

PROBIODIVERSITY CONSERVATIONISTS IN UGANDA (PROBICOU)



PROFILE



About the Organisation

The organization was established in 1999 and registered in November 2000 under the Non - governmental organizations registration Statute 1998.

It was incorporated on 14th December 2007, under the Companies act, Laws of Uganda as a public limited Company. PROBICOU is currently the National NGO Focal point organization for Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Uganda, a member of National Steering committee on POPs in Uganda and a member of National Steering committee on Elimination of child Labor.

The organization is also accredited by Global Environment Facility and is a partner to UNEP on a number of partnership areas, such as mercury waste and mercury in products.

The organization has three: - program areas;- Biodiversity Conservation and Extractive Resources,waste management and chemicals management.

The organizations subscribes to a number of international networks such as: - International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), Zero mercury Working Group, PCIA (Partnership for Clean indoor Air), GAIA (Global Alliancefor Incinerator Alternatives), PCLG (Poverty and Conservation Learning Group), Health Care without Harm Washington DC,Uganda Forestry Working Group, Member of National Steering committee on POPs in Uganda, Member of Network of Sound management of chemicals (NESMAC - Uganda), and Civil society coalition on oil and gas (CSCO) Etc.

Vision and Mission of PROBICOU

Vision

Have a clean and healthy environment that is fit for biodiversity and human beings to live in, and ensure the participation of the communities in the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources.

Mission

The mission of the Organization is to conserve biodiversity by promoting sustainable development through shared responsibility and networking.

Goal and Objectives of PROBICOU

Goal

To encourage local communities in the appreciation of biodiversity and utilize natural resources through conservation.

Objectives

PROBICOU was formed by a group of men, women and young professionals with the following objectives;-

- To develop concrete and clear biodiversity programs of action and explore all legitimate and effective avenues of implementation.
- To manage wastes properly by planning and coordinating training and technical assistance on National and International basis for improving management of the environment.
- To control toxic substances by conducting research and documenting information about environmental concerns in order to spearhead and uphold the spirit of community development.

Program areas

Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU) is doing work in mainly three program areas.

1. Biodiversity Conservation and Extractive resources.
2. Waste management
3. Chemicals Management.

Membership to other organizations and international networks

The organization has made a number of relations with other institutions and organizations that share similar objectives. The organization is now a member and affiliate of the following Networks and Organizations:-

- Collaborative Group on Solid waste Management in low and middle income countries (CWG/WASH)
- PCIA (Partnership for Clean indoor Air).
- Zero Mercury Working Group.
- International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) where we are members of heavy metals working group.
- GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives)
- PCLG (Poverty and Conservation Learning Group)
- Health Care without Harm Washington DC
- Uganda Forestry Working Group
- Civil society coalition on oil and Gas (CISCO).
- Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Uganda
- Member of National Steering committee for chemicals management in Uganda – chaired by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).
- Member of Network of Sound management of chemicals (NESMAC- Uganda).
- Civil Society Network on Oil
- Partnership for Clean indoor Air (PCIA)

Outline of Previous activities

-Biodiversity Conservation in Bwindi Impenetrable forest National Park

The organization Explored working relations with Kisoro District to extend its services in the area. PROBICOU entered into a memorandum of understanding with local communities of Nshogi, Rubuguri and Nkuringo Cultural centre and has been promoting sustainable Tourism and conservation practices.

-Promoting transparency and accountability in Uganda's petroleum and gas Industry

PROBICOU has been doing research and advocacy on balancing nature conservation , poverty eradication , and oil exploitation. It has been promoting transparency and accountability in Uganda's petroleum and gas Industry, through raising awareness on the sustainability of Extractive Industry in Uganda, promoting environmental sustainability in exploitation of oil and other extractive resources, collecting and disseminating information on, opportunities and challenges of oil exploitation in Uganda, aimed at conflict reduction and sustainable development.

-Research

Human Wildlife Conflicts around selected protected areas in Uganda. With support from IIED, PROBICOU conducted a study on Human Wildlife Conflict in Uganda. The major purpose of the study was to identify institutions and organizations involved in resolving human wildlife conflicts in Uganda, identify the driving forces for human wildlife conflicts in Uganda, identify institutions and organizations currently-working on human wildlife conflict related issues, document the current initiatives/ activities on human wildlife conflicts with a view of ascertaining examples of best practices that can be replicated, and suggest sustainable remedies for addressing human wildlife conflicts in Uganda.

-Population Health and Environment (PHE) assessment

The organization received funds from Population Reference Bureau to carry out a country level assessment for Population Health and Environment for Uganda. The major purpose of this PHE assessment was to highlight the most salient PHE issues, assess the policy and legal environment for cross-sectoral collaboration, identify relevant stakeholders and describe the current state of integration in projects, programs and policies in Uganda.

-Study on land use patterns and distribution of Hornbills

The organization also conducted a study on the land use patterns and distribution of Hornbills and Fragmented Forests in Central Uganda, Funded by Rufford Foundation UK.

-Assessing energy sector issues in Uganda

With support from IIED, PROBICOU has carried a study to ascertain energy sector issues in Uganda. The major purpose of this assessment was to highlight the most salient energy sector issues and challenges in Uganda and provide recommendations to strengthen its performance.

CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

Objectives

- To influence policy aimed at achieving sustainable management of chemicals
- To build the capacity of the public and increase awareness on sustainable management of chemicals.

Activities

(a) DDT campaign

The organization has been participating in the campaign against reintroduction of DDT in Uganda. In 2009 with the support from Green global Grants, it participated in filing a court case petitioning the Government in the reintroduction of DDT in Uganda.

(b) Awareness raising on industrial chemicals in Uganda

With support from Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, the organization implemented an awareness raising project on industrial chemicals from 2009-2010. The campaign targeted academic institutions, policy makers, government departments, industries, and communities neighboring industrial areas. The activities under this included :- A survey to find out level of awareness of health effects of industrial chemicals, Production of a magazine on health effects, a national workshop, radio and TV talk shows.

(c) Developing National inventories for POPS and Situational analysis for chemicals management in Uganda.

The organization was part of the above processes. The lead agency was National Environment Management Authority, although PROBICOU was also nominated to send a representative to the national task force / team. The organization was a member of the Trade and transport area.

(d) Awareness raising on Chemicals (Heavy Metals).

With support from SSNC, PROBICOU continued to raise awareness in chemicals management. It implemented another project targeting heavy metals targeting- Mercury, Cadmium, lead, and arsenic. The project activities included:- Public debates in higher institutions of learning, Sensitization seminars in health care institutions, productions of IEC materials, radio talk shows, TV talk shows, etc.

(e) International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

With support from IPEN and International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP) the organization has finalized a country level assessment for mercury, in Uganda. This project aimed at conducting a situational analysis of the current practices around mercury use, storage and disposal in Uganda. Its main goal was to contribute to the current global, regional and national efforts for effectively controlling, and minimizing mercury releases to the environment. Specifically, the project aimed at identifying the current sources of mercury in Uganda, the legal policy and institutional framework, assessing the current use, storage and disposal practices and providing suggestions and recommendations regarding practical and

sustainable measures to address the identified gaps. This is in line with the SAICM objective of risk reduction and information sharing.

(f) "Promoting chemical safety for children at work in rural agricultural communities in Uganda" to the SAICM QSP project.

With Funding from SAICM QSP/UNEP, PROBICOU is implementing a project titled "promoting chemical safety for children at work in rural agricultural communities in Uganda". The main thrust of the effort is capacity building with a view to strengthen the horizontal and vertical institutional inter-phases for the management of agricultural chemicals and employment of children in their use.

(g) "Promoting chemical safety for Women and children at work in rural agricultural communities in Eastern Uganda"

The above project covers the districts of Mbale and Bukedea. It is supported by UN-OPS/Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP). This project is an effort to put in place a minimal programme to prevent ill health arising from exposure of endosulfan and Lindane which are listed by the Stockholm convention as persistent organic pollutants. In particular, the project will focus on women and children at work in rural agricultural setting. The project focuses on:-; building the capacity of local government leaders, the agricultural extension workers, and the general public for the dissemination of safety measures in use of pesticides; as well as building a comprehensive public awareness and education on the alternatives to endosulfan and Lindane.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Objective

- To improve living conditions of people through better waste management practices in communities.
- Reduce environmental health and sanitary related diseases in communities.

Activities

(a) Clean up exercises

A number clean up exercises were conducted as demonstration to communities. For example de-silting of channels and cleaning of blocked trenches around slums of Kampala city. The clean up exercises involved matching, display, demonstration and show of placards as a means of sending the message to the public.

A total of 3 exercises were conducted ie. In the slum areas of Bwaise, Kalerwe and Kasubi.

(b) Demonstration project on Non - incineration Medical Waste treatment technology at Mengo Hospital Funded by (UNDP-GEF/SGP).

Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOUG), received financial support from Global Environment Facility (GEF), under United Nations Development Program. The organization, with partners such as, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), MOH, Kampala City Council are implementing a pilot demonstration project on non incineration medical waste treatment technology at Mengo Hospital. The main technology employed is an autoclave imported from India. The non autoclavable waste is disinfected before it joins other non infectious residuals for land filling. Other wastes will be recycled and others composted as appropriate.

On going activities

- Promoting chemical safety for children at work in rural agricultural communities.
- Tree planting and awareness raising on forestry ecosystems in Uganda
- Sensitization and awareness raising on health Care waste management
- Sensitization and research on biodiversity conservation and climate change
- Awareness raising on dangers of electronic waste and its management
- Capacity building of communities around Southern Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, South Western Uganda, towards conservation of Biodiversity in the Park.

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Report.



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