



Iyango Lucy
Assistant Commissioner
Ministry of Water and Environment
28TH NOVEMBER 2019
Esella Country Hotel

**Inadequate data to inform
decision making, policy
formulation and advocacy
within the Environment
and Natural Resources
subsector**

Preamble: What we need to know?

- **Environment** - circumstances or conditions that surround one (you and your surroundings)
- **Natural resources** - land, wetlands, forests, soils, fresh water, animals, plants, diverse mineral deposits and weather
- **Natural resource management** - mechanisms that ensure sustainable exploitation of resources
- Environment management cuts across all sectors and requires the participation of various actors/stakeholders

Preamble: What we need to know?

Environment and natural resources Management

Investments that exploit technical opportunities for environmental improvement and sustainability by promoting better protection, conservation or management of natural resources to enhance delivery of environmental services to different stakeholders. **Impacts are dependent on measures that improve stakeholder access to, and local control over the resource base and their knowledge about it..**

Preamble: What do we know?

Data

- facts or figure/statistics collected together for reference or analysis. It may be stored in or used in a computer
- Scientific data is information collected using specific methods for a specific purpose of studying and analyzing e.g. data collected in a lab

Information

- facts provided or learned about something or someone. It is knowledge received or given

Data - uses

The ENR sector in Uganda plays a key role in national development and it is critical that decisions are informed by data and information

- Quality data and statistics are essential to ensure accurate planning and policy formulation and advocacy. This involves having **basic indicators, baselines and the ability to use the indicators to collect and manage the data.**
- ENRS managers appreciate the need to have credible data, to justify/inform policy formulation and clarify sector concerns, including, proposal writing to mobilize/attract funding.

Key limitations

- Lack of legal framework on access to ENR data (general law on data sharing)
- Inadequate institutional mechanism for the dissemination of data between the data sources and potential users
- Limitation with regard to availability, quality, coherence, standardization, uniformity and accessibility to data, statistics and information leading to unreliability, non uniformity
- Limited technical expertise and specialized equipment. ENR data is unique and highly technical

Key limitations.....cont'd

- High costs of data collection and storage and dissemination
- Mandates, coordination, lack of dedicated staff/champions, motivation or enforcement – the ‘SILOS’ syndrome
- Job descriptions and capacity gaps/Ignorance
- - data collection is not one of the core activities for ENR staff
- ENR Performance Measurement Framework (PMF indicators)
 - ambitious, not practical/feasible, not relevant

Responses

Accordingly, several efforts have been attempted to define and implement frameworks to harness and compile the data. These include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Implementation of National Biomass Study (NBS) of 1990-1996
- Development of a Performance Measurement Framework (in 2010) with several indicators, these are periodically reviewed
- Formulation of relevant Joint Sector Review Undertakings (to date), tasking the managers to come-up with feasible data collection frameworks as well as actual baseline data, by 2014. Departmental Focal Point Officers appointed, to “populate” the indicators.
- The Environment Information Network (EIN) coordinated by NEMA
- The Rio Conventions Project (bring all data under the 3 Rios – Climate Change, CBD and Desertification under one docket and following the respective Conventions indicators;

Responses.....cont'd

- Development and dissemination of a number of sector and sub sector specific indicators and Performance Measurement Frameworks e.g. Water and Environment sector
- Efforts to develop a One Stop Data Center, beginning with a mini one under the Forest Landscapes programme
- Capacity development in Monitoring and Evaluation with a bias to data collection
- Creation of a Liaison Unit (the Water and Sanitation Sector Model).
- Development of different Data and Information Systems (Wetlands, Forests, Water management etc)

Responses.....cont'd

- Some ENR data can be accessed online through official websites and published reports
- Baseline data collection on specific ENR variables e.g. Biomass, wetlands and forests
- Awareness creation within the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and public sector is being done by various actors within the subsector

Status

To date:

- the quality and quantity of available data remains unsatisfactory (largely outdated and scanty);
- Data collection methods and needs are not harmonized;
- Baseline years have not been agreed upon;
- The silos syndrome

Opportunities

- The natural capital accounting Programme supported by the World Bank under the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem's Services (WAVES)
- Availability of funding opportunities e.g. GCF and FAO
- The cross cutting nature of the ENR sector makes it critical for the attainment of sustainable development
- Existing frameworks for data collection, storage and dissemination (starting point)
- Baselines for the different sub-sectors
- Development Partner interest to support the sector
- Interventions to bring the sector together (Sector Working Group and the Civil Society Organization ENR Consortium)

Recommendations

- Put in place legal framework to guide data and statistics collections and management in the sector
- Capacity building and strengthening
- Develop and harmonize the indicators for measuring all ENR variables

Recommendations

- Dissemination and training on use of the indicators that have already been developed
- Build capacity of local governments and private sector to participate in data collection and management

The Jinja Commitment

Commit to prioritise the Activity (short-run solution, next 6months)

- Identify the Champion & patron for the activity – the Permanent Secretary PS MWE) (TORs promote data importance awareness, demand results & whip incompliant elements. Strengthen Policy and Planning Department to assist the PS)
- Operationalize the ENR Liaison Department (one-stop data centre) and collection of data in technical departments.
- Agree minimum package/set of indicators to be delivered by the different Departments on a regular basis (Approval & monitoring of indicators by the SWG)
- Promote coordination of ENR data producers with MWE and “between MWE and other institutions then produce ENR data”
- Establish a Research and Development Desk

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!