



Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon grass growing and Education in Uganda

Activity 1.7 Mobilize 16 schools into active 'environmental protection clubs' including supporting them plant 100 trees per school (fruit trees)

Introduction

With funding and support from Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) and Global Bridge Network (GBN), SORAK was able to mobilize and create 16 environmental protection clubs from 16 schools. These clubs are made up of 20 children each. They are assigned with the responsibility of monitoring and reporting of environmental abuse in their respective schools as well planting trees.

Period: June 2018 – Sep 2018

List of schools in which clubs were formed

1. Katega p/s
2. Ssenkulu p/s
3. Kiwuwa p/s
4. Kabunyonyi p/s
5. Buganyi p/s
6. Kyakansimbi p/s
7. St. kizitoKigamba
8. Ebenezer Juvenile p/s
9. Kafundeezi p/s
10. Kabowa P/s
11. Mungungulu p/s
12. Kabubu p/s
13. Kattambogo p/s
14. Buwata p/s
15. Lwawuna p/s
16. Precious Child Learning Centre

Major roles and responsibilities of these clubs

- The major highlight is that school based clubs provide an excellent opportunity to foster environmental education and champion environmental responsibility that the formed environmental protection clubs will be the lead teams when it comes to issues concerning the environment in their respective schools. They will spear head or take lead in whatever situation affecting the environment.
- These clubs are to work with the senior school management team to foster environmental conservation measures. These are voluntarily meant to provide best ways of teaching their fellow young about environmental issues. They are to carry out waste management, soil conservation, and tree plantation.
- These clubs are creating awareness, advocacy, conservation, maintenance of school environment, and have brought unity in the schools.

Activities

Under this activity, SORAK accomplished the followings;

- Formed school based environmental protection clubs. SORAK requested the school based clubs to work with communities in some environmental management activities like creating awareness on the need to conserve nature, campaigns against wetland reclamation, practice tree planting and waste management.
- SORAK procured tree seedlings and assisted children plant them in their school compounds.
- SORAK also taught school based clubs to establish projects like tree nursery beds to address lack of tree seedlings to plant on the bare grounds at their schools
- SORAK informed school based clubs of the need to develop action plans and set achievable targets for the whole year to address environmental threats like deforestation.
- SORAK assigned clubs the role of educating the local communities on new methods of farming, soil erosion prevention measures, management of breeding sites.
- SORAK informed clubs of National environmental management authority-NEMA Uganda (2006) which advocates for networking in order to promote environmental education in local communities.



SORAK programmes manager together with the Nabingoola sub county chief also participated in launching the tree planting at Kafundeezi primary school



Kafundeezi environmental protection club pupils 'in uniform' participate in the planting of trees at their school.



Our partner from GBN and SORAK Executive Director in the background participates in the launching of tree planting as pupils of Kafundeezi p/s watch on.



Rightt: A teacher of precious child learning centre inspects the trees delivered by SORAK Left: Children of Precious child learning centre showcase the tree seedlings delivered by SORAK Development Agency

Outcome by the club activities

Clubs created in the first schools are positively impacting the environment by tree planting and are sensitizing their fellow pupils in hygiene and proper waste management.

Major challenges faced by the clubs

- Lack of motivation and necessary facilities among others. total
- The clubs also face problems such as lack of information on prevailing environmental issues, and lack of total support from the school administration
- Improper planning of club activities
- One club member Namuwenge talked of *“Interference of club activities by other school goals and lack of proper flow of information to the clubs. she stressed that these problems hinder learners from becoming active in addressing local environmental problems and that identification of these constraints is necessary so as to innovatively develop appropriate measures to enhance school based clubs to address environmental concerns”*.

Recommendations

It is recommended that motivational activities like giving prizes for example tokens of appreciation should be provided in future in order to stimulate the desire and energy in the children to continue fighting for environmental protection.

Conclusion

School based environmental protection clubs were successfully formed. The school based clubs promised to work hand in hand with SORAK, school management committee to keep an open eye on the environment.