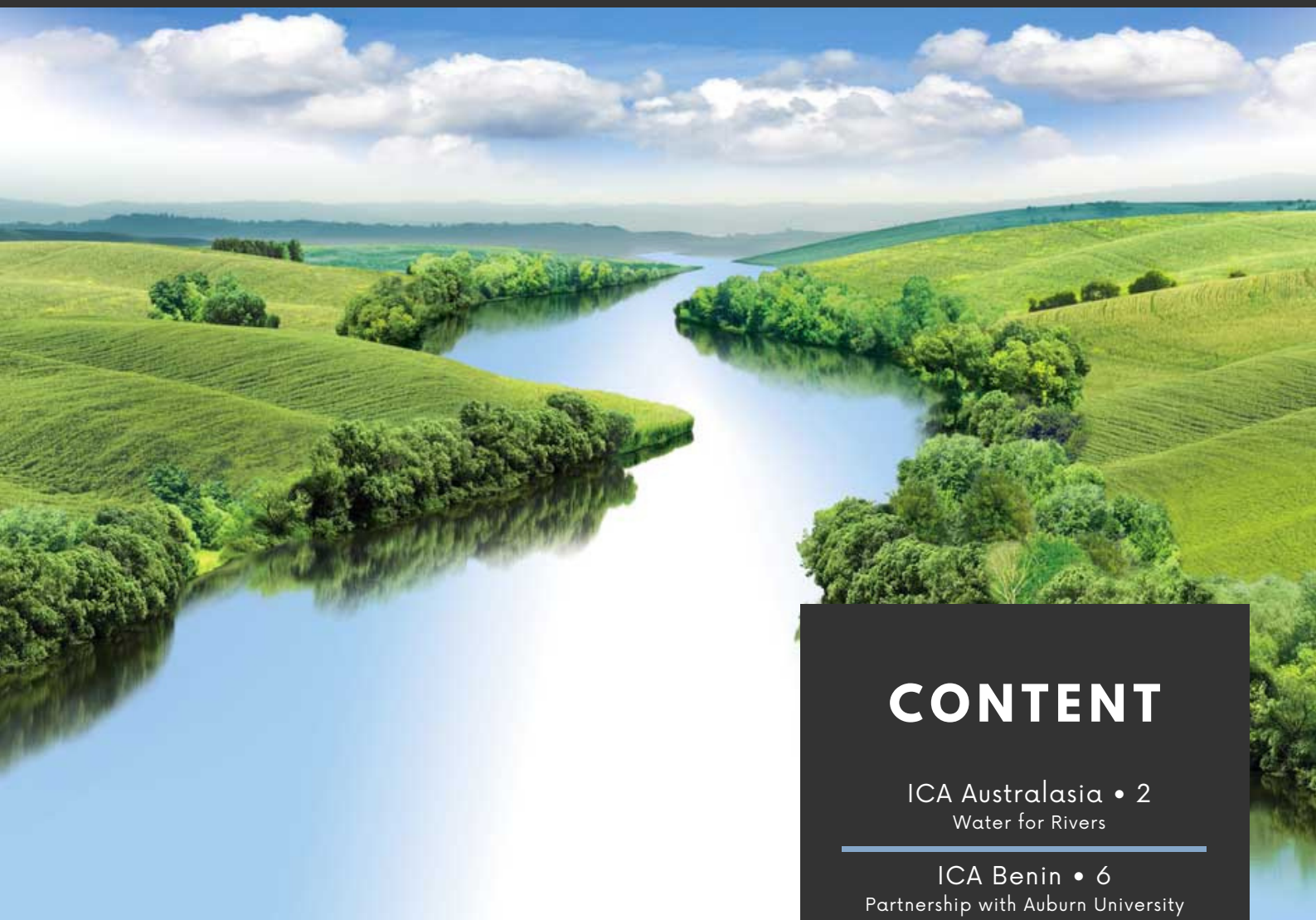


Global Buzz

JULY 2022



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ICA 
INTERNATIONAL



Water for Rivers

Water Protectors Again Sail For River Flows

Even though it was not a secret, back in April 2022, quietly, almost under the radar and for the second time in two years, Australian boaties, who are concerned about industrial scale water extraction from our inland rivers, have hit the decks-a-running and taken to the waves for The 2nd Darling/Baaka River Convoy.

The Darling/Baaka River Convoy is part of a national public education push to inform all peoples about what is being done to Australia's rivers, lakes, wetlands and marshes through unsustainable water-sharing plans, and wild ungoverned water trading practices.

As in the first Convoy, the second attracted participants from Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Sydney, Echuca, the Victorian Mallee and the Central and Mid North Coast of NSW. We were also joined by local supporters from Broken Hill, Menindee, Pooncarie and Wentworth.

Recent high-water flows and mud-laden banks created problems in accessing the river in Menindee, so, the Convoy travelled south by road and put the boats into the Darling/Baaka River at Pooncarie and then travelled 240 kilometres to Wentworth, where the Darling Baaka flows into the Murray River. We were met by indigenous leaders, and the The NSW Water Police escorted the convoy the final leg into Wentworth's main wharf.



Participants in the Darling/Baaka Convoy are optimistic that the new federal government will implement their election promise and create a Federal ICAC (FICAC) or Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Through this, many suspect deals in water and irrigation licensing can be illuminated. Therefore, justice may be forthcoming, for the ecosystems biodiversity, wetlands, and the people of the Darling/Baaka River.

It is hoped, those who have plundered and spoiled one of Australia's most important river catchments can be reckoned with and under the guidance of the new Federal Water Minister, a sustainable, sensitive and fair program of water management may yet be realized for Australia.

Many people in the Western Sector of NSW have wanted a Federal Royal Commission to implement the Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP) and the effects of water-trading on the bio region and its smaller towns and communities. The FICAC or ACC would be acting as a standing Royal Commission, able to compel witnesses to testify, and therefore, able to access the truth, about so many millions and billions of dollars, that seem to have vanished through the MDBP over the past decades with minimal to no positive outcomes for the Riverine Habitat.

There are plans for future River Convoys traveling from Bourke, Louth or Tilpa, to Menindee, if the water is flowing.

With seven boats finishing the 2nd Darling/Baaka River Convoy on May 1st, a call of "MAY-DAY for our rivers" was proclaimed from the riverbank to end the event – written and spoken by Tuesday Browell: "It seems incredible that in 2022 when we have so much water in our rivers that we need to call out a MayDay distress call for our Darling Baaka. This river is a national treasure, full of historical, cultural and natural wild beauty. A place that deserves our attention. She is the second largest river in Australia and provides up to 40% of the Murray Rivers water in its lower sections.

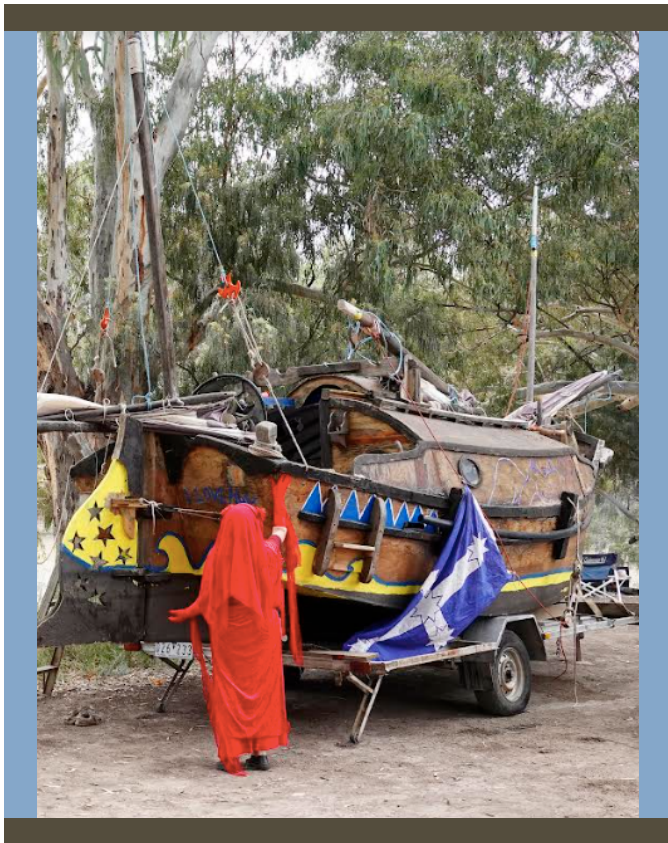


"This river needs water in her to be called a river and that water should be moving. The Darling Baaka River needs low, medium and high flows to keep her alive. Her ecological values and her importance to our continent is intrinsic to our survival. Water is our life support system - not a commodity - and if we cannot separate the two we as a nation of people have little hope. People and our environment are more important than profit. We cannot eat money."

"Let us have some understanding and respect for the country and know that we rely on rivers and that rivers rely on us for our guardianship. This attitude is a sign of a healthy intelligent nation. Rivers are not ours to own, to buy, to sell. We share the rivers and wetlands with animals, plants and all living things. Rivers have spirit, stories, folklore, dreaming, myths, patterns; and rivers breathe and flow when they are healthy and we pay homage to that lore."

"This river may have water flowing in her, but the quality of the water is not good enough. Pollution from upstream and chemical use leads us to cry for change in farming practices. Upstream water traders and agents make huge profits at the expense of downstream, where farmers must make do with the tail ends of disaster. We all deserve water we can drink, water we can swim in, water we can eat the fish from."

"Mismanagement, greed and corruption reign and we are disgusted at what large companies are getting away with and how they consistently demonstrate that they couldn't care less. We want complete guardianship. A management system that will feed the future generations. Climate change is not accounted for in the plan? Why? We must look far into our future. So this convoy is to speak for our river, our mighty darling Baaka River who is being raped and pillaged by successive governments and authorities over so many years. Nature has answered the call; but our government continues to do nothing. We are witnessing acts that are completely incompatible with a civilized society. When will we learn that we cannot extract more water from a system than it has the capacity to give."



We say our rivers, our responsibility, our country.

We say:

- Rip up all water trading contracts to all international entities. Default on the deals and pay the price in order to get back our national asset. Stop water trading and internal transfers.
- Connect water back to land and no more water trading to agents of large foreign owned monoculture hedge funds that profit from selling our water with not a care for our country.
- We demand a public Register of all water traders.

- Royal commission into our water management. Stall the plan to do this if need be.
- Wherever there is a weir, put in a fish ladder that works and boat ramps above and below weirs to enhance connectivity and navigability.
- More environmental flows, more environmental flows and more environmental flows. Obtain this from the northern basin and allow our rivers and wetlands to live.
- Listen to each community along the waterways and act on their knowledge we need more consultation and participation of cultural practices.
- Recognize that the first fleet of ships in Australia were not Captain Cooks, but our very own First Nations people who had master shipwrights that have made thousands and thousands of boats on every river and waterway of Australia.

Let us Enjoy what is already here, let's keep things simple. Let's stop greed and corruption from killing everything. Each person can and must take personal responsibility. Don't blame politics. Australians need to make a stand. We need to ensure that healthy rivers are here for our future generations.

Together, we can!

Robyn Hutchinson, ICA Australasia: rjhutchinson48@gmail.com



Partnership with Auburn University

In September 2019, ICA Benin received an important delegation from Auburn University (Alabama, USA). Conducted by Mr Cook, the president of this university, the members participated to many working sessions with ICA Benin board members and then with the representatives of University of Abomey Calavi. Finally, they decided to establish a partnership with ICA Benin as their representative in Benin. But, due to COVID 19 situation, activities did not start.

This year, ICA Benin organized five days workshops in entrepreneurship and leadership for women and youth in collaboration with Auburn University From 10 to 16 June 2022 in Benin. More than 150 participants attended these trainings. Facilitators come from this university : Mrs Elizabeth Quansah, Outreach Departement Coordinator and Lakemi Baker , Professor in Entrepreneurship Department.

Participants who completed the training, received certificates. The same event will take place again next year

Kassimou Issotina, ICA Benin: issotinakas@gmail.com



Activity Report

ICA Côte d'Ivoire in its relentless struggle for the development of the human factor in Côte d'Ivoire has in this month of June carried out actions of field visits, meetings and communication with authorities and certain personalities.

Field visits were made to the villages of Nimanzra 1 and 2, Mure, Bonikro as part of post-project monitoring. They allowed us to see that two years after the end of the reintegration project for 585 young people at risk in the Agneby-Tiassa Region, the activities in the three sub-components of the project are still continuing with enthusiasm.

Broiler and laying hen breeding activities multiplied in some villages when people realized that they could make a living from this exciting activity. Young breeders have shown their joy in taking up this profession of poultry farming because it is very instructive for those who are discovering the profession of poultry farming for the first time.

Some beneficiaries in the villages are continuing to grow vegetables, which they harvest and sell with pride since we are at the start of the rainy season and growers of yams, cassava and plantains are beginning to set up their fields. This period allows them to sell their products at a high price.



For the climate change project, in addition to the production of the brochure, we have started visits and communications on our traditional improved stove construction project. During the month of June we communicated with Mr. Patrick who works in the service of the Research Department of the World Bank. He provided us with enough information on the actions that this great financial institution is carrying out in the world thanks to the documents he sent to us via this links:

- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange>
- <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35799>

We also had a meeting with the municipal authorities (The Secretary General of the Mayor and the head of the financial department) to explain to them the project on climate change that we have started since 2021 in the Brobo area. During this meeting we discussed three projects that will be implemented in collaboration with the Town Hall of Brobo.

The Town Hall informed us that it has a small grant for NGOs and other associations working in the locality, so we wanted to be included on their list of structures benefiting from this grant for the 2022-2023 financial year.

The ICA-CI office experienced for the first time since its construction a flood situation following the rains that fell for two days without interruption in Agboville in June. The whole yard was flooded and the corn crop experiment plot was completely under water. This situation is very worrying for the future months since the rainy season is not yet over, but we hope that the next rains will not be so intense to make us relive this situation again.

Eugène KOUAME, ICA Cote d'Ivoire: eugkona@gmail.com



Rapport D'Activité

ICA Côte d'Ivoire dans sa lutte acharnée pour le développement du facteur humain dans la Côte d'Ivoire a dans ce mois de juin mené des actions de visites terrains, de rencontre et communication avec des autorités et certaines personnalités.

Les visites terrains ont été faites dans les villages de Nimanzra 1 et 2, à Mure, Bonikro dans le cadre du suivi après projet. Elles nous ont permis de constater que deux ans après la fin du projet de réinsertion des 585 jeunes à risque de la Région de l'Agneby-Tiassa les activités dans les trois sous volets du projet se poursuivent encore avec enthousiasme.

Les activités d'élevage de poulet de chair et de poules pondeuses se sont multipliées dans certains villages lorsque les populations ont compris qu'ils pouvaient vivre de cette activité passionnante. Les jeunes éleveurs ont montré leur joie d'embrasser cette profession d'aviculteur car elle est très instructive pour ceux qui découvrent pour la première fois le métier d'aviculteur.

Certains bénéficiaires des villages poursuivent la culture des légumes qu'ils récoltent et vendent avec fierté vu que nous sommes en début de saison des pluies et que les cultivateurs d'ignames, de manioc et de bananes plantains commencent à mettre en place leurs champs. Cette période leur permet de vendre à prix élevé leurs productions.

Les différentes plantations de palmier qui sont rentré en production depuis deux ans et un an pour le premier et deuxième groupe de village.

Pour le projet changement climatique, en plus de la production de la brochure, nous avons entamé les visites et communications sur notre projet de construction de foyer amélioré traditionnel. Ainsi, durant le mois de juin communiqué avec M. Patrick qui travaille au service du Département de recherche de la World Bank.



Il nous a fourni assez d'information sur les actions que cette grande institution financière mène dans le monde grâce aux documents qu'il nous a transmis par ce lien:

- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange>
- <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35799>

Nous aussi eu une rencontre les autorités municipales (Le Secrétaire Général de la Maire et le chef du service financier) pour leur expliquer le projet sur le changement climatique que nous avons démarré depuis l'année 2021 dans la zone de Brobo. Au cours de cette rencontre nous avons échangé sur trois projets qui seront mis en œuvre en collaboration avec la Mairie de Brobo.

La Mairie nous a informés qu'elle dispose d'une petite subvention pour les ONG et autres associations qui travaillent dans la localité, Ainsi nous avons souhaité être inscrit sur leur liste de structures bénéficiaires de cette subvention pour l'exercice 2022-2023.

Le bureau de ICA-CI a vécu pour la première fois depuis sa construction une situation d'inondation suite aux pluies tombées durant deux jours sans interruption à Agboville dans ce mois de juin. Toute la cours était inondée et la parcelle d'expérimentation de culture de maïs entièrement sous les eaux.

Cette situation est très préoccupante pour les mois avenir vu que la saison des pluies n'est pas encore terminée, mais tout en espérant que les prochaines pluies ne seront pas aussi intense pour nous faire revivre cette situation encore.

Eugène KOUAME, ICA Cote d'Ivoire: eugkona@gmail.com



News from the Global Schedule

Greetings and salutations!

We invite you to investigate the following items:

The Global Schedule for July-October 2022 has several offerings planned already! Our focus this next few months is on multi-session events sharing our learnings and insights.

Courage to Lead for Youth

ICA Canada is presenting the ever-more-popular "Courage to Lead" youth (ages 13-15) study series from July 12 to August 23 on Tuesdays at 11 am to 12:30 pm Eastern time (US and Canada). Having just completed an adult course with mostly African participants, this course has spread far beyond Canadian borders!

The Secular Religious

How does the "Christian revelation" apply in an inter-religious context? Saturday, July 16 at 11am Central time, Gene Marshall will lead a discussion, as Joe Mathews commented, on "the notion that Christianity for the 21st century will take on a secular religious form."



UN Sustainable Development Goals

A most exciting series of events looking at how the work of ICA's are related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). How is your work related to these important global goals? Our first events to be hosted in Spanish with English translation! July 24 at 8pm UK, 9pm Spain, 3 pm eastern (US and Canada). The vision is to follow this with two SDG's each month, looking at where there are common interests and possibly identifying donors for the needed work.

Common Earth: Change your thinking, change your world

Common Earth is holding their upcoming session from October 3 - November 23 on Mondays and Wednesdays in three time slots. This is a FREE 8-week course for those deeply concerned about the climate crisis and growing social and economic inequality. Become a part of the growing community attempting to remove barriers that "prevent us from moving to a post-carbon, caring society". A hopeful, personally empowering journey. Contact Sarah Patterson at: spatterson@commonearth.com or visit www.commonearth.com

We encourage your participation and invite you to consider offering a presentation, recommending other people to present, or giving feedback by emailing: icaglobalschedule@gmail.com

Sunny Walker, ICA Global Schedule: sunny.sunwalker@gmail.com



Activity Report

Challenges are like gooseberries, initially bitter, chew it and make it sweeter.

Participatory Strategic Planning (PSP)

ICA Nepal strongly believes that knowledge can be enhanced through sharing, exchange, and exposure visits. With this motive, ICA Nepal in partnership with ICA India organized two days workshop on Participatory Strategic Planning (PSP) for participants from Nepal and India. The training included two days of in-house training and a one-day exposure visit. The training was facilitated by faculties from Nepal and India. Shankar Jhadav, Tatwa P. Timsina, Yateen Gharat, Archana Deshmukh, and Ishu Subba facilitated the sessions. Altogether 25 participants from Nepal and India attended the training.



Visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Baramati, Pune (India)

As a part of the exposure visit, ICA Nepal and ICA India team visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Baramati a district-level Farm Science Center established on 1st August 1992 under the affiliation of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi at Agricultural Development Trust Baramati District Pune. KVK Baramati demonstrates a Hi-tech model for sustainable agriculture development.



Interaction with Students of ICA Adhivashi Ashram School

In June 2022, ICA Nepal team visited the school founded by ICA India in Chikhale Village, Panvel India. The school currently provides education to more than 470 students from 64 villages. The students are provided education, stationeries, uniforms, food, and accommodations. The 30 staff include teachers, kitchen staff, security and support staff. The schools need immediate attention in terms of renovation and improvement of physical infrastructure. Mr. Vijaya Lokhande, ICA India explained how ICA India is raising funds to support the expenses to provide good and right education to these students.



Promoting STEM education in schools in Nepal

ICA Nepal is actively involved in promoting an integrated approach to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in schools of Nepal. From this perspective, ICA Nepal visited the team of Kutuhal Science Activities Pvt. Ltd. ICA Nepal is working on collaborating with like-minded organizations to make access to STEM kits for the children to have hands-on education. By offering STEAM education, ICA Nepal not only aims to teach students how to think critically, solve problems and use creativity, but also to prepare students to work in career areas that are predicted to experience significant growth.



My Waste My Responsibility: Solid- Waste Management Solution

ICA Nepal had an interactive meeting with Sangam Pratishthan, an Ngo working on the topic of dry waste segregation. Sangam Pratishthan organisation has collaborated with Mumbai Mahanagarpalika in collecting the solid wastes and segregating them into more than 151 categories. These segregated wastes are sold for recycling and upcycling. In this way, the organisation is also providing income to the people involved. The organisation invites people who want to contribute their hand to environment sustainability and development.



Prepared by: Karuna Mahat, Fundraising Assistant, ICA Nepal



Activity Report

In 2021 ICA-USA created a Global Fund supported by ICA contributions to strengthen ICAs globally in developing programs related to Climate Change. Eleven grants were given for this work to Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The following are highlights from the Spring 2022 Reports:

- **ICA Cote d'Ivoire:** As part of the climate change project, in addition to producing the brochure, we have started visits (Secretary General of the Mayor and the World Bank) and communications on our traditional improved stove construction project.
- **ICA Togo:** ICA Togo is embarked on Restoration of Degraded Farming Lands in Game Nyativé, Zio District. From April to June we have visited 20 organizations for partnership building, held a workshop about degraded soils restoration methods, and worked with community members empowerment for 3,2 ha of farming land restoration. We have visited many government ministries as well as Banque Atlantique, CORIS Bank, NSIA Insurance and the World Bank.

- **ICA Zimbabwe:** We have visited thirty organizations that have a potential to work with us and provide funding for our future work on Climate Change, including: Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), EBZ, Environmental Management Agency (EMA), the Forestry Commission, IMYAM, Munharaunda Environment and Climate, Oxfam, SNV, Southern Centre for Energy and Environment, USAID. The Global Fund enabled us to successfully acquire Wi-Fi equipment, improving our access to fast and reliable internet and enabling us to participate in all ICA virtual meetings.
- **Nigeria: ICA EPDI:** We have mapped out 50 organizations to discuss partnering on climate change issues and initially have visited with Policy Advocacy Partnership Project on Climate Change and the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO).
- **Uganda Safe Neighbourhood Foundation:** We are distributing our new brochure to 50 institutions targeted for collaboration on climate change. Five are interested in making a practical commitment: Airtel Telephone Company; Mt Elgon Hotel Mbale; Uganda Wildlife Authority; Netherlands Embassy Kampala; and Budaka Local Government. The constraint we are experiencing is the nearly double cost for fuel due to global and local factors.

Dick Alton, ICA USA





Improving Rural Access to Electricity

Life after Sunset in Bludo

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 aims at ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. However, as at 2019, 770 million people still had no access to electricity and 75% of that population were found in sub-Saharan Africa (International Energy Agency, 2019). Additionally, 1 in 3 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water according to the World Health Organisation 2019 statistics. Access to electricity and clean water are basic needs that should be available to all.

Ghana has made great strides in making electricity (84% have access as of 2019) available to all but there are still communities that do not have access to this basic need. One of such communities is the Bludo community. The Bludo community is a farming community in the South Tongu District of the Volta Region; it is considered one of the food baskets for the South Tongu District.

Bludo is one of the communities under the Avu Lagoon CREMA (Community Resource Management Area) Partnership project:

<https://www.thedevin.org/index.php/projects/current-projects/125-avu-lagoon-crema-partnership-project>



Life in Bludo before the "light"

As a community located on an island, Bludo is isolated from infrastructural development accessible to communities on the mainland. This is a major setback for the community. After working tirelessly the whole day under the sun, they retire to their various homes, plunged into total darkness. As a result of this, most activities came to a halt at night in Bludo.

Life after Sunset now – Solar solutions for the unreached

To help put an end to the dark era in Bludo, The DI provided solar street lamps and rechargeable lamps for the community with funding from the ICA USA Global Fund. Considering the community's geographical location, solar solutions were the best fit.

Thanks to this intervention, the story of the Bludo community changed overnight! Currently, children of school going age can now study deep into the night. Life continues even after sunset.

Additionally, indigenes who left the island for greener pastures, are returning to the island because of this new development. Interestingly, elders of the community have also considered constructing a lodge for overnight stay in the community for tourists. This will help generate some income and support the ecotourism venture of the CREMA.



Phase II - The Solar Innovations Partnerships Project (SIPP)

Following the success of the pilot/first phase, a second phase has been introduced. With the introduction of the Solar Innovation Partnerships Project, The DI intends to increase the number of solar lamps in Bludo and expand to other remote off grid communities in the Avu Lagoon enclave.

The main goal of the project is to support the adoption of technological and institutional solar innovations to address the constraints and challenges of upscaling solar technological advancement with special focus on the challenges faced by small scale, marginal, women farmers and indigenes within the Avu Lagoon enclave. This phase will be rolled out with some funding in collaboration with partner organisations.

Our next big move?

Even though the community now has access to some form of power, their problems are far from over. Our next move is to provide clean water for the people of Bludo. The process has already begun but we will need more funds to desalinate the water using methods such as reverse osmosis.

In view of this, we are seeking to establish partnerships with individuals as well as organisations to achieve this goal.

The standard of living in Bludo can only improve when the people have access to basic amenities and we hope to help make that a reality.

Dzifa Kumaga, The Development Institute: Ghana dkumagah@thedeivin.org



Global Schedule of Events

To see four types of events: studies, significant conversations, training and impactful global events visit the Global Schedule at:
<https://icaglobalarchives.org/social-research-center-events/>

Remember, YOU are invited to:

- 1- Offer a presentation you are interested in giving;
- 2- Recommend other people to present;
- 3- Participate in any of the events and encourage your friends to attend; and
- 4- Give feedback by emailing: icaglobalschedule@gmail.com

The vision for the Global Schedule of Events is to make this easily accessible and globally friendly to all no matter where and what!

Alan, Karen, Robyn, Sunny, and Virginia

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