Narrative Report on Documentation of Case Studies for The Jobs & Oil Project – Improving Access to Youth Employment in Western Uganda
1. INTRODUCTION TO THE ASSIGNMENT

Living Earth Uganda contracted Gumuk Consults Co. Ltd, a local Public Relations (PR) and Communication Consultancy firm, to conduct a 7-day exercise to document success stories of the Jobs and Oil project, highlighting the project's best practices and lessons learnt. The main objective of the assignment was to highlight what have been the outcomes of this project.

In respect to the above, the Consultant produced four well documented case studies in 4 thematic areas of: vocational training, business development, women empowerment and Science for secondary school programme (STEM); in a clear, concise and standard English highlighting the project results, both intended and unintended. The stories covered carry meaningful quality photo in accordance with LEU branding standards. On top of the Consultant producing a 10-minute quality video documentary as was required, he also produced a 30-minute video documentary that is rather detailed, showcasing best practices from the project.

2. ORGANISATION’S BACKGROUND

Living Earth Uganda (LEU) is a natural resources and environmental management NGO that was established and formally registered under the Non-Governmental Organizations Registration Statute, 1989 and licensed to operate in Uganda in September 1999. LEU promotes awareness and skills creation in environmental management, to prompt communities and other stakeholders to translate the right ideas into action.

LEU envisions “an environment where people learn and act together to help sustain the systems and resources necessary for a fulfilled life”. Her mission is to turn ideas into action working with people to resolve their environmental and socio-economic concerns with a greater goal of contributing to addressing environmental and socio-economic concerns.

Living Earth Uganda in partnership with Living Earth Foundation (UK) have been implementing projects titled “Jobs and Oil: Improving Access to youth employment in Western Uganda, The 3 AND ½ year project is implemented in the districts of Hoima and Buliisa with funding from European Union and DFID.

The projects’ interventions are aimed at supporting communities to benefit from opportunities presented by the emerging economy as a result oil and gas industry development and have alternative sources of livelihood to improve their livelihoods while ensuring environment conservation. Intervention areas include; Vocational and Technical skills Development, Local Enterprise Development, Functional Skills (FS) Training, Youth placements, Stakeholder engagements, Organizational Safety and Health (OSH) Practices, Promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Youth and women empowerment on their rights, and Promotion of networking platforms for the business community including entrepreneurs and farmers.
3. FIELD COVERAGE OF THE SUCCESS STORIES IN HOIMA AND BULIISA

3.1 Woman Empowerment Programme

One-day workshop in Buliisa on Women Empowerment, and Promotion of networking platforms for the business community

During the workshop, Mr Agaba Simon Kinene, the District Chairperson, urged participants to treat the trainings/skills offered to them by Living Earth Uganda with high regard, and thus make themselves experts in whatever they do.

He reminded participants that with the successful completion of oil exploration in Buliisa, real oil business is beginning soon. Unfortunately and maybe fortunately, this will be followed by land displacements and compensations. “However, throughout these process, women should be encouraged to express their rights and powers, as have been empowered by the program”, said the Chairperson. Women should stand up and have a strong stake on matters concerning their land and property. He further intimated, “Have a say.” He then called upon political, community, and opinion leaders to educate the rest of the women of their rights and entitlements.

Mr Barugahara Bernard Atwooki, the District Community Development Officer; also assured the women that they have full support from Government, and Buliisa District Local Government. He told them that women can now acquire funding to grow their businesses from NUSAIII, Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Ltd. (UWEAL), Uganda Wild Life Authority (UWA), and Buliisa Women Entrepreneurs.

Other top District leaders that graced this gathering were Godfrey Businge - the Buliisa Town Clerk, and the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (Dep.CAO).

At this networking workshop, several women beneficiaries gave testimonies of how the project has transformed their lives. Some confessed of how their confidence has grown, some have been encouraged to go for further studies. Some have been elected into political positions, while stay home mothers are now working.
TESTIMONIES from beneficiaries of Woman Empowerment

“I am now a very confident woman, due to the numerous trainings, and an exchange visit to Bushenyi that I participated in. I am no longer worried of standing before people to speak. I was also compelled to go for further studies, and I completed a Masters of Business Administration (MBA). I now do write proposals on my own, that could help grow my business and CBO.”

--Maureen Kyoma, Buliisa District – 0782 775 805--

“I started training with Living Earth Uganda, when I was only a Grade III teacher. As a result of the exchange visit to Fort Portal, I was challenged, and have now upgraded my level of education. I have also embarked on tree planting to secure my future, and save our environment from degradation.”

--Sophie Kabonesa, Buliisa District – 0782 564 014--

“I am lucky to be part of the group of women from Buliisa that visited Bushenyi. Since then, my thinking has broadened, and I now perceive things differently. I have realised that women participation in decision making is very crucial.”

--Alice Otieno, Buliisa District – 0870 343 858--
TESTIMONIES from beneficiaries of Woman Empowerment

“I am a retired civil servant. Since my retirement, I was not doing anything until I started attending trainings organized by Living Earth Uganda. My confidence has grown, and I was recently selected by Living Earth Uganda to participate on a radio talk-show. I have also started mushroom farming in my home town – Masindi. I have participated in the formation of an association for mushroom farmers in Masindi District.

--Jacinta Nyamahunge, Hoima District – 0772 861 666--

“By the time I joined Living Earth Uganda, I was already a District Councillor for Buliisa Town Council. One of the most significant things I learnt in LEU trainings were leadership, women participation in management, and decision making. I have so far supported formation of 8 women groups in Buliisa. I have sensitized these women on how to manage their homesteads. Unlike before, I now command respect from the society. “I speak and everyone listens to me” says councillor Kadogoli.

--Joyce Kadogoli, Buliisa District – 0783 482 472--

“By the time Living Earth Uganda came to Masindi, I was a stay home mother and unemployed, despite being a qualified nurse. I participated in Civic and Education workshops, and hence learnt how to advocate and defend my own rights, and also the rights of fellow women. I then talked to my husband the importance of me resuming work. He accepted! I now own a drug shop. I also belong to several women advocacy groups.

--Agnes Aciro, Hoima District – 0756 892 190--
3.2 Business Development Trainings

Handing over of certificates to beneficiaries of Business Development Trainings

On 29th September 2016, beneficiaries of the Jobs and Oil project gathered at Living Earth Uganda - Hoima Field office; for a certificate awarding ceremony. Over 200 participants were awarded with certificates for successfully completing trainings in business and functional skills. Some of the beneficiaries that received certificates confessed of how the acquired skills have changed their mind set in terms of business management.

TESTIMONIES from beneficiaries of Business development trainings

Through LEU, I participated into two different trainings. The first one was for 3-months, while the second one was for 2-days. These trainings all together equipped me with relevant skills for starting up a business, and managing it well. After the trainings, I actually formed a Mushroom farmers association in my home area - Masindi. As a group, we now support each with information on modern farming, and available market for our products. We also collectively negotiate for better prices and business deals.

--Okia Julius, Mushroom farmer, Masindi – 0771 267 225--

John Byaruhanga says his farming and marketing skills are undisputed. "When it comes to marketing, nobody can beat me," brags Byaruhanga. He also says that due to his shrewd marketing skills he has become very popular amongst supermarkets, hotels, and major markets in Hoima town; thanks to Living Earth Uganda.

--John Byaruhanga, farmer and marketer from Hoima--

3.3 Promotion of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programme

Visit to the Science Club at Kitara Secondary School

Since 2014, Jobs and Oil project has been supporting science teachers from Hoima and Buliisa Districts; by equipping them with teaching skills that encourage students to love science, and later alone partake science, and vocational disciplines as a carrier. This also helps the students to grow up loving science, and wanting to pursue science courses, at a high level of their education.

During the visit to Kitara Secondary School, Senior 3 Science Class demonstrated the process of paper recycling. A one Kabanyoro Harriet, a Senior 3 student explained practically step-by-step how waste paper can be recycled to produce several paper products, such as: paper bags.

Kabanyoro Harriet, a senior 3 student at Kitara Secondary School, in a practical demonstration of paper recycling
Testimony from Science teacher, Kitara S. S

“We started attending Living Earth Uganda trainings since 2014. One thing that we have learnt from these trainings was the teaching of science as a practical subject. Particularly for me, LEU empowered me with new teaching techniques that helps my students to love science at such an early age. As a Chemistry teacher, I now teach them in a very practical way, and this helps them to retain what I teach them.”

--Tumwesige Moses, Chemistry Teacher– 0774-808105--

3.4 Vocational Skills Training Programme

Interview with Ms. Ruth Mwangangi, Principle – Millennium Business School, Hoima District

Living Earth Uganda supported 8 of our teachers in the area of Health and Safety Skills; and at the moment, the school’s instructors teach health and safety as a subject. By the time LEU came on board, our teachers were just trainers, for instance we could teach a tailor, and having completed their course, they would be retained to train others. They did not know much about the pedagogical skills (the methodology of teaching).

Living Earth Uganda supported Millennium Business School with signage which are pinned all around the school. The project also donated fire extinguishers. These extinguishers are all placed in strategic positions of the school.
Visit to General Motors Group Garage for student placement program

As told by Godfrey Muleke, M.D General Motors Group Hoima

While working with Living Earth Uganda, two types of trainings have been designed for students on the placement programme. The trainings include a 1-day students placement, where a whole class is brought to spend a day here at our garage, to interface with the kind of gadgets/machinery that they ought to meet in the world of work/employment.

The other training is where LEU identifies two students from a selected vocational institute, and place them here for a whole holiday period. By the time these students leave our garage, they are equipped with all the technical ability to excel in the field of work.
PICTORIAL

Ambrose Mwesigye, the Hoima District RDC speaks during the Hand-over ceremony at LEU

Ernest Rubondo, ED Petroleum Authority of Uganda hands over certificate to a beneficiary

Agaba Simon Kinene, Bulisa District C/M speaks to participants at Adonia Hotel, Buliisa

Participants engaging in a group exercise during the stakeholders meeting in Buliisa

Godfrey Businge, the Town Clerk Buliisa Town addresses the women during stakeholders