



Session 2b: Environmental, Social and Cultural Issues Affecting ESDM In the East Africa Region and Tanzania



GEMS Environmental Compliance-
ESDM Training Series

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Promoting Sustainable Development in the EA Community Partner States

- Environment and Natural Resources Protocol on the Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin, signed on 29th November 2003;
- Convention for the Establishment of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, signed on 30th June 1994;
- The Regional Trans Boundary Environment Assessment Guidelines for Shared Ecosystems in East Africa;
- EAC Climate Change Policy, Strategy and E Africa Climate Change Master Plan (2011 – 2030).

Examples of Deficits in Environmental Sound Design and Management (ESDM) and Social/Cultural Linkages

Illegal and unsustainable deforestation

- 5.86 million hectares Tanzania's forests lost to deforestation and degradation between 2000 - 2015. 10% of country's forests overall
- Unsustainable charcoal production, shifting cultivation and illegal timber trading
- 1990's charcoal from a radius of 60 km around Dar es Salaam, but late 90's radius grew to about 300 kilometers



Factors

- *Lack of skill to manage resources sustainable*
- *People depend on wood and agricultural residues for their energy needs.*
- *Shifting cultivation and slash-and-burn agriculture belief.*
- *Poverty*

Overgrazing

- Large cattle size and many goats may be a blessing for farmers or serious problem
- Causes of soil erosion and siltation to rivers.
- E.g. challenges for Maasai overgrazing their land in Serengeti-Rift Valley area



Factors:

- *Lack of grazing land*
- *Population growth*
- *Improper land use*
- *Drought or low precipitation*

Pollution

- Solid and liquid wastes often untreated in urban/rural areas.
- Dar es Salaam sewage system problem. The few sewage systems that exist expel their waste directly into the ocean, affecting marine habitats and the species.
- Keko Mwanga B - a very heavily populated area of Dar es Salaam
- Air and water contamination results in health hazards (esp. for poor)



Factors

- *Population growth.*

Unsustainable Agricultural Practices

- Use of pesticides, wasteful water use, farming along river banks

Impacts

- *Groundwater contamination;*
- *Algae growth reducing oxygen and creating dead zones;*
- *Air pollution; associated health effects;*
- *Land degradation*



HEALTH EXAMPLE: HIV & AIDS

- HIV & AIDS is a common problem in the EAC partner states and seriously hinders socio economic development, and have enviro impacts.

Impacts of HIV & AIDS

- Reduction of a productive labour force
- Poverty (when those in the productive age get sick or die and their children are left under the care of elderly parents)
- More vulnerable children, which further increases the risks
- High cost of treatment, which further impoverishes families
- Increases country's health burden
- Medical waste issues; enviro impact on compromised population

Social/cultural factors affecting HIV prevalence

Women have a higher HIV prevalence than men at each age group. Overall, **5.1%** of Tanzanians age 15-49 are HIV-positive

Factors:

- Polygamy & widow inheritance
- Vulnerability of young girls especially in areas where traditional early marriages are practiced.
- Poverty and food insecurity
- Literacy levels
- Widespread use of alcohol and substance abuse.
- Sexual behaviors

Poor Access to Water and Sanitation

Limited access to sufficient/clean water: environmental, social and cultural.

- Pollution (including siltation);
- Agriculture: over-extraction in upstream leaves downstream communities with no water, especially during the dry season;
- Open defecation, still common in parts of the region, contaminates water with disease pathogens;
- Implementing water & sanitation projects without an understanding of the social cultural issues have led to some of the facilities being disused;
- Distribution of surface and ground water resources are skewed, thus affecting access (e.g., in the arid and semi arid regions).

Success Story: Integrating Socio-Cultural Issues in NRM



Forest conservation and the Hadzabe

- Hadzabe, the last of Tanzania's hunter/gather communities.
- The Hadza, whose culture can be traced back 40,000 years, lost about 90% of their traditional homelands.
- Pressure from Sakuma farmers and Datooga pastoralists, or herders.
- The Hadza needed a plan to conserve the natural resource base
- Slow deforestation in the Yaeda Valley
- Carbon Tanzania -Developed REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) project to protect their 40,000 year old culture.
- REDD+ is promoted as a success story in narratives about taking actions to mitigate climate change.

The Situation Today

- The CCRO (Customary Rights of Occupancy) serves as the first-ever land-use plan for the Hadza. Land use and ownership rights to the forest resources are secure.
- The CCRO has designated rights for different community user groups – the hunters, the farmers, and the pastoralists
- The REDD-based land-use plan now covers more than 27,000 hectares
- Plan Vivo standard, at least 60% of revenues from the carbon sales go directly to the community.



The Situation Today cont...

- REDD payments reach the Hadza through M-PESA, a mobile phone money transfer system used widely in Tanzania
- 21,550,000 Tanzania shillings (about \$10,200 USD) from carbon offset sales between May and October of 2014
- Money is used for wages of 20 scouts that patrol the protected area, gathering data, documenting any illegal poaching or land incursions and for food, school fees and medical expenses.
- Communities have seen the value of environmental conservation and are able to earn money by conserving nature
- SMART ENVIRO PROGRAM HELPS LIVELIHOODS AND HEALTH (less deforestation, better health from not burning as much charcoal)



Way Forward in Achieving ESDM

- Strengthen short & long term planning and integration at the national level;
- Implement national land use plans (where they exist);
- Strengthen EIA and Strategic Environmental Assessments processes;
- Build stakeholder capacity to implement ESDM throughout the project cycle;

Way Forward in Achieving ESDM

- Strengthen monitoring and enforcement of laws, regulations and codes of practice that enhance ESDM;
- Promote activities that provide alternative livelihoods to ease dependence on land & land based resources;
- Strengthen transboundary management of shared resources;
- Raise awareness about ESDM principles.



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