

Take

PEOPLE DAILY
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GREEN AGENDA

Nature warrior

CLAIRE NASIKE is determined to leave a mark that will have a reverberating impact on the world. So, instead of blogging about the usual things such as beauty and food she chose a subject most people would rather not waste time talking about – the environment



PHOTOS: AYUB MUYURO

SUMMED UP

- She is a student at Technical University of Kenya studying Bachelor of Technology in Environmental Resource Management.
- She won last year's Wangari Maathai Scholarship Fund Award, becoming the third winner of the annual environmental innovations award which was introduced in 2013.
- She was the best Environmental /Agriculture blogger last year.
- She went to port Victoria Primary School and Makivenzi Girls Secondary school.
- She became 1st runners-up during Bloggers Association Award (BAKE) last year.

by Milliam Murigi
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Claire Nasike inherited her love for the environment from her grandmother who used different plants to make herbs.

After her secondary education she decided to study Environmental Science at Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi and in 2013 she secured internship at Rocha, an International Christian Organisation, which engages in scientific research, environmental education, community-based conservation projects and

sustainable agriculture as a communication officer.

It is here that her interest in blogging on environmental issues begun. Though it was a good idea, she realised that the impact was not felt at the grassroots and she decided to do something different.

"I remember one day I went back home and found a local forest cleared because people were burning charcoal. I was so upset," she said.

The incident disturbed Nasike, 24, so much and after sharing her concerns with her cousins, they decided to start a project to empower school children to regain control of their environment and in 2014, "Return of

Sisterhood" was registered.

"Return of Sisterhood is a Community Based Organisation based in Budalangi, Busia, which empowers the girl-child not only on environmental issues but also entrepreneur-

ship, sexual reproductive health and career and leadership through our mentorship programme," she said.

Though the organisation was registered in January 2014, its operations started in December that year when they mentored 250 girls from different schools in Budalangi. Currently they, have mentored more than 1,500 girls and they are planning to reach 3,000 this year.

They have also started teaching women on how to make briquettes using waste papers and sawdust and so far 20 women have been reached. Because of her projects, she won Wangari Maathai Scholarship award last year May and her projects are now fully funded.

"Wangari Maathai Scholarship Fund was set up in memory of Prof Wangari Maathai aimed at developing action-oriented young people with strong levels and commitment to the conservation of the physical and social environment in Kenya," she said. Nasike hopes to scale up her conservation projects with the scholarship fund to empower young

DIY: CASH IN TRASH

WITH Faith Chebet @chebetkorir

Recycling old discs into lamps

Technology seems to be heading in a different direction with the rise of digital music and streaming movies and music online. As this happens, what are you planning to do with all those old CDs and DVDs? Thinking of throwing them out? Wait a second. You can recycle them into lamps by using a fluorescent tube and sliding it down the middle of the stack. However, you can use a cabinet led lighting that comes in thin strips that can easily be inserted down the core of a stack of discs. It does not produce heat and it's fairly energetic and efficient. Here are two versions of the lamp. All you have to do is choose which one looks better.

The desk lamp

Simply bend a fairly strong piece of wire into a wide base, leaving space for the electrical cord. Stack the CDs on top of it and you're good to go. A quick curl at the top can help keep it all together in case you bump into them.

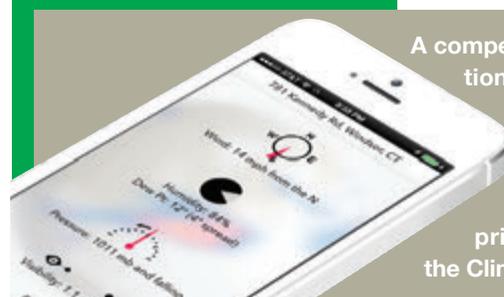


The hanging lamp

Tie a fat knot in some rope and feed the CDs down to the knot. Once you've got your CDs stacked up, slide the led strip down the middle. This could be pretty cool looking under the right circumstances.



News brief



A competition that will revolutionise how Kenyans access accurate climate information has been launched.

It is dubbed the Wazo prize and will be under the Climate Information Prize

competition and funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The idea behind it is to encourage the development of innovative solutions to make climate information more useable for poor and vulnerable communities in Kenya. -MILLIAM MURIGI

girls and women in her area to conserve the environment for future generations as well as to benefit from it through different livelihood projects that come from environmental conservation. Nasike's blog was first runners-up in the the Best Environmental/Agricultural Blog during last year's Bloggers Association of Kenya awards.