

NEED FOR INTEGRATED APPROACH IN PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT:

The aim of integrated planning approach in management of Protected Areas is:-

- Minimise land use overlap in planning
- Minimise land use conflicts
- Assist in modification of other agencies' plans in order to minimise impacts on the Protected Area.

Management of Protected Area agencies need to work hand in hand with development agencies e.g. hydro-electric power production, road construction etc. because there may be some benefits from such projects e.g. roads for tourism purposes, therefore the need to achieve wider acceptance for the role of Protected Areas in regional development context. The more firmly integrated the establishment and management of Protected Areas are in the functions of other departments the wider will be the support for the Protected Area programs.

- Securing support for Protected Area development a wider multiple use package quite often management of Protected Areas requires cross-sectoral plans e.g. in regional plans.
- Securing funds for important protective functions from those programs/projects which obtain benefits from the Protected Areas e.g. hotels, tourism sector, education, agriculture, soil and water conservation etc.

Principles of good land use planning of Protected Areas:

A good land use plan should bear the following characteristics:

- **Flexible:** The idea is to make the plans as flexible as possible so as to include needs of other people to minimise conflicts. It is targeted towards accommodating different interests. Rigid plans are not good.
- **Transparency:** Everybody should have the opportunity to see, comment or give their own views to reduce complaints. This involves things being done in the open e.g. distribution of resources like land. People should decide on what they want so that they participate and do things openly for their own good.
- **Participation:** Different stakeholders should participate in decision making and operations. In participatory approach one must know all the users of a given resource i.e. for a given resource; you must know the people who are direct users, those involved in the conflict, those living in the area, etc. For example, in case of a forest, users may be farmers, timber loggers, charcoal burners etc. Therefore use of a resource by a number of

people may generate a conflict in the use. All parties involved in the use must be included in the participation in order to reduce the conflicts. They must be made to realise their problems, contribute solutions and be part of the planning process in order to feel part of the project.

- **Regional appropriateness:** It should be fitting for that area if a land use plan is to be done on it e.g. it is in Karamoja, you need to look at the environmental conditions such as soils, climate, social set up, cultural and economic settings. Sometimes it is necessary to consider framework conditions. These are conditions which though not directly the objective of the planning itself can exert a significant effect on the plan e.g. the question of land tenure and land access are two of the most relevant factors in land use in any society in Uganda.
- **Interdisciplinary:** This involves incorporating people of different backgrounds in the planning process i.e. involve people of as many disciplines as will participate in the activities.
- **Gender specific perspective:** Different cultural and social roles of men and women must be taken into consideration. Certain important variables like age, religion, social status, regional origin, history and ethnic groups all play different roles in land use. The aim of the approach of gender is to integrate men and women according to their specific roles, potentials and needs in the land use process. For example for religious considerations, do not make Muslims rear pigs or for cultural considerations pastoralists may not appreciate the ideas of their land used for grazing being used for other land uses other than animal grazing.

PRINCIPLES OF LAND USE PLANNING IN RELATION TO PROTECTED AREAS.

The system of land use planning should provide:

- Plans: These may be long term or short term frameworks for directing and stimulating development, changes in land use, provision of infrastructure etc.
- Control over changes in land use, construction etc.
- Protected Area considerations should be a central feature of forward planning and of the control function.
- Land use planning should be operated in the interest of the public.
- Private interest should not be permitted to prejudice the wider public interest in the proper use of the land and the integrity of the Protected Area.
- Planning should be open to public scrutiny and comment.
- Land use planning should reflect the needs of Protected Areas especially the following should be considered:
- It should reflect the needs of Protected Areas within their bio-regions or major landscape

units e.g. river basins, mountainous areas, forests, tropical areas deserts.

- Should embrace one or more existing or potential Protected Areas and cover a sizeable area to provide the benefits of biodiversity and landscape heritage to local communities.
- Should develop support zones (e.g. buffer zones) around Protected Areas and corridors between them.
- Promote restoration of degraded ecosystem within and outside the Protected Areas.
- Should also ensure that strong land use policies exist for all sectors e.g. agriculture, forestry, mining, energy etc.
- Promote interdependency of Protected Areas and the economy and life of the local community so that both should benefit.
- Should involve the examination of alternative strategies for development in the bio-region based on the assessment of environment impacts of these alternatives especially on Protected Areas. Individual development proposals that may significantly affect Protected Areas whether within it or outside should be subjected to an EIA and a control system which should:-
 - Always be applied if the preliminary screen indicates a likely threat to the Protected Area.
 - Cover economic, social and costs/benefits including physical impacts.
 - Be undertaken at the beginning of the project cycle.
 - Not only take into account mitigatory measures but also alternative methods of meeting the claimed needs, including the option of not proceeding at all.
 - Should allow for the possibility that the project may be refused or permitted to continue only under certain conditions
 - Allow full public participation.
 - Require monitoring if approval is provided and corrective actions and enforcement to ensure compliance.
 - Should be undertaken by a group independent from that promoting the project.
 - Should be carried out in the public domain and be published; calls for greater transparency.

Steps used in land use planning process

The basic stages are:

- Assessment of the needs for land use planning and the precautions for its implementation i.e. where there is a conflict there is need for land use planning e.g. increase in population pressure which requires space. In order to apply land use planning appropriately it is necessary to understand the need for use of that land.
- Need to settle conflicts between use and conservation of resources.
- Need to settle conflicting aims on land use e.g. conflicts between a group, between men and women, and between families.
- Need to settle conflicts between poverty orientation and conservation of resources.
- Need to identify priority areas for intervention i.e. land use planning will point to which area is a problem and where you can come in.

- Need to focus on awareness of the problems
- Need for contribution towards the implementation of regional planning directives and tasks.
 - Dialogue based survey: Objective is targeted in information transparency.
 - Creation of institutional and organisational structures, ensuring coordination etc.
 - Objective oriented participatory survey
 - Problem, potential and constraint analysis (evaluation and prognosis).
 - Draft the plan (which should have alternatives) as to build flexibility.
 - Discussion and decision
 - Implementation
 - Back-up monitoring and implementation.

Instruments used in protected area land use planning

There are a number of them involving techniques and practices used. These include:

- PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal): It involves participation of all people like farmers, business communities etc. This ensures transparency in the whole exercise for a successful land use plan and management.
- Use of local planning workshop.
- Village organisational development i.e. creation of village committees to function as monitoring, evaluation and implementation committees of the programs.
- Use of thematic maps.
- Aerial photographs
- Consider contracts for use, protection as well as agreements and sanctions. It considers existing contracts and use it to build up a land use plan.
- Consider compensation measures
- Carry out farming systems analysis i.e. find out what crops are grown, how they are grown, problems most farmers face etc. and how land use planning can help solve this.
- Trust inducements. In case of Protected Areas this aims at reducing pressure on the Protected Areas. This can be through developing the surrounding community near the Protected Area (rural development) e.g. beekeeping, agroforestry etc.

Land use planning can be done at different levels e.g. village level, district level, regional level, national level etc. It should be incorporated in regional development and national development plans. It may also go outside national boundaries e.g. inter-regional resource planning connected with biodiversity involving different countries and other areas outside Protected Areas.