

Report on School visits for Developing Proposed Activity in Agra Oya Zone

06th - 09th February 2018

1. During the Reconnaissance survey, the school administrators and teachers who were interviewed stated that the activity must focus on awareness building and capacity building through an integrated water management perspective. Till now the few activities carried out in this sector have been focused on water and sanitation within the schools only. There was a felt need within the school administration interviewed to look beyond this narrow perspective in to the broader context of the tea landscape and to involve community elders in whatever way possible.

2. Monitoring format

During the Initiation workshop plans were made to follow up on the activity ideas presented by the schools. A Monitoring format was developed for visits including the following areas

Name school

Name Principal

Activity

Age group/class involved

Environmental club or not

Output

Outcome

Action resources

Costs

Time line

3. Visit Schedule

Day One (6th February 2018) : Team - Kusum Athukorala Activity Leader SLWP , Lionel Jayawickrama (Provincial Dept of Ed, Kandy), Oshadhi Ranasinghe (Unilever), and Ravi Peiris (Monitoring Officer- Tea landscape school program), Ishan Rajasuriya from Unilever also joined later to visit Glen Eagles TV.

Schools visited - A) CP/N/ Maria T.M.V, Lindula. The school representatives from Maria TMV were absent at the Initial workshop, due to election duty training b) Thangakele No 1. T.M.V.C) Glen Eagles T.V.

Day two (7thFebruary 2018): Team - Kusum Athukorala, Mr Ajith and Ravi Peiris

Schools visited - Dayagama East TMV & Dayagama TV

Day three: (8th February 2018) Team - Kusum Athukorala, Mr Ajith and Ravi Peiris

Schools visited - Portmore TV, Glasgow TV & Glenlyon TMV

Overall visits were successful as the team was able to get a clear understanding of the issues facing schools, their strengths and challenges and the feasibility of the proposed activity. In many cases the proposed activity needed to be revised.



4. Details of school visits

<p>Maria TMV</p>	<p><u>Activity suggested :</u></p> <p><i>Planting</i> <i>Prevention of soil erosion (principal's preference)</i> <i>Awareness program for parents</i></p> <p><u>Our observations/interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students drawing competition to select drawings for new school wall (our suggestion) School background: school is located on a streamlet, estate workers students from about 3km radius. Many parents (in some instances both) working in Colombo so students living with grandparents,</i> • <i>Energetic principal uplifted school facilities within short period.</i> • <i>Although they proposed a soil erosion activity, the suggested land above the school is a property of the adjoining tea estate and therefore need legal transfer ; the negotiation with estate going ahead but is time consuming . It is felt that soil erosion prevention activity beyond our capacity to support.</i> • <i>As nobody from this school attended to the initiation workshop, the principal lacks awareness about the full scope of the tea landscape program.</i> • <i>So we observed other possibilities; and suggested to hold a drawing competition to select drawings for a newly erected and whitewashed school wall where the principal looking for a donor to provide paint, we suggested that we would be able to arrange gifts for student winning the competition.</i> <p><i>The principal did not give a final word but we need to continue consultation during monitoring visits, to develop an affordable activity that we can support.</i></p>
<p>Tangakelle No 1 TMV</p>	<p><u>Activity:</u></p> <p><i>Street drama on proper toilet use practices to be showed at tea collection points where estate workers gather.</i></p>

	<p><u>Our observations/interventions</u> School is located on the road to Elgin Falls, parallel to Elgin Oya an environmentally sensitive area; it has many vegetable plots along the stream and consequently agriculture related pollution. Principal is active, well organized school, our posters were already on display. We were asked to write a script for the drama. Environment club active – they are engaged in daily cleaning schedules within school. We could get gift parcels for the drama team.</p>
Glen Eagles TV	<p><u>Activity</u> Handbills for parents on proper toilet use. <u>Our observations/interventions</u> Principal did not attend the initiation workshop, but a teacher attended, Although our visit was pre-arranged, the principal was absent as he had to attended to election commissioners training. The Vice principal was not able to provide much of the details requested as all the documents were locked up. He had a very poor understanding of even the number of students in the school. We suggested to use graphics / drawings instead of text messages in proposed hand bill as many adults are semi-literate. We also suggested to replace handbill idea with wall chart with pictures where students can mark satisfaction level of the home toilet cleaning etc., so all occupants in the home can see. A preliminary awareness program should be conducted in order to introduce the activity to parents. A school competition can be held to design wall charts. A female teacher was very informative on school sanitation issues and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) related issues. A weak school needing much support</p>
Dayagama East TMV	<p><u>Activity:</u> 1. Art exhibition (poster) –principals original proposal</p> <p><u>Our Observations /interventions</u> This school located in a very scenic location in the upper watershed of Agra Oya Principal is active, he called a meeting where we could address the entire staff.</p> <p>Poster competition followed by exhibition at village center with modified folk song (grameeyapadal) on environment subjects – suggested by art teacher Collect plastic / non-recyclable garbage Build a Plastic tower, so everybody can see how much non-degradable are usually disposed to the Agra Oya.</p>
Dayagama TV	<p>This school has a water sharing issue with the adjoining community. The Principal together with few teachers had rectified the uncertain water supply to the school, where school pipeline connected to house line is being regularly disconnected by vegetable growers. The principal had put in a direct line to the spring, many teachers had criticized him that growers would break it; but it had broken only and no issues for last two months.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget and action plan to be agreed upon next visit • Find contacts of plastic waste buyers, link with environmental / FB groups involved with plastic waste collections.
Portmore TV	<p><i>Activity</i> Parents awareness – drama, how to wash hands, kids teach parents</p> <p><u><i>Our observation/interventions</i></u> A very poor school conducted in a tea store with classes up to grade 5, although there are about 90 registered daily attendance around 60. There are several schools with better facilities within 4kms, only very poorest who can't afford or don't care about kids education are sending children here. There were only 3 teachers, and in two classes very young volunteer girls taught to students. Remake a popular Tamil kid's song for Agra Oya Water Awareness and practice students and make video. There is a female teacher who is good in music who was given the theme and immediately started writing a Tamil song on the theme of Agra Oya set to a popular tune that every child knows. She will record the song on CD with audio it will be ready by next week so we can improve it with support from Suriyan FM. The school will have to move as a kovil is being built part of the adjoining land.</p>
Glasgow TV	<p><i>Activity</i> Parents awareness – saving water, make water available for everybody in village</p> <p><u><i>Our observations/interventions</i></u> More water sharing issues with community -scheduling for the school supply problematic – Organize parent awareness and monitoring activity to keep taps close after use. The school located in a micro catchment, the settlement is below the school, community had a water issue as growers use the same sources and some use the same unmetered pipeline to irrigate vegetable plots, and nobody reconnects line after use or close taps. School water supply regularly disconnected in several locations and students had to go down to village frequently to repair the pipe line or bring water buckets to clean toilets. We suggested the immediate task is to begin a consultation with village elders / respected people to ensure adequate water supply to school, agree regular water schedule for the school. Appoint students to monitor the schedule. Organize parent awareness and monitoring activity to keep taps close after use. Evaluate feasibility of our two proposals, modify and draw an action plan for the next monitoring visit.</p>
Glenlyons TV	<p><i>Activity</i> Posters on water pollution Street drama to be played at Glenlyon market place and Ardlow World water day street drama & Poster competition later on together with Ardlow TV.</p>

	<p><i><u>Our observation/interventions</u></i> <i>Can we arrange gift packs for street drama team and winners of the poster competitions?</i> <i>Thematic support to be given</i></p>
Agrapathana TMV	<p><i>Activity</i> <i>A Study of the micro catchment of the school</i> <i>a. Water springs ; identify the sources and the quality monitoring</i> <i>b. Identify pollution points along the Agra Oya with students</i> <i>Art exhibition for students and parents; depicting identified pollution points</i> <i>Our observations/Interventions</i> <i>Draw a map of the watershed where the school located (in school wall)</i> <i>Our tea landscape poster is being used for planning.</i> <i>A well endowed schools with resources, supportive principal with bio science background , could be one of the best performing schools if guided</i></p>

5. Other issues and challenges for immediate action

- a) All school visits indicate a large component of facilitation is needed to get a good output in a very short while, working within the available budget.
- b) As all schools complained on poor water quality, the Activity Team visited the NWSDB WASSIP project on the 9th to make arrangements to conduct water quality testing in the 15 Activity schools. The discussions with WASSIP staff was very informative, especially about the critical need to promote community awareness building prior to investing on infrastructure development. Several instances supporting this approach was developed and it was generally agreed that there was insufficient awareness programs in the estate sector. The WASSIP project had disbursed funds for over thousand latrines; the money has been returned unutilised as the communities contacted said that they do not need latrines. Latrines had been built but Open Air Defecation (OAD) continues in those sites as a maintenance program was not carried out. Another such test case discussed was a fully equipped hot water shower station for men and women (working on solar panels) which had been donated to the community by World Vision. It had lasted only three days before being damaged by the community. These findings underlines the need for community awareness building which is the ultimate goal of the Agra Oya program.
- c) The engineers of the Kotmale dam were reported to have been visiting Agrapathana to enquire into the large amount of solid waste which has become a major problem for the dam. The activity leader is seeking contact with the engineers for further discussions. It seems that the poor disposal lapses of Agrapathana are now becoming a national level issue.
- c) As the school exams start in late March, the Monitoring officer has to be sent to the field immediately so that work on activities can startup before term end. Someof the activitiesare targetted for World Water week.He should be deployed latest on the week starting 26th February.



Visits to Schools

2018.02.19

Annex 01

Agreed Budget for the Initial field visits from 6th – 9th February 2018.

Internal Transport 100 km x 45	4,500.00
Lodgings /food for two persons + driver (4 days)	50,000.00
Travel refreshments	5000.00
Fee for research officer (4 days)	20,000.00
Fee for team leader (4 days)	60,000.00
Communication	2000.00
Contingencies	10,000.00
Sub Total	151,500.00
Admin /Overheads (12% inc IWMI Hi fee of 5 %)	18,180.00
Total	169,680.00

*other field visits till May will be carried out only by the monitoring officer.