ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF IMARISHA NAIVASHA

By Anderson Koyo

Present situation of the Lake Naivasha Basin

- Land fragmentation and subdivision to small uneconomical units with consequences on biodiversity and economic productivity;
- Naivasha Municipality lacks a strategic development plan leading to unplanned urban developmentincluding emergence of informal settlements in the basin;
- Poor-ineffective solid waste management systems
- Poor effluent/ sewage treatment systems
- Deforestation and loss of land cover leading to changed hydrological flow regimes

Current situation....cont...

- Siltation and sedimentation of the water bodies-Lake, Rivers and Streams
- Over-abstraction and out of basin transfer of water leading to reduced river flows
- Degradation and loss of riparian vegetation buffer zones surrounding the lake and along the rivers
- Lake water polluted, with high turbidity and low oxygen content;

Present situation.....cont....

- Invasive species e.g. water hyacinth;
- Declining fish stocks and livestock and income from the sectors;
- Threatened biodiversity with vegetation no longer supporting a large number of herbivores;
- The ecosystem is no longer capable of servicing and sustaining the lake and its natural habitats;

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- Responsible for Restoration and Promotion of Sustainable Development in the Lake Naivasha basin
- Develop a five (5) years Development Plan through a participatory process involving all sector.
- The Plan shall be used as a framework for guiding the restoration and sustainable development processes by all stakeholders.

KEY FUNCTIONS OF IMARISHA NAIVASHA

- Imarisha has created an added value as well as a unique and special position that no other organization is able to deliver on at present.
- Imarisha Naivasha is a management Board with responsibility for Coordination and not an Implementing Agency.
- The Project implementing organizations are required to present their projects/programs to Imarisha for adoption and provide progress reports to the Board.

Hence, elaborated Imarisha Functions include:

- Convening power/authority—All NRs management institutions convened to review policies/legislations to be in conformity with the new Kenyan Constitution.
- Bring all key stakeholders together for an Integrated Planning & NRs management in the basin.
- Establish an enabling environment in the basin for Networking, collaboration, conflict resolution and harmonization of various interests as well as linkages with the County and National governments as well as at global levels

Functions---Continue

- Collaborate with all stakeholders, including research institutions and promote their active participation in the Imarisha program.
- Undertake advocacy at all levels for the right actions on policies, legislation, good practice, standards, resource allocation and decision making

FunctionsContinued

- Promote open information sharing systems (depository of Database and Information) to support communication, debates, networking and accessibility to all stakeholders.
- Exercise Gate Keeper authority to ensure transparency, accountability and right actions by all stakeholders
- Bench marking sustainable development standards-and codes of conducts and ethics on natural NRs

Functions.....Continued

- Adopt Projects and Programs being implemented or proposed and developing strategies of coordination and delegation in consultation with stakeholders.
- Monitor compliance with the laws and regulations governing the environment of the lake and its catchment in collaboration with relevant Ministries/agencies
- Report on a quarterly basis to the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee and seek guidance on policy and technical matters from the committee

Structure of the Board

- BOARD comprises of representatives of Public-Private sector-Community organizations under the framework of PPPP partnership—for sustainable development.
- Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee—
 Permanent secretaries of thirteen relevant ministries (policy and technical back-up to the Board)
- District Technical Committees (GoK, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations) -- Coordination and Technical support to Imarisha).
- Special Projects Coordination Units—as necessary

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BOARD SO FAR:

- Establishment of the Imarisha Secretariat
- Creation of awareness to secure public support for Imarisha
- Draft five (5) years Development Plan
- Identification of local and international partners
- Inventory of on-going programs and projects in the basin
- Resource Mobilization locally and Internationally

Achievements so far.

- Tree-planting in the basin in partnership with MEMR and local community organizations
- Restoration of the Naivasha sewerage treatment plant
- Design of a Constructed wetland next to the conventional treatment works
- Preparation to undertake strategic
 Environmental assessment of the Malewa delta as part of the Global Delta Alliance activities in Kenya.

Requirements

- Capacity building- Imarisha structural organs to discharge their mandates
- Logistics- for Co-ordination : Database & Information mgt system, Transport, Communication system, Information dissemination
- Technical staff with expertise in Planning, Information management, Resource mobilization, Communication, Monitoring and Reporting
- Operational costs of the secretariat