



## THE CLIMATE CAFÉ JAZZ

EVENTS REPORT DEC-JAN 2024.



**“Advancing the integration of climate action based on indigenous knowledge, human behaviour, experiences and financing to inform lasting solutions”**

## **1.0 Project Description.**

To protect humans, the entire ecosystems and promote climate change awareness in the wake of climate change crisis in Kasese district, Uganda and across the globe, Maru Action Development Foundation- MADF through its lead founding Executive Director dedicated to document local and grassroots actions centering Indigenous- Local Knowledge and experiences as well as local financing as Solutions in trying to address Climate Impacts and Vulnerabilities among local communities of Kasese district and Uganda.

In November 2023 Fred Marule reached out to Force of Nature for a possible funding support towards further conducting community led 'Climate Café Jaz' as a platform where community members especially youth gather to brainstorm, share experience and propose solutions with local financing to the climate crisis. The aim of the Climate Café Jaz is to inclusively involve young people, indigenous and not only in the search for innovative solutions to combat climate change, but also to support their participation in influencing local government in developing policies that protect the environment.

The Local Climate Cafe Jazz project aimed to create an inclusive space for community engagement in local climate actions, emphasizing the participation of young people, women, people with disabilities, and schools. With a modest grant of \$250, our goal was to foster discussions, knowledge sharing, and awareness about sustainable practices for a healthier planet.

Two Climate Café Jaz were organized by Maru Action Development Foundation in partnership with other local climate actors like Inspire Girls Foundation, YAGANET among others. The café jazz consisted of presentations and discussions on perspectives from Kasese, the entire region and across the globe in particular under the Theme; "Advancing the integration of climate action based on indigenous knowledge, human behaviour, experiences and financing to inform lasting solutions" that addresses climate impacts and vulnerabilities.

We proposed to focus on three aspects relevant to indigenous and local knowledge, and in each of the event day, we focused on one aspect and these included; Livelihoods of indigenous communities amidst climate change; Observing and understanding impacts of climate change, including disastrous events (floods, landslides and harsh drought); and finally Mobilizing indigenous- local knowledge, experience and local financing for Kasese district climate change adaptation actions and global climate change awareness promotion.

## **2.0 Introduction**

Fred Marule to whom a \$250 project grant from Force of Nature was given is the founding Executive Director of Maru Action Development Foundation- MADF. Maru Action Development Foundation is a grassroots-led not-for-profit Community Based Organization located in Central Division of Kasese Municipality, Kasese District, Rwenzori Region, Western Uganda. We envision; Just and climate resilient communities responding to their needs, through Co-creation and implementation of inclusive community-led innovations through promotion of sustainable eco-friendly low cost-high impact initiatives for improved lives and livelihoods of women, youths and children.

Being aware of the basic needs for a vulnerable community, the need for an inclusive better future, a peaceful environment, a healthy and poverty free society, believing that working together with all the

entire community without discrimination, respecting each other's rights, and advocate for skills development towards a just society especially among the less privileged categories of people, MADF interventions target to benefit the highly vulnerable categories of people i.e., Women, Youth and Children, including People with Disabilities among others.

Maru Action Development Foundation has been and will still continue to provide tools, resources, partnerships and support to its beneficiaries, empowering them to gain the voice, ability, and problem-solving capacity to realize their full potential. MADF has and will keep welcoming and serve all women, youth and children and focus its most efforts on the less privileged young women especially single mothers, people with disabilities, youth and children who live in low-income households and communities much more those disrupted by natural and man-made disasters.

Leveraging on such has kept to help our beneficiaries engage in designing and implementing inclusive tailored community-led innovations that fosters empowerment of underserved women, people with disabilities, youth and children, through promotion of sustainable socio-economic low cost and high impact approaches that does not only transform lives and improving their livelihoods, but also thrives their living in environment and mother nature.

## **2.1 Our approach while delivering on our programs.**

Leveraging on community needs and challenges with integration of indigenous knowledge and practices through a community-led approach while informing actions that are locally adaptive, improving lives and livelihoods. This has continuously helped in sustaining our projects and programs with served populations and communities, as beneficiaries play a big role and always keeping at the centre point of whatever we do.

When communities need and challenges are discussed in a very welcoming and conducive environment where local people feel given the whole space, they give out their minds, opinions, ideas, suggestions and insights to what affects them while guiding on priorities. This then forms actions which are people and or community-led and full, inclusive participation and programs sustainability are guaranteed.

## **3.0 Background;**

Building on the adoption of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015 which created an important opportunity to apply indigenous and local knowledge, in synergy with science and policy making, to the specific challenges of climate change and adaptation to its impacts, the Agreement marks a unique and historic milestone as it holds together a cluster of human needs brought about by climate change into a bundle of rights and obligations of different stakeholders, while promoting pathways for adaptation to the changes that are already occurring.

The impact of climate change on Uganda's infrastructure particularly roads, bridges, historical buildings serving as tourist sites/attractions due to exposure to damaging flooding, deep potholes,

erosion, excessive heat and other extreme events are very devastating. The exacerbation of desertification by changes in rainfall and intensified land use poses a serious threat to land resources. The destruction of power dams during floods and also extensive sunny seasons shows high sensitivity to variations in runoff and periods of drought as evidenced by critically low levels, threatening hydropower generation and industrial activity, which endangers Government's effort in ensuring growth through the private sector. The trend effects of flood that have hit the District of Kasese since 2013 to date have revealed the nations and local community vulnerability.

The Rwenzori sub region in the western part of Uganda knows much about the economic and environmental challenges posed by climate change. The sub region is unique in its cultural diversity, with layers of indigenous civilizations, the flora and fauna along the national parks, the Rwenzori Mountain and liberation, and diverse migration from all parts of the country caused by Kilembe mining. Together, the diverse geography and heritage of the mountains have facilitated a flourishing of local cultures, knowledge systems which has allowed people to establish niches within the natural environment to achieve economic development. In the context of the current environmental crisis, the region is now faced with the challenge of navigating an unpredictable future while drawing on its cultural and natural resources, and most evidently, its intellectual capacity for problem solving and adaptation.

In December 2023, with financial support from Force of Nature, Fred Marule and the team at Maru Action Development Foundation again hosted the Climate Café Jaz in Kasese municipality, Kasese district, Western Uganda. Two events were carried out, characterized by moments of promoting domestic coffee consumption while setting pace that encourages climate discussions extraordinarily on both current local, national and international climate issues, but also networking, experience and opportunity sharing between the actors present and the young participants.



### **3.1 The Climate Café Jaz Event;**

The event highlights its achievements based on the set **Project Objectives and Planning** which included;

- a) **Inclusive Participation**, where we collaborated with local based organizations to ensure diverse participation, providing accessibility features for people with disabilities.
- b) **Educational Outreach**, where we partnered with two schools by engaging their students in the climate café jazz discussions, fostering a sense of environmental responsibility.
- c) **Community Empowerment**, where we organized climate café jazz performances to create an inviting atmosphere, encouraging open dialogue on climate-related topics.

### **Among project activities implemented included;**

- ✓ **Community Outreach:** Conducted awareness campaigns through social media, local radio/media stations and community bulletin boards.

Distributed informational flyers in schools and community centers, emphasizing the inclusive nature of the event.

- ✓ **Event Logistics:** Secured our office as the event venue with wheelchair accessibility and ensured a diverse program catering to different interests.

Utilized the grant for jazz performers, creating an enjoyable atmosphere which facilitated smooth conversations amongst participants.

- ✓ **Educational Workshops:** Collaborated with local environmental experts including local based and senior environmental justice advocates to conduct workshops on sustainable practices.

Incorporated interactive activities to engage participants and facilitate knowledge exchange.

- ✓ **Discussion Sessions:** Facilitated open discussions on local climate actions, encouraging participants to share their perspectives and experiences.

Recorded insights and suggestions for future community initiatives.

### **Project Impact and Future Steps.**

**Impact:** Successfully engaged over 20 participants, including young people, women, people with disabilities, and students.

Created a platform for meaningful discussions, fostering a sense of community responsibility towards climate actions.

**Feedback:** Collected feedback through surveys, indicating a positive impact on participants' understanding of local climate issues.

## Project Recommendations.

Seek additional funding for future events, expanding the reach and impact of the Local Climate Cafe Jazz project.

Collaborate with local schools and organizations to integrate climate education into their curricula.

## Conclusion.

This project report highlights the successful implementation of the Local Climate Cafe Jazz initiative, underscoring the importance of community engagement in fostering sustainable practices for a healthier planet.

## More Project Photos.







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