



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 the main water sources 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 often 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 these challenges collectively across sectors in the long term.

A PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN GULU CITY

Partners collaborate to promote Gulu's economic growth by reducing the amount of solid waste entering the environment and securing the quality and quantity of the city's main water source. They jointly aim at establishing a sustainable solid waste and water management system, which forms the basis for sustainable economic development and improved livelihoods, while protecting the environment.



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	Promote Gulu City's economic growth through sustainable solid waste and water resources management
Partner contributions (financial or in-kind)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EUR 4.180 in-kind contributions to partnership activities in addition to staff time and provision of meeting locations Staff time and provision of meeting locations

IMPACTS

Improved solid waste management, preventing waste from polluting the environment achieved by:

- Staff at six solid waste recycling hubs trained in operational, health and safety (OHS) standards, as well as business development, enabling them to expand their businesses and enhance their recycling capacity while adhering to rules and regulations
- Five solid waste collection companies supported with acquiring certification from the National Environment Management Agency (NEMA), enabling them to formalize their businesses and expand their operations
- Four youth groups supported with seed funding, enabling them to pilot their ideas, like making bricks from recycled plastic waste, reducing pollutant in the city
- Development of a solid waste collection app managed by Gulu City Council which connects waste generators and collectors, enhancing data availability and efficiency of waste management in the city
- Provision of recycling machinery such as crushers and bailers to of PET recycling hubs thereby increasing efficiency and operational capacity
- 200 waste handlers trained in public health and waste management practices and supported with personal protective equipment, ensuring the safety of staff and the continuity of waste collection services

Protected water sources to guarantee for a reliable availability and quality of water resources in Gulu through the following activities:

- Ten water sources cleaned and protected through nature-based solutions in five villages of the Oytino micro-catchment, located outside of Gulu City
- 272 households supported with a total of 38.000 fruit and wood tree seedlings for the restoration of forty hectares bare and degraded land managed by local farmers
- 15 km of Oytino riverbank stabilized and demarcated with mahogany and bamboo
- Established a Community Environment Conservation Fund to incentivise restoration of the micro-catchment. It allows community groups access capital to venture into alternative livelihood options that allow natural regeneration of the catchment.

- Formed the Oytino Micro-Catchment Management Committee and inducted members on their roles and responsibilities. The committee continuously ensures the implementation of the priority activities under the water source protection implementation plan for the micro-catchment.
- Through these activities, partners have safeguarded/created 7.031 jobs, and safeguarded more than EUR 95.000 in investments.



Youth-led start-ups, supported by the partnership, display products from recycled plastics at an Innovation Exhibition in Gulu City. Among them for example bricks from upcycled plastic waste that can be used to build walls for the protection of water sources. © CEED Uganda

“We feel our voice is being heard. By developing the partnership action plan, activities have been implemented together consultatively in a coordinated manner and grey areas that could’ve existed have been cleared.”
Bernard Loum, CEED Uganda

ABOUT NATURES

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NatuReS is active in Ethiopia, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. It has so far contributed to creating or safeguarding more than 72.000 jobs and investments worth more than EUR 232 million through 14 currently supported partnerships.

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Registered offices in Bonn & Eschborn, Germany

Luthuli Avenue 128, P.O. Box 10346 Kampala, Uganda

Contact:

Anna Pamberg
Country Coordinator Uganda
Natural Resources Stewardship Programme

E anna.pamberg@giz.de
I www.giz.de
W <https://nature-stewardship.org/>

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