

SDG 16- Peace, justice & strong institutions

Global Cluster lead:- University of Nairobi, Kenya, Wangari Maathai Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies

SDG 16: The University of Nairobi, through Wangari Maathai Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) the SDG 16 on peace, Justice and strong institution is working on different initiatives to enhance the work of SDG 16 within the SDG three broad categories of Peace, Just and Inclusive societies, which covers among others reducing violence, effective and transparent institutions, ensure responsive, participatory decision making, strengthen institutions through cooperation, promote non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable communities and conflict prevention. Some of these initiatives that have been covered include the following; On September 27, 2019, WMI hosted final stop as symbol in honor of the late Prof Wangari Maathai and her efforts in championing climate justice and peaceful coexistence. The climate walk organized by Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) one of the WMI strategic partner marked the climax of the Global Climate Week. The walk was organized in partnership with OXFAM, 350.ORG, the Kenya Platform for Climate Governance, Christian Aid among others. Mr. Charles Mwangi, the Thematic Lead for Resilient Economies, Societies and People led the walk. The theme of the walk was *One Voice Climate Action* focusing majorly on two sub-themes: 100% Renewable Energy and Climate Induced Migration and Conflicts. <https://wmi.uonbi.ac.ke/latest-news/wangari-maathai-institute-peace-and-environmental-studies-wmi-co-hosts-climate-change>. WMI also organized and hosted a 5-day workshop with the University of Copenhagen (February 10-14th 2020) on peace building through mediation between Kenya forest service and forest adjacent community (community forest associations) at University of Nairobi, Wangari Maathai Institute Peace labs (<https://wmi.uonbi.ac.ke/index.php/latest-news/mediation-training-workshop-wangari-maathai-institute>). To advance the legacy and works of Nobel Laureate Prof Wangari Maathai WMI together with Green Belt movement organized two events to celebrate Wangari Maathai Day on 3rd March 2020. One in capital city of Nairobi as public event and one with a primary school. <https://wmi.uonbi.ac.ke/index.php/news>). Africa Environment Day, celebrated annually on 3 March, was established by the Organization of African Unity in 2002 as a way of raising awareness of the pressing environmental challenges facing the continent. Since 2012, the Africa Environment Day has been celebrated in conjunction with Wangari Maathai Day, in order to pay tribute to the late Nobel Laureate's green legacy. WMI also works with schools, to support teaching for finding peaceful ways to resolve conflict, an event has been planned for 20th March but this has put on hold cancelled due to COVID-19 and will be reviewed in the course of the year. On cooperation and promotion of global citizenship WMI organised together with the University of Copenhagen a 12 days field course (SLUSE), hosted by local communities in central Kenya on resources use and governance (27th Feb- 12th March 2020) in Kenya, that involved 35 students from 7 nationalities. This course has been organized annually since 2012. Dr. Thenya had been invited to speak as a guest at Right Livelihood College conference on environmental justice and conflict in sub-sahara Africa, (9-14th May 2020, University of Bonn, [Center for Development Research](https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/right-livelihood-college-2020-international-workshop/) (ZEF) Germany <https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/right-livelihood-college-2020-international-workshop/>), which has been cancelled due to Covid 19 development. WMI participated in building events to Earth day celebration on 16th April 2020 as way of promoting sustainable and peaceful co-existence, which was done as webinar together with Earth Africa, Earth USA and Greenbelt. This is in addition to participating in Earth day online activities, which was occasioned by COVID-19 lockdown development that restricted field activities. The cluster continues to work closely with Green Belt movement in promoting cultures of peace and good governance including advocating for citizen participation in decision making. WMI as way of promoting cultures of peace, cultivate positive ethics and promote holistic sustainable development trains change agent through masters and doctoral programme on environmental governance.