

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT; CAN BOTH BE MAXIMISED?

Editorial

It gives us great pleasure to furnish you with Issue 2 of the Atacama Consulting Newsletter. In this issue, we incorporate international environmental news to ensure that you also obtain global information. Our mandate is to provide the most relevant and current environmental information to the public focusing on the most pertinent issues, and those that are the subject of considerable debate in the environmental arena.

Studies have shown that our environment continues to undergo degradation over time with man contributing greatly to this tragedy especially following the industrial revolution. This calls for greater awareness of the "environment" by all since it is our shared home. Publication of newsletters is one of the avenues Atacama Consulting - an environmental consultancy firm is using to respond to this call.

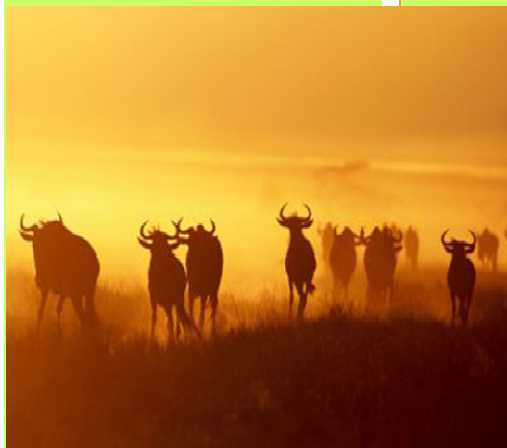
We hope you enjoy!

IN THIS ISSUE	
Serengeti Highway canned: Victory for animals!	1
Environment and our health	2
Climate change: Adaptation versus mitigation	2
Save nature; Save generations	3
Photo gallery: Atacama undergoes planning	3
Atacama's services	4
Atacama's core values	4

Serengeti Highway Canned: Victory for Animals!

Serengeti National Park (SNP), the largest national park in Tanzania covering 14,763 square kilometres of grassland plains and savanna as well as river line forest and woodlands, just survived in what is called a victory for wildlife and natural resources, fragmentation after a proposed two lane highway through it was called off. Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete proposed the highway through the SNP with the major goal of increasing economic opportunities to the poor communities of the Masai.

The SNP is well known for its great diverse eco-system of both fauna



Wildebeest in the Serengeti National Park: Adapted from: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/27/serengeti-highway-national-park>

and flora supporting more than 30 species of large herbivores and nearly 500 species of birds. SNP is however most famous for its annual migration of 1.5 million white bearded Wildebeests and 250,000 Zebras and the diverse biodiversity in the Serengeti contributes to its being the heart of tourism for Africa.

The proposed tarmac highway which according to Shamsa Mwangunga, the Tanzanian Minister for Natural Resources, was a campaign promise made by Kikwete in 2005 that the administration was determined to carry out, would have bisected the northern part of the park - the area where the annual migration of Wildebeest and zebra takes place. Scientists insisted that the development proposal could actually harm the park and doing so would possibly reduce tourism revenues.

Habitat fragmentation plays a role in species becoming threatened or endangered because they can become isolated from one another and have less continuous land to feed and move within. On open land, some species may also be more prone to predation as there is not the same kind of natural cover to mimic. According to Prof.

Jonathan Baillie, Director of Conservation Programmes for the Zoological Society of London, "A commercial road would not only result in wildlife collisions and human injuries, but would serve to fragment the landscape and undermine the ecosystem in a variety of ways".

There would be potential ecological damage resulting from the pro-development. During the annual migration, the Wildebeest produce about 800,000 pounds of dung per day which nourishes the grassland, if the highway was to fragment this ecosystem and the migrating animals turn back, the whole ecosystem could crash, said Bernard Kissui research scientist for African wildlife.

A survey of tourism companies found that 54% anticipated a drop in tourism of 50% or more. An obvious reason for such a drop is tourists driving themselves on the proposed highway and not hiring tour companies, and the decrease in the number of animals in the park, local companies or tour guides. If any of the tourists were unfamiliar with the area and animal movements, they would become a hazard both to the wild animals and themselves.

In addition to negatively affecting the tourism industry, the highway might have also provided an easy entry and escape route for poachers. The route would possibly send a thick stream of overloaded trucks and speeding buses through the travelling herds putting them at risk.

'Save the Serengeti' conducted an economic analysis and found out that potentially tens of thousands of tourism jobs could be lost due to the highway's construction. But yes, let's congratulate ourselves on the work we've done"

For more information, visit: <http://www.care2.com/greenliving/serengeti-highway-canned-victory-for-animals>, [http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Serengeti National Park Proposed Highway](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Serengeti_National_Park_Proposed_Highway), www.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/seregenti-National-Park

Compiled by DENIS KATO

ENVIRONMENT AND OUR HEALTH



RESTY NADDUMBA

Our health is largely impacted on by changes in the weather/climate causing illnesses such as asthma, pneumonia, allergies and colds; increasing the pressure on already insufficient medical facilities. Most people have almost given up thinking that nothing can be done for health improvement, I bet they are wrong!

Based on my personal experience, health and safety is largely determined by the environment in which we live, play and work in; over which we have control. Illnesses like cholera, diarrhoea and worm infestations are a result of poor sanitation partly because of irresponsible living.

It is a wrong perception that the role of maintaining good hygiene and sanitation belongs to public authorities. Everybody likes a clean and healthy environment hence it is every one's responsibility to create such an environment. A lot has been done to ensure improved health including interventions like use of modern medical equipment and medicines but still many lives are being lost. It is high time we changed our thinking to environmentally responsible living as opposed to curative measures, "*prevention is better than cure.*"

There is a need to educate people on issues pertaining to their environment and infection prevention so as to put an end to these illnesses. For example, issues regarding proper waste disposal, good sanitation and hygiene should be clearly understood and appreciated by every member of the community. It is upon this background that I call upon all stakeholders in the health sector to team up with environmentalists to create awareness of these life threatening conditions urgently before the situation runs out of control.

IT IS NOW OR NEVER !

Former Environmental intern:
17th June – 17th September 2012.

Climate change: Adaptation versus mitigation.

There has been a gradual increase in the awareness of issues pertaining to climate change globally and rising concerns for the consequences man is likely to face if climate change continues unchecked. It is clear that climate change is upon us and some of its negative effects are already being felt. These include among others:

- Heavier rainfall resulting in flooding and landslides for example in Eastern and Western parts of the Uganda.
- Extreme drought resulting in water and pasture scarcity for animals, reduced food production, and changes in ecosystems affecting the survival of both flora and fauna.
- Hurricanes have changed in frequency and strength than ever before.

Various international conferences like the Kyoto Protocol and COP 15 have been held in a bid to come up with the most appropriate and feasible ways of averting these effects in order to prevent harm to current and future generations. However, there seems to be no clear agreement on what measures to take. Whereas some people suggest that we adapt to the phenomenon, others have opted for mitigation with yet another group suggesting a combination of the two strategies. The Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) defines mitigation as: "*An anthropogenic intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the*

sinks of greenhouse gases. Thus, mitigation measures to climate change include any action(s) taken to permanently eliminate or reduce the long-term risk and hazards of climate change to human life and property. On the other hand, the IPCC defines *adaptation* as the, "*adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment*". Adaptation to climate change refers to adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. The key issue to note is that, whereas mitigation tackles the causes of climate change, adaptation tackles the effects.

Those suggesting that adaptation measures are the only feasible ways of dealing with climate change impacts give reasons such as;

- Climate change is natural irrespective of anthropogenic factors and was in fact responsible for the origin of life on earth.
- The impacts of climate change are far beyond man's control and devising measures to mitigate them is just a waste of time.

- According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, carbon dioxide that's already in the air or in the pipeline will stoke "irreversible" warming for the next 1,000 years. Nothing can be done to avert this.

Those who propose mitigation measures make the following argument:

- Man has greatly contributed to climate change and should therefore try to reverse the situation.
- Suggested adaptation measures are not feasible in the long run. The effects of climate change are likely to reach unbearable levels and wipeout life on earth.
- If mitigation measures are ignored, man's continuous contributions to climate change will go on thus putting future life at stake.

The group that calls for a combination of mitigation and adaptation measures to address climate change mainly urges that less or no mitigation means greater climatic change, and consequently requiring more adaptation of which the feasible measures may not be available in the long run. More so the more mitigation there is, the less the impacts to which we will have to adjust, and the less the risks for which we will have to try and prepare for. Conversely, the greater the degree of preparatory adaptation, the less the impacts associated with any given degree of climate change.

Barnabas Busheshe: An environmental consultant at Atacama consulting and a Professional Forester

Save nature; Save generations!

Life's great enemy is here,
Human beings don't realize,
struggling and surviving preferences,
One day, nature will surely suffer,
what will happen to the world?
This is my concern!

Industries and factories are on the rise,
Releasing effluents and gaseous emissions,
Spoiling nature and destabilizing life,
Further escalating the problem,
This is my concern!

Dear friends,
Get cautioned, awake and arise,
To save nature and avoid congestion,
Stop playing nature before it plays you,
For once nature continues to suffer,
Untimely deaths will rise,
The next generation shall curse their mentors,
This is my concern!

Protect nature from unfriendly actions,
Care and bother for nature to prefer,
save trees and let the environment be user-friendly,
Future generations will be grateful.

*By Diana Ahebwe
Former Environmental intern:
17th June – 17th September 2012.*

PHOTO GALLERY: Atacama undergoes planning

Planning is central to attainment of success and for planning to be effective, it is important to involve all employees in an organisation hence the principle of Management by Objective (MBO). In its essence, it requires deliberate goal formulation for periods of time (like the next calendar or business year); goals recording and then monitoring. While opening the planning session, in his words, the Managing Partner, Atacama consulting clearly stressed , "the importance of involving all employees at the company and providing them with a sense of ownership." The goal was to produce a living document clear to all employees. This is not only important for achieving company objectives but also motivates employees who are involved in the planning process and generation of objectives.



Atacama Consulting planning in progression.



Atacama Consulting

Plot 23, Gloucester Avenue, Kyambogo
P.O. Box 12130,
Kampala, UGANDA
Tel: 0751090752
admin@atacama.co.ug

www.atacama.co.ug

ATACAMA NEWSLETTER

Editorial Board

Barnabas Busheshe
Chairperson

Denis Kato
Member

Resty Naddumba and Diana Ahebwe
Contributors

Atacama Consulting core values

1. Excellence;
2. Integrity;
3. Reliability;
4. Commitment; and
5. Team work.

Atacama Consulting service offerings

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs)
- Environmental Auditing including International Finance Corporation (IFC) / World Bank Audits
- Environmental Management Plans (for all phases of the project's life cycle)
- Environmental due diligence
- Evaluations of Projects
- Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) / Resettlement Policy Frameworks (RPFs)
- Life Cycle Assessments (LCA)
- Life Cycle Management (LCM)
- Cleaner Production and Resource efficiency
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)
- Environmental Monitoring
- Ecological and Biodiversity Baseline Assessment
- Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)
- Climate Change Services (carbon trading)
- Sustainable Tourism
- Green Supply Chain Management
- Feasibility Studies
- Project Management
- Environmental Training and Capacity Building
- Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001)
- Waste Management
- Corporate Environmental Management

In the next issue



- Plant a tree, save life; How realistic is it?
- REDD;
- Volcanoes in Eritrea;
- Biodiversity and health;
- Clean technology 'an environmental incentive'
- Among others

NOTE: We run an internship programme for graduates after every two months. The next programme is to start in April, interested graduates with a background in Environment/ Natural resources are encouraged to apply using the above address. For more information, check on our website.

[Management.](#)