

Project Update: November 2006

The Report of the patron's meeting of the 30th November 2006 that was held at the W.C.K. conference hall.

The meeting was geared to formulating a patron's committee that was to run a program involving many schools in environmental education. The meeting was to select and identify committee patrons, their roles and an overall goal towards the same.

Matters arising and needed to be discussed was the terms of reference. The committee was to organize all the activities as a model for other schools to follow. The involvement of the patrons independent of the L.V.S. B. would make the whole process sustainable.

The issues arising about the committee were:

1. The committee would spearhead the conservation of the wetland (IBA) through their involvement in schools. The environment supposedly being a wide topic so as a request was made for narrowing down to at least three 'menace' issues to be tackled per year. Consideration here was:
 - The issue of menace
 - Finances
 - Training
 - Time bound.

The schools committed to the process would lead to care taking of these activities by the schools.

2. Whenever a process was started it would run to maturity through the follow-ups. This would involve the influence of the community at large.

Major issues on the ground to be considered were:

- Plastic control
- Greening of schools
- Opening of the sewerage drainage channels.
- Floods and floods control
- Fencing of schools for management and confinement purposes.

Objectives of the Committee

- 1) To control the waterborne diseases through flood control.
- 2) To control soil erosion through planting of trees and grass.
- 3) To establish a tree nursery to acquire live fence seedling.
- 4) To beautify the school environment through planting of flowers.
- 5) To establish plastic collection points as a method of controlling plastic waste (environmental hazards)
- 6) To mobilize the school fraternity towards cleaning of the environment (including the culverts and drainages)
- 7) To organize festivals that would be follow-ups (evaluation and monitoring) of the environmental activities.

- 8) To award the consistent and achievers of the environmental conservation.

The Vision of the Committee

The vision was stated as, '***To be a leading example in creating a healthy environment in schools and the community through conservation.***'

The Mission Statement of the Committee

The mission of the committee was realised as, '***To create awareness, through a collaborative effort with other stakeholders, so as to improve on the environment and the general livelihood of the community.***'

The Overall Goal of the Committee

The overall goal of the committee was '***To have an empowered society on sustainable environmental conservation.***'

The Roles of the Patrons Committee

- 1) To initiate and sustain projects in the schools geared towards environmental conservation.
- 2) Monitoring and evaluating the projects as they are carried out.
- 3) Advise in the management of the projects done.
- 4) Initiate visits to other places to see more projects.
- 5) To organize exchange programs.
- 6) To facilitate the acquisition of space as well as in the community through the chiefs and other administrators.
- 7) To facilitate the creation of space in schools for projects to take place.
- 8) To initiate networking with other stakeholders or administrators in facilitating conservation processes.
- 9) To organize for awarding schemes or forums out of the evaluation done prior for motivating the different participant schools.
- 10) To hold exhibitions on the conservation issues and plan for school's representation on the international days.
- 11) To for networking with other stakeholders of conservation.
- 12) To mobilize stakeholders to participate in their activities.
- 13) To have certification when awarding.
- 14) To build or buy tanks for water conservation especially during rainy seasons to improve the community's livelihoods.

The Functional Structure of the Committee

The committee was to constitute of the following:

- Chairman and Vice chairman
- Secretary and Assistant secretary.
- Treasurer.
- Members

Functions were defined as below:

1) Chairman

- Overseeing all the activities of the group
- Organize, set dates, and invite members to meetings.

- Ensure that the objectives are met
- Chair the meetings
- Co-ordinate with project managers to see that activities are met.

2) Secretary

- Write minutes
- Write invitation letters
- Write reports of the activities implemented.

3) Treasure

- Custodian of all the finances of the committee
- Draw budget of events
- To prepare the financial accounts.

In respect to the above structures, an interim office was elected and included:

Chairman – Mr. Hamisi of Joel Omino School

Secretary – Mr. Omoke of Kasagam School.

Treasurer – Mr. Tony of Nanga School

Elections

Elections of the committee will be done as follows;

- ❖ Elections will be done annually on November of every year
- ❖ The venue of elections will be agreed upon by members.
- ❖ The mode of elections will be the secret ballot.
- ❖ Eligibility; only patrons from registered wildlife and environmental school clubs will vie for posts in the committee.
- ❖ Affirmative action shall be given due consideration.
- ❖ An LVSB member shall be the returning officer.
- ❖ There shall be even distribution of posts to every school on election of committee members.

Meetings

There will be three kinds of meetings:

- ❖ Annual general meetings to be held once a year.
- ❖ Membership meetings to be held twice a year.
- ❖ Emergency meetings to be held whenever an emergency situation needs to be addressed.

The quorum for every meeting shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total membership.

The composition of the AGM and other general meetings shall be; 2 LVSB members, 4 patrons, and head teachers of respective schools.

Amendments

When need arises, the committee shall amend the TORs. This will follow the procedure below;

- ❖ A member/s wishing to amend an issue should table the issue in advance to the committee before it is discussed.
- ❖ Quorum of $\frac{3}{4}$ must be present for the issue to be discussed.
- ❖ The amendment shall only be effected if it is supported by $\frac{3}{4}$ of members present.

Withdrawal

This will apply in case of the following situations:

- ❖ Transfer of a teacher/patron who holds an official position in the committee is transferred to a new school that is not active/ registered as a wildlife or environmental club.
- ❖ A member school wishes to withdraw her membership from the committee.

Withdrawal procedure:

- ❖ A letter of resignation must first be submitted to the committee leadership expressing a school's desire to withdraw by the respective school patron.
- ❖ Upon receipt of the letter, the committee sends 2 members, 2 LVSBS representatives and the MEO to discuss the issue with the affected school's administration.
- ❖ A presentation is then made to the committee on the outcome of the discussions.
- ❖ The committee makes the final decision on the issue based on their findings and recommendations.
- ❖ In cases where an individual patron withdraws, their schools will replace them by appointing new teachers to the posts.
- ❖ Posts won't be declared vacant in cases of transfers until the end term (general) meetings.
- ❖ Final decisions for such cases will be made in end term meetings.