

University Managers in Environmental Sustainability Training

The University of Nairobi in collaboration with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) of UNEP conducted a two-day training workshop on environmental sustainability auditing from 11th to 12th June 2015 at the Central Catering Unit (CCU) with the objective of building the capacities of environmental sustainability champions and sensitizing the management on the importance of environmental sustainability.

In his speech, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi, who was represented by Prof. B.N.K. Njoroge, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance) outlined the steps the university had taken towards strengthening focus and management of environmental sustainability activities. He said the training was of strategic importance to the University as it will contribute to the University of Nairobi's leadership role in protecting and conserving our environment and natural resources. He expressed his appreciation to NEMA and UNEP for partnering with the University to build the capacities of the environmental sustainability champions.

On his part, Prof. Njoroge emphasized the importance of the training, especially in assisting the University to meet its obligations to the Government regarding Environmental Sustainability Performance Contract Guidelines.

Dr. Ayub Macharia, NEMA Director of Environmental Education, Information and Participation Department said NEMA was happy to be associated with the training. He informed participants that the University of Nairobi was one of the best in reporting its achievements of Environmental Sustainability Targets.

Areas covered during the training included highlights of the principles and objectives of the University of Nairobi's Environmental Policy. Participants were also taken through the "Greening Universities Toolkit" which provides an understanding of the elements of a sustainable university, strategies for setting up a framework for sustainability planning and management and tools for translating sustainability commitments to reality. Presentations of the environmental sustainability focal areas were made which were complimented by discussions and group work.

Also present during the workshop included Prof. Isaack Mbeche (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs), Prof. Henry Mutoro (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs) and all College Principals.

The training was attended by 83 sustainability champions drawn from all colleges in the university including College Registrars and Heads of Departments.