



Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon grass growing and Education in Uganda

2.4 Activity Support quarterly surveillance by environmental officers on laws and regulations of environmental protection formulated in year 1

Date and Location:

No	Date	Location
1	8 th June 2018	Kitenga Nabakazi wetland
2	7 th September 2018	Lusalira Kibalinga wetland
3	7 th December 2018	Kiyita –Nabingoola wetlands
4	15 th March 2019	Bageza seed secondary school

Introduction:

With support from Japanese Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) and Global Bridge Network (GBN), SORAK Development Agency was able to conduct quarterly surveillance visits to threatened sites like wetlands and institutions conducted by a team of 8 persons per visit. SORAK supported one surveillance conducted by a team of 8 persons including sub county and SORAK team. The team visited the wetlands of Kitenga-Nabakazi, Lusalira Kibalinga, and Kiyita –Nabingoola. There was also a surveillance visit to Bageza seed secondary school of Kibalinga sub county.

Purpose/ Objective of training/ activity:

The purpose of the surveillance visits was to monitor and observe extent of protection and damage to the fragile environmental if any. SORAK would later be able to inform all stakeholders especially sub county and district leaders of whatever is observed for subsequent intervention in order to safe wetland destruction.

Participants:

Location	Male	Female	Total
Kitenga Nabakazi wetland	6	2	8
Lusalira Kibalinga wetland	5	3	8
Kiyita –Nabingoola wetlands	5	3	8
Bageza seed secondary school	4	4	8

Facilitators:

This activity was a field visit activity facilitated by SORAK team that moved around (travelling to different sites in the field) with various stakeholders. It was nevertheless facilitated by;
1. Muhammad Kyeyune, SORAK Director

2. Martin Mafabi, SORAK
3. The district environment officer.
4. The stakeholders involved included the;
 1. District environment officer
 2. The Assistant District environment officer
 3. The sub-county chiefs
 4. Sub-county community development officers
 5. Secretaries for production and environment at sub county level
 6. Village leaders neighboring wetlands

Activities:

The following activities were held.

1. Conducting on site visits to wetlands and checking any human activity therein. Such activities including crop cultivation, trees planting, sand and clay mining, waste/garbage dumping, wetland burning among others.
2. Taking measurements with the community to show them wetland boundaries. This would enable them know the limit of their farming or any other activities.
3. Informing the wetland users and neighbors of the acceptable and non-acceptable activities in wetlands. For instance, fish farming, bee keeping and other wetland use sustainable activities are acceptable while land filling, dumping, tree planting were not allowed in wetlands.
4. Investigating other activities during surveillance include tree planting especially in upland communities like when we visited Bagezza seed secondary school.



The district environment officer with file pointing to the extent of damage done on the wetland-Kitenga -Nabakazi



Fauna-Uganda crested crane, birds are threatened by the maize crop in the middle of this photo- in their wetland habitat



Extent of wetland degradation through waste disposal and excavation that was declared to stop during surveillance-Luslaira Kibalinga wetland



Surveillance team and community members with a measuring tape-measure extent of wetland encroachment through cabbage growing –Lusalira Kibalinga wetland



SORAK ED waters a tree after planting in remembrance of the surveillance at Bagezza Seed secondary school in Kibalinga

Outcomes:

1. Police together with district officers promised to print out copies of regulations for environment protection and display in Community Centers.
2. Police promised to monitor any violation of laws of environment protection and assured that culprits will be brought to face charges/ punishments.
3. Some sites visited welcomed the idea and responded by planting trees as a sign of supporting the idea of surveillance and continued protection of our environment. For example, at Bagezza seed secondary where 5 trees were planted.

Major challenges:

1. Communities lack enough arable land and thus resort to illegal wetland encroachment.
2. Poor wetland regulation and law enforcement. This is due to a lack of enough staff in the sub county and district governments.
3. Local leaders are also unwilling to cooperate in stopping encroaching
4. Most communities are ignorant of the effect of such wetland encroachment

Recommendations:

1. Strict enforcement of the laws concerning wetland use
2. Training of communities on sustainable use of wetlands
3. Encouraging communities to plant more trees (fast maturing wood trees like eucalyptus, fruit trees such as mangoes and jackfruit) in other eligible areas in order to compensate for the damage being made in wetlands.
4. Creating more awareness through more surveillance and conduct of community based meetings to tell community members of the risks and effects of poor wetland use and encroachment.

Conclusion:

In summary conducting wetland surveillance was a well sought after activity. It showed SORAK and the sub county as well as district stakeholders of the extent of damage being made on our fragile environment. The activity also aroused leaders' attention to ensure that they fulfill their roles and responsibilities for a safe future generation.