Research Gaps, Capacity gaps and Data gaps in LG relevant for for Environment and NR development agenda in Uganda

EfD-Mak Centre Researchers Training on Policy Relevant Research

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Presentation Outline

- Mandate of LGs under the LG Act
- NDP Programme
- Sectors at LG level
- Research Gaps
- Capacity Gaps
- Data Gaps
- Implications
- Conclusion

Mandates

- Local authorities are responsible for **environmental protection** and local transport in partnership with national government; while the authorities have sole responsibility for economic development in the district; public health; education; and social welfare. **LG Act 1997 Cap 243, amended 2010. aims to service delivery**
- The National Development Plan III (NDP III) primary goal is "To increase average household incomes and improve the quality of life of Ugandans" in the period 2020/21 to 2024/25.
  - **The thrust is with the natural resource endowments, How do we harness and ensure sustainable development. TRADE OFFS, HOW MUCH CAN A UNIT CONTAIN, FOR HOW LONG, WHAT ALTERNATIVES.**
  - Climate change mitigation and environment management are critical to the achievement of increased household incomes and improvement of quality of life of the population.

Components at LG level are -Water, environment and wetlands, forestry, climate change and land management,

Minerals, tourism, housing / development control (MoWE, MoLHUD, MEMD

Mandates towards Environment for Development

- SDG goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 set targets for combating the effects of climate change and sustainable management of water resources, terrestrial ecosystems, forests and the environment.
- Goal 7 of Africa Agenda 2063 calls for putting in place measures to sustainably manage the continent's rich biodiversity, forests, land and waters and using mainly adaptive measures to address climate change risks.
- The EAC Vision 2050, pillar 3.4 targets sustainable utilisation of natural resources, environment management and conservation with enhanced value addition having, with 92.9% of population having access to safe water.
- The Uganda Vision 2040 calls for development of appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies on Climate Change to ensure that Uganda is sufficiently cushioned from any adverse impact brought by climate change.
- In 2018, Uganda signed the Partnership Plan for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve national climate goals as part of its obligations to the Paris Agreement. Under the NDCs, the country committed itself to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Research Gaps

- LGs are more on a receiving end with little or no research drive.
- The decentralization dispensation and its role in promoting environment for development.
- The linkage between MDAs and LGs in the Environment related sectors.
- Mind set (staff, community and leadership), attitude towards, work development, (permanence, minimum wage.
- Feasibility studies to justify investment proposals and grants e.g waste, energy, value addition, tourism, wetland.
- The building substances, resources diversity, volumes and valuation as a basis for revenue assessments and best development use.

Research gaps. Continued….

- Soil health and best alternative uses to guide agriculture production.
- The rural resources and the active ingredients there in e.g *Bidens spp* , Artemisia, Waburgia spp. value addition for Covid….
- Best practices for Innovative challenges to be replicated in the Environment Sectors
- Energy, briquettes , binding material, shape , process, type of waste or what?
- Charcoal production and carbon sequestration in the Uganda situation.
- waste – value addition options to attain a NO - LAND FILL STATUS, Bio-engineers.

Capacity Gaps

Management of water, environment and natural resources coupled with the worsening effects of climate change have resulted into:

- high exposure to hazards and disasters, within the context of limited capacity for climate change adaptation and mitigation; options and skills for staff and communities
- low disaster risk planning;
- rampant degradation of the environment and natural resources caused by low enforcement capacity,
- limited environmental education and awareness,
- limited alternative sources of livelihoods
- limited research, innovation and adoption of appropriate technologies;
- limited access and uptake of meteorological information (inaccuracy in information) due to low technology and equipment for early warning and preparedness.

Capacity gaps continued….

- Systems and mechanisms for addressing vulnerabilities are still ineffective.
- There is poor coordination and institutional capacity gaps in planning and implementation;
- Absence of appropriate incentives for good environmental management practices with justifications.
- Limited capacity to map and value the natural resources.
- Lack of mini laboratories, kits for quality testing of water, soil, air , noise levels.
- Cost benefit analysis to determine designs and best investment options.
- Proposal writing and presentation skills amongst LG staff for resource mobilization.

Data Gaps

- Data on air pollution is sparse due to the absence of air pollution detection equipment and there is currently no framework for monitoring and regulating air pollution.
- Water quality monitoring equipment and factual data capture linked to the polluter pays principle applications.
- Waste feasibility studies, characterization, volumes, impacts on environment to inform value addition and economic developments. (positive and negative)
- Factual production statistics (Agriculture, mining , rural water, nature and type of industries)
- Carbon trading and calculations, players, status…..
- Data base of players (NGOs, CSOs, Academia, in various sectors to gauge the pressure and forecasts while avoiding duplication.
- Data management, interpretation , storage and utilization.
- One stop data centers for the vast environmental studies, actions.

Implications

- Low priority area for Central government and this cascades to LLGs leading to no funding hence minimal developments in the sector.
- Few partnerships for the Public good sectors compared to Health , education , agriculture.
- Limited enforcement leading to aggravated environmental degradation.
- ENR is safeguard for many livelihoods which result in slow but sure negative impacts that many tend to disregard.
- Complex to measure due to their vast nature, the basis for development decisions is not factual.
- Not appreciated by many yet utilized by all, there is need to innovatively create massive awareness.

What and how do we communicate to policy makers and Implementers.

- Water and water resources ,wetlands , the fish, sand, clay, stone valuations; the infrastructures as in dams, roads , water front developments designs, implications,
- Tourism, culture – documentation, into IT era, management marketing, staffing
- Oil business, petrol stations , the future
- Energy, solar, wind, hydro data, Biogas, alternative
- Agriculture ,soils, on farm forestry and gazette reserves
- Physical Planning (zoning, industries, institutions, settlements, farm lands, green spaces)
- Lands and Surveys current trends and the implications real estates, players
- Environment (Public health, sanitation, waste, mining, pollution , compliance, systems)
- Climate change , green economy, innovations, stakeholder involvement, implications , measurements and interpretations, data management.
- We have several and good laws and regulations what is the problem with implementation ?

Group work

- Form smaller buzz groups depending on turn up
- Distribute the 10 areas of concern
- What is lacking in your view
- What are the root causes
- What can be done by LGs
- What is beyond the LG scope?
- Suggest potential areas for action and policy research considerations.

Conclusion

- The research should depict the trade offs, options and or scenarios with implications based on authentic data.
- The census is timely to form a logical baseline.
- The NDP III is ending the review should be advised for a SMART sense of direction
- The climate change impacts are real and not questionable, what does research have to offer? redress, alarms, innovation and foresight into the future,incentives adaptations and mitigation.
- Research should be need based rather than donor based which calls for intentional government policy direction.