

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

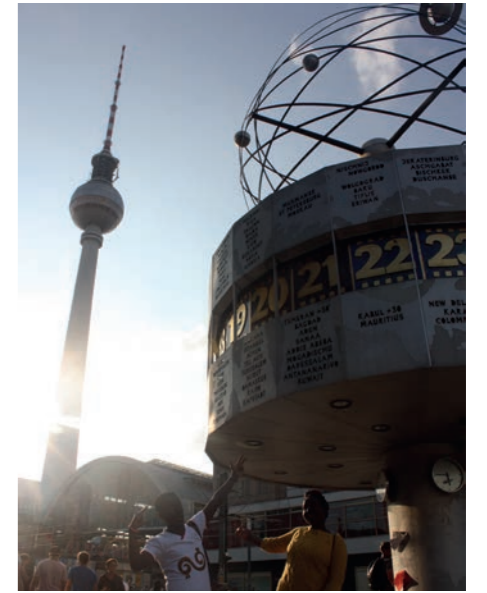
Youth Exchange in the context of Agenda 2030 SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production

Fourteen people
Two countries
Six weeks

We come from Uganda and Germany. Most of us study or are in an apprenticeship. Some are already busy setting up start-ups. We have spent almost six weeks together. In September 2018, the Ugandan participants were guests in Berlin and Leipzig, and one year later the German participants flew to Kampala and Mpigi.



Old Taxi Park in Kampala



Alexanderplatz in Berlin

Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030

In 2015, 193 nations adopted a total of 17 goals to make the world a better place by 2030: equal opportunities for all, no poverty, no hunger, access to education, equal rights for men and women, comprehensive health care, responsible use of resources, protection of the environment and the oceans.

Visits
Discussions
Interviews

For our encounters, we focused on one of the 17 SDGs: SDG 12. The 12th SDG is about responsible consumption and sustainable production methods. In Mpigi, Kampala, Berlin and Leipzig, we met people who deal with recycling and upcycling, think about alternatives to plastic, protect valuable biotopes and fight against food waste. We had a lot of discussions, did not always agree, had different perspectives and came from various backgrounds. What some of us took for granted, others could not understand at all. We learned together and from each other, while having a lot of fun.



Refugee Camp Nakivale, Uganda



Arrival at Berlin Airport



Our accommodation at SINA Village in Mpigi, Uganda



Workshop in the VIA office, Berlin



Tapetenwerk in Leipzig

Partner
Cooperation
Communication

VIA e.V.

The Association for International and Intercultural Exchange (VIA) e.V. was founded in 1992. The association provides young people from Germany and all over the world the opportunity to participate in intercultural youth exchange programmes. The programmes give young people insight into the living and working environments of other countries and communities.

SINA

The Social Innovation Academy (SINA) is a unique, self-managed learning environment that enables socially disadvantaged young people to develop projects and thereby create jobs and income for themselves and others. Since its foundation, 185 students have attended SINA and 32 social and innovative companies have been created. In Nakivale in Uganda, a settlement in which 120,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Somalia have been living for years, similar initiatives have now been established. "Opportunee" and "Unleashed" was founded by SINA graduates to show young refugees new perspectives.



Lasting memories



View from Panorama Tower in Leipzig

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Exhibition at Tapetenwerk

Tapetenwerk, Leipzig

The TAPETENWERK in Leipzig was founded in 2007, in an old wallpaper factory from the 19th century which was closed back in 2006. Nowadays, young entrepreneurs and artists can find inexpensive spaces to develop their ideas and projects in the renovated factory. The Tapetenwerk also gives space for exhibitions, workshops and various events.



“To preserve old buildings and restore them - instead of tearing them down - is sustainable and always gives a city a special charm. That’s why I think it’s wonderful that the Tapetenwerk is still in use and preserved. The initiators of the project make a good impression on me, however it would be better if the project would be community-based.” - Linda



“I always find it very interesting when young people and artists are offered a safe working environment as it allows them to exercise their beliefs and ideas. Many young people use the Tapetenwerk to dedicate themselves to art, fashion or even creative furniture.” - Sairus

IDEAS NEED SPACES

„A person with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds.“ Mark Twain



“The team at Socent Hub attaches great importance to good cooperation and collaboration amongst each other. The focus is also on social responsibility and entrepreneurship. In my perspective, it is trustworthy and authentic.” - Klara



“I think it was great how the team from Socent Hub was so dedicated and enthusiastic. With their focus on „People, Planet, Profit“ they support good projects that have the potential to transform Kampala and the surrounding area.” - Clara

SOCENT HUB is an innovation and research laboratory, a co-working space and partly a citizens’ forum. On the premises, there are workplaces and conference rooms for young entrepreneurs* to work from. Environmentally or socially compatible start ups can grow and exhort their ideas and projects at Socent Hub, such as the production of soaps, the rearing of bees or the distribution of honey. Additionally, Socent Hub organises workshops, training to guide start-ups through administrative challenges.



Socent Hub, Kampala



The REGENBOGENFABRIK is a self-administered neighbourhood centre, which was established in 1981 in an old industrial building. Today, the rainbow factory includes a kindergarten, a canteen, a bicycle repair shop, a carpentry workshop and a small cinema which is used for concerts, lectures or events.

Within the Regenbogenfabrik there are no hierarchies. All decisions are made through consensus, which often leads to thorough discussions. However, the solutions that are developed are more supported by everyone involved.

Regenbogenfabrik, Berlin



Regenbogenfabrik 1981 (above) and today (below)



“What impressed me most about the Regenbogenfabrik was the incredible political and social effort people put into the project. Good ideas sometimes need a lot of patience. The various activities offer an excellent opportunity to network within the neighbourhood. This is how a lively community is created.” - Rob



“The abandoned building used to be located in a very run-down district of Berlin. Today the Regenbogenfabrik is proof that all places have value and that it only matters what you make of them. After the buildings were repaired, various projects were developed which were accepted or initiated by the community. It was very inspiring. In Kampala there are also many abandoned buildings, so communities could benefit from using them in a similar way.” - Josephine



Reform Africa, Mpigi

REFORM AFRICA transforms plastic waste into waterproof, affordable and stable bags and backpacks. The big plastic tarpaulins, mostly packaging from wholesalers, are collected by women, which provides them with income. At Reform Africa, the plastic is sun-dried and the various plastic layers are ironed onto each other, creating a variety of patterns. The tearproof material can then be processed. Most importantly Reform Africa's aim is to provide schoolchildren with a cost-effective alternative to expensive satchels. In order to be able to sell the bags to the children, they are also offered at a higher cost in tourist markets.



"Reducing plastic waste while supporting local school children is a great initiative. However, I am still skeptical. I don't know if it makes sense to fuse the soft plastic tarpaulins into hard plastic that will take longer to decompose. I also have my doubts as to whether the products are particularly durable, because I'm not sure whether the threads used can hold the hard plastic together well." - Reynard



"I like the fact that waste can be given a new life through creativity. This prolongs the lifespan of plastic, while drawing attention to the cause." - Sairus



Reform Africa's showroom and workshop

PLASTIC WASTE

„Up to 13 million tons of plastic waste is dumped into the sea every year. At least 150 million tons have already accumulated“ Greenpeace

KUNST-STOFFE - the Central Office for Reusable Materials' is a non-profit association in Berlin, founded in 2006. Here, materials are collected which are passed on to artists, childcare centres and educational institutions for a small fee. Home improvement stores, companies or even individuals donate decorative materials, fabrics, cardboard, tiles, buttons -anything that would have otherwise been thrown in the garbage.



"Berlin would like to become a "Zero-Waste" city one day. This is quite an ambitious project, considering the amount of waste a big city produces. Projects like KUNST Stoffe show what would be possible if everyone thought more creatively about recycling." - Rob



"Projects such as Kunst-Stoffe promote creativity. It would be great if there was a law in Uganda that would encourage big companies to not throw away their remaining materials, but to donate them to initiatives that could make something new with them." - Kisitu



"I was surprised by how many useful things were collected at Kunst-Stoffe. I thought it was mostly worthless stuff. Instead, one could find wooden boards, metal bars, picture frames and polystyrene blocks. Other collection centres should also exist in other cities." - Lukas



"Places like Kunst-Stoffe are not only practical and useful, but also stimulating. Given the variety of materials, one can think of many possible uses. And it's certainly not just for artists." - Jan



Kunst-Stoffe, Berlin





Primary School in Gando, Burkina Faso
picture credit: Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk

DIEBEDO FRANCIS KÉRÉ considers construction as a social task and advocates for resource-efficient architecture. His buildings in different African countries are famous. He particularly works with traditional materials such as clay, and his distinctive, raised roofing structures provide natural ventilation and temperature control. The architect works with the community to plan and design the houses and rooms that are meant for them to live in. Diebedo Francis Kere received many international awards for his architectural designs. During our visit to his office in Berlin, Kéré Architecture, we were presented his projects, drawings and models in more detail.

Kéré Architecture, Berlin



“The incredible art and creativity, which is expressed in these drawings, brings joy. You immediately see that they come from a passionate architect. They combine local technologies with modern ideas and create extraordinary pieces of work.” - Tony



“Visiting the office of the famous architect was very revealing. Besides the introduction to his projects in Burkina Faso and Uganda I was very impressed at how important it was to the firm that the people in these rural communities contribute to every part of the planning process. This is the only way that projects like these can be sustainable.” - Rob



“The method of combining traditional architecture with modern, yet simple techniques to, for example, improve ventilation- or irrigation systems has convinced me.” - Jan

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

„The head is round so that thinking can change direction.“ Francis Picabia, painter and graphic artist



Masaka Recycling Initiative

The MASAKA RECYCLING INITIATIVE (Eco Brix) is a company, creating interlocking bricks out of old plastic bottles and containers. Within the Masaka community, they developed a giant collection system, where residents can sell their collected plastic bottles for a small fee. Compared to common paving bricks, plastic bricks have several advantages: they are 30% less expensive than common paving bricks, and they're lighter and easier to transport. Additionally, the Masaka Recycling Initiative created an informational campaign for schools to educate young people about the environmental damage of plastics, and to create more awareness about recycling opportunities. During holidays, students support the collection of old plastic bottles while earning pocket money.

“We really liked the project of the Masaka Recycling Initiative because it has an inclusive approach and offers youth and people with disabilities the opportunity to make a small income. The project shows that recycled products can also be affordable. However, we are not completely sure of the extent with which the interlocking bricks emit microplastics if cars and trucks pass over streets made out of plastic bricks. It is a good initiative to cope with current plastic challenges, but we also hope that in the future it would not be necessary anymore because by then, plastic bottles will have significantly decreased.” - Raynard & Lukas



Bottle Houses, Mpigi



The BOTTLE HOUSES at SINA were designed and built by Upcycle Africa, an initiative which was born within SINA. The bottles replace bricks, which have to be burned for days. This needs a lot of fire food and contributes to deforestation. For the Bottle Houses, thousands of plastic bottles are collected and filled with soil. In addition, the cost-efficient houses are durable, can save the heat and are earthquake-proof. Upcycle Africa constructed houses in different parts of Africa and, thereby, created job opportunities for women and youth in rural areas.



the finished composite stones made from plastic



the scale for the plastics



The DDEWE FARM, at the outskirts of Kampala, aims to improve the nutrition of the community through the supply of organic fruits and, at the same time, sensitize the community about ecological farming. On the farm, they grow plantains, starfruits, oranges, mangos, etc. and plants which can be used to make essential oils. The staff organizes workshops for students and for people in the community. The project predominantly works with the methods of permaculture. In this process, different plants with diverse growth behavior are planted irregularly and with wide distances between each other. The natural vegetation existing between the plants is preserved. The plants are then enabled to support each other, e.g. by providing shade or fighting parasites.

Ddewe Farm, Kampala



“I think it is very important to engage in organic food production and, additionally, teach agro-ecological practices to the community and motivated students alike. This is why I like the Ddewe-project and the impact it has on the local people. What I value most about the business is its collaboration with students of agriculture. Because of this, the project constantly receives new feedback, and improves and monitors its methods.” - Rob



“The Ddewe project inspired me a lot. It has existed for more than 20 years and resigned from using chemicals from its conception. Instead, one develops and tests natural alternatives for pesticides and fertilizers, e.g. worms, moringa or flytraps. It takes a lot of motivation and engagement to stick to your values despite the economic pressure.” - Joan



BIODIVERSITY

„One million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction today, more than ever before in human history.“ UN Report 2019

OSTMOST is a 4-year old Berlin based company that produces juices and cider from fruits of orchard meadows. Three quarters of German orchard meadows have been lumbered since intensive monoculture practices have conquered agriculture and its markets. The meadows, with their high-stem fruit trees, are biotopes with a biodiversity comparable to those of small rainforests. While small orchards can inhabit up to 5,000 species, on monocultural fields only about 1,000 species survive. However, care and harvest of the biotopes is an ornate procedure. The prices of its products can therefore hardly compete with prices from conventional production. To keep farmers in charge of the traditional harvest, Ostmost met them halfway and established a fair and regional value chain. Farmers get paid double compared to commercial prices, and delivery and purchase agreements are long-term.



Ostmost, Berlin



“We finally found entrepreneurs whose main intention is to save biodiversity rather than, as is so often the case, using the trend towards ‚green‘ products primarily as a marketing strategy. The products are organic and regional. Their drinks are only sold in glass bottles and even plastic stickers have been abandoned from their marketing strategy.” – Leo



“The idea of replacing monocultures with mixed cultivation is important because it promotes species diversity and creates space for a living ecosystem. Avoiding the middlemen by reaching the farmers directly and paying fair prices sounds plausible to me, because it promotes fair trade and a circular economy.” – Sairus



“Transforming old and damaged clothing into new designs is a first step towards sustainability. Even the repair of broken clothes should become more ‘fashionable’ again.” – Sairus



“The reuse of old clothes gives the materials a new meaning. In times of cheap fashion brands, the real value of a piece of clothing is lost. Most people simply close their eyes to the hidden ‘human costs’ of fast fashion.” – Jan



“The Green Fashion Tour through different projects was a great inspiration to me. If the idea of upcycling could prevail in Uganda, it would have a huge impact. Maybe then fewer people would buy something new every now and then, while disposing of the garments carelessly.” – Josephine



Green Fashion Tour, Berlin



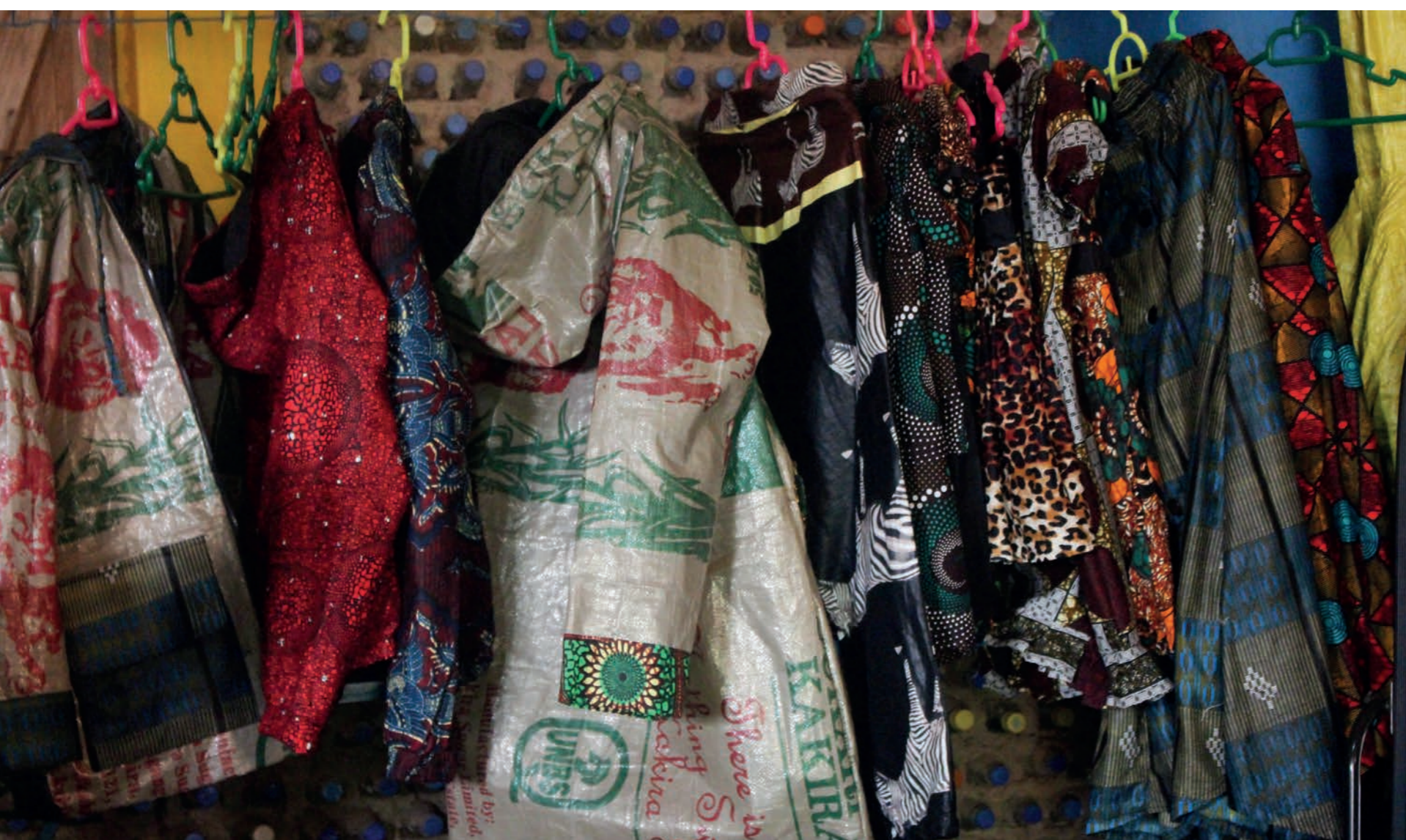
“I believe that upcycled products should be available to a wider range of potential customers, not only for fashion purposes, but also to potentially stimulate some rethinking of the traditional use of clothes and other items. There is no need to get rid of clothes once they don’t look nice anymore.” – Rob



“If we want to have more sustainability in the fashion industry, we need to change the message of advertising from a persuasive one to an informative one. This would promote fair trade. Clothes should be sold at a higher price so people are encouraged to recycle their clothes rather than dumping them.” – Monica

FAST FASHION

„Each year, 1.3 million tons of clothing are disposed of. Only about half of the clothing donations are reused.“ Greenpeace



Kimuli Fashionability, Mpigi

KIMULI FASHIONABILITY produces clothes, bags, and wallets out of old sugar bags and wasted packaging, in combination with African fabrics. They employ and train mainly people with disabilities in order to generate a positive environmental and social impact.



“The inclusion of disabled people in the production of fashion is a unique approach which made a few people in Uganda think about it. I learned that disability is not inability, and everyone has different talents and is capable of doing something.” – Josephine



“There is always a thin line between fully recycling waste and green washing. Some of the materials Kimuli is upcycling are imported from foreign countries, such as rice sacks.” – Klara

SSUUBI DESIGN upcycles waste into jewelry and uses materials that can be found everywhere. Ssuubi Design has rediscovered the ‘Bark Cloth’, a fabric that has been extracted for many hundreds of years from the bark of the Mutuba fig tree, which grows mainly in Uganda.



„In the past, the bark cloth was mainly used to make clothes in many cultures, but today it still plays an important role in Uganda. It is very durable and its colour and texture is reminiscent of leather. It can be used to make bags or purses. A 100% renewable natural product.” – Linda



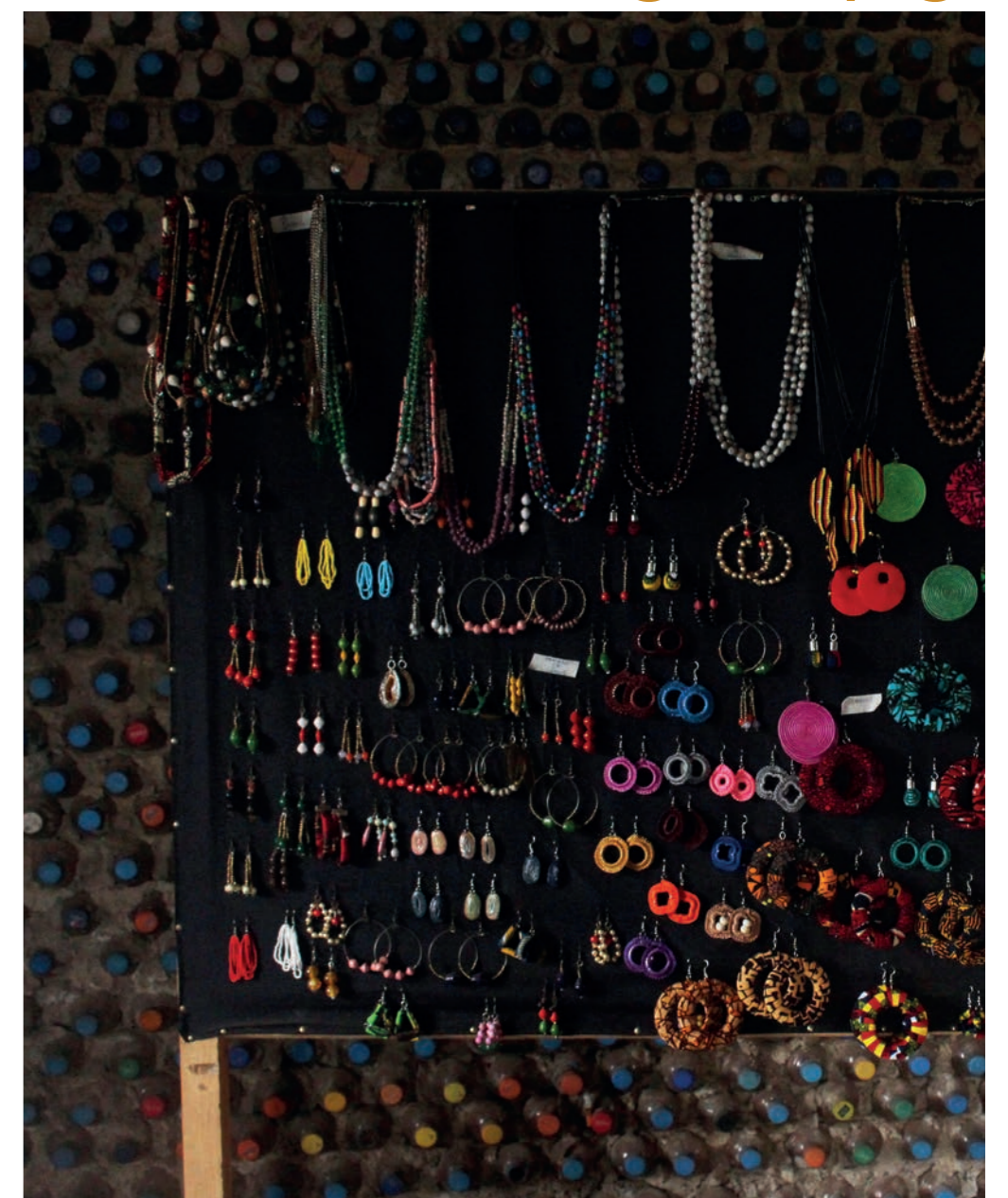
„I believe that everything that has to do with fashion cannot be sustainable at all. There are always new ideas and trends. What happens when upcycling is no longer chic and trendy?” – Tonny



Geldbeutel aus Barkcloth und Kitenge



“I think it’s a pity that Ssuubi Design mainly manufactures products for tourist markets. In my opinion, it would be more sustainable to design products that are needed within the communities and to enable a local resource cycle.” – Lukas



Ssuubi Design, Mpigi



Tumwembaze Farm, Mityana

During a visit at the TUMWEMBAZE Fruit Farm we were explained the method of sack-gardening. The idea is simple: you fill large sacks with soil and pebble stones. The pebble stones must be placed vertically in the middle of the soil, while the bottom and sides are filled up with soil. In the filled sacks you cut several slits and put seeds or small plants where you created holes. There is even space on top of the sack for plants to grow. This is, for example, how you can grow useful plants such as salad, pepper, cabbage, onions and spinach. The pebble stones in the center of the sack make sure that water and air can spread in the whole soil.



"I didn't know that it was possible to garden in buckets and sacks. It looks really simple, so everyone could try it, no matter how much space you have. I hope that this idea spreads across Uganda, especially in those cities, where very few people have a big garden." - Tryphine



"I was really impressed about the many possibilities of this cultivation method. It is easy to implement and can be used everywhere around the world. In growing cities, sack gardening can contribute immensely to food security." - Linda



URBAN GARDENING

„We should know more about our food than we do about the lives of our celebrities.“ Urban Gardeners Republic

The PRINCESS GARDENS are a self-organized urban gardening project in the Berlin district Kreuzberg. The 6,000m² big compound surrounded by heavy traffic was lying fallow for more than 60 years, before it was made usable again by the people of Kreuzberg. One group had the idea of creating an urban garden, to make nature more accessible to citizens and to create a space where you can learn and try new things. In July 2009, the area was cleaned from debris and rubbish. The first 100 beds were planted. They were mainly vertical vegetable and herb beds made out of collected and donated materials such as old wooden boxes. Twice a week, everyone is welcome to join in the gardening. In the small restaurant, which was created in a discarded container, visitors can enjoy a fresh meal made out of vegetables and herbs from the Princess Gardens.



Princess Gardens, Berlin



"After a long ride on the subway and many walks through a loud city, you immediately got the impression of being out in nature and relaxed by entering the Princess Gardens. I think about what this concept would mean for Uganda, a country where when you plant, everything grows immediately. I'm imagining the stressful Kampala, which would have enough empty space for urban gardening." - Joan



"I'm always impressed by how destroyed and abandoned public places can be turned into something so beautiful. I think it is important to create more of these places to offer the possibility for people to reconnect with nature." - Leo



"I think that urban gardening can be showcased to raise and strengthen awareness for organic farming, nutrition and the value of green spaces in cities." - Rob



FABIO (First African Bicycle Information Organisation), founded in 1997, is a Jinja based NGO. The association sees itself as an interest group for non-motorised road users, like pedestrians and cyclists. In rural communities, FABIO promotes the bicycle as an important and sustainable means of transportation and runs programs such as Cycle to School, Bicycle Ambulance and E-Bikes. FABIO has now distributed a total of 3,000 bicycles. Moreover, FABIO campaigns for pedestrian rights at the Ugandan Ministry of Transport, and has become a recognised partner who is consulted on new road construction measures.



FABIO, Jinja



„An organization that focuses on the bicycle as an important means of transport is something special. I think they do good work because bicycles are environmentally friendly and can be used in many ways. I intend to do much more to counter the prejudice that girls cannot ride a bicycle. There must also be an end to the idea that only poor people have to ride bikes.“ – Josephine



„Cycling in Uganda can be quite dangerous. There are no cycle paths and few drivers show consideration for weaker road users on the crowded roads. There also seems to be no awareness that the bicycle is a very environmentally friendly means of transport.“ – Klara



„I especially liked that FABIO advocates and non-motorized road users showed solidarity with each other and stood up for their rights.“ – Jan

MOBILITY

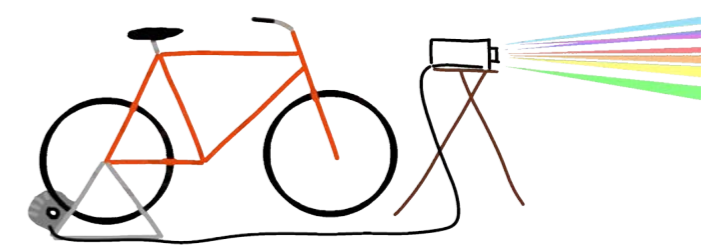
„Global emissions of carbon dioxide have been rising steadily since 1960, reaching a peak of around 36.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2018.“

Statista, Business Data Platform



Taschengeldfirma, Berlin

The TASCHENGELDFIRMA (pocket money company) was introduced in 2011. It is aimed primarily at young people from different backgrounds, who can earn a little extra pocket money through various projects. At the same time, they can acquire and try out new handicraft skills. The programme of the pocket money company includes projects in the fields of bicycle technology, renewable energy and environmental protection. In addition to a wind turbine in a nearby theme park, another idea has also attracted attention: the bicycle cinema, where eight cyclists must pedal in order to maintain the screening of a film going.. The bicycle cinema has already been on tour in Germany.



“I like the idea that young people from the community can get the chance to repair their bike themselves while learning and gaining a lot of new skills. It’s surprising in how many ways you can use a bike. You can charge a phone or even warm up an immersion heater and make tea while keeping fit. I think it would be a great idea for Uganda. People could use the bike to generate energy for their daily use.“ – Acramz



“The pocket money company is a good example of sustainability. Sustainability can only work if the whole community is involved. It often starts with awareness and education. A lot of people take many things in our daily lives for granted, while often neglecting the energy these products consume. The bicycle cinema is a perfect example of how doing it yourself shows you how much power is required to stream something as simple as a movie.“ – Rob



First, the motor was connected to the bicycle...



...then kicked hard to generate power.

More than 10 years ago the small soap manufacturer MAISOAP in Berlin Friedrichshain was invented. The owner's initial motive was to relieve her daughter's skin disease. As a chemist, she started to create soap in her private kitchen and improved formulas and products until she finally opened her own small business. The soaps mainly contain eco-friendly ingredients like essential oils and natural scents like lavender, green tea or aloe vera. Wrapped in brown paper, they become a plastic free alternative to commercial drugstore shampoos and body washes. In Berlin and surrounding communities, MaiSoap has become more and more popular. Unlike many start-ups, Gudrun Schmidt does not want to become a large company. She would like to continue to produce the soaps herself, keep up her family business and remain a true entrepreneur.



MaiSoap, Berlin



“The manufactory was not founded with the intention to make big money. I like that. I think a good start-up should also have a vision of making a positive contribution to changing our society. Nevertheless, I do have one criticism: MaiSoap cannot yet provide complete information about the supply chain, and the social and ecological effects of raw material extraction such as essential oils. But I am optimistic that this will change in the future.” – Klara



“Living a life in harmony with nature is crucial for me when it comes to sustainability and our future. I was very impressed by the fact that the owner has held on to a vision for 10 years but has also developed it further and remained true to herself. Her passion is what runs her business, which makes me trust and believe that it's sustainable” - Joan

COSMETICS & HEALTH

„Plastics are used in many cosmetic products. From our bathrooms, the plastics are discharged through the waste water to the local sewage treatment plants. Micro plastics can be found in all depths of the sea; it has been found in shells, worms, fish and sea birds.“ BUND, german environmental organisation



Uganics, Kampala

„Every year almost 500,000 people die of malaria worldwide. 90% of those infected live on the African continent.“ World Health Organisation (WHO)

UGANICS is a young start-up based in Uganda, fighting malaria through a natural, long-lasting mosquito repellent soap. Common methods to avoid mosquito bites are often inefficient. Mosquito nets can only be used during sleeping, while sprays often consist of many chemicals and are vastly unaffordable. This is where Uganics aims to fill the gap by offering a simple product which is easily accessible, and can be used daily for washing clothes and showering. Uganics is using organic essential oils which are locally sourced and grown by rural women farmers. The soap is sold to pharmacies, hospitals and the rural community, but also to hotels and tourists. For them, the soaps are a little more expensive so that they can be more affordable in local trade.



“Fighting Malaria with an everyday product like soap seems to me to be a very sustainable solution, not exclusive to the people in Uganda. The use of local ingredients and the sale of the product to the local communities at affordable prices strengthens the local economy.” – Clara



„I had malaria more often, although I slept under a mosquito net. Uganics has made malaria control more accessible and affordable. Uganics empowers women by providing them with seeds for herbs, and teaching them knowledge about cultivation. Uganics improves the standard of living in every way.” – Acramz



UGANICS - Workshop 2019

INKOTA

For many years INKOTA has been committed to a fairer and more equal world. With numerous campaigns INKOTA draws attention to the unfair and often inhumane working conditions in countries of the Global South. INKOTA is a member of the Clean Clothes Campaign, which was founded in 1990, and today reminds companies and politicians in 16 European countries of their responsibility. Even though the vast quantities of textiles are produced in different continents, the catastrophic conditions are similar: violation of human rights, failure to comply with basic social and work safety measures, no minimum (living) wage, dangerous exposure to chemicals, and environmental hazards at work. INKOTA works with many partners in countries all over the world to create a better and fairer clothing and production value chain.

WHAT CAN WE DO??

GET ACTIVE

- › Raise awareness!
 - Talk to your family, friends, colleagues, etc
- › Follow and Support the Clean Clothes Campaign
- › Sign petitions
- › Take part in an action
- › Ask in the shops about the working conditions in factories that produce for your favourite brands

CHANGE BUYING HABITS

- › Consume less
- › Swap clothes with friends and family
- › Visit or organise swapshops
- › Buy second-hand clothes
- › When buying new, look out for 'fair' brands

www.cleanclothes.org

www.saubere-kleidung.de

www.inkota.de

INKOTA, Berlin



"It is quite shocking that even large, well-known companies do not have sufficient information about the circumstances under which their products are actually manufactured. I therefore think we should measure a company's performance by considering their own knowledge about the supply chains. But even if they can provide details about it, there is no guarantee that human rights will be respected in the production of clothing." – Lukas



"I think everyone should take individual efforts towards sustainability. But we also need organizations like INKOTA in Uganda because they encourage mass awareness and advocacy towards a change in the fashion industry. Governments, big fashion businesses and consumers must think about how wastage, exploitation and environmental damage can be avoided in order to build a fairer and greener world." – Monica

CIVIL SOCIETY

„Civil society - that's the citizens. Through their involvement in initiatives and citizens' movements, they shape policy „from below“. They formulate their interests ... And they volunteer to work for society“ Centre for Civil Society Development, Germany



NAPE, Ssesse Island

NAPE (National Association of Professional Environmentalists) is a Ugandan NGO dedicated to research on and the publication of environmental and social impacts of the huge palm oil plantations on Bugala Island, one of the Ssesse-Islands in Lake Victoria. Bugala, with its capital district Kalangala, used to have a rich rainforest with a vast amount of animal and plant species. For the cultivation of palm oil trees, many thousands of hectares were deforested in the last couple of years due to an increasing domestic and international demand of palm oil products. Another plantation is currently in development on a neighbouring island. This results in the displacement of people, less land for the local food cultivation and production, contamination of Lake Victoria with pesticides and a massive destruction of local and regional biotopes. So far, there is a small but growing movement of environmentalists in Uganda with NAPE at its heart.



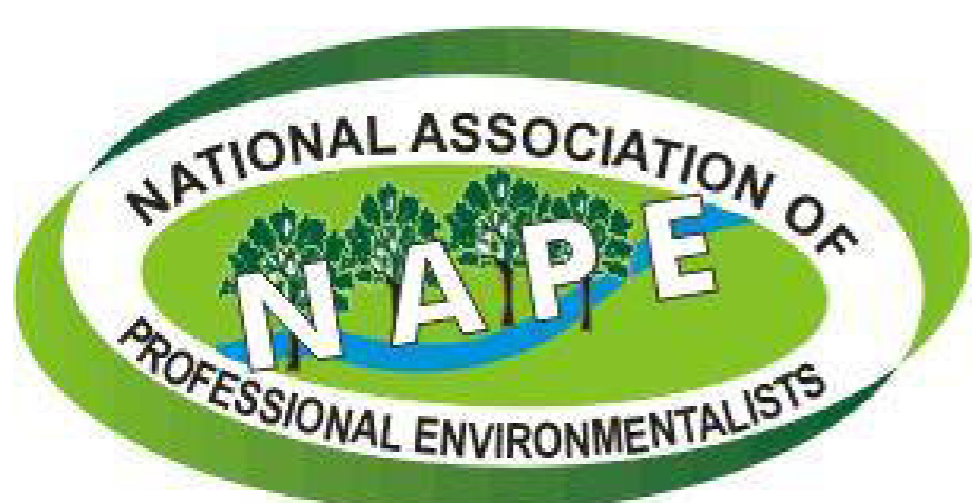
"After driving through these huge, monotonous palm oil plantations for several hours and seeing the impacts on nature and biodiversity with one's own eyes, I was relieved to actually meet people who informed me about the negative consequences of this monoculture. Organizations like NAPE are crucial to give the people on the islands a voice." – Jan



"Of course, we had all heard about the palm oil plantations before. But to see them with our own eyes is quite different. It was very important for me to talk to the representatives of an environmental organization, who were able to answer many of my questions because they have lived on the island since they were born." - Kisu



transport of the harvested oil palm nuts



a NAPE member explained problems and approaches



the fruit of the oil palm

