



ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IN-SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH CLUB AT SAKATA PRIMARY SCHOOL BY THE AFRICAN HARMONY COLLECTIVE (AHC) In Collaboration and WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM UNITED VOICES FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

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To : United Voices for Global Impact.
Cc : The African Harmony Collective.
Title : Green Champion Initiative (CCI)
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SDG 13- : **Climate Action**

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IN-SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH CLUB AT SAKATA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Members of the newly established Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Club at Sakata F.P. School posing in a group photo with their Patron, Matron and the other two organizers

ACTIVITY DETAILS

Date of Activity: 28th October 2024

Activity Venue: Sakata Primary School in T/A Nkagula, Zomba.

Time: 10:00 AM.

INTRODUCTION

United Voices For Global Impact (UVGI) and the African Harmony Collective (AHC) in partnership with Zomba District Youth Office organized an environmental conservation meeting with some learners at Sakata Primary School on 28th October 2024. The activity was financially supported by United Voices for Global Impact.

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING WITH THE LEARNEURS AT SAKATA PRIMARY SCHOOL

To sensitize, challenge and organize the young learners to be actively involved in different aspects of the environmental conservation exercise both at their school and in their community.



The AHC official, Brown Masingati, posing with two of the club members

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

1. To enlighten and sensitize the young learners on the importance of conserving the environment.
2. To discuss with the learners the effects of not conserving the environment.
3. To discuss with the learners the effects of climate change.
4. To facilitate the establishment of an Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Club at the school.



The Club members jointly declare that: **"Environmental conservation begins with us!"** Together we can and we will conserve our natural environment".

NUMBER OF YOUTHS THAT ATTENDED THE MEETING

The Environmental Conservation Club at Sakata Primary School has a total of twenty (20) pupils/learners comprising ten boys and ten girls. According to the club's Patron Happy Kholoma, the learners joined the club voluntarily when it was introduced to all the learners during an assembly.

A MOTIVATIONAL TALK ON THE NECESSITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN ZOMBA DISTRICT

This was done by Dafter Molande, Youth and Sports Development Assistant from Zomba District Council.

The talk was in the vernacular language, Chichewa, though here and there he combined it with English. This was deliberately done to ensure that all club members should follow the discussion.

Mr. Molande began his motivational talk with the definition of "Environmental Conservation".

He defined Environmental Conservation as *the practice of conserving natural resources through safe, efficient use*. These are efforts by individuals, communities, corporations, even governments and other groups to conserve the natural environment. Thus, Environmental Conservation is about protecting and managing natural resources such as air, water, soil, plants and animals. Environmental Conservation is more related to *Environmental Preservation*, though the latter includes protecting the natural resources from being disturbed in the first place.

Types of Environmental Conservation: There are four main types and these are:

- (1) Environmental Conservation
- (2) Animal Conservation
- (2) Marine Conservation and
- (4) Human Conservation

Importance and Benefits of Environmental Conservation

There are several importance and benefits of Environmental Conservation, but he only outlined a few of them as follows: -

- ✓ Environmental Conservation supports biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. Without biodiversity, the loss of a single species can destroy an ecosystem.
- ✓ It prevents environmental degradation and protects biodiversity. When the environment is damaged or destroyed (as is the case in Zomba District), it threatens the local populations' survival. Plants and animals often struggle and die when they lose their usual resources.
- ✓ It protects species from extinction or harm. The natural environment has to be protected from harmful human activities. A clear example is that of forests and trees. Some thirty years ago, Zomba was being referred to as a 'Green City' because there were a lot of trees in it. But come today, all those trees and forests of cedar, pine and blue-gum trees have been depleted through the production of fuel (charcoal and firewood) as well as rampant timber production.
- ✓ Living trees also help to prevent/combat climate change by removing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and locking it away in their wood, leaves and in the soil.
- ✓ It also creates a better living environment by among others, ensuring clean water and air.
- ✓ It also helps to maintain biological balance.
- ✓ It preserves natural heritage, protect wildlife and promote biodiversity and preserving the wildlife for future generations.
- ✓ Furthermore, it sustains agriculture and food security. Environmental Conservation helps in the production of food and medicines.
- ✓ Environmental Conservation protects human health from risks of environmental pollution; thus, reducing chemical and noise pollution.

- ✓ Finally, it also helps to minimize natural disasters (such as Cyclone Gombe, Cyclone Anna, Cyclone Idai, and Cyclone Freddy); droughts and climate change. It slows floodwaters and cools our streets.

Causes of major problems facing today's ecosystems

The Environmental Conservation Youth Club at Sakata Primary School also learned, through the motivation talk, that the major problems facing today's ecosystems are caused by: -

1. Habitat loss and degradation
2. Climate Change
3. Invasive Species
4. Pollution
5. Overuse of natural resources

The learners were also sensitized that one major threat to biodiversity is Deforestation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND SANITATION CLUB AT SAKATA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Soon after the motivational talk by Mr. Molande, representative for the African Harmony Collective, Mr. Brown Masingati led in the establishment of the Environmental Conservation club at the school. He challenged all the club members to be dedicated, united, disciplined and punctual in all their activities. The headteacher of the school appointed one lady teacher as Matron and one male teacher as Patron. Their names are Miss Chisomo Moyo and Mr. Happy Kholoma, respectively.

Some of the duties and responsibilities of the Club are:

- To manage, preserve and protect all trees at and around the school. They shall ensure that there's no wanton cutting down of trees.

- To ensure that for every tree that has been cut down for any school use, there must be 10 tree seedlings that must immediately be planted.
- Regenerating the existing trees.
- Watering all small trees.
- Managing the tree nursery at the school.
- Making stone bands, swales etc around the school premises.
- Making rubbish pits for sanitation.
- Ensuring that there are handwashing facilities at the school as a way of promoting hygiene
- Ensuring that all offices, the staff room, library, all classrooms and pit latrines are clean at all times.
- Carrying out any other assignment given by their Patron and/or Matron. from time to time.

Meetings of the Club

According to the Patron, the club shall be meeting every Wednesday from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

As for the visiting team from both Zomba District Council ,the African Harmony Collective, and United Voices For Global Impact, they will be visiting the club twice a month.

The club's main areas of focus are:

1. Environmental Conservation
2. Health, hygiene and sanitation
3. Climate change

SUCSESSES OF THE MEETING

The meeting registered a number of successes and these are as follows: -

- The organizers of the meeting managed to set everything about the meeting on time. Being at a school, the meeting was held within the

planned period of time. This gave the learners and teachers time to do other planned activities in line with their timetable.

- The primary school learners were successfully sensitized, challenged, empowered and organized to be actively involved in environmental conservation exercise both at their school and in their community.
- Through the motivational talk on the need to conserve the environment, the environmental youth club members understood both the importance and benefits of conserving the environment within their communities and the society in general.
- The in-school youths also understood the negative effects of not conserving the environment and of climate change. They learned that even they themselves depend so much on the environment in order for them to survive and thrive.
- The learners were also inspired that they will not work in isolation; but will be networking with other environmental clubs and organizations. Hence, they will sometimes be required to organized learning visits to various places to learn more on their work.
- A great achievement of this activity was the establishment of the long-desired Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Club at the school. The young learners willingly accepted to join the newly-established club so that they can contribute towards the protection of natural resources that are in their area.
- Another great achievement was that even the school administration did not just take part in the activity, but also assisted in the organization of the meeting as well as in the establishment of the long-desired Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Club.



The learners and their club leaders posing for a group photo while celebrating the establishment of the Environmental conservation and Sanitation Club at their school

SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND SANITATION CLUB WILL LIKELY BRING TO THE YOUNG LEARNERS, THE SCHOOL, COMMUNITY AND THE NATION AT LARGE:

An Environmental conservation exercise has a lot of positive impact to every part of human life, be it at individual and group levels. The youths will not engage in the drug and Substance Abuse as they will avoid taking any substance that will negatively affect their lives.

- ✓ To the youths, conserving and preserving the environment will help in creating a better living environment for them through the provision of clean water, air and different kinds of food. The youths will be proud of being

agents of positive change in human social behavior towards the conservation of the environment.

- ✓ To the school, the work of environmental conservation will prevent the school blocks from any physical and natural dangers. The learning and teaching exercises will be done in a very good and healthy environment that will eventually lead to high pass rate due to availability of all teaching and learning resources especially in the science subjects.
- ✓ To the community, the contribution by these young environmental conservationists will gradually improve agricultural production at household level as it will help to sustain agriculture and food security in the surrounding community since environmental conservation helps in the production of food and medicines. It will also improve the outlook of the area geographically as it will look green with the availability of trees everywhere.
- ✓ To the country at large, Malawi will gradually be a place of more tourist attraction with its wonderful natural environment in place. And because of that, the country's economy will improve. In addition to that, effects of natural disasters, droughts and climate change will be drastically reduced.

As to how the impact will be measured, it is through the following ways:

- Through the well-being of the individual learners themselves. When issues of epidemics will not be hitting hard on them and the community at large.
- Through improved agriculture and food security in homes of the community members.
- Through a prestigious evergreen forest around the school premises which will add to the beauty of the school.
- Through the reduction of natural disasters in various parts of the country; improved food security and improved economic growth (especially gross development product-GDP) at national level.

CONCLUSION

This project will change the life of the youths, their schools, their communities, Zomba district and the country as a whole if it can be implemented in every school in Zomba. Zomba district has completely lost its natural environment even in all its protected areas, hence the need for an urgent response by way of reforestation and regeneration in all the affected areas. And schools like Sakata Primary School and others are not exceptional. Serious and patriotic learners must be part of this this important exercise.



END OF REPORT