2016 ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD
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Introduction and Background:

PROMETRA Uganda, a national chapter of PROMETRA International, was established with a purpose to preserve African traditional medicine, culture, development and indigenous science through; research, education, advocacy, development and African Spirituality. It works to improve the health and wellbeing of global communities through the use of quality traditional medicine and indigenous science, building bridges between convention and traditional systems of healthcare and revitalization of the cultural traditional systems for biodiversity conservation. The organization is founded on the principles of cultural indigenous knowledge and practices to contribute to sacredness of nature and its environ for improved livelihood.

PROMETRA Uganda’s major interventions are in linking the areas of traditional medicine, ecological organic agriculture and Environmental Conservation to improve the health and livelihood: focusing on training and Capacity Building, Care, treatment and prevention, information gathering for research purposes, Value addition, Community Outreaches, sacred sites management and networking. PROMETRA Uganda has memorandum of understanding with Makerere University, National Forest Authority, and relates well with 10 cultural institutions and has built trust amongst associations of traditional health care practitioners and partners with other civil society organizations.

PROMETRA Ugandan Corporate chapter over the years has grown to be an organization with large profile of promoting tradition medicines as an essential component of health care systems and at the same time has became a national point of contact for traditional medicine protection and transformation.

To enhance its efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery in line with its mandate, PROMETRA-Uganda works with state and non stakeholders’ actors and has continued organizing and building capacities of traditional medicines and practices to deliver better services to communities that has contributed to the national development through the achievements highlighted in this report.

Our Vision:
To be a leading traditional medicine promoter in the Great Lakes Region.

Our Mission statement:
To promote traditional medical knowledge and practices for improved health through mutual cooperation amongst health systems.

Philosophy:
Harness nature and promote your health

Our target group:
- Traditional Health Practitioners
- Cultural institutions.
- Home care volunteers
- Line Ministries
- Policy Makers
- Institution of higher learning
- Partners in development

Our commitment:
To offer a holistic promotion of traditional health care services in the great lakes region and we are also committed to work with state and non-state actors, cultural institutions, development partners, donors and researchers for eventual conservation, development and promotions.
Objectives:
1) To generate, disseminate and promote appropriate knowledge on traditional medicine and cultural practices.
2) To strengthen and advocate for collaboration between traditional and conventional health practitioners.
3) To identify and fight against harmful traditional health practices and
4) To support and encourage community initiatives on sustainable utilization of the environment, conservation and preservation of all indigenous plant species for food and medicinal value.

PROMETRA Core Values:
Core values are the essential and enduring principles of PROMETRA Uganda which form the basis of how everyone at PROMETRA thinks and acts. They are the identity and show what PROMETRA stands for. Constant recognition of, and adherence to these shared core values will better enable PROMETRA to achieve its Mission.

Transformation:
We seek to expand our capacity building programs and opportunities in ways that are life-changing for traditional healers and community members and transforming a holistic approach for health care to bridge the gap in the health service system in the region. Given our deep belief in traditional medicine, the magnitude of the health service inequity and its consequences, and our optimism about the solvability of the problem, we act with high standards, urgency and with a long term view for evidence based.

Leadership
We strive to develop and become the leaders necessary to realize the excellence and equity in the utilization of traditional medicine. We establish bold visions and invest others in working towards them. We work in purposeful, strategic, and resourceful ways, define broadly what is within our control to solve, and learn and improve constantly. We operate with a sense of possibility, persevere in the face of challenges, ensure alignment between our actions and beliefs, and assume personal responsibility for results.

Diversity
We act on our belief that the movement to ensure training equity will succeed only if it is diverse in every respect. In particular, we value the perspective and credibility that individuals who share the racial and economic backgrounds of the traditional health practitioners with whom we work can bring to our organization, and the long-term effort for change. This is a priority embedded throughout our teaching and the set of principles we see as most crucial to our work: and we believe that the movement to ensure training equity will only succeed if it is diverse and inclusive in every respect.

Respect & Humility
We value the strengths, experiences, and perspectives of others, and we recognize our own limitations. We are committed to partnering effectively with families, communities, government and institution of higher learning to ensure that our work advances the broader good of all people.

Team work:
We value and care about each other, operate with a generosity of spirit, and have fun in the process of working together. To maximize our collective impact, we inspire, challenge, and support each other to be our best and sustain our effort to achieve PROMETRA’s objective.

Transparency, Integrity and accountability:
Transparency is best demonstrated in practice through honest communication and open sharing of information. We are fair and honest in all our interactions. Participatory development is not possible without absolute openness and accountable use of influence, power and funds. We are faithful and we seek to adhere to the highest ethical and scientific standards of conduct.
The year 2016 has seen PROMETRA Uganda reach out some greater heights and a turning point. The staff have been passionately committed to contribute towards the achievements of the organization goal, mission and objectives despite some few short comings.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

a) HEALTH:

PROMETRA Uganda through the utilization of the traditional medicine has management to realize positive turning point in the focus areas as follows;

Training and Capacity Building (Education)
PROMETRA Uganda is implementing a project to scale up organic farming and maintain Buyijja Forest School Operations:

For this project PROMETRA Uganda conducted a baseline survey and disseminated the result to the leaders at all levels. Feedback meeting for the baseline survey was held and 35 leaders and other stakeholders attended the meeting. During this meeting several issues were discussed and different parish leaders wanted the project to be implemented in their parishes although the leaders selected the two parishes of Bunjako on the islands and Buyijja because of the different landscape.

One thousand eight persons (1008 people) in Buwama Sub-county communities and Forest School have been sensitized on Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) and eight (8) EOA demonstration gardens established in the two parishes of Bunjako and Buyijja as a way to reach out the wider communities. Through this outreach programs it has led to clear out the misconception of traditional medicine among the communities and also led to the increase in number of students attending the forest school.

Leaders’ feedback meeting about EOA baseline survey at PROMETRA Uganda - Buyijja offices
426 BUTHG members have been trained and eleven (11) BUTHG groups, (organised community groups of about 20 members each), have been strengthened and supported with eighteen (18) bicycles to ease their transport to be able to reach out other members for monitoring. Also these groups have been visited for assessment and evaluation in health service provision and ecological organic farming. During the visits, the evaluation team advised group members on proper propagation of medicinal plants, importance of record keeping, sanitation and hygiene and income generation. The community groups are a key entry to the communities and are a sustainable approach for conservation of the indigenous knowledge and practices.

165 (107F: 58M) THPs have been trained for one year through the Forest School. Student’s turn up is consistent and impressive. The training entailed themes in medicinal plant identification, their parts used, propagation, domestication and conservation for sustainable utilization and ecological organic farming practices at the forest school.

Other various themes such as reproductive health, records keeping, preventive medicine, Communicable and non communicable Diseases, Environmental sanitation, occupational health and food hygiene. In the third year classes, emphasis is put on the speciality of each class that includes traditional midwifery, mental healing, bone setting, herbalism and spirituality. In this class students are encouraged to come out with tangible and intangible products that would be in the care and treatment after they are passed out.
Thirty five (35) pharmacology students and 3 lecturers of Gulu University were hosted for three-day-learning visit to the Forest School. They were exposed to PROMETRA activities and with Dr. Sekagya about human health, plants, animals and environment health.

The Forest School has a vibrant Executive committee working as a disciplined team that has contributed to this success.

**Care, Treatment and Prevention:**

The Forest school maintains a community clinic at Buyijja where 1,458 (926F:532M) patient cases have been handled by trainees using traditional medicine through the year. The BUTHG community groups also offer treatment at village level to their respective community members. Statistics is yet to be compiled with hope that it will provide some basic information to support recognition of traditional medicine by the government of Uganda.
Community Library
Two hundred eighty three (283) (150M, 133F) contacts were recorded in the library utilization. 5 videos sourced, screened and shared in the library. The interns from universities have also utilized the library and appreciated relevant information. Some of the Information, Education and Communication (IECs) materials developed or sourced in collaborations with identified partners, has been translated in local language for wider use. Visual communication materials have more impact than reading materials as most members cannot read in English.

Organic Farming Demonstration gardens at the Center:
A prolonged spell of dry season, for over six months continuously, has frustrated much of our efforts for the Moringa and Bird Eye Chilli demonstration gardens. 2000 seedlings of Moringa dried up in the Potting’s since they could not be transplanted and all those that had been transplanted in ½ acre dried up. However, about 1.5 Acres of Bird Eye Chilli planted in the previous rains have sustained the dry season. Other demonstration gardens have done poorly due to this long dry season.

b) ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION:
15,346 medicinal tree seedlings, of various plant species, have been produced at PROMETRA Uganda centralised medicinal tree nursery at Buyijja, of which 5,904 were used to enrich The Forest School, 7,221 distributed to communities and BUTHG group members for planting, and 2,221 sold for 650,000 Uganda Shilling. This is in effort to contribute to restoration of degraded forests, climate change and enrich the forest base for traditional medicine. The forest school trainees, community groups and community members are all Sensitized about the values of traditional medicine, environmental conservation and ecological organic farming and how cultural values contribute to the development in the area.

High rates of forest clearance at Bunjako Island
PROMETRA’s intervention through propagation and provision of seedlings to communities.
Bridge Building/Partnership and Research:
PROMETRA Uganda was selected and given a National Heritage Award by the Cross-Cultural Foundation, for preservation of Buyijja Forest and positively using culture for meaningful and sustainable development. The centre was recognized for forest conservation, sustainable transfer of Traditional Medicine knowledge, Cultural and Healing practices, hosting hundreds of trainees, acting as a natural pharmacy, a library of raw materials, a dynamic physical and social system devoted to healthcare improvement, environmental care and conservation of medicinal plants, beds of medicinal plants (cultivated by the students as part of their training), a plant nursery, demonstration garden of medicinal and organic traditional food plants, and demonstration garden for ecological organic farming.

PROMETRA also attended the annual indigenous food fair organised by PELUM Uganda in a bid to safeguard our indigenous seeds. The theme was: Building Community Resilience through Indigenous and Traditional Food Value Chain. The fair was attended by participants across the country exhibiting various indigenous seeds from various cultural backgrounds, members of parliament, cultural leaders, CSOs and technical people from line ministries. It was observed that cultural traditional norms and values are necessary for the safety of the indigenous seeds to thrive. Indigenous seed varieties need to be recognised, conserved, protected by national policies, gene banks maintained and the public sensitized against GMOs.

PROMETRA Program Officer making consultations on indigenous seeds
Two people, Director and Program Officer, from PROMETRA Uganda attended a 2-weeks training in Ghana, at The African Learning Institute on Local and Indigenous Knowledges for Community Resilience on Endogenous Development, Bio-cultural protocols and food sovereignty in Africa. The idea was to promote networking around Endogenous Development, Indigenous innovations and the place for culture and spirituality in African solutions for African problems – thereby revitalizing community resilience. The initiative was funded by COADY International Institute St. Francis Xavier University organised by COMPAS Africa and CIKOD. Representatives came from 9 African countries representing 12 NGOs.

PROMETRA Uganda is one of the stakeholders on the Ecological Organic Agriculture Africa Trust platform and a stakeholders’ meeting was attended to review the progress. Overview information, progress and challenges regarding markets, climate change and policy was shared and discussed. Some of the organic products produced in Uganda were show cased.

PROMETRA Uganda together with African Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) based in US organised a 3-day conference on Land Grab and Just Governance in Gulu, Northern Uganda. This was a follow up on the Continental Conference on Land Grabbing and Just Governance in Africa held in November 2015 in Nairobi Kenya. Issues noted with concern included; valuing the sacredness of land, dangers of GMOs, vulnerability of indigenous seeds, high dependence on dangerous herbicides by local people and the need to plant indigenous trees to promote agro forestry.
PROMETRA Uganda hosted inter-exchange students from Kampala International Hospital on exchange program from Mpigi Health Center IV, for an exposure about traditional health care services as another system of health service.

The Director attended and facilitated on 4-week Substance Abuse community training to support local partners working with indigenous populations in the Kalahari area in South Africa suffering from addictions. It was organized by The Worldwide Indigenous Science Network (WISN) in US and Ubuntu Trust in South Africa and training facilitated by NECHI Institute (Canada). The population of the Bushmen in Kalahari is heavily hit by substance abuse, alcoholism, drug addiction and HIV/AIDS especially the youth.

PROMETRA Uganda was represented by 3 staff in a 4-series of 2-day workshop research on African Wisdom on Healing Trans-generational Trauma in Uganda organised by Uganda Buddhist Centre. Participants looked at African Wisdom practices through story-telling and proverbs addressing the body, feelings, mind states, emotions, thoughts and daily activities. During this research, it was noted that using our African knowledge of storytelling and use of proverbs, our elders used to develop new ideas and it is still relevant today.
PROMETRA Uganda Forest hosted a 4-day residential Earth Jurisprudence workshop organised by the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE). 25 participants from civil society, elders, custodians of sacred natural sites, lawyers, small scale farmers, and representatives of cultural institutions and kingdoms in Uganda. The Forest School was appreciated for providing a conducive learning and nature interaction environment and the good EOA demonstration practices at the centre was a learning session for the team that utilised the premises.

A team of 20 participants under the United Religious Initiatives - Cooperative Circles (URI - CC) which PROMETRA is a member representing traditional beliefs was hosted for exchange learning held at PROMETRA Uganda Forest School. The visit was attended by members from other CCs including PEACE Kawomera from Mbale, Body and Soul Development Association, Pamoja, Later Glory of Busoga, Religious leaders (Moslems, Jewish, Jehovah Witness and Christians- including Bishop Samuel). While at Buyijja forest school, the visiting team interacted with the trainees and shared information about traditional medicine, African spirituality, organic farming, the medicinal values and conservation strategies for indigenous tree species and need for further collaborations.

The Director Dr. Sekagya and a Board member Mr. Ali Juuko, visited Baba Credo Mutwa in South Africa for Africa cultural heritage promotion. They visited with a special message to Baba Credo Mutwa, learn from him and appraise his sickness.
Participate in Scientific research, videos and documentaries.

PROMETRA participated in the documentation video of traditional medicine used for treating malaria. The filming is still ongoing. Another published research about traditional medicine used HIV/AIDS by traditional healers. See *journal of herbal medicine by Namukuru Antonio and others*

PROMETRA Uganda hosted Ms. Barbara Frei Haller, PhD, of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences IPW, who is the Chairperson Grant Committee Biovision, and a member of Board of Biovision Switzerland. She visited the forest school to get acquitted about PROMETRA Uganda activities and also for monitoring the proper utilisation of biovision fund. She was also exposed to the community groups for familiarization.
Value Additions

PROMETRA Uganda, in collaboration with SEYA Investment Ltd, and academic institutions are working towards value additions on traditional medicine through research, publications, processing, packaging and marketing. Raw materials will be out-sourced from the strengthened BUTHG community groups as out-growers.

Policy and Advocacy: (Legalization of Traditional)
PROMETRA Uganda continues to advocate for legalization and proper utilization of traditional medicine. In November 2016 PROMETRA mobilised traditional healers’ representatives across the country to review and discuss the indigenous and complementary traditional medicine bill that is currently in parliament. The conference was attended by Members of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, National WHO Representative, Ministry of Health, Ministers of culture from the kingdoms of Buganda, Toro, Busoga, Bugwe, and selected Traditional Health Practitioners from across the country. The gaps and ambiguities in the proposed Bill were discussed in details.

PROMETRA attended a consultative workshop for the draft policy on benefit sharing scheme of forest resources organized by ACODE, CARE, JEEP and NFA (National Forests Authority). The policy is intended to charge every member of the community accessing the central forest reserve to pay for any product harvested. PROMETRA was able to stand in for the traditional health practitioners especially the elderly to be considered who provide home remedies to their grandchildren. This argument was put under consideration.

PROMETRA also representing the indigenous community participated in the stakeholders’ consultative policy frame works and planning for climate change resilience organized by PELUM Uganda in
conjunction with Ministry of Water, Environment and Sanitation. This workshop was seeking strategies to approach the challenges of climate change for planning purposes.

PROMETRA Uganda attended a stakeholder’s consultative meeting for implementation of UNESCO 2005 Convention on cultural diversity expressions for protecting and promotion of diversity cultural expression. This convention recognises the distinctive nature of cultural goods, services and activities and also encourages the integration of culture into sustainable development policies and frame works. This convention further looks at promoting tangible heritages and various projects could be designed for this initiative.

**International conferences:**

**International Society of Ethnobiology:**
PROMETRA Uganda participated in organizing the 15th Congress for International Society of Ethnobiology held in August 2016 hosted in Uganda at Makerere University under the theme; **Ethnobiology Knowledge for improved Human well-being and Development.** PROMETRA as an organization for the promotion of traditional medicine was invited to join Ethnobiologists from Universities of 30 countries around the World to share experience, opportunities and challenges on Ethnobiology research and development with the main focus on culture, environmental conservation, protection and transfer of indigenous knowledge as encountered by researchers, development partners, cultural institutions, NGOs among other stakeholders. During the congress, Biovision team from Zurich and its partners from Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda made a joint presentation.

**21st International AIDS Conference – Durban, South Africa:**
Funded by PROMETRA USA, PROMETRA Uganda, represented by Dr. Sekagya, joined PROMETRA South Africa represented by Professor Kenesse Mossanda, on behalf of PROMETRA International, and jointly organize the African village in the Networking Zone, a space shared with IIWGHA Canada, represented by Trevor Stratton. The objective was to raise awareness of the role of culture (traditions, music, life style practices) in helping persons living with HIV and others to live healthy empowered lives. The space provided an avenue for voices of indigenous people to be raised, understood and heard. It was a platform for important conversations, thoughts, beliefs, challenges were articulated and was visited with very many people including various government officials as Indigenous people with HIV, other indigenous peoples, shared their indigenous knowledges, heightened their understanding of the roles and influence of cultural beliefs and practices, locally introduced to African village life by African village residents and developed partnership through networking zone participation.
PROMETRA International – PROMETRA Benin
2016 Ways of Remembering and Spiritual Connections Benin Study Tour

The Director Dr. Sekagya and one Board member Bagarukayo Leonard, participated in a 10-days biennial event organized by PROMETRA International and PROMETRA Benin in West Africa as a way of remembering and uniting the spiritual connections of the African child with their grandparents that were forced into slavery. This is done through ceremonies, rituals and sacred site visiting and participants came from the Diaspora and African countries that included, Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda and Senegal. We attended the Benin National Voodoo day where all country men, women including children all over the globe come together to celebrate through rituals and ceremonies in honour of their great African spirits for their blessings and protection of their country.

The major activities were done at the UNESCO Cultural site of The Door of No Return on the Ouidah Beach that was the large slave deportation site. On the same location PROMETRA International established a Way of Remembering monument of the Door of Return where the current African – Diasporas returns in trace of their roots for spiritual cultural connectivity.
PROMETRA was offered 2 hour weekly free airtime on TV Africa to advocate and promote traditional medicine in its totality. This program is ongoing and as PROMOTERs of traditional medicine we identify and recommend different practitioners to go and educate the public about traditional healing in the different categories.

One of our former students, Nakadde Mathias, offered a slot on radio Buwama for PROMETRA Uganda to speak to the public about its unique integrated approach in traditional medicine in its totality in healing the masses.

PROMETRA Uganda was hosted at Central Broadcasting Services (CBS) under the Kyogero program for Dr. Nambatya. (Dr. Nambatya is the Director of Natural Chemotherapeutics Institute, Ministry of Health and Member of the National Drug Authority).

PROMETRA Uganda has been offered free airtime at Radio Jogo in Busia under the Bugwe Kingdom to promote traditional healing. PROMETRA Uganda has been offered free airtime on other radios in different parts of the country to advocate for Traditional Medicine, but we have been challenged by transport to media houses. Example is Radio Lira, Western Uganda.

In addition, Dr. Sekagya was also hosted by NTV “Tuwaye Program explaining his call and dream to promote traditional medicine in totality. All these programs on different media houses have created awareness and more visibility of PROMETRA and increased patients and partnership.
PROMETRA Uganda held a conference for 20 journalists from over twenty media houses to be updated and oriented about PROMETRA Uganda activities. The conference also addressed the role of traditional spiritualists in looking for solutions towards seasonal and high accidents challenges facing the country? This intensified PROMETRA’s visibility and awareness to the masses about traditional medicine and the call for proper regulation and the concern for nature conservation.

PROMETRA Uganda organised and hosted a cultural spiritual retreat for spiritual mediums from across the country in the nine well established kingdoms. The aim of the retreat was to seek guidance from the Almighty invisible through prayers for revelations and solutions for the challenges that are affecting the country and the world as a whole. Several messages were received and categorised as follows: Messages that concerned about the guidance for the whole world, messages about kingdoms, messages about the children of the world, messages about the custodians and finally the implementation process. This meeting was honoured with the official presence of Minister without Portfolio, from Central government, Haji Nadduli.

Alhaji Nadduli Minister without portfolio planting a medicinal tree after closing the cultural spiritual retreat at Buyijja
PROMETRA Uganda was invited to a public address of the spiritualists, Makerere University students and Morcas G. Pan African University at Walusi Hills. The topic was Back to roots, why should we go back and were is our roots? (Tudde Eka, Eka ye wa, Nsonga ki etuza ekka).

All such public events and lectures have increased the visibility of PROMETRA and is highly recognized as a center for traditional healing across the country and many partners and individual wish to associate with PROMETRA. There are so many people who wish to enrol for training in different themes.

**Sacred Site Management/Culture**

Fifty (50) trainees from The Forest School were taken for exchange visits to two different cultural sites to see and learn how the sacredness can help in the preservation of traditional indigenous knowledge and in the promotion of nature conservation and income generation.

There is high need to protect and preserve our natural sacred sites as they contribute to reduction of the effects of climate change. These are caves and groves but plants grow and they contribute to making of rain.
Quality Assurance, Monitoring Evaluation and Lessons Learned:

The training programs of PROMETRA Uganda in the forest school provides equal knowledge opportunities to women, men and youth of all religious affiliations and cultural origins, in the traditional medicine to realize the importance and value the conservation of indigenous knowledge and medicinal plants. Both men and women are all involved equally and the negative impact towards the role of women, men and youth are minimized.

The active participation and affirmative action of all women and men, young people and the elderly, and vulnerable or disadvantaged groups are all integrated without discrimination.

The integrated approach of PROMETRA Uganda’s interventions provides a unique and a holistic platform that embraces multi-disciplinary advance and concerted effort to address and promote our indigenous knowledge for conservation and contribute to the reduction of poverty for improved livelihood.

Organizational Development

PROMETRA Uganda has reviewed its policies, procedures and strategy.

- Five year (2017-2022) Strategic plan developed.
- Human Resources, Finance and Administration policies and manual reviewed
- Proper accounting systems and procedures are in place.
- Proper records management system established.
- On job staff training through coaching and mentorship strengthened (high levels of professionalism)
- Good political will and support at all levels.

Challenges:

- High deforestation rates
- Misconception of traditional healing
- Quackery within the traditional medicine health system
- Limited funding.
- The lorry that provides transport for trainees to and from The Forest School consistently breaks down which interrupts the learning program.
### FUNDING SOURCES

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