



Program implementation report 2020

Popular Version

This is an annual consolidated report summary for Environmental Alert for the year 2020. It presents the key highlights with respect to results/achievements and emerging issues during the implementation period from January to December 2020.

Environmental Alert

Program Implementation Report for 2020.

Popular version



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1.0 Introduction

This is an annual consolidated report summary for Environmental Alert¹ for the year 2020. It presents the key highlights with respect to results/achievements and emerging issues during the implementation period, January to December 2020.

2.0 An overview of Environmental Alert (EA) Program Implementation in 20120

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 2020 was informed by the Consolidated EA program and budget, 2020 approved by the EA Board during the meeting held on 21st December 2020 in the Board room. The approved annual budget by the EA Board is 2,946,667,818 UGX (approx. 2.9 billion). The amount of funds received by the end of December 2019 was 511,724,705/= - i.e., 17% of the approved 2020 budget. This was mobilized through collaboration with strategic Partners (*Care International in Uganda*, *Water Aid-Uganda*, and *WWF-Uganda*). These financial resources were utilized to deliver on outputs and achievements with respect to the approved annual milestones/targets as described in the EA Consolidated Work Plan and Budget, 2020.

Key donors and development partners of EA from January to December 2020

- a. *Care International in Uganda*,
- b. *Water Aid Uganda*,
- c. *Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)*
- d. *World Wide Fund for Nature – Uganda Country Office (WWF-UCO)*,
- e. *EA's funds*,
- f. *Envalert-Uganda*

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

2.1 EA program components and associated annual milestones for 2020

The EA program components and associated annual milestones for 2020 informed the engagements and outputs delivered during the implementation period, January to December 2020. They include the following:

2.2 Projects implemented during the reporting period – January – December 2020

The projects implemented during the period are:

- 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. *Building Climate Resilience Program (STRENPO);*
- c. *Sustainable Water Hygiene and Sanitation (SuSWASH) project.*
- d. *STEP-UP project*

2.3 Scale of Implementation

As of the end of December 2020, EA-led interventions reached 35 districts across the country. Some of the districts included 20 in the Albertine graben: *Arua, Nebbi, Koboko, Moyo, Adjumani, Maracha, Masindi, Hoima, Buliisa, Kagadi, Kyenjojo, Kibaale, Kasese, Bushenyi, Rubirizi, Mitooma, Rukungiri, Kabarole, Kisoro, and Bundibugyo, Rakai*; Kampala, Arua, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja, Buikwe, Luweero, Isingiro, Rakai, Kyegegwa, Gulu, Masindi, Kabalore, Kyenjojo,

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 1**.

EA as a Secretariat for various mobilized and coordinated over 260 CSOs/CBOs for joint action engagement at national and local levels through CSO Networks such as: *Uganda Forest Working Group* - <http://ufwg.envalert.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.

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 100,000 through print media & 130000 through social media; & and 200 through Workshops). A good relationship with key strategic partners was sustained for the continuous support of EA's program implementation.

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Furthermore, national-level targeted policy engagements on agricultural environment and Natural Resources Management Issues were facilitated. The key results from these engagements are detailed in **Table 1**.

- Implementation progress based on annual milestones

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

Table 1. Progress towards the achievement of annual milestones for 2020.

Key results under the Environment and Natural Resources component	
Annual Milestone	Key results against the milestone
Annual Milestone #1: At least 8 policy issues and recommendations (including: Gender inclusive/responsive) identified from the studies and program interventions presented, discussed for consideration by duty bearers in WASH, ENR, Energy, and Agriculture sectors at national & local levels by December 2020. ENR, Energy and Agriculture sector at national & local levels by December 2020.	57 policy issues and recommendations were packaged in position papers, presented and discussed across various policy spaces.
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 2020.	5 joint policy engagements organised jointly with MWE, MAAIF, and national CSO partners. 3 AGMs were held (UFWG, ENR-CSO network, and RECSO) 6 Steering committees held
Annual Milestone #3: Existing Joint Partnerships maintained and new ones developed and effectively managed as part of the Environmental Alert program development and delivery by December 2020.	3 Partnerships maintained, these included: CARE, WWF-UCO, Water Aid – Uganda. 1 joint partnership was developed with WWF-UCO for supporting follow-up engagements under the Clean Energy Project. Final decisions on it are yet to be made
Annual Milestone #4: Innovative best practices in sustainable agriculture and	5 best practices as highlighted below:-

sound environment & natural resources management demonstrated and promoted by December 2020	<p>i) Provided cleaning and Fumigation equipment to CBOs in Kamwokya and Kansanga and developed the capacity of group members on how best to use and maintain them.</p> <p>ii) Supported 5 KCCA schools with talking compounds and toilet walls to advance awareness creation on WASH among pupils and students.</p> <p>iii) Developed 5WASH improvement plans developed for the 5project schools.</p> <p>iv) Developed WASH school rules and regulations for the WASH school clubs in the 5 project schools.</p> <p>v) Developed the Tenant-Landlord inventory template, which shall be used by local leaders to track toilet coverage in communities.</p>
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 the National and Local level by December 2020	<p>3 Studies are still ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A study to track trends in budget allocations within the Agric and Water and Environment sectors is still a work in progress.– - A study on institutional capacity needs assessment for the key actors in the banana value chain; - A Review of the guidelines for land allocation for private sector investment in tree planting within central forest reserves.
Annual Milestone #6: Enhanced Knowledge and skills for Agriculture, Environment, and Natural resources advocacy engagement structures (regional CSO networks/platforms, CBOs) for effective policy engagements by December 2020.	<p>5 engagement structures trained in policy, lobbying, and advocacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced capacity of CSOs in: Budget tracking and monitoring for 62 CSOs across 4 networks - Lobbying and advocacy <p>3 engagement structures have used the knowledge and skills to influence decisions and or policy implementation as reflected in their ability to generate policy recommendations for the ongoing policy processes</p>

Key results for Milestones under Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning 2020.	
Annual Milestone	Key results against the milestone
Annual Milestone #1: A consolidated M&E system generating the data for decision making from December 2019 through December 2020	No report has been generated from the computerized M&E system yet. However, three corporate M&E reports have been developed and shared with Staff and Management, and M&E information has been incorporated into all project reports that have been shared with partners in the quarterly progress report under 1=SusWASH, 1 Clean energy, and 2 =STRENPO projects
Annual Milestone #2: EA Programs monitored and evaluated for effectiveness, efficiency, and learning from December 2019 through December 2020.	6 PIMs held. 1 quarterly review meeting held, 1 semi-annual review meeting held, and now 1 annual review meeting is being held.
Annual Milestone #3: Mainstreaming Gender in EA programs and projects through gender planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and reporting from December 2019 through December 2020.	2 currently running project budgets, 14 proposal budgets submitted to various funding agencies
Annual Milestone # 4: EA's Image and Visibility Improved from December 2019 through December 2020	10 (2policy briefs in RE,-1ENR-CSO consolidated Annual report 2019) plus 7 branded messages for Covid-19 social media campaign -- 131,761 (with 4,949 additions from 2019) --100,000 (during JASAR, ENR-CSO position paper, various RECSO network articles) Total 200(F:80,M: 120) (website:, twitter :23,198, Facebook :6,399) with followers=4,467 20 invitations
Annual Milestone #5: Building staff capacity in information, communication technology from Dec 2019 through December 2020.	13 staff have been trained in the use of ZOOM to conduct online meetings to deliver on key outputs under the COVID-19 lockdown

Key results for Milestones under Resource Mobilization and Investment 2020																					
Annual Milestone	Key results against the milestone																				
Annual Milestone #1:15 % Annual increase in total income realized from at least 3 sources, with proportionate contribution of (60% donors, consultancy 30% and own resources 10%) by Dec 2020	14 concepts/proposals as well as EoI were submitted to potential funding opportunities Worth 69,884,688,634.48 UGX (This amount involves shares of the consortiums we had and our concepts)																				
Annual milestone #2: To operationalize the Agri-Business Incubation Centre (ABIC)	The Centre’s (EA-ABIC) foundation has been put on the ground, and very soon we shall have it at a level we want it to be. But currently it's easily accessed and resides staff																				
Annual Milestone # 3: To grow EA's investment by 30% by the end of Dec 2020 (pre-fab & Agri buz and Incubation centre, transport)	Supporting documents have been developed, and staff quotas have been established that will support the implementation of the selected enterprises. By the end of December, 2 enterprises will be implemented, that is, yam garden and pig rearing which all preparations are ready, e.g., Tilling of the land is ongoing to support the growing of the Land.																				
Key results for Milestones under Finance and Administration 2020																					
Annual Milestone	Key results against the milestone																				
Annual Milestone #1:15 % Annual increase in total income realized from at least 3 sources, with proportionate contribution of (60% donors, consultancy 15% and own resources 25%) by Nov 2020	<table><tr><th></th><th>2019 (UgX.)</th><th>Targeted 2020 (ugx.)</th><th>Actual 2020(Ugx.)</th><th>% Target vs Actual</th></tr><tr><td>Consultancies</td><td>222,080,000</td><td>245,720,453</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Donors</td><td>790,915,140</td><td>885,476,950</td><td>482,468,990</td><td>54%</td></tr><tr><td>Internal Sources</td><td>37,691,640</td><td>77,092,394</td><td>32,075,199</td><td>42%</td></tr></table>		2019 (UgX.)	Targeted 2020 (ugx.)	Actual 2020(Ugx.)	% Target vs Actual	Consultancies	222,080,000	245,720,453	0	0%	Donors	790,915,140	885,476,950	482,468,990	54%	Internal Sources	37,691,640	77,092,394	32,075,199	42%
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	TOTAL	1,050,686,780	1,208,289,797	514,544,189	43%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ugx 7,494,882 has been earned from investment.• Ugx 24,580,317/= was earned from Internal Sources (Ugx. 15,441,716 from mileage and Ugx. 9,138,601 from 10% Contribution to Management Costs)• Ugx 482,468,990 from Donors (Access to clean renewable resources Ugx. 150,439,852• Building Climate Resilience Program CARE worthUgx .. 268,936573• MoSTI STEP UP worth Ugx 63,092,565)				
Annual Milestone #2. Improve EA's Financial Management System for the generation of timely, regular, accurate, and reliable information/reports for planning and decision making by October 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 system-generated reports (one per month)• At least three Institutional and project audits carried out successfully by the end of the year. <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Finalization of the institution's Audit of 2019 – report unqualified☐ Finalization of 5 project Audit Reports – Reports Unqualified☐ Timely preparation of reports that meet donor requirements –☐ All project audits exhibit strong financial controls at EA☐ System reviewed and recommendations made to align the chart of accounts with the institution's Chart of Accounts.				
Annual Milestone #3: EA governance organs are effectively functional and fulfilling their mandate, roles, and responsibilities from January through December 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 Committee meetings and one main Board meeting were held• Annual General Meeting Conducted• Institutional Audit passed – Report Unqualified• Appointment of new Institutional Auditors – Springs and Associates.• Retirement and Replacement of the new board member.• Filed compliance requirements with the NGO Bureau, Financial Intelligence Authority, and URA• Net Salaries Paid Till End of September 2020• All staff have running Contracts• Conducted a staff Meeting				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held 3 staff capacity building trainings (Budget tracking and Monitoring trainings and Climate diplomacy by CARE, and Knowledge Management Training by Horizon 3000) • Staff medical Insurance paid for one year
Annual Milestone # 5: Routine core and support services provided in a timely and regular manner to support effective Program Implementation from January to December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airtime and Data Facilitation for Ten Months • Purchased 4 extra laptops for staff • Timely processing of Staff cash advances. • Office maintenance has been promptly done to date. • Renewal of organization vehicles' third-party Insurance.

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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 100,000 through print media & 130000 through social media; & and 200 through Workshops). A good relationship with key strategic partners was sustained for the continuous support of EA's program implementation.

i) EA Institutional policies approved (e.g., EA Human Resources Policy) and all the other institutional policies continuously enforced.

ii) Maintained 60% of the EA staff to deliver on program commitments.

--1 staff resigned, i.e., Tebandeke Andrew and 5 others were laid off due to a lack of financials to support their remunerations.

iii) Staff training for skills enhancement – 10 program staff trained in the use of ICT platforms to support their work from home during the lockdown. However, Staff have also benefited from several other trainings beyond the application of ICT under the COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 total lockdown. Most of these trainings were organized by EA under the STRENPO and Clean Energy project. *These included training in Budget tracking and advocacy about Renewable energy. And a training in Humanitarian and gender transformative approaches.*

iv) Resource mobilization efforts/initiatives advanced

-14 concepts/proposals as well as EoI were submitted to potential funding opportunities Worth 69,884,688,634.48

vi) 3 Formal Partnerships frameworks have been developed with PELUM Uganda, WEMNET, and Makerere University, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, and this presents a huge opportunity for entry into the ACADEMIA, MAAIF, and media spheres

vii) Regular Annual Program Performance Reviews conducted involving all Governance Structures (i.e., Program Implementation Meetings, Management, Board);

viii) Participated in important/strategic sector meetings, i.e., Water and Environment sector Working Group; Energy week/ Biomass Dialogue; NDPIII Policy Review processes ;

ix) Several publications done (e.g., under Renewable Energy and ENR) to enhance EA's visibility and Image. Besides, a lot of awareness is conducted through radio, print and TV, and social media platforms.

x) Held Annual General meetings for the ENR-CSO Network, Uganda Forest Working Group (UFWG), and Renewable Energy CSO Network. The strategic plan of the network was approved, and a new steering committee of the network was elected.

2.5 Key emerging issues (challenges and opportunities) during implementation

2.5.1 Challenges faced in 2020

- a) Untimely resource/funding flows, thus, a substantive amount of funds disbursed late. Thus, this compromises on timely implementation and delivery of outputs.
- b) Due to COVID-19 and the resultant lockdown, there was a reduction in the project and activities, which significantly impacted Environmental Alert's income, both donor and own resources
- c) Budget cuts due to the COVID Pandemic

2.5.2 Opportunities in 2020

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

- a) *Emerging programs thematic issues with new strategic partners* – if tapped, will advance EA Program Development:
 - i) *Building community climate change resilience – UNFAO;*
 - ii) *Ongoing reviews for forestry policy & legislation, Wetlands policy & law, energy policy.*
 - iii) *Structured collaboration with the Private sector to advance corporate social responsibility obligations;*
 - iv) *Willingness of the government to work with Civil society in the implementation of joint programs creates space for negotiation to take up some of the recommendations*
- v) *Integrated Water Resources Management and Forest Landscape restoration & management;*
- vi) *Sustainable Land management/ Land Degradation Neutrality;*
- vii) *Environment and Refugees.*

NB: A detailed Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats analysis was reviewed during the EA annual retreat, which has several actions that 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 2021. Likewise, actions for addressing institutional weakness and threats were developed based on the SWOT analyses done during the EA annual review and planning retreat. These should be implemented alongside the consolidated EA annual work plan for 2021. Much appreciation to the Development Partners for the extended support to EA in the implementation of its programs. The EA team is working smartly to tap into existing opportunities to advance program implementation towards the 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 their resilience and continued performance even during the hard times of COVID-19.

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

Program and institutional Components:

- Environment and Natural resources management;
- Food security and Nutrition;
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
- Finance and Administration;
- 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:

- The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network) - <http://enr-cso.org/>;
 - Uganda Forestry Working Group - <http://ufwg.entalert.org/>;
 - The Standards Development Group (for promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Uganda); and
- ~~Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources~~