

## Project Update: February 2012

The project started in October 2011 by sensitising the head teachers as was advised by the Ministry of Education in Njoro district. However they requested that we carry out the survey in February since October and November is national exams period and schools don't encourage many activities from outside the ministry. We carried out the survey in schools within the catchment to assess the activities undertaken by individual schools with regards to environmental conservation. The summary below shows the information from the survey.

Name of School	Nearest River and Distance	Environmental changes observed	Steps to curb The changes	Environmental club in school and Activities done	Capacities of club in conservation	Challenges
Ogiek-Nessuit Secondary	Njoro River Kaliang'ik Melkwan'goi	Degradation of catchment due to farming encroachment	No step taken	Present (52 members) plans to establish tree nursery and flower garden	Manpower Technical advice to community	School is new and requires lots of interventions
Tiritagoi Primary	Chuuro (Njoro river) (700m) Melkwan'goi (700m)	Low water levels due to deforestation	Tree planting within school compound	No club. Plans to establish one.	Educate community on conservation	Destruction of tree seedlings by animals especially during long holidays
Sigaon Primary	Kaliang'ik	Low water levels due to farming along river banks	Tree planting within school compound	No club. Plans to establish one.	Manpower	Destruction of tree seedlings by animals No fence to keep off animals
Nessiut Primary	Njoro River	Deforestation along the river	Sensitisation of community on need to replant trees	Present (125 members) Club not active but was involved in tree planting within school compound	Manpower Train members on conservation	

Cheptoroi secondary	River Ndarugu 1.5 km	Maize crops matures faster than it used to take	The school has planted over 6000 seedlings	There are 75 club members	Cleaning of the drainages and planting of seedlings	
Cheptoroi primary	River Ndarugu	Low water, river almost becoming seasonal	Planted 300 trees in the school compound	37 club members	Ensured that the trees planted survived Availability of land, manpower	Lack of fence to offer security to the trees Need exposure and education
Egerton primary	R.Njoro	Diminished vegetation and no proper waste disposal	Planted trees in the compound	All pupils in the school but shall formalize the club and organize the activities	Adequate manpower, resource	Lack of equipment, seeds, fertilizer Technical advice on the tree nursery management
Ndarugu Primary	River Ndarugu (Njoro )	Drying up of the river Water pollution	Planted trees, distributed to the community to plant and organizing cleaning up activities	There are 100 members	Active club members Planted seedlings Distributed to the community	Need seeds to establish another nursery Lack of nursery equipments and tools
Mogoon Primary	River Ndarugu (Njoro), 100m	Increased dry season Less vegetation cover due to adverse weather	Planting of trees both within the school and along river bank with help of women/youth groups	Club has 30 members	Active club which has a tree nursery project	Lack of nursery tools and equipment
Barut Primary	River Ndarugu 200m	Drying up of vegetation due to adverse weather	Planting of trees and irrigating flower beds	Club has 60 members	Club has participated in tree planting, kitchen garden and flower beds	Lack of water to carry out environmental projects

The project has now started working with each school as at where they are and addressing the various challenges they have so that to enhance participation of the community in restoration and conservation of the watershed. We are also negotiating with school management committee for Cheptoroi and Sigaon primary schools about considering fencing as a protection for trees in the school compound. The project has encouraged them to consider funding it from the school kitty. Tritagoi and Sigaon primary in the upper river catchment that don't have environmental clubs, we have discussed with the head teachers and he is positive about starting one. The training is planned for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012 just after examinations and before the schools are closed.

We are also designing posters and other education materials relevant to the children and the subject.

We plan to do the nurseries in May just when schools open and there will be plenty of rainfall at the time.