

UGANDA

(iii) The Uganda Photovoltaic Pilot Project for rural Electrification

The Uganda Photovoltaic Pilot Project for rural Electrification (UPPPRE) project which was coordinated by the department of Energy aimed at popularizing the use of photovoltaics in the rural areas where the hydro-power grid has not reached. The following are some of the capacity building achievements of the project which could be relevant to the implementation of the UNFCCC:

- (i) Awareness was increased in rural areas among decision makers on environmental issues of energy use and the important role of the PV systems.
- (ii) Adequate capacity was built in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to promote, monitor and evaluate PV projects and review policies which promote the solar industry.
- (iii) National level solar based rural electrification policies were established.
- (iv) The capacity of institutions of higher learning to develop and implement curriculum for solar energy training was enhanced.
- (v) An NGO called Uganda Renewable Energy Association (UREA) was formed. and
- (vi) An investment plan to up-scale PV technology was prepared.

Although the project was not executed with climate change in mind, the above achievements can greatly contribute to the reduction in the consumption of wood fuel in the rural areas and thus result in GHG emission reduction and/or avoidance. The capacity gained from the project can also contribute to the formulation of CDM projects in this area.

- *Voluntary Initiatives for carbon sequestration*

No case study

- *Other relevant Projects*

The following are other projects which have been carried out in the field of climate change:

(i) *The Enabling Uganda Project*

The Enabling Uganda Project assisted Uganda to compile its First National Communication to the conference of the Parties. The Communication gives a comprehensive review of the current climate change situation in Uganda. The report points out further that although there are no policies in Uganda specifically designed to address climate change and the implementation of the Convention, several sectoral policies do provide a basis for addressing climate change concerns. It also notes that plans are in advanced stages to establish a climate change secretariat and to carry out a detailed assessment of National Adaptation Strategies.

The Communication states that Uganda committed itself to reduce illiteracy levels through the introduction of Universal Primary Education and Functional Adult Literacy Programme. High literacy levels will enable dissemination and assimilation of development information. This lays a foundation for disseminating environmental information, including climate change.

It further points out that effective implementation of the Convention depends on the level of awareness of the population at the various levels of society. Existing training programmes do not however include climate change. Incorporation of climate change issues into the education system will therefore ensure that young generations are well informed about climate change and its adverse effects. The project then advises that:

- a) Public awareness must therefore be an integral component of national programmes to address climate change and its adverse effects.
- b) Education and training must also be carried out to complement public awareness. It is therefore necessary that training and research institutions include climate change issues into their programmes.
- c) Methods of acquiring financial and technical assistance should be devised as lack of them remains the main barrier to education, training and public awareness.

(ii) *MISP Project on Opportunities for integrating four selected Conventions in the Planning Processes in Uganda.*

The Earth Council developed a prototype project titled “Multi-stakeholder Integrative Sustainability Planning (MISP) whose main objective was to develop, test and promote a multi-stakeholder planning methodology for integrating the key global environmental Conventions into national and local development planning Processes. In Uganda, the project considered the UNFCCC, CBD, CCD and the Ramsar Convention on Wetland use.

The project analysed the current planning process in Uganda in terms of their strengths, weaknesses and to what extent the national environmental concerns and the requirements of the global Conventions on Environment are integrated into the national development plans. It was observed that global environmental concerns are not explicitly addressed in Uganda at all levels, especially at the community level where development activities are implemented. This was mainly due the fact that:

- (i) there is inadequate understanding of the linkage between economic development at all levels and the environmental concerns, especially at local government and community levels; and
- (ii) there is inadequate participation of all stakeholders, most especially the grassroots communities who are supposed to be the primary beneficiaries in the planning processes.
- (iii) there is hardly any effort being taken to deliberately popularise the global conventions on environment.

The project advises among others that for the proper implementation of the UNFCCC and other environmental Conventions:

- (i) awareness on the importance of the UNFCCC on the environment should be raised at all levels;
- (ii) the capacities of planners, relevant stakeholders and the communities to understand and address climate change issues and develop plans that incorporate climate change issues should be built at all levels;
- (iii) Capacity to develop and implement formal and non-formal public education and awareness programmes relating to the global conventions on environment should be built so as to enable stakeholders to:

- Develop and disseminate awareness materials on the global conventions on environment,
 - Develop and implement training programmes on the global conventions on environment for the different interest groups such as civil society, the private sector and local communities,
 - Integrate issues of the global conventions on environment into extra-curricular activities, and
 - Integrate issues of the global conventions into the curricula of the formal education system.
- (iv) Develop capacity to initiate policies and laws which promote the integration of global conventions on environment into development plans.

(iii) *National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA)*

The NCSA project was implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and coordinated by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). It identified capacity needs for implementing the UNFCCC in Uganda. The project was funded by GEF and its main output was a prioritised list of capacity needs and a framework for addressing them. The specific objectives of the NCSA project were to:

- Identify gaps and priority areas for capacity building at various levels in the global environmental Conventions,
- Help implement the global conventions on environment
- Identify gaps and overlaps across the conventions activities so that synergies can be built upon.
- Develop strategic activities for addressing the capacity gaps.

The results revealed that the scope of environment integration in the current regulatory and policy framework is limited. This is also true for the ENR institutions, which is a sign of low awareness on climate issues and more so, climate change and the UNFCCC.

Aspects of conservation and sustainable management resources like; water, soil, minerals, air and the ecology in light of socio-economic development are specifically reasonably addressed, but with no intimate linkage with the climate resource.

The situation is even worse with academic and research organisations whose knowledge on conventions is presumably very limited. This is definitely an omission because these institutions are major extension centres.

The main attributes to this scenario include:-

- Inadequate recognition of ENR by the Finance Ministry, leading to limited budgetary provision.
- Lack of mainstreaming guidelines for the climate issues.
- Low awareness on climate change convention at all levels as well as institutional roles or contributions.
- Poor co-ordination and consultative approaches during policy reviews and formulation process.
- Low technical capacity on the climate change convention
- Lack of investment plan for the Department of Meteorology leading to poor finding and therefore not able to play the full co-ordination role for the other institutions.
- Lack of monetised economic benefits of the climate resource to the sectoral socio-economic activities and the national economy in general.

Therefore several proposals were floated as potential remedies to the situation. These include:

- The ENR Sector SWAP process should be finalised to ensure balanced funding of the sectoral activities.
- Increased capacity building through awareness campaigns on climate change at all levels.
- Adequate consultations should always be made during policy, laws and regulation reviews and formulations.
- Climate issues, like gender and HIV/AIDS should be taken as cross-cutting and mainstreaming guidelines should be developed.
- UNFCCC concerns should be made requirements for Environment Impact Assessments.
- Measures to promote mitigation and adaptations vis-à-vis the convention requirements should be supported.
- Networking in research especially on Adaptation and mitigation technologies should be supported.