



## Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon grass growing and Education in Uganda

*Activity: 1.8 Train 160 children environmental protection activists in monitoring and reporting of environmental abuse*

### Date and Location:

No	Date	Location
1	18/09/2018	Kibalinga primary school
2	20/09/2018	Lwawuna primary
3	22/09/2018	Buwaata primary school
4	24/9/2018	Mungungulu primary school

### Introduction:

The environmental protection activists' trainings took place at the following centre schools; each training targeted 40 children though each school wished to have all children in upper primary section (primary 5 to 7 grades) attend. With funding and support from Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) and Global Bridge Network (GBN), SORAK was able to take record of 160 school children and desired to have this number represent others as environmental protection agents or activists.

### Objective of training:

The purpose of this training was to equip children with specific environmental protection information. The activity was also intended to provide children with the existing laws and regulations concerning environmental protection. The trained children would later become activists who could report environmental abuse, more especially poor use of wetlands and forest reserves, and poor waste disposal in schools among others. They would later grow in responsible for making environment alert and becoming environmentally friendly citizens.

### Participants:

Location	Male/others	Female/others	Total
Kibalinga primary school	20	20	40
Lwawuna primary	20	20	40
Buwaata primary school	20	20	40
Mungungulu primary school	20	20	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>160</b>

### Facilitators:

**The trainings were facilitated by the following SORAK staff.**

1. Muhumuza Adolf – M&E officer

2. Florence Nakaayi – a resource person invited from a NGO called JOY initiatives located in Mpigi, Uganda.
3. Martin Mafabi- Finance officer -SORAK

**Activities:**

Children were trained and introduced to the following activities;

1. Trained 160 children as environmental protection activists in monitoring and reporting environmental abuse. Children were trained on how, why and where they should report the day to day environmental abuses such as the careless and irresponsible activities of human beings like bush burning, bad waste disposal, deforestation, and wetland misuse. The trained children would therefore serve as environmental protection activists to report those problems.
2. The trained children were informed how the environmental protection clubs had been formed in other 16 schools, and these trained children would later follow up the progress of activities being made by these 16 clubs in other project supported schools.
3. Trained on school and community based environmental conservation. These trainees would later champion and take lead on tree and lemon grass planting.
4. The environmental protection activists were informed of their role towards environmental conservation including raising awareness about environmental protection in public and schools. These trained children were tasked to cover issues related to water, air, waste reduction and recycling, as well as biodiversity.



Children trained to become environmental protection activists at Buwata P/S



Children trained at Mugungulu p/s to become environmental protection agents



Children trained into environmental protection agents at Lwawuna P/S



Children at Kibalinga Primary school take lead in demonstrating the effects of environmental degradation through a short drama after the training

**Outcomes:**

1. Environmental walks by environmental protection activists were carried out by Mungungulu P/S activists and this has led to reduced cutting down of trees in Baggezza sub-county.
2. Reported cases of environmental abuse at sub counties by children environmental protection activists have led to reduce encroachment on wetlands in Kigando Sub county
3. Children started participating in routine environmental clean ups with local leaders.

**Major challenges:**

1. Their school managers recommended many more children to participate in the training, but the number was limited to 40 children per training
2. Concerns were raised that some of the most active trained children would soon leave school either to drop out or join secondary education in other locations where are not targeted in this project.
3. The concept of environmental protection activism and agents was new to most of the children and they requested SORAK to make constant follow ups and monitoring to ensure sustained efforts and consistency of environmental protection desired changes.

**Recommendations:**

Trainees therefore recommended the following;

1. Provision of more trainings for more children to ensure effectively equipping learners on these newly introduced environmental protection issues and concepts.
2. Asking the sub county and district local government to provide support and funds to similar activities in schools. This was based on the fact that SORAK is an NGO that is able to quickly go to solve the problems at similar or related schools. In order to make schools actively work on this issue as a primary service provider, support and funds from government is crucial.

**Conclusion:**

In summary the training set a precedence towards equipping children as key agents of environmental protection and abuse monitors. Children were happy to learn about their newly found roles of becoming environmental protection leaders. They also hoped to interact with other clubs through monitoring activities of other school based environmental clubs because it would give them opportunity to learn more about the issues, make friends and reach out to new areas where they have not visited before. The school managers were equally appreciating the capacity building that SORAK conducted so far extended to all children in schools. These trained children would later grow up into responsible leaders.