ADDRESS
1	LAJUL GABRIEL	FOUNTAIN OF HOPE-PADER	DIRECTOR	lajulgabriel@yahoo.co.uk	0772 646 256	
2	KIBWOTA BEN KENNETH	SWAPO- PADER	COORDINATOR	swapoorgp@yahoo.com	0782 724 448	
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4	CHEMANGEI AWADH	IUCN – LLS	COORDINATOR	chemawadh@yahoo.com	0772 645 591	
5	WEPONDI HERBERT	BUSIDEF	PROJECT DIRECTOR	bude-f7@yahoo.com	0772 479 672	BOX 984, MBALE
6	KISIIBO MOSES	NAMBALE WIDOWS-MANAFWA	COMMUNITY WORKER	kissboohug@yahoo.co.uk	0782 150 482	C/O NWSC BOX, 980 ARUA
7	KAMWANIA JAFARI	TOFA	COORDINATOR	kamwaniaj@yahoo.com	0777 001 428	BOX 230 KAPCHORWA
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18	NAKAYENZE ANNA	MBALE LOCAL	DEO	nakayenze_anna@yahoo.com	0772 555 387	BOX 931, MBALE

Uganda Advocacy and Networking Workshop

	NAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	POSTAL ADDRESS
		GOVERNMENT				
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21	IRENE KUSURO	KACODA-KAPCHORWA	MOBILIZER		0772 664 891	BOX 127,KAPCHORWA
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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 30th 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.

Ms. Christine Abwol — SWAPO - Pader District

Christine has worked for several years as a community mobiliser and has assisted communities in Pader District to undertake various initiatives. Her organization supports rehabilitation of HIV/AIDS affected and vulnerable groups such as women and children. The organization is involved in building the capacity of PLWHAs, especially women and children to undertake income generating activities. The organization is also involved in food production and vocational training.

Ms. Margaret Musungu - Mbale Youth Development Association

Margaret is a school teacher who enjoys working with school children. She has experience in counselling, teaching and establishing community based organizations. The association she represents cares for HIV/AIDS vulnerable groups such as widows and orphans. They support the NAADS agriculture based programmes and promote nature based enterprises. The association also promotes education of the "girl-child" in the area.

Mr. Martin Cheboriot - Tuikat Watershed Association - Kapchorwa District

Martin has experience in farming and conducting HIV/AIDS prevention programmes. The association he represents covers four villages living around Tuikat, on the eastern side of Kapchorwa District. This association was formed as a result of the villagers' experiences with landslides and erosion-related problems that led to some people in the area being killed and the loss of livelihoods. Its activities include soil and water conservation, tree planting, family planning and HIV/AIDS control (although currently not much).

Ms. Mary Cherukut - Tuikat Watershed Association - Kapchorwa District

Mary is a community mobiliser who has worked with women and the youth in various community based initiatives. The organization she represents has been detailed above.

Mr. Alfred Akiti - Tuikat Watershed Association - Kapchorwa District

Alfred is also a community mobiliser and has been involved in promoting community based water and soil conservation projects within Kapchorwa District. He has promoted soil technologies such as terraces and initiated community tree nurseries. He has also been involved in apiary farming and promoting the use of bamboo. He has been fortunate enough to have been involved in a by-law formulation process on NRM products within the district.

Ms. Irene Kusuro - Kapchorwa Community Development Association (KACODA)

Irene is a community mobiliser and has mobilised various community members to undertake environment-related initiatives. She has trained people on family planning awareness and on various community-based income generating initiatives such as making baskets. She has also been involved in various tree planting initiatives.

Mr. Martin Sokuton - Kapchorwa Community Development Association (KACODA)

Martin has supported the conservation and management of river banks and water catchment areas within the District. He has trained community members in soil conservation, developing fish ponds and bee keeping.

Mr. Moses Kisiibo - Nambale Widows Association

Moses is a community mobiliser. Although his organization originates from Mbale, he is based in Arua, Northern Uganda. He has media experience in addition to doing community mobilisation. He also has experience in translation of materials from English into local dialects. He currently is a part time lecturer for the I.U.I.U., Arua Campus.

Mr. Joseph Weyusya - African Rural Development Initiatives (ARDI), Manafwa District

Joseph has communication skills and works for African Rural Development Initiatives in Manafwa District. ARDIs goals are to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and to mitigate its impacts. The organization is involved in psycho-social support activities with PLWHAs and vulnerable groups such as widows and orphans. They advocate for and promote sustainable environmental and natural resources management.

Mr. James Otoo - Greenbelt Environment and Rural Health Initiative

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.