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# USING ADVOCACY TO ENHANCE GREEN MUNICIPALITIES IN UGANDA: A STUDY OF HOIMA MUNICIPALITY

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## ABSTRACT

In 2017, after launching, by the first Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda Moses Ali along with the UNDP country Director Almaz Gebru, a new green growth development strategy, key green growth issues and evolution into a green economy were presented in Uganda to guide national priorities in achieving both the National Development Plan II and the country's Vision 2040. This article looks at achieving this strategy from the perspective of advocacy as a pathway to three components, viz. quality of water, waste disposal, and organic agriculture. It starts with an extensive review of green growth and discusses the achievements and difficulties for achieving green growth, as Nations, whose target aims to attain sustainable development worldwide by 2030. While advocacy has high prospects, the study maintains that green growth is a thorny strategy for municipalities in Uganda. In particular, the organisational structure in which they function as well as the political culture; the success of advocacy appears less plausible. It is recommended that advocacy should be bolstered so as to facilitate Hoima municipality to adopt the principles of green growth.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The rising number of urban populations continues to generate more stress on a number of urban areas in both the global north and the global south in a number of ways. At the end of 2015, the world embarked on a fresh move towards sustainable development strategies with the prospect that this shift would allow the world to contain current population demands while at the same time developing the capacity for containing future pressures. Consequently, strategic investments in alternatives such as green economies have been pursued to consolidate the backbone of ongoing sustainable development endeavours; they are coupled with increased focus on strengthening different world's ecosystems that are, at present, facing countless threats. The concept of Sustainable Development (SD) refers to an economic and ecological practice, which may be defined as one "in which human being devote attention to current resources needed to meet human needs as well as looking ahead" (McManus, 2014:560). Although the world is possibly a very long way from achieving the SD shift, evidence of an emerging SD trend can, at the moment, be noticed in a number of nations across the world *albeit* at diverse degrees. The Sustainable Development Strategies (SDS) espoused by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2016 is one such evidence. The world's most populous country, China, has been operating a one-child policy since 1979 (until 2016 when the policy was reversed)

attributable to fear of population explosion since available land space as well as the resource envelop required to satisfy human wants are not expanding in the same proportion (Sun, Gordon & Pacey, 2016:1).

For that reason, a study by (Bexell & Jönsson, 2016:17) indicates that to achieve the target of SD, a paradigm shift in the country's ethical obligations and political determination, as well as economic and institutional abilities, are essential if the 2030 target is to be attained. As a consequence, a number of countries have committed to even more ambitious targets seeing that the current situation is not good at all and is expected to degenerate in the near future. For example, on the one hand, Australia embarked on Goal 6 regarding water and sanitation as a positive step one the right direction (Hall, Ross, Richards, Barrington, Dean, Head, Jagals, Reid & Hill, 2018:31). On the other hand, South Africa embarked on improving the quality of partnerships for attaining robust regional links (Haywood et al., 2018). It is suggested that by 2030, the world is less likely to be much better in terms of liveability among the growing human population as per growing levels of disease, poverty and hunger. For example, the levels agreed upon by the UNGA viz. people-centred, worldwide environmental safety, unrelenting economic success, social fairness and harmony and promotion of partnership, together with a political affirmation may not be attained at the universal scale projected (Zhu, 2017). Nonetheless, whether or not these targets can – or will be achieved, they point towards a new trend with both new challenges and new opportunities for both academics and the entire human race.

To this end, appropriate measures aimed at reducing global population growth across all sectors form one of the key baselines for the SD agenda. In an attempt to respond to current and or foreseen risks to demographic change, member Nations at the Cairo Declaration on population and development agreed to reduce child and maternal mortality per annum as they translate their commitments into political action (Akinyemi, Odimegwu & Banjo, 2017:752). While this Accord is not legally binding, it lacks the *modus operandi* for its execution and remains elusive whether their target will be achieved; it is nowadays described as a framework in which Nations can operate. The framework calls for increased effort among the Nations aimed to reduce population explosion at the national levels, in particular, among the LDCs such as Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Latin America and the Caribbean. Nonetheless, the framework does not provide tangible guidelines regarding how Nation-states can and will domesticate the Declaration.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

Nations in the SSA spent much of the last quarter of the previous century and the first fifteen or so years in the current century battling with countless socio-economic, environmental and political challenges. While there have been spots of remarkable changes in a number of countries, modern global challenges seem to be overshadowing the continent once again. As a consequence, recent studies suggest that going green can have a positive and significant impact on both urban and urbanising populations. A study by Nahman et al (2016:216) on GM indicators suggests that the recent global trend towards a GM has added renewed impetus to initiatives aimed at going beyond traditional measures of economics and governance. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) considers a GM to be one of the key drivers leading to better human welfare, social justice as well as curtailing threats and shortages to the ecology (UNEP, 2011:16). This view presupposes that a GM should involve three aspects, namely; low levels of carbon gases, better-organised resources and encompassing every section of humanity. Due to the manifold socio-economic and ecological goals of a GM as well as the constraints to urban centres, in particular, those in LDCs, an optional approach is

necessary for attaining success to a GM.

A number of endeavours have been made to regulate municipalities, or to identify a prescription aimed to promote green economies. However, none of these prescriptions, on their own, are inclusive enough to mirror the numerous goals of a GM. A case in point, the policy on inclusion of sustainable development and environmental management concerns in the municipal development plan, tree planting along municipal roads as well as having environmental clubs right from cell to the municipal council all endeavour to fine-tune municipalities for socio-environmental understanding and protection.

Whereas progress on municipalities has been made, these prescriptions provide dominance to customary outcomes over desired socio-environmental outcomes. The inclusion of GE in the municipal development plan endeavours to integrate the socio-economic aspects in a political mode, but is based on change in behaviour; the macro-level goal of a GM is not considered. These directions focus on sustainable energy and environmental management and are supportive during policy design among stakeholders in the municipality but they pay no meticulous attention to the aspect of advocacy. This is probably why a number of endeavours have been designed to accomplish broad, multi-faceted prescriptions but authorities have a tendency of preparing them within a particular municipality perspective.

The Hoima municipality green agenda is not appropriate in evaluating every municipality in Uganda. ECO Canada (2010:1) reveals that the GM is a combination of every project functioning with the main target of reducing traditional levels of resource use, dangerous emissions, and reducing every form of ecological impact; this includes the activities, inputs, outputs as well as outcomes relating to the manufacture of goods and services. As a consequence, urban managers are faced with a routine challenge and while the present share of demographic trends is uncertain, in global terms, it is alarming (Onuoha et al 2018). It is one of the potentials of authorities that is giving reason for concern. Population in the less-developing countries is growing faster than global estimates (Sijuwade, 2010); studies reveal a budding growth that is doubling or tripling human population in tropical Africa and is likely to worsen by 2050 in a business-as-usual setting (Zinkina & Korotayev, 2014). A study by Ruhiiga (2013) reveals that the period between 2010 and 2050 is expected to register a higher urban growth rate that has never been witnessed before. Transition in global populations, in the first world countries as well as the highly industrialised nations, is of particular concern due to consequences that are both short-term and medium-term such as inadequate supply of labour and declining markets for their produce. While long-term successful reduction in population growth will be dependent on variations in socio-economic development (source), there are additional substantial short – and long-term opportunities for population growth. These include reduction in incidences of political conflict and return to peace and security in countries that have endured civil strife for several decades such as Somalia, South Sudan, Liberia, DRC, Central African Republic, Burundi, to mention just a few (Khadiagala, 2017). Consequently, sustainable land management can play a significant role in reducing pressure on land for green projects and is acknowledged in the mainstream policy discourse. In its contemporary urban development initiatives, (Gashu et al., 2019) recognises urban greening as one of the choices that can drive sustainable economic growth. Countries, such as China, have offered significant remedies to present-day ecological challenges resulting from unsympathetic development strategies such as industrialisation, infrastructural development and rapid urbanisation (Zhao, Wu & Jiang, 2018). As a consequence, urban managers need to choose to “do the right thing” and thereby allow limited space for Municipal authorities to continue expanding at the expense of green initiatives

by choosing to promote a GM. While that move can lead to positive outcomes, it has a direct effect on the poor urban communities that dominate much of the spaces otherwise planned for green development projects such as green belts (Phillips & Atchison, 2018). As a consequence, changing the economic demands for essential requirements can force a section of urban communities to migrate back to rural areas where they can depend on rain-fed farming; this can reduce pressure on urban authorities to provide key services for slum communities while at the same time advancing the GM targets (Shah et al, 2019).

Comparing the findings from studies in the field of sustainable urban land management, Anguelovski et al., (2018:430) conclude that the present shortage of knowledge about the attributes of GMs provides a barrier for urban authorities to assess the potential value of that segment and hinders the implementation of urban greening initiatives. Despite uncertainty about the attributes of this segment, changing the community demands can result in both challenges and opportunities that require to be addressed in green economic development undertakings. In every aspect, the emerging GM presents a new opportunity to change to the urban authorities in Uganda. Yet, it is the practical players that are likely to gain a competitive advantage (Ibsen & Olesen, 2018:216)

While GM should be of interest to the urban authorities in Uganda; urban land possession has already become an essential part of the national development agenda. The urban land authorities tend to benchmark themselves against leading players (such as Dubai and London) in the field and strive to understand and adopt the factors on which they attained success (Pineo et al 2018:30). It is therefore in the interest of both the GM and the proponents of urban population change to find effective GM strategies. In sum, while demographic reductions form the baseline of a GM revolution, urban land authorities need to consider a range of integrated factors and uncertainties in the GM strategy development process. Such strategies must factor in behavioural change trends on both national and municipal scale in issues such as health and social care (Chalmers et al 2019). The behavioural change nature to GM factors can lead to significant levels of certainty which reduces the difficulties and targeted GM policy decisions. Using the behavioural change model, this paper discusses the opportunities of adopting advocacy with the aim to assist in this situation of GM. It presents and discusses the factors that hinder and or favour adaptation of advocacy so as to meet GM in the wake of continued urban population growth.

## **2.1 Greening the global south**

Available studies suggest that a number of LDCs are emerging as a green growth workshop, with inventions and inspiration to challenge the fears of green growth (Burkolter & Perch, 2014). This outcome shows that there are evolving issues which call for attention as wider global green development interests are thought out. For example, in order to develop electric vehicles, there is a need to have a broad public policy to facilitate users with incentives such as tax exemptions. This strategy has worked successful in Norway and Uganda can benchmark *albeit* in a different format. Nonetheless, the green policy is associated with numerous overheads which affect its efficiency (Aurland-Bredesen, 2017). As a consequence, green cultural policy can be adopted with a view to achieving thorough self-appraisal of the ecological impact of institutions (Maxwell & Miller, 2017). This can help to offset resistance from various stakeholders in organisations. African nations can choose to green the transport sector, through effective management of green logistics and green strategy by focusing on the long-term effect of green policy to aspects of ecology, social order and general economy. This is so because green initiatives have turned out to be the podium for progress in the region as well as inspiring infrastructural development and eco-friendly impact of the transport

sector (Beskovnik & Twrdy, 2012).

The evolution of green infrastructure demands a shift from the traditional policy to a deliberate green policy within the municipalities of Uganda (Johns, 2019). That is possibly why a number of cities are taking a lead of their green image in the resolve for describing places. A study by Andersson (2016) reveals that these practices are driven by place-based antagonism over monetary capital and community capital, combined with more all-inclusive objects of viable municipal development. To-date, a good number of green municipalities have stimulated to participate in describing places by formulating an ecological policy. While South Africa, is confronted by green economy challenges which influenced the allocation of resources to programmes and projects on green economy as well as estimates in the sector, a study by Lethoko (2014) reveals that strategies and the structure of training do not mirror an acceptable shift to a green economy. In other cases, discussions on the green economy are limited to small issues in LDCs without allowing for more broader cases yet practical review of the idea and queries relating to the political impact of changes in ecological control are necessary (Death, 2016). For example, a study by Hoogendoorn et al (2015) focuses guest houses as a definitive beginning factor for urban greening innovations in spite of several bigger elements which should best be assessed in line with green growth.

A number of African countries cannot access financial support such as the green climate fund, which must be completed for at a global scale thus subjecting Africa to big disadvantage (Fonta et al., 2018:1220). But there is optimism that from the Rio+20, global societies are ready to take on green economy as one of the means to realising ecological development even though South Africa seems to be leading (Nhamo, 2013). The government of South Africa decided to give priority to the greener economy by mounting a process of multilevel integrated planning as well as infrastructure investment plan; the view was to incorporate principles of green infrastructure into diverse policies as the basis of shifting towards green growth (Giordano, 2014). Nonetheless, the nation faces numerous contests, especially from industrialists, in realising green growth (Death, 2014). Other studies have considered the twine challenges of Africa, climate change and population explosion, as key instigators towards espousing a fresh green revolution if the continent is to feed its citizens with sufficient food (Ignatova, 2017). For example, the introduction and adoption of higher-yielding crop varieties of grain in Africa, as well as innovations in irrigation and mechanised farming, are likely to fail due to a number of structural challenges ranging from access to agricultural credit, quality of extension services, link between research and farmers, as well as defective irrigation schemes (Lawrence, 1988). Also, urban construction designs need to be coordinated with the realities and dynamics of socio-economics and socio-ecology especially among the low-income households in line with green growth (Adegun, 2018:339).

In the EAC Community, several programmes have been implemented to address water pollution including the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme (LVEMP), the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Program (LVWATSAN) and the WASH component of the Planning For Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research, and Economic Development (PREPARED) Programme. An EAC Programme of Action for the Nairobi Agreement on Air Pollution is also in place. A number of EAC Standards have been developed and the East African Community Polythene Materials Control Bill, 2016 was passed by EALA in this year. In responding to problems of pollution, East African member states established a Regional Pollution Control Technical Working Group under the umbrella of the committee on environment and natural resources aimed at providing technical leadership in the management and control of pollution (Mfumukeko, n.d). Also, partner

states were challenged to put in place National Water Plans that are directed to distributing clean water to a larger percentage of the population as well as taking effort to cut the maximum age of vehicles imported so as to reduce gas emissions. In Uganda, the government launched a new green growth development strategy (UNDP, 2017) giving emphasis to key green growth issues as well as evolution into a green economy. The aim of this strategy was to guide national priorities in achieving both the National Development Plan (NDPII) and the country's Vision 2040. Henceforth, every development program and or project being implemented within the framework of the nation is expected to adhere to the guidelines laid down green growth strategy.

## **2.2 A Green Municipal Strategy (GMS)**

There is plentiful literature about diverse elements of SD such as natural resource management (Baldwin et al 2019). As a consequence, one pathway to attaining SD is green growth proposed by Death (2015:2209) recommending a standard to improve human well-being and social equity by urban authorities. Additional investigations have been carried out on the grey literature surrounding GMS. For example, Sharp (2018:515) has devoted a variety of suggestions for urban authorities namely legislators and managers can prevail over key obstacles and initiate an environment favourable for improved interest in the management of urban Municipalities by addressing social integrity, fairness and sustainability. Nonetheless, the absence of academic supports on GMS presents a major opening for research. One of the bases is that the push for GM is not conscious of its concerns for contemporary urban challenges such as land development and population growth which are already affecting the majority of the world (Miyakoshi & Shimada, 2019:298).

Developing and implementing Policy Reforms that aim to make GM a superior segment is not a clear-cut course: the dilemma of policy reforms cannot be determined by means of procedures seeing that response lies in behavioural change. As a consequence, the GM strategy, by its appeal, becomes complex and the administering the policy in its design, approval, and execution makes the functional ingredient a branch that policy implementers should have power over. Zhu et al (2018) offer support to the idea that attaining GM alone should be reinforced by a change in behaviour so as to appreciate the interrelationships among the socio-cultural and ecological concerns. This view underscores the strength needed for urban authorities to attain a GM status in terms of reduced carbon emissions, efficient use of resources, as well as social inclusion (United Nations Environmental Program, 2011:16). This notion presupposes an economic growth which depends on technology instead of converting to a different pattern encouraging more an all-inclusive combination that sustains both the socio-ecological ability. According to United Nations Environmental Program (2010:6), the green economy focuses on progress, job creation and raising the ability of poor households to attain minimum livelihoods.

## **2.3 Advocacy for Green Municipalities**

Advocacy deconstructs a particular agenda, recognising the component parts so as to observe the contribution of their interrelatedness with macro-level trends and successive actions. In the Municipal perspective, advocacy denotes a political process, by an individual and or group, which aims to influence decisions within the politico-economic and social systems and institutions. One way to attain this influence is by looking at best practices and benchmarking a few such as those concerning climate change (Nagorny-Koring, 2019:48). It includes a number of activities that a person or organisation undertakes so as to influence the direction of a decision. Whereas this philosophy may be widespread, in a broader community perspective, urban managers have only applied advocacy to a lesser extent compared to its outcomes. For example, Bond (2019:88) investigated the concept of

legislative advocacy, noting that advocacy can enhance the legal process, influence political decisions and policy; so, organisations and projects seeking to benefit communities but face difficulties; and reconnect publics that are hard to reach. Anesi (2018:726) applied thematic analysis to successful advocacy in the education sector, with the aim to benefit and impact students with disability to access quality education by dealing with challenges such as education structure and education policy. Others (such as Midik & Coskun, 2018) applied advocacy in the health sector in quest of supporting the code of ethics, bringing information to part of community, immunisation for children, safe motherhood, prevention and control of infectious diseases, easy access to healthcare services and protection of professionals in the health sector. In both cases, advocacy work was instrumental in causing change as a community development tool. Hence advocacy can be used with a target of triggering nations to reduce traditional levels of resource use, dangerous emissions, and reduce every form of ecological impact.

A catalogue of different forms of advocacy which can be adopted for use in GMs are:

- *Social justice* in which advocacy represents a series of actions and issues highlighted to change the status quo into the desired situation (Ghaedrahmati, 2018:65).
- *Budget advocacy* which ensures that there is the pro-active engagement of civil society organisations with the government budget to make the government more accountable and transparent.
- *Bureaucratic advocacy* wherein people are considered experts have more chance to succeed at presenting their issues to decision-makers (Givel & Spivak, 2011:13).
- *Health advocacy* which aims to support and promote patients' health care rights as well as enhance community health and policy initiatives that focus on the availability, safety and quality of care (Midik & Coskun, 2018).
- *Ideological advocacy* wherein group fight to advance their ideas in the decision making circles.
- *Interest-group advocacy* in which groups use lobbying as the main tool to hold mass advocacy.
- *Legislative advocacy* in which reliance on the state legislative process as part of the strategy to create change (Beimers, 2015); and,
- *Mass advocacy* which is any type of action taken by large groups through demonstrations and petitions even if awareness about petitioning is significant (Mellinger, 2014:54).

The different forms of advocacy draw on the philosophy and dynamics of the systems approach, as a consequence, advocacy has shifted from "idea" to "process". Although widespread in political systems, multilateral organisations and the non-governmental sector (Hickel & Kallis, 2019:1), little research has been carried out on advocacy for GM. However, exception is made to the budget advocacy effort in which Kasdin (2017:152) underscores advocacy in the national and or state budget framework paper and a number of challenges underlying its reforms. Other remarkable excerpts include: health advocacy campaigns where state parties sign a number of international Accords designed to devote a portion of the budget to healthcare or reproductive healthcare services to enhance the health policy (David et al 2019); legislative advocacy by coalitions of political parties and the civil society *vis-à-vis* specific aspects seeking reforms at the different levels of government (Bond, 2019). Consequently, the concept of advocacy is appropriate when tracking strategic interventions such as GM. However, in modern-day development, choice of advocacy tool, wherein a straight approach is made to those in power on an issue, is essential (D'Cruz et al., 2019). While one can choose to lobby, it is not the same as petitioning given that petitioning offers single-phase exploits, whereas lobbying provides a structure for decision-makers to appreciate the concerns within community or part of it

(Magee et al., 2019). Different practices of advocacy have been embraced for years and have produced encouraging outcomes given that the democratic concept gives a lot respect to the voices of the population or part of it (Sindik, 2015).

While different forms of advocacy might be useful among promoters of GMs, not many studies have been circulated in this field, perhaps because advocacy work is dominated by self-sacrificing individuals and or groups (Juhila, 2008:271). Analyses on advocacy (see Huang, 2018:120) have been applied in the framework of collective gain, together with attempts to demand essential services such as environmental conservation or sanitary pads for underprivileged girls. Juhila (2008) demonstrates that every form of advocacy is essential for social action, agenda-setting and decision-making processes but recognises that the quality of outcomes depends on the information available to the group. For example, if the group does not have information about how much of the forest cover is destroyed every year and the impending consequences, their advocacy is likely to face dearth of effective focus as well as inability to assess whether the issues at hand have been realised or not by the responsible authority.

### **3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

This study explores the potential of advocacy to enhancing GMs in the developmental state of Uganda. In particular, it focuses on one municipality in the mid-western region since municipalities in the country share similar trends and patterns. Three research questions are answered, namely: (a) what is the potential of advocacy in enhancing the quality of water in Hoima municipality; (b) what is the potential of advocacy in enhancing waste disposal in Hoima municipality; and (c) what is the potential of advocacy in enhancing organic agriculture in Hoima municipality?

### **4. PARTICIPANTS AND PROCEDURES**

A total of 18 participants were reached during in a period of 45days. Ten of them were purposely selected from civil society organisations and the remaining eight were selected from technical officers entrusted with policy implementation at the municipal level. In terms of sex; ten were male and eight female. Concerning age; at the time of the group discussions (FGDs), the oldest participant was aged 68, and the youngest 28 thus generating an average age of 47.5. With reference to marital status; twelve participants were married, three not married and three engaged. Every participant had at least one child. In terms of nationality, all participants were Ugandan. In terms of the highest level of education; two participants had completed a Master's degree, eight had completed the first degree, two had completed a diploma and three had a post-secondary professional certificate. Pertaining to profession; two were environmentalists, three community-development workers, four secondary school teachers, two civil engineers, three Municipal councillors, and four public administrators. Only one participant had physical disability.

Three FGDs were conducted; each composed of six participants. Every participant was contacted at their place of work and requested if they would be willing to take part in the FGD. Every FGD was administered by the researcher, supported by one research assistant and each ranged between 45 to 60 minutes. The FGDs were semi-structured in which main issues and follow-up issues were discussed. Prior to the FGDs, each of the sub-groups was coded as follows: Environmentalist (EV), Community-development worker (CDW), Post-primary teacher (PPT), Civil engineer (CE), Municipal councillor (MC), and Public administrator (PA). Also, much focus was put to matching participants, groups, and information for integrity. By applying this method, issues were identified and categorised. During each FGD, summaries were made and a cumulative approach was used to write all field summaries and explaining them with a view to ascertain the responses, classify the issues

raised, and ascertain necessary changes prior to a subsequent FGD. Since every FGD was conducted in English, there was no need for transcription.

## 5. RESULTS

The outcomes are based on the potential of advocacy in enhancing three aspects, namely: quality of water, household waste disposal, and organic agriculture.

### 5.1 The potential of advocacy to enhance the quality of water

During the study, the quality of water was discussed in terms of the proportion of the municipal population that has access to different sources, water storage, disposal of wastewater, and conservation of natural sources such as rivers within Hoima Municipality. First, results demonstrate that approximately 50 percent of the population has access to piped water in the municipality. This is due to the fact that a number of peri-urban areas are yet to be connected onto the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) grid especially in the divisions of Mparo, Busiisi and Bujumbura. Surprisingly, some parts of Kahoora division, which is the central business area, do not have access to piped water such as Kiryateete (east and west), Rusembe (1&2) and Rusaka lower. Communities in these areas get water from boreholes, rivers (such as Yorodani, Wambabya, Bigajuka and Rwenkondwa) which is shared with domestic animals such as cattle as well as car washers. The hitherto wells in Rusembe 1 had since been overran by the river rendering the water unsafe for household use. One participant said:

A good number of people in this municipality rarely have access to safe water for household consumption and use. In fact, very few members have piped water in their homes; even if NWSC has put up some community water taps, still more people cannot access or afford to pay. (*Participant EV1*)

Advocacy can help the big number of people, who do not have access to safe water to be connected to piped water at an affordable fee since it is cheaper to prevent waterborne infections than spend a lot of money on treatment. Hoima municipality, nevertheless, is a victim of a muddled water distribution that is not controlled to the extent that even those that are connected on the NWSC grid run out of the water without any explanation from officials at the agency. As noted:

I always meet my water obligations in time but I get surprised that the water tap can run dry for a full week without anyone taking the trouble to inform us before so that we can store adequate water. The officials at NWSC have all our phone numbers and they are expected to keep us informed of any eventuality ahead of time, something they rarely do. (*Participant CDW2*)

During the discussions, it was revealed that water storage in a number of households is improving *albeit* slowly. However, households in the peri-urban parts of the municipality still leave typical rural lives where water storage is not yet prioritised. In addition, wastewater disposal is still problematic in the entire municipality. As mentioned by one participant:

Whenever I walk around this town I get scared; look, there are several well-built homes but what they do is direct their pipes from the bathrooms and kitchens to the roads. This is very bad because that wastewater is not only dirty and stinking but flows constantly. The result is that our communities continue suffering infections they would have avoided if households were responsible for wastewater disposal. (*Participant EV1*)

The third aspect regards conservation of natural sources of water in the municipality such as rivers. Hoima municipality is surrounded by inter-linked rivers, namely Wambabya, Yorodani, and Rwenkondwa however, the municipality has done very little to conserve these sources from

encroachers, polluters such as car washers. As a consequence, much of the natural water sources are contaminated. Adopting advocacy can save the present water sources from pollution, ensure water storage, enhance the safe disposal of wastewater, and ensure conservation of natural sources of water in the municipality.

### **5.2 The potential of advocacy to enhance household waste disposal**

Green economy necessitates low carbon, low emissions, and zero waste so as to achieve both air quality and water quality (Nahman et al 2016:220). In this study waste disposal was discussed in terms of waste disposal per capita, waste disposal bins, macro waste collection, and waste dumping in Hoima municipality. First, the study reveals that waste (especially solid) disposal is a big challenge to Hoima municipal council. During the study, every road was found littered with some form of garbage and very little was being done by those responsible for collecting the communal garbage. One participant emphasised that;

Our municipal council thinks that the municipality only stops within a radius of one kilometre where a few roads now have tarmac and street lights. This is the only areas where sanitation is emphasised yet few meters beyond that line you find heaps of garbage, including plastic paper bags, littered all over. Look at Kiryateete road, for example, just in front of Mandela secondary school whose owner is the area member of parliament, is a heap of routine garbage. (Participant CE)

Data from Hoima Municipality demonstrates that advocacy needs to take into consideration the very muddled system of handling both solid and liquid waste. Although it might be advantageous to establish the quantity of waste as noted by one of the participants who said:

Determining the quantity of liquid waste that is directed into the lagoon in Kiganda, the quantity that is recycled back to use, the quantity that is used as manure, the quantity that remains uncollected nor recycled, is likely to be very helpful to the municipal authority. Much of this waste comes from households because we do not have many factories, this method is essential, especially in Kahoora division. (Participant CE)

This view suggests that disposal of waste, whether solid or liquid, often includes dangerously isolated burning as well as prohibited discarding. Even though the Hoima municipal garbage collection truck might reach only the central business area of Kahoora, recycling has never experimented. As a result, it will remain hard to attain low carbon, low emissions, and zero waste in the foreseeable future of Hoima municipality even if it is slated to become a city by 2021. However, effective advocacy can facilitate the municipality to create partnerships with other stakeholders in ensuring that waste management services are improved over the medium-term. For purposes of appraisal, top-bottom methods are not expected to yield significant outcomes and the deficiency of statistics on how much waste is produced and disposed of in the municipality suggests that key statistics would have to be gathered. This was tried during the preliminary stage; but, it did not provide decisive outcomes since the topics expected the ability to establish the quantity of waste by capacity, such as total bins at the end of a period (for example, week or month). Somewhat, more favourable topics would include investigating for prohibited dumping as well as the number of times a week or month waste is destroyed by burning at the household level. As a consequence, “advocacy can be a resort to expose a number of issues involved in Hoima municipal waste mismanagement such as open dumping” (Participant PPT).

### **5.3 The potential of advocacy to enhance organic agriculture**

Organic agriculture was considered in terms of organic farming area as a percentage of the total area available for farming, and reliance on manure versus the use of fertilizers. First, one of the greatest

complex characteristics of a rural municipality is providing evidence of every activity targeting organic agriculture. For Hoima municipality, what was found to be common is the percentage of crop plots that are endangered with the principal hypothesis that use of fertilizers has the potential to translate into higher yields per unit area. Nonetheless, available data reveals that this is usually not true seeing that use of fertilizers has the propensity to cause leaching and secondary bareness of the land. For instance, three of the participants noted:

In a number of cases, urban households refuse to agree to accept that use of organic manure is more profitable than the use of fertilizers albeit in the medium-term and long-term. A number of households tend to focus on short-term gains which lead to destruction and adverse results. (*Participant MC*)

Customarily, using organic manure such as animal dung, kitchen waste, wood shavings, and coffee husks enhances soil fertility as well as ensuring high crop yield. However, what I see these days is that much of the traditional methods have been overtaken by modern ways and no one seems to care. (*Participant CDW*)

When I look at most of the gardens, I get very worried because soon we shall face challenges of what people call global aridity which is very harmful; this means that something needs to be done for the remaining small gardens to survive in our municipality. (*Participant EV*)

Recognising the difficulty to ensure organic agriculture resonates in discussing and approving environmental ordinances that aim to safeguard the little urban land available for agriculture, this study notes that an inclusive method based on organic-based farming needs to be considered. This is so because municipal expansion is a never-ending process in Hoima as the number of non-garden farmers are anticipated to grow. This study proposes that Hoima municipal stakeholders have a duty to emphasise conserving ecosystems, especially in peri-urban areas. Advocacy actions can give emphasis to the whole niche of urban organic farming by persuading the system to establish the percentage of secure areas and leading the struggle to conserve them for future generations; ascertaining potential impacts of up-and-coming use of fertilizers; and the strength of other human activities on each of the elements in the ecosystems.

## **6. DISCUSSION –THE POTENTIAL OF ADVOCACY TO ENHANCE GMs**

Throughout the study, it is established that Hoima municipality lacks resolute policies towards ensuring green economic growth; this is by far possible (Hickel & Kallis, 2019). Unlike South Africa that has a solid development framework informed by a number of principles and values of green growth (Adegun, 2018; Death, 2014), Uganda is yet to realise that. However, this study shows that there are scattered policies which can be enhanced to promote GM, such as the green growth development strategy which aims to attain “an inclusive low emissions economic growth...” (UNDP Uganda, 2017). These pieces are knotted in central government ministries, which makes it problematic for Hoima municipality to ensure green growth. E.g., there are several pieces within the Ministry of environment and water, urban development as well as in agencies such as NEMA and NWSC on afforestation and wetland conservation (Gashu, 2019; Phillips, & Atchison, 2018). Issues of using bicycles rather than automobiles have gained credence in a number of countries and can be advocated for in Hoima municipality as a way of decreasing carbon emissions (D’Cruz et al 2019; David et al 2019; Anguelovski & Olesen, 2018). Officials in Ministries and Agencies find it difficult to monitor nor enforce green growth since it is not a top national priority. As a result, attaining GMs (Sharp, 2018) have remained difficult for Hoima to achieve over the medium-term something which is likely to worsen with the oil industry.

This study has demonstrated that advocacy has the potential to bring about wider reduction in carbon

emissions when civil societies engage national policymakers to devise green-friendly policies such as ensuring total ban on importation of machinery (for examples automobiles) that are older than ten years from the date of manufacture (Magee et al 2019; D’Cruz et al 2019; David et al 2019). Civil society can advocate the national government and the municipal government to ensure that industrial-related pollution is curtailed by stopping further construction of industries in wetlands as well as evacuating every industry built in a wetland (Wasswa, Kakembo & Mugagga, 2019: 195; Bond, 2019; Anesi, 2018). They can advocate for efficient use of resources such as the municipal green belts and road reserves. Advocacy can make it easy for Hoima municipality to achieve economic progress, seek mechanisms for creating jobs, and raise ability of underprivileged families to attain the minimum source of revenue which is essential in a GM (Hall et al 2018; Fonta, 2015; Lethoko, 2014).

The idea of social inclusion has been presented as collective justice in this study especially within the municipal planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects (Ofuoku, 2019:144; Ghaedrahmati, et al 2018; Giordano, 2014). A number of participants doubted why it has been difficult for Hoima authorities to embrace every stakeholder at the planning phase given that this municipality that is poised to become a city by 2021 (Ruhiiga, 2013). The assumption that once elected officials participates then everyone participated is a myth which leaves key sectors voiceless such as religious bodies, students, professionals, industrialists, and transport due, to skewed policy frameworks. Without advocacy, Hoima municipality may not attain quality, waste disposal and organic agriculture yet they have been useful in other cities such as Illinois (Onuoha et al., 2018).

## **7. CONCLUSION**

This study presents advocacy as an assumption towards enhancing GM in Hoima Municipality as a case study and offers an example of how GM can be realised. Advocacy is offered so as to demonstrate how Hoima municipality can exploit available resources in designing a GM policy that incorporates quality of water, waste disposal and organic agriculture. Using advocacy will facilitate researchers in the field to cover the structural changes within Hoima municipality. Important as this may be, this paper established the dearth of consciousness to green growth and how this may affect the quality of water, waste management and organic agriculture in Hoima municipality. The relationship between advocacy and GM is not overstated as this study has revealed that dearth of advocacy leads to several gaps at the municipality. While this study does not contend that advocacy is the single solution to GM, it has put up serious concerns on enhancing it in Hoima. Adopting advocacy has the potential to enhance GM regardless. It is recommended that municipalities in Uganda should adopt advocacy as a means to facilitate the principles of green growth.

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