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Rio Conventions Project

Project Title: Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Effective Implementation of Rio Conventions in Uganda

Project Description

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on behalf of GOU is implementing a 4-year GEF/ UNDP supported project in Uganda. This project is jointly implemented with a number of stakeholders including the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) in collaboration with other partners from government and non-government organizations. Additionally, NEMA works with civil society Organizations particularly Environmental Alert, ACODE and Nature Uganda. The project is also piloted in the Local governments of Kayunga, Buikwe, Jinja, Mukono and Wakiso.

The Rio Conventions implemented include United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The **project goal** is to strengthen institutional capacity for Rio Conventions implementation and environmental data and information management in Uganda to improve the reporting process to the Rio Conventions and ensure sustainable development through better design and enforcement of environmental policy.

Specific Objectives

i. Develop individual capacities and institutional frameworks in the NEMA, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and Ministry Water and Environment (MWE) for improved implementation of environmental impacts and trends for the elaboration of collaborative natural resources management.

ii. Enhance national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities.

iii. Strengthen institutional capacity for effective implementation and monitoring of the Rio Conventions in Uganda.

Project Components

Rio Conventions project is implemented through two components, namely;

1. Establishing a national institutional framework for environmental management, and
2. Development of coordinated information and data management system.

Project outcomes

These are three including;

i. Strengthened and elaborated institutional framework for managing natural resources and environment.

ii. Technical and management staff sufficiently trained in monitoring and data analysis and linkage to decision making.

iii. Improved system for managing data and ***information that supports monitoring*** the implementation of Rio Conventions established

Project Outputs

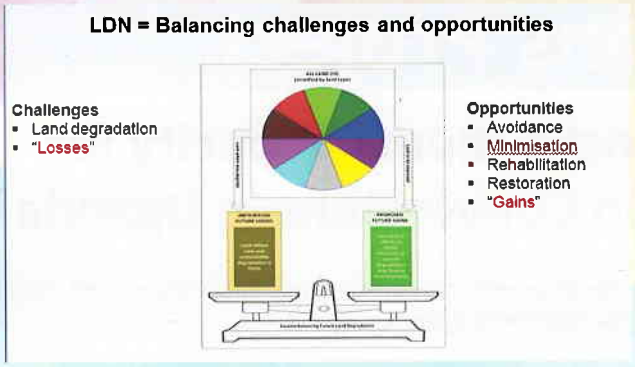
1. Output 1.1 Institutional capacity of the National Environment Management Authority to mobilize resources, and coordinate the implementation of priority environmental policies and strategies strengthened.
2. Output 1.2 Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved.
3. Output 1.3 Capacity of national and district actors to mobilize resources for implementing MEAs strengthened.
4. Output 2.1 Governments and districts' capacity for conventions monitoring and reporting developed.
5. Output 2.2 Awareness of global environmental values, issues, and commitments at decision-makers level raised.
6. Output 3.1 Data collection and exchange systems that cover needs of Rio Conventions established.
7. Output 3.2 Accessible and user-friendly national data clearinghouse, covering all three Rio Conventions, established.
8. Output 3.3 a set of indicators for environment monitoring and natural resources management supporting both global and national needs identified.
9. Output 3.4 Stakeholders' capacities to access, use and interpret the information built.

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

"a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems".

Planning for neutrality leverages the land use planning process.

LDN = Balancing challenges and opportunities



The fact that Natural resources contribute to 50 % GDP calls for the need to improve Land productivity in terms of: Supply food, feed, and fiber; and Delivery of ecosystem regulating, supporting and cultural services. Pressure on resources is foreseen as the country embarks on the national development agenda. There is therefore need for the proper use of land resources.

The role of land use plans is to ensure the proper use of land resources to meet the needs of the people while safeguarding resources for the future. The plan will address the need for change and improvement or an introduction of a different land use pattern.

Therefore land use planning assists land resource users in selecting land use options:

- that increase productivity
- that are sustainable
- that meet the needs of society

The concept of selecting land use options that together ensure zero net land degradation is handy in land use planning where decisions on interventions aim at a land degradation neutral situation.

The concept of "zero net land degradation" was proposed at the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and later reformulated as "strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world" and adopted as part of SDG target 15.3.

Land degradation neutrality (LDN) is "a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems".

Neutrality mechanism balance sheet ensures that overall, land use options add up to neutral or better. That is there is no net loss.

LDN achievement is monitored using land based indicators (Land cover, Land productivity, Soil organic carbon) which can also be used in the monitoring of implemented land use.

Example of a neutrality mechanism balance sheet

Neutrality Mechanism Balance Sheet (a hypothetical example for an administrative unit with multiple land types)	Land Area (ha)**
A. Proposed Future Gains (where increases in natural capital are anticipated)	
Degradation avoided	
Managed land to be protected and improved	50,000
Sub-total of proposed new actions to avoid land degradation and increase natural capital	50,000
Degradation reduced	
Unsustainable agriculture to be put under sustainable land management (SLM)	400,000
Unsustainable forestry to be put under sustainable forest management (SFM)	100,000
Other mitigation initiatives	100,000
Sub-total of proposed new actions to reduce land degradation	600,000
Degradation reversed	
Proposed restoration projects	125,000
Proposed rehabilitation projects	225,000
Sub-total of proposed new actions to reverse land degradation	350,000
A. Total Proposed Gains	1,000,000
B. Anticipated Future Losses (where natural capital is anticipated to decline)*	
Land management that may lead to a decline in natural capital	
Estimated new losses from unsustainable land management	400,000
Sub-total of anticipated new losses due to land management	400,000
Land use changes that may lead to a decline in natural capital	
Estimated conversion from natural vegetation to agriculture	200,000
Estimated conversion of natural and production lands to urbanization	200,000
Estimated conversion of natural and production lands to mining	50,000
Other land use change that could lead to degradation	50,000
Sub-total of anticipated new losses due to land use changes:	500,000
Non-anthropogenic and indirect anthropogenic losses	
Estimated losses from non-anthropogenic and indirect anthropogenic factors (e.g., wildfire, flood, drought)	100,000
Sub-total of non-anthropogenic and indirect anthropogenic losses	100,000
B. Total Anticipated Losses	1,000,000
C. Net loss or gain (A - B)	0