



RIO CONVENTIONS IMPLEMENTATION IN PILOTING DLGs.



A SYNTHESIS AND ANALYSIS OF COMMON ISSUES TO
DISTRICT LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS FOR POLICY DIALOGUE

ESELA COUNTRY INN HOTEL-KIRA

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INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUES

Guiding Questions for interrogation

- What are the issues that we require to scrutinize?
- Which of the 3 UN conventions on environment are the issues affecting or crippling its realisation?
- What are these effects that negate realisation of the conventions' objectives?
- Who is responsible for the issues (Level of governance)?;
 - ✓ National,
 - ✓ DLG,
 - ✓ LLG,
 - ✓ Community?

Introd cont'd

- Is it policy or operational issue?
- What can we do as DLGs to improve our national performance on these conventions?
- Can the issue be integrated in the DDPs within available resources? At what level? Who takes the lead? Who are the others to follow?
- Does effective integration require additional resources? Where can we obtain these resources (resource mobilization skills!!!)? Who are part of our resource mobilization team?

Introd cont'd

- Who is the supervisor of the implementation of measures addressing the issues? How will we assess progress? How often?
- How are we likely to sustain the effort? What are the sustainability mechanisms?

What are the Issues / challenges in these 5 pilot districts?

The following issues seem to cut across the 5 Rio Convention Awareness piloting districts of Mukono, Buikwe, Wakiso, Jinja and Kayunga.

1. Low levels of awareness and community participation in natural resources management and conservation.
2. Encroachments on fragile ecosystems (Wetlands, buffer zones (riverbanks, lake shores), mountain slopes, arid and dry lands).
3. Depletion of biomas (Massive use of fuel wood as main source of energy, timber for buildings).

Issues cont'd

4. Rapid and poorly planned urban settings
5. Unpredictable weather patterns. Characterised by;
 - ✓ Prolonged rains (sometimes hard rains, windy, hailstones, Floods)
 - ✓ fluctuating seasons-rains coming when not expected, and failing to come when expected.
 - ✓ prolonged dry seasons (hard droughts, dusty environment, too much heat).
6. Non-functional ENR Committees which are instrumental in creating synergies in conservation in the various sectors.
7. Inadequate staffing in the ENR sector.
8. Inadequate facilitation of the ENR sector.

Issues cont'd

- ✓ Funding?
- ✓ Equipment?
- ✓ Vehicles?

9. Weak/ nonexistence of bye-laws and Ordinances.

10. Pollution as a result of poor waste handling and management (toxic emissions, kaveera, effluent from industries and garages etc) into air and water bodies. Leading to deaths of life in air, in water and on land.

11. Loss of diversity and endangering some forms of life. Mvule tree is under threat of extinction.

Issues cont'd

13. Insufficient data collection, input, analysis and information sharing.
14. Land tenure system (existence of fragile ecosystem on private land Vis-à-vis P.As).
15. Lack of adequate information across stakeholder divide.
16. Uncontrolled use of agro-chemicals in agriculture production. Unquantifiable effects to biodiversity .
17. Plantation agriculture practices-sugarcane and tree plantations.
18. Increased incidence and range of pests and diseases in agriculture.
19. Deteriorating soil fertility.

Issues cont'd

20. High poverty levels in the communities.
21. Increased individualism tendency in the community.
22. Weak information, education and communication (IEC) strategy on the Rio conventions.

What are the effects of little /no action on the issues above?

- ✓ Loss of biodiversity (death of plants and animals). Some species under threat of complete extinction (therefore, loss of benefits they provide).
- ✓ Silting of lakes and rivers.
- ✓ Loss of breeding areas for wild animals and fish etc.
- ✓ Pollution of water sources, leading to high costs of water treatment.
- ✓ Loss of foods for wild animals and birds.
- ✓ Land slides and floods-loss of lives and property.
- ✓ etc

What do we need to improve our scores against the MEAs as a country and as piloting DLGs?

- A conducive legal framework.
 - ✓ The constitution.
 - ✓ LGA as amended.
 - ✓ NEMA Act
 - ✓ Wetland Act
 - ✓ Numerous policies to operationalize the Acts.
- Competent technical staff (at all levels of implementation).
 - ✓ Do we have these? Yes (well schooled, very experienced)
 - ✓ In appropriate numbers? No.
 - ✓ Correctly placed? Probably not all, but this can be sorted out.

What we need cont'd

- Entrenched Environment Committees in LGA and LG structures?
 - ✓ Currently in place but virtually useless.
 - ✓ May require a drastic policy shift to make them part of the known statutory bodies like DPAC, DSC, DLBC.
 - ✓ Can parliament be supportive?
 - ✓ This shall ensure that the Environment committee;
 - ❖ Have authority
 - ❖ Have resources to do their work.
 - ❖ Their decisions are binding

What we need cont'd

- Adequate resources (financial and otherwise)
 - ✓ Do we apportion the resources equitably? Put more where you have more and harder work expectations, outputs and outcomes.
- Resolute political will and support.
 - ✓ Do we have this one? Probably yes . More needs to be seen done.
 - ✓ Is there political will across board? Probably yes.
 - ✓ What do we desire to see?
 - ❖ Converted leaders (agree and believe in the facts and information availed to them on the subject).
 - ❖ None interference in decisions of implementing agencies (offer full support).

What we need cont'd

- ❖ Ensuring that adequate resources are allocated, released, accessed and utilized for the planned and agreed upon activities, projects and programmes.
- ✓ What is the picture like on resources allocation?
 - ❖ 87% of national budget at centre, 13% of national budget to LGs.
 - ❖ 90% of the necessary interventions in LGs and 10% at centre.
- ✓ So, is there the will to act what we say? Can we walk the talk??
- ✓ As LGs, what can we do better with the available resources to justify our quest for more resources?
 - ❖ Let us act smart. Design simple Action plans that are local and address specific DLG challenges
 - ❖ Post our facts and figures for all to see.
 - ❖ Improve efficiency and effectiveness of resources utilization.

Synthesis and analysis of the common Issues.

Which UN Convention(s) is being affected?

- All 3 conventions are affected.
 - ✓ UNFCCC
 - ✓ CBD
 - ✓ UNCCD

What are the effects of the above issues to the intensions of the Rio conventions?

- Massive destruction of nature (biodiversity-numerous flora and fauna) .
- Limited involvement of primary actors including local community (farmers) in critical aspects such as resources mapping, resource use planning, mitigation measures planning etc.

Synthesis cont'd

- Inadequate policy formulation to address the gaps.
- Inadequate commitment to actualization of the policies formulated.
- Inadequate tangible outputs and outcomes on the targets of the conventions by member countries including Uganda.

Who is responsible?

- Both ;
 - ✓ National and
 - ✓ DLG levels (including LLGs and communities) are.

Synthesis cont'd

Is it a policy issue?

- Yes and No.
- Yes;
 - ✓ Some issues to be adequately addressed may require formulation of new policies.
- No;
 - ✓ There are already existing policies to address some of the issues raised above.
 - ✓ Inadequacy therefore is an operational issue (issue of procedure, guidelines, bureaucracy, protocol etc).

Synthesis cont'd

What can we do improve our national performance on the MEAs?

- **We need support to do the following;**

- ✓ We need strengthened Environment committees to grassroot level (not our mandate as DLGs). How can we achieve this?
- ✓ Probably amending the LGA to entrench the Environment committees as statutory bodies?
- ✓ **Parliamentary appropriation of resources to operationalize them?**

- **We can do all the following;**

- ✓ Intensify awareness creation at all levels on the role of stakeholders in conservation.
- ✓ Promote community participation in conservation practices.

Synthesis cont'd

- ✓ Implement relevant conservation laws and regulation in place.
- ✓ Punish all offenders.
- ✓ Fight corruption tendencies.
- ✓ Enlist highest political support through lobbying, engagement, sharing critical data and information on conservation issues.
- ✓ Put in place an effective and efficient information, education and communication system at all levels of the divide ('loop them all in there'!!!).
- ✓ Reward good performance (conservators).

Synthesis cont'd

Can the issues be integrated in the DDP?

- Yes they can be integrated in our DDPs.
- Can we achieve effective integration into the DDP?
 - ✓ Are all key players aware and on board?
 - ✓ Have they freed resources (read funds) commensurate to the tasks at hand for the key actors to handle the issues related to meeting the MEAS effectively?

Synthesis cont'd

- ✓ Are those entrusted with the resources using them effectively and efficiently?
- ✓ Is there value for money?
- ✓ Are we sharing the implementation briefs regularly and timely?
- ✓ Are we all on board?

What is the ideal level of integration into the DDPs?

- Both at DLG and LLG levels. Why?
 - ✓ Both are planning levels.
 - ✓ Both levels control resources.
 - ✓ Both are policy /decision making levels.
 - ✓ Both are body corporate (fully mandated with clear roles and responsibilities).

Synthesis cont'd

Who takes the lead?

- DNRO
 - ✓ Is the main custodian of Natural resources.
- and DCDO.
 - ✓ Soft ware skills are critical in causing change.
 - ✓ Community mobilization and sensitization skills are key.
- Who are the others to follow?
 - ✓ Policy guidance? RDC, Political Leaders (both at district and LLG levels).
 - ✓ Implementation? Production department, Works and technical services, Education department.

Synthesis cont'd

Does effective integration require additional resources?

- **Yes it does.**
- **How may we generate the additional resources?**
 - ✓ Create a technical resource team to generate concepts to potential funders and donors for funding. Ensure that the team is facilitated adequately.
 - ✓ Mobilise private sector to lend a hand through CSR policy.
 - ✓ Mobilise CSOs to leverage some resources to conservation.
 - ✓ Encourage individual community members to engage in conservation activities-'*Bulungi bwansi*' of sorts??.

Synthesis cont'd-

- **Who is the supervisor of the integration process and outcomes?**
 - ✓ CAO and the structures under this office
- **How will we assess progress of the integration process and outcomes ? How often?**
 - ✓ Where not in place, have baseline information/report on the various resources, ecosystems.
 - ✓ Restoration activities and measures (where necessary) quantified, documented and publicized.
 - ✓ Field supervision and monitoring done.
 - ✓ M and E measures designed, mainstreamed and fast tracked to assess achievements, institute corrective measures where necessary and pick lessons to improve future actions.
 - ✓ Documentation and dissemination of good practices (monthly and/or quarterly).

Synthesis cont'd

- IEC system in place?
 - ✓ Create and implement a good IEC system.
 - ✓ Translate and localize the conventions and avail popular versions.
 - ✓ Disseminate the IEC materials to all stakeholders.
 - ✓ Regular collection, analysis of data and dissemination of generated information to all stakeholders.
 - ✓ Attach a staff to this central role for effective integration.
 - ✓ Assess performance.

Synthesis cont'd

Sustainability mechanisms?

- How can we ensure a realistic and stakeholder owned sustainability mechanism?
 - ✓ Create a sustainability plan with wide stakeholders' consultation to ease implementation.
 - ✓ Identify alternative sources of revenues (these among DLGs) to support conservation measures.
 - ✓ Allocate funds to the measures agreed on.
 - ✓ Mobilise partners to support the conservation activities.
 - ✓ Engage big resources exploiters for support and recognise their contributions.
 - ✓ Bring youths on board to promote mindset change, recognition and appreciation of their roles and responsibilities.
 - ✓ Lobby for donor funding.
 - ✓ Etc, etc, etc

END

Thank you for your attention