

# Kudumail

News from the Africa Scout Region

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## Conforming to the 21<sup>st</sup> century! ARO undergoes best practices compliance audit



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**NAIROBI** – From 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the World Scout Bureau - Africa Regional Office (ARO) received two auditors from the Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) who were commissioned to assess the compliance level of ARO based on the international best practice standards of Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Funded by the World Scout Foundation, the audit that took place, saw the regional office team go through hours of meticulous assessments in a bid to reach the pass mark that guaranteed the much-coveted certification.

With onsite interviews and documentary checks, performance, systems, documentation and policies were assessed based on verifiable indicators that have been selected from major codes and international standards that are then grouped into dimensions of best practices namely: Governing Body, Strategic Framework, Integrity Management, Communication, Advocacy and Public Image, Human Resources, Fundraising, Resources Allocation and Financial Controls,

Financial Controls, Operations, Outcomes and Continuous Improvement.

At the end of the exercise, each indicator was rated and consolidated by perspective in the final audit report and the Africa Regional Office passed the audit with a score of 73.2%.

No major non-conformity was found. Some NSOs in Africa are partaking in the exercise.

The purpose of this “NGO Benchmarking” Standard is to provide an independent assessment of NGOs’ conformity level with internationally recognized Best Practices, and thus their mastery of the risks attached to their mission.

SGS S.A. is a multinational company headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland that provides inspection, verification, testing and certification services.

It has around 70,000 employees and operates over 1,350 offices and laboratories worldwide. It is one of the world’s leading inspection, testing and certification companies.

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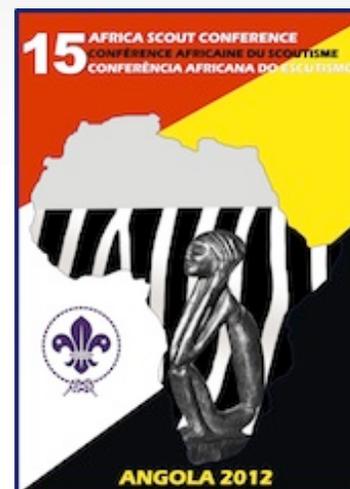
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## FOCUS ON NSOs

## Uganda Scout Association holds its first U-report Conference

**UGANDA** – On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012, clad in purple T-shirts, excited 'U-reporters' gathered for the 1<sup>st</sup> U-report Conference at Ndere Centre, in Ntinda in Kampala, Uganda. The conference that was organized by U-report partners supported by UNICEF brought together about 100 key U-reporters, Members of Parliament and other UNICEF partners like Uganda Scouts Association, the Ruwenzori Information Center Network (RIC-NET), the Girls Education Movement (GEM), Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee (BRAC), Battery Operated System for Uganda Communities (BOSCO) and Church of Uganda, among others.

The U-reporters engaged in a series of activities including discussions on various issues such how they have used U-report to change their societies, the challenges they face, what can be done to keep U-reporters motivated and the mandate of U-report district delegates among others.

During the occasion, Hon. Mondo Kyateka, the Commissioner for children and youth affairs said that, "It is noted that the Ministry of Gender has an asset based strategy that looks at young people as part of the solution to the development problems that they (young people) face.

Only they can identify solutions to them thus the routine question and answer exercise done by the U-reporters has served to supplement this strategy". Hon. Kyateka also challenged the youth to be proactive and relevant people in society. He urged them to stand and do something that they will be remembered for.

The enthusiastic Commissioner further told the youth that most people who have left an impact in the society and the world did so during their youthful days citing Jesus, Mohamed and Steve Jobs as examples. "If you have nothing to live for, find something to die for, be that U-reporter that will change society for the better". He said.

Other dignitaries at the Conference were Honorable Members of Parliament; Hon. Kyakweri Lydia of Kweni District, Hon. Rwabuhoro Flavia of Kyegegwa District, Hon. Florence Mutyabula of Namutumba District, Hon. Acheng Ruth of Kole District, Hon. Kiwana Godfrey Subi of Mityana North District, and Hon. Dorothy of Kamwenge District.

U-report is a free SMS-based system that allows young Ugandans to speak out on what's happening in communities across the country, and work together with other community leaders for positive change.

The U-reporters had an opportunity to interact with the Honorable Members of Parliament where they sought to understand several things that they needed to be addressed like corruption among other youth issues.

At the end of the conference, Mr. James Powell, the UNICEF U-report Project Manager, thanked everyone for their support towards the success of the event.

He specifically thanked the European Union for the support, the MPs and Uganda government at large for believing in the project and always paying attention to the issues raised by the U-reporters and majorly to the U-reporters for their interest in the project and their continued response to the U-report poll questions.

Mr. Powell said that despite the fact that U-report is a new strategy to engage the youth, it has in a very short time proved to be the most effective way of engaging the youth in the decision making processes of the Government and also of getting the youth to cause positive impact in society.



He appealed to Government to continue supporting the platform and responding to the issues that are raised by the U-reporters and encouraged the U-reporters to continue reporting on the social and developmental challenges in their localities, responding to U-report poll questions and recruiting more U-reporters.

He revealed that currently there are approximately 115,000 U-reporters in the Country and they still look at recruiting even more. He crowned the event with offering each U-reporter a Google solar Charger to keep their phones charged and in position to report anytime, anywhere.



©Uganda Scouts Associatio

## Life skills: Scouting by experience in Durban

**DURBAN** – From 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012, Scouts in the city of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa, had a fun-filled hike around their city while making use of natural reserves. Themed "Great Escape" this urban hike was aimed at using their Scout survival skills to cross "hostile territory" and find a "safe" place.

The Barkus Boot hike that was scheduled for three days started with an evening at the Chatsworth Youth Centre and the next two days in Silverglen Nature Reserve. At the assembly point, the participants were given a detailed brief in preparation for the hike. This was done without revealing the surprises the organizers had in store for the participants!



©South Africa Scout Association- Kwa-Zulu Natal

It was during the evening that the Scouts were "taken captive" by "hostile forces" who by dawn had deserted them in an unknown location, leaving them with one option that was to escape.

Using maps left by their "captors", they were able to work out the safest and quickest route to safety. In their bid for safety, they encountered a number of obstacles that put to test their newly acquired Scouting skills to cross hostile territories and escape.

At the end of the exercise, the Scouts acquired various skills in harvesting and purifying drinking water, map reading, bush craft where they were introduced to poisonous and edible plants, making and using a conservation stove, canoeing to cross a lake, making survival shelters for the night, camouflaging techniques and building pioneering structures for crossing the border security fence.

Patrols cooked their own food, backwoods style, slept out in survival improvised shelters made from local vegetation and organized impromptu campfires and silk-screened their blanket patches and T-shirts.

"This is something that Scouts in cities anywhere in the world could easily replicate which of course cuts down the costs of having to travel into the country side.

This activity has also significantly raised the profile of Scouts in the city and the public who are happy to see that Scouting was alive and well" Said Mr. Garth Kloppenborg, Provincial Chairman.

FROM THE REGIONAL OFFICE

Mediation in Liberia

**LIBERIA** - Liberia Scouts Association has suffered unfavourable image since December 2012 when its executive council experienced governance related challenges. In a bid to redress the situation and put the association up on its feet again, the Africa Regional Office intervened from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The association hosted Ms. Jemima Nartey, the Chairperson of the Africa Scout Committee and Mr. Bansadja Banafai, the Deputy Regional Director of the Africa Regional Office.

The interim chief commissioner was tasked to prepare for the Extraordinary Annual General Meeting where the National Executive Committee and the National Scout Council will be elected.

In December 2011, the executive committee of Liberia Scout Association was split into two blocs. It is with this in mind that the World Scout Bureau - Africa Regional Office, was on a mission to mediate between these two parties. The new email address for the Liberia Scout Association is: [liberiascoutassociation\\_hq@yahoo.com](mailto:liberiascoutassociation_hq@yahoo.com)



© Liberia Scouts Association

Capacity Building in the East Africa Zone



**RWANDA** - The Youth Programme Assistant and the Adult Resource Manager from the Africa Regional Office facilitated an Assistant Leader Trainer's Course that targeted participants from East Africa. The training also covered aspects of the Youth Programme. The activity was held at the St Paul Pastoral Centre in Rwanda from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

The main purpose for the training was to develop the capacity of Rwanda Scout Association in programme development and to develop the training capacity of NSOs within East Africa Zone.

Graced by national Scout leaders from Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Burundi the training was a success.

With regards to Youth Programme, participants were taken through the steps in youth programme design with a view to help them develop a relevant programme for their Associations. As a result, national programme commissioners were encouraged to constitute programme committees that will be tasked to follow up on programme issues and review their NSO programme guide in accordance with the Africa Core Programme.

The Assistant Leader Trainers (ALT) Course had 20 participants from Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda who qualified as potential trainers for their respective NSOs, thus building the capacities of their respective NSOs in the area of Adult Resources.



*Catch The 15<sup>th</sup> Africa Scout Conference stories exclusively in the June Edition of Kudumail.*

**DO NOT MISS YOUR COPY!**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Messengers of Peace: Scouting helps street children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

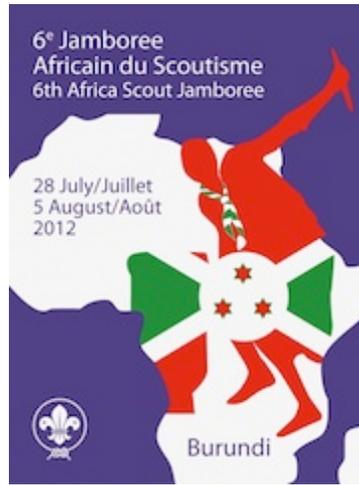
**KINSHASA** – Within the framework of the Messengers of Peace project, the Fédération des Scouts de la République démocratique du Congo (FESCO) launched a new youth program on 6 April 2012. Through this program, the Scout method is used to support street children from a centre known as "Molende na ngai" which means "my perseverance." Today, this centre counts 46 Cubs and 22 Scouts. Their enthusiasm is so compelling that FESCO is now receiving many requests for membership from less affluent areas of Kinshasa.

Since its inception in 1990, FESCO has not had a national youth program for all provincial associations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Today, following a visit of the Secretary General of WOSM, Mr. Luc Panissod and the Regional Director, Mr. Frederic Tutu Kama-Kama in May 2011, a change within the NSO has taken place. FESCO now has a new look and its pulse is of a young heart, an organization that has received a breath of fresh air.



This was also made possible by the financial support from Messengers of Peace project. In addition, thanks to that project, two officials of the national team are paid and the rent arrears owed to the "Stade des Martyrs" have been paid. The officials are also grateful for a new computer, a printer and a high capacity copier.

Messengers of Peace is a World Scouting project created to capitalize on the success of the "Gifts for Peace" projects that were run during the centenary year. The Messengers of Peace programme is a 10-year initiative for the 161 member countries of the World Organization of the Scout Movement to involve individual Scouts as well as National Scout Organizations from all WOSM regions in peace-building activities



UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATES	COUNTRY
6 <sup>th</sup> Africa Scout Youth Forum	1-4 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Angola
15 <sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Conference	6-9 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Angola
6 <sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Jamboree	28 <sup>th</sup> July - 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2012	Burundi

Memorable quote

"We reaffirm our commitment to serving the needs of young people in Africa and to provide better Scouting for them. We also appeal to the African Union, African governments, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, UN agencies, the business community, philanthropists and eminent persons to support and embrace Scouting in all African countries."

*African Scout Leaders, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Scout Summit  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2009, Nairobi*

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