



ENVIRONMENT PARLIAMENT

On **26th May, 2023**, the Parliament of Uganda hosted the inaugural Environment Parliament, a special afternoon session presided over by our Deputy Executive Director, **Mr. Robert J. Turyakira** a leading environment & climate activist. As the Rt. Hon. Speaker, he conducted the House business with dignity, impartiality, fairness and excellence.

The Environment Parliament gathered several voices and experts on matters green, climate finance, waste management, disaster risk reduction, renewable energy transition, environmental and climate justice to discuss several environmental issues guided by the theme: *To enhance national conversations on climate change, climate justice, and citizen led climate actions by mainstreaming Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).*

Uganda has some elaborate environment legal and policy framework including the **1995 Uganda Constitution, National Environment Act, 2019**, and the **National Climate Change Act, 2021** and the **National Climate Change Policy of 2015**, but more climate action is needed to hit the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), green growth Strategy, climate adaption and reversing biodiversity loss. The Updated Uganda's NDCs set an ambitious target of reducing the Country's Green House Gas Emissions (GHGEs) up from 22% to 24.7%.

Placing people and planet above profit to confront the fossil fuels fired triple planetary crisis of the climate hell, biodiversity loss and pollution is the greatest challenge of our generation. Embracing and democratizing clean energy, massive environmental education and strong political will for nature are some of the prerequisites for a habitable future. That is why platforms like the Environment Parliament that center ordinary people in the climate and green growth discourses are paramount and timely. It is very good to engage all stakeholders including CSOs, Government MDAs, Private Sector/business community and all citizens (young and old) to find solutions towards a Comprehensive Climate related Disaster Risk Management Strategy.

Some of our talented associates responded to the proceedings of the Environment Parliament thus:

Thomas Lesaffre our *green fellow* and a researcher said there was "great enthusiasm in the room, and a large presence of women and young people." He also appreciated the fact that most MPs that addressed the floor were well aware of how climate change is impacting their constituencies. Thomas regretted that big corporations that directly impact our national environment such as Coca-Cola Company and Total Energy were not be present to discuss and exchange with the room on their challenges and green policy. "In order to improve this promising event," he said, "I would recommend that they get invited to initiate a

productive dialogue on how to get everyone on board to protect our collective environment.”

Aturiihi Brendah our *Projects Officer* noted that “the major problems in the world result from conflict between how nature works and the way people think. We are living on this planet as if we have another one to go to. To damage the earth is to damage your children. I speak for nature, trees, biodiversity and climate because they have no human tongues.”

Kiiza Eron, *CEO*, said: “Events like the Environment Parliament should remind us that fossil fuels are the primary drivers of climate crisis and continued investments in fossil fuel projects like EACOP is disastrous to our climate, biodiversity, health, human rights and nature. We must speedily embrace and invest more in renewables.”

Robert J. Turyakira said; “This savage attack on nature is simply not sustainable, we can’t win this reckless war against nature. We either symbiotically live with nature or nature will fight back in even a more aggressive way. There is no time, we must take action now. The Environment Parliament is timely and a resourceful platform for all of us”.

Below are some memorable images from the inaugural Environment Parliament.





Parliament of Uganda
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The afternoon plenary session of the Environment Parliament is underway. The Speaker is [@RobertJTurykira](#). Next on the Order Paper is debate on addressing issues of climate disasters and waste management in the country. [#epug23](#) [@EnviShield](#) [@epuganda](#)



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