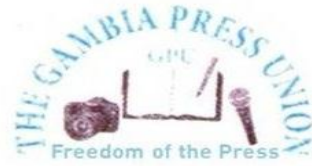




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Report

TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR MEDIA PRACTITIONERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE
FACTS, COMMUNICATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES
TENDABA CAMP, KIANG WEST, THE GAMBIA
FEBRUARY 23-25, 2012



Cross Section of Participants

*“Strengthening Media Capacity on the Climate Change Communication
in The Gambia”*

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Acknowledgement

Global Unification The Gambia (GU) wishes to express its deep appreciation to Action Aid The Gambia for funding this workshop and the Gambia Press Union for their partnership. We also thank all participants for accepting our invitation to attend this workshop. We wish to specially thank the international participants from Senegal, Nigeria, Netherland and South Africa, for travelling all the way to Gambia to participate in the training. Our thanks and appreciation also go to the organising committee, the entire volunteers of Global Unification, The Gambia for offering their time, expertise and energy in making sure the workshop was a success. To the Facilitators, we offer our special gratitude for sparing their busy schedule to come and share their knowledge with the trainees. Finally, we would like to thank our able photographer, Mrs Laura Dem, for all the wonderful pictures¹ and video which helped enhance the visibility of the event.

List of Acronyms & Abbreviations

AAITG	Action Aid International, The Gambia
AD	Atopic Dermatitis
AR	Allergic Rhinitis
AYICC	African Youth Initiatives on Climate Change
CBO	Community Based Adaptation
CC	Climate Change
CF	Community Forestry
COP	Conference of Parties
FAO	Food Agriculture Organisation
FES	Fuel Efficient Stoves
GBA	Greater Banjul Area
GEAP	Gambia Environmental Action Plan
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFMC	Gambia Forest Management Concept
GHGs	Green House Gases
GPU	Gambia Press Union
GU	Global Unification, The Gambia
HFCs	Hydro fluorocarbons
KP	Kyoto Protocol
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MoBSE	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
NAPAs	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NEA	National Environment Agency
NFP	National Forest Program
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PFMU	Participatory Forest Management Unit
RVTH	Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implimentation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
YOUNGO	Youths Constituency

Executive Summary

The training workshop for media practitioners on Climate Change Fact, Communication and Adaptation Strategies was organised by Global Unification, The Gambia (GU), a youth-led research and development organisation, in partnership with the Gambia Press Union (GPU) and funded by Action Aid International-The Gambia (AAITG). The workshop was held at Tendaba Camp, Kiang West, in Lower River Region of The Gambia, from 23-25 January 2012. It was carried out on the theme: ***Strengthening Media Capacity on the Climate Change Communication in The Gambia***, and was meant to strengthen the capacity of media practitioners on climate change communication. The workshop brought together 36 participants. These included 27 local journalists both public and private media houses, 4 international participants² and 5 Facilitators.

The workshop was organised in the form of group works and skills-building sessions. Time was allocated for open discussion and question and answer sessions. The workshop had 6 sessions with 12 presentations³, which were delivered by both local and international experienced facilitators. There was short play on climate change, which dramatized the effect of climate change in The Gambia in a clear and simple format. During the workshop participants also shared good practices on climate change communication and the role the media is playing or is supposed to play. Good practices of climate communication from other countries were shared, and for participants of the Gambian to adopt a similar approach to get more public participation on climate change discussion, while improving their understanding on adaptation measures.

During group sessions, participants made recommendations on ways to improving the climate change communication gap between the media, policy makers and local communities in the country.

Overall, the workshop provided the opportunity for participants to learn and share good practices on climate change issues such as science of climate change, effective political advocacy, community-based adaptation as well as the roles of media in climate communication and public access to information.

Background Information

To address the challenges of communicating, teaching, and learning about climate change, and enhancing public awareness, participation and access to information, as spelt out in the Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Article 10 of the Kyoto Protocol, the media must play an integral part. It remains a strong advocacy mechanism with a potential to spur key players into formidable action and educating the masses about the damaging threats of climate change, as well as mitigation and adaptation

strategies. With the necessary technical know-how it would be able to unravel the scientific and technical explanations of climate change in simple terms to the understanding of the masses.

However, this objective cannot be realized if the media itself is not well equipped to carry out the very functions that make it a vital component.

In The Gambia, climate change education and communication is still relatively a new concept. Few journalists - or even editors, who are the gatekeepers of stories that go on air or into print - have a clear grasp of the sciences of climate change. The rather sorry trend with the media has been, putting focus on the 'big' stories such as deaths from drought, or the destruction caused by floods, with little information being provided on how to cope with the effects of climate-related changes; and generally publishers tend to prefer stories about crime, violence and political scandal because this is what sells.

This is true of the Gambian media, the knowledge gap being the most significant part. It remains incapacitated when it comes to disintegrating the technical terms, concepts and discourse on climate change, as well as making analytical reporting and coverage of climate change events. Media's work in the country, in this regard, has always been limited to scanty coverage of matters and functions on climate change; thus publishing only speeches, opening and closing remarks on such occasions. This is recognized to be negating efforts towards raising awareness among the general public. Therefore, to contribute to addressing this knowledge gap, Global Unification initiated the Training workshop for Media Practitioners on Climate Change Facts, Communication and Adaptation Strategies to strengthen the capacity of media as public informers.

The workshop was intended to provide to participants the enabling environment to have in-depth discussion on climate change issues vis-a-viz the role of the media on climate education and information dissemination.

Again, the workshop was one of the step-up approaches by Global Unification to build the capacities of media persons on climate change issues in the country. It was built on the success and strategies of the previous National Stakeholders Workshop on Community Based Adaptation⁴, organized in February 2011, by Global Unification and Action Aid.

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1. To view the pictures of workshop, please visit : <http://globalunificationthegambia.org/resources/gu-galleries>
 2. The international participants were from Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and The Netherlands
 3. To download the Power Point presentations, please visit: <http://globalunificationthegambia.org/resources/publications>
 4. You can access that Report here: <http://globalunificationthegambia.org/resources/reports>



Workshop Proceedings

The training workshop for media practitioners on climate change facts, communication and adaptation strategies lasted for three days, 23-25 January 2012. It was carried in the form of interactive sessions, practical demonstrations, photos and books exhibitions and group break-out sessions as indicated in this proceeding.

Opening Ceremony

The workshop started with an opening ceremony graced by Laming Nyangado, Action Aid Head of Policy representing the Executive Director; Representative of the Gambia Press Union and Ebrima Dem, National Coordinator of Global Unification The Gambia.

In a welcome remark, Mr Ebrima Dem commended the participants for their willingness to participate in the workshop. He also thanks especially the international participants and facilitators who travel all the way to the Gambia to attend the workshop. He acknowledged their passion and dedication to combat climate change, and assured them that this was already an inspiration for Global Unification The Gambia. Dem finally thanked Action Aid The Gambia for sponsoring such a noble initiative and encouraged the participants to make best use of the training workshop.

Mr Lamin Nyangado, speaking on behalf of Executive Director of Action Aid expressed delight for the partnership between Action Aid with Global Unification The Gambia. He reiterated

Action Aid willingness to support such climate change-related undertakings. He highlighted that climate change is both a national as well as global problem hence deserving a concerted efforts of all.

Babucar Ceesay, first Vice President of the Gambia Press Union hailed the partnership between Global Unification Gambia and Gambia Press Union over such a burning issue as climate change. He noted the significant role of the media climate change communication and assured of the Union's support in this regard.

The end of the opening ceremony marked the beginning of Day One activities. After a run-down of the itinerary of the program by the Chair, Madiba Sillah, participants then moved agenda, without any major changes. After which, there was a Group Photo.

Day one

Mr Ebrima Dem set the scene by exposing the participants to the basic concepts and terms of climate change and the environment. After, explaining, concepts and receiving few recommendations from participants, the workshop began proper with first presentation by Lamin Nyangado. This was followed by 3 other presentations. Each presentation was succeeded by general discussions and a question and answer sessions.

Day Two

The second day of the workshop began with a recap of the Day One presentations and activities by the chair, before the deliberations continued. A total of 4 presentations were made in what seemed to be the most hectic and longest day of the Forum. It ended with a group work facilitated by Ms Ruth from South Africa, who was presenting on the politics of Climate Change, specifically on the recently concluded COP 17 and the prospects for the upcoming COP 18.

Day Three

The final day of the media workshop witnessed deliberations from the last three facilitators, another break-out session that culminated into presentations by group representatives and a general discussion. The groups dwelt on their topics and provided recommendations. After the presentations were exhausted, participants were provided with evaluation forms to gauge the performance and success of the workshop. Certificates were given to all participants. These were followed by a closing ceremony in which the international participants and facilitators were given the opportunity to make remarks about the workshop. They expressed good impressions about the media training, thanked Global Unification The Gambia and the Gambia Press Union and Action Aid for the initiative and acknowledged gaining good experience from the workshop.

Summary of Workshop Presentations

A total of 6 sessions and 12 presentations were carried out at the workshop. Below is a summary of the presentations and the issues that were discussed.

SESSION 1

OVERVIEW OF THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE; DEFINITION OF TERMS AND CONCEPTS

PRESENTATION BY EBRIMA S. DEM, NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF GLOBAL UNIFICATION,

This was an introductory presentation. It looked at the basic definitions and major terms use in climate change discussion. It was meant to set the scene and ensure quality of deliberation and for participants to understand the meaning of key jargons they will come across during the course of the subsequent presentations. Key concepts that Mr Dem talked about were the meaning of climate change itself, global warming, Green House Gases, Greenhouse effect, carbon leakages, Carbon sequestration etc. After going through these terms, he made short pause for clarification and entertained few questions. The definitions were noted and workshop continued.

EVIDENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE GAMBIA AND POSSIBLE MEASURES FOR ADAPTATION

PRESENTATION BY LAMIN NYANGADO, HEAD OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY, ACTION AID INTERNATIONAL, THE GAMBIA

This presentation looked at climate change, its effects both globally and locally. It also proposed possible sustainable local adaptation actions which could help reverse or lessen the effects and risks to our survival as result of climate change. Some of the impact of climate change in the Gambia, which was highlighted by the presentation, was Water resources scarcity, forests destruction and biodiversity lost, land and soils degradation and reduction of precipitation (rain), which threaten our food security since Gambia's Agriculture is rain-dependent. The presentation also asserted that climate change posed major obstacles to agricultural development in the country and slowdown our progress to achieving of development targets such as MDGs, PRSPs or PAGE.

Nyangado's presentation also talked about adaptation options and climate change coping mechanism already in place in the country. On policy and instrument framework, he acknowledged the efforts of the government by establishing the National Environment Agency (NEA), Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP) and National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) etc. The presentation recommended that adaptation efforts needed to move Gambia toward climate resilience should include preserving biodiversity and ecological assets; improving livelihood security; strengthening coastal defences; minimising impact of flooding in lowlands and minimising impact of saline intrusion in lowlands.

COASTAL BIODIVERSITY THREATENED: MANAGING THE COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS IN THE GAMBIA FOR SUSTAINABLE USE

PRESENTATION BY FRANCIS TAZOACHA, ERUDEF, CAMEROON

This presentation looked at the nexus of biodiversity lost, climate change and marine ecosystem. It paid key focus on the importance of biodiversity as a fundamental basis of life on Earth. Key importance of biodiversity the presentation cited was maintaining the health of both marine and terrestrial environments. The presentation made lot of references to the reports of CBD (Convention of Biodiversity) to support the significance of biological diversity for our survival. It also made quick look at the Gambia marine ecosystem, highlighting the country is one of the few countries in West Africa where coastal and marine biodiversity is connected directly to local communities' livelihood.

In this presentation, Tazaocha explain to participants the various types of ecosystems in country, notably coastal, forest, grassland, freshwater and agricultural ecosystems etc. He also made quick breakdown of some importance of the ecosystem such as storing fresh water, maintaining air quality, regulate climate, mitigate floods, and prevention of erosion, maintain soil productivity, biological and genetic diversity etc.

The presentation also confirms that threat to biodiversity in the country is alarming. Some of the ways the biodiversity is been destroyed and misuse in the country are non regulated use of pesticides and hazardous chemicals, destruction of the mangroves for fuel wood (firewood), transformation of wetlands into farmlands, indiscriminate disposal of wastes and sewage into the sea and streams etc.

Mr Tazaocha concluded his presentation with key recommendations which include Government reinforcement of its policies on marine and coastal conservation; ensure policies that allow marshes, mangroves and other coastal ecosystems to migrate inland. This he said will make them more resilient to the impact of sea level rise, and thus help to protect the vital services they provide. This he said should go hand in hand with increase public awareness strategies; carry out Impact assessment to minimize adverse impacts as well as promotion of Mariculture (*cultivating marine organisms for food and other products*).

SESSION 2

THE EFFECT OF (SOCIAL) MEDIA ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL-SCALE ADAPTATION PROJECTS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

PRESENTATION BY WILFRIED HOLTUS, PROJECT COORDINATOR MARABOUT HOUSE, NETHERLAND

This presentation looked at social media as a tool for advocacy and lobbying policy makers for pro-poor adaptation programs especially for women farmers.

It also looked at the importance of social media in enhancing early warning system of climate change induce disasters as well as for raising fund online. During the presentation, Holtus, talked about key social media such as facebook, twitter, myspace, and linkedin, which he said, in addition to linking you with friends has now become a vital way to communicate and share information with your partners and supporters. Unlike traditional media, social is more accessible and do not require journalistic skills.

The presentation also made especial emphasis of the good practices and experience of Marabout house, which uses the social media both to raised fund and awareness for their support to underprivileged and mental handicap people in the Gambia. Though social media is more affordable, accessible and sometime reach a larger audience, the presentation highlighted the importance of traditional media too. A lot of people read these newspapers thus making it great platform to let people know about your projects and what you want to achieve in your project goals. In addition to to using media both social and traditional, the presentation stressed also on the importance personal contact approach. Thats is meeting and talking to people in their homes and offices, which help build first hand impression about your work.

SESSION 3

THE ROLES OF TEACHERS IN CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN THE GAMBIA, (FORMAL AND INFORMAL)

PRESENTATION BY MOSES UGBERAISE, SENIOR TEACHER APPLE TREE SCHOOL

This presentation started with a brief overview of the history of Earth Ecosystem. It also defined global warming as the increase of the average temperature on Earth. This, the presenter confirm makes the earth hotter and prone to disasters like hurricanes and droughts. The presentation implore educators to speak more about climate change instead of global warming since higher global temperature don't necessarily mean that it will be warmer at any given time at every location of the earth. Moses warn that instead global warming, we should talk more about extreme weather event such as extreme heat or extreme cooling. *"It is not just about how much the Earth is warming, it is about how fast it is warming. It is not about how climate is changing, but how fast it is changing"*.

His presentation described the natural cause of climate change and anthropogenic cause and some of ways to reduce human induced emissions of heat trapping gases. This, the presentation recommended should include educating people on rising temperature and how it affect their life, livelihood and food security. More importantly, Moses presentation talked about importance of educating children and youth on climate change issues to make them aware of it and how they can take proactive role as the future generation.

Moses made recommendations on improving climate education in schools in the Gambia as enshrined in article 6 of the UNFCCC. He used the forum to urge the government of the Gambia to make climate change education a core subject in secondary schools.

For this policy shift to happen, he suggested engaging closely the Permanent Secretary of MoBSE (Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education) through the Regional education directorates. His presentation also emphasised the need for support of school based environmental education activities such as planting of trees in and around school premises and vicinity, organizing quiz and debate competition on climate change issues as well as the building capacities of teachers on climate change issues to enable them transfer this knowledge to younger generation.

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HEALTH

PRESENTATION BY DR. MOMODOU A.I. TEKANYI, MEDICAL DOCTOR, RVTH

This presentation looked at climate change and its consequences on health. It made particular references of reports of the IPCC about climate change. Using basic definitions and terms, Dr. Tekanyi talked about aggravation of number of diseases in the Gambia, which he said to a large extent are caused as a result of the changing climate. Key among these diseases he highlighted is malaria and respiratory diseases such as asthma.

The presenter pointed out that extreme temperature can lead directly to loss of life, while climate-related disturbances in ecological systems, such as changes in the range of infective parasites, can indirectly impact the incidence of serious infectious diseases. He made a link between climate change to human health and social, political, economic, environmental and technological factors, including urbanization, affluence, scientific developments, individual behavior and individual vulnerability (e.g., genetic makeup, nutritional status, emotional well-being, age, gender and economic status).

The presentation outlined some climate sensitive diseases and how climate change may increase the risk of some of these infectious diseases, particularly those diseases that appear in warm areas and are spread by mosquitoes and other insects. Vector-borne (ie malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, etc), presenter confirmed could occur more frequently as temperatures warm — particularly in areas with polluted waters — in which case diseases (such as cholera) could become more frequent.

SESSION 4

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE GAMBIA

PRESENTATION BY HATAB CAMARA, MARKET ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST PRODUCTS COORDINATOR

This presentation looked at the good practices of Community forestry programs in the Gambia and how they help avert desertification in the country. It also looked at the brief history of the involvement of the

population in forest management in The Gambia which the presentation confirmed was realized since the mid-1980's. The presenter also looked at the significant role of the local community, which he asserted, that the department of Forestry could have never adapted and embarked on less cost intensive natural forest management strategies, as tested in some selected Forest Parks, without the local communities' participation.

Hatab made a breakdown of the various phases of CF (Community Forest), notably the Start-up phase, during which the forest management by local communities is prepared; Preliminary phase during which the communities demonstrate their capacity in forest protection and management; and Consolidation phase during which the communities gain further managerial and technical forestry skills aimed at self-management.

He concluded his presentation with series of rationales, successes and good practices of community Forestry in the Gambia such as, to increase the welfare of local communities through the introduction of ecologically adapted natural resource management. CF he said, provide local communities with access to all benefits of forest products within the designated forests on their customary land. It enhances local communities' managerial and technical skills necessary for managing their forest resources.

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AND FORESTRY MITIGATION IN THE GAMBIA, WHAT IS ROLE OF THE MEDIA

PRESENTATION BY SHEIKH ALKINKY SANYANG, NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

This presentation looked at the institutional, policy, and legislative of forestry reforms in the Gambia. It started with brief overview of the history of participatory community forest programs in the country and how it has help reduce the rapid destruction of forest cover. The presentation then looked at some of causes of destruction of the forest cover notably, illegal logging, sand mining leading to coastal erosion. Another serious deforestation the presentation indicated is bushfires which in addition to killing plants also destroy biodiversity and ecosystem and may have serious consequence on our national food security, health and sustainable development.

After highlighting the major causes of deforestation and their effect on the health of the forest, the presenter continue to explain key measures the media can play to reverse this situation, such as effective advocacy to trigger attitudinal change. The media can also serve as tool to educate local communities on the other long term importance of the forest and the sustainable use of forest products. Media can also spread the messages on forestry and its management issues, success stories, disaster & prone areas, consequences etc. This, the presenter highlighted can greatly expand the horizon of the readership, viewing or listening population thus creating massive awareness.

The presentation ended by proposing key technics and skills persons need to have to enabled them to properly communicate and share relevant information with the public. This include,

the information need to be valid, it must have the ability to change behavior, it should be able to reach target audience on time, above all, the message should be simple and understandable.

SESSION 5

OVERVIEW OF THE POLITICS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATION PROCESS AT THE UNFCCC

PRESENTATION BY EBRIMA DEM, NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF GLOBAL UNIFICATION, THE GAMBIA

This presentation was centered on politics of climate change discussion at the international level. The presentation explains to participants the bodies that are operating under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the history of the convention and some of the various articles of the conventions. Specially, the presenter made a detailed analysis of Article 6 of the Convention, aNDWP (Amended New Delhi Work Program), and how youths and media can play an active role in it.

Two key bodies under the UNFCCC the presentation buttressed on were SBI: Subsidiary for implementation) which the presenter highlighted is a body responsible for checking, verifying that agreement at the COP is put into action and SBSTA: subsidiary body for scientific and technological Advice which advises parties on new scientific evidence of climate change.

Talking about parties of the UNFCCC, presenter gave a vivid explanation of Annex 1: Countries that are historically responsible for causing climate change (pollution) and has the ability, the means to adapt and Non Annex : these are countries who contributed less to causes of climate change but suffer more from it. Many are developing countries. They have limited resources and are less able to adapt or mitigate to climate change.

On the process of the negotiation at the UNFCCC the presentation looked at the two major types of negotiators. These are the technicians who debate, discuss and study the negotiating text, analyze it and legal matters of it and how possible agreements fall on a country's needs and the politicians. That he said, usually come to COP one week after negotiation. They receive updates from the technicians. The politicians can be the minister or president of the country and are that sign agreement.

The presenter rounded up his presentation with KP (Kyoto Protocol) and what parties are negotiating under the Kyoto protocol. This was succeeded in detail information about the African group position on the KP, LCA (Long term cooperative actions)

CONSTRUCTION THE 18TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC (COP18)

PRESENTATION BY RUTH KRUEGER, RHODE ISLAND UNIVERSITY, SOUTH AFRICA

This presentation looked at the successes, challenges and some shortcomings of the COP 17, and how parties can build on it to create a successful COP 18 to be in Doha in 2012. In this

presentation Ruth reviewed the preparation by South Africa in run up to the COP 17, sighting the venue, transportation and space for civil society's participation in the COP process such as Green Hub, People's Space, Diakonia Centre, Beach Front, Climate Train, Speaker's Corner etc.

The presentation also looked at key roles of parties during the negotiation, describing some as blockers (US, China etc) and others as beggars (LDCs, African states, AOSIS). Blockers were blocking the progress of the negotiation while the beggars sort for legally binding deals that meet the needs of poor countries. Ruth continue her presentation highlighting major roles the media played, in letting people to know what was happening in and out of the conference center and giving regular updates of the progress of negotiation. She described the media's role as eyes (ie watchdogs of the negotiations) and the fist. Ruth ended her presentation with a quick flashback of the outcome of the COP 17. Key successes of the COP 17 she highlighted were the extension of the Kyoto Protocol and the creation of Green Climate Fund. The drawback of the fund she highlighted was it was an empty "basket"

Session 6

ENERGY EFFICIENCY BY THE USE OF LOCALLY MADE FUEL EFFICIENT COOKING STOVES AND GROUNDNUT SHELL BRIQUETTES, THE GREENTECH'S EXPERIENCE

PRESENTATION BY ALHAGIE SUSO, GREEN TECH COMPANY LTD

This presentation looked at the importance of using energy efficient cooking stoves as a sustainable alternative to use of charcoals and firewood as energy fuels. The presentation also makes key analysis on how the use of fuel briquette can help conserve forest and reduce deforestation in the country.

Mr. Suso began his presentation with quick background of the history, objectives and targets of Green Tech Company Ltd. This include to provide affordable environmental solutions, pro poor response to up winding energy crises, mmitigate climate change and other environmental challenges through alternative renewable energy sources and energy saving devices, increase environmental knowledge and understanding through trainings and sensitization, strengthen the environmental sector through networking and cooperation, improve livelihoods, especially for women and to contribute to poverty reduction.

Suso's presentation, also outline that main resources use by GreenTech are groundnut shells dump at around the Banjul high way, which before was seen as nuisance, rubbished and often burn down, thus having detrimental effects on the environment. Before starting processing, Suso, indicated that Green Teach had carried out series of studies to ascertain the viability of the project and raw material available. Through this study, they confirm that groundnut shells are perfect material for briquetting, as their calorific value is comparable to high quality firewood and the pressing results are excellent in quality.

BROADENING THE HORIZONS OF FORESTS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

PRESENTATION BY FRANCIS TAZOACHA, ERUDEF, CAMEROON

This presentation looked at the relationship between forest and climate change as well as current research on forests as receptacle of greenhouse gases (GHGs). The presentation also looked at local communities and the indigenous people's dependence solely on the forests for their livelihoods; and call for maintaining the forest since destroying it will mean directly compromising the life of these people. The presentation gave a thorough analysis of the various types of forests and their features, notably tropical forest, sub-tropical forest, plantations, boreal forest, temperate forest and Seasonal or monsoon forest. The presenter also explains the various importance of the forest to curb climate change especially serving as effective carbon sink. It ended with pictorial representation of some consequences cause by climate change in various countries and leading to climate change refugees.

Discussion and Recommendation from Group Work Session

In day two of the Workshop, participants were divided in to break out session and make group discussion of various topics. This was done to enhance in-depth discussion and sharing of information among participants as well as facilitators. By the end of the group discussion, participants shared group finding and recommendations.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE GAMBIA: ADDRESSING INTERSECTION AND DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSES

Participant critically looked at this topic in perspective of the Gambia. They express concern that small scale farmers have not received enough attention they needed in terms of capacity building. Other issue they raised was the need to support women, who in many communities in the Gambia are engaged in farming. They also recommended the improvement of community horticulture Gardening, which they say exist in many villages, but many are not functional. They also call businesses to patronise the women Garden vegetables instead of importing them from outside the country. This apart from reducing carbon footprint as result burning fossil fuel during importation will also increase the income level of women and make them move out of poverty.

They also call on government and policy makers to improve the capacities research Institutions in the country, a shift in the current subsistence farming methods, to a mechanised and but sustain farming practices, reduction of farmers over depend on rain-fed agriculture to irrigation, as well introduction of drought resistance variety of crops that are quick maturing.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, POLICIES, INITIATIVES AND POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT LOCAL WOMEN FARMERS IN THE GAMBIA

Participants express concern that scale farmers in the Gambia, the one effect most by climate change are mainly women. Despite their vulnerability, these women, cannot write project proposal to access funding for adaptation efforts. Therefore, they call on government and other concern authorities to include gender and women concern when budgeting for climate change adaptation projects in the country. Participant also recommended for support for women farmers to access land as well as to micro finance to embarked pro-poor adaptation projects. Participants express the need to educate both men and women on climate change adaptation practice.

They urged policy makers to create an IEC (Information, Education and Communication) on climate change that will provide up to date and accurate weather information including early warning system on climate change related disasters.

INVOLVING THE MEDIA IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING AND COMMUNICATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE GAMBIA

Participants expressed the need for coordination of climate change communication between all stakeholders in country but especially between the policy makers and the media. They also call for sharing of good practices between development organizations to avoid duplication of efforts and redundancy. Participants also expressed their concern on the low level or some time absent of media involvement on climate change discussion in the country, which they say are some of the reason why most journalists in country cannot reports effectively on the technicality of climate change as they them same don't have a clear understanding about it. Participant urged fellow journalists to carry out investigation and research on climate change policies and report on them. They should not always wait for the information to come to them directly. They also call for public/private partnerships regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation and for government to established climate secretariat, where journalists can easily access clear and up-to-date information on climate change sciences and global resilience efforts.

Post-Workshop Follow up Activities

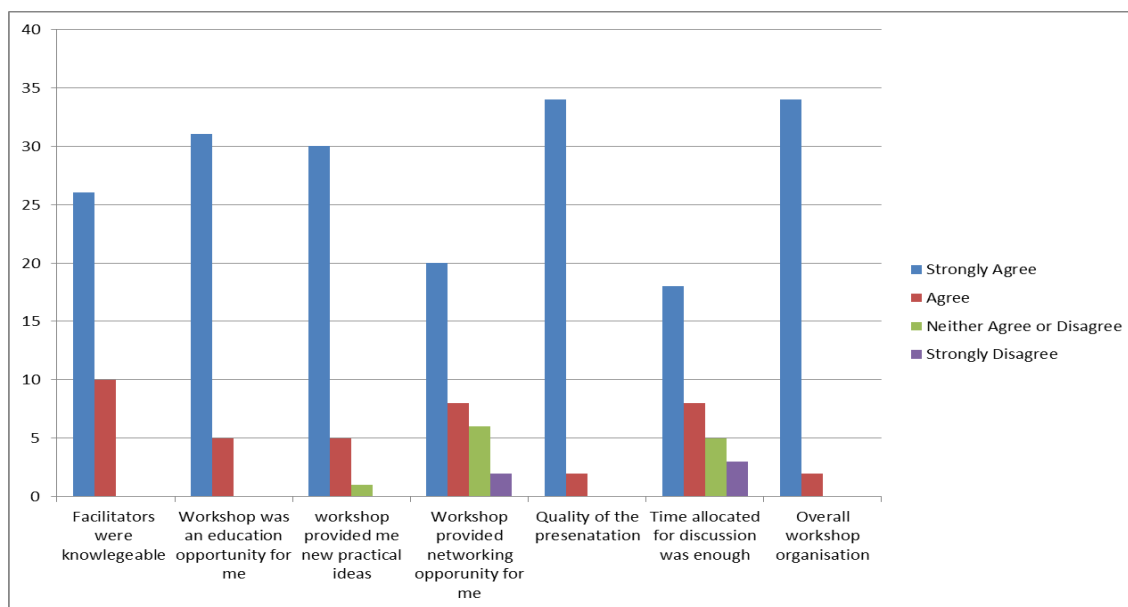
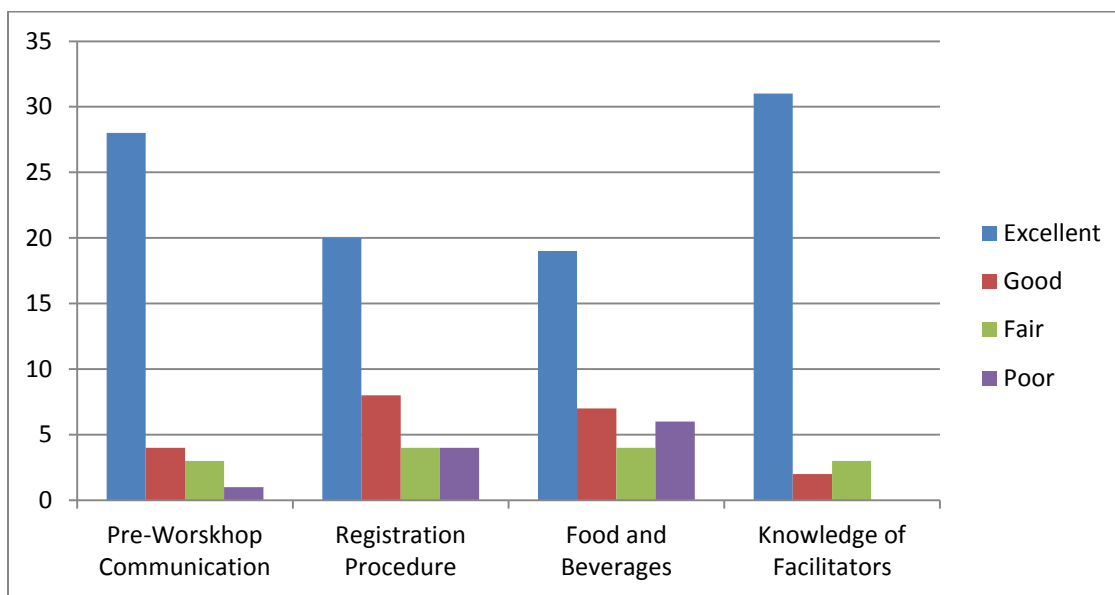
Fundamental to the aims of the workshop was to empower journalists to transfer the knowledge they gain to local communities and the general public. During the workshop each participant was provided a Compact Disk containing climate change resources and information. To ensure continuity of the knowledge gain from this workshop, we will establish a media network to be entitled: ***Gambia Media Climate Action Network***. This network will work both online (internet) and offline. It will provide regular updates on climate change issues to journalists in the Gambia. Through this network, local journalists will continuously learn, share information on climate change as well use the knowledge to support our national efforts on climate change adaptation.

During the introduction session of the workshop, the expected outcome of the training was communicated to participants and was centred on learn-and-teach-others principle. Therefore, 8-9 weeks after the workshop, participants will be ask to submit a small report on how they

shared the knowledge they have learn at the workshop. These reports will be used to both contribute to evaluation, and to inform future workshop planning. We will encourage participants to developed campaign material and community climate adaptation projects of which they can sort out funding in partnership Global Unification and any other interested partners and implement them together.

Annex 1: Outcome of Participant Evaluation Questionnaires

At end of workshop, participant evaluation survey was carried out. The aim of this activity was help us gauge the performance of the workshop and to identify areas we will need to improve on in our subsequence training activities. Out of 36 participants, 35 answered the questionnaires based on the following:



The main concern raised by participants was the time allocated for group discussions, that the question and answer session was too limited in time. They therefore recommended for more time to be allocated for discussions in subsequent workshops. All the participants expressed their happiness for the training and said it provided a unique opportunity for them to learn about climate change, its effect and adaptation strategies.

98% of the participants agreed to implement what they learnt at the workshop during the course of their work. All participants (100%) agreed on the need to create a network of media journalists on climate change in the country, or strengthen the already existing network to make them more vibrant and active. 65% agreed that the registration procedure for participation online was good, as it provided equal opportunity for all applicants. 20% however, prefer the paper registration due to poor access to internet.

Appendix 2: Summary of the Workshop Agenda

BEGIN	END	ACTIVITY
January 22 nd	-	Arrival of participants and Facilitators and allocation of rooms Diner and getting to know each other
Day 1: 23rd January 2012 :		
-	-	Opening Ceremony Chairperson: 1. Brief Remarks on workshop aims and objective-by Ebrima, National Coordinator of GU 2. Opening Statement by Representative of ACTIONAID – THE Gambia 3. Statement from Gambia Press Union, Babucarr Ceesay, 1 st Vice President of GPU
-	-	Group photograph and breakfast
-	-	Introduction of Participants (chair and participants) Overview of the workshop agenda, aims and Objectives, Madiba Sillah
SESSION 1: THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE		
-	-	Overview of the Science of Climate Change, By Ebrima Dem (1) Definition and Concepts a) Climate Change b) Global warming c) greenhouse gases and their effect d) Carbon dioxide concentration e) Carbon Sink or sequestration f) Carbon leakages

- - **Short Pause for Q&A**
- -
- - **(2) Evidence of Climate Change and in The Gambia and possible measures for adaptation-by **Lamin Nyangado****
 - a) Coastal Erosion and sea level rise
 - b) Flood and uncertain seasonal variation)
 - c) Evidence of Climate Change in The Gambia and community levels looking at gender issues.
- - **3. Coastal Biodiversity Threatened: Managing the Coastal Ecosystems in The Gambia for Sustainable Use- **Francis TAZOACHA****
- - Open discussion and Q& A

SESSION 2: INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECNOLOGY AND MEDIA PARTICIPATION CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- - **The effect of (social) media on the development of small-scale adaptation projects for local communities-by **Wilfried Holtus****
- - Open discussion and Q& A
- - **Movie on Climate Change (Home)**
- - **Breakout Session (Group Sessions)**
 - Topic 1.** Climate change and food security in the Gambia: addressing intersection and developing comprehensive responses
 - Topic 2:** Mainstreaming gender in climate change adaptation, policies, initiatives and possible opportunities to support local women farmers in the Gambia
 - Topic 3:** Involving the media in development planning and decision making and communication on climate change in the Gambia

Day 2: 24 January 2012

- - **Recap and review of day 1**

SESSION 3: CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND GENDER

- - **1. The roles of teachers in climate change education both formal and informal, how can we operationalize it in the Gambia? By **Moses Ugberaise****
 - a. Enhancing climate education in national curriculum
 - b. School based adaptation efforts
 - c. Creating awareness among the future generation

- - 2. **Health consequences of climate change effects in the Gambia-by Dr Momodou A.I. Tekanyi**

- - General discussion, Q&A, and analysis breakout sessions

SESSION 4: FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- - 1. **Sustainable forest management through community participation-Hatab Camara**

- - 2. **Bushfire Management and Forestry mitigation in the Gambia, what is role of the media in it- Sheik Alkingky Sanyang**

- - Open discussion and Q&A session of all three presentations

SESSION 5:FORESTRY MANAGEMENT, ENERGY EFFICIENCY(Continued)

- - Energy efficiency by use of locally made fuel efficient cooking stove and groundnut shell briquettes, the Greentech's experience-by **Alagie Suso**

Broadening the Horizons of Forests Resource Management in Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change- Francis TAZOACHA

Day 3: January 2012

SESSION 6: POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATION AT LEVEL OF THE UNFCCC

- - **Climate Change Negotiation and Political Process at the level of UNFCCC-by Ebrima Dem**

- **UNFCCC The Convention, history, parties and Observers**

a. **AWG-LCA**

- Mitigation and adaptation
- Shared vision
- Finance
- Capacity Building, technology transfer

- **The Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP)**

- *Emission reduction targets below 5.2%*
- *REDD+*
- *Clean Development Mechanism*

Constructing 18th Session of Conference of Parties (COP 18)-By Ruth Kruger

Appendix 3: List of participants of the Workshop

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