PROCEEDINGS OF THE RETREAT ON KENYA ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION NETWORK

HELD ON

5TH -6TH APRIL, 2018

AT THE

GARDEN HOTEL,

MACHAKOS KENYA

1.0 RETREAT PROCEEDINGS

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Kenya Environmental Information Network (KEIN) is a project initiated by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) together with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) through the Department of Environmental Planning, Research and Coordination which is playing the leadership role in actualizing Kenya Environment Information Network (KEIN).

The process of developing KEIN was carried out through a number of policy development workshops involving the section authors and contributing authors with the full participation of key stakeholder and lead agencies. The effort has led to the production of a fair draft of the KEIN policy. In order to complete the compilation of the final version of the policy, a 2 day residential retreat was organized to take place from the 5th -6th April, 2018. This forum provided the stakeholders and lead agencies an opportunity to critique the document, give and receive feedback on each chapter. This marks the beginning of the policy formulation as laid down by the Government of Kenya before the final publication of the policy.

Objectives of the retreat:

Mr. Wallace Ngolo informed the participants what the objectives of the retreat were. The objectives of the retreat were as follows;

- Revise, deliberate, endorse and adopt the KEIN policy as a working document

- Set course of actionable activities-chronology to implement the strategies

(Moderator Wallace Ngolo)

Registration and introduction of participants

The meeting started at 09.30 am, the moderator asked participants to do self introductions. (The full list of the stakeholders present can be found in annex 1 attached to this report).

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

Speech from the Deputy Director, Environmental Planning and Research Coordination.

In his speech, **Dr. Charles Lange** alluded that KEIN is a project that was funded by UNEP and steered by NEMA and is a multi stakeholder capacity building process. The Machakos workshop is as a result of a grant from Global Spatial Data infrastructure organization (GSDI). To propel the process forward, NEMA submitted a proposal for grant of $2500 to the GSDI to assist in operationalization of KEIN. The same was accepted and funded in July 2017.

He added that KEIN is part of Africa Environmental Information Network and is aimed at harnessing access to information and knowledge so as to support the management of Kenya's environmental resources. The policy addresses a number of issues with regards to environmental information.

In his speech, he reiterated that KEIN will act as a National Environmental Portal which will serve as a vehicle for the development of the nationwide environment and spatial data infrastructure. He added that KEIN goal depends on the improvement of operational efficiency of all the stakeholders. The speech outlined some of the major issues and challenges in setting the program, one of them being the need for development of a database for use in cross referencing documents and environment related data and or information.

He expressed optimism that the Authority together with the lead agencies, shall endeavor in achieving the goals and objectives set under KEIN project law. He wished the participants a successful retreat and declared the workshop open.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as was presented with no alteration. A copy of the workshop programme is attached as an annex to this report.

OVERVIEW OF KEIN

Mr Wallace Ngolo started his presentation by giving a brief background of KEIN that it was initiated by UNEP and NEMA with the goal of strengthening the capacity of Kenyan institution to use good quality of information sharing and to make informed investment choices at national and sub-national levels, and, he gave the importance of environmental information and their significance as follows:

- Regional integration and international cooperation

- Development of various sectors of the economy such as mining , forestry and many others

The presenter highlighted that Environmental Information (EI) is a critical national resources considering its role in monitoring environmental degradation. He finished his presentation by giving the objective of the workshop as revising, deliberating, endorsing, and adopting KEIN policy as a working document.

KEIN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In his presentation **Mr. Sylvester Maithya** gave insights of the initiation process, in 2008 NEMA, UNEP, and the government initiated the process with the main objective of enhancing capability of key data procedures to exchange data information in compatible formats and reduce the amount of time and cost required for data collection. The initiative was domesticated from UNEP Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN) which developed to assist Africa Environment Outlook (AEO).

The presenter highlighted specific objectives as follows:

1. To assess the status of environmental information and networking activities
2. To strengthen networking at national level

3. To develop information management tools, collate data and develop compendia from existing data sources

4. Develop quantitative indicators of environmental change for use in characterizing emerging issues and for assessing impacts of such changes on human vulnerability

5. To build capacity for using information management tools and methodologies for various target groups

The presenter reemphasized the need to have structures in place to harness the best available scientific data to support scientific assessment and early warning and report on the state of the environment from global down to local level.

The presenter further detailed challenges of Environmental Information as lack of up to date data due to limited resources to support information collection analysis and storage, most information is held in analogue form making it difficult for manipulation among others.

He went further to talk about funding challenges, funding proposals and capacity building.

The presenter indicated the output of KEIN as:

- National Environment Information Systems (EIS) status reports

- Environment Information Management tools

- Guidelines for harmonized State of Environment Reporting

- KEIN Portal

He concluded by saying KEIN offers opportunities for sharing data among all the members and Encourages organizations to use the forum to enrich their reports with minimum cost and less time

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND CHAPTER 1

Mr Wilson Busienei gave his presentation of the introduction, stating that EI is crucial in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and Vision 2030. He mentioned some of the initiative that are relevant to KEIN as Agenda 21 chapter 40, RIO Conventions, Biodiversity institutional capacity building project whose aim was to build capacity at institutional level , and at national level based on emerging ICT issues, the Biodiversity Data Management Project initiated by UNEP and World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) among others .

He further highlighted lessons learnt from the previous initiatives pointing out that most of them did not provide better ways to communicate and dialogue with policy makers and that most of them were donor driven and not demand driven, The initiatives did not also take cognizance of the fact that EI needed for policy formulation is multi-disciplinary in nature and comes in different formats and needs to be 'adjusted' to fit each other to generate new information.

PRESENTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION STANDARDS

Mr Wallace Ngolo started his presentation by a brief introduction of GIS as it represents a powerful means to efficiently manage and integrate the numerous types of information necessary for planning and management of Environmental data, stating that the techniques serve numerous numbers of entirely different applications.

The objectives of his presentation were to:

- Bring forth the importance of the need for data and systems integration within environment agencies and across multiple units of government.
- point out the need for Geospatial Information standards issues

He reiterated that in the past, information systems and database development within most environment agencies, and most other government agencies, has often been application-specific. This causes problems with integration at the functional-area level or interagency level (Think of interoperability). e.g when you open a word document and it comes with all those boxes, if your system cannot understand a certain dataset, that's what, happens.

The presenter highlighted issues of data accuracy, data quality and data errors. He then took the participants through data standards, pointing out the general standards set by bodies such as (international organization for standardization) ISO and later more specific geo-related standards set by bodies such as the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

He gave a brief history of geomatics highlighting key achievents in history. 1st ISO in computer graphics was ISO 7942 (GKS, graphical kernel system) whose development started in 1976 in France and was published in 1985. Graphic format standards are now based on:-

ISO – International Standards Organization

IEC - International Electro-technical Committee

JTC - Joint Technical Committee

The Kenya national standards are spearheaded by KEBS (Kenya bureau of Standards)

He concluded his presentation by alluding that KEIN offers opportunities for sharing data among all the members and encouraged organizations to use the forum to enrich their reports with minimum cost and less time and enhance Integrated Environmental Assessment and Reporting.

SESSION II

RELATED NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION, INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, PROTOCOLS AND COOPERATION

Chairman: **Mr. Francis Inganga**

Legislation

Dr. Charles Lange was invited to speak and address issues of legislation. Some of the main issues he addressed were:

NEMA legal mandate

He highlighted the NEMA legal mandate; some of the policies he mentioned were that information collected through KEIN to be used for decision making, empowering the public through access of EI and preparing and issuing of annual report.

Principles in contemplation

He also talked about the principles in contemplation; which includes principle of public participation, access to information, need for balance between the public owner / custodian of the information and the public interest of accessing the information.

Chapter 5 legal issues

He mentioned that the government agencies were the only legally recognized producers of fundamental datasets and that custodianship is very crucial component of KEIN for them to legally identify an authoritative source of mentioned datasets. Thus in general it provides the accountability for fundamental datasets. He went on to discuss on the ownership/ custodianship, copyright/ intellectual property, confidentiality, privacy and liability, objectives and strategies. Finally he went on to link on chapter 10 with what he was discussing in chapter 5, where he talked about the national policies and legislation, the policy statements, objectives and the strategies.

SESSION III

ADMINISTRATIVE / ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Mr Wilson Busienei gave his presentation on Administrative / Organizational Framework. He pointed out the working relations between inter-governmental agencies as well as the NGOs in issues of Environmental Information

The presenter added that KEIN was initially being implemented with funding from UNEP and additional grants from GSDI and needs to address the following issues.

- Need for a common clear vision for KEIN
- Strategy to accomplish the vision

- Political will

- Structure (institutions, working groups and committees)

- Resources (Staff, time, funds)

He outlined the policy by pointing out the structure and responsibility of the players within the structure. These he said included but were not limited to policy formulation and data collection, collation and dissemination.

He took participants through the KEIN formulation process and finished his presentation with a parting quote;

The establishment of a KEIN Infrastructure backed by KEIN Policy will certainly eliminate most of the problems experienced by environmental information producers and users in Kenya today.

SESSION IV

3.0: GROUP FORMATION

Mr. Wallace Ngolo guided the participants on the formation of groups. The groups were informed by chapters.

Group one dealt with chapters: 2, 3, 5 Ms. Jane Kibwage was appointed chair.

Group two dealt with chapters: 4, 6, 7 Dr. Charles Lange was the chair.

Group three dealt with chapters 8 and 9 Dr. Ondimu chaired the group.

3.1 GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Presentations from various groups noted that the KEIN policy was rich in information and that it was a positive way to go in order to enhance institutional data sharing and acquisition. Participants also noted the need to review the executive summary to include all issues highlighted in various chapters.

The presentations from various chapters indicated that the preambles on all chapters were reviewed to bring out the issues from the chapters that were addressed in the policy statements.

In the plenary, Dr. Ondimu emphasized that the document should be aligned to the current Ministries and in line with the constitution highlighting need for consideration of the devolved governments. He pointed out that the formation of the KEIN National Steering Committee was very important and this needs to be propped up by a technical committee in charge of data collection and collation.

ITEM	TIME FRAME	BY WHO
Submit finalized chapters for consolidation	20/04/2018	Chapter Leaders and Secretariat
Prepare a paper for management on KEIN policy	10/05/2018	DEP&RC
Harmonization of the document	14-18/05/2018	DEP&RC & Secretariat
Submit the final draft of the policy to the CEO's of the lead agencies and partners of KEIN for further review, approval and registration with the relevant institution.	23/05/2018	DEP&RC
Presentation to the Management	30/05/2018	DEP&RC
Presentation to the Board	11/06/2018	DEP&RC
Presentation to the Ministry in charge of Environment	-	-
Printing and distribution		
Tabling the document in Parliament		

APPENDIX 1-----------------: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	NAME	ORGANIZATION
1	Dr. Kennedy Ondimu	MoEF
2	Wallace Ngolo	NEMA
3	Sylvester Maithya	NEMA
4	Kioko	KFS
5	Wilson Busienei	NEMA
6	Dr. Charles Lange	NEMA
7	Nderitu	KNBS
8.	Galcano Mulako	UON
9.	Kinoti Nzioka	NEMA
10.	Roseline Samoei	NEMA
11.	Beatrice Ongaki	NEMA
12.	Francis Inganga	NEMA
13.	Jane Kibwage	FISHERIES