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REPORT ON UNEP/ECA MISSION ON EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT
OF AND ADVANCE ON NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MACHINERIES IN
SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES (PROJECT FP/0302-75-13)

URUNDI - 28 NOVEMBER TO 6 DECEMBER 1975

ZAMBIA - 6 TO 12 DECEMBER 1975

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MISSION TO BURUNDI (28 NOVEMBER - 6 DECEMBER 1975) AND
ZAMBIA 6 - 12 DECEMBER 1975

1. The mission arrived at Bujumbura on 28 November 1975 which was a national holiday. On the 27th of November, there was a minor Cabinet reshuffle resulting in the replacement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Since the Ministry co-ordinates contacts between foreign officials and the Government, it was not clear whether the mission could get to the technicians it had in mind, particularly considering that the Ministry had not only decided to programme contacts for the mission but had issued directives to the Embassies and United Nations missions that all contacts with the Government had to be arranged through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. On 1 December 1975 and 3 December 1975, the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, and the FAO Country Representative, briefed the mission on the environmental situation in Burundi. They noted that, in general there is, except in Lake Tanganyika where traces of DDT in fish have been detected, little or no pollution since the country has no industries. There are however, serious erosion and human settlement problems. Burundi has an area of 27,000 sq. kilometres and a population of about 4 million. Besides, there is widespread destruction of forests. Mining of nickel in the Musongeti area which the Government is all set to do - is likely to cause adverse effects on the waters and resources of Lakes Tanganyika and Victoria.

3. Discussions with Ingénieur Agronome du Génie Rural

In his report to the Government following the 3rd Governing Council of UNEP 1975, Mr. Buzingo recommended that a national co-ordinating committee on the environment be established comprising the following six ministries and institutions:-

1. Un représentant du Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage
2. Un représentant du Ministère des Travaux Publics, des Transports et de l'Equipement
3. Un représentant du Ministère de la Santé Publique
4. Un représentant de Secretariat à la Présidence Chargé du Bureau d'Etudes
5. Un représentant du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la co-operation
6. Un représentant du Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances.

4. There has, however, been no follow-up, and the country remains without a co-ordinating machinery. He hoped the mission would convince the Minister for Agriculture of the need and importance of such a machinery.

5. He underlined the following environmental problems as serious in the country:-

Soil erosion (as a consequence of poor land use practices);

Desertification (resulting from overgrazing in some parts of the country);

Pollution of Lake Tanganyika (caused by agricultural chemicals);

Human Settlements (with many people living in shanties and as many as 20 - 30 people living in a single room in many a place); and

Public health problems (as there are no drug control regulations in the country).

6. National Parks

Two national parks of 2 - 3,000 hectares are contemplated in the Ruzinin and Ruvubu valleys. The former area has a large population of cattle, and the latter has very few people.

7. Human Settlements

The technical adviser to Burundi briefed the mission on efforts intended for Vancouver Habitat Conference and the projects he has initiated in Burundi. On self-help basis and use of local materials, he had managed to promote the building of a number of houses in the rural areas. He showed the mission photographs of the houses put up which seemed very impressive. ECA housing and building section will be capitalising on this Burundi experiment at Vancouver. Mr. Mossart is the type of person whose experience in human settlements ought to be tapped by the United Nations family.

8. A copy of a draft machinery worked out from Uganda was given to the Burundi authorities as a possible basis for establishing their own machinery.

ZAMBIA

9. Contacts held gave the impression that Zambia has a broad spectrum of environmental problems which require a co-ordinated environmental machinery to tackle them adequately.

10. Environmental Problem Areas

The main environmental problems of Zambia presently centre around copper mining. This is understandable in view of the importance of this activity to

the country's economy (earnings from copper constitute 5% of the Government's revenue and 95% of its foreign exchange sources).

In particular, the environmental impact of copper mining on such aspects as water quality and human health (especially for those directly engaged in copper mining and processing activities) attracts more concern in Zambia than the other possible forms of environmental problems.

The most hazardous elements in the copper mining activity include such elements as sulphur dioxide, lead fuel, smoke, dust, and noise produced by the copper mines and mills. Another important element is related to accident causing injuries to workers in this field.

Other problems of the human environment and problems of influx are presently largely overshadowed by the former category of problems.

11. Environmental Activities

Although the present high concern over economic growth in its strictly qualitative sense, as strongly emphasized to the mission by officials of the ministry of Development Planning, Zambia seems to limit the amount of attention being given to the quality of environment, yet there is a reasonable amount of environmental activity that can form a helpful basis for the development of an integrated environmental machinery. These activities include some research work on certain aspects of environment such as water pollution, dust and noise pollution and lead poisoning, conducted by various authorities. Secondly, certain control measures are being exercised by the mining industry itself, to minimize the various kinds of hazards involved in the mining industry.

Thirdly, there are some regulatory and control activities being exercised mainly by the ministry of labour and directed toward worker safety. These activities have been said to be governed by about nine acts, all issued by the parliament, which indicates the presence of a body of legislation which reasonably covers at least some aspects of the environmental problems.

12. As far as research is concerned, the National Council for Scientific Research (NCSR) is considered to have the necessary capabilities to conduct research on many aspects of environment and to advise the government on environmental standards and policy. As such, the NCSR may act as the technical reservoir for whatever central environmental coordinatory agency to be established. In this respect, as well as in almost all other respects, Zambia appreciated this point and seems to be in a better position to make quicker and a more effective move towards this as compared to the other three countries visited by the mission.

Regarding one of the most important areas of environment, water, the NCSR has already established a water quality laboratory. Further, its organization and terms of reference allow the council to engage in a wide range of research activities concerning environment. This possibility is indicated by its organizational set up that includes five committees on (i) agricultural and

natural resources, (ii) mining and industry, (iii) engineering and construction, (iv) local government and housing and (v) a medical committee.

Amongst other environmental activities it has already engaged in the NCSR and has (tried to) draw the government's attention to the existing and potential environmental problems of the country and to the necessity of making an early start in the direction of establishing more effective legislative provisions and a co-ordinating machinery.

In addition to the NCSR's efforts, a set of recommendations regarding environment was also said to have been presented to the government by Commonwealth Scientific Council Meeting that took place in Lusaka last year.

13. The mining company officials consider the anti-pollution measures taken by the mining company to be adequate for preserving a satisfactory level of working conditions and general environmental quality. These measures mainly include the detection of lead and zink pollution, monitoring of the amount of smoke from the diesel engines, keeping temperature at reasonable levels at the places of operations, and monitoring water pollution caused by the mining and processing activities.

14. The presently operating governmental control measures and regulations are mainly enforced by the ministry of labour as part of its industrial relations and occupational health policies. These activities are carried out through a machinery for inspection of factories and other mining and industrial plants with a view to secure the necessary safety standards. These activities include:

- 1) the inspection of factory premises and
- 2) engineering constructions,
- 3) accident investigation
- 4) prosecution for contraventions and
- 5) advice and dissemination of information on occupational safety.

In addition to this, there is a Workers Compensation Board, which administers a scheme of compensation for industrial injuries and to which the workers themselves contribute regular premiums.

The powers of the chief inspector of factories have been recently expanded to an extent that the latter can even stop the operations of a factory if its conditions of safety prove unsatisfactory and until they are improved to required standards.

These industrial safety activities, being organized in a way that extends over all industrial and mining locations throughout the country with coordinating points at each district level, can be an inspiring example for a future full-fledged environmental machinery in Zambia.

15. Possibilities for a Future Machinery

In view of the above described activities already going on in Zambia, there seems to be enough reason to assume that this country has the necessary foundation of environmental awareness and the basis upon which the required integrated machinery could be established and effected.

B. BURUNDI - 28 NOVEMBER TO 6 DECEMBER 1975

LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

1. S.E. Pierre BIGAYIMPUNZI, Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage
2. S.E. Donatien BIHUTE, Secrétaire d'Etat à la Présidence, Chargé du Bureau d'Etudes Techniques
3. Mr. Edouard BUZINGO, Ingénieur Agronome, Directeur du Génie Rural
4. Mr. Libérat NIYONDAGARA, Directeur de l'Office National du Tourisme
5. Mr. Abdelrahman SULIMAN, Responsable du Project Hydromet Survey
6. Mr. MUKITO, Office National du Logement
7. Mr. M. MBUGUBUGU, Agriculture et Eau
8. Mr. Jean-Baptiste YONKE, Représentant Résident du PNUD, B.P. 1490 BUJUMBURA
9. Mr. A. ZICKY, Représentant Résident Adjoint du PUND
10. Mlle Ursula KING, Chargée des Programmes PNUD
11. Mr. Roger PUTMAN, Représentant de la FAO au Burundi
12. Mr. Paul MASSART, Conseiller Technique, Chef du Service de la Formation Artisanale - Association Internationale de Développement Rural (AIDR)
13. Mr. Marcel REEKMANS, Université de Bujumbura

C. ZAMBIA - 6 - 12 DECEMBER 1975

LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

1. Mr. B.D. GILES, UNDP Team Leader in Zambia
2. Mr. N.E. PANAYOTAKIS, UNDP Expert in Macro-Economy
3. Mr. K.C. SHARMA, UNEP Senior Finance and Macro-Economy Planner
4. Mr. S.D. VERMA, Agriculture, Deputy Director National Planning
5. Mr. B.K. MULEYA, Agro-Economist
6. Mr. J.A. ZULU, Principal Officer, Regional Planning
7. Mr. V. KAIGL, UNIDO Senior Industrial Adviser
8. Mr. D. JELENCE, Senior Mining and Energy Adviser, Ministry of Planning
9. Mr. M. CHILCZUK, UNDP Regional Planning Adviser
10. Mr. J.M. MTONGA, Economist, Central Planning, Government of Zambia
11. Mr. P.C. BANSIL, FAO Senior Agriculture Adviser
12. Dr. Paul CHUKE, Director, Medical Services
13. Mr. P.J. LEE, District Inspector of Factories
14. Mr. S.M. SILANGWA, National Council for Scientific Research
15. Mr. F.A. CASSIDY, Chief Mining Engineer, Government of Zambia
16. Mr. W.R. SWETA, Metallurgist
17. Mr. Boniface S. ZULU, Chairman, Water Development Board of Zambia
18. Mr. E.J. LANGEVAD, Commissioner of Mines, Government of Zambia
19. The Permanent Secretary of the Minister of Economic and Technical Cooperation
20. Mr. Max NOMVETE, ECA Sub-Regional Office, Lusaka
21. Mr. Sam OCHOLA, ECA Programme Officer, Lusaka
22. Mr. V.E. CRUST, Director of Water Affairs