

## 1.0. BACKGROUND

The **World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD)** is an international multidisciplinary organization of university students and young professionals providing students and the youth with opportunities for learning and collaboration towards sustainable development.

### Vision:

The leading international student organization and network of youths championing Sustainable Development (SD) across the Globe.

### Mission:

To inspire, inform, motivate and empower youths to create sustainable communities around them. WSCSD's mission is three fold:

- Explore** sustainability on campus and beyond
- Engage** in creating positive eco-social change
- Empower** a network of student innovators and entrepreneurs focused on community solutions and sustainability.

### Objectives

1. Propagate the agenda of sustainability and sustainable development among students both as a relevant academic discourse and a culture of practice;
2. Encourage and empower students to promote the concept of sustainability, both in centers of learning and the society at large, by way of facilitating the implementation of community based projects;
3. Host and participate in sustainability forums, local and international.

### 1.1 History of WSCSD

WSCSD was conceived during the [Youth Encounter for Sustainability \(YES\) Course](#) in Braunwald and [Alliance for Global Sustainability \(AGS\) Annual Meeting](#) in Lausanne, Switzerland in 2001 to be an international student platform for the advancement of

sustainability. In 2003, it was founded in San Jose, Costa Rica by student representatives from the University of Tokyo (UT), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Chalmers University of Technology and the University of Cocody-Abidjan.

Since then WSCSD has grown into a global multidisciplinary network of individual members, student communities, young professionals and general sustainability enthusiasts in over hundred (100) countries. This platform has helped the members to share their ideas on sustainable development, update each other on their day-to-day sustainability related activities as well as facilitating sharing of research findings in the field of sustainability.

### 1.2 WSCSD -Kenya

WSCSD-Kenya is the local chapter of the global WSCSD network that is aimed at mainstreaming sustainability ideals in Kenya. The network has evolved from a student community formed in 2006 at the University of Nairobi (UoN) to semi-autonomous student communities in over thirty (30) universities in Kenya. WSCSD-Kenya was legally registered by the Kenyan government as a non-profit organisation in 2013.

### 1.3 Executive Board

The Executive Board (EB) is elected bi-annually by WSCSD members and coordinates the activities of this international organization. Current EB members are:

President	Otieno Nickson Otieno	Kenya
Vice-President	Olusegun Koleola	Scotland
Director of External Relations	Gladys Njeri	Norway
Director of Internal Relations	Bonface Nduma	Kenya
Director of Online Collaboration	Niraj Koiral	Nepal
Director Strategic Development	Zulfiya Suleimenova	Kazakhstan

## 1.4. Advisory Board

The Advisory Board of the WSCSD consists of key individuals from certain key areas and provides advice and guidance to the student leadership. The committee does not necessarily represent WSCSD current projects or/and standpoints. Members of the Advisory Board are:

Prof. Thomas Andersson                      IUET, Intentac,                      Oman/Sweden

Prof. Martin Kloti	ENGAGE, Rhapsody of Change	Switzerland
Prof. Greg Morrisson	Chalmers University of Technology	Sweden
Dr. Onuki Mutuharu	University of Tokyo	Japan
Prof. Jeffrey Steinfeld	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	USA
Dr. Philip Osano	McGill University	Canada/Kenya

## 2.0. PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Our projects range from personal initiatives, national initiatives to large-scale international programs.

### 2.1. Notable Ongoing projects/initiatives

#### 1. Student Summit for Sustainability (S3)

Organizing and participating in the Student Summit for Sustainability (S3) is one of the most exciting and rewarding global activity of the WSCSD. The S3 provides its members and other participants not only with the opportunity to meet, interact and network with each other, but also to develop and advance joint project initiatives. In 2012 WSCSD organized its 10<sup>th</sup> [Student Summit for Sustainability in Kenya \(www.s3nairobi.org\)](http://www.s3nairobi.org) for the first time in Africa. The summit was organised in partnership with UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit, Kenya's Office of the Prime Minister, Greening Kenya Initiative and the University of Nairobi.

The proposed 2015 World Students Summit for Sustainability (S3-2015) in Abu Dhabi (5<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2015) will be the first global students sustainability conference after the adoption of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. The summit is planned in partnership with Environmental Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD), Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) and UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU).

## 2. Greening Universities (GreeningU) Initiative

The initiative comprises;

- a) **Green Talks** that foster awareness of the concept of a green economy among campus students. They provide for interactive discussions between academia, policy makers and industry on the 11 key sectors for a green economy namely *waste, water, transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, fisheries, forestry, tourism, manufacturing and industry*
- b) **Greening Campus Activities**: Practical student initiatives aimed at greening campus facilities and operations and making educational institutions living laboratories for practicing sustainability.

## 3. Nyakongo Water and Sanitation Project

Located in a remote village in Nyando, Kenya, the project provides household Biosand Water Filters and awareness on basic hygiene among an HIV/AIDS support group adversely affected by perennial flooding. So far 124 households have been provided with filters. WSCSD targets to provide filters to 800 households by the end of 2015. The project was launched in 2009 in partnership with the spin-off SWALLOW Inc.

It led to the conceptualization of the *Nyakongo Sustainable Village Program* for cross-border and multi-disciplinary collaboration among campus students in co-creating a model sustainable village.

#### 4. Sustainable Village Initiative

The WSCSD's Sustainable Village Initiative embodies a holistic approach of household and community empowerment through student collaborations and campus outreach programs. The proposed '**Nyakongo Sustainable Village Program**' aims at mobilizing university/college students, higher education stakeholders and impoverished communities to collaborate in transforming the poor rural community of Nyakongo, Kenya, into a *model sustainable village* through evidence-based and 'co-created' development. A masterplan for the development of Nyakongo Sustainability Center has been developed for discussion with partners and resource mobilization. A plot of land has been donated by the community for the development of this project.

#### 5. Adopt an Ecosystem Program

This is aimed at engaging universities in conserving and restoring water and forest ecosystems within their neighbourhoods. WSCSD affiliate student associations adopt a forest and/or a river ecosystem and commit to undertake its conservation and restoration.

The initiative has two sub-components;

a) ***adopt-a-forest program***

It ensures that all Kenyan universities achieve a minimum of 10% tree cover in their campuses and adopt a nearby forest for long-term conservation. It entails production of seedlings on campuses, growing the seedlings at the universities and in the adopted forests, monitoring and research on the management of these ecosystems. The initiative was launched during the 2013 UN International Day for Biological Diversity. Seventeen tree nurseries have been established at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Moi University (Kenya).

b) ***adopt-a-river program***

It ensure that all Kenyan universities adopt a water ecosystem for long-term conservation. WSCSD in partnership with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has launched a youth-led River Monitoring and Restoration program being piloted within the Nairobi River Basin before roll-out to the entire country.

#### 6. Sustainability Training Program

The WSCSD's Sustainability training goes beyond environmental awareness raising to engaging youth in creating a sustainable world. It provides a platform for creative, enthusiastic, motivated and experienced youth within and outside universities/colleges to build the capacity of their fellow youth on sustainable development. The training comprises modules on Global Environmental Challenges, Green Economy, Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Green entrepreneurship. The training was launched at the University of Eldoret (Kenya) on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015.

#### 7. Green Entrepreneurship Workshop

Green Entrepreneurship program is envisaged to be a vehicle for cross-regional community-campus partnerships for moving research and technology from the labs to the market through innovation and entrepreneurship. It was launched in 2012 at the World Student Summit for Sustainability in Nairobi. It was co-organized by the International Organisation for Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development (IKED) and International Entrepreneurship Academy (Intentac) and is coordinated by Prof. Thomas Andersson (Intentac, IKED and WSCSD).

The workshop provided a brief overview of Green Entrepreneurship and what it entails especially for the youth in the higher learning institutions. Before start of the workshop, various green entrepreneurship proposals had been handed in by the participants who were assessed, discussed and shaped further in groups using guidelines provided. These were then presented to a mock group of investors (the rest of participants) who critiqued and questioned various aspects of the entrepreneurial ideas in a bid to strengthen them. In the end the workshop generated concrete entrepreneurial ventures for follow-up.

#### 8. Youth Encounter on Peace (YEP)

Based on the experience from implementing the '*United Youth for Peace Project*' WSCSD has developed the Youth Encounter on Peace (YEP) program that aims to promote tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and social cohesion and responsibility among

youth and children in Kenya and beyond. Using art YEP works, on one hand, to raise the awareness of the danger of intolerance and hatred and on the other, to foster intercultural dialogue and corporation.

### 9. Roundtables on ESD/ESD Barazas'

WSCSD – Kenya proposes to hold roundtable discussions at various universities in Kenya to engage various stakeholders in discussing the role of youth in supporting the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development in Kenya.

### 3.2. Selected Past Projects:

Below are some of the past WSCSD's collaborative projects (both campus and community/village-based):

#### 1. Sustainable Energy Competition on Low-Carbon Neighborhood Development.

This competition was organised in partnership with RED Engineering and held in Nairobi in 2012. It was aimed at engaging students to undertake a feasibility study for design of the most energy efficient and sustainable (low/zero carbon) mixed-use neighborhood development possible with the aim of gradually reducing net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to zero while addressing sustainability measures in regards to energy, water and solid waste. Three multidisciplinary student teams namely the Universities of Nairobi (UoN), Multimedia University College (MMU) - (Kenya); and a combination of Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC) - (Ethiopia) and Center for Environmental Planning & Technology University (CEPT) - (India) were created. It provided a capacity-base for the students to be involved in activities aimed at retrofitting their campus buildings and infrastructure towards resource efficiency.

#### 2. United Youth for Peace Project

In January 2009, the *'United Youth for Peace through Community Development Project'* was initiated by students from the University of Nairobi and the College of Notre Dame, Maryland (U.S.A) in Langas—a slum in Eldoret, Kenya to help a group of

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) recover from the 2008 Post election violence. The students mobilized resources and lived with the IDPs for a month undertaking free feeding, education and mentorship programs, basic hygiene awareness, peace-building through sports and art as well as establishing a *'community solar-kitchen'* where women prepare their meals and a *'community library'*. They facilitated the incorporation of "Amani Kasarani Women Group" managed by the IDPs towards their sustainable empowerment.

#### 3. *Re:solutions - 21 young leaders on climate change is an initiative*

This E-book was compiled to showcase successful student-led projects & innovations on a local, regional or global level that have a meaningful positive impact on climate change and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The publication reinforces students' claim to be one of the leading forces for change and thereby inspires potential supporters and potentially active students. The eBook was officially launched on 10th December 2009 during WSCSD's side-event at the Young and Future Generation's Day at COP 15.

#### 4. Vision - an E-journal on sustainability

In July 2003, an e-journal called VISION was launched as a platform through which members of the WSCSD could share their ideas on sustainable development, update each other on their activities and have both the opportunity to publish their own research in the field of sustainability and to read about the newest findings from their peers. Over the years, VISION published more than 200 articles and attracted a large readership of several hundred readers per day.

5. **Project with Community School for Disabled Children**, WSCSD-Fort Hare, South Africa  
Analysing resources and needs, assisting in identification of relevant skills to be taught, improving learning environment, developing learning modules and helping with fundraising
6. **Latin-American Encounter of Youth for the Environment and Sustainable Development**  
Corporacion Grupo Tayrona, Bogota, Colombia Seminar for Latin America Youth to enhance understanding of SD, capacity building and empowerment

7. **Research Project on Recovery and Purification of Methane Gas**, Quark Society, Cairo, Egypt  
Graduate working group researching on the Recovery and Purification of Methane gas with innovative techniques.
8. **Plastic Bag Free St Andrews**, SDSoc, St Andrews, Scotland  
Campaign for a plastic-bag free city in cooperation with the council and merchants' association.
9. **Sustainability Tricks**, Unipoly, Lausanne, Switzerland  
Development and distribution of leaflets displaying "sustainability tricks" to integrate SD in your daily life Student groups working on local energy, environment, and sustainability projects with a campus focus; joining forces and creating innovative ideas
10. **Business As UnUsual**, Sustainability@MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA  
Collaborative art events, with Family Weekend event and two subsequent workshops to produce SD arts and crafts
11. **Zero waste events planning guide**, Sustainability@MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA  
A guide providing information on local resources available to help reduce your event's environmental footprint, <http://www.appropedia.org/Zero-Waste Party>
12. **FreeMeet**, Sustainability@MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA  
Swap-Markets to promote reuse of goods, reduce waste and sending things to the landfill, and reduce unnecessary consumption of new goods.
13. **Board games**, Unipoly, Lausanne, Switzerland  
Development and promotion (e.g. in schools) of board games on SD
14. **Sustainable Food Week**, Unipoly, Lausanne, Switzerland  
Week-long event with lectures, documentaries and film projections, sustainable meals and an organic food market
15. **Food Seminar – "You are What you Eat"**, Chalmers Students for Sustainability, Gothenburg, Sweden  
Discussion seminar for sustainable food habits, including lectures and discussions
16. **Filmcycle "In the sign of money"**, [project21], Zurich, Switzerland  
Screening of documentaries at the ETH Zurich
17. **Cinema Solaire**, [project21], Zurich, Switzerland  
Outdoor cinema with solar panels collecting the energy needed to show an open air movie
18. **"My work style"**, Alliance for Global Sustainability and University of Tokyo Students Community (AGS-UTSC), Tokyo, Japan  
Workshop on how to achieve social changes with various work styles
19. **Studio!Sus (Micro-Journal)**, Project21, Switzerland  
A bi-annual environmentally friendly magazine discussing socially relevant topics and focussed on pointing out key aspects from the perspective of sustainability, <http://www.studiosus.project21.ch/>
20. **Awareness-raising green film club**, Central University Library and the BME University Green Association, Hungary  
4-5 films with environmental messages are screened each semester to an audience of 25-65 people.

#### 4.0. EVENTS

WSCSD has participated actively in major international conferences and meetings on climate change and sustainable development. Some of these are highlighted below:

##### 1. **COP Climate Conferences**

WSCSD has been participating in the COP climate conferences since COP9 to learn from the process of translating climate science into policy, and to support the global youth movement to increase leverage on policy-makers to draft a successful post-Kyoto climate treaty. WSCSD launched its E-Book on 21 innovative climate innovations at the COP15.

##### 2. **Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) Courses**

WSCSD members have participated in the annual Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) courses offered by ACTIS since 2002.

##### 3. **The International Day For Biodiversity:**

WSCSD organised UNEP's celebration of the 2013 International day for Biological Diversity at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

##### 4. **UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development 2014** in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan and UNESCO ESD Youth Conference 2014 in Okayama, Japan

5. UNEP's International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development and GUPES Launch, Tongji University, China
6. First NMC World Youth Meeting for a Sustainable Future in Bari, Italy
7. UNEP's TUNZA International Youth Conference on Environment, in Daejeon, South Korea
8. World Engineers' Convention 2011 in Geneva
9. Exhibition at World Happiness Festival in Tokyo
10. 8 Global RCE Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, Nairobi
11. Global South –South Development Expo 2013 in Nairobi
12. Conference on Climate Change Innovation in Africa at Strathmore University, Nairobi
13. First African Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Youth, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth, Nairobi

## 5.0 ESD NETWORKS

WSCSD has spearheaded the formation of national and international networks promoting. Some of these networks are:

### 5.1 Kenya Green University Network (KGUN)

The Kenya Green University Network (KGUN) was proposed in 2012, after deliberations between World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD), Greening Kenya Initiative (GKI), University of Nairobi (UoN), Multimedia University of Kenya (MMU) and UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU). It aims at developing a functional network of higher education institutions (HEIs) in Kenya that incorporate environment, low carbon-climate resilience development strategies and sustainability aspects in their education, training, campus operations/management and enhanced student engagement. WSCSD is the focal point for KGUN's for coordinating student's engagement in greening Kenyan campuses.

### 5.2 RCE Kenya Youth League

The Kenya RCEs Youth League is designed to mainstream youths as integral constituents of United Nations University's Regional Centers of Expertise on ESD (RCE)s in Kenya to strengthen engagement of youths in the implementation of RCE

activities. WSCSD acts as the secretariat of the network which is hosted by Kenya's National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

### 5.3 Golden Climate Environmental Project Olympiad (GCIEPO)

This is a pioneering international environmental competition project Olympiad for elementary and secondary students hosted by the Light Academy Schools. WSCSD serves in GCIEPO's jury.

### 5.4 Young Engineers for Sustainable Empowerment Foundation (YESE)

The foundation seeks to empower communities in all corners of the globe by sharing knowledge and technical expertise, with the ultimate goal of providing technical and social infrastructure according to the sustainable node concept. It provides communities with the information and tools they need to visualize and realize their sustainable futures

## 6.0 PARTNERS/FRIENDS

Over the years, the WSCSD has gained strong friendships and collaboration with other organizations around the world that promote the need for community development. These include:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative
- Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD)
- Alliance for Global Sustainability (AGS)
- YES Course/ YES alumni
- MyClimate
- Earth Charter International
- iPOS
- Oikos International
- Project Survival Media
- Global Humanitarian Forum
- G-1Billion
- Planetcall
- TckTckTck
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- World Stage
- GroAction
- Energy Crossroads
- Kenya's National Environmental Management Authority