

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION OF ACTION LEARNING PROJECTS (ALPs) ON A POSTER BOARD

Participants in the **Forum Syd Social Accountability Program Course** will have the opportunity to present their Action Learning Project issues using a poster board (A big Manila paper – to be provided) during the second week of the course.

What is a poster board presentation? This provides a visual presentation of an author's work using limited amount of text along with illustrations, tables, charts, maps, photos and/or other relevant materials. *The posters will be hanged on the walls in a gallery.* This will enable audience to quickly view many posters and when they find a poster on a topic of interest, they can stop to read it more closely.

What preparations do you need to do? Begin by collecting or preparing the material that will be glued or masking taped to your poster (**materials on the social accountability issue you are dealing with or will be dealing with**). Facilitators will be available for advice if needed. The poster should include your name, and title/slogan you have created for the course or issue you are addressing or will be addressing.

In preparing text, tables, charts and similar materials, be sure that any words are large (at least 24 point) enough to be easily read by persons standing three to four feet from the poster. When possible you can use colour or other ways to make your poster more attractive. Remember that an ideal poster is able to (1) attract attention; (2) provide a brief overview of your work or the work you will be doing in addressing the social accountability issue; and (3) initiate questions and discussions during a short time frame, during the gallery walk and discussions

The following is an example of material that can be displayed on a poster board with addition of charts, tables, photos, diagrams and other illustrations – in this case on Social Justice:

Title or theme: *Uncontrolled river-sand mining; an ecological disaster for Ukambani Area Kenya*

Target audience: *Minister of Environment and Natural Resources*

Name: *John Musau Mulili*

Statement of the situation or the issue: A Worsening Situation

Ukambani area of south eastern Kenya is an area of approximately 45,000 km². This is about 10% of Kenya's land mass. This area is drained by numerous seasonal rivers that provide water to animals, people and for irrigation during the dry season through sand and sub-surface dams plus open wells. These seasonal rivers that are crucial water sources for people in this fragile/risky environment are being threatened by uncontrolled river-sand mining to build the modern sky scrappers of Nairobi City Kenya – *The Kenya News Agency (KNA) September 2009*. Every day 1,400 tonnes of sand are mined from the sand rivers of Ukambani and transported to Nairobi. This is 511,000 tonnes of sand every year (*KNA, September 2009*). On average a weight of sand can keep 25% of its weight in the form of water (*World Agroforestry Centre 2005*). This implies that a water storage capacity of 127,750 litres is lost through uncontrolled river-sand mining in Ukambani every year. This is water enough to satisfy the daily requirements of about 3,193 households, each using 40 litres a day.

According to population estimates from Kenya Bureau of Statistics 2008, Ukambani area had about 4,000,000 people by the end of 2008. At an average household size of 6 people, there are about 670,000 households in Ukambani area. This means that everyday Ukambani loses 0.5% capacity to support the water demands of its population. In fact if the sand was not self-replenishing, in a single year Ukambani would be a virtual waterless desert. The environmental destruction that results from this uncontrolled river-sand mining accelerates river-side soil erosion, affects rural access roads and thus the transportation of goods and people within and outside Ukambani (*KNA, September 2009*).

The causes of the situation: The underlying factors that contribute to the Situation

The factors that contribute to the worsening situation above are numerous but among the key ones, we have:

- A national environmental policy that is not well understood at the local level in relation to the standards for river-sand mining (*National Sand Harvesting Guidelines*)
- Poor organisation, inadequate mobilisation of the local communities in the management of their environment (*local leaders and river-sand mining cooperative groups of Ukambani*)
- Inadequate government surveillance systems on the environment (*organisational weaknesses within National Environmental Management Authority – NEMA, and poor links with the community level*)
- Inadequate awareness and sensitisation of local communities especially unemployed youth on the need to conserve the environment (*the river-sand mining cooperative groups of Ukambani*)
- Lack of information linking uncontrolled river-sand mining to the destruction of livelihoods in Ukambani (*poor linkage with/to central bureau of statistics data and information base and other environmental information dissemination and feedback systems*)
- Corruption of the local provincial administration officials who collude with unscrupulous middlemen and unemployed out-of-school youth; estimated to be about 150,000 in Ukambani area (*2008 population estimates, CBS, Nairobi*) to milk the communities and the ever rivalling river-sand mining cooperative groups – this particular one caused by *inadequate anti-corruption capacity – attitudes, knowledge, skills and practice – within the community.*

The Suggested Remedies or Solution being applied:

MYLIFE an environmental advocacy local NGO working to empower rural youth and community leadership within Ukambani is advocating for:

- Fine-tuning and enforcing of river-sand mining guidelines by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources;
- Ensuring that there are devolved systems of managing natural resources – community based natural resource management – this should be spear-headed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the community area resource conservation groups;
- Capacity building of unemployed youth (awareness, sensitization, skills development, soft credit) to ensure sustainable river-sand mining and rural job creation through environment friendly job creation programs like the *Kazi kwa Vijana* (Employment for the Youth). MYLIFE will assist in the awareness creation and sensitisation through its advocacy campaigns; and
- Establishment of community based anti-corruption mechanisms and capacity development – *targeting out-of-school youth, middlemen and local leadership* in relation to the environment.

The Motto: “Act Now to save our rivers and our future”

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