

## Size of Wales Virtual Learning Event

### Summary:

On Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October Size of Wales convened our first ever international tree growing learning event. Over 45 individuals came together from organisations in Wales, Uganda, Senegal, Kenya, Zanzibar, and the UK to hear and understand how different organisations are supporting communities to grow trees and restore tropical forest areas in Africa and South-East Asia as part of Wales' national response to climate change.

This document is a summary of presentations as an aide to access the detail in the online recording and the presentations kindly shared by those who presented. Link to the [recording here](#) and indicative time for each speaker is shown, so you can use slider to if you want to find specific section. Presentations are available here.

### Session Learning summary points

**Introduction** (starts 2m10): Barbara Davies-Quy, Deputy Director, Size of Wales

**Welcome** (11m): Carwyn Jones, Chair of Trustees, Size of Wales

### Session 1: Session 1: Balancing the benefits of tree growing and forest restoration across the environment, climate, and people

Ru Hartwell and John Bett (Bore, Kenya), Dr Tim Pagella (Bangor University), Dr Cathryn MacCallum (Sazani Associates), Safia Mkubwa and Rajab Suleiman (Sazani Trust), Dr TC Hales (Cardiff University)

(16m50) The session was opened by Ru Hartwell, who emphasised the need to listen and value the local community and their needs, with the potential tensions highlighted between different actors for donor, community, project implementor. Any project or programme of work should, as John Bett described, firstly recognise the importance of understanding the challenges faced by people living and working in the areas and impact of climate change on them. In Bore, Kenya, the need to look at the entire ecosystem was explained in developing a restoration plan.

(28m30) Tim Pagella, explained, that as landscapes are degrading, and in exploring the context, an approach is to work in partnership with farmers to understand what and how trees will provide immediate benefits to the communities in terms of agroforestry and then look to the wider context. Not just a case of planting trees but considering the right trees in the right place (and as later added, at the right time) in a landscape restoration process. Local people have both experience and local knowledge so it's essential that we learn from them and use this knowledge to go forward.

(40m30) In the context of Zanzibar, a highly vulnerable island to the impacts of climate change Dr Cathryn MacCallum, Safia Mkubwa and Rajab Suleiman explained how their

blue economy project – looks at all the different aspects of a marine economy and managing these in a sustainable way. In this case, balancing the economic benefits of tourism, with recognition of the impact in terms of environmental degradation and destruction of mangrove areas, which is only compounded further by climate change. The mangroves are a rich resource and a critical carbon sink and so staff are supporting schools and training teachers to understand their importance and the need for protection. This has involved including student designed project and solutions to enable communities to better understand and engage with the problems and solutions.

(54:00) Dr TC Hales from Regrow Borneo, the session closed with the need to understand the long-term vision of restoration projects with Borneo being a focus having been heavily degraded over the last 50 years, and the again the importance of valuing local communities. Restoration projects require investment over time not just in delivery, so there are further questions of who monitors over these long periods and who financially supports this effort.

(1h07m) Panel reflections

### **Session 2: How can tree growing promote gender rights?**

Teresa Gitonga (International Tree Foundation, Kenya), Madeleine Scordellis (TreeSisters), Lorna Alum (Mount Elgon Tree Growing Enterprise)

(1h20m) Teresa Gitonga explained the importance of going beyond community involvement and ensuring women's participation in projects, highlighting that over 1.3 billion people depend on forests and forest resources for their livelihoods and with assumption that approx. 50% are women, of these most women are not involved in the governance of these resources on which they rely and play a significant role in managing. There are several issues such as land ownership but there are a number of opportunities, that go beyond women's representation on committees and include empowerment and training. These were explored with stories, and examples of challenges and successes.

(1h40m) Madeleine Scordellis introduced another critical but less explored perspective in the role of women in tree growing, with how we should engage with the environment and Mother Earth. With consideration that most of the time projects don't focus on root causes of damage and degradation, and that the effort can simply restore the initial imbalance. This requires looking beyond treating the mother earth as a resource, which is a patriarchal view and mirrors how women too have been treated globally. Giving agency to women and restoring the earth also requires restoring the position of women, restoring relationship between people and the environment. An example of work included, women no longer cutting down trees to pay for healthcare but instead using forest seedlings/compost in exchange for healthcare.

(1h53m) Lorna Alum shared her approach within METGE and the project in Mt Elgon, both developing an understanding from within the organisation of need to place gender equality in tree growing at the heart of the organisation in terms of shift to wider

inclusion, and then the work and support to partners. Studies highlighted the current role of women, often leading the farming with support of the youth. They have specific needs and also identify the trees of greatest value to them. Although there is limited practical knowledge, the tree nurseries managed by women are producing high quality seedlings, and reflecting research empowering youth and women, and enhancing their participation and enabling access to information – brings benefits for the whole project as well as for women. Greater need to support an enabling environment and for women to support and mobilise and encourage other women to participate.

(2h07m): Panel 2 reflections

**Keynote** (2h29m30) from Lee Waters MS (Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Welsh Government)

### **Session 3: Incentivising tree growing at local and regional levels and promote community led action**

Carmel Moran, Khady Tendeng, Ansumana Sanneh (United Purpose, Senegal); Godfrey Natwaluma (Mount Elgon Tree Growing Enterprise), and Paul Wagstaff (Self Help Africa)

(2h51m) Carmel Moran, Khady Tendeng and Ansumana Sanneh outlined the Go Eco project in Senegal, with focus on promotion of community led action and how in supporting decision making and communities regaining power, it enabled communities and individuals to make decisions in their interests which both countered timber trafficking, leakage of income and supported better conservation. This required investment in building capacity of local actors to advocate for the environment and understand their own rights and access in terms of community forests and capacity building of management committees. It echoed previous session in identifying the role of women, and them being able to take ownership of their own resources and take appropriate decisions.

(3h12m) Paul Wagstaff shared an example of work at Lake Bunyonyi in Uganda, where landscape overuse and erosion are a problem in this mountainous area. A functional landscape approach has been adopted with grants provided to Natural Resource committees to engage them and support them in implementing their plans. This has led to mixed uses with important forest reserves in the area and limited space for woodlots. Contour planting has reduced soil erosion, and this proved to be a good example of and benefits of the approach during periods of heavy rain experienced with areas where trees were planted not suffering any landslides. He also highlighted the Forest HQ app that United Purpose have signed up to use, which enables them to sample trees in the forest and track tree growth.

(3h30m) Godfrey Natwaluma outlined the work in Mt Elgon region and their focus on understanding community needs as well as promoting community action by identifying barriers that prevent people planting trees, training people, empowering communities, and targeting communities appropriately. This can look like exploration of the socio-

cultural incentives or economic incentives such as fruits for sale or income, woodlots for livelihood improvement, land conservation to increase coffee production.

#### **Session 4: Towards impact measurement- monitoring**

Michael Sunday and Alex Harris (Mount Elgon Tree Growing Enterprise) and Dr TC Hales (Regrow Borneo)

(3h45m) Michael Sunday introduced and outlined the work on monitoring change in Uganda Current emphasis is on monitoring trees in the community nurseries and then surveying of trees and their growth at different ecological sites to help build a picture of change. On a livelihood level, monitoring is now focusing on bee keeping livelihoods and installation and use of Lorena fuel efficient stoves, to understand more immediate outcome of activities that support wider tree growing and forest protection work.

(3h53) Alex Harris described some of the digital monitoring tools now in use and how these are used across the project. Key to digital data collection are the 17 staff using smart phones and interacting with nursery bed operators and community members to gather data on tree planting sites and growth. This data collection combined with use of satellite tools to track trees is a means to show the changes occurring. Surveys going forward will show. which trees have survived, and which have not, or that have been grown as wood material? The data system has been designed so that in the future data can be pulled easily for analysis and to support management, as well as being used to demonstrate the story of change.

(4h03m) TC Hales closed this session by asking the important question in relation to monitoring and evaluation, and the budget and staff investment needed. There was recognition that effective M&E is a given requisite to secure donor support and also of securing academic research funding. It will always require committed staff and access to appropriate tools/ facilities but these need to be proportionate to what the long-term goals of the project. Regrow Borneo monitor sites through drone surveys collecting visual data which can give immediate indicator of restoration efforts, and also be interpreted using technology to provide other indicators of success.

**Plenary and Close:** Nicola Pulman (Size of Wales) and Robert Penn (Stump up for Trees)

(4h13m) Plenary from Rob and Nicola

Please find details of the presentations available, not all speakers used a powerpoint.

Session 1: Presentations from John Bett, Sazani Associates, TC Hales

Session 2: METGE

Session 3: Presentations from United Purpose, METGE, Self Help Africa

Session 4: Presentations from METGE and Regrow Borneo