

Friends with Environment Annual Report 2019



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Preamble:

Friends with Environment in Development (FED) is a non – governmental, non-partisan organization, founded in 2011 and registered in 2014 as anon for profit. FED focuses on three program areas including; 1) Environment Sustainability and Livelihoods, 2) Community Health and 3) Good governance.

FED works with and empowers the communities with lobby, advocacy, dialogue and practical skills to ensure sustainable use of natural resources by employing environmentally friendly conservation practices that ensure sustainability and advocating for enabling law and policies in tandem with human rights, health living and environmental sustainability.

FED is also committed and working to communally promote and pass indigenous cultural and traditional knowledge on Medicinal plants and other natural resources and their uses from the elders to the young generations, as an incentive to increase the young generations' stake in the conservation of Ecosystems biodiversity and cultural heritage and therefore responsibly protect the environment.

FED also works and networks with like minded national and international organizations to hold IFIs accountable for the impacts of their work and funded projects on individuals and communities.

Mission:

FED mission is working towards ecological sustainability, social justice and healthy living through: amplifying community voices and rights, influencing policy and decision making, improving people's livelihoods, building capacity of community participants to live in a healthy and just environment

Vision

FED envisions a people-centred development in Uganda and East Africa region where:

- Environment, biodiversity and natural resources are managed sustainably, used and shared equitably for the benefit of all - the present and the future generations.
- Health and healthy living of the people is a cornerstone right and prioritized for a healthy society in which health services access for everyone especially the rural poor is enabled and affordable
- Society lives in a just and rights respected environment

Acknowledgement

IN THE YEAR 2019 FED continued to work with the communities, like minded Non Profit organizations both local and international, the government and all stakeholders to advance sustainable and human rights respected livelihoods. This was achieved through working with communities poor people some of whom became beneficiaries of the projects implemented. The projects involved practical conservation efforts and activities, lobbying, engaging and advocacy

FED is humbled and grateful to all those who patterned with us this ending year in any way to make the listed achievements possible. Particularly, we are very grateful to our financial supporters, including; Both ENDS, German Friends of Uganda, Global Green Grants Fund, Charity Pot UK, IUCN who made it possible for us to pursue our dream of doing all that is possible to contribute to making Uganda and the world a better place to live in.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their outstanding contribution in making and growing FED, that enabled us to do whatever is recorded here in the report. We thank Heidi Sprugel, member Board of Trustees for fundraising and coordinating our Germany Friends. We thank Tobias Schmtiz, member of Board of Trustees of FED for the concerted efforts to support and solicit support for FED. We also thank Georg Miedel the other Germany Friends mobilizer and fundraiser for FED projects in Fort Portal.

Finally we thank and appreciate the FED Board members for their vision and policy guidance and the personal and moral support to FED to make it move. A lot of gratitude and appreciation goes to the FED staff for their challenging sacrifice and voluntary work, without salary, but making sure FED is moving. Thank you for supporting yourselves to continue working. May your contribution keep your heads high beyond what wages would ever do.

Signed



Kugonza N. Robert Akiiki

Director, - on behalf of Management.

FED activities were implemented through the following projects

1. **Project:** Community Livelihood Support project
Supported by: Germany Friends of Uganda
Amount: 5,570 Euros

1.1. Goats rearing

FED continued to receive support for the Livelihood Support project from the Germany Friends of Uganda. The so far 11 poor women beneficiaries received support in form of vet medicines for their goats and poultry. They also received vegetable seeds.

The beneficiaries recorded progress in their projects especially in the goats' project. Out of the eleven members who altogether received original total number of 27 goats at different times, a total number of 38 young ones were produced this year in addition to 40 young ones raised from the previous years, altogether with original stalk makes a total of $26 + 78 = 104$ goats. This number excludes those which for one reason or another died.

It should be noted that this accounts for the record of what has so far been realized from what the beneficiaries received in terms of goats. However, depending on the needs at hand, a few have been sold by the beneficiaries to meet other needs that they have.

Rose Kiza has so far sold one young female to raise fees for one of her children. Florence Muhenda whose all the three goats have only produced males in 2 productions has so far sold 3 young he goats.



In the above pictures (left) Olive happy with her two pregnant goats. (right) Margret's goats on their way to grazing in the project land.

1.2. Goat Pay Back

Four of the beneficiaries have paid back 6 off springs, as the project policy requires them, to bring back one female young she goat for every goat each received. Upon receipt, these have been passed on to new beneficiaries or to the existing beneficiaries to replace the original stalk for those which died. Rose has been allowed to bring a male as pay back because her goats produced only males.

1.3. Poultry

Only two beneficiaries Margret and Florence took 5 local chicken each along with a cock each. Many of the beneficiaries have not taken chicken despite of its potential to do very well, due to limited space for their rearing since they are reared under free range system. This is because; the chicken would damage the crops in the gardens and thus bring them conflicts with their neighbors. Nevertheless, for Margret and Florence, the chicken have been doing well with both Margret and Florence who received the chicken since three years, boast of over 50 off-springs each from the original stalk and about 10 trays each of very good and quality local chicken eggs which have an advantage over the exotic breeds layers eggs, and attract better price on the market.



Margret feeds some of her local chicken breed with cereals.

1.4. School fees support for Orphans.

FED has this year continued to pay for the school fees for two girls who are orphan students with the help from the Germany Friends of Uganda funding. Bridget has sat exams for her Ordinary Uganda Certificate of Education, (Senior 4) while Margret – the other orphan girl has been promoted to senior 3.

The two current students are a continued addition set to those who have gone before and completed their studies. One

Photos

1.5. Vegetable and fruits growing

As a way to improve nutrition, and good health through improved feeding, FED has continued to promote Kitchen Gardens for Vegetable and Fruit growing amongst its beneficiaries as one of the components of the livelihood improvement project. beneficiaries have continued to grow and eat vegetables and fruits and this has improved their nutrition in their feeding.



*Left: Margret and her grandson Michael show the health fresh salad organic vegetables they have just harvested.
Right: Heathy Cabbages in one of the members kitchen gardens.*

The vegetable and fruits growing has been very much boosted by organic farming practices which FED trains the beneficiaries.

The benefit from goats and chicken is not only from the off-springs produced by the original stalk given, and the eggs in the case of chicken, but also the droppings (dung) from both the goats and chicken, is collected and combined with other plant materials and kitchen refuse and crop residues to make compost manure which is used to fertilize the soil and make it more productive organically. The result of the fertilized soil is high and health organic vegetables like those examples above and the healthy and high yielding of the fruits like the avocados, passion fruits and tomatoes as can be seen below.



One of the highly productive of Margret



Margret happy, she has just harvested fresh and rich in nutrients Avocado fruits from one of her three trees. The challenge is limited market in the village to sell the surplus

1.6. Energy conservation by improved stoves

Funded by Germany friends of Uganda under the Livelihood Support Project.

FED continued to promote, support and facilitate the increased use of Fuel wood saving stoves as a strategic way of reducing deforestation. **Biomass** is still the most important source of **energy** for the majority of the Ugandan population. **About 90%** of the total primary **energy** consumption is generated through **biomass**, which can be separated in **firewood (78.6%), charcoal (5.6%) and crop residues (4.7%)**.



The firewood saving stove that accommodates three cook items at once with one inlet for firewood as opposed to the traditional one with 3 firewood entry spaces and one cook place. This stove saves more than 60% of the firewood that would otherwise be used.

In addition, this stove has advantages of:

- i) Neat environment in the kitchen

- ii) Smoke free environment as smoke is channeled through the chimney
- iii) High level of combustion
- iv) Cooking faster – thus saving time
- v) Cooking three different items on the same amount of firewood at the same time
- vi) Safe for children, the cook and the food among others.

2. Project: FED staff training and capacity building

Funded by: Both ENDS under the Joker Waller Hunter Initiative (JWHI) Project for young environmental Leadership development

Amount: 2500 Euros + 1000 for a one day capacity building for FED Staff and dam affected communities of Bujagali and Karuma

Before the end of 2019 year FED also secured funding for Special skills training of staff who was supported by Both ENDS . Michael who has been assisting in the implementation of the Livelihood Improvement Project in Kibas Fort Portal – Kabarole district, western Uganda. He has been supported for a fast tracking intensive 4 months course in organic / sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, Piggery, poultry keeping, Beekeeping and Extension service, value addition, Permaculture among others. It is expected that after completion of the course, Michael is expected to help and improve on the livelihood project better and with the skills acquired, be more involved in other projects like the Intergeneration Biodiversity Education project expected to be launched in Fort Portal soon or later if it goes through.



On arrival Michael is taken through orientation by Daniel a deputy director and facilitator at the institute



Showing practices of optimum space utilization that can be employed in Urban Farming.

- 3. Project: Economic assessment of Bujagali Dam performance**
Funded by: Global Green Grants Fund:
Amount: USD\$ 2500

The project aimed at Carrying out a simple research on the Economic performance of Bujagali Dam which was funded by IFIs including World Bank, African Development Bank and European Investment Bank (EIB). The research was expected to unearth a deviation of the main objective of reducing the unit cost of electricity which was at US\$ 11 cents before construction of Bujagali dam to on only US\$ 5 cents after the installation of Bujagali generated electricity. To the disappointment of Ugandan tax payers, the situation even worsened from US\$ 11 cents to more than double since Bujagal dam generated electricity came into the grid. Not only that but also Bujagali dam has not performed to its expectations in relation to the investment input. The report confirmed the Bujagali dam project is not value for money, and was built at a cost three times the worth value at the time of its construction which is probably responsible for its electricity to be expensive. A copy of the Apex 1 from the project report showing how electricity tariffs increased after the Bujagali dam instead of decreasing. A good example is while a unit of power cost Ug. Shs 385.60 in December 2010, it was costing Shs. 760.20 in June 2019 nearly double the amount instead of decreasing as had been promised.

- 4. Project: Bujagali Dam: Assessment of the Affected Communities Conditions After 10 years of the dam existence.**
Funded by Both ENDS. Amount 2000 Euros.

Development projects like dams of which Bujagali was such one, come with the belief that they are developmental in every way and for everyone. Whereas this belief is held so by many, it is not always true for everyone. It is even worse for those whom it is emphasized like the dam affected communities, that the coming of such a project will change their lives for better – a dream they never live to see – rather than dashing their hopes for a livelihood not even the kind of livelihoods they lived before.

This is the case with Bujagali Dam Affected communities, as this study funded by Both ENDS and conducted together by FED and Both ENDS found out.



Members of the Bujagali Dam affected (Naminya and Bujagali villages) explain the effects caused by dam, and how they have not benefited from the dam.

- 5. Project:** Aswa dam Social and Environmental Safeguards Compliance Query.
- Funded by:** Both ENDS
- Amount:** 5000 Euros.
- Implemented by:** FED and NAPE

FED Working together with National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), we undertook to evaluate eligibility of Aswa dam project to qualify for the Green Climate Fund support. Working with our Northern partners, Both ENDS, we learnt of the fact that Aswa dam proponents were applying for funding from the Green Climate Fund. In order for such a fund to be given, the applicants must be compliant with the necessary Social and Environmental Safeguards in the area of the project jurisdiction. We thus with support from Both ENDS undertook to assess the situation by visiting and talking to the affected communities of Aswa dam 1 and 2, and the local leaders both at villages and district levels of the two districts of Pader and Gulu district. The discovery was that there are a lot flaws. The report was submitted to Both ENDS.

As such if the project is to continue with the requested funding, there is need for key stakeholder involvement especially from affected communities and the local leaderships of the two districts. There is a possibility that FED will be involved in the monitoring of the process in the necessary support in got in 2020.

- 6. Project:** **Helping Karuma HP dam affected communities rights of access to remedy**
Funded by: **Both ENDS**
Amount : **2500 Euros**

The *Karuma* hydro-power project involves the development, construction, and maintenance of a run-of-the-river power plant on the River Nile at a point where the Nile separates Northern Uganda from Central Uganda, in Uganda.

Construction of the dam, is yet to be completed although it is said to be over 90% complete presently. The development of the dam is financed by a loan from the Exim Bank of China.

The Karuma Hydropower project is one of the many projects undertaken by chines companies in Uganda including the recently commissioned Isimba Hydropower dam, yet with human rights and social and environmental safety and quality of work challenges

So far little or no attention is paid to the transformation to be expected in community life in in the 7 years since it was started considering that the affected community of Awoo Village who were forcefully evicted, have since neither been fairly compensated nor resettled as is supposed to be. They have neither been made better than nor Equal to the life they lived before the dam as a required principle under the World Commission on Dams (WCD) 2004, the implication of which for these rural communities has been dire.

Thrown out of their land and their property destroyed, with no alternative livelihood provision, the community members have lived destitute lives far below the life that ensured before the dam and have been left to fend for themselves under very difficult conditions.

With the above observations, FED submitted a proposal for legal advice to the affected communities so that their capacity is built and they are encouraged to pursue their human rights to the best possible conclusion by either engaging the proponents or taking a legal option. Both ENDS agreed to support this initiative. It will be implemented in the first quarter of 2020.

7. Hosting of the 3 three students on from the university of Meighen in Netherland.

Late November 2018, FED was also requested to host and help three students from the University of Meighen in the Netherlands who were doing research on dams' impacts on the affected communities. We accepted, they came and did their research which was concluded in February 2019. They were very appreciative of the assistance they got from FED and the community members whom FED organized to host them during their field work. They promised to share their reports once they are ready.

- 8. Activity:** **FED Participation in the ACCA Annual General Assembly**
Funded by: **Both ENDS**
Amount: **2,429.23 Euros.**

FED was invited to participate in the **African Coalition for Corporate Accountability** Annual General Assembly which took place in Abidjan Ivory Coast. We were not funded under the coalition as funds were limited. But Both ENDS offered to support FED participation with all costs paid. We are very grateful for that. FED representative was to make a presentation on the Chinese work in Uganda pointing out quality of work, environmental and human rights. Due to delay of the Visa from the host country, which led to delay of the FED representative to the ACCA – AGA, the paper could not be presented but was submitted and late discussed in the plenary and focus group discussions.

9. **FED also Participated twice in the IUCN organized training** on CSOs Positioning and active engagement, Lobbying and Advocacy. The workshops were hosted by African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO). The training gave a lot of useful information, tactics, Skills and strategies to use in their work in advocacy and lobbying.

10. Dependable commitments for 2020 so far.

- i) Germany friends of Uganda have committed to a partial support of up to 6000 Euro to the Intergeneration Biodiversity Education Project in Fort Portal – Kibasi Parish planned to be implemented in 2020 if all goes well.
- ii) Both ENDS has also committed to a partial support of the same Intergeneration Biodiversity Education project.

FED is presenting the project to the City of Geneva Municipality as the main funder. We have been developing the project for some time now. If funded, it will help cover the Youth gap knowledge of Environment by learning from the elders the indigenous conservation knowledge inspired through learning of medicinal plants and their importance to our health as an incentive to the youth to protect the biodiversity and environment. We are also continuing to write more proposals and seek more funding to the foundations we find can fund what we do.

Conclusion.

Despite the challenge of scarce resources and lack remuneration for staff, they have done all it takes on their part to make sure all the necessary activities are done. Efforts to fundraise continue, could be in the foreseeable future there could come a project with at least some money for staff salaries. Also, there is much demand for FED services and activities among the communities especially in the areas of improved firewood / energy saving stoves, but resources are limiting. It is hoped that the year 2020, we can do better if we can raise more support for our projects.