

Project Update: October 2018

Schools were on break until 10th September, 2018. After the funds were received, the required materials were purchased in line with the programme. We were able to inform the Zonal Director about our plan to continue with the programme in the rural secondary and primary schools. We also wrote a letter, to seek permission from the educational secretaries of the local governments involved, to embark on the program in the various primary/ nursery schools also. It is the educational secretaries that are in charge of the primary and nursery schools in each of the local government area within the regions of our target groups. We also used the opportunity to meet with the village heads of some of the communities.

We were able to address the gathering of principals in their beginning of term meeting. They were told about the programme and we told them the goals and objectives of the programme. Several questions were raised on the scope of the programme, and we elucidated in clear term, the scope, expectations, and the people that shall be involved. We solicited for at least two facilitators to be sent for briefing and orientation on how to establish the clubs in their various schools. On the 23rd September, 2018, we had the facilitator's training and orientation in Nyemlighth community secondary school. The training which started by 10:00 am and ended by 4:00 pm, with break at 1:00 pm. The meeting was a success, as it achieved its aim. The facilitators went and initiated the club, and on the launching of the clubs, we were invited, and we used the moment in presenting the first planned conservation lessons in the various schools.

Challenges

1. Two of the team members would not be able to continue with me to the end of the entire programme. This is because one of them (Mr. Umar Farooq Abdulwahab Adavudi) got a PhD position, and he has to travel to the US to begin the course/research. Mr. Josiah Kalaks Ibrahim, got an employment and responsibilities which involved travelling a lot, and he couldn't be available in executing the programme.
2. We had unforeseen difficulty in getting the permission of the educational secretaries who are in charge of the primary schools and the nursery schools in each of the local government that has our target rural communities. We have no problem getting acceptance of the secondary schools.
3. Some of the rural areas were totally unreachable by road, due to excessive rainfall and the water flood that cut them off from other communities and road communications. And as a result, meeting with the facilitators was not done at once as expected.
4. Not all our required working materials arrived at the same time due to difference in orders and purchases to base utilize and maximise the money

How we overcame the challenges

1. I have to immediately get the replacement for the two team members that were not available. Mr. Mundi Francis; A graduate from APLORI who works in College of forestry Jos, Nigeria has joined the team. More so, Mr. Samson Da'an, who is also available for the work, has joined the group. They are

already contributing in fulfilling the goals and objectives of the project as planned.

2. With patience and relentless visits to some of educational secretaries' offices, we finally got the opportunity to talk to them convincingly, and they granted the permission for the programs to hold.
3. The flood: we continue with the programme in other rural areas that we can access, until we got the chance to visit the communities after the flood. There are still two communities under Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi that we have not gained access to. We hope to get there next week as the intensity of the rainfall is increasingly reducing, paving way for the dry season in this part of the world.
4. We met with the second part of the facilitators who were not reached or did not make it to the venue of the first orientation, due to the inaccessible road as a result of the rain.
5. We have finally purchased the remaining materials, and work will continue in earnest.

Successes

1. We succeeded in establishing the club; "Friends of the Nature," in five secondary schools, and four primary schools. We are awaiting readiness from other schools in line with the facilitator's effort and haste, to complete the conquest in that respect.
2. We finally got the attention of the educational secretaries, and the support of the principals and other school administrators who were usually present from the beginning to the end of the programmes in their school. Most of the principals did not hide their happiness because of the simplified syllabus use in the programme and how they realized the children were demonstrating their understanding especially during question and answer sections.
3. Meetings with the village heads in most of the rural communities were great success, as we now have their support in ensuring the success of the programme.
4. The students in one of the schools, during their club and society's day, have set a day to reach out to their host community under the supervision of the club facilitators (That is quite fast than we had expected, when planning the programme), we hope to see other schools following suit.

Work Continue

1. We want to ensure that, the remaining inaccessible communities are reached.
2. We will continue with the teaching of the students on their club and society's days to ensure that they are rooted in the understanding of conservation of biodiversity.
3. Preparations are concluded to introduce the practical afforestation programme, Bird watching and species identification in each of the schools.
4. We have links with the community leaders which include the women and youth leaders, to begin afforestation initiatives and the fuel efficient cooking initiative.
5. We have purchased many Moringa seeds that can be used in rural water purification initiative in the concerned communities





