

WESTNILE REGIONAL DIALOGUE FOR ENHANCED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

THEME

**ENHANCING SUPPORT TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO BETTER ADDRESS
THE KEY ISSUES OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN WESTNILE**

**TARGET SECTORS:- Environment and Wetlands, Forestry, Lands and Survey and
Physical Planning**

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Situational analysis of Natural Resources management issues in West Nile Region

1. Absence of waste management system in West Nile - right from waste generation to desposal eg, no data on wastes management.
2. Most of the population depend on natural resources for daily incomes. eg stones, murrum, sand, clay, wetlands, forests, natural trees.
3. High dependency of the population on biomass energy (firewood, charcoal) for cooking. Over 90% of the households depend on biomass energy for lightinh and heating.
4. Over 80% of rural and urban household's shelter constructions depend on natural resources such as bricks, timber, sand, poles, murrum, grass, bamboo, fibers and mud,
5. Increased population locally and from refugees, causes serious encroachments of wetlands and forests for farming, settlements and income.
6. Absence of local legal frameworks to enhance national legal frameworks like, ordinances which should be approved by the Arntorny general's office.

Key issues of Natural Resources management in West Nile Region

- 1) Poor waste management in all levels leading to soil and water pollution, break down of social services eg Safe water harvest and power supply.
- 2) Inadequate promotion of clean energy technologies (certifications, provision of subsidies, product quality issues)
- 3) High losses of forests and tree covers resulting from forest encroachments and abuse of natural trees on CFRs, LFRs, CFs and private lands.
- 4) Increased loss of wetlands and drying of streams/rivers/surface waters, resulting from conversion of wetlands into farms, sand mining and settlements.
- 5) Encroachment of fragile landscapes like hills, mountains, slopes for farming, grazing, settlements, mining and others.
- 6) Obsolete, conflicting and inadequate legal frame works eg Forests Act , Statutory instrument 146 forest produce, Fee and loyalty 2000
- 7) Poor coordination and partnership with the Center and development partners eg Department of Climate change

Strengths of Local Governments towards better natural Resources management in West Nile Region

- ▶ All Local Governments have the 5 Years Development Plan III to guide the desired actions for better natural resources management.
- ▶ Existing strategic and sector specific documents to guide the desired actions towards better future for natural resources management at some Districts like DSOER, District Forestry Development Plans, Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Action Agenda, Wetland Action Plans, Catchment management plans and LED strategies.
- ▶ Existing bylaws and ordinances for better natural resources management at some Districts.
- ▶ Existing institutional structures like Local Environment Committees, Wetlands Committees, Area Land Committees, Physical Planning Committees and others to drive community mobilizations and mind-set change.
- ▶ Existing Government affirmative programmes like PDM, DRDIP, NUSAF, Refugee Integration, EMYOOGA, YLP, Women Empowerment to support natural resources department like tree growing, promotion of clean energy technologies.
- ▶ Existing development partners to coordinate and support improvements in natural resources management.
- ▶ Existing potential revenue sources in Local Governments.
- ▶ Existing potentials to drive green livelihoods and enterprises and clean energy technologies like beekeeping, solar technologies, agroforestry, briquettes making, tree oil seeds, horticulture, fruit orchards.

Key limitations of Local Governments in managing ENR

1. Inadequate/lack of sector conditional grants like for forestry, lands and survey, energy allocated by the Central Government to the Local Governments.
2. Poor and low staffing for the natural resources department, resulting from the restricted structure and wage bills by the Public Services.
3. Poor and low logistical support for law enforcements to monitor, inspect, protect and regulate natural resources to the Local Governments.
4. Gaps in the National legal frameworks eg delayed amendments, conflicting and absolute legal frame works, Asset managements.
5. Poor coordination of ministries with local governments, and coordination of development partners with Local Governments.
6. Poor and low community mobilization and mind-set change support to drive better natural resources management at both national and Local Governments.
7. Indequate strategic and local legal documents eg DEAP, FMP, DSoER, DFDP etc
8. In ability to promote research and innovations in ENR
9. Lack of Capacity or to cope up with the new developments in the sector. eg private sector support, the Oil and gas exploration, climate finance

Expected support by Local Governments from Central Government and Development partners

- I. Increased provision of funding eg conditional grants to LGs for natural resources department.
- II. Improved staffing structure and wage bill for the LGs natural resources department.
- III. Strengthening coordination and partnership with Local Governments and Development Partners for better natural resources management.
- IV. Provide logistical support to LGs for natural resources department like motorcycles, vehicles, office equipment, field tools and equipment.
- V. Support bylaws and ordinances development processes and implementation of the Local Governments. eg Uganda Law Society can come in to build capacity of LGs, Funding etc. As well as amend obsolete legal frame works
- VI. Provide law enforcement police and capacity building for the natural resources department.
- VII. Build capacity of Local Governments in strategic actions and investments in the natural resources department. Eg private sector engagements, Financial institution engagements, Community dialouges
- VIII. Support waste collection, sorting and disposal as well as greening in urban and peri-urban areas.
- IX. Support Community mobilization and mind set change.
- X. Support research and innovations for LGs



Presented by Natural Resources Department Sections staff and CSO in West Nile Region

➤ The start of our smile again

➤ Thank you all

➤ We expect our dreams out of you

