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Lesson Plan Title: Maji ni Uhai	State: CA
Lesson Time Frame: 2 weeks	Inspired by this Expedition: Lakes of the Rift Valley
Student Level: High School	

Stability in an ecosystem is a balance between competing effects.

biodiversity - sum of different organisms and is affected by altered habitats.

analyze changes in an ecosystem resulting from climate, human activity...

The students in Kenya wrote a song about water which they sang for us. It was so beautiful that I cried behind my sunglasses. It made me so happy that these kids were singing so beautifully and passionately about conservation! Deborah (from Germany) has this on DVD because she was in charge of videotaping all of the schoolchildren. She said she will send me a copy of the DVD. I would like to show this to my students and give them the translation in English. I had Sarah (a Kenyan) translate it for me while I was there. The song is called "Maji ni uhai" (water is life) and was so catchy you would hear everyone in the camp humming or singing it. Here are the lyrics:

(Chorus)

Water is important

Water is life

Without water brother, we can't live

Sing goodness conserve those areas

Chemical containers and papers should not be thrown in water

Because they are killing creatures

We should not cut down trees and burn them

Because they are destroying catchment areas

Navigation depends on water

Power production depends on water

Cooking at home depends on water

Various things depend on water

Construction depends on water

These are simple lyrics, but it's a beautiful song in swahili. These ideas about water are not specific to Kenya, we need to hear the same message in California.

I think it would be great if I could have my students perform this song with the band (at least the drum section) for a large group at school. I would like to make it the focus of a play about conservation. I will give my students all the information they need on water conservation from the chapter on water in our text. Their project will be to write a play. The play must include concepts of water conservation and causes/effects of water pollution. This project will be done during our unit on water in my AP Environmental Science class. The two chapters in our text (Botkin and Keller) are "Water Supply, Use, and Management", and "Water Pollution and Treatment". They will be assessed based on their meeting of deadlines and contribution toward the final performance. I really think my students can learn from the passion and talents that these Kenyan students have.