



## UFH End of Year Report for WSC-SD

Compiled by Steve Arowolo



*FORT HARE WSC-SD PRESIDENT, 2011*

The World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSC-SD) at the University of Fort Hare (UFH) made some giant strides in the year 2011. This report highlights some of the steps taken to move the organization forward in the year under review.

### **Highlights:**

1. Green campus campaign
2. River cleaning
3. Tree planting



4. Strategic partnership with RAVAC
5. COP 17 series of lectures
6. Giving WSC-SD a separate identity
7. Constitution amendment
8. Emergence of new leaders

1. **Green campus campaign:** The green campus campaign embarked upon by WSC-SD gave rise to the establishment of the “Fort Hare ‘Steering committee on green campus initiative” established by the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic); and the chairperson of WSC-SD, Steve Arowolo was nominated as the only student member in the committee; the committee comprised of four academic staff of the university. The committee was saddled with the responsibility of drafting a GREEN CAMPUS blue print for the university.
2. **River Cleaning:** This WSC-SD initiative started in 2010 and it was observed this year in conjunction with the university authority from the community engagement unit. This initiative was equally supported by the local municipality (Nkokobe municipality)



A cross- section of the river cleaning exercise

3. **Tree planting:** UFH WSC-SD spearheaded the tree planting activities in the university, more than 100 tree seedlings were planted. The Deputy Vice Chancellor coordinated the tree planting events. The founding president of SEACC Dr. Tony Ribbink also took part in the tree planting exercise.
4. **Strategic partnership with RAVAC:** Risk and Vulnerability Awareness Centre (RAVAC) has now formed a strategic partnership with WSC-SD; most of the workshops and seminars conducted by UFH WSC-SD were supported by of RAVAC.



5. **COP 17 Series of Lectures:**

The COP 17 lecture series was embarked upon to sensitize our academic community on the significance of Conference of Parties; COP – 17 of the United Nations Frameworks Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that took place in Durban. The lecture series was conducted throughout the month of September.



A cross Section of participants at COP 17 Lecture series @ UFH

The lecture series drew the attention of the entire university community, distinguished lecturers were invited to present lectures from different aspect of climate change. The main focus of the lecture series was “African perspective on Climate change”. The final installment of the lecture series was attended by senior members of the University community; the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Institutional support and the Dean of the faculty of Science and Agriculture were among the prominent people in attendance.

- 6. The new WSC-SD:** My administration inherited ‘two organizations combined into one’ from the past administration. These are the World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD-SD) and the South East African Climate Consortium - Student Forum (SEACC-SF). However, before handling over to the new administration we thought it wise to split these two organizations into separate entity , giving each of them a separate identity.



WSC-SD members participating in Habitable Planet Workshop

The move became very necessary due to the fact that the organization have grown both numerically and in scope of operations; hence the need to maximize the opportunity we have garnered through the various accolades and recognitions we have received from the University authority, and going by the fact we envisaged more significant growth in the nearest foreseeable future. This then implies that WSC-SD at UFH is now having a separate identity with its own separate executive committees and student members.

- 7. Constitution amendment:** In order to accommodate the new identity, we deemed it necessary to review the existing constitution. A constitution review committee was inaugurated in August 2011, and the committee submitted its report toward the end of October, 2011. A copy of the reviewed constitution is attached with this report.
- 8. Emergence of new leaders:** Towards the end of this administration, the executive committee dissolved the offices and made a public announcement to the academic

community for interested students to formally apply to fill these positions. A strategic advisor to the organization was in charge of the application and screening process; the process led to the emergence of new set of leaders for WSC-SD UFH. These new leaders will be responsible to steer the course of the organization in 2012; the names and official designations of these new leaders are attached with this report.

### **Conclusion**

It is good to stress that this administration did not embark on too many environmental projects; this is due basically to the fact that the situation at UFH requires that we first of all create an enabling environment for our organization to survive. What we met was very harsh and unfriendly but this administration had managed to secure the favour and confidence of the university authority and the student community at large.

We have successfully marketed WSC-SD to our people; and we have been able to put well articulated systems in place, these steps will without doubts guarantee the sustainability of our organization and endear the interest of students to WSC-SD for several years ahead; we are leaving a very strong and vibrant WSC-SD behind, and we strongly believe that the incoming leaders will leverage on our achievements to build a stronger WSC-SD at the university of Fort Hare.



The leadership philosophy that has guided my administration is found in this maxim that I have carved for myself: “A leader is not truly a success until his/her successors are successful”. In the light of this maxim; we will not rest on our oars until we have fully supported our successors to succeed.