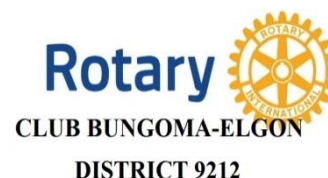




A Proposed Project
TO SUPPLY RURAL FAMILIES
WITH SOLAR LAMPS
Mt. Elgon Region, Kenya



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mt. Elgon Peace Initiative (MEPI) is a grass-root NGO working with rural women and youths in the Western Kenya to cushion them against the adverse effects and impact of violent conflicts on their lives and the environment. The ultimate goal is to enhance their capacities for peaceful co-existence. MEPI seeks partnerships for the purpose of providing renewable energy and lighting lamps to communities living in the volatile Mt. Elgon region of Kenya. Mt. Elgon lies on the Kenya's porous border with Uganda. This area was originally a gazette government forest, but there has been increasing human activity cutting down trees for fuel and lighting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The World Energy Outlook report of 2012 ranks Kenya among countries in the world with a high population that has no access to electricity - at 60%. The people of Eastern Africa especially face unique challenges in regard to energy poverty; five of the ten electricity poorest countries in the world are found here. They are Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. The majority of the population in these 5 countries use firewood and charcoal for their cooking needs. They are utilized through traditional technologies such as the popular three-stone fire-stoves that is one of the most common features in kitchens across Africa. The direct result of such inefficient use of wood fuel is the alarming rate of deforestation that sees no less than 1.2 million hectares of forests lost every year across just five Eastern Africa countries; Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Uganda and Kenya. This high rate of deforestation has seen an increase in poverty through higher wood fuel costs and more time spent in the collection of firewood. This has had a heavier effect on women and children. In Uganda, the distance travelled to collect firewood has exponentially increased by over 15 times between 1992 and 2002 from 0.06 km to 0.9 km. This exacerbates human development conditions, especially for the most vulnerable people.

Problem Statement

About 75% of all families in Kenya do not have access to electricity. Also, it has been observed that a large number of Kenyan school children do not have access to reliable source of lighting, they tend to use kerosene lanterns, which exposes them to many hazards. Moreover the performance of some of these children, academically, is low since in the absence of good source of light, they are not able to do their schoolwork assignments and other out of school activities effectively.

The majority of people in Sub-Saharan Africa depend on kerosene-powered hurricane and tin lamps to light their homes. Due to the high cost of kerosene and the poor lighting from such lamps, many children from these homes are unable to revise and do their homework in the evenings leading to poor performance in schools, which traps them in the poverty cycle. In addition, the Eastern African countries spend over USD\$5 billion annually to import petroleum which are consumed in the transport sector. But more importantly the bulk of the petroleum imports are used in producing electricity, which only serves less than 19% of the population in the region.

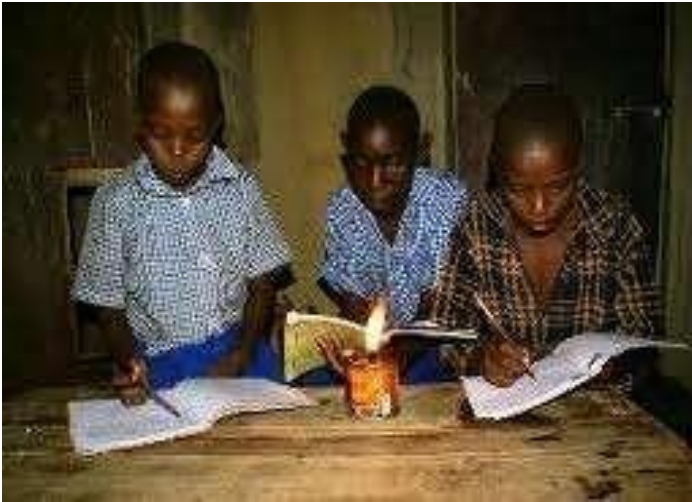
Why Renewable Energy Now

Sustainable access to modern energy services is a prerequisite to improvements in poor communities' livelihoods and environments as well as their education, gender equality, access to information and better health. Africans now know more about renewable energy than we did 10 years ago, and have the solutions that will pave the way for greater access to modern energy services, we have become more experienced and aware of the energy potential around us. Key drivers have spurred this growth in renewable energy solutions such as the population growth in Sub-Saharan Africa that far outpaces grid connection, thus implying an increasing off-grid population. In addition, the declining access to cheap fuel-wood is driving more communities to search for alternative low cost solutions by way of more energy-efficient cooking appliances.

The rapidly increasing mobile phone subscriber population in Africa is another key driver, which emphasizes the need for better and cheaper mobile phone charging options. Finally, the large and growing expenditure on non-renewable fuels for lighting (due in part to rising fuel costs), estimated to be approximately USD 13--17 billion in Africa has forced many Governments to go back to the drawing board and seek new and lasting solutions to their energy needs.

- ** Sustainable Energy Access Forum (SEAF) for East and Southern Africa (http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/east_african_coast/?217811/A-Renewable-Energy-Consortium-with-a-Difference)

Pictures of fire breakouts Resulting from Kerosene Lamps



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mt. Elgon Peace Initiative is partnering with the Rotary club of Bungoma Elgon (Rotary District 9212) in fundraising efforts for this much-needed project.



Davidson handing over a solar panel and lamp to Reuben

Our objective is provide at least 500 families around Mt. Elgon with solar lamps. Most of these are families headed by single parents (widows) who lost their husbands and bread-winners in the wake up of the 2007/2008 post-election violence that rocked Kenya. The introduction and use of solar lamps would entirely eliminate these challenges school children face since having access to sufficient clean light opens up new freedom for learning, working and communicating, and is therefore an

appropriate instrument for combating poverty as well as promoting educational standards.

This project was launched in May 2021 where the first batch of 70 families received benefits. The project's start-up was made possible by a donation of 2,000 USD from Hands-on Missions in Illinois.

The impetus for this intervention is in line with the:



An officer from KCB Bank training solar lamp beneficiaries

1. Kenya New Constitutional Dispensation which by law provides for "*The right to a clean and healthy environment for all citizens*" (Art 42a) as a basic human right.
2. Kenya Government's Vision 2030 *Relating to Environment* whose catchword is "A nation living in a clean, secure and sustainable environment".
3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): "Ensuring environment sustainability". (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)
4. Rotary International's 7th area of focus, i.e. "*Protecting the environment*" (<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes>)

Envisioned Project Outcomes

The proposed project will be undertaken over a six month period. It is geared towards propelling communities around Mt. Elgon to adopt the use of renewable energy lighting systems. Direct outcomes of this undertaking will be:

- ✓ Saving of forests as trees have been felled for use in lighting and cooking.
- ✓ Enhanced educational performance of children in school as they will have good light for reading and doing home-work.
- ✓ Community integration through come-togethers, dialogues and joint trainings on mitigating the impact of Climate Change through harnessing and adapting to the use of renewable energy.
- ✓ The health of children is guaranteed and the risk of fire incidents diminishes since family members are fully cautioned against inhaling the unhealthy kerosene fumes.
- ✓ Unlimited access to information and communication since the solar lamps enables communities to easily recharge their mobile phones as well as DC portable solar radio.
- ✓ Economic empowerment of community members since lighting homes with solar powered lanterns will enable families save money that they usually spend on kerosene. These money can then instead be channeled to other family needs such as education, farming e.t.c
- ✓ The use of kerosene and output of CO2 will decrease, thus saving families extra costs and reduction in sight and health effects associated using dim lighting and inhaling carbon from kerosene burning.
- ✓ Education of children will improve with more opportunities to read and study.
- ✓ Fostering of strategic partnerships between the Rotary club of Bungoma with both agencies and other non-state actors in development initiatives.

Identification of Beneficiaries

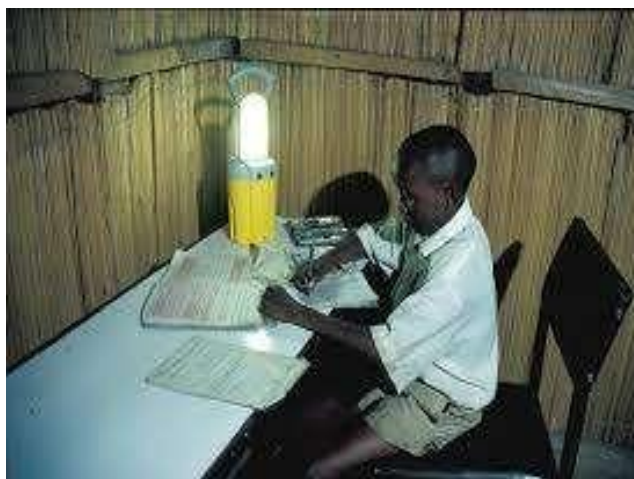
Persons to benefit from the project will be selected through a participatory process involving members of the Rotary club of Bungoma Elgon, Board of Directors of MEPI and local government leaders working together with local faith leaders across the board. Priority will be given to single mothers / widows, the elderly and recent migrants.

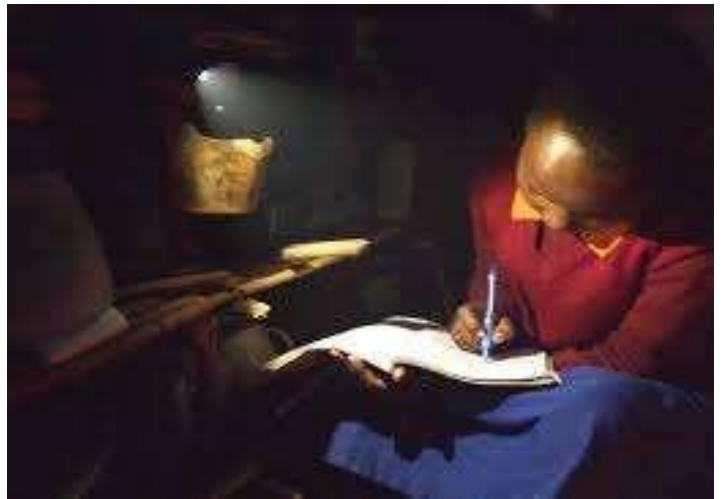
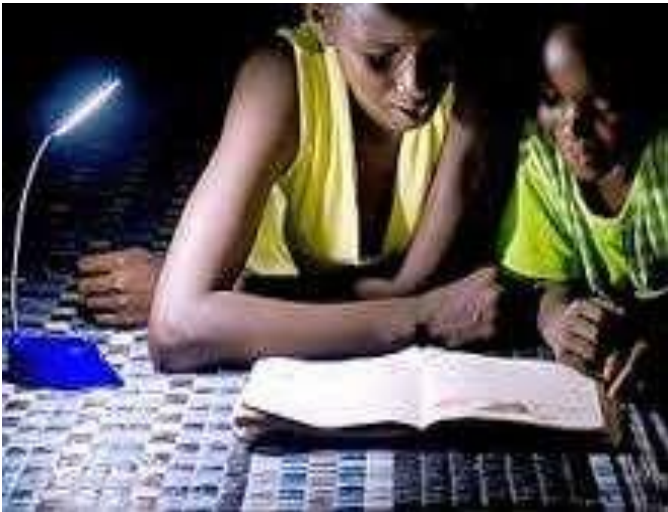
Project Monitoring & Evaluation

MEPI staff will undertake weekly field visits to monitor the performance and progression of the project. These will be complimented by staff from GREEN LIGHT PLANET.

There will be reports made for every undertaking and activity. These will be done weekly and monthly. Then there will be a mid-term report and final report at project close-out. At the start of the project, there will be public launch where the parameters for identifying beneficiaries will be made. Once the beneficiaries will have been identified, there will be another public distribution of lamps to those receiving them.

Every step of the process will be collaborative and transparent as is practically possible. Participants at functions and events will sign into sheets capturing their names, national ID Nos, telephone, locale, age bracket, and gender. This will be supported with pictorals. Funds received will be reserved at a bank account. Withdrawals will be backed up by minutes of Board resolutions. Documents relating to purchases or payment of suppliers will be supported by quotations, invoices and/or receipts. Programmatic and financial narratives will also be prepared and made available both to the Kenya government, Hands on Africa and any other interested partners. As complimentary non-state development actor, MEPI is committed to prudent financial management and reporting systems in lieu of value of monies received.





PROJECT FEASIBILITY

MEPI will be partnering with GREEN LIGHT PLANET (www.greenlightplanet.com), a Company working to contribute to green energy revolution in Kenya and the region by availing to communities modern, clean energy solutions for home based lighting incorporating new technologies that improve peoples' standards of living, health, better the environment and eliminate the energy burden for the poor. We will distribute the lamps to 500 homes around Mt. Elgon and train the communities on their use and handling. Greenlight Planet's lamps have a 2 year warranty within which their staff will be in touch for repairs and maintenance.



The family of Daniel smiles after receiving a lamp.

MEPI'S INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

Organization's Track Record

Mt. Elgon Peace Initiative (MEPI) is a local peace building organization with a mandate to stimulate peaceful coexistence among the divergent ethnic constituencies living around Mt. Elgon. As an insider movement, MEPI subscribes to the fact that building the capacities of communities for responsible and equitable management of the environment and natural resources is key to enhancing sustainable peace. Introducing the community to renewable energy like solar lighting will go a long way in instilling environmental sensitivity among community members.

MEPI was begun in 2010 and was originally registered with the department of gender and social development in Mt. Elgon in 2011. In January 2013, MEPI got incorporated as a national NGO.

In 2011 - 2013, MEPI partnered with Pact Inc in a USAID-funded project that helped the reintegration of reformed ex-militia youths in Mt. Elgon following a disputed Presidential election results tally of 2007. Again, we implemented an economic empowerment project in partnership with Board for Development Cooperation of the Federal State of Styria in Austria where we provided start-up funds to community groups with which they engage in agricultural-based income-generating activities. The project also helped link them to markets for their produce.

MEPI has built rapport and relational trust both with state and non-state development actors within Kenya and other parts of the world.

Project Staff

MEPI is endowed with a committed staff of five persons With competencies in fundraising, project design, implementation, evaluation, and reporting. These persons are answerable to a Board of Directors which reports to the Kenya government annually. MEPI has also been able to develop personnel and financial management systems that help regulate day-to-day program and financial transactions. We also work with consultants and in areas of particular specialties, e.g. independent auditors and other civil society organizations.

INDICATIVE BUDGET

Item	No.	Unit Cost	Frequency	Total (KES)	1 Usd Equiv. (1 USD = 107 KES)
Solar lamps purchase	500	5,200	1	2,600,000	24,299
Solar Lamps Purchase sub-total				2,600,000	24,299
Training of Beneficiaries					
Marker Pens	50	50	1	2,500	23
Flip Charts	50	300	1	15,000	140
Water/Drinks	500	80	1	40,000	374
Writing Materials for Participants	500	100	1	50,000	467
Training sub-total				107,500	1,005
Administration					
Project Launch	1	100,000	1	100,000	935
Stationery	1	1,000	6	6,000	56
Bank Charges	1	1,000	6	6,000	56
Communication	1	10,000	6	60,000	561
Local Travel	1	10,000	6	60,000	561
Audit fee	1	20,000	1	20,000	187
Admin sub-total				252,000	2,355
Sum-Total Costs				2,959,500	27,659

Budget Notes

- No of beneficiary targeted is families is 500.
- Total project budget is KES. 2,959,500 (Equiv. to approx. USD 27,659)
- The project will last 6 months
- Exchange rate is 107 shillings to 1 American dollar.

Bank Details

Name of Bank: Kenya Commercial Bank Ltd
Branch : Bungoma
Address of Bank : Moi Avenue, P.O. Box 380 -
 50200, Bungoma, Kenya,
 Tel.+254 710 459944.
Account Name : Mt. Elgon Peace Initiative NGO
Address of Account Holder : MEPI Computer
 Bureau, DCC Lane,
 Chwele, Bungoma County, Kenya
Account No : 1134171927
Iban Code : 4108
Bank Code: 01
Swift Code : KCBLKENX

TESTIMONIALS

"This looks complete to me. When everything is in place, please notify me. I'm prepared to donate \$2000 at that time to help launch this project. Once there is some on the ground experience, and lights installed, it will be easier I believe for Davidson to raise additional funding, and it will be easier for me to advocate for him. Thanks so much for your engagement and support."

-- Cheryl Ritenbaugh rahima@ritenbaugh.us
April 9, 2021

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE PRESIDENCY

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Telegrams "DISTRICTER" CHWELE
Email: dcbgmchwle@gmail.com
when replying please quote:

DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER
BUNGOMA CENTRAL SUB COUNTY
P.O. BOX 456,
CHWELE.

20th May, 2021

REF: RO/1/1/VOL.1/12


TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: LAUNCHING OF DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LAMPS TO VULNERABLE FAMILIES

This is to confirm that I participated in the launching of distribution of 70 solar lamps to vulnerable families in Bungoma Central Sub County on 10th May, 2021

I wish on behalf of the government of Kenya and the beneficiaries to take this opportunity to appreciate the donations.

The project will change the lives of the beneficiaries in a positive way.
Thank you once again and God May continue blessing your NGO to continue assisting vulnerable people in Africa and the world at large.

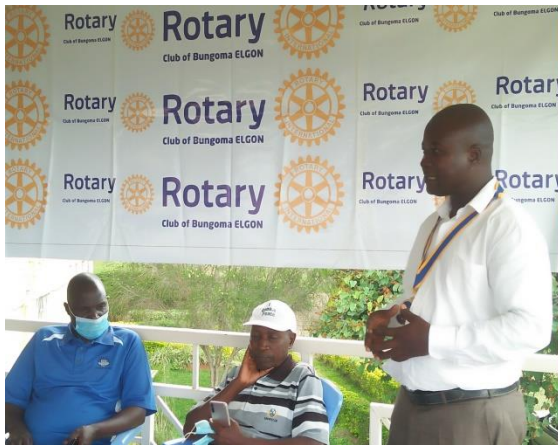

DORCAS RONO
DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER
BUNGOMA/CENTRAL SUB COUNTY

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LinkedIn: [Diana Sasi](https://www.linkedin.com/in/diana-sasi)
www.greenlightplanet.com



Mrs. Diana Sasi is Greenlight Planet Solar Company's partnership coordinator. She will be helping to conduct trainings to boost the beneficiaries within the community on proper use and handling of solar lamps.



Rotary Bungoma Elgon Club Members