

Brainstorming Session: Lagos Wetland Protection Campaign

Tuesday 21st of April, 11 am-1 pm

Participants

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Bilquees

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Agenda

- **To discuss how we can make this a priority and advocate for the preservation of wetlands in Lagos State, particularly regarding the issue of encroachment.**
- **Brainstorm on the ways to fully involve government and communities in the process.**
- **To establish the importance of the campaign during this global pandemic**

Discussion & Outcomes

1. Relevance during this health crisis

We need to do background research and develop the campaign now. We will then launch the campaign when the focus will have moved from stopping the spread of COVID19 to ensuring an epidemic like this doesn't happen again.

2. Who is the target audience

Possibly split our approach in three; general public, wetland residents and government. Phrasing a campaign as a call to action for all sides.

- The approach for the public campaign can focus on engaging the general public and residents along the wetlands on the benefits, importance of wetlands and what can be done to protect them.
- The government campaign should focus on ensuring the government implements and drives the policies.

Possible partners for the campaign

- International organisations that align with the campaign.
- Media engagement is key to spread the message.
- Environmental influencers/champions in communities.

- The State government agencies and house of assembly members/committees within the jurisdiction to handle wetlands in Lagos State especially on the level of policy implementation.
- The Local government is crucial to the advocacy process in communities

3. How do we ensure the purpose of each campaign phase is successful

- Sensitisation is key and media engagement would be important for accountability. It would also be important to have media personalities that can speak on the cause in public.
- We may have to adopt a legal approach to the process of creating awareness.
- Possibly jointly write an article on the state of wetlands in Lagos State to emphasise the need for the government to focus on this campaign.
- Mapping out the wetlands to monitor the use of the space across the state.

4. What is our goal

- To create awareness on the economic, social and environmental potential of wetlands (LUFASI and LCC can serve as case studies for this purpose in the campaign).
- Implementation of the draft policy on wetland protection - already done by the Ministry of Environment.
- Advocate for a wetland development permit to ensure the focus of use for wetlands for ecological rather than an economic use. This can be within the policy.

5. Timeline (To be discussed after initial research has been done)

6. Possible Outputs/Tools:

Podcasts, Radio, Newspaper, Legal action against government (assessing international protocols that the state or nation have signed e.g. SDG), Grassroot activities (*To be established in detail as we progress, possibly environment clean-ups and activities in wetland areas*) and a map outline of wetlands/wetland masterplan (*highlight locations and which areas are under attack*).

7. Next Steps

- We need to look at the draft policy from the Lagos State Ministry of Environment & Relevant information on wetlands in Lagos State (*Identify what we have in Lagos*)
- Map all wetlands in Lagos (historically) and highlight those that have disappeared as well as those that are being encroached on and are no longer able to serve their purpose.
- Quantify in monetary term the loss/encroachment on wetlands (*financial analysis of encroachment in Lagos State*),
- Document ideas for alternative uses of wetlands across Lagos and quantity as well

Policy research- Wednesday
Mapping- Thursday