

# BORDERS TO CROSS

Title:	'From civic collaborative initiatives to building participatory capacity in the public sector'
Name workshop:	Institutional innovation
Projects presented:	1. Cew-it Uganda Manifesto 2. Friesland Citizens Jury
Workshop director(s):	Cew-it Uganda: James Mwirima
Name rapporteur(s):	Susan den Uyl
Date and time of workshop:	30 October 14:30-16:00

Heading: three lines leading the reader into the topic:

Reversed development aid: Uganda is helping the Netherlands! The Netherlands is taking the Ugandan model of neighborhood assemblies and uses this to address a Dutch issue with meadow birds.

What triggered me: 5 lines:

Uganda has had a history of kingdoms with absolute power, colonialism and later a military dictatorship. The power is not given to the people. Uganda got a constitution that provided democratic rules, but in reality these democratic norms were not lived up to.

Uganda is a **new democracy** that started to implement **basic democratic values** like, accountability and transparency, participation and consultation, equity and consensus building. Still, an **old democracy** like the Netherlands could learn from Uganda.

Description and elaboration of observations and reflections of projects and/or things that happened and/or were discussed during the workshop: 10-20 lines:

In 2008 The Citizens Manifesto Uganda (and the corresponding Manifesto Day) was formulated. This should be a means for citizens to set the agenda for their leaders.

Through '**neighborhood assemblies**', citizens can address issues in their community to their officials. This way, it is also a form of public accountability. It could be seen as a grass root parliament.

### Cew-it Uganda-The Netherlands project:

What can Netherlands learn about Ugandan citizen participation?

In the Netherlands, biodiversity is declining. A citizen jury in Friesland wants to decide about the future of meadow birds. They want to do this with a citizen jury similar to the neighborhood assemblies. This citizen jury is also inspired by the work of Belgian author David Van Reybrouck about **democracy by lot**. Farmers are stakeholders in this issue, because they own the land where the meadow birds live. The farmers own the land, but the citizens own the landscape. Therefore it is a decision making process that involves farmers, ordinary citizens and the policy makers.

Reflection, possibly linking up to the leading questions and threads: 5-10 lines:

Like The Netherlands, Uganda wants to have an institutionalized democracy. But institutional change needs support of the people and of the politicians from within. It needs time and is a constant process. Even though the Netherlands is an old democracy, they are struggling with **the same problems**.

Both countries want to implement more consultation. Public policy has to become truly inclusive. In Uganda the government is struggling to restore trust in the population. The Manifesto is an effort to inject participation culture and practices into government institutions. But Friesland could also learn from this mentality change, which holds that civil participation should be a common practice.