

Programme Partners:



Implementing Partner



TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE DEVELOPMENT MINERALS SECTOR

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RETURN TO WORK (RTW) PLAN

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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Brief Description of the project:

Artisanal and small Scale Mining (ASM) is largely excluded from policy and action plans of Government, CSOs and other actors and receive little or no support from key institutions, unlike other livelihood sectors such as agriculture and forestry. Despite government priorities to promote economic diversification and Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SME's) development and to increase exports and foreign exchange earnings, ASM communities have been omitted from mainstream poverty reduction efforts including essential activities related to broader social, environmental and health policy and programmes. The marginalization of ASM, combined with the limited knowledge and skills of miners in appropriate mining practices, has led to severe occupational health risks, significant environmental destruction and inefficient mining practices that often generate a cycle of poverty that few miners can readily escape. Inadequate organization, child labour, widespread alcoholism, a pervasive lack of a culture of savings and tensions between the formal mining sector and artisanal miners further characterize the situation in Mayuge. Although ASM can provide a temporary reprieve from day-to-day hardship, these difficult conditions can ultimately serve to increase poverty. Mineral extraction in the lake Victoria basin remains under developed and unrecognized as a potential opportunity for livelihood improvement, job creation, income generation at community level and an avenue for revenue to the local government in the area. The sector has for the past 4 years been practiced in Mayuge district on small scale by the local communities majorly for mineral domestic use due to lack of information and proper marketing strategies for their minerals, inappropriate and unsustainable extraction methods characterized by use of rudimentary tools. Mayuge district is located in eastern part of Uganda composed of 63% water body and 37%land. This clearly tells the richness of minerals in the area often underutilized. The district has a population close to 2 million people as per the 2014 national population census of which 58% are female and 42% male With a fertility rate of 7.1 the major economic activity has for the past several years been fishing and agriculture which has been characterised by illegalities and un sustainable approaches as well as a poor culture of saving and credit in these communities.

This project therefore seeks to mobilize and sensitize 10 (of 30 members) community groups of men and women in Malongo sub county Mayuge district on sustainable mineral extraction in the basin through conducting community wide sensitization on the recognition and appreciation of the importance of the different minerals in their community. Local leader and community engagement will be central, training in sustainable extraction skills and rehabilitation through refilling and planting trees, use of appropriate low cost easy to use extraction tools, use of personal protective gears during extraction, community health and safety as well as training in alternative income generating activities as measure to reduce pressure on the minerals and building the miners economic discipline through training in village saving and loans associations will be the areas of focus.

Expected Outcomes:

1.1. Local beneficiaries living around Lake Victoria are applying techniques contributing to more sustainable and productive use of mineral resources in project area

1.2 Livelihoods and mining practices of target communities that depend on Mining resources in Mayuge are improved and secured by end of project

1.3 Policies/byelaws guiding the use of mineral resources are formulated, adapted to local requirements, and implemented at community levels

Expected Outputs:

1.1.1 Mineral Resource management best practice groups established and functioning to regulate, access to and use of mining, lake, wetland and forest ecosystems and resources

1.2.1 At least 30% of the miners own/run environment friendly micro- and small enterprises in the targeted communities living around Lake Victoria by end of 1 project

1.2.2 Number of policy documents developed guiding a sustainable extraction of mineral passed and enforced, disaggregated by; By-laws / frameworks / strategies /guidelines by end of project

Implementation strategy of the project:

This project will be implemented through working with the local community groups of 2:3 men to women saving and credit mining groups and local leadership of the community that is to say sub county and district leadership. This shall be done through stake holders consultation and planning meetings, sustainable community mineral extraction trainings group dynamics and group formation trainings .These groups will be equipped with the knowledge and skills in environmental impact assessment and its rehabilitation practices such as pit filling, tree planting , garbage disposal and use of cheap low cost easy to use extraction tools as well as economic empowerment through alternative livelihood and village saving and loans association trainings. . This will be done in collaboration with

the district natural resources office, sub-county, district commercial office, community and the funding agency.

Indicators of success:

- The number of mining communities reached and sensitized on development minerals and put the knowledge into practice.
- Number of community mining groups formed with elected leaders and formulated byelaws.
- Percentage change in the income levels of the mining community members.
- Project participants having the capacity to create awareness to the neighbouring local communities.

Strategic opportunities identified that will contribute to the success and sustainability of the project.

The project's sustainability strategy hinges on positive developments at community level. The successful implementation of the project will see significant benefits enjoyed by communities of the project area, in the form of better livelihood options and improved mineral resource management practice. The focus on building strong relationships between stakeholders aims to provide a sound basis for sustainable management and governance mechanisms that are expected to secure and further build on the achievements and outcomes of this project.

The project period allows sufficient time for the project to deliver the agreed interventions. Within the 7-month period, the project envisages the last 1 month to be for hands-off observation once implementation has been completed, culminating in the final impact assessment. This will allow the project to observe the sustainability of the project once support is withdrawn. This 1-month period will also allow ECO to work with key stakeholders to identify lessons learned and to integrate these into their respective programming.

Project interventions will focus on building capacity of communities to assume control over management. The project will work with different resource user groups in mining, fishing, farming among others. By investing in people's skills, the project aims to enhance individuals as well as collective empowerment and thereby ensuring longer-term future sustainability of project interventions. In other words even if the project ends, the gained awareness, skills and hands-on experience will be vested in the people.

Graduates of the alternative livelihood trainings will be integrated into the local artisanal small scale miners to provide the graduates with networks and increasing their chances of securing income based on their newly earned skills.

The effects of the project will not be limited to the 7 months of its implementation. The knowledge developed through the project will be made available beyond the program timeframe. The various capacity building activities targeting ASM communities, fishing, farming groups, local government and leaders will enable them to engage more actively in responsible mining, fishing and farming beyond the project duration. In addition, the activities of the project will contribute to networking between the beneficiaries, so that they can continue to build and share their knowledge and experience regarding mineral resources management and alternative livelihoods.

The project will support formation and strengthening of community Mineral Resources Committees like Beach Management Units, ASM Miners Association, Farmer groups, Environment committees and build Required Capacity and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the executive shall be women. Supporting these committees at each community's level, supporting their organizational capacity and fostering linkages with local government department for resource mobilization and policy dialogue will be key approaches for sustainable program.

Aspects of the training which will be most useful in implementing the project.

- **Mineral exploitation and impact on environment community health and safety.**

In this regard, the project will make efforts to train the miners on the sustainable mineral exploitation practices including use of low cost easy to use tools, refiling of pits, formulation of mineral resource management bylaws, training in alternative livelihood activities etc.

- **Community health and safety.**

The project will promote community recommended hygiene and sanitation practices such as latrine construction, treatment of water for drinking as well as ensuring safety through the use of easy to use tools, use of protective wears during mining with much emphasis on environmental conservation.

- **Site rehabilitation**

Plans to rehabilitate the mining site shall be paramount in this project where trainings shall be done coupled with planting early maturing agro forestry trees shall be promoted in the probe to rehabilitate these sites.

- **Gender and development.**

Mean streaming gender will be central in all the trainings. There shall be training on joint planning from the benefits from mining and other alternative livelihood at household level including children and this will help a whole package take home by all the house hold members and this will see success in the project.

Future plans:

I and the organization at large plan to create continuous awareness on the development minerals even after the end of this project by integrating it in all its other projects in all its area of operation and passing on the need for sensitization to other civil society organisations so that they also incorporate it in their activities.

ACTION PLAN

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7
Activity 1: Base line survey of the project and project inception meetings	✓						
Activity 2: Community wide mobilisation and sensitisation about the importance of sustainable mineral extraction practices(sand)		✓					
Activity 3: Training miners on sustainable mining practices			✓				
Activity 4: Conducting trainings on alternative income generating livelihoods.			✓	✓			
Activity 5: Support formation of mineral resource management community bylaws.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Activity 6: Promote tree planting and pit rehabilitation practices				✓	✓	✓	
Activity 7: Project monitoring , learning and documentation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Etc.							