Regional Workshop for East Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP)
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Management of Transboundary Ecosystems at the Regional Level

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Outline and Content

1. Shared Ecosystems of Eastern Africa
2. Constraints and Challenges
3. Regional Trans-boundary Management Efforts
4. Recommendations

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Shared Ecosystems in East Africa

Terrestrial Ecosystems

• Mt. Kilimanjaro (TZ/KE)- highest Mt in Africa;
• Mt. Elgon (KE/UG);
• The Eastern Arc Mountain Forests (Taita and Pare Hills in KE/TZ);
• Mara-Serengeti (KE/TZ)-wildebeest migration;
• Kajiado – Moduli dry lands (KE/TZ);
Terrestrial Ecosystems

• Loima – Moroto dryland mountains (KE/UG);
• The low-lying savannas of Amboseli - Loliondo, Tsavo West National Park (KE/TZ);
• Mkomazi/Umba Game Reserve between (KE/TZ);
Aquatic Ecosystems

• The Lake Victoria Basin-Africa’s largest lake (KE/UG/TZ);
• Lake Tanganyika, “aquatic biodiversity hotspot”, (TZ/BR/ZM/DRC) -2nd longest and 2nd deepest lake in the world found in the Albertine Rift;
• Minziro-Sango Bay Swamp Forest (UG/TZ) along the shores of Lake Victoria;
• Lake Malawi-TZ /Mozambique;
• Lake Jipe and Chala (KE/TZ); Lake Kivu (BR/RW);
Aquatic Ecosystems

• The Western Indian Coastal and Marine Ecosystem (KE/TZ);
• Numerous Rivers including the longest river in the world- R. Nile (10 riparian states in Great Lakes Region; Kagera etc)
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Constraints and Challenges

• Socio-Political: policy, legal and institutional Frameworks; administrative & geographical;
• Socio-Economic: emerging development;
• Socio-Ecological: human & natural induced environmental degradation and CLIMATE CHANGE
• Implementation and Management
Socio-Ecological

• Climate change- a leading global threat to management of trans-boundary ecosystems with severe regional implications

• Environmental degradation (point and non-point source pollution from riparian industries and agriculture, deforestation, NR overutilization, proliferation of invasive plants/ alien species, drainage of wetlands, eutrophication, siltation etc )

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What is Climate Change?

- Climate change- changes in climatic conditions attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of global atmosphere, in addition to natural climate variability.
- Climate variability-seasonal shifts in mean climatic conditions such as temperature and precipitation.
- Indicators of CC- rainfall, temperature, sea level.
- Impacts of CC- extreme events and their associated impacts.
Scientific Evidence: IPCC’s AR4

- Coastal systems & low-lying areas in mega deltas of Africa: coastal erosion, loss of habitats due to CC and SLR, coastal inundation
- Marine: Warmer ocean temperature may result to changes in composition, abundance and distribution of flora and fauna species
- Wetlands: SLR and human development will result to the loss of coastal wetlands and mangroves
- Freshwater: Riverine and lake flooding due to increased frequency and intensity of rainfall
- Mountainous: glacial retreat
- Entire ecosystem may undergo an imbalance due to disruption of food chain
Climate Change

• Global warming of 2-3°C above pre-industrial levels is catastrophic

• Climatic variability and extreme events associated with ENSO (El-Nino and La Nina)- floods and droughts

• Ecosystem's resilience has been overstretched leading to multiple impacts such as biodiversity (20-30%) and ecosystem/habitat loss, natural resource based conflict (human and human-wildlife) etc
Sensitivity Factors

- Overreliance on natural resource
- Poverty
- Disease burden
- Population pressure
Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks

• Lack of harmonized CC policies, laws and regulations & guidelines/ inconsistency in sectoral policies
• Uncoordinated institutional efforts/ conflicting institutional mandates, roles and responsibilities, administrative and bureaucratic procedures
• Weak institutional capacities (technical and financial) at both national and regional level
• Weak public awareness and participation in decision making
Implementation and Management

• Inadequate financial and technical resources at national authorities
• Tendency towards top-down management leading to exclusion of communities resulting to conflicts
• Poor implementation culture and weak enforcement of laws
• Limited policy implementation authority and capacities for regional organizations
Regional Management Efforts

Policy, Legal and Institutional Interventions

• Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management (2006) - 17 Articles-trans-boundary resources, biological diversity, forests, wildlife, tourism, water, wetlands, coastal and marine, fisheries, genetic, biosafety, mountains, land, Env. Impact Assessment, desertification, climate change

• Regional Climate Change Policy (2011), Strategy and Master Plan under preparation
Policy and Institutional Interventions

• In view of regional and international conventions/treaties

- Treaty for Establishment of the EAC (1999);
  -(Articles: 111; 112; 114; 115; and 116)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITIES)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of Int. Importance for Water Fowl Habitats
Policy and Institutional Interventions

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)-Article 2
- UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD)
- Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations-illegal trade in wild fauna and flora;
Policy, Legal and Institutional Interventions

- Development of Trans-boundary Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Shared Ecosystems in EAC (2005)
- 14 areas (water, fisheries, wetlands, forests, wildlife, tourism)
- Establishment of Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
Policy, Legal and Institutional Interventions

- Shared Vision and Strategy Framework for LVB and Operational Strategy for LVBC- 5 thematic themes including ecosystems
  
  • Establishment of Lake Tanganyika Basin Authority
  
  • Establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative
Programmes and Projects

• Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP II)-rehabilitation of Lake Victoria Ecosystem
• Mount Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Programme (MERECP)-conservation and development needs in Mt. Elgon ecosystem
• Trans-boundary Water for Biodiversity in the Mara River Basin- promote harmonization of sustaintainable management practices in the of Mara River Basin
Programmes and Projects

• The Lake Victoria Basin Biodiversity Informatics (LAVIBI) Project;
• Strategy and Action Plan for the Control of Water Hyacinth and Other Invasive Aquatic Weeds (1998)
• Addressing climate change challenges in Lake Victoria
Recommendations

• Foster regional cooperation in implementation of regional and international conventions and treaties
• Harmonization of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks
• Enhancing public awareness through communication and public participation in decision making
• Development of joint trans-boundary ecosystem conservation & management programmes and projects;
• Conducting climatic risk assessment
Recommendations

• Integrated Trans-boundary Ecosystem Management (ITEM)- land use planning, payment for ecosystem services
• Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
• Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (Ecosystem Based Adaptation)
• Climate change mitigation potential (afforestation, reforestation, REDD+)
• Consideration of principles of sustainable development; equitable utilization of NR in shared ecosystems; and precautionary principle and EIA and Audits in programme and project development and implementation
Recommendations

• Promoting sustainable economic development e.g. ecotourism
• Institutional capacity building
• Enhancing public awareness through communication and community participation
• Increased investment by development partners, donors and national governments
Thank You!

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