



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE DRAFT EAC REGIONAL  
INTEGRATED POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (PHE)  
STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK (2015 - 2020)**

**IMPERIAL ROYALE HOTEL, KAMPALA, UGANDA  
13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2015  
REPORT OF THE MEETING  
(REF: EAC/HEALTH/-----/2015)**

**EAC Secretariat,  
EAC Headquarters Complex  
P.O. Box 1096,  
Arusha, Tanzania.  
April 2015**

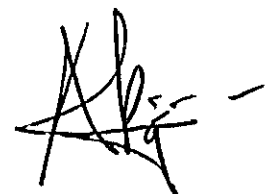
## 1.0 Introduction

In Sub-Saharan, poverty and demographic pressures are the underlying causes of land degradation, fresh water and biodiversity loss, food insecurity and poor health as well as the ever-increasing vulnerability of both the population and the environment to climatic instability. Valuable ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, arable land systems, lowlands and high mountains have been losing critical biodiversity at an unprecedented rate. This has been compounded by the rapidly increasing human population density and the impact of population pressures. The importance of slowing down the population growth rate through family planning cannot be over emphasized. Current efforts and recourses to redress these threats are being wasted through implementation of vertical programmes and lack of cross-sectoral integration and coordination.

The 28th Ordinary Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers approved the implementation of Population Health and Environment (PHE) activities in 2013 as a Multi - Sectoral mechanism of addressing inter-linked population, health, environmental and broader development challenges. This position was re-echoed by the 9th Ordinary meeting of the EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health held from 14-17 April 2014, which directed the EAC Secretariat to develop an EAC Regional Population, Health and Environment Strategy (2015-2020).

### 1.1. Convening of the Meeting

The Uganda National Consultative Meeting to discuss and provide country comments to inform development of the EAC Regional Integrated Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Strategy and Implementation Framework (2015 - 2020) was held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala Uganda. The meeting was convened in accordance with the report and recommendations of the meeting to draft the "EAC Regional Integrated Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Strategy and Implementation Framework (2015 - 2020)" that was held from 18 to 22 August, 2014 at Nairobi Safari Club, Nairobi Kenya.



## **1.2. Constitution of the Bureau**

In accordance with the EAC Rules of Procedure, the meeting was chaired by **Mr. Amutenda Salvatore, Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Republic of Uganda** while **Ms. Rosemary Waya Mugeni, Assistant Commissioner Policy Analysis, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports, Republic of Uganda** was the rapporteur, assisted by the EAC Secretariat.

## **1.3. Participation**

The technical experts from the Republic of Uganda who that participated in this National Consultative Meeting included:-

Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Ministry of Health, Office of the Prime Minister, National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda Wild life Authority, Population Secretariat, Pathfinder International, Ecological Christian Organisation and Conservation Through Public Health-Uganda.

The meeting was jointly facilitated by EAC Secretariat, the African Institute for Development Policy and in country experts. The list of participants is hereto attached as **Annex I**

## **1.4. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of the Meeting**

The Agenda and Programme of the Meeting were presented and adopted and are hereby attached as **Annex II** respectively.

## **1.5. Opening Remarks**

### **Welcome remarks by the Chairperson**

**Mr. Amutenda Salvatore, Ministry of East African Affairs, Republic of Uganda** Ministry of EAC affairs, Republic of Uganda welcomed the participants to the National Consultative Meeting to discuss and provide country comments to inform the development of the EAC Regional Integrated Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Strategy and Implementation Framework (2015 - 2020). He thanked the participants for taking time off their busy schedules to participate in the important exercise of reviewing the PHE Strategy. He emphasised that PHE was an approach that was gaining momentum at the national and regional level and therefore the forum was important for the Republic of



Uganda to provide their inputs on the document. He hoped that the meeting would have fruitful deliberations.

### **Official Opening by EAC Secretariat**

**Dr. Rogers Ayiko, Principal Health Systems and Policy Officer, EAC Secretariat** thanked all the delegates for attending the meeting. He informed the meeting that the 9th Ordinary meeting of the EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health as well as the 7<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Population Health and Environment directed the EAC Secretariat to develop an EAC Regional Population, Health and Environment Strategy (2015-2020). He stated that the decision was due to the increased need for the EAC to have an overarching strategy that incorporates Population Health and Environmental issues in the region beyond the interventions currently being carried out in the lake Victoria Basin by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission. The fact that PHE had gained traction within the EAC and had attracted the interest of many stakeholders indicated its significance. He requested the meeting to provide candid feedback on the draft strategy that would move the PHE agenda forward.

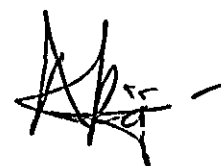
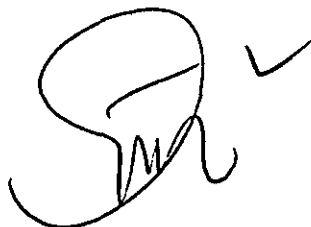
### **2.0 Overview of the objectives of the meeting and the Draft Population, Health and Environment Strategy -PHE (2015-2020)**

Dr. Rogers Ayiko, Principal Health Systems and Policy Officer, EAC Secretariat presented the objectives of the meeting and the draft PHE Strategy

#### **2.1. Objectives of the Meeting**

The main objective of the meeting was to:-

- i). Review and provide comments to update the draft PHE Strategy and Implementation Framework (2015 - 2020)**
- ii). Provide an in-depth situational analysis on the status of implementation of PHE interventions to inform the objectives and the strategic interventions of the draft PHE Strategy and Implementation Framework (2015 - 2020).**



## **2.2. The objectives of the Draft PHE Strategy**

The objectives of the PHE strategy as outlined in Chapter 3.4 were as follows:

### **3.4.1 Overall Objective**

The overall objective is to contribute towards sustainable development in the EAC region through the integration of population, health and environment.

### **3.4.2 Specific Objectives**

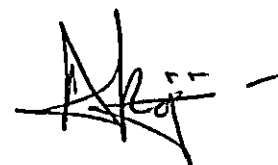
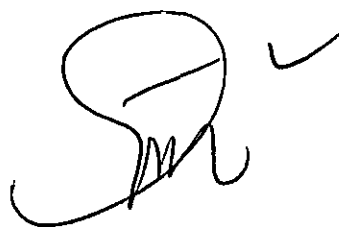
The specific objectives of the EAC Integrated PHE Strategy are:

- i. To champion PHE integration at regional, national and sub-national levels;
- ii. To promote cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships for PHE integration in EAC Partner States;
- iii. To strengthen institutional and technical capacity to implement integrated PHE activities in EAC Partner States and link with country led initiatives;
- iv. To mobilize resources for PHE activities;
- v. To strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of PHE interventions in the region;

## **3.0 Consideration and Review of the Draft PHE Strategy on Population Health and Environment**

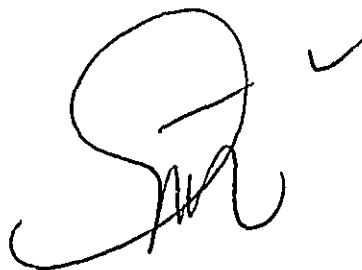
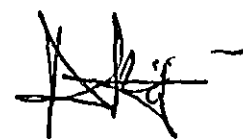
### **3.1. General Comments on the Chapter 1: Introduction**

1. The strategy should include Urban and Rural Ecosystems and specify areas of intervention in the rural and urban ecosystems
2. There is need to describe the linkages between Poverty with environmental degradation, health and population growth
3. The LVB ecosystems in upstream and downstream are different as well as the intervention activities in the two areas, this need be included in the strategy
4. The key PHE issues in East Africa in general not limited to the Lake Victoria Basin should be incorporated in the strategy including ecological hotspots like Semi-Arid and Arid areas in the region



### 3.2. General Comments on Chapter 2: Situation Analysis

1. Situational analysis should be beefed up in general for more in-depth understanding of PHE
2. The Situation analysis should include a status on
  - a. Policy legal frameworks supporting PHE – situational country specific frameworks including governance structure – vertical versus devolved systems
  - b. Environmental status in the EAC Region to include forest cover, wetland cover, forest cover degradation rates, over-farming, over-fishing
3. Situational analysis should give challenges and opportunities for PHE
4. The Chapter should incorporate the SWOT analysis from these documents the LVBC Operation Plan 2015-2020 and the regional PHE Networks report
5. The participants did a SWOT analysis on PHE in Uganda. The SWOT Table is provided below:

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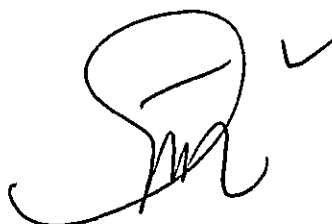
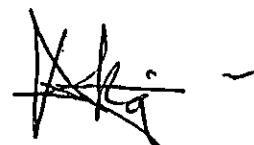
| UGANDA PHE SWOT ANALYSIS   |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enabling Policies and frameworks are in place e.g. climate change policy, Family Planning policy (Integration highlighted/mentioned)</li> <li>2. Institutions frameworks in place to handle PHE issues</li> <li>3. Growing political will –global, regional and national level</li> <li>4. Evidence of best practices on PHE implementation have been generated e.g. Hope-LVBC in Uganda and Kenya, Tuungane – Tanzania in lake Tanganyika National Park, Osienala –Lake Victoria Kenya, SHape-LVB (Nyanza Reproductive Health Society), CTPH- Uganda</li> <li>5. PHE recognition in National and regional frameworks</li> <li>6. Research being done on the PHE linkages</li> <li>7. PHE Networks are there at national, regional and global level</li> </ol> | <p><b>Weakness</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No implementation strategies for all these policies</li> <li>2. Poor co-ordination of institutions participating in PHE currently its mandate of the Office of the Prime Minister</li> <li>3. Limited awareness /understanding on linkages of the PHE institutions</li> <li>4. Inadequate capacity to implement PHE –human resource, concept is new and institutions are unable to implement PHE,</li> <li>5. Unsustainable financing for PHE integration</li> </ol>   |
| <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sector-wide approach planning currently being implemented in Uganda</li> <li>2. An increasing number of donors interested in funding PHE activities</li> <li>3. Attraction of funding by donors due to increased catastrophes - resulting in increased collaborations and partnerships provides an platform for PHE integration e.g. Mt. Elgon landslides, Kampala typhoid</li> <li>4. Global movement towards SDG</li> <li>5. PHE related threats – rapid population growth, urbanization, climate change, environmental degradation</li> <li>6. Research is currently been need for engagement of Educational institutions to provide more information</li> <li>7. Information on PHE</li> </ol>   | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate change</li> <li>2. Population growth</li> <li>3. Environmental degradation</li> <li>4. Poverty</li> <li>5. PHE is donor dependent –need a roadmap/strategy for financing PHE</li> <li>6. Need for more research and evidence-value addition of PHE</li> <li>7. Competing vertical interest in the three spheres</li> <li>8. Sectoral competition within institutions e.g. at regional level- based on the prioritization of the region/district</li> <li>9. Sector wide planning – may lock out PHE</li> <li>10. Contradicting positions among various opinion and political leaders e.g. Family Planning (Ministry of health vs Political leaders)</li> <li>11. Conversion of conservation areas to industrial areas, housing estates</li> </ol> |

### 3.3. General comments on Chapter 3: Guiding Principles, Vision, Goals, and Objectives

1. The Situation analysis should be comprehensive to provide a basis for chapter three
2. The Objectives should be turned into strategic goals
3. The strategic goals are more of activities

### 3.4 General comments on Chapter 4: Implementation framework

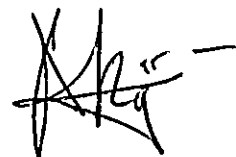
1. In section 4.1. The activity Resource mobilization should be included in the financial plan for the implementation of PHE activities including the EAC PHE strategy developed

2. Regional Coordination of PHE Activities at EAC level need to be clarified, the role and linkages of the different EAC organs and the EAC Secretariat specified.
3. This chapter renamed to strategic implementation framework for the strategy

**3.5. General comments on Chapter 5: Monitoring and Evaluation**

1. The indicators should be aligned to the PHE activities in the strategy
2. Inclusion of Poverty and Environment Status Indicators
3. Intermediate indicators should be incorporated especially for implementation of PHE activities in the strategy plan in addition to Impact and Output Indicators

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The Draft Strategy with specific comments on the different chapters is hereto attached as Annex IV

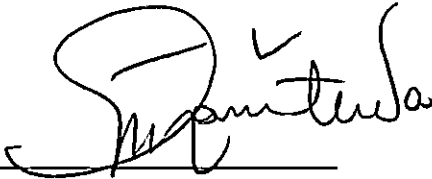
The Meeting recommend to the EAC secretariat to:

1. Streamline coordination of PHE Activities at the EAC Region level ;
2. Consolidate country positions ensuring that the final objectives, activities , are well aligned to the indicators in the M&E framework;
3. To ensure the revised draft adequately cover PHE especially environmental issues ;
4. To share the consolidate draft with Partner states for further inputs and validate.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4.30 pm.

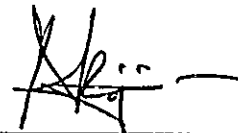
Signed on this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2015 by the representatives of The Republic of Uganda and the EAC Secretariat as indicated below:-



**Amutenda Salvatore**

Principal Education Officer/Health Sector  
Ministry of East African Community Affairs

**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**



**Dr Rogers Ayiko**

Principal Health Systems and  
Policy Officer

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY  
SECRETARIAT**