



Proceedings of the National Stakeholders Policy Dialogue on Waste Management and Flood Mitigation in Uganda, 19th November 2008, Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda

Executive Summary

Introduction

Waste generation is directly linked to the size of the population and the various activities under taken by different categories of the population. Statistics show that waste generated per person in only Kampala is 1 kg of solid waste (Tenywa *et al.*, 2007). In Kampala city alone, 15000 tones of waste are generated per day. Of this only 45% is collected and disposed off in the landfill (KCC, 2008). This leaves 51% uncollected ending up in drainage channels, dumped on streets and wetlands (UNDP, 2005). Poor waste management poses great health risks and environmental degradation yet properly managed waste is wealth and consequently improves livelihoods and has potential to contribute to national development.

Policies, laws, guidelines and practices for waste management in Uganda are still inadequate. For instance, some of the policies and guidelines are embodied in various Environment and Natural Resource (ENR) policies which give urban authorities mandate to oversee collection and disposal of solid waste generated in their areas of jurisdiction. These include the following: the Environment Statute, 1995; Public Health Act, 1964; the Public Lands Act 1969; the Pharmacy and Pensions Act 1981; the Agricultural Chemicals Statute 1989; the National Wetlands Policy 1995; Natural Environment (waste management) Regulations 1999; the Local Government Act 1997; Kampala Solid waste management ordinances and Urban Agriculture ordinances. This multiplicity of policies and regulation refer to waste management in bits and pieces which provides room for contradiction and inconsistencies during policy implementation at both national and local levels. Additionally, even current government development programs rarely put waste management aspects into consideration e.g. health facilities, public markets, schools. Thirdly, there is lack of national and mutually supportive strategies for management of hazardous and non hazardous waste. Further more, there are limited appropriate technologies and practices for waste management. This is partly due to inadequate and fragmented research and poor information flow among stakeholders to inform policy formulation. Lastly, there is generally limited capacity among stakeholders (technocrats, extension agents, private sector) in addressing waste management issues.

This state of affairs has far reaching implications on community livelihoods and environment posing great health risks and environmental degradation yet properly managed waste is wealth and consequently improves livelihoods and has potential to contribute to national economic development. Therefore, solid waste management is an important area for consideration in the context of urban planning and environmental management. The Poverty Eradication Plan (PEAP) recognizes that waste management is almost non existent in Uganda. It denotes that for instance in Kampala, refuse is collected from only 20% of the population and only half of it is disposed in a proper way with the rest being dumped indiscriminately (PEAP, 2004/2005). Furthermore, little attention has been given to waste water disposal and storm drainage. Drainage is poor and limited to major roads and pathways resulting in floods causing high road maintenance costs and damage

to buildings and property. The PEAP therefore commits the Government to provide financial resources to improve solid waste management and drainage (PEAP, 2004/2005).

In this context, EA together with other partners including Makerere University, CIAT, Kampala City Council (KCC) have been implementing the Sustainable Neighborhood in Focus (SNF) project in Kasubi, Kawaala, Makerere II and Bwaise III parishes in Kampala district. The focus of the project is to turn waste burdens into livelihood benefits while reducing contamination risks. SNF project builds on existing initiatives to improve the area as far as waste management and flood mitigation is concerned. The objectives of the project include the following:

- a. Develop innovative options for management of solid and liquid wastes for enhanced nutrient reuse and reduced contamination risk
- b. Establish improved food and income security through sustainable agro-enterprises
- c. Strengthen policy and decision making framework to integrate poverty reduction within urban natural resource management and planning.

It is on this basis that Environmental Alert¹ organized a National stakeholder's policy dialogue with an overall purpose of engaging 60 key stakeholders (including Local leaders, Councilors, Policy and Decision makers; Planners, Research, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations and Community) at local and national levels to elicit policy and practice changes on waste management and flood mitigation in Uganda. The theme for the stakeholders workshop is, *'proper waste management; an opportunity for income generation, clean and healthy environment.* Particularly, the workshop focus is to achieve the following specific objectives:

- I. To provide an opportunity for raising issues/implications of poor waste management and flooding on livelihoods and economic development;
- II. To share experiences on innovations and proven techniques/practices on proper waste management; and
- III. Action planning to address the issues of poor waste management and flooding by key stakeholders at various levels (Local and National)

Dialogue methodology

The dialogue was highly interactive and participatory giving opportunity different participants to air out their view, experiences and opinions regarding waste management and flood mitigation in the country. Particularly, involved relaying of audio visual presentations highlight key policy and practice issues and their implications to livelihood and economic development, experiences, challenges and recommendations in the context of waste management and flood mitigation and their implications to livelihood and economic development. These generally highlighted information and facts on waste management and flood mitigation thus stimulating further discussion among the participants. Furthermore, there was a market place to showcase innovation in waste management thereby comprehending the theories and principles highlighted in the paper presentations. These demonstrated that waste is wealth depending on how it is managed. Video documentary of the interaction was done and a news item was broadcasted on National Television for wider sensitization of the dialogue proceedings.

¹EA is a development Non Governmental Organization founded in 1988. Her vision is *'a poverty and hunger free society that is able to manage and sustain its natural resource base for attainment of sustainable livelihoods.'* EA implements are program activities in Kampala, Wakiso, Moyo, Adjumani, Yumbe, Sironko, Mubende and Kyenjonjo districts.

Workshop proceedings²

The dialogue was officiated as Chief Guest by Dr. Abel Rwendeire on behalf of the Chairman Board of Directors, National Planning Authority (NPA), Dr. Kisamba Mugerwa. A snap shop of the proceedings of the policy dialogue is presented as follows:

Remarks by Christine Nantongo, Executive Director, EA

She welcomed all participants to the dialogue and appreciated the chief guest for taking time to be part of the dialogue. She noted that the SNF project with the theme, 'Waste is Wealth' emphasizes a point that environmental burdens can be turned into livelihood benefits such as income generation while delivering a clean and healthy environment. In this regard, waste ceases to be something disgusting and turns into something positive. People who make good connection and good friendship with environmental hazards are also people who realize the value and positive aspects of natural resources and the environment. In these interventions, we want to see communities change.

She noted that there are currently a lot of uncoordinated, uninformed and unheard public voices on burdens due to poor waste management. On the policy and planning side, we do not see the matching momentum to catch up on the reality of challenges associated with poor waste management. Yet at community level, innovations that are available that create opportunities for positive transformation in community livelihoods through employment creation for youth, household income generation. In order to achieve this, policy and programs implementation should be participatory, facilitating and supporting (in form of technological and financial) community initiatives and innovations in waste management. However such initiatives and innovations should be economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally friendly. She challenged all participants to actively participate in the dialogue by sharing their views experiences/lessons and at the end come up with practical actions to address poor waste management and flooding in the country.

Official Opening Remarks by Dr. Abel Rwendeire,

He emphasized the myth among community and stakeholders of looking at waste as negative. Yet in reality, it can be turned into other products that are beneficial, thus the need to manage it through sorting, recycling and re-using. However, he noted that the re-cycling culture had not yet taken root in Uganda. For instance waste was not sorted as per category, e.g. organic, metal, soil, etc. *'Much as we would like to re-use waste, Ugandans have not learnt how to preserve it for this purpose.'* *'For example banana peels can be re-used to make charcoal brickquettes for cooking instead of using wood charcoal. In most cases, however, the banana peels are already mixed with polythene bags and other rubbish, thereby increasing the cost of making the prickets because the peels have to be separated from the bags.'*

Furthermore, he observed that the poor disposal use of polythene bags-kaveera continues to destroy the environment in Uganda. Given that they are not biodegradable, they prevent percolation of water into the soil, thus impeding proper plant growth. In addition, they increase heat in the soil and block water and sewage channels thus caused floods.

² Refer to annex for the program of the dialogue for more details

However, he noted that proper waste management of waste right from the homes was imperative. He challenged everybody in leadership positions e.g. the Local Council Leaders to advise their communities on how to manage waste appropriately.

Waste management is not a responsibility of one Organization but for the nation at large. He commended the multi stakeholder approach initiated through the SNF project involving academia, CSOs, researchers, KCC, and community as a good public-private sector partnerships which would enhance waste management in the country. He concluded by emphasizing that the approaches of wealth creation from waste should not only be financially viable, ecologically and socially acceptable but also be technologically appropriate. The role of NPA is to ensure that planning at local and national levels including local governments, urban authorities as well as the line ministries reflects best practices and support to waste management. He committed the NPA for integration of support to address waste management challenges into planning and budgeting at different levels including national and local).

The official opening remarks were followed by presentations as illustrated in Table 1. These stimulated discussion among participants and they provide a basis for coming up with practical actions for to address poor waste management and the associated implications on livelihood and economic development in Uganda (Table 2).

Presentation	Who
Keynote Address on the Workshop Theme, <i>'proper waste management; an opportunity for income generation, clean and healthy environment</i>	<i>Herbert Oule, NEMA</i>
Approaches, strategies and challenges to waste management and Flood mitigation; A case of KCC	<i>Gubya Phoebe, Environmental Officer, KCC</i>
An Overview of Sustainable Neighbors in Focus (SNF) Project	Dr. Shuaib Lwasa, Coordinator SNF, Urban Harvest
Community Testimonies on Proper Waste Management and Related Livelihood Benefits	Nadiope Mosses, Kasubi Local Community Development Association
Waste and Flood Burdens Management: Key Findings from Kasubi-Kawaala 'Poverty Hot Spot'	Mosses Makhoka, Makerere University
Economic Analysis of Health Impacts of Environmental Burdens: A Case of Kasubi, Kawaala, Bwaise II, and Makerere II	Dr. Shuaib Lwasa, Coordinator SNF, Urban Harvest
Waste Management in Uganda; Issues for Policy and Practice Change	Joshua Zake, Ag. Senior Program Officer, Environment and Natural Resources, Environmental Alert

Call for actions

Table 2. Practical actions to address poor waste management

Issue	Practical Actions	Key responsible stakeholders
1. Development plans at national and local levels have weak articulation of waste generation and associated challenges and practical strategies to address poor waste management	a. Integration of support to address waste management challenges into planning and budgeting at different levels including national and local	National Planning Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, Ministry of Local Government, Local Governments, Urban Authorities, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, CSOs (such as EA, UEPPF, NAPE and others)
2. Existing research gaps to harness technology/innovation development for waste management	a. Action research to address waste generation, management and associated challenges, actual amount of waste generated given the different categories of waste and value addition to innovations in waste management. b. Enhance information exchange among stakeholders through various forums and networking	Makerere University, Urban Harvest, CIAT, National Agricultural Research Organization, National Environment Management Authority, Environmental Alert, Community, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, Uganda National Council of Research & Technology, Makerere Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, Makerere Institute of Social Research, CSOs (such as EA, UEPPF, NAPE and others), Uganda Bureau of Statistics
3. Large amounts of waste are generated daily, yet highest percentage is biodegradable; only 41% is collected by KCC were as 51% is left uncollected	a. Companies that make use of waste as raw material (e.g. paper, glass) to be encouraged to set up in UG. b. Give opportunity and support local communities to manage waste through recycling programs to make various products out of waste for income generation c. Linking products (e.g. compost, charcoal briquettes...) from waste to markets d. Up scaling best practices and innovations in waste management	Urban Authorities, National Environment Management Authority, Uganda Investment Authority, URA, Urban Authorities, National Environment Management Authority, CSOs (such as EA, UEPPF, NAPE and others), All local governments
4. There is a limited sensitization of the public on issues of waste management, particularly on looking at waste as wealth and associated capacity to transform it into beneficial products	a. Sensitization through innovative means (print and electronic media) for dissemination and also towards a paradigm shift to look at waste as wealth	All local governments, NEMA, CSOs (such as EA, UEPPF, NAPE and others), Media houses (print, radio and television), Religious and Cultural Institutions
5. There is limited resource allocation to support waste management and flood mitigation programs at both national and local level.	a. Increase resource allocation to waste management particularly sorting, recycling and reusing of waste	NPA, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, Local Governments, Urban Authorities, Local leaders and Development

		Partners
6. Weak measures for monitoring environmental compliance to environmental standards and guidelines by the private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensuring compliance to environmental safe guards and standards b. Participatory community monitoring Advocacy 	<p>National Environment Management Authority</p> <p>Community</p> <p>CSOs</p>
7. Limited political obligation to ensure that policies concerning environment and natural resources management issues waste management inclusive	a. Political commitment for implementation of environment and natural resources policies and laws at all levels	Leaders at all levels (local and national)
8. Weak coordination and networking on issue of waste management	a. Strengthening coordination and networking on issues of waste management among stakeholders	NEMA, Line ministries, Sustainable Neighborhood in Focus project, CSOs

Box 1. About Environmental Alert

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in **1988 and this year (2018) marks 30 years** of contribution to improved livelihoods and development in Uganda through several interventions in sustainable agriculture, environment and natural resources management. EA is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

EA is a **1st prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.**

EA is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a Member of The IUCN National Committee for Uganda.

EA envisions, *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

EA's mission is to, *'Contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resources management'*

Program and institutional Components:

1. Environment and Natural resources management;
2. Food security and Nutrition;
3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
4. Finance and Administration;
5. Resource mobilization and Investment.

Scale of Implementation:

EA operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently EA's operations are in 20 districts across the country. EA undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements

EA is a Secretariat for following networks:

- a) The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network) - <http://enr-cso.org/>;
- b) Uganda Forestry Working Group - <http://ufwg.entalert.org/>;
- c) The Standards Development Group (for promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Uganda); and
- d) Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management (PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network) - <http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>.

Further information about Environmental Alert is available at: <http://entalert.org/>

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