

Pro Zim | CORDIO



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Annual Report

Teachers' Training in Environmental Education

2011

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Executive Summary

This annual report summarises activities carried out as well as successes and challenges encountered. Two head teacher seminars were held in Kwale and Malindi respectively with important outputs that promote engagement of teachers and pupils while enhancing sustainability of the program. The TTEE program continues to collaborate with various institutions that provide facilitation support. Additionally, the program works closely with education officers while planning for seminars at the district level. The need to carry out an evaluation of the program is highlighted given that the program has been running for 9 years. This is anticipated to be one of the key activities in 2012 which will also determine the way forward for the program.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge ProZim Society and CORDIO East Africa for the funding and the support they provided to make the 2011 teacher seminars successful. I acknowledge the District Education Officers Kwale and Malindi, Mr. Nyongesa and Madam Kamurua respectively, for relaying information to the head teachers and allowing quality assurance officers to attend the seminars.

I also acknowledge Mr. Mwanza and Madam Tsanzi, Quality assurance Officers Kwale and Malindi respectively, for personally contacting the teachers and confirming their participation as well as their full attendance of the seminars in their respective areas. The seminars also benefitted from the facilitation support, knowledge and experience provided by Mr. Wafula of NEMA, Mrs. Mangale of WCK, Mr. Baya of A Rocha Kenya, Mr. Tunje of Pwani University, Mr. Kathuri and Mr. Mange both of Kenyatta University, Mrs. Oguta of Kengeleni Primary and Mr. Osuka of CORDIO East Africa. Jane Nyanapah and Irene Kioi of CORDIO East Africa provided logistical support for the seminars.

1 Vision for the program

1.1 Background informations

The goal of the Teachers' Training in Environmental Education (TTEE) program is to promote environmental education in Kenyan primary schools and particularly in the Coast Province where the marine and coastal environment is evident. The implementation of this program has been dynamic in nature drawing financial, in-kind and technical support from various stakeholders at different times. The seminars have also been up scaled from targeting patrons only, to meeting environmental leadership needs of school administrators in the region.

Teachers' seminars have been held annually since 2003 with the first two years targeting schools around Bamburi area in Mombasa district. Out of 14 teachers who participated during the first two years, 12 were certified after follow up activity. Between 2005 and 2008, the program expanded to include teachers from Lamu, Malindi, Watamu, Kilifi and Kwale who were also certified after training and successfully implementing projects in their schools. During the period spanning 2003 to 2008, 69 participants were trained.

1.2 Equipping teachers in education for sustainability

Since 2009, 3 seminars have been held to target schools administrators. These seminars have adopted the theme "leading schools in environmental education". The seminars are designed to enlist support for club patrons from school administrators in order to make it easier to carry out project activities with the students. The seminars have also served to encourage environmental consciousness and highlight the importance of effective leadership and proper management of projects carried out by patrons. Additionally, there is emphasis on the relevance of the projects to the school curriculum as well as the community at large.

1.3 Objectives and justification

The 2011 seminar and follow-up activities focused on the school administrators as they play a key role in providing a conducive environment for teachers and students to carry out their project activities. It also introduces the head teachers to various environmental concepts particularly those relevant in the areas where their schools are situated.

The objectives of the head teachers' seminars were:

1. To broaden the teachers' understanding of Environmental Education (EE) and its importance.
2. To provide an opportunity for the teachers to reconsider their schools, cultures and level of environmental consciousness.
3. To provide knowledge and skills support to enable the teachers to effectively lead environmental education.
4. To provide a medium for teachers to interact and share experiences.

1.4 Analysis of the annual activities related to the programs' vision

The program vision is to empower teachers with knowledge and skills in environmental education and support them in transferring the same to the students in order to create an environmentally aware and conscious community.

Having noted some of the challenges faced by school patrons in carrying out projects and delivering environmental education to their students, as well as the benefits accrued to schools whose head teachers were trained in 2009, the 2011 activities continued to focus on creating awareness among school administrators.

During the seminars and follow-up of the participating teachers it was evident that the school administrators appreciated learning more about the details of the TTEE program and its relevance to the students. Of particular interest to them was that some of the activities offered the students' practical experience of some of the things covered in the formal curriculum.

2 Annual Activities

2.1 Seminar with teachers

In 2011, no seminar was carried out for club patron teachers. This is because in 2010, a seminar had been planned for head teachers but was not carried out due to delays in having the program certified. The planned 2010 seminar which was to target the head teachers in Kwale was therefore carried forward to 2011.

2.2 Seminar with head teachers

Two seminars were carried out for head teachers in 2011. The first one targeted Kwale head teachers and was carried out in July in order to make up for one earlier planned for 2010. The second seminar for head teachers was held in Malindi in November. The education officers in both districts were very helpful in the planning process and contacting the teachers and also allowed quality assurance officers in their respective districts to participate.

Apart from achieving the objectives outlined above, both leadership seminars had very important outputs. At the Kwale seminar, the participants agreed to use a participatory approach to develop school policies that are environmental friendly. At the Malindi seminar, participants created networks to carry out common activities and support each other in their respective school localities.

2.3 Monitoring (assessment) of teachers and head teachers.

The Kwale head teacher seminar was carried out just before the close of the school in term two. Monitoring and assessment was anticipated to be carried out in term three, however this was not very successful as term three is very short and is also the term during which national examinations are carried out. Additionally, the third term commenced with a teachers' strike and it was not possible to carry out any activities with schools at that time. Furthermore, preparation for the Malindi seminar began in October hence very little follow-up was achieved for the Kwale head teachers. For that reason, only a few of the Kwale schools were visited while most were contacted through phone. Therefore, follow-up and assessment of the participants at the Kwale seminar continues in 2012.

2.4 Follow up activities

Follow-up activities involved visiting the schools and meeting the teachers and pupils or finding out progress through telephone contact. This continued for schools whose teachers participated at various seminars.

2.5 Network meetings

One network meeting was held in March for the 2009 seminar participants who were school administrators from Mombasa district. It also served as a certification ceremony and was graced by representatives from the District and Provincial education offices.

2.6 Institutional building

The program has continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Education officials particularly at the district and divisional levels. Facilitators at the seminars are also drawn from collaborating institutions including Non Governmental Organisations and Universities.

2.7 Sponsoring

Funding for all program activities was provided by ProZim and CORDIO.

2.8 Scientific discourse

The school administrators have found the seminar topics to be very useful particularly those which can be applied in environmental education as well as to improve their overall leadership skills. The topics on managing change and school cultures have thus received favourable ranking among them. Future seminars can therefore build on those topics in order to sustain interest.

2.9 Facts and figures

2011 seminars

	Schools	Administrators	Government officers	Key outputs
Kwale	18	18	1	Inception of school policies
Malindi	17	17	1	Creation of school clusters

Malindi clusters

	Central zone	Watamu zone
A	Upweoni Pri, Sirali Pri, Central Pri	Dongo kundu Pri, Dabaso Pri, Gede Pri, Mida Pri, Kakuyuni Pri

B	Ganda Pri, Sabaki Pri, Kibokoni Pri	Msabaha Pri, Mbaraka Chembe Pri, CRS
C	Gahaleni Pri, Takaye Pri, Karima Pri	

2.10 Conclusions and recommendations from the annual activities

The seminars exposed the school administrators to effective leadership in environmental education, a good understanding of the TTEE program and the importance of school projects. It was also a good opportunity to learn from each others' experiences. As some of the school administrators had previously served as school patrons, they could share perspectives as either patrons or administrators and explain to their colleagues why some of the conflicts occurred. This highlighted the need to organize sessions for patrons and school administrators to discuss specific environmental issues in their respective schools.

The timing of the Kwale seminar was just before the school holiday and prior to the third term. Given the challenges faced during monitoring, the most appropriate times for seminars appear to be at the end of third term or the end of first term. This enables monitoring to be carried out in first or second term.

3 Quality management 2011

3.1 Lessons learnt

The timing of the seminars is critical in order to allow for immediate follow-up. November/December and March/April are probably the most ideal months to carry out the seminar activities. This allows for monitoring and assessment to be carried out in term 1 and term 2 respectively.

3.2 Required expansions and developments

There is need to identify and train an assistant to effectively carry out activities related to the TTEE program.

3.3 Actions needed

There is need to finalise on the assessment of both Kwale and Malindi head teachers and arrange for their certification in order to complete the pending activities from 2011. There is also need to evaluate the program in order to see its impact over the years and receive recommendations for improving it from the previous participants.

4 Appendices

4.1 Appendix 1: Proposed work plan 2012

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Planning and progress reporting	■					■						■
Financial reporting						■						■
Follow- up Malindi		■	■		■							
Follow- up Kwale			■		■	■						
Peer network meetings Malindi										■		
Peer network meetings- Kwale				■								
Certification Malindi						■						
Certification Kwale										■		
Patrons seminar											■	
Evaluation of activities	■	■	■	■	■	■				■	■	■

4.2 Appendix 2: Certificates (Examples)

Teachers' Training in Environmental Education (TTEE)

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

This is to confirm that _____

TSC No. _____ participated in a leadership seminar on Environmental Education (EE) held at Breeze Point, Malindi on 29th — 30th November 2011

that covered the following areas:

- Leading environmental change
- Environmental governance
- Schools and cultures
- Sustainable fisheries and resource use
- School policy development

District Education Officer
Malindi

Coordinator
TTEE




4.3 Appendix 3: Photos



Lunch at Kwale head teacher seminar



Presentation by Madam Chitupa (Head teacher Mbweka Pri) at Kwale seminar



Group photo of Malindi seminar participants