



THE GULU INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Facilitating Gulu's economic growth through sustainable solid waste and water resources management

Gulu in Northern Uganda is one of the country's fastest growing cities, with an annual population growth rate of approx. 2.8%. As the city continues to grow, so does the amount of solid waste and the degree of catchment degradation. Yet, Gulu City's young waste and natural resource management system is unable to deal with increasing pressures. Particularly, the water resources are increasingly polluted by plastic and organic waste. This is aggravated by the diminishing water holding capacity of the existing wetlands. Gulu City lies within the Albert Nile and Aswa Catchments of the Upper Nile Water Management Zone. Both catchments are characterized by high vulnerability to dry spells. Changing climate conditions of the last years have led to the drying-up of the Oyitino valley dam and the associated streams, which serve as main water source for the city. The accelerating rate of wetland degradation poses an additional threat to their provisioning, regulating and supporting ecosystem services to the City's businesses and population.

STEWARDSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN GULU CITY

Natural resources stewardship means that all users of natural resources take responsibility for the shared resources nobody owns but everybody relies on. Forming partnerships, public sector, private companies and civil society work together on eye-level to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.

The scale and complexity of natural resources-related challenges affecting Gulu means that individual action remains limited in its effectiveness. Developing long-lasting solutions to tackle environmental degradation and protect the natural resources, representing the basis for Gulu's economic development, requires joint efforts. Natural resources stewardship represents a way to tackle such challenges in the long term.

A PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN GULU CITY

The partnership unites the public sector, namely the Ministry of Water and Environment-Upper Nile Water management Zone and Gulu City Council, the private sector with National Water and Sewerage Corporation and Takataka Plastics as well as the civil society organisation Community, Empowerment, Education, Development Uganda (CEED).



Oyitino dam - Gulu City's main source of water is experiencing siltation and significant dry spells. © GIZ/Elena Barth



Duration	2021- ongoing
Partners	<p>Government institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) - Upper Nile Water Management Zone Gulu City Council (GCC) National Water and Sewerage Corporation <p>Private sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takataka Plastics <p>Civil Society Organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community, Empowerment, Education, Development (CEED)
Objective	To promote Gulu City's economic growth through sustainable solid waste and water resources management
Partner contributions (financial or in-kind)	EUR 4.180 in-kind contributions to partnership activities in addition to staff time and provision of meeting locations

They collaborate to promote Gulu's economic growth through sustainable solid waste and water management, by reducing the amount of solid waste entering the environment and securing the quality and quantity of the city's main water source.

Cities, as engines of economic growth, are also significant producers of pollution contaminating natural resources. The partnership aims to demonstrate that sustainable management of waste and water can create job opportunities, attract investments into the city and improve peoples' livelihoods.

PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

Objectives:

- Reducing organic and plastic waste entering the environment through retooling of existing and establishment of new recycling hubs
- Reducing threats to both water quality and availability in Oytino 1 and Oytino 2 micro-catchments
- Creating awareness among citizens for a sustainable management of plastic and organic waste and promote behaviour change in Gulu City
- Improving capacity of public and private sector actors to collectively address solid waste management challenges in Gulu city

Results:

Through the partnership, 7.051 jobs have been created/safeguarded, while EUR 170.000 in investments have been safeguarded. This has been achieved through following activities:

- Trained solid waste recycling hubs, service providers and selected micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) on operational health, safety and business skills development
- GCC waste handlers trained in basic public health and waste management skills and provided with protective equipment

- Provision of technical and financial support to CEED Uganda and Takataka
- Provision of support to GCC and partners (protective equipment and laptops) to guarantee service continuity
- Improved evidence basis on recycling potential due to a baseline survey on solid waste management in Gulu City



200 waste handlers, many of whom women, were trained on safe waste collection and provided with protective equipment under the partnership. © CEED Uganda

„Through the trainings on Occupational Health and Safety, coupled with best waste collection practices and subsequent certification of our partners by NEMA, Gulu City will have one of the best solid waste systems in the country“

Michael Rubanga, Acting Principle Health Inspector at GCC

ABOUT NATURES

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NatuReS has so far contributed to creating or safeguarding 40.000 jobs and investments worth EUR 178 million through 14 currently active partnerships.

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