

Background information

The Environmental Quality program seeks to improve the quality of the Environment by monitoring and enforcing Environmental Laws and Regulations in order to prevent and control environmental pollution as well as protect, improve and promote sound Environmental Management. The Objectives are achievable through collective efforts of the Technicians, Politicians, and the communities with optimal resources allocation and the judicious use of the allocated resources and timely, non-interference and impartial dispensation of justice.

This program set to strengthen the institutional framework for environmental coordination and management at local and national levels with a strategy of surveillance and enforcement of environmental laws within an integrated legal and institutional framework in the light to protect the welfare, health and quality of life of Gambia Residents through sustainable environmental management.

Mandates of the EQ Program

The Environmental Quality Program is mandated to implement set of activities as prescribed and/or enshrined in the National Environment Management Act 1994 and the Agency's Strategy objectives designed to manage, monitor and control national air, land and water quality, with particular emphasis on pollution control and contemporary environmental issues. It also enforces laws relating to environmental quality inter alia.

Some of the Regulations implemented under this program are:

- ☒ Environmental Discharge permitting 1999
- ☒ Anti- littering Regulations 2007
- ☒ Ban on Plastic Bags Order, 2015
- ☒ Environmental Quality Standards 1999
- ☒ Environmental Protection (Prevention of Dumping Act) 1988; chapter 72:02

Roles and Responsibilities

- ☒ The Program treats the environment as a whole.
- ☒ Ensure that environmental standards and guidelines are set and applied
- ☒ monitors the quality of all environmental media: Air, Water, & Land
- ☒ Monitors activities that impact the environment: e.g. industrial emissions, liquid and solid wastes etc.
- ☒ Sensitization and awareness raising
- ☒ Advocacy and participatory interventions
- ☒ Technical and financial support to Environmental activities
- ☒ Enforcement

Activities of the EQ Program for 2021

Develop and implement action plan based on set priorities for monitoring

- ☒ Setting environmental monitoring standards and guidelines
- ☒ Prepare and coordinate monitoring program
- ☒ implementing control measures for general environmental pollution based on acceptable standards and guidelines
- ☒ Establishment of complaint bureau for environmental nuisances
- ☒ Establish multi-disciplinary working groups relevant to environmental quality
- ☒ Sensitization, awareness creation, advocacy and enforcement
- ☒ Solid and liquid wastes monitoring and coordination
- ☒ Guidance and coordination of disposals of potential contamination items
- ☒ Coordination of community cleansing exercises
- ☒ Industrial monitoring
- ☒ Coordinating enforcements and compliances to environmental contraband products (single use plastics, chemicals, etc.)
- ☒ Sensitization to enhancing positive environmental attitudes and compliances to environmental laws
- ☒ Developing documents to augmenting standards and quality of the environment.

Major Achievements

The Environmental Quality Program achieved the following during the past years:

- ☒ Introduction and implementation of the National Cleansing Days (NCD)
- ☒ Introduction and enforcement of the Ban on Plastic Bag Order, 2015
- ☒ Strengthening of inter-departmental relationships for effective implementation of the EQ program by signing MOUs with key stakeholders such as the Gambia Police Force (for effective enforcement of EQ Laws), the Department of Water Resources (for water quality analysis), and some environmental activist groups for environmental protection and safeguards, etc.
- ☒ The purchasing of computers, printers, and digital camera for the Gambia Police Force to facilitate their evidence and data on environmental offenses.
- ☒ The training of Station Officers of the Gambia Police Force on environmental laws for enforcement and easy processing of environmental cases
- ☒ The engagement of the EQ Technical working Group in the implementation of key programs like the National cleansing days (NCD), sensitization and enforcement of the Ban on Plastic Bag Order, 2015, the joint inspection, enforcement, monitoring and compliance monitoring in industrial areas.

Members of the Working Group

Environmental Quality Technical Working Group

Launched July 1995

Revised August 1996, August 2019

Membership

Institution Unit(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. National Environment Agency | Secretariat (EQ Program)
Inspectorate Unit |
| 2. National Environment Agency | EE&C Program |

3. Ministry of Agriculture Department of Agriculture
 Dept. of Plant Protection Services
4. Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters
 - i). Department of Fisheries
 - ii). Department of Water Resources
5. National Assembly Select Committee on Environment
6. Ministry of Health i). Medicines Control Agency
 ii). Directorate of Public Health Services
7. Ministry of Lands and Regional Governance
 - i). Dept. of Community Development
 - ii). Dept. of Physical Planning and Housing
 - iii). Dept. of Lands and Surveys
 - iv). Governor's officer – West Coast Region
 - v). Banjul City Council
 - vi). Governor's officer-NBR
 - vii). Governor's officer- LRR
 - viii). Governor's officer- CRR/S
 - ix). Governor's officer-CRR/N
 - x). Governor's officer-URR
 - xi). Kanifing Municipal Council
8. Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure Dept. Works
9. MoTRIE Dept. of Labour
10. National Disaster Management Agency
11. Ministry of Justice
12. GCCI
13. TANGO
14. FSQA
15. GAMWORKS
16. PURA
17. Gambia Police Force
18. Joint Cooperation Command
19. NARI
20. Gambia Local Government Association (GALGA)

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