THE GAMBIA ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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THE GAMBIA

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COUNTRY INFORMATION

- **Country (long form)** Republic of The Gambia
- **Capital** Banjul
- **Total Area** 11,300.00 sq km 4,362.95 sq mi
- **Population** 1,411,205 (July 2001 est.)
- **Estimated Population in 2050 -** 4,165,032
- **Languages** English (official), Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, other indigenous vernaculars
- **Literacy** 47.5% total, 58.4% male, 37.1% female (2001 est.)
- **Life Expectancy** 51.65 male, 55.58 female (2001 est.)
- **GDP (per capita)** $1,100 (2000 est.)
- **Industry** processing peanuts, fish, and hides; tourism; beverages; agricultural machinery assembly, woodworking, metalworking; clothing
- **Agriculture** peanuts, millet, sorghum, rice, corn, cassava (tapioca), palm kernels; cattle, sheep, goats; forest and fishery resources not fully exploited

- **Arable Land** 18%
- **Natural Resources** fish

EIS Development in the Gambia

- a. Co-ordinate the production of priority data sets and reference databases
- b. Provide support to collaborating institutions with regard to their constraints, e.g., human
- resource development, equipment, and logistical support
- c. Set quality standards for the production and maintenance of identified core datasets
- d. Ensure the harmonisation, timely production and accessibility of data sets
- e. Establish links among existing and relevant information systems and the EIS
- f. Ensure efficient information flow among the Task Forces and partner institutions
- g. Develop mechanisms to ensure the free flow and access to environmental information

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AT NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- The mandate and role of the NEA in environmental management requires that an:-
- efficient information management system be developed in house. Information should
- serve as a bridge between the Agency and institutions involved in environmental
- management and the general public. At NEA, the emphasis is placed on facilitating the
- exchange of different types of information rather than controlling information.
- Furthermore, with an efficient information delivery system, information provided to the
- user is guaranteed to be complete, concise, timely, relevant, accurate and consistent

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- with other information systems. In essence, the EIS program aims to provide reliable

- and relevant information required for sound environmental management. The Program

- has two distinct Units as described below.

Elaboration of the role of EIS in environmental policy making in the Gambia

a. Identify needs for policy relevant information with reference to environmental

  information management

b. Co-ordinate information needs for monitoring and evaluation of environmental issues

c. Co-ordinate the dissemination of information in collaboration with the Environmental

  Education Working Group

d. Oversee the production of annual Environmental Data Reports

e. Monitor and evaluate the EIS development process, taking into account environmental

  policy and legal issues

Co-ordination of EIS in the Gambia

- a. address data and information issues common to collaborating institutions, and build
- consensus on the issues and strategies for the production and dissemination of data
- and information relevant to the environment
- b. contribute actively to the discussion on cost recovery in information management
- c. co-ordinate inputs and facilitate the dissemination of information without the constraints
- imposed by institutional rigidities.

EIS Working Group

- The EIS Working Group is inter-sectoral and multi-disciplinary in nature.

- Its principal functions are:
  - to manage the harmonised development of EIS,
  - to co-ordinate the production of core datasets, and
  - to promote the use of environment information in decision-making and sustainable development planning

EIS Working Group - ToR

- Elaboration of the role of EIS in policy making
  - Identify needs for policy relevant information with reference to environmental information management
  - Co-ordinate information needs for monitoring and evaluation of environmental issues
  - Co-ordinate the dissemination of information in collaboration with the Environmental Education Working Group
  - Oversee the production of annual Environmental Data Reports
  - Monitor and evaluate the EIS development process, taking into account environmental policy and legal issues

EIS Working Group - ToR

- EIS Development
  - Co-ordinate the production of priority data sets and reference databases
  - Provide support to collaborating institutions with regard to their constraints, e.g., human resource development, equipment, and logistical support
  - Set quality standards for the production and maintenance of identified core datasets

EIS Working Group - Membership

- National Environment Agency (The chairpersons of the Task Forces)
- Department of Lands & Surveys (Spatial Data Task Force)
- National Population Secretariat, Commission (Non-Spatial Data Task Force)
- National Library (Documentation Task Force)
- Department of Planning, Department of State for Agriculture
- Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Department of Planning, DOSH
- FORUT
- Central Statistics Department The chairpersons of the Task Forces

EIS Task Forces

- Three Task Forces that have been set up to look at the technical aspects of EIS development in their specific areas of competence:
  - Documentation task force
    - Chair – National Library
    - Secretariat and focal point for coordination - NEA
  - Non-spatial data task force
    - Secretariat –National Population Secretariat of the Commission
  - Spatial data task force
    - Chair - Department of Lands and Surveys
    - Secretariat - NEA

EIS Task Forces - ToR

- They have responsibility for
  - working out the technical details (standards and compatibility of data collection, processing and reporting systems)
  - establishing the mechanisms for co-ordination and the format of dissemination of each type of information (specific data dictionaries, worksheets, nomenclatures, updates, etc.)
  - disseminating currently available information and future updates.

Documentation TF

- ToR for the Documentation Task Force are:
  - establish a networking system to ensure easy access to environmentally related
  - documentation and information
  - define the responsibility of each participating documentation centre
  - establish individual bibliographies covering historic and recent information

Documentation TF

- ToR for the Documentation Task Force are
  - publish, update and disseminate periodically this bibliography
  - strengthen external linkages with international organisations by the individual participating centres
  - study and make recommendations in respect of methods of acquisition, storage and dissemination of documentation information

Documentation TF - membership

- National Library
- National Environment Agency (NEA)
- Department of State for Agriculture (DOSA)
- Department of State for Works and Communication
- Department of State for Finance and Economic Affairs
- The Association of Non- Governmental Organisation (TANGO)
- National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)
- PRESS
- Department of State for Education

Non-spatial data TF - ToR

- **ToR for the Non-Spatial Data Task Force are:**
  - address priority issues of rural land management, urbanisation, coastal zone management a and water resource management.
  - identify focal points to provide information on the origin, source and type of information available.
  - assure access to non-spatial data by decentralisation of data sets.
  - co-ordinate the harmonisation of environmental health, energy, agriculture and natural resource data.

Non-spatial data TF membership

- Central Statistic Department
- National Population Commission Secretariat
- Department of Planning, DOSA
- Department of planning DOSH
- Women's Bureau
- Department of Physical Planning & Housing
- Department of Community Development
- Department of Fisheries
- Department of Parks & Wildlife
- TANGO
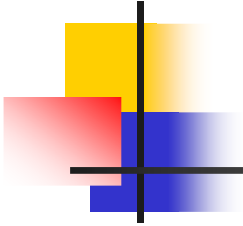- National Environment Agency
- Department of State for Education

Spatial Data TF - ToR

- **ToR of the Spatial Data Task Force are:**
  - develop a national capability in geographic information systems, remote sensing and photo interpretation in appropriate institutions
  - co-ordinate the production and storage of priority spatial data
  - develop capability for proper organisation and storage of spatial information in each institution.

Spatial Data TF - Membership

- Department of Lands & Surveys (DLS)
- Soil and Water Management Unit (SWMU)
- Geology Unit
- Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Livestock Services
- Department of Planning, DOSA
- Department of Physical Planning and Housing
- Mapping Unit, Central Statistic Department
- National Environment Agency, (NEA)

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION