

WATER AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
AROUND THE BALTIC SEA
AND LAKE VICTORIA

Report from a Workshop on Environmental Journalism

STOCKHOLM, AUGUST 11 - 17, 2001

PROCEEDINGS

*Water and Sustainable Development
Around the Baltic Sea and Lake Victoria*

Report from a Workshop on Environmental Journalism

Stockholm, August 11-17, 2001



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Introduction

Journalist Workshop Within the World Water Week

The countries bordering the Baltic Sea in Eastern Europe and those surrounding Lake Victoria in East Africa are states in economic, social, political and cultural transition.

In the late 1980s, countries behind the Soviet Union's Iron Curtain began to fight for freedom and independence - a fight fueled in part by the poor ecological conditions that existed. Ecological matters gained prominence during this struggle as large industries and farms, which were formerly under control of Moscow, revealed themselves to be in most cases ecological disasters. As "glasnost" became more pronounced, media became freer to report on the actual state of this disaster - and on the people who earlier had conveyed that pollution was non-existent. But today, 10 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, these ecological issues have fallen somewhat in the background, and media workers still face obstacles in trying to obtain realistic facts and figures on the environmental situation. On the one hand, authorities are not trained in releasing complex data (if they are even willing to provide), and journalists aren't necessarily trained at interpreting it. Therefore, a need exists for a well-laid educational and attractive reporting which places the environment in all societal questions.

In East Africa, Sweden has decided to actively support sustainable development in the Lake Victoria region. One part within this strategy is to offer the East African countries the knowledge and experiences gained in the Baltic that can possibly speed up the development process in the Lake Victoria region. Communication and information plays an important aspect in raising awareness that,

for example, ecology and economy are interconnected, and that Lake Victoria can be a motor for regional development in many aspects of society. The implementation of a long-term program requires skilled journalists as well as efficient channels of information - something experienced in the Baltic Region during the last 20 years.

To enlarge the networking between countries in the Baltic and Lake Victoria regions, SIWI decided to plan a week-long visit to Stockholm for journalists from East Africa and Eastern Europe to participate in a workshop on environmental journalism and to attend the annual World Water Week in Stockholm. The program was held in August and was financially supported by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida). The aim was to promote the exchange of experiences and contacts between journalists from the regions; convey an understanding of current working conditions for journalists in the regions; and strengthen the position of the free press.

The journalist workshop was held in English. Two journalists were invited from the following countries:

Baltic Region: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia

Lake Victoria Region: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda/Burundi.

Potential invitees were selected in consultation with Sida.

Goals of the Workshop

The workshop should contribute to the theme of the 2001 World Water Week, "Building Bridges through Dialogue". In that respect, the aims of the workshop were to:

- create an awareness of those communication gaps existing in each respective country and to define the journalist's independent roles versus authorities, decisionmakers, NGOs, companies, etc.
- equip the participants with ideas and tools for a facilitated way to report on water and environmental issues, which will enable them in turn to raise public awareness. That implies elaborating ways for a concrete access to information, and train the participants in how to report on water and environmental issues.
- integrate the participants into the program of the World Water Week and offer them a holistic experience that provides them with key knowledge and background information related to the critical topics in their respective country and offers them an ideal platform to meet experts and future sources in the field. Portions of the program were obligatory for the participants, and other portions were recommended.
- convey ideas on how to disseminate these journalistic tools to colleagues in their respective countries and on how to establish a long-term commitment and dedication to a journalistic exchange network.

Workshop Leaders

The workshop leaders were the Swedish freelance journalist Ms. Gunnel Bergström and the Swedish TV journalist Ms. Erika Bjerström, of Swedish Television.

SIWI Director Ulf Ehlin and SIWI staff members Stephanie Blenckner and David Trouba were also part of the planning committee and provided support during the workshop and World Water Week.

Workshop Summary

Emphasis on the Journalist's Role

A boat took the group to the outskirts of Stockholm, where the workshop got an informal kick-off in an eco-village in heavy rain. The introduction included a "partner presentation" where the participants interviewed each others in couples, where one was from the Baltic region, and the other one came from the Lake Victoria region.

Before and after a barbeque, environmental journalism and journalists associations in the two regions were compared. Already from the start, an emphasis was put on the two non-compatible roles, as a journalist



Photo: SIWI

and as an environmental activist. This discussion continued during the whole week. So did also ideas on how environmental issues can get a better status, by training journalists to be better at presenting complicated facts and to do it in an informative and more attractive way.

Workshop in August

The workshop took place on Saturday, August 11, Tuesday August 14 and Friday, August 17, and included several environmental issues that are current for the Lake Victoria and Baltic Sea regions. The workshop gave some basic

information about the topics as such, but the main work consisted of exchanging ideas and experiences on reporting on these issues. The speakers and the workshop participants presented examples from journals, newspapers, television, radio, internet, etc.

Participation in other World Water Week sessions, seminars and other events (such as the City Hall Reception, the conference dinner at the Vasa Museum and the Junior Water Prize Award Ceremony) offered a holistic, broad-based experience that included access to water experts from all over the world, and the participants could take home interviews and other material of use for their work for radio, newspapers, journals etc.

Special excursions and study visits were organised for the workshop participants: The Swedish Television, Lovö Waterworks and Prästgården, an organic milk farm outside Stockholm. As a farewell party, a snack buffet was held at the Gamla Stan Brewery for the participants and colleagues from Sweden.

Issues and Information Sources

Basic information and concrete examples were interwoven with each other under the following topics:

- Water as a human right
- Water and wastewater
- EU Framework Directive for water (including rivers and river basin management)
- Sustainable farming and fisheries
- Energy supply
- Gender perspectives
- Comparisons between the regions

Besides a brief introduction, the following aspects were included in the issues mentioned above in connection with discussing the concrete examples.

- Science and research, legislation, authorities, NGOs, national and multinational companies etc. (personal contacts, archives, internet, books, annual environmental audits or reports, etc.)
- Transparency and public access to information
- The independent journalist versus all the information sources/actors mentioned above; the journalist's identity.

Follow-up

The participants were already in the invitation aware of the fact that SIWI and the workshop leaders expect some activity from them in the future:

- "Train the Trainers". The participants were requested to plan how to disseminate their insights and ideas from the workshop when they came home, i.e. by gathering journalist colleagues around a similar, smaller seminar in their own country.
- Further reporting. During the workshop in Stockholm, there was time to discuss the participants' plans for their own articles and programs and how we could exchange ideas and support in the future.
- A workshop reunion was discussed to evaluate the achievements during and after the workshop.

Comparing the two regions I:

The Status of Environmental Reporting in Uganda

Elisabeth Birabwa

The environment is relatively a new subject area of concern in Uganda. It was not until 1999, that Uganda like some other

developing countries started the National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) process. This process culminated into the production of the National Environment Action Plan, 1994 and later the National Environment Statute 1995. The plan is a strategic framework within which environment and sustainable development issues were identified and prioritised. The overall policy goal of the plan is *Sustainable social and economic development which maintains or enhances environmental quality and resource productivity on a long-term basis that meets the needs of the present generations without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.* The plan is in line with agenda 21 which Uganda endorsed at the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.



Elisabeth Birabwa

It is this NEAP process that drew the attention of the public and the media to environmental concerns and set the precedent for increased coverage of environmental issues in the media. The

first serious and frequent coverage of environmental concerns was in way of covering the deliberations and proceedings of the NEAP process.

A special programme on the NEAP process was run on the government owned Radio Uganda and Uganda Television on a weekly and monthly basis respectively. This as we may see later, is partly responsible for the high rating of coverage of environmental issues in the government owned media than the private media. However, it is important to note that Radio Uganda had been since independence been producing programmes for farmers on best farming practices, appropriate technologies, planting schedules, which indirectly handled issues of sustainable farming that is closely related to the environment.

In order to discuss the coverage of environmental issues in the Uganda media, the media will be categorized into Print, Radio, and Television.

Newspapers

To date there are registered and operational Newspapers, in English and in the local languages. The biggest circulating Newspaper is the New Vision, followed by the Monitor.

In The New Vision environmental issues are covered only once a week on Tuesdays. Of late most stories on the environment pages are commissioned by organisations, and they run in form of supplements highlighting what the organisations do.

The News: Environmental stories rarely appear on the front pages of News papers. They only get to the front pages if they are controversial and involve politicians, big developers and donors or when they are sensational.

Another newspaper had news on environmental issues if featured as a result

of Conferences or workshops, but unfortunately it is normally what the politicians who officiate on these functions say what is stressed. The technical presentations are often not highlighted.

The features - very few features written on environmental issues normally get their way into the papers, because very little space is normally allotted to the environment. For example in the New Vision, environmental features are only carried once a week on the pages, yet this appears to be the newspaper that allocates more space to the environment.

The content - the news stories are mainly sensational and controversial while the bulk of the features are promotional of what organisations are doing. It is mainly the features that are written by outsiders, researchers and freelance journalists that are more objective.

Illustrations - photographs, especially those depicting environmental mismanagement and problems, do often get their way in the papers especially the English language newspapers.

Coverage of the environment in local newspapers is very rare and yet these are the ones that can be read and understood by the ordinary people who are directly involved in direct touch with the environment.

The reason for limited space are that environmental issues are understood as "complex", "not easy light reading", "boring", "don't fetch money".

Local Language Papers

The local language newspapers have dedicated space to environmental issues although they (e.g. Bukedde) do write about environmental issues which are controversial and those that receive hard news station in their mother English newspaper.

Radio

Radio is the largest media and with the rudest coverage. However, only a few have dedicated time to the environment. None of the environmental programme runs at peak times, when instead normally political programmes or entertainment are run.

Not many urban listeners are interested, and journalists are not interested. The issue doesn't sell, so owners want business, costs of production higher than entertainment.

It is very difficult to tell the content. This requires a content analysis and survey. However environmental issues relating to land and agriculture are predominately featured on the local FM's while in the city issues of water, sewerage, drainage, garbage disposal are most featured.

Most programmes especially on FM stations operate with help of a phone in Format/Discussion/Talk format. It is on the government owned stations where outside recordings are done and incorporated into the programmes. It is cheaper to produce and easier to produce, and it requires limited skills.

Television

There are five television stations in Uganda. Three are locally owned, while two are foreign based. Of the three foreign ones, one is religious while the other two are entertainment.

Out of the five it is only Uganda Television that produces local environmental programmes. They have a certain time for environmental issues every Tuesday. However this is not prime time and the programme is showed at a time when people are just drumming back home.

The programmes are mainly about

- Hard men (the same applies as in the previous cores)
- Controversial
- Political attachment
- Conference

A wide range of issues is covered, depending on facilitation and sponsorship. The programme normally takes the documentary or feature format, because it gives more information and education. Coverage is limited and the issue is low on ranking.

Journals/Magazines

There is no journal we know of that features environmental issues in Uganda.

There are a number of inhouse Newsletters published by the various civil society organisations and Government institutions. However their distribution/circulation is limited mainly to institutions and organizations based in Kampala or to sister organisation in the districts. Very few of these target or reach the ordinary Ugandan.

There is a magazine - *Nature watch* that is published once on month and inserted in the New Vision as a pull out. Although the magazine focuses on environmental issues, it is restricted prominence to those issues that the organisation that produces it is interested in apart from highlighting the activities of the organisation. The texts are complex, as they are understood to be "too technical to simplify for readers". Contribution is also restricted.

The Uganda wildlife authority also produces a numbers of publications which are promotional in nature of the wildlife, tourism and own activities.

NEMA produces several publications for public use.

In summary, environmental issues are still low on the ranking of the media lists. However, it is not easy to reaffirm the

reasons why unless a study I survey is done as well as a content analysis of the environment issue.

It is also difficult to determine whether the media coverage is low because the people's interest in environment issues is low. This also warrants a survey in order to make the right /correct analysis.

"Selling" the environment to the editor

"Selling" the Environment stories to the editor is one of the tough tasks, especially when it is not the editor who assigned you to write the story.

The complication or ease of selling an environment story to an editor is dependent on a number of factors.

- Whose idea was it?
- Did you discuss it before starting to write?
- The type of story - Is it controversial, Human Interest, Politician involved, Is it hard News/Features
- Editorial policy of media House
- Packaging / Detail
- Potential to attract advertisers

In comparison with stories on politics and business, I would say it is difficult to market an environmental story, but if the reporter knows how to handle the editor and package their stories well there are chances of having the story run.

Access to environmental information

The following are some of the factors that hinder access to environmental information in Uganda.

Most of the information pertaining to policies, Action plans, Investment document, develops application EIA is based in government institutions. But due to the red tape bureaucracy as well as the

law it is not easy to get access to this information.

- No access to information policy
- Official secrecy Act
- Unwillingness to release Information (culture of Holder information)
- Attitudes towards Journalists - Mistrust
- Approach of Journalists
- Logistics - Transport, Communication
- No central place to get information - scattered offices
- Failure to interpret data' - and sources.

All in all the media still faces obstacles in trying to obtain real facts and figures on the environmental situation.

Solutions

There is a need to facilitate journalists to do their own indepth research and writing. We discuss that within the EJAU. There is also a need for a content analysis to explore which issues on the environment are covered most, by which media and why. Journalists need training to produce and package environmental issues and bring out human interest. For TV and Radio, there is a need to buy Airtime. Commission of production is also needed. Sponsorship.

Environmental Journalists Association of Uganda (EJAU)

Why?

1. Pool skills and resources to improve on reporting / and own lot
2. A group can lobby for changes in the media Houses better than on individual. E.g for more space, for prime space/time
3. Forum for exchanging views, ideas and solutions to own problems
4. Easy access by the public and other institutes.
5. Linkage with other colleagues outside the country - Networking.

6. Greater Impact
7. Exploit other public information and education channels outside the mainstream media which we work for.

How?

Membership

Journalists - Full members
Student Journalist - Associate
Environmentalist
Educators, Researchers

Voluntary Organisations

Plans to have a secretariate have secured office space but have no funds to run secretariat and employ staff. The secretariat will be in by administrator who will be helped by a communication officer and other staff as need arises. So far still being run by the Interim executive on a voluntary basis.

Plans to hold a General Assembly meeting at end of this year Nov - Dec to elect new office bearers. Term of office for executive is two years.

It is a problem to commit members to do extra work outside office with no pay setting up a fully fledged secretariat with paid up staff.

Financing and Finding

The Association is financed through members contributions, annual subscriptions and membership fees. There are too little to suffice.

The Association has taken on deliberate policy that for any activity that we engage in and is financed, charge for a coordination fee of 30% of the total budget for ruling and paying rent for the organisation. This has so far been forthcoming and it is what has helped to maintain the office.

Challenges of Environment Reporting

1. Training: Formal and Informal

2. Attitude of editors towards the subjects
3. Lack of skills to interpret and package the complex environmental issues in a user friendly human interest manner.
4. Facilitation: Finances funds to do well researched pieces
5. Shortage of equipment especially in the electronic media to use to capture human interest stories and research.
6. Access to information, Laws, Policies, bureaucracy attitude/unwillingness to release information
7. Simplyfing issues for the ordinary lay reader without distorting facts
8. Several languages
9. Translating in all languages

Challenge of how to reach the people at the grassroot.

Opportunities

- Media liberalised and more room
- Media in different languages
- Recognition of the role of journalists in raising environmental awareness by the different players in environment management.

Actions/Solutions

- Start non formal education and



Adam Wajrak

communication approaches

- Association to produce own newsletter or journal, magazine
- Association to set up resource centre
- Capacity building for association and its members
- Training
- Equipment required for the trade
- Strengthening networks

Comparing the two regions II:

State of Environmental Reporting in Poland

Adam Wajrak

During communist times obviously no free press existed in Eastern European countries. All the information was checked by censorship. It was not allowed to publish anything without permission from these institutions. There was no free access to information about environment, which seems to be a very neutral subject. Of course, official press was publishing some information about environment and the same was done by underground press but, in both cases it was too little and not enough.

In 1989 the first real free newspaper appeared in Poland. It was *Gazeta Wyborcza* where I am working now. Currently GW is the biggest daily in Poland. We publish some information about environment but usually those articles are not a priority in relation to the more important political, economical or crime news. I think my colleges from Eastern countries know well the situation.

Why is it like that?

1. It is extremely difficult to find a real "sensation" in environmental issues.
2. Usually editors don't give too much importance to environmental news.

3. The language used by environmentalists and scientists is very close, heavy and difficult to understand for normal citizens.
4. It is still difficult to get information from scientists or authorities because very often they do not trust journalists.

In my work in GW I am trying to solve these problems. First of all, I am writing as less as possible about technical issues, which seems to be of little interest and boring for readers. We found the way to show the environmental problems by showing live and problems of wild animals. The people, at least in Poland, love animals. So, if in the article you show the influence of water pollution by the problems caused to life of seal or otter, readers will get more interested than if you will just write about pollution and chemical substances. Another example is a serial of articles about our tame otter in which, apart from the funny adventures with otter, I show readers how important are little rivers ecosystems in Poland and how dangerous it can be waste-water from private houses.

The second thing I am trying to do is to work as much as possible with scientists. Thanks to this I am making them "tame" or used to me and they see that from my work they also can have profits. Also, by this way, I learn how to translate the hermetic scientific language to a language that people can easily understand. For that, I am able to read and get information from scientific publications. I think it is very important before writing any article to read as much as possible about the issue you would like to write. Sometimes to get one or two sentences in your article, you need to read few scientific publications.

Up to now, in Poland and other Eastern countries, we were used to work with environmental problems created by public or governmental institutions. But now the situation changed and the biggest environmental problems are caused by big companies, often international and with

huge economical interests behind. Journalists and environmental organisations from Eastern Europe are not used to deal with such a big opponents. It is more difficult to get any clear information from them. Such examples in Poland could be the new dam in Vistula, the last unregulated big European river, which it will be done by private companies, or the gas pipeline crossing Bieszczady mountains, which will divide and isolated the populations of many endangered species and will destroy one of the richest wildlife and nature places in Europe. In truth, we, as journalists, don't know how to deal with such a situations. The only hope is the experiences of international environmental organisations or western journalists that already are used to handle with those problems. We need to learn from them a lot as fast as possible.

Eastern European journalists still have an important mission. We are obliged to show our opinion to society. This is the big difference between our colleges and us from the West, where the situation is quite different. Our countries are still in transition, and these changes are going very fast. During this process, very good things appeared, but also many bad and dangerous for environment. And this we need to show clearly to our societies, which are less educated than in west. People in Eastern Europe are not yet prepared to use their rights. Sometimes they don't see how dangerous changes in environment can be. Very often they just want to earn, even if this will cost the destruction of an unique nature. For that the role of environmental journalists in Eastern Europe has very much in common with that of environmental activists.

Soaring Nile Perch Exports Leave East Africans with Nothing

Lillian Nsubuga

The Nile Perch in Lake Victoria is being regarded as a God-send by the export companies and the governments of the East African countries, because of the high annual revenues it rakes in. But concerns are beginning to emerge whether it is prudent for the governments to encourage uncontrolled Nile Perch exports at the expense of the local population.

The Nile Perch was introduced into Lake Victoria during the early 1960s amidst strong protests from ecologists and environmentalists who argued that the exotic fish would destabilize the lake ecosystem. The colonial administrators who introduced the fish wished to stock the lake with a more commercially viable fish species.

Its threat to the lake ecosystem and other fish species was however not apparent until the early 1980s when Nile perch catches jumped to 80 percent of the total catch, while catches of other species declined substantially, especially the tiny haplochromines which fell to one percent of total catch. At the same time, the already over-fished tilapia disappeared from the lake.

Suddenly the Nile Perch was in plenty, to the annoyance of the local communities who could no longer get access to the more palatable tilapia fish. Apart from being huge and bulky, the fish was too oily with a tough skin that made it difficult to cook or smoke.

But the initial antipathy towards the fish soon turned to adoration when the communities realized they could make lots

of money from it. With the disappearance of other fish species like the tilapia and the haplochromines, urban demand for the Nile perch increased threefold.

Around the same time, fish processing factories (fillet companies) started on the lake shores and thus opened up bigger business opportunities for the local



Lillian Nsubuga

fishermen. For some time, the Nile perch generated a lot of money for the people living on the shores of Lake Victoria. Until the fillet companies introduced trawlers on the lake and themselves started fishing the Nile perch from the deeper waters.

Conflicts Start

The introduction of trawlers on Lake Victoria by the fillet companies has pushed many local fishermen out of business, having reduced their market size. Now fishermen fall over themselves in pursuit of the limited market.

Since they catch their own fish, the fillet companies have little need for the fish caught by the local fishermen now numbering about 200,000. Moreover, the trawlers can reach the deeper and juicier

parts of the lake where they are able to get huge Nile perch catches. The local fishermen, in their ordinary boats, cannot dare venture beyond a few safe kilometers. Thus they get small Nile Perch catches and get offered paltry prices for them.

The local consumers have suffered as a result of the increasing export trade. The fishermen no longer supply the local markets with fish since they have a ready market on the lake shores. Moreover, the fillet companies buy in bulk which makes them a more preferable market than the locals.

The result is that the local communities around Lake Victoria do not have access to the fish, although it breeds and grows in their backyard.

Nearly all the fillet companies around Lake Victoria are foreign-owned, with European and Asian interests. Thus all the fish fillet they make is exported to Europe and Asia, and each fillet is sold at a price five times the price of a whole Nile perch.

The Nile Perch is also being put to numerous other uses. A company in Mombasa is said to make shoes, belts and purses from Nile perch hide; while a company in England pays US\$6 for dried Nile perch swim bladders which are used for filtering beer and wine. In Asia, Nile perch swim bladders are used for making soup stock.

Fish – a Scarce Commodity

About 40 million people live in the Lake Victoria Basin. Half of these directly depend on the lake for food and water. They are the ones who buy the left-over bones which are discarded by the companies after filleting the fish. The fishermen scramble for these bones which they then sell to the women and young men at the shores.

According to fishermen at the Ggaba landing site near Kampala (Uganda), a kilo of Nile perch bones sells at Ush2000 or US\$1.2. Even then, at that price very few rural people can afford to buy those bones.

Fish is now a very scarce commodity in East Africa, raising questions as to what the governments should do to enable the local communities have more access to this most important animal protein in the land.

According to research, because of the shortage of fish as a result of a large export market, people have started eating mukene, some tiny fish species which was originally used as animal feeds.

Government Response

Government officials argue that Nile perch has been a saviour in the face of falling export earnings in the region. In Uganda fish exports are the second highest income earner after coffee. Statistics show that fish exports bring in between \$60m to \$80m a year.

But as annual fish export earnings soar, the specter of protein malnutrition in the lake basin has shot up dramatically - an incredible irony in a place exporting over 200,000 tons of fish protein annually.

Yet, new fish processing plants are still opening on Lake Victoria, while more have been licensed but yet to be constructed. Available figures indicate that fish factories in Uganda rose from three in 1990 to 11 today. Who knows what number there will be in 2010? All this is expected to put further pressure on the fish stocks in the lake.

Government options for dealing with the Nile perch controversy are quite limited. As Dr Ohwayo-Oguttu says, there is no way the Nile perch can be removed from the lake. Dr Ohwayo-Oguttu is the Director of the Fisheries Resources Research Institute (FIRRI) in Uganda.

„We cannot go into the lake and start shooting every Nile perch on sight; neither can we drain the lake and then pick out all the Nile perches, he said.

The fact that Nile perch has boosted fish exports in the region makes it all the more important to the East African governments.

Alternative Action

Government officials argue that nothing can be done about the decline of fish species in Lake Victoria, except perhaps to introduce the threatened species into other lakes within the region.

Dr Ohwayo-Oguttu explained that Uganda is working at managing the Nile perch rather than get rid of it. Apart from introducing the weaker fish species in other lakes, government is encouraging fish farming especially in the rural areas.

Founder stocks of haplochromines and other native fish species have been collected and are being introduced into smaller lakes and ponds in the region.



*Magaga Alot, PR officer from the East African Community and
Espérance (Lisa) Ntiranyibagira*

Media Responsibility

The media in East Africa is partly responsible for the slow action being taken by the governments to address the environmental problems facing Lake Victoria.

For many years, journalists had no interest in issues concerning Lake Victoria. Even today, most editors are not so keen on publishing stories about the lake. This could be a problem of lack of awareness on the part of the editors.

The renewed efforts for networking journalists to give publicity to issues of Lake Victoria will therefore go a long way in getting East African governments to commit more efforts to preserving the world's second largest freshwater lake.

Nile Basin Cooperation

Espérance (Lisa) Ntiranyibagira

As an environmental journalist, I follow closely issues around the River Nile. Maybe you didn't know that one of its sources is in Burundi in the southern part of the country.

So, the Lake Victoria is part of the River Nile, and the Nile management which is shared by all surrounding countries (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Egypt).

Most of these countries are among the poorest in the world. So, they have decided to come together in order to alleviate poverty through co-operation. The overall objective of the Nile Basin Initiative is to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilisation of and the benefit from the common Nile Basin water resources.

My mission as a journalist is to achieve broad awareness of the Nile Basin countries co-operation.

Moreover, I have to assist the Technical Advisory Committee to achieve effective communications concerning the NBI in Burundi. So, the Canadian International Co-operation Agency helped me to organize two workshops, one for the stakeholders and the other one for the media. These workshops aimed at raising awareness on NBI its vision and objectives. And I think these workshops are needed to raise awareness on the Lake Victoria Basin, too.

This idea has been stressed by my colleagues from Radio CCIB Fm+ where I work.

Water Hyacinth Suffocates Lake Victoria

Albertine Uwimana

Currently, verbal reports indicate water hyacinth infestation are located in the major rivers that feed into River Akagera from both Rwanda and Burundi. A survey in April 1999 and August 1999 demonstrated that fairly large mats of the weed were floating and moving into river Akagera and onward into lake Victoria at the rate of approximately 3.5 ha per day.

Water hyacinth infestation has resulted in serious socio-economic and environmental problems for millions of people in riparian communities. Normally, the weed proliferates to form extensive floating mats that cause disruption in electricity generation, irrigation canals, navigation and fishing activities, and cause an increase in water loss through evapo-transpiration. The weed also reportedly provides breeding grounds for bilharzia carrying snails and malaria carrying mosquitoes. The cost of water hyacinth

infestation for countries in the region is estimated to be in billions of dollars. For example, in Lake Victoria, the infestation currently covers 40 000 ha and is affecting the livelihoods of more than 40 million people in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The rapid proliferation of water hyacinth in the region is a result of the absence of natural enemies, and the widespread availability of nutrients in fresh water bodies. Research is being carried out to use biological methods to fight against the water hyacinth.



Gunnel Bergström, Workshop Leader, with Magaga Alot and Albertine Uwimana, Photo: Toomas Jürjado

Media Advocacy Campaign Against the Shrimp Farming Project in the Fufiji Delta, Tanzania

by Francis Nyange

Dear ladies and gentlemen, probably you have heard about the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET). It is an environmental NGO (watchdog) dedicated to raise public awareness on sustainable natural resources

management and protection of the environment in Tanzania.

Since inception of JET 1991, we have been actively involved in sensitizing the public and facilitating debates on environmental conservation and sustainable development issues. Following our advocacy campaign in the media and the general public, JET is now a popular organisation in the rural and



Photo: David Ohito

urban communities in Tanzania. One of the biggest achievements of JET was due to the outstanding role it played to halt a multi-billion dollar controversial shrimp farming project in the Rufiji Delta, Tanzania.

In 1997 we received some clues from reliable sources that the government had approved one of the largest shrimp projects in Africa. We made intensive investigation and confirmed that the rumors were true. Our investigations revealed that the Tanzanian Government allowed silently the Africa Fishing company (AFC) to establish large scale shrimp farming project in 1997 which was to cover over 20,000 hectares of land within the Rufiji Delta.

It was further revealed that AFC proposed to construct and operate a prawn farming

project, called the "Intergrated Prawn Farm", and a prawn processing plant. The prawn farm was planned to consist of several sites, each having an influent and effluent, and a series of ponds. Some of the sites were to be connected by open canals. One of the serious problems with the project is that the prawn farm was expected to cover an extensive area (6,000ha) and had the great potential to adversely affect vegetation, including the region's mangroves.

In our investigation we noted that the Executive director of the Africa Fishing Company (AFC) an Irish investor, Mr. R.J. Nolan wanted use "public" land in the Delta to create shrimp ponds, hatchery, processing plant, and feed mill. Thirty-five percent of these facilities would be located within a "mangrove forest reserve"; and the hatchery would be located on Bwejuu Island, which is part of the Mafia Island Marine Park.

The news about establishing shrimp farming project disturbed JET members because Rufiji Delta in south eastern Tanzania, is one of the largest blocks of mangrove forests in East and Southern Africa. It covers an area of about 53,255 ha of unspoiled mangrove forest that supports a large number of people, aquatic as well as terrestrial biodiversity. The Delta also provides habitat for endangered wildlife and plants. The Delta is home to 30,000 people (1988) many of who are small farmers and traditional fishermen. It provides important habitat for endangered animals and plants.

The delta is linked to the interior of the river system by an extensive flood plain

covering about 130 km long and up to 20 km wide. The delta is also linked to a system of ocean currents and coral reefs surrounding Mafia island in the east and it influences fisheries production through the northern flow of marine currents. The delta has been utilised for many years by the Rufiji communities that rely on fish, mangrove poles and rice farming.

The Rufiji delta has a prodigious variety of wetland habitats and a very rich biodiversity. The delta supports uncounted plants and animal species - many especially adapted for life in wetlands - as well as providing numerous benefits to the communities who live in and around them. The coastal waters at the delta mouth are breeding grounds for many fish species.

The Delta supports the most important fishery in Tanzania coastline accounting for about 80% of all wild-shrimp catches in the country. The inlets have high concentrations of fishes thus providing important feeding grounds for birds. All Different types of the mangrove family are found along the Rufiji Delta. Mangrove forests stabilise the coastline by preventing coastal erosion, build land through accumulation of silt and the production of detritus, preserve the purity of water by absorbing pollutants from upstream sources and serve as windbreak for the hinterland.

After collecting adequate facts about this unfriendly project, JET blew the whistle to alert the public and the international community that the government was violating the Ramsar Convention. Thus, we launched an advocacy media campaign against the Rufiji prawn project. The manner in which decision making process was made was rather undemocratic. The local communities in Rufiji Delta were not consulted. The decision was made by senior government officials. Secondly, the manner in which environmental impact assessment (EIA) was done raises

eyebrows. We rejected the project because of the following.

This would have caused negative impact on the Rufiji Mangrove Ecosystem, which is an important nursery and breeding ground for fish, prawn, and other marine biodiversity and harbors some of the world's rare and endangered species.

Apart from that, there are some indications that the project would severely affect the local communities as it would increase poverty because some families were to be displaced and forced to and lose their source of livelihood and become slaves in their own land.

JET feared that the shrimp project in Rufiji Delta would be environmentally unfriendly and pose a lot of health hazards to human beings because experience from Asia shows that shrimp projects use a lot of antibiotics and other hazardous chemicals likely to cause severe destruction to the marine ecology and other living organism in the Rufiji Delta. JET therefore feels that such unfriendly projects should not be established in ecologically sensitive areas, which contain high concentration of mangroves.

The shrimp project would also seriously conflict with the objectives of the mangrove management plan in Rufiji Delta. The plan aimed at enhancing the mangrove ecosystem and help improve the economy through rational utilisation of the mangroves.

In November of 1996, a public hearing was held in Dar es Salaam to present a preliminary environmental impact review on the project. Government officials, environmentalists and experts complained that the review was inadequate and the potential impacts of this project were substantial. The hearing concluded that a



Photo: David Ohito

formal environmental impact assessment (EIA) was needed to address all environmental and social issues involved in the project.

JET decided to organise an independent public hearing to get public opinions on the shrimp farming project. Several scientists, researchers, environmental groups, women activists, fishermen from Rufiji delta as well as a representative from Africa Fishing Company attended. Participants recommended that the government should change her position and halt the environmental unfriendly project in Rufiji Delta because it will cause serious ecological disaster and affect peoples health in the delta community.

The government asked National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to review the EIA and advise it accordingly. The NEMC urged the Tanzanian government to reject it because the project would have considerable negative impact on forestry, fisheries and marine environment, land use, water resources, as well as agriculture and wildlife.

NEMC determined that the proposed project would be contrary to the National Land Policy, The Land Ordinance, The Forest Ordinance, and the Marine Parks and Reserve Act No 29 of 1994. It would

destroy 1,200 hectares of mangroves, including rare species such as *Rhizophora* and threaten habitat for a variety of endangered species. The proposed aquaculture operations would generate substantial pollution, which would cause increased eutrophication, toxicity, and acidification of surrounding water resources.

In spite of NEMC's recommendation and objections of Tanzanian and international NGOs and agencies, the Tanzanian Cabinet approved the project. Zakia Meghji, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, defended the Cabinet's decision, arguing that Government will take a number of measures to ensure that there will be no environmental harm to the Delta. The Minister pointed out that the AFC was to submit a programme of action to undertake the mitigation measures identified in the EIA.

In February 1998, environmentalists from Tanzania, Kenya, India, and the United States held a workshop in Mombasa, Kenya on mangroves and aquaculture. The participants urged the Tanzania Government to reconsider its decision. They issued "The Mombasa Declaration," which expressed NGO opposition to the expansion of the aquaculture industry in East Africa.

Although the government and the investors i.e AFC kept arguing that the proposed project would generate a lot of revenue to the government, JET disagreed with that line of thinking because shrimp cultivation might generate some profit in the short-term but the price of destroyed ecology and the cost for rehabilitating fisheries, polluted water systems and destructed coastal areas due to toxic chemicals and antibiotics, agricultural land and groundwater destroyed by high salinity, are much higher.

It is against this background that JET members decided to use their pens in the mass media to oppose the project. We published a series of articles in the local and international newspapers to sensitize the public and alert the international community on the adverse effects the Rufiji Shrimp project.

The struggle was not an easy task, JET in collaboration with other NGOs also produced a series of radio programmes on the same project. JET held several consultative meetings with local communities in the Delta and strategised on how to halt the project. The task was quite involving and risky as there was a lot of movement from Dar es Salaam to and around the Delta.

JET issued a number of press releases to pressure the government to halt the project. We also organised an independent public hearing to get public opinion. A TV programme involving the Investor Mr. Nolan and JET was aired. It was revealed that facts were turned upside down and procedure to approve the project had been violated. We therefore managed to embarrass the investor in front of the camera.

JET also organised a workshop for Members of Parliament in 1999 in Dodoma to lobby and influence them. Members of Parliament were divided but the majority were not happy with the above and requested JET to continue with their campaign.

Following our campaign, some international environmental groups joined us in the struggle and visited Tanzania to witness the magnitude of the problem. We are very grateful to the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation who timely supported us. They gave financial support which enabled us to carry out a media campaign against the controversial shrimp

project. Swedish Society for Nature conservation also sent a letter to the president of the United Republic of Tanzania dated 1st July, 1998 pleading him to reject the Rufiji shrimp project and save the unique mangrove ecosystem in the Rufiji Delta.

Other organisations which supported us included PREPARE of India, East Africa Wildlife conservation society of Kenya Green Peace of NewZeland. Industrial Shrimp Network (ISA-Net), Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT) of Tanzania.

Despite all the pleas from local and international organisations the government remained stubborn and the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism issued a statement saying the government decision was final. The statement was issued in April 1999.

Despite some pressure by JET to block the shrimp project in Rufiji delta, the government kept a deaf ear. And some journalists who were vocal in the project lost their jobs and threatened by security agents.

Apart from threats from the government, JET continued with its media campaign against Rufiji Delta without bowing. Following our campaign more than 2000 Rufiji Delta residents filed a case on 1st April 1998 suing the controversial African Fishing Company (AFC), and the government. And they are united in challenging the prawn project on grounds that it posed inherent danger to the environment. And they further contend that there was evidence that the company intended to clear 10,000 hectares of the Rufiji Delta mangrove forests.

The villagers in Rufiji Delta argued that the project contravened the 1957 Forest Ordinance cap 389, among other laws of the country and if allowed to progress it would put into jeopardy the wildlife in the

area. They further argue that the decision to approve the project was taken without taking into account the environmental hazards the project will cause to the Rufiji and the Mafia marine park and the project will deny them access to natural resources including prawns fish and mangrove resources with which they have coexisted from time immemorial.

The High Court only issued an injunction, but hearing and a final decision is yet to be reached for over 36 months now since the case was filed. JET feels that the court decision has taken too long and wonders why the court is dragging feet. All in all, we feel that the project will not go far because we are informed that the company is now bankrupt.

The big question remaining unanswered is whether the government will allow another investor to come in and revive the shrimp project. The struggle against the proposed shrimp project was not an easy task as the road was bumpy but we now see a ray of hope that are likely to win the battle.

JET feels that this is a success story because we have been able to block a multi-billion dollar environmentally unfriendly project which was to be established in the Rufiji Delta. We believe

that the Tanzanian media played a big role in the struggle to protect the poor fishing communities in the Rufiji Delta.

However, we are worried by the judiciary is attitude and we should not think that the struggle is over. We won only round one. JET proposes that the Rufiji Delta be gazetted and declared a National Heritage, that the government, in order to improve the standard of living of the people, open up the area by building permanent roads improve schools and health services.

The Government should then make the Delta an Eco-tourism investment area with hotels and other facilities built around Kibiti. The people of the Delta would still go fishing because a ready market for their produce would have been established.

The government should not think of short-term economic gains, but of the generations to come - that they should be able to inherit a country whose fore fathers had sustainably managed it for them.

JET also calls on the international community to use its influence to make Tanzania, which is a signatory to a number of environmental conventions to respect them because the Rufiji Delta is an international centre for marine research and bio-diversity and harbours some of the world endangered and rare species.

Friends, JET would like to see the decision of the people of the Rufiji Delta prevail over all other interest, because it is their lives that are going to be affected. We therefore ask other international NGOs and environmental groups throughout the world to support us in this struggle and help improve the lives of the people of the Delta.



Photo: David Ohito

Once again, on behalf of my colleagues in JET, we would like to thank Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and SIDA for facilitating our participation to this important workshop on environmental journalism and Stockholm Water Symposium. This is a clear testimony of the Swedish people's commitment to support civil society organisations in developing countries like Tanzania.

The Discussion in Tanzania Concerning the Shrimp Farming in the Rufiji

Chrysostom Rweyemamu

Introduction

Perhaps it is good to start by saying that the proposed multi-million shilling Rufiji Shrimp Farming Project in the Rufiji Delta to be 'operated by an Irish', John Nolan, will cover over 10,000 hectares of land, the greater part of which will be mangroves. The very project is a major investment for Africa Fishing Company (AFC), the company owned by Nolan.

The Rufiji Delta is noted as a complex ecosystem supporting a high degree of biodiversity and multiplicity of socio-economic activities. It is approximately 200km South of Dar es Salaam. It is about 23km wide and 65km long, just 15km into the Mafia channel to the East. It has 20 Islands and 31 villages with more than 40,000 villagers and is famed for supporting the largest continuous block (53,000ha) of mangrove forest in East Africa as well as endowed with the greatest fish potential along Tanzania's coastline, supporting about 80 per cent of all prawn fisheries in Tanzania. Since the proposed project was made public until it was okayed by the Tanzania government, there has been unprecedented condemnation of project from different quarters, the Tanzania Media taking the leading role under Jet hegemony. Below are what a few

different people from all walks of life have been saying:

* Professor Ian Bryceson, a Tanzanian marine biologist with the Agriculture University of Norway on July 18, 1997 wrote to the Tanzania Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism and said in part: "...Concerning a gigantic proposed prawn farming (or shrimp aqua-culture) project in the Rufiji Delta ... the international prawn farming business has boomed in Eastern Asia explosively, and non-sustainably with large-scale farms of high intensity, especially have been short term and accrued to a few "get-rich-quick" opportunists; the negative impacts have damaged the long-term interests of local communities; corruption and swindle, land grabbing and coercion have become rampant: enormous areas of mangroves have been destroyed and natural production has fallen; huge areas of agricultural land and ground-water have been rendered salty; large quantities of fish have been taken from the market affecting poor people; prawn diseases have become rampant, causing major collapses in production; toxic chemicals and anti-biotic have polluted surrounding areas; after a few years polluted and diseased sites are abandoned, and foreign "get-rich-quick" opportunists move on to the other areas.

"Prawn farming production collapsed in Taiwan (the then number one producer) in 1989 due to virus and bacteria diseases; and then in China (the then next main producer) it collapsed in 1993 due to toxic algal blooms. They then moved to Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam which are now facing disease problems. All major producers have been plagued by diseases and falls in production in recent years. And they are now looking for new hitherto unpolluted areas and claiming to be 'environmentally friendly' with highly paid consultants of course...

"There is presently much debate and conflict in Bangladesh over shrimp farming, and ecological destruction and diseases are already rampant there ... Tanzania should learn from lessons from Asia".

* Dr. Felician Kilahama, a senior forester with the Finnish supported Eastern Usambara Catchment Forest Project says: "The government should not lease the Rufiji Delta for prawn farming as the delta is one of the most spectacular deltas on earth.

"The 6,000 hectare area of mangroves in demand by the company for prawn fishing activities is quite enormous. The Delta has also a fragile and vulnerable environment that needs protection.

"Investors claims that the project would have little effect on the environment on grounds that the mangroves destroyed will be replaced are sheer nonsense. These claims are only meant to please decision-makers by not telling them the truth, as world records indicate that serious environmental degradations arise due to prawn farming.

"The mangrove management project being implemented with financial assistance from NORAD, has helped to sensitize the

people on the importance of protecting the mangroves.

"The prawn fishing project would not only destroy the estuary of the delta and offshore fisheries, but also ruin the prospects of more than 50,000 people who depend on the delta. Mangroves are key resources for sustainable marine ecology and are the most productive and biodiversified wetland on the coast.

* Nassoro Alawi Nkwera a villager in Nyamisati in Salale Ward within the Rufiji Delta minces no words when commenting on the proposed prawns project: "These mangroves are our only heritage to which we have an umbilical relationship. The project will definitely destroy these mangroves, and we will go to court if the government okays it".

* Ali Jongo of Nyamisati village in the Rufiji Delta argues: "What is environment when I am poor? Hospitals have no medicines, schools are in shambles and you are telling me about conserving the environment. Let the project come and help." He is apparently on the AFC payroll.* Professor William Rugumamu of University of Dar es Salaam says: "Following the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) by Africa Fishing Company (AFC) by seasoned researchers and consultants for the government of Tanzania, an outline of the potential negative impacts of the aquaculture project on the ecology and economy is outlined. The report is presented in such a positive manner that a casual reader may not come to the nitty-gritty of potential socio-economic disasters in the life and after-life of the project.



Photo: David Ohito

"One may wish to be assured, for instance, on the measures to be taken in the event of one or two ponds becoming unsuitable for prawns farming, or for that matter will the ecological conditions of the farm be as productive at the end of the project as it were on its establishment? Who should then meet the cost to restore the land and compensate the traditional land users for the damage to the resources?"

"This project, however, on a financial perspective, looks to be a noble idea especially at this moment in time when Tanzanians are grappling with the debt crisis that has paralyzed to a high degree the social sector, i.e. education, health, transport and communication infrastructure. The motive driving the investor is a high profitability of the prawn fishing industry today. The nation, however, has to guard against bankrupting the resources of the future generations who are privileged to benefit most from the work we do today."

* James Mpinga, a Tanzanian journalist and environmentalist has this to say:
"AFC have assured everyone that they will not repeat the mistakes of aquaculture here because they have learned the past lessons of failure elsewhere. Theirs will be less intensive modes of production. Fair enough, yet the records we have suggest that based on the assumption that intensive farms are viable for five years, and semi-intensive farms for 10 years, the world's shrimp farming regions are already home to 150,000 hectares of abandoned ponds. All these were reportedly created within a short span of 10 years (1985 - 1995).

"Somehow, one tends to form the idea that the current EIA by the Rufiji prawns farm promoters is best understood for what it doesn't say. After a pond has outlived its usefulness after, say 15-25 years if we go by the promoters' own projections, what next? The time-frame for reclaiming waste lands created in the wake of shrimp

farming elsewhere is being put at between 20 to 30 years. Can somebody from promoters' camp be able to shed light on how technologically better placed they are to avoid all these?"

Current Status of the Project

The project has been contested in court and the prospective investor has since been told not to do any development until the matter is settled.

We have tried in this paper to give you an impression of what is happening to the mangroves in Tanzania coastal line. We have also tried to relate their (mangrove) destruction due to human activities, and of late prawns farming referred to by many as an "overnight wealth and get-rich-quick investment" which destroys mangrove swamps and greatly puts coastal ecosystem in an unprecedented danger. Unfortunately, recently the Minister of Tourism and Natural Resources, Zakhia Meghji, said a team of experts would be formed to monitor implementation of the Rufiji Delta



Photo: David Ohito

prawns project after the government has given it a green-light amidst objections by most Tanzanians who are for the future of the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, we journalists are non-experts in aquaculture. But we refuse much sales talk and less facts from hard science advanced by the prawns project promoters in the Rufiji Delta.

Honourable Pius Msekwa, Speaker of Tanzania's Union Parliament, once said: "If you cannot argue the point, argue the law; if you can argue neither point nor law, bang the table.

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Democracy as a Base for Environmental Protection

Girts Strazbins

Good Things to Achieve

- Public participation in decision making process (Aarhus convention)
- Bridging the gap between public and authorities
- Integration of sustainability principles in all sectors of society

Bad Things to Avoid

- Political decisions highly influenced by economical forces (corruption)
- Weak environmental citizens organisations

- Media controlled by political parties and economical forces

Tools to Use

- Promote ethics and morals
- Support to non-governmental sector
- Improve laws for public participation in decision making process, access to information and justice
- Transparency



Girts Strazbins

The Situation of Lake Loubans in Latvia (Video)

Sandijs Semjonovs

We used video materials from the SIWI conference in our weekly environmental program in Latvian state television. We showed the film about one Latvian lake - Lubans. This is the story about mans unsuccessful attempts to subdue nature for his own economic interests.

Every spring Lake Lubans, the largest lake in Latvia, and its surroundings are in flood.



Sandijs Semjonovs

Large earthen banks and dams have been built around the lake. The central theme of the film is the collision of interests of various groups of people such as farmers, hunters, fishermen and nature conservationists regarding the artificial regulation of the water level in the lake. But perhaps nature itself be allowed to decide?

This is a short review of the film shown by me at the SIWI conference

The Media Reaction after an Oil Spill at the Butinge Oil Terminal, Lithuania

Audra Cepkauskaitė

The Butinge Oil Terminal is built in the sea several kilometers from Lithuania's coast and about two kilometers off the Latvian border. The Oil Terminal is a part of the company Mazeikiu nafta (Mazeikiai Oil), which was at that time owned mostly by U.S.A. company "Williams International" and the state.

First, the news agencies BNS and ELTA reported that it is a split of 300 kg (10 times less, than it was told by experts later. as we

know now, it was possible to get this information already at that day, but nobody asked

experts at that time. This same mistake- 300 instead of 3000 - was repeated by BNS two weeks ago, when Latvian specialists arrived to Mazeikiu Oil).

The day after the accident, TV news were covering mostly the issue of a Latvian helicopter with environmentalists who crossed Lithuania' air border without a permission. There were neither commentaries, investigative stories at TV nor talks to Latvian specialists (circulation of the Baltic sea water along the coast here and the winds are mostly directed from the South to the North, consequences of spill are to impact Latvia's coast more than Lithuania.)

Only one TV - LNK, that is private TV with a News service (a partner of CNN in Lithuania), invited later a chairman of a commission, who was investigating the accident, for the Hot Interview of the day at evening news. (There are 4 national TV stations in Lithuania.)



Audra Cepkauskaitė

Public radio was covering this issue at the morning programmes through talk shows and several features. Private stations - at the news, mostly used reports from news agencies.

After the accident Media reported on Mazeikiu nafta (on environmental issue) only when the Latvian side made some statements.

Interest in Food, Health and Water



Gedrime Kusliene

In the years of getting our independence, there were plenty of journalists who were covering environmental issues. Now many of them are whether political journalists or politicians.

Working conditions of news journalists in Lithuania are not very comfortable when trying to get deeper in one field of problems. Even though we already have prominent political, economical, social, even health journalists, environmental issue is still empty space, according to my opinion.

Especially during the last five years, environmental issues are to be found in Media, mostly when SOMETHING

HAPPENS. This could be something bad, or - when there are talks about things connected with EU - about the nuclear power plant Ignalina, about recycling or about dumps.

The situation is changing. People in Lithuania get more and more interested in what are they eating and drinking, in the quality of water of lakes, rivers and sea. They want to know why there is no information on soya-meat and about it's genetical modification. They also want to know where we are going to put our nuclear waste, and so on.

put nuclear wastes and so on. Therefore, things must change in Media too - step by step. A network of journalists who are interested in environmental issues in Lithuania could be a jump.

Small Hydropower Plants in Lithuania

Gedrime Kusliene

The beginning of the energy sector development in Lithuania is the year of 1892. That was when the duke B. Oginskis for lighting purposes built in his Rietavas estate the power plant where the Gram current generator of the 110V voltage was rotated by steam-engine. In 1935 was 96 HEPP in Lithuania (1 skaidrè). But these HEPP was very primitive and during the freshets fell down (2 skaidrè).

Development of the small-scale hydro power plants (HPP) is rapidly increasing in Lithuania. Today there are 38 small hydro power plants operating, with the total installed capacity of 12 MW and annual electricity production of about 26 GWh, which makes up to 0.2% of electricity produced in Lithuania. This development could be characterized by calculated small technical potential of energy production (~5 MW of total potentially installed capacity) and large number of HPP's

ranging from 10 kW to 150-400 kW and spread in whole Lithuania.

Fortunately, many of these HPP's are still only in the planning stage. There is general lack of knowledge and awareness about the negative impact of these HPP on the environment of rivers and streams. Small-scale HPP very often are considered as environmentally friendly renewable energy, not taking into account negative aspects of these plants (influence on biodiversity of the rivers, landscape, fishing, etc.). Many of these power plants are designed or constructed without proper Environment Impact Assessment, not mentioning lack of public involvement and consultations about these development plans or particular projects. In the most of these HEPP there are not planned fish-ways. There are 47 HEPP in project stage now. And only in two HEPP, fish-ways are planned.

Threatening Migrating Fish

The harm done by hydro-electric power plant to migrating fish depends on type of turbine, characteristics of the river and capacity of the hydro-electric power plant.

Hydropower plant changes the river flow regime very much: increase water depth and reduce water velocity in reservoir, create permanent fluctuations of flow rate and stage in downstream reach. Beside of harmful scour of river bed sudden and frequent fluctuations of water level makes killing influence to water flora and fauna. When building hydropower plants, a particular attention must be paid to these rivers where precious fish species migrate. These migrating fish species are very sensitive to the changes of habitat. The migrating fish species especially decreased after the hydropower dam was commissioned on the main Lithuanian's river the Nemunas near Kaunas in 1959. It is one of the largest hydro schemes without the fish ladder in Lithuania. In order to preserve and restore the stocks of the wild

Baltic salmon from being endangered, the special program named "Salmon 1997-2010" has been initiated. About 6 to 8 thousand of salmon, 8 to 11 thousand of sea-trout migrate every year into Lithuanian's rivers. Good conditions for salmon spawning are in the rivers Minija, Šventoji, Žeimena, Neris and Nemunas which hydropower potential is high. A major barrier hindering country's hydropower development is due to the requirements ensuring the life and reproduction of migrating fish.

Water projects in Eastern Europe: How the Western Support the Work

Ivan Krasnov

Dear friends,

I am going to speak about the projects in Eastern Europe in general, although it would be better to take one particular project as a sample. Thus, I refer you to the Kaliningrad Water company project, supported by a team of international donors*



Ivan Krasnov

The budget of the Kaliningrad Water consists of various components, both Russian and international. It is the general approach of the Western donors that they support environmental projects in countries with transitional economies, only in the event that a given project is funded with participation of local and national budgets. They never come saying: "guys, here is some money, spend it for the environment in your country, and be happy".

No, the general idea is that the local and international investments should guarantee that the Western money would not be

wasted. If you have co-invested into a project, you will do your best to have it successfully carried out.

The Candy is not so Sweet . . .

Money of the country to be supported could be local or national, but let us concentrate our conversation on the international money. It may be issued in loans or grants. Grants may be either appointed by a particular country or provided within the framework of an international program, such as PHARE, ISPA or TACIS. The granted money is the most pleasant component in any support, but actually this candy is not so sweet as it looks. The grants are mostly purposed not for direct investments, but for various physability studies, training or corporate development programs, consulting, etc. Moreover, you never would get this money at your hand, since it is directed to Western experts and consultants.

Good, you would say, training for free is good itself. It is good, indeed. But it is also true that the Western specialists hardly understand what their Russian partners should be trained and consulted about. The general superstition is that since the things had been going a wrong way in this country for 70 years (or 40 years), it is needed to change our brains thoroughly. One could smile on Western consultants arguing in details to highly educated specialists — some of whom have



Wetlands, Photo: SIWI

academic degrees — what an important thing is RESPONSIBILITY, TRANSPARENCY, or something else of that sort. Unfortunately, specialists from Eastern Europe will not inform their teachers that they are not so much interested in this ideological truisms, because they believe that cooperation with little effect is better, than no cooperation at all.

Train the Western Specialists

In fact, Western specialists should be trained themselves to realize what kind of information is really demanded in post-Socialist countries, and what the specialists in Eastern Europe do really need.

Of course, I am intently exaggerating the problem since technical or financial training is sometimes of real use. Though, in some cases things are really going a crazy way, and then I regard it as wasting both money and time.

Loans. It is also an important part of Western support. These loans are soft, it means that payoff periods are longer, and interest rates are lower than those in cases of usual commercial loans.

However, this softness is - to some extent - compensated by the fact that this money is also to be spent under certain conditions. In some cases, contractors in a project are chosen on an open contest basis, yet sometimes donors come out with their own

lists of the companies they especially recommend. And what is also very important, the donors demand that water and sewage rates be raised to a level they consider to be high enough to guarantee the payoff of the money loaned. People should pay full price for water indeed, but in the case of Russia it seems somewhat problematic. Regarding the permanent decline of their real incomes,

people can decide that it is easier to kick out the government than to pay higher water and sewerage tariffs.

*The information on the project was published in the issue of the EcoChronicle magazine, No 2(48), 2001, which was distributed at the presentation).

Estonian case:

Wastewater Treatment Plants, or Wetlands

Toomas Jürjado

Estonia as the EU candidate country has to fulfil the requirements of the environmental legislation of the Community. A large share of them are the water issues including wastewater treatment.

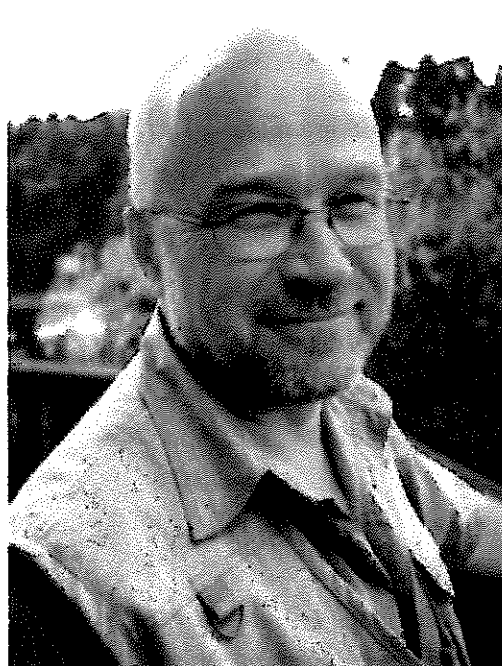
The situation in the post-Soviet Estonia did not correspond to the European level. So, already in the beginning of the 1990s, the active search for foreign investments was started and the country was rather successful in launching new treatment plants in many towns and villages. This process is even more active at present.

This pretty positive tendency has unfortunately a negative side, too. The management of these plants is rather costly in terms of both energy use and finances. Thus, it is evident, that very many Estonian municipalities are not rich enough to run these plants in the long term. The situation is complicated by the new social tendencies for Estonia - high level of unemployment in the countryside and smaller towns, decrease of the population in the countryside and quick urbanization etc., which are considerably weakening the financial state of many smaller municipalities. It is not very difficult to forecast useless (not working but rusting...) wastewater treatment plants and again untreated wastewater in many places of the country in the near future.

Semi-Artificial Wetlands

At the same time, there is a more environment-friendly and cheaper technology in Estonia to treat the waters of smaller towns and villages. This technology is developed according to American and Western European examples by the scientists of Tartu University and the Centre of Ecological Technologies, also based in Tartu. The basis of this technology are the semi-artificial wetlands which can be very easily built in the case of Estonia. There are some well-working examples, already.

According to more advanced plans, these water treatment wetlands may be used as the sources of the cheap biofuel for co-generation plants to produce electricity and heating in a much more ecological and scattered way than nowadays extremely centralized and heavily polluting production of oil-shale electricity in huge thermo-electric plants in the North-East Estonia. The plans and calculations of the wetlands construction were successfully reported on some international scientific workshops and widely approved by many specialists. Estonia is considered to be an especially suitable country for a massive launching of this technology. It could also



Toomas Jürjado



The Workshop Leaders Gunnel Bergström (left) and Erika Bjerström (right), Photo: Toomas Jürjalo

help to solve some big social problems such as a rapidly growing rate of urbanization or the concentration of the non-Estonian population in the North-East of the country.

Unfortunately, all these ideas got very small attention in Estonia itself and were even rejected by some local specialists as too much "science-fiction". One reason for it seems to be, of course, the binding contract which Estonia has with the American NRG Energy company. Namely, to keep the oil-shale electricity plants fully in run for at least 15 years. From the other hand, the unreadiness for more sustainable ways of thinking and fear of more innovative technologies is evident. So, the construction of expensive and partly useless wastewater treatment plants in Estonia continues...

Public Access to Information and Secrecy with Swedish Authorities

Gunnel Bergström

Sweden has a long tradition of public access to information. You will find the most updated version of this document in English on the Internet:

<http://justitie.regeringen.se/pressinfo/pdf/publicaccess.pdf>

There has been a lot of discussions about this our right when we have become EU members.

From December 3, 2001, The European Union will get new rules on public access to information from the institutions. The European Commission has published the new rules on their home page, see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/acc_doc/en/index.htm

The Environmental Journalist is no Activist

Erika Bjerström

Accurate, passionate and innovative media coverage of environmental issues plays an essential role in every society. Environmental journalism, at its best, enlightens the reader/viewer/ listener by correct reporting on scientific findings without stripping away the scientists own reservations. It provides the reader with a holistic understanding of the complex interactions and inter-dependence of different eco systems, it gives background, analyses of political policy making.

It always helps the reader to identify with the issues by finding colorful examples in the real world, i e human beings and physical areas affected by the environmental issue reported upon. Environmental journalism should describe problems, threats aswell as solutions and always try to find success stories where intelligent strategies have been fruitful, in order to report not only on "gloom and doom".

An environmental journalist should not be driven by his or her ambition to rescue nature. Covering environment is like covering any other area ; finance, culture, politics etc. The same rules apply no

matter what area of reporting; fairness, accuracy, adhering to the ethical guidelines of a free press, radio and television. Today many news rooms have an ethical policy where financial reporters promise not to hold stocks, to avoid any accusation of acting in self interest. There should be ethical guidelines for environmental reporters as well.

Consequently the environmental reporter should avoid membership in environmental organisations like Greenpeace, WWF or regional Nature Watch Societies. The reason being that NGO:s are actors that need to be scrutinized, as well as other, i e industries, local and national authorities, politicians, scientists. Many environmental journalists disagree with this notions, as a first emotional response. " To give up membership is an infringement on my freedom as an involved citizen" some argue.

But this argument is easily dismissed; a journalist has only one loyalty- the one towards readers, listeners, viewers. There should never be a shadow of doubt that the reporter stands free to report in an unbiased way. The logical way to avoid such suspicion is to stay clear from memberships. This is one ethical guideline of the press guild in the U S.

Another reason for the environmental journalist to not confuse journalism with activism is that NGO:s sometimes misinterpret science in order to create alarmistic reports. Also scientists have been known to be wrong. So if a reporter strongly identifies with one standpoint, and give it a a lot of coverage, and this later turns out to be wrong, the reporters credibility is at risk.

One example I encountered in Tanzania is the one of shrimp farming in a river delta on the coast, south of Dar es Salaam. Quite a few environmental journalists, working in the association of JET, have decided that this project should be stopped. But later research, endorsed by the U N have shown that shrimp farming CAN be

done in the area, given it is done in an ecological and small scale manner. It would then provide as much needed livelihood.

The ethical way of an environmental journalist is to stay free from definite viewpoints and allow as many sides as possible to be heard. What seems to be the truth today may well turn out be to be wrong tomorrow.

New facts arise all the time.

To all known problems new and unforeseen environmental threats appear due to global problems, such as the greenhouse effect, well illustrated by this telegram from Associated Press:

"GLOBAL WARMING FOSTERS REGIONAL MALARIA AP, CAPE TOWN, South Africa;

South Africa's environmental minister said Friday that global warming had resulted in a rise in the incidence of malaria in the region.

Environment Minister Valli Moosa told



Photo: SIWI

officials at a regional meeting to develop environmental strategy that South Africa had just documented its warmest year ever since record keeping began. He said the malaria increase was " impacting on all people". "This is a matter which is of grave concern to us" Moosa said.

He did not cite the temperatures. The meeting marked the first joint effort within the Southern African development

Community to work on a unified environmental strategy".
(Friday October 8:th 1999).

Only the professional journalist can remain open to factual reporting.

Information Sources

The field of environmental journalism is getting increasingly complicated. Today the issue of global warming alone is so vast that it easily can be a full time task for the environmental reporter. But there are many other areas that calls for ones expertise; agriculture, marine issues, biological diversity, dioxins, ozone depletion, water issues, transport issues etc etc.

Since the environmental reporter is trained in doing research, judging facts, interviewing and presenting in a hopefully clear and interesting way, he or she can not be a scientist as well.

A good idea is to have a panel of scientists that can be contacted when there is a need to ask very basic questions or get help to evaluate. " What does this mean?" " Can this potentially be harmful to human health" etc etc.

Scientists are often glad to take the time when they have established contact with the reporter and trust that the reporter is a professional and sincere journalist.

But there are many other information sources:

NGOs

Nowadays many NGO.s have their own researchers and come up with solid reports. This can be in the area of chemistry, marine biology but also political science, i. e. investigating the voting record of different political parties in parliament.

Scientists

As mentioned above, a very helpful tool is to establish a panel of scientists that can be called when there is a need to evaluate or just to get basic facts right.

Both scientists and NGO:s have an interest in getting media coverage, so one should of course maintain a healthy scepticism.

Internet

The internet is increasingly used, for facts and networking. Environmental journalists around the world communicate through a joint federation; International federation of Environmental Journalists.

IFEJ can be contacted on the web <http://www.ifej.org/> and has its own publication "The Planet's Voice").

Politicians

It is Difficult to be a Balanced Water Reporter

Gunnel Bergström

Trying to live up to journalistic ideals, I have to admit, it is difficult to be a Balanced Water Reporter. I adore the Baltic Sea and adore swimming in it, so I refuse to think of it as dying. So I try to absorb of the sometimes more positive information that scientists present every now and then. But maybe that is not right . . . At least I have to present all kinds of facts for my readers. Find the right balance. Check that the experts are OK . . .

Right now, I have some issues that are a bit difficult to handle. One is to try to find my way in the labyrinth, which consists of VERY MANY Baltic Sea organisations, many of them claiming that WE ARE THE COORDINATORS . . . One really big one is the so called BALTIC 21. This is the Agenda 21 that was adopted in 1998. It concerns sustainable development for the whole Baltic Sea Region, not only the marine environment of the Baltic Sea.

I have a concrete example. Some years ago, I wrote an article about the cooperation around the Baltic Sea. On the Curonian Spit, the sandy spit which is

shared by Kaliningrad (Russia) and Lithuania, there was some news to cover. The maire of Nida on the Lithuanian side, had suggested that an old airport would be rebuilt into a lot bigger airport. This was criticised by NGOs and some nature protection experts. I got comments from the maire and his ecologist that wanted the change, and from NGOs who were against it, as they thought there would be a risk of air fuel leakage or that bigger and more frequently flying airplanes would bring more tourists than the sensitive sand dunes could stand. As some kind of neutral point, I wanted to find out how this conflict would be handled in Baltic 21, where countries work together in different sectors (agriculture, energy, fisheries, forests, industry, tourism and transports).

I contacted a person in charge of sustainable tourism and his explanation made me think that this sector is talking about shopping, eating and enjoying nature. About ecotourism I did not hear anything. And what about the airport plans? No, they belong to another sector: Transport.

I did not have time to go further, but I think now that some more years have passed, the people involved in Baltic 21, are trying to find platforms also for issues that belong not only to one sector but to several.

(read more about Baltic 21 on www.ee/baltic21)

Another delicate issue is nitrogen removal. During the last years, Swedish wastewater treatment plants along the coasts have been re-equipped to remove not only phosphorous but also nitrogen. This has cost the Swedish tax payers around 3.5 billion SEK (around 350 million USD). A larger part of wastewater treatment experts, civil servants and scientists claim that this is a must. But on the other hand, there is opposition. For instance, how can you be sure that it is nitrogen from the wastewater

that is causing the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea? It could also be cars or agriculture. And there are not yet clear results proving that nitrogen removal in the wastewater treatment plants really have reduced the eutrophication. And moreover, some scientists also claim that nitrogen removal is bad, because poisonous blue-green algae grow more, when there is less nitrogen! It is important that there is an open debate, where all these opinions are freely expressed. And for me as a journalist, I have to try to weigh and measure all the opinions. Now I have decided to try to study the phenomenon myself in a marine laboratory, especially as I am not a scientist. This problem will soon occur for journalists in the former Eastern Europe and also in the Lake Victoria region.

Is nitrogen removal good or bad? At least it is extremely expensive, so it deserves scepticism.

A third topic is the new EU Water Framework Directive - a European Key to Catchment-based Governance. This has to be integrated in the legislation of all EU member countries within very soon, and there have to be new authorities in charge. The candidate countries are also working on it. By the year 2015 we are expected to reach the goal Good ecological status.

The new about this directive that it gives a holistic view on water. It takes into account a whole drainage/catchment area of the rivers, from source to mouth. In Sweden, the Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology has defined several thousands of drainage areas, some of them also covering a part of Norway respectively Finland. The idea of the directive that there will be a lot of cooperation over all municipal boarders, between all kinds of actors within a certain drainage area: water and wastewater treatment plants, farmers, fishermen, forestry, industries etc.

In Sweden, one of the pilot projects of the EU framework directive is carried out in the south-east (the Emån drainage area). Apart from environmental actions like cleaning sediments from old industry pollution, it also takes into account a sustainability dimension, where they try to organise more job possibilities.

Not only EU member states, but also candidate countries have started to put on the holistic water glasses. Some steps ahead is Latvia, where they have been working with different aspects of the Daugava river drainage area. Read more about this on www.daugava.lv

In the Lake Victoria region, there is a project around the Mara river basin. I don't know very much about it yet, but I hope to go there in the beginning of 2002. I guess that there is yet another dimension; for water as a human right, or as it is called with a popular name: Hydrosolidarity.

So, why is this issue difficult to cover? Well, I think that the basic idea is fine – as water sees no boundaries. But who can decide where the controlling power should be. And what is good ecological status in fact. Some might want a lake to be eutrophied, because of the nice bird life, while some would prefer it to clear down to the bottom, as it used to be several decades ago. And the nitrogen removal dilemma is also included, of course, as the rivers run to the Baltic Sea. Another question is whether there really will be democratic cooperation between all the actors, or is this only a paper tiger?

Sustainable Business Reporting

Close Links between Ecology and Economy

Claes Sjöberg

Fifteen years have passed since the Swedish journalist Claes Sjöberg decided to break new land: he started reporting on environmental development in the business and industry world. He gave an expose for the journalist workshop participants on how environmental awareness has grown within the bigger corporations in three stages (see below).



Claes Sjöberg, Photo: private

One example is Shell, that totally turned after being criticized for different actions, for supporting military oppression of people in Nigeria and planning to dump the oil platform Brent Spar in the North Sea. Shell does not call themselves an oil company any more, but an “energy company”.

Tomorrow has for instance published critical articles about ABB when they were building the Bakun dam in Malaysia, even though ABB was one of the major buyers of the magazine and a member of the advisory board.

Among many other topics, the magazine has also covered privatization of water, plus and minuses.

From Environment to Sustainability

Companies produce annual reports, but several years ago, some also started to produce special environmental reports. Today, only some 2 000 out of around 40 000 multinational corporations, publish such reports. They tend to comprehend more than only environmental issues, therefore you will find today not "environmental reports", but rather "social reports" or "sustainable reports".

There are several ranking lists and award for good reports, which does not necessarily mean that the company is doing good things for the environment, but more for their transparency and way of showing also bad examples, with suggestions on how to solve the problems.

These reports are good tools for environmental journalists, and it is interesting to compare how the companies fulfil their environmental ambitions in different countries and regions. /Gunnel Bergström

The notion SUSTAINABILITY consists of several factors:

- Economy
- Environment
- Ethics
- Social issues

Good and Bad News for the Environment

- The Green Capitalism is here - but it's a minority.
- Globalization of the economy and world wide media and information technology are creating an international sustainability awareness.

Good News for the Environment

- Nearly all technical trends are towards modes of production that are more

efficient, use fewer resources, produce less waste, and causes less ecological disruptions than technology of the past.

- Clean technology will be the successor of high technology.
- Most brute - force systems of material production will be supplanted by production based mainly on knowledge.

Stage 1

Company attitudes

DEFENSIVE

- Disbelief in environmental problems
- Blaming the critics
- Resisting policy measures

Effect:

- Temporary delay of measures
- Loss of credibility

Stage 2

COOPERATIVE

- Acknowledging the problem
- Working together with authorities and government
- Trying to comply with standards - but no more

Effect:

- Buying time - risk of ongoing loss of credibility
- Being a follower - not a leader

Stage 3

PROACTIVE

- Good environmental performance
- Redesign of products, raw material use and processes
- Acceptance of public reporting
- Integration of environmental performance in total management concept

Effect:

- Building credibility
- Staying ahead of legislators
- In shape for competition on sustainable world market

Trust me! - 1965

- Citizens and consumers still have confidence in government, companies & authorities

Tell me! 1965 – 1995

- Youth revolt in late 60s aimed at authorities
- Environmental disasters led to suspicions towards industry
- Solution: More information

Show me! 1995 –

- OK, if you care so much, show me how!
- Transparency and information is no longer enough
- Solution: show what you do, position yourself as doer, not talker

Tailor made communication, stakeholder dialogue

All cutting-edge environmental advancement - in management, legislation and technology - is happening in the most economically advanced nations.

Global Trends Affecting the World Economy

- Collapse of communism
- Brain power strongest force in creating wealth
- Information technology instrumental in globalization of markets
- Rapid growth of middle class in Asia
- 80 million people added to world population annually
- Environmental performance innovation

General Trends – Global Perspective

Europe is leading – proactive corporations, politics, European Union policies

- US is lagging behind (but some very proactive corporations)
- Japan is not the leader as some expected after the Rio Conference
- Japan is however a world leader in ISO 14001 certifications.

On the Agenda – Moving Up

- *Transportation*
- The Hydrogen/Fuel Cell Automobile
- *Environmental labeling*
- Forestry Stewardship Council in the Forestry and Pulp and Paper Industry
- *Electronics Industry*
- Take back Schemes/Product Stewardship
- Global Warming and Greenhouse Gases
- Social Issues
- GMO – genetically modified organisms
- Environmental Reporting, Transparency, Stakeholder Dialogue

On the Agenda – Moving Down

- Fear of Ozone Depletion
- Chemophobia
- Doomsday Scenarios

More With Less:

Factor ten:

“Within one generation, 30 - 50 years, nations can achieve a ten-fold increase in the efficiency with which they use energy, natural resources and other materials“

Tomorrow

Geographical Distribution: Europe 62 %, North America 20 %, Asia & Pacific 10 %, Rest of the World 8 %

Breakdown of reader's position: CEOs, Presidents, Directors 48 %, Managers 20 %, Academics 12 %, Media 11 %, NGOs 5 %, Others 4 %

Others 4 %

Circulation breakdown: Subscriptions 81 %, Conferences 8 %, SAS Inflight 7 %, Marketing 4 %

www.tomorrow-web.com

World Business Council on Sustainable Development www.wbcsd.org

Cheering Up Complicated Information: Where is the Flute?

Gunnel Bergström

Reporting on environmental issues is super interesting. But we have a big responsibility. Think of the audience, and split them up in different target groups. What do they know? What would they like to know? Of course we report differently for children, for experts or for a general public.

When preparing an article, a TV or Radio program: change perspectives for a while and walk a mile in the audience's shoes (if they have any). A doomsday scenario without any solution would probably scare them from receiving the information.

When I edit VAV nytt, which is full of really heavy information about bacteria and parasites and technical details, I try to blow a little in THE FLUTE. I can for instance use nice pictures of people who are swimming (for instance a lady in bikini jumping on the ice flakes of St Petersburg in mid winter . . .)

I have got the idea from the older and more experienced Swedish editor and journalist Bertil Torekull. He once started Today's Industry, a pink newspaper. The very first day, director Albert Bonnier from the Bonnier corporation came in to Mr. Torekull's office without knocking. He brought the pink newspaper, and was vividly turning the pages. "Well", he said, "I see hear that you have the motto, alright. We have MAN- ECONOMY- TECHNOLOGY, as we planned. But where is the flute, young man, where is THE FLUTE?"

Mr. Torekull did not quite understand. But Mr. Bonnier explained: "You see, the readers need something to cheer them up, something that makes them whistle at the

breakfast table". So Mr. Torekull got the message and started a very popular causerie column, which he called "Mr. Trend", commenting current issues with a good sense of humour.

Satire and a Sense of Humour

Mr. Torekull often tells editors and journalists about this experience. And we should also learn from it. Satire and a sense of humour are underestimated spices in environmental reporting. A FLUTE could be exactly that. It does not necessarily have to be a joke or a funny picture, but it could also be a very concrete and wise commentary from local people. Or a very good metaphor, that makes a very abstract phenomenon come real. Something that really touches the individual reader, listener or viewer.

Nota bene, this does not mean that the information should not be serious. To my opinion, the best comedians are very serious people.

Concrete as Strindberg

"My fire is the greatest in Sweden". August Strindberg wrote this in one of his love letters (he was married three times). He did not only write love letters, but thousands of other shorter or longer



*Gunnel Bergström together with Esperance Ntiranyibagira and Elisabeth Birabwa,
Photo: Toomas Jürjado.*

messages, commenting on news, begging for money, or just being very rude to persons that he did not like.

August Strindberg (1849-1912) lived all his life in Stockholm, but travelled a lot to other countries. He was interested in everything, and he was the first one to get a telephone in Stockholm. In his ENORMOUS production you will find e.g. novels, theatre plays (*Miss Julie* is one of the most frequent performed plays in the whole world, it was actually also performed during apartheid time in South Africa, with a white lady as Miss Julie and a black man as the servant), short stories, poetry, fairy tales for children, journalism, some songs, political pamphlets, thoughts about gardening and cookery. He was also a painter, a photographer, a sculptor and almost a scientist (for instance, he tried to create GOLD).

If you compare Strindberg's prose with other writers of the same time, you will see that he is very detailed. When depicting a bourgeois couple that are getting married, another writer would say that "they were out shopping and bought furniture for their new flat", while Strindberg in detail would describe the pattern and the colour of the bedspread as well as the lamp and the wall paper. This invites you to the home of the persons he is telling about. The same goes for *Among French Peasants*, where he was travelling as journalist, talking to peasants, watching very attentively how they lived . . .

Gender Sensitive

August Strindberg was very gender sensitive. You often hear that Strindberg hated women, but that is not true. He loved women, but he feared them if they were too intelligent and independent, and if they threatened his position as a writer. Many of his texts show that he has a deep understanding of the psychology between man and woman, between parents and children etc.

Here are some lines from *The Father* (this was read by Toomas Jürjado when the group met at the little Strindberg statue in the City Hall Garden.

LAURA: What! Man, you're crying!

CAPTAIN: Yes, I am crying, although I am a man. But has not a man eyes? Has not a man hands, limbs, heart, thoughts, passions? Does he not live by the same food, is he not wounded by the same weapons, warmed and cooled by the same summer and winter as a woman? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? Why should a man be forbidden to complain, or a soldier to weep? Because it is unmanly? Why is it unmanly?

LAURA: Weep, my child. Your mother is here to comfort you.

/Translation Michael Meyer/

Culture is Also a Flute

Quotations from poetry or prose, or other cultural remarks, can also serve as FLUTES in our environmental reporting. And remember that reading literature, going the theatre and other cultural experience enrichens our language and our understanding of human psychology. And helps us to recharge our batteries, when we are at risk of getting tired of what we are doing!

P.S. I have Strindberg's picture on my desk, and he reminds me that I have to write in a very concrete way . . . */Gunnel*

P.P.S. NATURE itself of course also can be a flute, think of a beautiful picture of frosty trees in November , , , And of course, also for our own survival, as Erika said.

Strategies for Partnership Between Journalists of the Lake Victoria Region and the Baltic Sea Region

Introduction

Following discussions that took place at the Stockholm Water Week 13 - 16th August 2001, and the environmental journalism workshop in particular, the journalists participants from the Lake Victoria and Baltic Sea regions have been able to identify specific ways in which they can partner to create awareness of the dangers facing both Lake Victoria and the Baltic Sea.

Already partnerships exist between the local authorities, non-governmental organisations and universities of the two regions. We realise that a partnership between the journalists of the two regions is the missing link in the whole equation.

During discussions, we discovered that there is lack of public awareness on the water and environmental problems facing the Lake Victoria basin and the Baltic Sea region.

While countries of the Baltic Sea region have made a lot of initiatives and registered successes, these experiences have not been accessed by the media especially in the Lake Victoria region.

We have also observed that the local communities at grassroot level are not fully involved in the initiatives and partnerships for managing Lake Victoria resources, yet they are the ones directly impacting on the water resources.

Suggestions for Partnership

In view of the above, the journalists participants from the Lake Victoria and Baltic Sea regions observe that there is need to create a strong partnership for sharing and disseminating information amongst themselves, scientists and government officials in both regions.

The following are envisaged as potential areas of co-operation:

1. Journalists can be commissioned to research on a common issue identified as affecting the Lake Victoria and Baltic Sea regions and thereafter exchange their findings in form of published articles and radio or television programmes.
2. Familiarisation or fact-finding tours to the two regions can be organised in order to increase the horizon of journalists so that they can adequately cover ecological concerns affecting the two regions.
3. Local and regional workshops and seminars can be organised for journalists to improve their skills in environmental reporting and packaging.
4. Journalists' associations can be organised regular meetings between journalists, scientists, technocrats and policy makers from and within the two regions. This will help the journalists to access new scientific findings and developments.
5. A resource centre and/or data base can be established in each region to facilitate easy collation, access and dissemination of information. The centres will also be used as a reference point for journalists on water and environmental issues.
6. Journalists from both regions can get facilitation to attend and cover international and regional conferences where water and other environmental issues are discussed.

7. Technical and institutional support in the form of equipment like cameras, computers, printers, radio recorders and access to internet, can be extended to journalists' groups in the Lake Victoria and Baltic Sea region. This largely is because the capacity of journalists in developing countries to cover environmental issues is still weak and needs strengthening through self-sufficient groups.

8. Journalists' groups can be assisted to create websites through which journalists from the Lake Victoria and Baltic Sea regions can network.

Conclusion

The experiences of other partnerships especially between the local authorities of both regions are testimony to the successes which can be achieved through strong networks.

The above ideas can be further developed into more concrete project proposals for implementation either singly by individual countries and regions or jointly with sufficient support.

Follow-up Commitments

"Mission" Spread in the Two Regions

Some time after the workshop, some of the participants had already published articles or produced radio programmes and started to plan how to share their experience from the World Water Week and the journalist workshop with colleagues in their home countries.

Ivan Krasnov, Russia:

I have written a general report on the symposium, it is to be printed in the EcoChronicle in early October. In the same issue will be published an interview with Mr. Leonid Korovin, with whom I have got acquainted in Stockholm (the World

Water Week is mentioned in this interview, of course). And the last for this issue, a brief note on the press-conference of President Adamkus will be made in connection with the problem of oil transportation in the Baltics and Russia.

In the next issue, which is to be printed in December, I am going to publish an article on our visit to the "organic farm" on August 17. Some other topics in my further writings, undoubtedly, also would be influenced by the experience of the symposium and the journalist's workshop.

The first "victims" of my "preaching" on the ideas I brought from Stockholm were my colleges and chief editor in the SEVERO-ZAPAD MEDIA agency (the publisher of the EcoChronicle). My main point was that we should be more active in searching for professional contacts in the world, and I have enriched our database with contacts of several organizations, which participated in the symposium. But, I think, it is too early to speak on the outcomes of this "enlightenment". In the future, I hope, I should have many opportunities to share my experience with other colleagues, in particular, through the MEDIA UNION, a new all-Russia media professional organization, in which the SEVERO-ZAPAD MEDIA agency plays one of the key roles (seminars and professional meetings is an important part of the MEDIA UNION's activity).

Toomas Jürjado, Estonia:

The Estonian Ministry of Environment is regularly holding training for journalists on various issues. There was the first meeting of a new cycle about NATURA2000 issues (which actually is in our situation very closely connected to the water issue as almost all Estonian environment questions – we are a "very wet" country). So, I made to the organizers a proposal to give me an hour "out-of-programme" time to inform colleagues about the seminar in Stockholm. So I made a presentation on

the courses of the Estonian environmental journalists 11.-12.09., around, 25 participants, mainly news and environment editors of Estonian newspapers, TV and radio).

And I also made another proposal to organised the next study circle on water issues, maybe next year.

Otherwise, it is pretty difficult to get enough people together in our conditions, but all these seminars organized by ministry are popular enough, to gather some 25-30 or even more journalists which is very good for Estonia. The major part of them are working in the county newspapers as news reporters – and I think, this is the best part of the participants, because only a couple of our bigger newspapers (+ radios + TV) have relatively well-educated environmental reporters but there is no possibility to hire such people in county newspapers. But these newspapers are often the only ones read by very many people, especially in the country-side.

I already had four radioreports about Water Week (two - Takashi Asano and Prince of Orange - in the Estonian Programme of the Radio Free Europe and two - a general overview and the dam & floods issue - in Estonian Radio); presumably at least two more are coming soon on the topics spoken in Stockholm, including Lake Victoria problems.

Reports from the World Water Week

- 1) Estonian programme of Radio Free Europe - Takashi Asano, Stockholm Water Prize winner 2001 (with live audio)
- 2) Estonian programme of Radio Free Europe -

Dialogue for Water, Food and Environment (with live audio - HRH Prince of Orange)

- 3) Estonian Radio - Overview of the WWW
- 4) Estonian Radio - Workshop "Dams and floods"
- 5) Estonian Radio - Workshop "Lake Victoria - Baltic Sea"

I also wrote an article about the WWW (incl. information on the journalist's workshop) for our popular magazine "Loodus" ("Nature") and I hope it will be published with some photos.

Now, I have an intention to write a bigger story about Lake Victoria and its problems and hope to get some pictures for it from my new friends (it is pretty evident that nobody of Estonian journalists will visit the place in the near future...).

Liina Lepik, Estonia:

Produced a one-hour program about drinking water in Estonia with a little overview of the World Water Week.

Girts Strazbins, Latvia

In this period of time we organized an event on a boat together with Sandijs Semjonovs at the end of August. Unfortunately I got ill, but Sandijs did the job alone. On the boat there were also five journalists.

There was a leading marine scientist in Latvia on the board explaining the Baltic Sea ecological situation. The event was shown in TV news as well. Actually I have not met Sandijs to discuss the results of this event yet. He is now working in Pakistan and as far he is the only Latvian there I think he will stay as long as he can. Maybe we will have to do another try and get all journalists who write on environment together for a discussion.

The message from the Water Symposium I can put in the magazine's October issue.

Audra Cepkauskaite, Lithuania:

About a seminar for environmental journalists here in Lithuania, I'm happy to say I have had a meeting with a manager who's specialty is to arrange culture events and of training. She runs a project for culture managers from Nordic-Baltic countries) and said OK to work with us. We need now an "information-partner", how about the association of environmental journalists in Sweden?

I don't know yet WHEN, WHERE and WHAT will be on this seminar. My idea is that it could be two days. One of them - tours to the environmental hot spots in Lithuania. It could be Butinge Oil Terminal (as far as I know, there will be no problems to get there), then one of the dumps - such hot spot we have several kilometers from Vilnius, and maybe some "local" hot spot, perhaps connected with a quality of drinking water or recycling things.

On a second day it could be talks - meetings with environmental specialists, scientists, prominent news and investigative journalists, environmental activists and business people - maybe it could be one of every group I mentioned. There could also be an exchange of ideas and discussions of how to build network of environmental journalists here in Lithuania.

Environmental journalists (or it's better to say journalists working often on environmental problems) would be invited, especially those from local newspapers, radio and TV stations, and also 3-4 students from the two last years at the Vilnius University Journalism Institute.

David Ohito, Kenya:

I met with the Head of department of Economics at Maseno University and they were asking for any lessons that can be borrowed from the shared waters of the Baltic Sea. I got into full gear and delivered a 15 minute lecture and they

later asked me to assist with literature and I gave them some of the excerpts from Stockholm Workshop to photocopy. They were impressed.

Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation invited me and Lillian Nsubuga from Uganda to cover one of their functions in a small underdeveloped beach along Lake Victoria. This was purely on the interests and training we have had on the lake.

In Sweden, I discussed future cooperation with a couple of Swedish photographers, for instance concerning a mobile photo exhibition in the villages around Lake Victoria, to reach out to the people concerned.

Chrysostom Rweyemanu, Tanzania:

I have published four articles on the World Water Week in Stockholm. (see attachments).

Elisabeth Birabwa, Uganda:

Meeting:

A brief report on what transpired at the Conference was presented to EJAU executive members during the monthly meeting held on 5th September. A written report was also distributed to all members. Members were particularly interested in the network of journalists, and were looking forward to cooperation with other colleagues in the Baltic Sea area and also in the East African region.

Distribution of materials:

We identified documents, presentations and reports that we thought were most relevant to our local situation, photocopied them and circulated them to the news editors and environmental journalists in the various media houses. These included:

1. The speech of the Secretary General of the East African Community at the opening of the Lake Victoria/Baltic Sea Seminar.

2. A summary of the Presentation by Dr. Orach Meza, on "The Lake Victoria Environment and its Progressing Development session".
3. The Press Release on the Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment.

Collection

The other materials we received were put in at our small collection at the Secretariat for members to use as background or reference materials for their stories or studies.

Stories/Articles:

Elizabeth Birabwa wrote two stories that were run on the three radio stations, one was on the opening of the World water week, with special reference to what was said at the Lake Victoria seminar. The second was on the formation of a network of journalists of the Baltic Sea and Lake Victoria region. Lillian Nsubuga also wrote a feature for the *Monitor Newspaper*, on how water scarcity is affecting global food and environmental security. The feature has never been published, but once it is I will send you a copy.

Albertine Uwimana, Rwanda

Concerning our last workshop in Stockholm, I would like to tell you that it was very fruitful to me, my employer and my colleagues. Still now, I often report on environmental issues because they know that I have some background informations about the subject.

In our weekly newsroom conference, I shared with my colleagues the experience I got from the workshop. Also during our informal discussions, I told them about the workshop and the need of cooperation in exchanging information and experience between the Journalists from lake Victoria

region and those from the Baltic sea region.

I also produced an article in "Imvaho news paper" which is the most read news paper in Rwanda, in the local language Kinyarwanda.

In that article I wrote about the recommendations which came out the workshop, with emphasis on cooperation between the Lake Victoria region and the Baltic sea region.

Espérance (Lisa) Ntiranyibagira, Burundi:

When I came from the Workshop in Stockholm, I shared the experience with my colleagues from Radio CCIB Fm+, where I work, for 15-20 minutes. I could not gather other journalists from other media because I don't have means; such as per diem or means for displacement. I have also to hire a room for the meeting.

During that meeting I especially spoke about the exchange of experience among journalists from Africa and from the Baltic sea Basin. The Baltic sea journalists perform well because their countries have settled strong policies for water management.

My colleagues from Radio CCIB FM+ and I have concluded that the organisation of public lectures and debates on topical environmental issues is crucial. We have to develop informative and educative programmes on environmental issues that directly have an impact on our society.

From the World Water Week in Stockholm, I have sent 5 stories, 3 in French (Burundi is a French speaking country) to Radio CCIB and 2 stories to BBC News in our local language.

I have tried to put an article in local newspapers but the editors refused the proposal because of money. They want 50 USD.



The Participants enjoy Swedish scenery.

Gunnel Bergström, Sweden:

After the World Water Week I wrote an article in VAV-nytt, the water and wastewater journal that I was the editor of. It was an interview with the SIWI director Sven-Erik Skogsfors and i.e. his deep involvement in a Swedish-African project on water education in the schools.

I also wrote a workshop summary, which was published in SIWI's newsletter WaterFront.

During the environmental conference Envisions, which was held in September in the Swedish town Västerås, I gave a small presentation about our workshop during. The presentation was included in a seminar on the Baltic Sea, Lake Victoria and the Swedish Lake Mälaren.

I am also using the experience from our workshop when planning future journalist seminars and workshop

I have been editing this final report, together with Erika Bjerström and Stephanie Blenckner.

Evaluation and Lessons Learned

Comments from the Participants

It was great meeting you all. *Lisa*

First of all I would like to thank U and Erika for this week rich of experience, knowledge and new contacts. For me personally it was a great week. with plenty of nice interviews. I brought home 164 minutes of recordings).

P.S. Thanks for Strindberg too. *Audra*

In fact the training/Workshop of the World water week has put a new dimension to my life. *David*

It was really great time in Stockholm. Thank you very much for your efforts to organize our workshop and nice excursion.

The week was really busy with different events. I personally did like our workshop very much. Besides some presentations in plenary session had been very interesting, too. There is almost no concern in the public in Latvia on drinking water issue, just if something happens with the quality of water. Unfortunately the situation is becoming worse in some parts of country and such issues will get more attention in the future probably. It was very interesting to meet all participants of the seminar, especially friends from Africa.

In the free time I had very usefull contacts with the editors of the magazine Sveriges Natur and the paper Hållbart (Sustainable). That gave me much practical information for my work. Besides I met project co-

ordinators from Håll Sverige Rent (Keep Sweden Clean) concerning the Eco-school campaign. Our organization is about to start this project in Latvia and the meeting gave me a very good picture how the campaign is organized in Sweden.

Thank you very much for your efforts to organise this nice workshop and really hope for our further co-operation. *Girts*

Thanks for the warm reception you accorded me during my brief visit to Stockholm.

The workshop on environmental journalism increased my horizon in reporting on water and environmental issues.

I hope we will keep in contact. Once again I thank you very much for your cooperation. *Francis*

It was nice in Stockholm and we thank you and Erika a lot for everything. I wish we could meet again in the same group as it was wonderful.

Please let us keep in touch, and greet everybody who made our stay in Stockholm very interesting. *Chrysostom*

I would like to say many thanks to the SIWI and SIDA and to the organizers of our workshop. I think it was a terrific possibility to learn about the situation in Africa and to meet nice and smart colleagues. I am sure that some fruitful contacts will be the direct result of this event. *Toomas*

Water Week in Stockholm was very fruitful and interesting. I've got a lot of interesting and fruitful material regarding waste water treatment and other topics.

I write articles in every newspaper "Green Lithuania" about this Water Week, about problems related with Baltic sea and lake Victoria, about waste water treatment and recycling. Thank you very much for inviting me to this Water Week. *Gedrimė*

In general, the symposium was organized in an excellent way. I guess, it is a great labour to handle more than one thousand specialists in various water issues from all over the world. I could not mark any failure in any item of the program.

The workshop for journalist was also a very good program, with intelligent, able and kind leaders — Erika Bjerstrom and Gunnel Bergstrom. It was a good idea to combine the journalist's workshop with participation in other events of the symposium, because, on one hand, we were interested in contacts and discussions with our colleagues from other countries, and on another hand, we would cover such a significant event as the World Water Week as reporters. In breaks and free evenings we shared our opinions on the symposium, and these conversations were a very



Lively discussions !

important component of our experience in it. As for me, I highly appreciate the possibility to get acquainted and in some cases make friends with my colleges both from Eastern Europe and Lake Victoria Region in this workshop. It was a lot of discussions, stories, sometimes controversies, which, I believe, have enriched our professional vision.

I think, it is no need to list here all the events of the symposium in which I have participated since I have scrupulously followed the recommendations of our program. One meeting extra the program was my visit (with my Latvian college Girts Strazbins) to the Sveriges Natur magazine office, where we contacted Mr. Mats Hellmark.

Best wishes, Thank you very much for the World Water Week and the Workshop, and for your kind attitude too. *Ivan*

I must tell you that I enjoyed it a lot. It was very interesting and well organised I learnt a lot about other countries experience in managing water issues. Water is vital, without it life is impossible. Even though we still enjoy rain falls, we observe little by little water scarcity. Nowadays some regions in Burundi face a lot of drought this, the country has to settle a water policy in order to avoid difficulties generated by the lack or insufficiency of water.

I also enjoyed the entertainment held by Ms Erika and Ms Gunnel and by Mr Claes. They are really professional.

From that time I understood the difference between an environmental journalist and an activist from Greenpeace.

Apart from the daily reports an environmental journalist has to identify sensitive issues and broadcast them after many verifications. I have also realized

that lack of information and knowledge has incapacitated today's generation to appreciate the environment. *Lisa*

The message to the journalist workshop was also that we ought to see and report on little things in nature in our neighbourhood.

Gunnel

ATTACHMENT 1

Program for the Environmental Journalist Workshop

(The participants also got the general program for the World Water Week and a special program for press events).

Friday, August 10, evening. Arrivals.

Saturday, August 11, morning. Arrivals.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11 Journalist workshop part 1

14.00 Waxholm boat from Grand Hotel to Hasseludden. Informal workshop start in a little glass summerhouse.

15.00 Welcome to the workshop!

– Presentation of the participants and the program.

Ms. Gunnel Bergström, Ms. Erika Bjerström

Introduction

– Environmental journalism today and tomorrow. Comparing the regions. Environmental journalists associations - national and international.

18.00 Barbeque Dinner

Informal discussions:

- How to report on environmental issues in an informative, attractive way (approach, layout and design, humour, satire etc.) How to compete in the news room. Some examples. These issues will always be commented along the whole workshop.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12 World Water Week

09.00 Seminar on Lake Victoria/Baltic Sea */participation requested/*

12.30 Lunch

16.30 Conclusions of the seminar

MONDAY, AUGUST 13 World Water Week

09.00 Press conference */participation requested/*

10.00 Stockholm Water Symposium –
opening and Plenary Session */participation recommended/*

12.00 Lunch

13.30 The Plenary Session continues. We especially recommend:

15.30 – Evangelizing in the Media Age: American and Swedish Perspective on How to Spread Your Message.

Mr. Olle Wästberg, Consul General of Sweden in New York

– The EU Water Framework Directive - a European Key to Catchment-based Governance.

Dr. Fritz Holzwarth, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Water Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

17.30 End of Plenary Session

18.30 Reception at the Stockholm City Hall

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14 Journalist Workshop part 2

09.00 Journalist workshop. part II

How to report on different environmental issues. Where to find and how to use different information sources. How to create attractive reporting. (Dramatization, telling a story). Failure/Success, impact? Putting on the green glasses (Identifying environmental news in the news flow). Further reporting at home, after the workshop.

12.00 Lunch

13.30 */requested participation in the symposium workshop/*

– Accounting for Water: Are Agriculture and the Environment Competing?

Mr. David Molden, IWMI

Main speech

- Close links between ecology and economy.

Mr. Claes Sjöberg, founder of Tomorrow Magazine

17.30 End of Journalist Workshop, part 2.

19.00 Junior Water Prize Award Ceremony.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15 World Water Week

09.00 Participation recommended in the symposium workshops. We especially recommend:

Workshop 9. How to Increase the Status of Water Issues in Governance and in Public Perception, for instance, the introductory speech:

– Lack of awareness Not Only the Failure of Media
Ms. Erika Bjerström, Sweden

12.00 Lunch

13.30 The workshops continue

17.00 The workshops end

Symposium Dinner in the evening at the Vasa Museum.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16 World Water Week

8.30 Plenary Session. */participation recommended/*

We especially recommend:

10.30 – Water policy Differences between a Western Country and a Country in Economic Transition
Mr H.E. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania

Afternoon: Study visit to Swedish Television Studios. Erika Bjerström

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, World Water Week

08.00 Technical tour

Waterworks Lovön *Ulf Eriksson*
Organic farming, Ekerö. *Mr Tom Rydström*

Gunnel Bergström, tour leader

Afternoon:

Journalist Workshop part 3

Concluding workshop

14.00 Presentations and discussion. Topics:

- Summarizing the World Water Week
- Follow-up. Planning of how to disseminate insights and ideas at home, for instance through inviting colleagues to a smaller seminar with similar topics
- Further reporting. Own articles and programs.
- How to create a Baltic Sea/Lake Victoria net.

Planning of how and when to hand in the further reporting.

Reuion in the future?

Ideas about a handbook on environmental reporting.

17.00 End of Journalist Workshop

Informal meeting and goodbye- buffet with journalists, scientists, NGOs

END

ATTACHMENT 2**List of Participants**

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ATTACHMENT 3

Selection of the articles published after the World Water Week

The Water and the Week

The 11th International Water Week was held in Stockholm from August 12 to 16, 2001. This year, the event gathered over 1,000 experts.

Box: Stockholm is probably the most appropriate city to make it a setting for a large-scale international discussion about water. Water is a key integrate part in the cold beauty of the northern capital – and this fact is always emphasized in tourist directories. It was a mere thirty years ago that the city's major lake was described as a container for a liquid whose chemical content was rich sufficiently even to develop a film.

However, the efforts and funds that have lately been invested in Stockholm's water sector enabled the city's residents to boast swimming in the central Stockholm.

Birth Factor

It does not make much sense to explain why people talk about water. Some nations have more water, some have less. Even in the event that the water supply is sufficient, water may be less or more contaminated.

Thus, the recent World Week Water was mostly focused on a global water shortage. 450 million are presently facing the problem. The predicted 30 to 70 m rise in the combined population over the next several decades is expected to produce even more acute problems concerning the supply of clean water.

In his report, HRH Prime of Orange Willem-Alexander forecasted the combined population totaling 2.7 bln would face water shortage by 2025.

This is why the birth factor was one of the symposium's top priorities. Particularly, Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of the Global Water Partnership, emphasized the necessity of the sexual education of female teenagers.

However, other participants concentrated their reports on irrigation water saving, the enhancement of water purification systems, water reuse technologies, and public attention toward the issue.

Heroes and Children

Prominent water reuse expert from the University of California at Davis, Prof. Takashi Asano, has been awarded the 2001 Stockholm Water Prize.

Another winner was General Motors de Mexico that managed to reduce water consumption twofold with a simultaneous sevenfold production rise at its facility based in Ramos Arizpe since 1986.

Being represented by St. Petersburg Leonid Korovin, Russia was also awarded the Swedish-Baltic Water Award for the enhancement of the Baltic environment.

Other awards in the Week included the Youth Prize. This year, it was handed to the Stockholm team.

No Russian teams were present in the contests, and this fact should set Russian environmental authorities to serious thinking.

While looking at the heroes of the Stockholm Week, I could not drive away a problem: If these persons' water-related efforts are somehow – with the use of some conditional units – balanced with the total number of global water problems, would we be able to find an individual who could be patient enough to count the zeros after the point.

To keep ourselves from losing optimism, let us hope the children yet to be born in the water deficient African districts will be like Prof. Asano or Mr. Korovin, and drive

cars produced by GM de Mexico under modern water-saving technologies.

Victoria

One of the seminars concerned Victoria, the lake that discharges the Nile, and that – until recently – seemed in Russia and Europe to be something exotic and hopelessly remote.

Why was the Stockholm conference so interested in considering Victoria issues? What do the two water bodies – Victoria and the Baltic Sea – have in common?

First of all, the Baltic and Victoria areas are similar geographically. Being separated from other Atlantic seas by the narrow Skagerrak, the Baltic Sea as an eco-system can be regarded as a large lake.

The coastal line of Victoria is divided between Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. Burundi is also sometimes included in the list. The combined population of these countries totals about 30 m, and this is another feature similar to that in the Baltic area. But differences are more numerous than similarities – climate, nature and, most important, history. In addition, the Victoria Lake lacks an organization like the Baltic's HELCOM.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – a key organization in the symposium – supports, however, not only the Baltic-based environment-protection projects, but also political/social development in the Victoria area.

Even if the world can be divided into 'developed' and 'underdeveloped' countries, its 'developed' part – in our case represented by SIDA – is forward-looking enough to build bridges between the Victoria Lake and the Baltic Sea. And these bridges may eventually become of common use for both areas.

Map box: Victoria. World's second largest lake. Located 1,134 m above sea level. Area: 68,200 sq. m. Maximum depth: over 100 m. Home for rare relict lungfish who is said to be 300-million-year-old and able

to keep air in its gills, being similar in this capability with its land relatives.

Box: However, the Victoria needs preservation today. The anthropochore, tropical hyacinth eichornia, is literally choking the lake. In addition, the eutrophication of the lake is prompted by an increasing use of fertilizers in the coastal agriculture. Local fishermen witness that fish leaves the coast.

Participants in the World Water Week 2001 comprised the following organizations:

American Society of Civil Engineers, American Water Resources Association, American Water Works Association, Asociacion Interamericana de Ingenieria Sanitaria y Ambiental, Australian Water Association, Carl Duisberg Foundation, Charter Institute of Water and Environment Management, East African Community, Global Water Partnership, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Water Association, International Water Management Institute, Water Resources Association, New Zealand Water and Wastes Association, Stockholm International Water Institute, Stockholm Water Foundation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swedish Institute, Third World Centre for Water Management, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Economic and Social Council, United Nations Environmental Programme, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Water Environmental Federation, World Environment Federation, World Health Organization, World Water Council, Water institute of South Africa.

Detailed information is available at the Stockholm International Water Institute, SIWI

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Ivan Krasnov

Semaine Mondiale de l'Eau(Eléments qui sont passés à la Radio CCIB FM+)

Du 13 – 16 Août 2001 s'est tenue à Stockholm, en Suède, la Semaine Mondiale de l'Eau et le Symposium de l'Eau de Stockholm, un événement organisé chaque année. Le thème principal de l'année : « Le Dialogue, un pont pour la Coopération ». Plus de 1300 personnes représentant plus de 100 pays étaient présents dans ce séminaire.

En Afrique, l'organisation de la communauté Est-Africaine (Kenya, Ouganda et Tanzanie) était spécialement invitée.

En effet, un séminaire sur les relations de coopération entre les pays qui longent la Mer Baltique et ceux du Lac Victoria s'est tenue le 12/8/2001.

Dans ce discours, le Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation de la Communauté Est-Africaine, Mr Amany Mushenga a dit que la coopération entre les deux régions ne signifie pas coopération entre pays pauvres et pays riches. Il a fait ces remarques suites aux discours prononcés par les représentants des deux régions. Ces discours ont montré le caractère dépendant avec ses partenaires des pays Baltiques. Ces derniers devraient savoir que les pays du Bassin du Lac Victoria disposent de beaucoup de richesses inexploitées.

Un partenariat de développement devrait se baser sur le respect mutuel, le partage

mutuel des bénéfiques et reconnaître qu'une région est aussi importante que l'autre et qu'elles disposent des avantages comparatifs.

Les pays du Bassin du Lac Victoria s'intéresse beaucoup à l'expérience technologique avancée des pays Baltiques afin de l'appliqués chez eux pour un développement durable.

Le Secrétaire exécutif de l'organisation de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est a saisi cette occasion pour demander aux opérateurs économiques mondiaux de venir investir dans le Bassin. Les opportunités d'investissement se trouvent notamment dans la pêche, la foresterie, l'agriculture, le transport, l'énergie, l'aménagement des eaux ainsi que l'industrie et le tourisme.

D'autre part, la Semaine Mondiale de l'Eau s'est caractérisée par la remise des prix aux lauréats du concours portant sur la recherche scientifique sur l'eau dans leurs pays respectifs. Des représentants de 18 pays venant des 5 continents ont eu comme prix une sculpture en cristal bleu ayant la forme d'une goutte d'eau. Le 1^{er} lauréat, un suédois a reçu, en plus, 5000 USD.

Notons que le Nigeria et l'Afrique du Sud ont sauvé l'honneur du continent africain en recevant des prix. Rappelons que l'année dernière l'heureux gagnant était un américain.

Au cours de ce séminaire, les journalistes du Bassin du Lac Victoria (Burundi, Kenya, Ouganda, Rwanda et Tanzanie) ainsi que ceux du Bassin de la Mer Baltique ont eu des échanges sur leurs différentes expériences sur l'environnement. Sous la supervision de deux journalistes suédoises de grande renommée (Mme Erika et Günnel) et Claes, ils nous ont dit que reporter sur l'environnement constitue un travail délicat parce qu'on touche les intérêts de

plus d'un. Le journaliste doit se cacher derrière les bénéficiaires (la population), l'administration ainsi que les spécialistes en matière.

Nous avons partagé l'expérience avec mes collègues de la CCIB FM+ et ils ont suggéré une formation en la matière, genre Séminaire national et régional.

Les journalistes ne doivent jamais se confondre aux activistes (Greenpeace movement).

Notons que la prochaine Semaine Mondiale de l'Eau est prévue pour Septembre prochain en Afrique du Sud.

Espérance NTIRANYIBAGIRA

Chrysostom Rweyemanu, Tanzania:

I have published four articles on the World Water Week in Stockholm.

Report by the EJAU Chairperson and General Secretary

Participation

Ten countries participated in the workshop that brought together journalists from the Lake Victoria region and the Baltic Sea region. They included Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia.

Issues Discussed

1. Right from the first day, participants discussed the issue of whether journalists should keep their opinions and feelings in or out of their stories. The discussion and arguments that were exchanged during this debate were proof of the extent of alertness that should be exercised by environmental journalists.

Although there was no consensus reached between the participants, the course facilitators, Gullen Bergstrom and Erika Bjerstorm said journalists should be careful about taking sides in an environmental controversy.

Erika recounted an earlier experience when she was faced with an environmental controversy regarding the construction of a bridge in the middle of the Baltic Sea. Although most environmental groups in Europe strongly opposed the project, she was careful not to be taken by the emotional outbursts that preceded construction of the bridge. She presented as objective a scenario as possible, which was lucky for her, because eventually, the bridge actually posed no environmental threats to the communities.

Her co-facilitator, Gunnel Bergstrom urged participants to use the "flute method" when faced with situations that involve making tough decisions about getting involved in a controversy or distancing themselves in environmental conflicts. The flute method involved giving the human angle to the story either in form of pictures or graphics.

2. The importance of being aggressive and alert when investigating and writing about environmental issues was also discussed.

3. During the workshop it was agreed that journalists must become active participants in spreading word about the importance of conserving both Lake Victoria and the Baltic Sea. To this end, the need for a strong co-operation between journalists from Africa and Eastern Europe was discussed, and steps were taken to establish such co-operation.

World Water Week

But aside from the workshop proceedings, journalists attended press conferences and seminars that discussed other issues regarding the global water situation. Some of the key issues that cropped up included:

awareness of both water bodies if successfully implemented.

1. Agriculture and its importance to the management of water resources
2. The role of the private sector in the water industry
3. How can business and industry contribute to water security and sustainable development?
4. The importance of waste water treatment to water management in the 21st Century.

Presentations by Workshop

Participants

On 11th, 14th and 17th August, journalists made presentations and showed videos on the environmental situation in their countries.

The presentations ranged from "The State of environmental reporting" in Poland and Uganda made by Adam Wajrak and Elizabeth Birabwa. The state of environmental reporting on the "Nile Basin Initiative" by Esperance from Burundi. "Rampart Deforestation" by Albertine Uwimana from Rwanda and "Waste Water Treatment problems" by Gedrime from Lithuania.

Observation

It was quite evident during the workshop that journalists from Eastern Europe had no knowledge about the environmental issues prevailing in the Lake Victoria region, and vice versa.

Conclusions

The environmental journalism workshop was an eye-opener to the various opportunities open to journalists in informing and educating the public concerning the conservation of Lake Victoria and the Baltic Sea. The network that was formed between the journalists of the two regions could help in increasing

The logo for the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), featuring the letters 'SIWI' in a blue serif font. To the right of the letters is a vertical blue bar with a white wavy line at the bottom.The logo for the Stockholm Water Prize, consisting of the words 'STOCKHOLM WATER PRIZE' stacked vertically in a black serif font, with wavy lines above and below the text.The logo for the Stockholm Water Prize, consisting of the words 'STOCKHOLM WATER PRIZE' stacked vertically in a red serif font, with wavy lines above and below the text.The logo for the Stockholm Water Symposium, consisting of the words 'STOCKHOLM WATER SYMPOSIUM' stacked vertically in a black serif font, with wavy lines above and below the text.

THE STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL
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The Stockholm International Water Institute is a scientific, technical and educational organization that contributes to international efforts to combat the escalating global water crisis. SIWI facilitates research, raises awareness and stimulates action on world water issues.

SIWI's work is based on the knowledge and experience gained during years of innovative water-related activities in Stockholm and on close cooperation with universities, technical societies and scientific institutions from around the world.