



UN-HABITAT

A Guidebook
for
Local Catchment Management
in Cities

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

NAIROBI

2005

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Foreword

With its vast expanse of polar ice sheets, sub-surface aquifers, rivers, lakes and wetlands, the planet Earth is a rich repository of freshwater resources. But only a small fraction of this freshwater is accessible and usable for our survival and well being, and it is very unequally distributed in geographic terms. Nevertheless, with the prudent policies and practices, we can make the best and equitable use of available water.

Over the years, significant progress has been achieved in provision of water supply to millions of people. Yet a sizable population, at least 1.1 billion per 2000 estimates, is deprived of access to safe water. Recognizing the vital need for water as a life support system, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have set a target to halve the world's population without access to safe water by 2015. It is a challenging but not an impossible task, if concerted efforts are made focusing on local action. To this end, the need for mobilisation of resources and capacity building of local institutions can hardly be over emphasized.

The concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) has gained coinage in recent years as a means for promoting sustainable water management. The main focus of attention in the planning and implementation of IWRM is on local water catchments. As history reveals, human settlements developed around water catchment areas. However with rapid and often unplanned urbanisation and the use of inappropriate technologies, local catchments in urban centers have been neglected and severely threatened by encroachment and pollution. Reliance on local sources of water has decreased and the cost of water supply has increased. There is a need to revive the traditional wisdom of local water catchment management with the appropriate infusion of modern technologies to bring about "contemporary relevance".

Water for African Cities and Water for Asian Cities are two regional programmes established by UN-HABITAT to support sustainable water management in rapidly developing urban areas and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Working with several partners, including the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank, these programmes aim to strengthen local capacity through a blend of "know-how" and "do-how". The present Guidebook on Management of Local Catchments in Cities provides an overview of the principles and practices required for sustainable urban water catchment management. It also contains case studies from Australia, India, Latin America and South Africa to showcase "Do's" and "Don'ts".

I trust that this publication will stimulate local action for water resources management and thus contribute to providing access to safe water for all and to meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

Contents

Executive Summary	11
1.0 Introduction	15
1.1 Situation Analysis	15
1.2 Land Use and Associated Pollution Problems	16
1.3 Impacts of Pollution and Associated Risks	22
1.4 Community Action for Problem Solving	24
2.0 Catchment Management: Lessons Learnt	26
2.1 Past Approaches to Urban Catchment Management: Case Studies	26
2.2 Integrated Approach to Urban Catchment Management: Case Studies	28
2.3 Prerequisites for Integrated Catchment Management	30
2.4 Catchment Management Agency	30
2.5 Catchment Management Strategy and its Imperatives	31
2.6 Key Issues related to Legislation and Water Resources Management in a Catchment	32
3.0 Framework for Development of Catchment Strategy	34
3.1 Situation Assessment	34
– Physical Features	34
– Natural Resources Inventory	35
– Water Resources Utilisation and Demand	36
– Social Inventory	36
– Economic Overview	36
– Land use, Pollution Sources and Environmental Degradation	37
– Other Relevant Issues in Situation Assessment	39
3.2 Institutional Framework	39
– Modalities for Participatory Urban Catchment Management	42
– Coordinated Environmental Management Activities	45
4.0 Monitoring and Data Management	48
4.1 Water Quality Monitoring System	48
4.2 General Guidelines on Surface Water Quality	50
4.3 Biological Monitoring	52
4.4 Rapid Bio-Assessment Method	52
4.5 Data Management	54
4.6 Categories of Datasets	56
4.7 Mapping of the Catchment	56

5.0 Strategies for Water Resources Management in Urban Catchments... 57

5.1	Water Resources Protection	57
5.2	Water Use	57
5.3	Water Resources Development Strategy	58
5.4	Water Resources Conservation Strategy	58
5.5	Water Resources Control Strategy	59
5.6	Establishing a Catchment Management Plan	59
5.7	Institutionalising Cooperative Governance of the Catchment	60
5.8	Devising a Management Plan for Stressed Catchments	61
5.9	Strategies for Pollution Control in Urban Catchments	61

6.0 Expected Outputs and Specific Interventions 67

6.1	Enhanced Public Awareness and Education	67
6.2	Incorporation of Environmental Education in School Curricula	68
6.3	Regulation of Water quality	69
6.4	Measures for Conservation of Ecologically Sensitive Habitats	70
6.5	Degraded Sites Restored and Buffer Zones Established	71
6.6	Significant Reduction of Water Pollution by Sewerage Effluents	71
6.7	Improved Access to Basic Water and Sanitation for the Slum Dwellers	73
6.8	Improved Capacity for Solid Waste Management	74
6.9	Safety Measures in Medical Waste Management	76
6.10	Minimised Pollution by the Transport Sector	77
6.11	Minimised Pollution by Manufacturing Industries	79
6.12	Management of Natural Sources of Pollution	80
6.13	Institutionalised Environmental Impact Assessment and Monitoring	81
6.14	Coordinated and Integrated Institutional Mechanism	81
6.15	Strengthened Land Use Controls	82
6.16	Improved Availability of Water in the Catchment	83
6.17	Regulation of water Abstraction in the Catchment	85
6.18	A Catchment Information Management System	86
6.19	Institutional Reforms in Public Water Sector	87
6.20	Financing Water Quality Improvement Programme	88
6.21	Periodic Reviews of the Performance of the Catchment Management Plan	88

7.0 Glossary..... 90

8.0 References 91

9.0 Appendix 94

List of Plates

- Plate 1** Building sand harvested from river banks on sale in an urban area. - p.17
- Plate 2** Gravel from a stone quarry on sale at a roadside in a peri-urban area. - p.17
- Plate 3** A vandalised inspection covers for a sewer drain. Stones and other objects may fall in and block the drain. - p. 19
- Plate 4** Urban agriculture: Irrigating crop-fields with untreated sewage which may contaminate surface and ground water sources. - p. 19
- Plate 5** Used engine oil dumped in an open drain by garage workers in an urban area. - p. 20
- Plate 6** Stone quarrying in a peri-urban area. The loosened soil is washed by rain down the slope to the river where it is deposited as silt. - p.21
- Plate 7** A river channel blocked by solid waste in an urban area. This worsens the flooding conditions during rainy seasons. - p. 21
- Plate 8** Kibera slum village whose sewage flows into the Nairobi dam, in the foreground, now overgrown with water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) and other aquatic plants. The dam was used for aquatic sports before the slum village extended to the site. - p. 22
- Plate 9** The confluence of River Rwabura on the left with clear water and River Muiria on the right with cloudy water. R. Muiria is heavily polluted by Gatundu town which has no sewerage network. - p. 23
- Plate 10** Nairobi City water supply pipes from the Ngakaini reservoir. - p. 58
- Plate 11** A tea crop - forest interface in a catchment area North-West of Nairobi. The farmland is a non-point source of pollution due to chemical fertilisers and pesticides that are carried in surface runoff to the rivers. - p. 63
- Plate 12** Charcoal on sale in small tins and in gunny bags on a street in an urban area. It is the only affordable fuel for many of the urban poor. - p. 64
- Plate 13** A man scavenging for valuables at a burning city dump site. - p. 65
- Plate 14** Waste water treatment in the primary oxidation ponds at Ruai showing floating scum. - p. 65
- Plate 15** A part of the large secondary waste water treatment ponds at Ruai. The water has a reduced BOD and lower coli form count than that in the primary pond. - p. 65
- Plate 16** A weir constructed across an urban river to promote oxygen transfer to the water for enhanced degradation of pollutants. - p. 66
- Plate 17** A papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*) swamp in a wetland area North of Nairobi. Swamps are known to be highly effective in cleaning polluted water. - p. 66
- Plate 18** Papyrus reeds are harvested and woven into mats which are sold along the highway. - p. 66

- Plate 19** A member of staff at the Ruai Sewerage Treatment Works explains to visitors the operations at the plant. – p. 67
- Plate 20** A cesspit evacuation tanker or exhauster vehicle emptying raw sewage in a main sewer line through an open manhole. Exhauster services are in high demand in areas without sewerage network. – p. 72
- Plates 21 and 22.** Litter bins at busy street intersections in an urban area. Corporate advertising of goods and services while providing a service to the urban residents should be encouraged. – p. 75
- Plate 23** Litter mainly consisting of plastic bags discarded next to a low-cost housing estate in an urban area. – p. 75
- Plate 24** A recycling plant for used engine oil located in Kikuyu town west of Nairobi. The oil is collected from motor vehicle service stations in the city and transported to the facility for processing. – p. 77

List of Figures

- Fig. 1** Common land use and associated pollution problem – p. 18
- Fig. 2** A scheme for action planning for problem solving at the community level – p. 24

Acronyms

AAWSA	-	Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority
ADRA	-	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AWN	-	Africa Water Network
BOD	-	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
Ca	-	Calcium
CBD	-	Central Business District
CBO	-	Community Based Organization
Cd	-	Cadmium
Cl	-	Chloride
COD	-	Chemical Oxygen Demand
Cr	-	Chromium
Cu	-	Copper
DDC	-	District Development Committee
DN	-	Daily Nation (a Kenyan Daily newspaper)
DSS	-	Decision Support System.
ECA	-	Economic Commission for Africa
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMIS	-	Environmental Management Information Systems
EPM	-	Environmental Planning and Management
F	-	Fluoride
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
GEMS	-	Global Environment Monitoring System
GIS	-	Geographical Information System
ICM	-	Integrated Catchment Management
IPM	-	Integrated Pest Management
K	-	Potassium
LPG	-	Liquefied Petroleum Gas

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