



Northern Waves Newsletter

Edition 1

2007



Editorial

It is my pleasure to introduce the first edition of Environment Africa's Northern branch newsletter, a publication that we hope will be an effective tool for keeping in touch with you, updating you as well as sharing information with Zimbabwe and beyond all in the name of Environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Many communities face challenges pertaining to waste management. This edition of the waves highlight a recycling project that has proved to be not only an environmentally sustainable initiative but also a viable income generator and definitely a good example of the emancipation of women through uplifting their livelihoods. Here is hoping that communities across the country will be inspired to take the challenge and engage in recycling waste in its various forms and of course enjoy the benefits.

Through the Policies on Environmental Management in Schools (POEMS) programme promoted in schools in both Harare and Mashonaland Provinces by Northern Branch a lot of schools have realized that they have a central role to play in sustainable environmental management. Our overall strategy with POEMS programme is long term but surely a worthy investment towards a sustainable future. Not only does the programme ensure mainstreaming of the environment into the main curriculum but it goes a long way in grooming future environmentalists whilst they are still at a tender age.

The branch has continued to lobby the cooperate world to make investments based on social and environmental criteria. Indeed the cooperate



Abigail Domboka

world has come in handy with resources to address environmental challenges faced by communities supported by Northern Branch.

Northern branch operates in various communities within Mashonaland and Harare provinces. I would like to invite you to feel free to approach us with ideas, support and enquiries that you may have about or for the protection and care for our Environment.

Together we can make a difference

Abigail Domboka

Northern Branch Manager

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Communicating Through Field Days



KADOMA- members of Rondo EAG pose for a photograph at a field day that was meant to promote income generation through market gardening. The field day was also an opportunity for the gardeners to source and link with markets for their produce.

One of the main methods used by Environment Africa Northern Branch to roll out best practices in their areas of operation and beyond are Field days. A variety of activities that include site tours, demonstrations, seed sharing/exchange and information/skills sharing are characteristics of field days that make them an effective tool of increasing awareness and uplifting livelihoods through promoting and showcasing the tangible benefits of sustainable agriculture.



HARARE : Captured are some of the participants who thronged Mbuya Mhete's home in Mabvuku, to attend a field day whose aim was to showcase the concept of backyard nutrition gardens



KADOMA- members of Rondo EAG pose for a photograph at a field day that was meant to promote income generation through market gardening. The field day was also an opportunity for the gardeners to source and link with markets for their produce.

EAGs - Leading By Example



A demonstration plot with water harvesting techniques planted with soil binders (cereal-finger millet)

Living examples of demonstration plots in all our areas of operation whereby identified Environmental Action Groups lead by example have seen communities in and around such plots replicating given concepts rapidly.

Techniques that the demonstration plots highlight include water harvesting, through making tied ridges as well as intercropping maize with other crops. Asked if this practice has benefited

them one member testified, "In the past we did not know that we should harvest water and store it in the fields the way we store grain in granaries. At first when I saw my wife making ridges in the field I was disturbed and told her to stop playing games in the field by experimenting on every single concept she learnt because it would lead to hunger in the family, but we are now reaping major benefits from using this technique."

Catch Them Young



Environmental commemorations have played an important role in educating communities on the importance of wetlands and water all life on earth. In a typical "catch them young" philosophy much effort is consistently focused on educating future environmentalists, the fundamentals of caring for and protecting the environment by targeting primary and Secondary school children. The children do not only use the lessons learnt and information gathered for their own use but go a step further by sharing the knowledge with their families and communities through various captivating means. Examples include Tafara and Mabvuku primary schools who use drama to convey messages on the importance of water and wetlands to communities and schools in Harare urban.

**STOP! -
IT IS NOT WASTE- IT IS INCOME!!**



A new project by women in Mabvuku that is supported by Environment Africa's Northern branch has proved to be not only environmentally friendly but also a viable means of income generation.

The fabric-recycling project puts into profitable use all fabric that is regarded as waste material by clothing industries. This waste fabric material (offcuts) which is obtained from local fabric and clothing industries is put together using free hand stitch in the form of "patches" hence the name "*patchwork mattresses*".

To date 26 ladies in the Mabvuku Tafara high density areas have been trained, and are actively involved in the project that has seen major reductions in terms of fabric litter in and around various clothing industries. Apart from training in the actual making of the patchwork mattresses the group has also undergone capacity building workshops focusing on professional business management as well as marketing.



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