

National Environmental Education and Awareness Initiative

By

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Outline

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Introduction

- The Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources plays a key role in advancing the national social and economic agenda on economic recovery and poverty reduction strategies through sustainable management of the environment.

Introduction

- To carry out this role the ministry has started several initiatives, one is the **National Environmental Education and Awareness initiative** is a key initiative providing a platform to inform, educate and engage various stakeholders.

Objectives

- To increase environmental awareness and participation in environmental activities
- To mobilize the general public to get involved in the protection and conservation of the environment
- To encourage media to embrace effective positive and informative environmental coverage
- Unveil and promote the '**Green Ribbon**' as symbol for conserving the environment.

Components

The initiative has the following:

- Schools
- Universities
- Civil Society Organizations
- Media and publicity

School component

The target group:

- Head Teachers,
- Teachers in charge of Eco-clubs and
- Some members of school management committee.

Key Training Activities

- Highlights of Education for Sustainable Development(ESD) Implementation Strategy to respond to sustainable development challenges in Kenya
- Preparation of project proposals for funding
- Monitoring & Evaluation of the projects
- Projects on:
 - **Tree planting tree & nursery establishment**
 - **Eco-clubs**
 - **Water harvesting**

Training

- Training were done across the country with selected districts and schools within the districts,

Objectives of the Training

- Acquire skills for developing sound project proposals for funding.
- To acquire basic knowledge on how to start & implement such projects in schools with a whole school approach concept.
- Acquire relevant knowledge and skills for managing & monitoring school environmental education and awareness projects.

Outcomes of the training

- Training of about 336 teachers & committee members
- Implementation of tree planting/nurseries, water harvesting and eco- clubs projects in the schools
- Proper financial accounting of schools Environmental Education & Awareness Initiative Project Funds
- Monitoring & evaluation of schools environmental project.

Achievements

- Implementation of the projects through the whole school approach including teachers, pupils and parents.
- Formation of Eco-Clubs and strengthening of the existing ones e.g 4k clubs
- Sensitization of staff, pupils and parents on the project activities to create a knowledge base for informed and responsible decision making
- Building of social implementation capacity of all the stakeholders
- Establishment of woodlots and tree nurseries in the primary schools

Achievements (cont)

- Exposing the pupils to best practices through practice & field trips for Eco-club members
- Installation of garbage bins within school compound in some schools
- Installation of water tanks for roof catchment in schools to conserve water
- Participatory approach in project implementation for collective ownership
- Partnerships with local CBOs to carry out some activities established
- Sensitized the community, teachers and pupils on the project & its implementation

Challenges

- Transfer of the Head teachers to another school, affecting release of funds for implementation .
- Prolonged drought delayed starting planting of tree seedlings
- Time consumed in involving the pupils in the activities
- Water problems and low survival rates of tree seedlings
- The time given to the schools to implement the activities is too short
- Poor documentation

Challenges

- Lack of adequate awareness materials

Some of the Awareness materials made are:

- T- shirts
- Caps
- Calendars
- Brochures
- The green ribbon

Lessons learnt

- Projects can best be implemented with involvement of all stakeholders who are within the project area
- For proper EE the young children are key as they develop the culture of environmental management from early age.
- There is need to involve the communities in environmental activities to be able to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Lessons learnt (cont)

- Using a whole school approach is effective in implementing projects at the grassroots levels
- Primary schools can be good sites for community demonstrations - community have confidence
- Using the existing structures could work best in mitigating against the effects of climate change

Projects



Installed water tank at Muvandori Primary School Embu District



Established woodlot at Ndaba Primary School



Briquettes by eco-club, Bondo township pry school, Bondo District



A pupil planting a tree seedling at Corner Barindi, Ngong

Projects



Installed Water tank at Central Primary School



Tree nursery established in Kewangoi Primary School



Tree nursery at Kenya-ini Primary School, Kisii District

Conclusion

- Such a projects can be replicated in other areas in Kenya and Africa
- There is sustainability when projects are owned by the local communities but **plan with them.**
- The communities have confidence when their own are implementing and coordinating projects.

Thank
you

