

# Environmental Alert Program Implementation Report Summary for 2018.

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## 1.0 Introduction

This is an annual consolidated report summary for Environmental Alert<sup>1</sup> for the year 2018. It presents the key highlights in respect to results/achievements and emerging issues during the implementation period January to December 2018.

## 2.0 An overview of Environmental Alert (EA) Program Implementation in 2018

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in 1988 and in 2018 marked 30 years of contribution to improved livelihoods and development in Uganda through several interventions in sustainable agriculture, environment and natural resources management. EA is officially registered with the NGO Bureau as a Ugandan non-governmental organization, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

EA's vision and mission statements are as follows:

**Vision:** Resilient and dignified communities managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.

**Mission:** To advocate for an enabling environment, sustainable natural resource management and food security for targeted communities through empowerment and policy engagement.

EA's program implementation in 2019 was informed by the Consolidated EA program and budget - 2019 approved by the EA Board during the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in the Board room. The approved annual budget by the EA Board was 1,773,352,968/= UGX (approx. 1.8 billions). The amount funds received by end of December 2019 was 1,160,909,418/- - i.e. 66% of the approved 2018 budget. This was mobilized through collaboration with strategic Partners (Care International in Uganda, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), World Wide Fund for Nature – Uganda Country Office (WWF-UCO), Water Aid-Uganda and Trac FM). These financial resources were utilized to deliver on outputs and achievements in respect to the approved annual milestones/targets as described in the EA Consolidated Work Plan and Budget, 2018.

### Key donors and development partners of EA from January to date:

- a. WWF-UCO
- b. Care International in Uganda
- c. Water Aid Uganda
- d. UNDP/MWE
- e. Trac FM;
- f. EA own funds

### 2.1 EA program components and associated annual milestones for 2018

The EA program components and associated annual milestones for 2018 informed the engagements and outputs delivered during the implementation period January to December 2018. They include the following:

#### A) Environment and Natural Resources component

**Annual Milestone #1.** At least 4 studies on natural resource management of vulnerable communities (Renewable Energy, Forestry) conducted to generate data and information to inform policy engagements at National and Local level by November 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> Further information about Environmental Alert is available in **Box 1**.

**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.

**Annual Milestone #3.** Functional secretariats (3) effectively coordinating and registering 10% growth of members in each of the networks in place (ENR-CSO, UFWG, PROLINNOVA) by November 2018.

**Annual Milestone #4:** At least 2 joint partnership programs (Green Growth, wetland restoration, CARE International in Uganda - climate resilience Renewable energy) developed and implemented by November 2018.

**Annual milestone #5:** Concerns and interventions on food security and sustainable utilization of natural resources are implemented in at least 2 engagements.

## **B) Finance and Administration component**

**Annual Milestone # 1.** 10% Annual increase in total income realized from at least 3 sources with proportionate of 85% donors; consultancy 5% and own resources 10%.

**Annual Milestone # 2.** Review, upgrade and maintain the existing Financial Management System to ensure that it generates accurate and reliable reports to inform planning by November 2018

**Annual Milestone # 3.** EA programs effectively monitored and evaluated by November 2018.

**Annual Milestone #4:** EA governance organs effectively facilitated to function and fulfil their mandate by December 2018.

**Annual Milestone #5:** EA human resource capacity developed for effective program outputs delivery and competitively rewarded December 2018.

**Annual Milestone #6:** Routine core and support services provided in a timely and regular manner to support effective program implementation by December 2018.

## **2.2 Projects implemented during the reporting period – January – December 2018**

During the period under review the projects below were implemented:

- a. *Increasing access to sustainable and renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben to conserve high value forest ecosystems to benefit people and nature in Uganda;*
- b. *Green Growth Project;*
- c. *Building Climate Resilience Program;*
- d. *Wetlands Restoration in Eastern and Western Uganda;*
- e. *National Land Rights project*
- f. *European Union/Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MOSTI) - Sustainable Transition to Entrepreneurial Production in Agriculture through Upgrading (STEP-UP) project – banana value.*

## **2.3 Scale of Implementation**

As at end of December 2018, EA led interventions reached **23 districts in the Albertine graben** (such as: *Arua, Nebbi, Koboko, Moyo, Adjumani, Maracha, Masindi, Hoima, Buliisa, Kagadi, Kyenjojo, Kibaale, Kasese, Bushenyi, Rubirizi, Mitooma, Rukungiri, Kabarole, Kisoro and Bundibugyo, Rakai*).

Furthermore, national level targeted policy engagements on Agriculture and Environment and Natural Resources Management Issues were facilitated through joint planning and implementation with the framework of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) networks hosted at Environmental Alert including: Uganda Forestry Working Group (FWG), Standards Development Group (SDG-Uganda), Environment and Natural Resources CSO (ENR-CSO) Network, and Promoting Local Innovations is ecologically oriented agriculture and Natural Resources Management (Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform).

The key results from these engagements are detailed in **Table 1**. Area wide awareness engagements especially through print media and radio were conducted.

## **2.4 The key program achievements during the implementation period**

The following are some of the achievements registered from several interventions implemented across the different program components

- i) Finalized Audits in time i.e. EA General audit and Project audits (i.e. Bread for the World, WWF). Both audits were unqualified;
- ii) EA Institutional policies developed (e.g. EA Internship/Volunteer Guidelines) and continuously enforced. Supported 3 Interns within the framework of EA Internship Program;
- iii) Participated in EA institutional due diligence conducted by new partners and programs i.e. Care International in Uganda; HORIZONT3000 and HIVOS.
- iv) Resource mobilization efforts/initiatives under way (19 proposals/concepts developed & submitted to prospective Partners, thus 3 were added during the period). Of these 2 were approved (i.e. GoU/UNDP/GCF; and Care International/DANIDA) and 3 are prospective (Trac FM, HIVOS, LEAP Agric/EU) thus in advanced stages of negotiations;
- v) Successfully organized the EA—Annual General Meeting – 2017;
- vi) Organized the EA Board Governance Training, for which all Board members participated and benefited;
- vi) Resource mobilization efforts/initiatives advanced – 20 proposal submitted- 6 considered for funding;
- vii) Regular Annual Program Performance Reviews conducted involving all Governance Structures (i.e. Management, Board and Auditors – General and project based);
- viii) Established the EA Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Department – equipped with staff and tools;
- viii) Several publications done to enhance EA's visibility and Image. Besides, a lot of awareness conducted through radio, print and Tv, social media platforms.
- ix) Human Resource capacity enhanced – 5 program staff recruited.

## **2.5 Key emerging issues (challenges and opportunities) during implementation**

### **2.5.1 Challenges faced in year 2018.**

- a) Untimely resource/funding flows thus, substantive amount of funds disbursed late. Thus, this compromises on timely implementation and delivery of outputs in most cases where EA is not able to pre-finance.

### **2.5.2 Opportunities in 2018**

Some of the key opportunities that emerged during the implementation period are:

- a) Emerging programs and projects with new prospective partners (green growth, wetlands-wise-use with support from UNDP/MWE targeting eastern and western Uganda; Climate Resilience in partnership with CARE targeting the Northern and Western Uganda);

**NB:** A detailed Strength, Weakness, Opportunities & Threats analyses was reviewed during the EA annual retreat, which has several actions which will be implemented to address the identified institutional weaknesses.

## **3.0 Conclusion**

The implementation of the EA program was good despite the challenges and limitations. The emerging opportunities were considered in the development of the work plan for 2019. Likewise, actions for addressing institutional weakness and threats were developed based on the SWOT analyses done during the EA annual review and planning re-treat. These should be implemented alongside the consolidated EA annual work plan for 2019.

Much appreciation to the Development Partners for the extended support to EA towards implementation of its programs. The EA team is working smartly to tap into existing opportunities to

advance program implementation towards achievement of the EA mission while delivering on donors and partners commitments. The continuous support from the EA Board is a key ingredient for EA's success & Achievements. The EA staff are equally appreciate for the resilience and continued performance even during the hard times.

## Annex 1 - Implementation progress based on annual milestones

The progress on implementation based on annual milestones is presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1.** Program results and achievements.

Key results under the Environment and Natural Resources component	
<p><b>Annual Milestone #1.</b> At least 4 studies on natural resource management of vulnerable communities (Renewable Energy, Forestry) conducted to generate data and information to inform policy engagements at National and Local level by November 2018.</p>	<p>More than 4 studies on environment and natural resource management already conducted and 2 studies are on-going. The study reports have a wealth of information and facts and related alternative practical policy and practice recommendations, which will be pursued by the CSOs through the respective coalitions/networks i.e. the Uganda Forest Working Group, ENR-CSO Network; Renewable Energy CSOs &amp; Networks.</p> <p>The study reports and related Position papers are enlisted as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Institutional assessment for Timber trade in Uganda;</i></li> <li><i>Revenues and financing for the renewable energy sub-sector and related CSOs &amp; Networks;</i></li> <li><i>Renewable Energy CSOs and networks Advocacy strategy;</i></li> <li><i>Market/livelihoods analysis in 3 project districts to identify gaps, employment needs and income streams that are resilient to climate change and mapping on going initiatives.</i></li> </ol>
<p><b>Annual Milestone #2.</b> 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.</p>	<p>Concerns and interventions on food security and sustainable natural resources management have been identified, discussed (at national and local levels) and in some cases implemented/addressed at community during the reporting period. For instance, CSOs (CSCO &amp; ENR-CSO Network – including forest adjacent and dependent communities) concerns in the draft Environment Bill, 2017 were presented and discussed with the members of the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources. Furthermore, the concerns of the forest adjacent and dependent communities were well articulated in the Forest stewardship standards for Uganda, which was recently launched by the Government.</p>



Key results under the Environment and Natural Resources component	
<p><b>Annual Milestone #3.</b> Functional secretariats (3) effectively coordinating and registering 10% growth of members in each of the networks in place (ENR-CSO, UFWG, PROLINNOVA) by November 2018.</p>	<p><b>Functionality of the 4 CSO networks</b> (i.e. ENR-CSO, UFWG, PROLINNOVA-Uganda Country Platform, Standards Development Group-Uganda) hosted at Environmental Alert was maintained through <b>sharing regular updates through online platforms, but also face to face interactions through conducting regular steering committee meetings, and member's participation in structured joint engagements</b> e.g. participation in celebrated days (National wetlands day, Uganda water and environment week). Subsequently, the respective members are very much involved in the execution of networks agendas. For instance, the <b>Inclusive Green Growth for Poverty Reduction Program</b>, jointly implemented by the <b>ENR-CSO Network (members)</b> and the <b>Ministry of Water and Environment/UNDP</b>. There is expressed interest by the Civil society Organizations in joining the networks, thus on average 2 potential members have been mobilized per network.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Membership applications for <b>2 members</b> to join the ENR-CSO network was approved by the Steering Committee.</li> <li>b. Another network i.e. the <b>National Renewable Energy CSO Network</b> was formalized. Environmental Alert has been coordinating its engagements for about 2 years now and it's highly likely that Environmental Alert will be considered as the host for the Network.</li> </ol> <p>Preparations for respective Networks Annual General Meetings are underway!</p>
<p><b>Annual Milestone #4:</b> At least 2 joint partnership programs (Green Growth, wetland restoration, CARE-climate resilience Renewable energy) developed and implemented by November 2018.</p>	<p><b>5 Joint partnership programs</b> (involving various partners – Government, development Partners, CSOs, Research Institutions) have been developed and implementation ongoing – as detailed below. Thus, the respective <b>Memorandum of Understanding/Agreements</b> were signed. The programs are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Access to clean energy project;</li> <li>b) Wetlands restoration program;</li> <li>c) Building community resilience program;</li> </ol>



Key results under the Environment and Natural Resources component	
	d) <i>The LEAP Agriculture project;</i> e) <i>Green growth project</i>
<b>Annual milestone #5:</b> Concerns and interventions on food security and sustainable utilization of natural resources are implemented in at least 2 engagements.	Concerns and interventions on food security and sustainable natural resources management have been identified, discussed (at national and local levels) and in some cases implemented/addressed at community during the reporting period. For instance, the concerns and interests ( <i>e.g. training on wetland wise use, access to inputs and improved breeds and technology</i> ) of 6 Wetland adjacent community user groups in Bushenyi, Mitooma and Sheema district were considered in the interventions for promoting alternative No-regret enterprises (such as apiary, fish farming and piggery) targeted at contributing to improved livelihoods and restoration of the wetlands and associated natural resources. These concerns and interest will be addressed in the subsequent project interventions, moving forward.
Key results under Finance and Administration	
<b>Annual Milestone # 1.</b> 10% Annual increase in total income realized from at least 3 sources with proportionate of 85% donors; consultancy 5% and own resources 10%).	19 proposals written & submitted to various donors/funders. 6 proposals out of the 19 were approved and funds secured. These yielded Ugx. 1,160,909,418/- ( <i>out of which Ugx. 713,080,418/- representing 61% was from donors and, Ugx. 447,829,000/- representing 39% was from Consultancy</i> ). Other 2 proposals submitted to Water Aid Uganda and European Union and are prospective. Thus, they are worthy Ugx. 64,000,000/= and Ugx. 177,878,000/=, respectively. Environmental Alert's own generated through management fees charges and mileage contributions contributed 3% og the total revenue equivalent to Ugx. 35,571,127/=. Thus, overall the resource mobilization efforts yielded 1,260,480,545/-
<b>Annual Milestone # 2.</b> Review, upgrade and maintain the existing Financial Management System to ensure that it generates accurate and reliable reports to inform	The composition of EA FMS is both soft and hard. The soft component has been reviewed and improved. Also a centralized soft information management system is being developed to ease information access. While this has been done there is still need for improvement in filling to ease access. The key



<b>Key results under the Environment and Natural Resources component</b>	
planning by November 2018.	<p>achievements registered during the reporting period are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>EA general audit and project based audits for BfDW and WWF- RE were concluded and returned un-qualified</i></li> <li><i>Two organizational assessments basing on the Financial Management System were conducted by CARE international &amp; HIVOS, in both EA performed well, as a result EA has signed an agreement for funding with CARE UCO while EA's proposal with HIVOS is reached the final stage</i></li> <li><i>Quick books was reviewed and staff trained to generate better reports. Financial data is all captured and up-to-date in the system</i></li> <li><i>Scanning and saving of all transactional files for 2017 &amp; 2018 is on going;</i></li> <li><i>Periodic financial donor reports for CARE, UNDP, WWF, UCSD were submitted on time</i></li> </ol>
<b>Annual Milestone # 3.</b> EA programs effectively monitored and evaluated by November 2018.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (M&amp;E) officer i.e. Mr. Andrew Tebandeke recruited to further support this initiative.</li> <li>The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Unit established at Environmental Alert – comprised of Monitoring &amp; Evaluation and Knowledge Management.</li> <li>Staff trained on M&amp;E;</li> <li>Specific project M&amp;E frameworks developed and re-aligned with the consolidated M&amp;E;</li> <li>Tools for data collection developed and data collected in the field;</li> </ol> <p>Action plan for operationalizing of the consolidated Environmental Alert M&amp;E framework for developed and being implemented.</p>
<b>Annual Milestone #4:</b> EA governance organs effectively facilitated to function and fulfil their mandate	EA governance organs including the AGM, BOD and Management have been facilitated to play the various roles required of them during the period and ensure that EA remains a vibrant organization. The key achievements in this respect are enlisted as follows:



Key results under the Environment and Natural Resources component	
by December 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 2 statutory BOD meeting and one special BoD Meeting have been held in which meetings the Annual organization Audit and BfDW Audit were approved, Approved EA 2018 work plan, staffing and staff salary issues were discussed and recommendations made;</li> <li>b) The AGM was held in May 2018 in which meeting the ED presented a report on organisations operations , Auditors presented their report and members appointed Auditors ;</li> <li>c) 4 management meetings have been held discussing BoD resolutions and issues from Pim and staff meetings for management’s attention;</li> <li>d) 1 BoD capacity training was conducted by PELUM intended to Improve BoD performance in execution of its supervisory role a report on training was developed with BOD commitments.</li> </ul>
<b>Annual Milestone #5:</b> EA human resource capacity developed for effective program outputs delivery and competitively rewarded December 2018.	<p>EA staff capacity has been improved through trainings (external, supervisory and peer to peer, exposures and instituting system’s and environment that encourages development. While this is encouraging there’s still need for enhanced resource mobilization to improve on staff emoluments. Some of the key results in this respect are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Staff skills developed through trainings both in house and external such as outcome mapping conducted by CARE International in Uganda, policy development and documentation, writing skills on policy brief, paper abstract development and public presentations;</li> <li>b) Staff punctuality has improved by introduction of staff register for arrival and departure</li> <li>c) 2 staff meeting has been held in which staff issue were openly discussed and improve on staff motivation;</li> <li>d) Staff salaries paid up for November 2018;</li> <li>e) Staff individual performance standards developed and all staff appraised;</li> <li>f) Staff contracts have been renewed.</li> </ul>
<b>Annual Milestone #6:</b> Routine core and support	Programme implementation has always been supported through regular prompt services thru provision of



### Key results under the Environment and Natural Resources component

services provided in a timely and regular manner to support effective program implementation by December 2018.

logistics, staffing and suitable environment. The key reported achievements in this respect are enlisted as follows:

- a) *Office running costs in terms of utilities, internet and Web hosting, compound maintenance, stationery etc. have been catered for during the period.*
- b) Organizational fleet well maintained
- c) *Annual subscription has been paid to NGO forum, Pelum Uganda. Compliance to NGO requirements will ease renewal of EA license;*
- d) *Implementation of a substitution generator system to cater for power outages this ensures continued working of staff even when there's a power blackout*
- e) *Constitution of a new procurement committee to oversee organisational procurements this ensures transparency and value for money during procurements.*



### **Box 1. About Environmental Alert**

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in **1988** and has developed and transitioned into a National Non-Governmental organization contributing to an enabling policy environment for sustainable agriculture and sound environment and natural resources management at community, local, national and international levels. EA is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization (NGO), incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an Independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

EA is a **1<sup>st</sup> prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.**

EA is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a Member of The IUCN National Committee for Uganda.

EA envisions, *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

**EA's mission is to,** *'Contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resources management'*

#### **Program and institutional Components:**

1. Environment and Natural resources management;
2. Food security and Nutrition;
3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
4. Finance and Administration;
5. Resource mobilization and Investment.

#### **Scale of Implementation:**

EA operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently EA's operations are in over 40 districts across the country. EA undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements

#### **EA is a Secretariat for following networks:**

- a) The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network) - <http://enr-cso.org/>;
- b) Uganda Forestry Working Group - <http://ufwg.entalert.org/>;
- c) The Standards Development Group (for promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Uganda); and
- d) Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management (PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network) - <http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>;
- e) The Renewable Energy CSO Network.

Further information about Environmental Alert is available at: <http://entalert.org/>

