Environmental Alert Program Progress Report, Key Highlights, January-November 2017

1.0. Introduction

The report presents key highlights from Environmental Alert Program implementation during the period January through November 2017, with particular focus on progress towards achievement of the annual milestones for the year 2017. Thus, the key achievements, emerging issues (challenges and opportunities) are presented.

2.0. EA Program Components

 i. Environment and Natural Resources
 ii. Food security and Nutrition
 iii. Water Sanitation and Hygiene
 iv. Finance and Administration (Intuitional)

3.0. Key interventions during the implementation period

During the period, the following key interventions were done:

a) *Training of the staff in the development of a consolidated M&E framework. One* of the institutional weaknesses earlier identified about 4 years ago during the capacity institutional assessment for EA facilitated by Water Aid Uganda was lack of a consolidated computerized M&E system. The training took place on 21st September 2017 at Imperial Royale Hotel and was aimed at closing the above identified gaps;

b) *Development of a 3 –year strategic plan.* Last year in November 2016, EA staff during a retreat developed the consolidated monitoring and evaluation logical frameworks for the 10 years EA strategic plan and 3 years. Furthermore, the objectively verifiable indicators and means of verification for both frameworks were developed. However, Development of the 3-years EA program document based on the 3 years logical framework was not completed. The process is now in advance stages.

4.0. EA Program focus (approaches)

EA employs a number of approaches and methods in program implementation and the key ones include:

#1. Evidence based advocacy- this involves action research and modeling best practices in natural resource management with communities. The lessons and experiences generated are used to inform lobbying and advocacy at local and national levels;

#2. Strengthening partnership to harness technical and financial resources with likeminded organizations and individuals within government and Civil Society (including private sector).

#3. Building sustainable community mechanisms like Community Own Resource Persons (CORPS) for enhancing community based service systems for widened and sustenance of initiated good interventions beyond projects.

#4. Knowledge management using cost effective community knowledge centers.

#5. Strengthening capacities of key stakeholders regarding sustainable natural resources management and basic skills and knowledge for engaging key policy makers and decision makers.

#6. Issue based advocacy engagements through supporting sub-national coalitions to influence policy implementation at the local level and linking issues and experiences with the national level engagements through line networks (e.g. UFWG, ENR-CSO Network)

5.0. Projects implemented during the period –   Jan-November 2017

a. Community Empowerment for Improved Food Security and Income – West Nile (Yumbe, Moyo and Adjumani). *Completed*
b. Pro-Poor REDD+ project in Agoro-Agu Central Forest Reserve Landscape in Lamwo district – *Completed*
c. Kampala Slum Transformation Initiative (KASTI) – *Completed*
d. Global Climate Change Alliance: Uganda Agriculture Adaptation to Climate Change Project .*Completed*
e. Strengthening civil society participation in promoting sustainable forest management and legal timber trade in Uganda. *Completed.*
f. Decent Living and Kampala Slum (Kampala district) - *Completed*
g. Follow up engagements towards advancing legal timber in Uganda. *Just started, will be implemented till Dec 2017.*
h. Increasing access to sustainable and renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben. **Just started, will be implemented for 4 years**
i. Strengthening participatory structures and conducting capacity building trainings to enhance stakeholder engagement for Uganda's national REDD+ programme in central. Mid-eastern and southern Uganda. *Completed*

6.0. Key program achievements (results) during the implementation period per milestone and per program component

Key results under the Environment and Natural Resources component	
Annual Milestone #1. Evidence based advocacy in respect to natural resource management by targeted communities	a).Consultation and participatory (C&P) structures set up in central, Mid-eastern and southern Uganda and used to generate content that informed the development of the National REDD+ Strategy.
	b). A study on *Mainstreaming responsible timber trade and other forest products in Uganda* was conducted and has generated a lot of information and content that can further be used to influence and conduct follow up engagements towards advancing legal timber in Uganda. Besides, some key practical actions were developed with key responsible bodies. This has also resulted into funding for a follow up project to address some of the emerging issues from the study.
Annual Milestone #2. Concerns of forest adjacent and dependent communities profiled, presented and deliberated on at various policy and decision making Forum at National and sub national level	a).TWO CFM agreements signed between NFA and the communities of Katum and Mar-yen CFM in the Agoro-Agu landscape thus paving way for full scale implementation of CFM and other benefit sharing mechanisms.
	b).Zoka central forest reserve stakeholder's dialogue held during which issues in respect to sustainable management of reserve were raised, presented and discussed.
	c).Issues for sustainable management of Zoka central forest reserve put on the agenda of the National forest forum, thus the forest adjacent communities and their leaders were facilitated to present the issues during the forum.
	d). A case study on *Integration of Pro-Poor and Human Rights-Based Approaches to CFM Process of Agoro-Agu Forest Landscape CFM Process documented and published*. This case study presents the key experiences, lessons, policy and practice recommendation based on the promotion of co-management arrangements between the National Forest Authority (NFA) and Forest adjacent communities in Agoro-Agu Central Forest Reserve (CFR) landscape through application of the Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) guidelines, the Human Rights Based Approaches and the pro-poor REDD+ principal
Annual Milestone #3. ENR-CSOs concerns and issues developed and presented/discussed in appropriate policy advocacy platforms/spaces to inform policy planning and decision making at sub-national, national and international levels	a).The engagements under JTR and JSR have enabled CSOs to remain involved in Forestry and other ENR Policy advocacy processes at the Local, National and international levels. This is done through members being able to report on issues at local and National and international levels. Thirty 34 (71%) submitted reports for compilation of mini –report for JSR 2017. This was published as a chapter in the Water and Environment Sector Performance Report, 2017. An ENR-CSO Network Position paper with key issues and recommendations in the ENR sector submitted during the main event of the annual JSR 2017.
	A draft position paper highlighting key issues in the Renewable Energy Policy and practical recommendation for integration in the revised policy was compiled, presented and validated during a meeting with CSOs in the renewable energy sector that took place on Friday 24th November at Eureka Palace Hotel. *CSO position paper ready to be presented to the MEMD for consideration in the RE policy review process*
	30 CSOs and networks engaging in the renewable energy sub-sector mapped and profiled.

Annual Milestone #4: ENR-CSO network institutional and governance structures remain functional for effective and accountable service delivery at local and national levels.	a).ENR-CSO steering committee meetings and thematic working group meetings held
	b).UFWG steering committee meeting held
	c).ENR-CSO network Members forum/Validation meeting held on 14th September 2017
Key results under Food security and Nutrition	
Annual Milestone # 1. 1,200 farmer households with competencies in sustainable management of farm and forest based enterprises for food security and nutrition by June 2017	a).40 demonstration sites established for 40 farmer groups, these act as learning centres for transfer of technologies *(improved seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides)* and practices *(field layout and design, timely planting, weed management, soil and water conservation, pests and disease management and general agronomy)* at community level . Thus, farmers are adapting some of the demonstrated technologies (e.g. planting of improved crop varieties and some agronomic practices) on their individual farms.
	b).Established the Community Knowledge Centre (CKC) in Kei sub-county, Yumbe district through collaboration with the sub county. This facilitaty is currently a hub for facilitating information access and exchange among stakeholders at the community level, especially between the rights holders (farmers, natural resource dependent communities) and duty bearers (such as sub county technical and political leaders, other community development organisations). The information accessed and disseminated is largely on food security, environment and natural resources, health among others
	c).Enhanced knowledge and skills of stakeholders about the climate change impacts and plausible adaption actions for implementation at farm level. Thus, this was achieved through dialogues and conducting regular interactive radio programs, which reached 6,000 listeners based on radio station statistics; school debates, which involved 300 students. Furthermore, the technical capacity of duty berarers (*from Moyo, Adjumani and Yumbe*) as far as mainstreaming of climate change in district development plans was strengthened.
Annual Milestone # 2. Issues for advocacy on food security and nutrition are identified and documented (Issues papers) by June 20	a).Farmer's concerns on various issues were profiled through targeted documentation (such as i.e. through case studies, policy brief, posters…....) and presented in appropriate spaces for discussion and consideration by duty bearers at the local and national levels through targeted policy dialogues. These issues have been disseminated widely through the Environmental Alert website and social media platforms.
	b). Information about PoP and its application has been documented and simplified into formats that can easily be understood by both rights holders and duty bearers. For instance, an illustrative poster in english and the local language and through a case study on *Application of the people owned process (Pop) methodology in West Nile: Experiences for future adoption and adaptation*
Annual Milestone # 3. Concerns of farmers on food security and nutrition policies implementation are discussed in at least 5 engagements at local and national level by June 2017	a). Farmers groups have used the POP approach to access government programmes for example members of Mifiako A & C, Omveru, Aria, Boaobasi and Aliowaku wakati in Aliba received grafted mangoes and oranges under the OWC programme. In addition, Amazo Women group in Itirikwa sub county and Aria Youth group in Aliba sub county applied and were supported under the CDD fund for ox traction and goat rearing, respectively.
	b).Enhanced knowledge and skills about collaborative forest management among forest adjacent communities in Zoka central forest reserve landscape in Adjumaini. Thus, as result 1 CFM group comprising of 30 members was facilited and processed an application for collaborative forest management with the National Forest Authority (NFA). Their application was approved by NFA.

	c) Facilitated dialogue among key stakeholders in the West Nile region on key issues in the agriculture, environment and natural resources through which they have developed recomendations and action plans for implementation at respective districts and sub regional level to address the issues. *Some of the issues in the region include: unregulated bush burning; Mainstreaming climate change in development planning; Encrochment on wetlands along the river Nile banks; Influx of refugees; and stray animals.*
Key results under WASH	
Milestone #1: Evidence on WASH issues affecting vulnerable communities generated, presented and deliberated on at various policy engagements/ forums organized at national and local levels	a) Stakeholders supported to develop policies, capacity, institutional coordination structures and collaborative mechanism to deliver sustainable urban WASH Services.
	b) EA strategies for improving vulnerable communities' access to clean and safe water as well as sanitation and hygiene shared with members of the public through interaction and dissemination of IECs.
Milestone #2; Interventions planned and implemented to generate evidence for policy engagement at national and community levels	a).Consumer survey conducted and completed in Kawempe division and information generated being used to advocate for improved WASH services for the urban poor and slum dwellers. The Survey Report published and disseminated among key stakeholders in the WASH sector.
Milestone #3: Strengthened partnerships and coalitions engaging and influencing housing and WASH related policies, programs & practices	a).Six (6) CBOs supported with cleaning equipment and protective gear during the sanitation week. CBOs have continued to use the tools during regular clean ups organized in their localities and have been engaged by private garbage collection companies (HomeKlin in Kisenyi and Nabugabo Updeal in Kamwokya) to solicit garbage fees from households.
Key results under EA's Image and Visibility	
Annual Mile stone #1: Structures for information collection, dissemination, storage and retrieval put in place and operationalized by February 2017.	a).Created and operationalization of EA website and social media platforms. This has resulted into easy and massive information dissemination and retrieval using online platforms.
	b).Timely updates of on-going activities and upcoming monthly activities resulting into increase in publicity and engagement of stakeholders and the community
Annual Mile stone #2: Three (3) publications done every 1.5 months and information generated from field engagements and learnings uploaded on the website and shared on social media.	4 Publications under the CLIC-SR project disseminated;/published
	a).Publication under the GCCA – best practices for climate change adaptation –Finalized, yet to be published;
	b).Study reports including: Institutional assessment for timber trade; Citizen report cards; Impact of application of the People Own Process in development work; ENR-CSO consolidated annual report and Position paper 2016/17 – yet to be published
Annual Milestone # 3: Materials that improve EA's image and enhance its visibility produced.	a).Acquisition of EA customised T-shirts, calendars, headed papers, and master-slides. Hence, increased visibility in the community and among stakeholders
Annual Milestone # 4: M&E tools used to monitor activities once every month and results used in evaluating programme objectives at the end of each quarter and M&E	a).Monitoring and report done as expected under selected projects e.g. KASTI
	b).The development of the consolidated M&E framework for EA was finalized pending approval by the EA Board to pave way for full operationalization.
	c).M&E framework including tools developed for the new project on renewable energy

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Key emerging issues requiring board attention

    a. Approval of the Consolidated EA work plan and budget for 2018

    b. Approval of the Consolidated M& E framework for Environmental Alert

Key Program implementation challenges/limitation during FY-2018

a) Inadequate funding due to changing donor/partner priorities;

b) Untimely and irregular cash flows of committed resources by the development partners, meaning that EA is not able to meet its obligations on time;

c) Delays in funds disbursement from donors/partners results in delayed implementation and delivery of program outputs;

d) Changing criteria for funding by donors (Specific projects, budget sizes, collaborations, Geographical scope);

e) Donor conditional ties (Basket funding to favor gov't institutions);

f) Natural and man-made disasters i.e.: wars, floods, famine. When these occur, donors' attention is diverted to support relief programs e.g. WASH funding by UNDP through OPM is now mostly directed to refugees in the caps in Uganda.