

Annual Environmental Alert Program Implementation Report. A Summary Report, 2021

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1.0 Introduction

This an annual consolidated report summary for Environmental Alert¹ for the year 2021. It presents the key highlights in respect to results/achievements and emerging issues during the implementation period January to December 2021. The report also highlights key highlights from Environmental Alert Program Implementation during the period Jan – December (all 4 Quarters), with particular focus on progress towards achievement of the annual milestones under Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) & Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) work plans for the year 2021.

2.0. Overview of Environmental Alert Program Implementation, 2021

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in **1988**, has over the years to date, made 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”*

¹ Further information about Environmental Alert is available in **Box 1**.

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 2021 was informed by the Consolidated EA program and budget - 2021 approved by the EA Board during the meeting held on 30th June 2020 through Zoom platform. The approved annual budget by the EA Board is UGX 2,507,350,000 (approx. 2.5 billions). The amount funds received by end of December 2019 was UGX 1,288,740,942/- i.e. 51% of the approved 2021 budget. *This* was mobilized through collaboration with strategic Partners (Care International in Uganda, United Nations Development Program, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Science and Technology, Sudwind, Horizont3000, Save the Children and Water Aid-Uganda.

2.1. EA program components and associated annual milestones for 2021

The EA program components and associated annual milestones for 2021 informed the engagements and outputs delivered during the implementation period January to December 2019. They include the following:

A) - Environment and Natural Resources Component

Annual Milestone #1: Structured engagements with key policy and decision makers (*ENR, Renewable Energy, WASH, etc.*) targeted at influencing decisions, policy formulation & implementation through presentations & discussions implemented by December 2021.

Annual Milestone #2: Coordination and governance of CSO networks (i.e. ENR-CSO network; RECSO; UFWG; SDG-Uganda; Prolinnova Uganda CP) hosted at EA enhanced for joint planning and engagement by December 2021.

Annual Milestone #3: Content generated, analysed and synthesized to inform concepts and proposals for resource mobilisation by December 2021.

Annual Milestone # 4: Best practices in sustainable agriculture and sound environment & natural resources management documented and disseminated by December 2021.

Annual Milestone # 5: Studies in agriculture, environment and natural resource management of vulnerable communities (WASH, agriculture/food security, Climate change/Resilience) conducted to generate data, information and facts for evidence based policy engagements at National and Local level by December 2021

B) - Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Component

Annual Milestone #1: A consolidated M&E system generating the information for decision making from Dec 2020 through December 2021.

Annual Milestone #2: EA Programs monitored and evaluated for effectiveness and efficiency, learning from Dec 2020 through December 2021.

Annual Milestone #3: Mainstreaming Gender in EA programs and projects through gender planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and reporting (and well packaged program and M&E information targeting resource mobilisation) from December 2020 through December 2021.

Annual Milestone # 4: EA's Image and Visibility Improved from Dec 2020 through December 2021.

Annual Milestone #5: Building staff capacity in information, communication technology from Dec 2020 through December 2021

C) - Finance and Administration component

Annual Milestone #1. Improve EA's Financial Management System for generation of timely regular, accurate and reliable information/reports for planning and decision making by Dec 2021

Annual Milestone #2: EA governance organs effectively functional and fulfilling their mandate, roles and responsibilities from January through December 2021

Annual Milestone #3: Enhance EA human resource functioning for effective Program delivery by December 2022 in accordance to existing institutional policy.

Annual Milestone # 4: Routine core and support services provided in a timely and regular manner to support effective Program Implementation from January to December 2021

D) - Resource Mobilization and Investment Component:

Annual Milestone #1 Establish and manage enterprises aimed towards self-sustenance of EA-ABIC and generating additional income for the organisation by December 2021

Annual Milestone # 2: Enhance effective management of operations at EA-ABIC from January to December 2021

Annual Milestone #3 Establish other income generating investments to reduce donor dependency

Annual Milestone #4 Increase resources to enable implementation of organisation programs from three sources with proportionate contribution of (50% donors; consultancy 30% and own resources 20%) by Dec 2022 with 30% increment.

2.2 Key Donors/Development partners of EA and Government MDAs from Jan to Dec. 2021

Table 1: Shows a summary of the projects implemented in 2021, development partner and total funds received by EA

No.	Project title	Donor/Development Partner	Amount received (UGx)
1	Building Climate Resilience Program (STRENPO)	Care International Uganda	205,070,600/=
2	Step-Up	Ministry of Science and Technology	40,587,500/=
3.	<i>EUTF funded project (targeting refugees and host communities</i>	Save the Children	34,725,950/=
4	SusWatch	Water Aid	50,799,300/=
5	PHCU	Sudwind/Austrian Ministry of health	321,915,344/=
6	SDG13 –Climate Action	Horizont 3000	30,694,043/=
7.	Exchange Visit	Horizont 3000	8,810,000/=
9	Wetlands Restoration	MWE & UNDP	596,138,205/=
10	Total		1,288,740,942/=

2.3 Scale of Implementation

As at end of December 2021, EA led interventions dropped from about 40 reported in 2019 to about 20 districts across the country due to Covid 19 pandemic that stifled the economy across the board. Some of

the districts were EA retained skeleton operations include in the Albertine graben –Kikube, Kibaale, Kyegegwa, Kasese, Moyo, Adjumani, Yumbe, Terego, Maracha, Madi-akollo, Kagadi, Bushenyi, Rubirizi, Mitooma, Sheema, and Central region: Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja, Buikwe, Luweero, Nakaseke, Isingiro and Rakai districts.

Furthermore, national level targeted policy engagements on Agriculture and Environment and Natural Resources Management Issues were facilitated. The key results from these engagements are detailed in **Table 2**.

EA as a Secretariat for various CSO Networks such as: *Uganda Forest Working Group* - <http://ufwg.ensvalert.org/>; *Standards Development Group*; *Environment and Natural Resources - CSO Network* - <http://enr-cso.org/>; *PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network* - <http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>; and Renewable Energy CSO Network in Uganda mobilized and coordinated over 260 CSOs/CBOs for joint action and engagement at national and local levels.

Area wide issue based awareness engagements especially through print media and radio – thus, reached about 655,000 people (i.e. 400,000 through radio campaigns and 120,000 through print media & 130000 through social media; & 5000 through Workshops). A good relationship with key strategic partners was sustained for continuous support of EA's program implementation.

2.4 The key program achievements and challenges encountered during the implementation period Jan - Dec.2021

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

- 2 CSO position papers (on energy sector budget; Sustainable procurement; prepared and submitted for consideration by duty bearers
- 5 national level engagements were conducted including Annual budgeting and planning process – for energy sector; Water and environment week, 2021 – thematic dialogues; Stakeholders meeting on sustainable procurement organized by MoFPED; Kampala city stakeholders' engagement on the WASH inventory tool; Engagements with 5 KCCA schools' leadership to integrate COVID-19 responses in WASH improvement plans) conducted with duty bearers and issue-based recommendations presented and discussed during the engagements for consideration
- 3 Best practices identified and documented in articles/case studies. These include: WASH landlord tenant inventory; KCCA school WASH improvement plans (incorporating COVID-19 SOPs; Monthly WASH clean-ups by KCCA and partners)
- 4 Joint policy engagements undertaken including; Uganda Water and Environment Week, Annual National planning and Budgeting and Save Bugoma Forest Campaign
- 2 studies completed namely (i) Capacity needs assessment and responsive development plan for banana value chain actors in Isingiro and Bunyangabo district and ii) Baseline survey the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) funded project titled, 'Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts,' – in Kiryandongo, Adjumani, Yumbe, Terego and Madi Okollo
- 3 IECs (i.e. CSO position papers) were published, EA annual report reports for 2021 generated
- Improved EA image and visibility with website visit of 33,743

- With social media, 30,449 people have been reached.
- Identified and pursued strategic partnership HorizonT3000 and Südwind
- Secured projects such as Wetlands Restoration, SUSWASH, Powering Health Centers, SDG-13
- New staff (3) recruited i.e. Program Assistant, Program Manager and ED, Mr. Lawrence Ssentongo.
- 8 proposals were written and submitted to donors for funding.
- To a large extent gender has been well considered during planning, budgeting and reporting evidenced by gender responsive plans, budgets, reports and participation in engagements

2.5 Key emerging issues (challenges and opportunities) during implementation

2.5.1 Challenges faced in the year 2021

- The major challenge during this reporting period relate to COVID -19 Pandemic that led to budget cuts and suspension of several Projects (e.g. IGG4PR,) whose deliverables would directly contribute to the achievement of the desired results.
- There period also witnessed completion of a number of projects e.g. STRENPO project funded by Care Uganda and Clean Energy project that were providing core support to the Organisation and the Networks ended.
- This set in notable inadequacy in funding to support Implementation of the Approved EA Annual Work plan of 2021. The organization registered serious staff turn-over/transition and up to 5 staff members so their exit from EA during this period i.e. Ms. Ephrance Nakiyingi, PO, CNC & Networks Coordination, Ms. Sheila Kemigisha – Volunteer – Finance & Administration, Mr. Arafa Kamoga, PA-ENR, Mr. Oundo Stephen, PO-MEL as well as Dr. Zaake SSerufusa Kangawo, ED of Environmental Alert left the organisation.
- The result was understaffing across all the departments yet there was a lot of work to be accomplished in a specific time frame.

2.5.2 Opportunities in 2021

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

- Ongoing reviews for **forestry policy & legislation, Wetlands policy & law, energy policy.** *Ongoing discussions with Ecological Christian Organization for collaboration to facilitate CSOs & Networks participation in the process.*
- Invitation to **national and international workshops** like webinars on energy, environment issues.
- **High refugees influx in Uganda** – related impacts on environment and natural resources presents funding opportunities, which are being pursued.
- **Willingness of government to work with civil society** in implementation of joint programs creates space for negotiation to take up some of the recommendations.

3.0 Conclusion

- a. The implementation of the EA program 2021 was satisfactory despite the challenges and limitations. The emerging opportunities were considered in the development of the work plan for the next year 2022.
- b. A consolidated EA annual work plan for 2022 was collectively developed by both staff in consultation with the board members, therefore it must be rigorously implemented to put EA back to its strong footing.
- c. 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 appreciated for the resilience and continued performance even during the hard times

Annexes 1

Table 2. Program results and achievements.

Key results under the Environment and Natural Resources component Jan- June 2021				
Annual Milestone	Indicators	Target	Key results against the milestone	Comment
Annual Milestone #1: Structured engagements with key policy and decision makers (ENR, Renewable Energy, WASH...) targeted at influencing decisions, policy formulation & implementation through presentations & discussions implemented by December 2021.	Number of position papers/ policy briefs developed and submitted to duty bearers at local & National levels;	4	2 CSO position papers (on energy sector budget; Sustainable procurement; prepared and submitted for consideration by duty bearers	*The policy paper on sustainable procurement was discussed by the Department and submitted for consideration by the Technical Working Group on Reservations and preference schemes.
	Number of policy issues and recommendations considered by duty bearers at local & National levels;	2	5 engagements (i.e. <i>Annual budgeting and planning process – for energy sector; Water and environment week, 2021 – thematic dialogues; Stakeholders meeting on sustainable procurement organized by MoFPED; Kampala city stakeholders' engagement on the WASH inventory tool; Engagements with 5 KCCA schools' leadership to integrate COVID-19 responses in WASH improvement plans</i>) conducted with duty bearers and issue-based recommendations presented and discussed during the engagements for consideration	*KCCA has resolved to conduct monthly clean ups of the communities but also provide hand washing facilities to schools
	Number of policy engagements held	3		
Annual Milestone #2: Coordination and governance of CSO networks (i.e. ENR-CSO network; RECSO; UFWG; SDG-Uganda; Prolinnova Uganda CP) hosted at EA enhanced for joint planning and engagement by December 2021.	Number of joint policy engagements involving members of the CSO networks.	5	4, (Uganda Water and Environment Week; Annual National planning and Budgeting; Save Bugoma Forest Campaign),	However, the others are scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2021. These included the JSR and the JTR for the MWE, MEMD, the JASAR, WESWG/PWG.
	Percentage of network members that have paid membership and subscription fees	70%	Only 1 member has paid (ENR-CSO Network)	All RECSO Network, all members have not paid because the figure needs to be agreed upon by AGM. For ENR-CSO Network, emails reminding members to pay were sent and only 1 has paid.
	Number of AGMs held	4	Not yet.	These are scheduled for 3rd and 4th quarter of 2021.
Annual Milestone #3: Content generated, analyzed and synthesized to inform concepts and proposals for resource mobilization by December 2021.	Number of proposals supported and developed	14	8 proposals have been supported through generation of required technical content.	Limited resources to support the meetings since some projects closed i.e. RECSO Network. However, for ENR-CSO Network, steering committee meetings are scheduled for subsequent quarters of 2021. Membership servicing (Mobilised members to join Networks RECSO, ENR, mobilising members to pay their subscription). Regularly shared relevant information to the Network members.
				These include: KO-ENERGY call, Agri-Business Learning and Exchange Visit (ABLEV), IKI Small Grants (GIZ), and also 'Baseline survey on production, access, use and ownership of alternative sustainable and renewable energy including, alternative livelihoods, climate action programming, coordination and capacity of Local Governments; Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of potential beneficiaries on alternative energy use; GoU/UNDP/GCF wetlands project;

				Austrian Ministry of Health; Kigezi Water and Environmental Resources Business Incubation for employment/wealth creation However, there is a lot that is required to support resource mobilisation efforts.
Annual Milestone # 4 Best practices in sustainable agriculture and sound environment & natural resources management documented and disseminated by December 2021.	Number of best practices identified, documented and disseminated.	5	3 best practices identified and documentation is being pursued through articles/case studies. These include: WASH landlord tenant inventory; KCCA school WASH improvement plans (incorporating COVID-19 SOPs; Monthly WASH clean-ups by KCCA and partners)	The school WASH plans are pending printing and delivery. The landlord tenant inventory will be used by local leaders and KCCA to collect data to inform planning, accountability, improvement in decision making.
Annual Milestone # 5: Studies in agriculture, environment and natural resource management of vulnerable communities (WASH, agriculture/food security, Climate change/Resilience) conducted to generate data, information and facts for evidence-based policy engagements at National and Local level by December 2021.	Number of studies on natural resource management conducted	3	2 studies ongoing, including: i) Capacity needs assessment and responsive development plan for banana value chain actors in Isingiro and Bunyangabo district ii) Baseline survey the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) funded project titled, 'Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts,' – in Kiryandongo, Adjumani, Yumbe, Terego and Madi Okollo.	The validation meeting for the study report for capacity needs assessment and responsive development plan for banana value chain actors in Isingiro and Bunyangabo district has been conducted. Waiting for the final report from the consultant.
Key results for Milestones under Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Jan- June 2021				
Annual Milestone	Indicators	Target	Key results against the milestone	Comment
Annual Milestone #1: A consolidated M&E system generating the information for decision making from Dec 2020 through December 2021.	Number of system generated M&E reports used by various stakeholders during decision making process. Evidence based decisions taken by management and other stakeholders from the M&E system generated reports	6 Decisions about programming and management evidence based aided by M&E system outputs	Not no report has been generated using the system and therefore no decision.	However, the system's components that were generating errors have been updated, and now data entry is ongoing to verify new updated components.
Annual Milestone #2: EA Programs monitored and evaluated for effectiveness and efficiency, learning from Dec 2020 through December 2021.	Number of PIMs conducted by December 2021 Number of case studies, most significant change stories and success stories (MSCS) documented and Disseminated by December 2021.	12 4	Conducted 2 PIM so far this year 2021. Contributed to program implementation focus and reflection. 2 i.e. STRENPO report of January to February 2021 shared with the donor (Care International in Uganda. Capacity Building Plan (under STEP-UP Project) for actors along the Banana value chain in Isingiro & Bunyangabo Districts developed and validated 1 review meeting. STRENPO Performance management Plan, Partner Indicator tracking table generated. Board engagements in	Documentation of case studies and MSCS from program implementation should be pursued going forward.

	Number of review meetings held by Dec 2021 (quarterly, semi-annual and annual review meetings)	6	Quarter 1-2021 ongoing to review program performance.	
Annual Milestone #3: Mainstreaming Gender in EA programs and projects through gender planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and reporting (and well packaged program and M&E information targeting resource mobilisation) from December 2020 through December 2021.	<p># of gender responsive project budgets plans and implementation strategies by December 2021.</p> <p>Number of concepts/proposals with articulate gender and M&E information targeted at resource mobilization.</p> <p>Environmental Alert Staff continuously taking into consideration gender related issues, articulating them in reporting, implementation and other related tasks</p>	<p>2</p> <p>14</p> <p>Gender integration seen in all aspects of EA's work</p>	<p>6 budgets and plans developed in which issues of gender have been mainstreamed.</p> <p>8 proposals</p> <p>To a large extent gender has been well considered during planning, budgeting and reporting evidenced by gender responsive plans, budgets, reports and participation in engagements.</p>	<p>Gender focused project focused documents under resource mobilization have been developed e.g. KOENERGY call, Agri-Business Learning and Exchange Visit (ABLEV), IKI Small Grants (GIZ), and also 'Baseline survey on production, access, use and ownership of alternative sustainable and renewable energy including, alternative livelihoods, climate action programming, coordination and capacity of Local Governments; Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of potential beneficiaries on alternative energy use.'</p> <p>More effort needs to be put on how to use gender analysis framework to capture gender roles and relations that can impede or facilitate the achievement of program objectives.</p>
Annual Milestone # 4: EA's Image and Visibility Improved from Dec 2020 through December 2021.	<p>#Materials developed containing information about who EA is and EA's mission and vision by December 2021.</p> <p># People reached on websites by December 2021</p> <p># People reached on print media platforms by Dec 2021</p> <p># People reached on mass media platforms by Dec 2021</p> <p>% Target stakeholders giving positive feedback about EA engagements on website and social media platforms</p> <p>#People reached (female & male) in various engagements (meetings, dialogues, workshops, Barrazas) by Dec 2021.</p> <p># People reached on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Network Whatsapp) by Dec 2021</p> <p># of invitations to other partner engagements by Dec2021</p>	<p>6 Total reach =4300 (EA website= 1000, ENR CSO=1200, RECSO=1500, UFWG=600)</p> <p>60000</p> <p>15,000,000</p> <p>75% 220 (F:100, M:120) (Twitter: 1100, Facebook: 1,000, Whatsapp groups: 300) 10</p>	<p>3 IECs (i.e. CSO position papers) published so far</p> <p>EA annual report drafts generated</p> <p>Improved EA image and visibility with website visit of 33,743</p> <p>With social media, 30,449 people have been reached.</p> <p>10 invitations received from partners to participate in their engagements</p>	<p>Annual report will be finalized by end of April 2021</p> <p>More numbers will be reached as further implementation is rolled out with improvement in financial flows.</p>
Annual Milestone #5: Building staff capacity in information, communication technology from Dec 2020 through December 2021	<p># of staff effectively able to use ICT skills (audio and video recording, photography and to make presentations by December 2021</p> <p># of staff using and updating the information management system and M&E system effectively</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Not yet done. However, there is a scheduled meeting for capacity building.</p> <p>All staff (10) can now use the information management system to store and retrieve documents</p>	<p>Staff gap has been identified in the use of Microsoft teams. Mr. Johannes – the resource mobilization expert is to schedule a meeting with EA staff in April to train them in its use and operation.</p> <p>All staff will also be trained in using M&E system once it is complete and tested for use.</p>

Annex 2

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 **1st 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 *advocate for an enabling environment, sustainable natural resource management and food security for targeted communities through empowerment and policy engagement*

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://enrcso.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 [//entalert.org/](http://entalert.org/)