Environmental Governance

A Presentation to the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) Conference 6th – 8th September 2022

Oundo T. Wanyama, Ph.D.

Environmental Sociologist

KSG
KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 24:4-6 (NIV)

"The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish with the earth. The earth is defiled by its people, they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth, its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up and very few are left."

Genesis 2:15 (NIV) "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Presentation Outline

- Appreciation of the key concepts
- The importance of Environmental Governance
- The Fundamental Principles
- Environmental Governance Framework
- The Global Context
- Africa's Journey and Experience
- Environmental Governance – Public Sector nexus
- Leadership and Environmental Governance

Introduction

- Pursuit for socio-economic wellbeing remains an eternal objective of the human society as related strategies and activities become more and more complex and intense

- Geographical distances have been rendered inconsequential through technological revolution and globalization, thus making everyone a direct victim of environmental effects of the unprecedented change and development trends around the world.

- Though few people deliberately set out to destroy the environment, it has become increasingly important to provide a robust legal and policy framework to incentivize and dis-incentivize institutions and individuals whose behaviors affect the environment (James G. Speth and Peter M. Haas, 2006)
- Good and effective governance therefore remains key to addressing environmental challenges associated with human activity and modern day development process

The Concepts

- **Governance** is the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions deal with their common affairs (Commission on Global Governance, 1995).

- It is about structures and processes that are designed to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment, and broad based participation (UNESCO-IBE)

- **Environment** refers to the totality of the surrounding comprising physical, socio-economic and cultural factors. It includes phenomena such as land, water, atmosphere, sound, odour, taste, plants, animals, microorganisms and aesthetics.

- The term represents both natural and built aspects of human surroundings.

GoK (2013) National Environmental Policy

Environmental governance is about:

- Managing political, social and economic aspects of human activities by focusing on sustainable development.

- Environmental agreements, decisions and policies, institutions that make them and the processes by which they are made (UNEP 2017)

- A set of regulatory processes, mechanisms and organizations through which political actors influence environmental actions and outcomes (Lemos and Agrawal, 2006)

Why Environmental Governance?

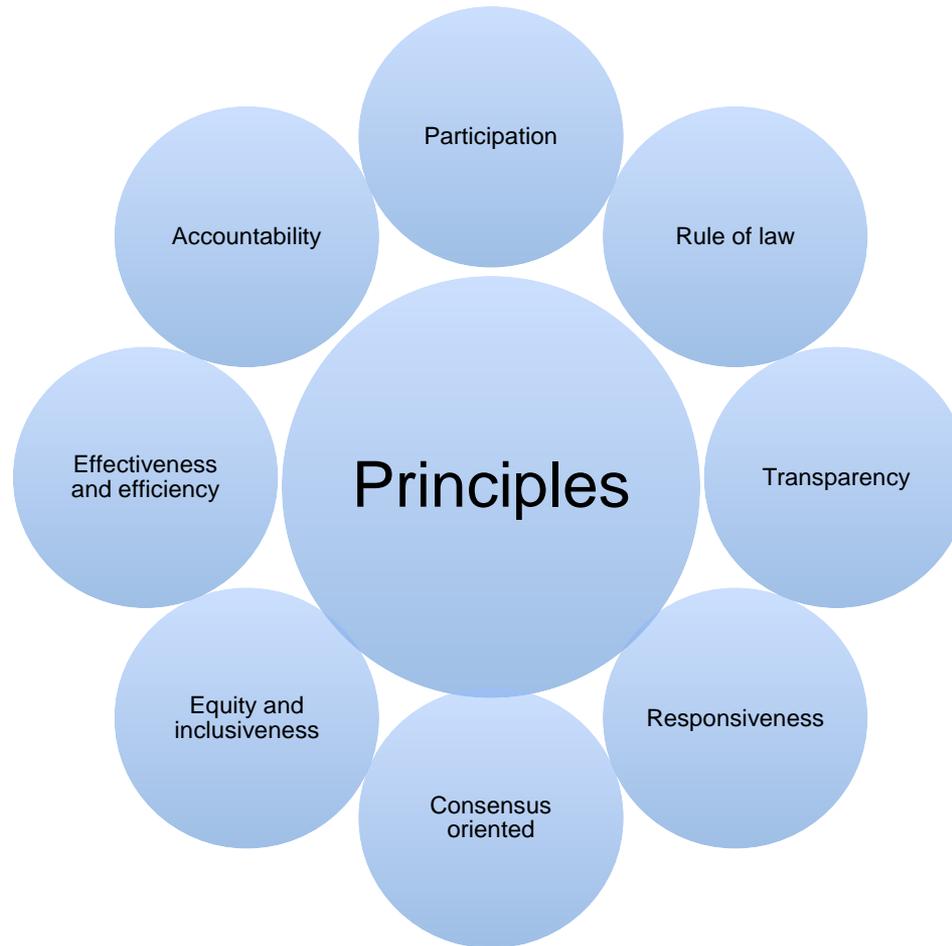Good environmental governance promotes:

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Responsiveness
- Rule of law
- Stability
- Equity and inclusiveness
- Empowerment
- Broad based participation

The importance of Environmental Governance

Fundamental Principles
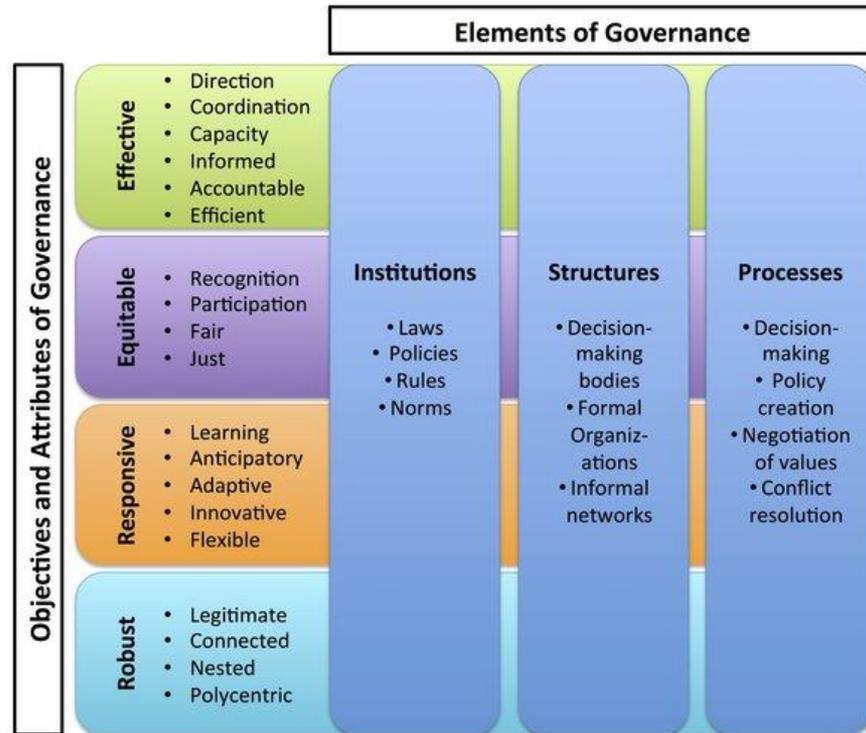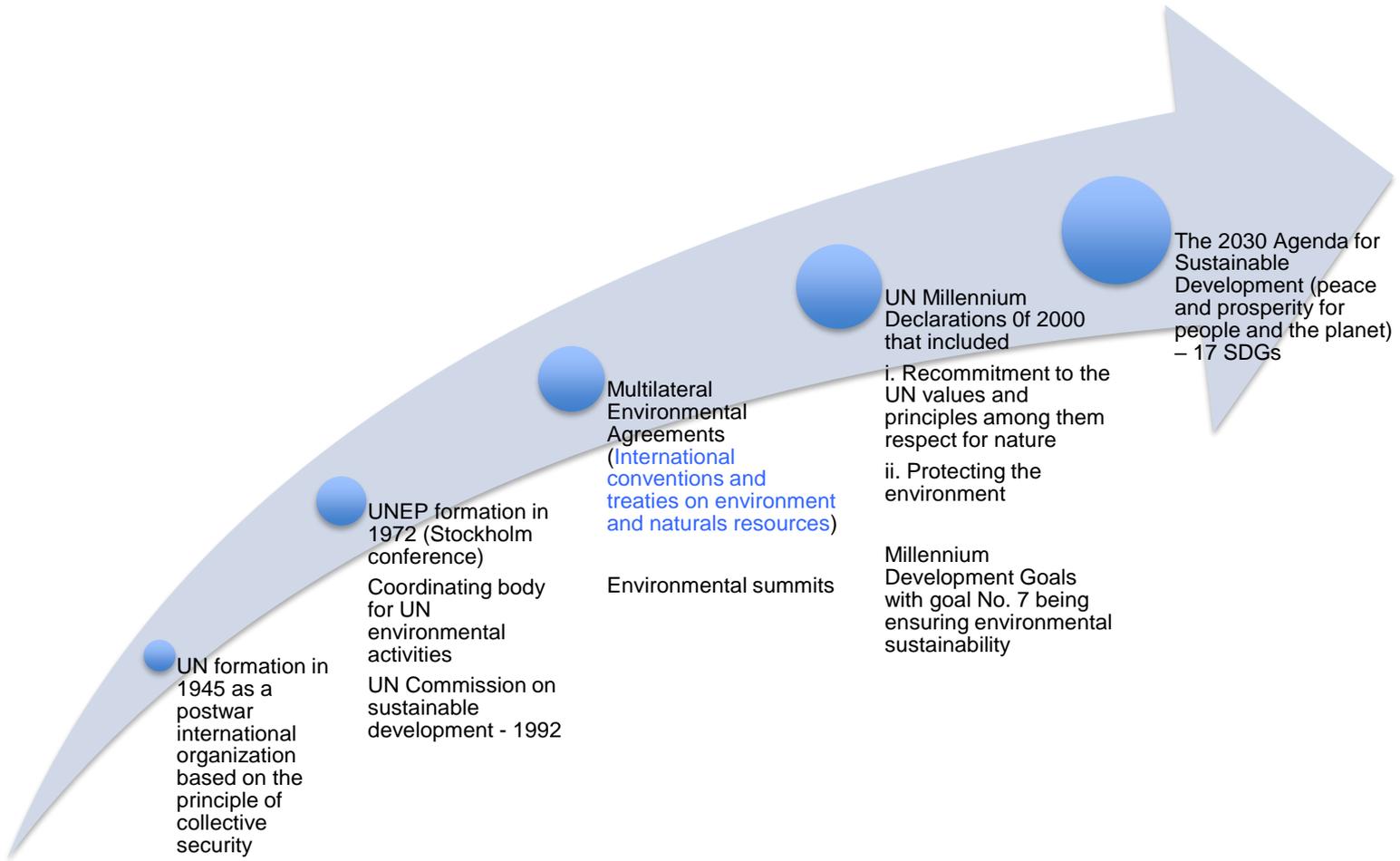
Environmental Governance Framework

A practical framework for environmental governance

Bennett, N.J. & Satterfield, T. (2018). Environmental governance: A practical framework to guide design, evaluation, and analysis. *Conservation Letters*. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/conl.12600

The Global Context

UN formation in 1945 as a postwar international organization based on the principle of collective security

UNEP formation in 1972 (Stockholm conference)

Coordinating body for UN environmental activities

UN Commission on sustainable development - 1992

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (International conventions and treaties on environment and naturals resources)

Environmental summits

UN Millennium Declarations 0f 2000 that included

i. Recommitment to the UN values and principles among them respect for nature

ii. Protecting the environment

Millennium Development Goals with goal No. 7 being ensuring environmental sustainability

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (peace and prosperity for people and the planet) – 17 SDGs

Africa's Journey and Experience

Deuteronomy 8:7-9

"The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land – a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills."
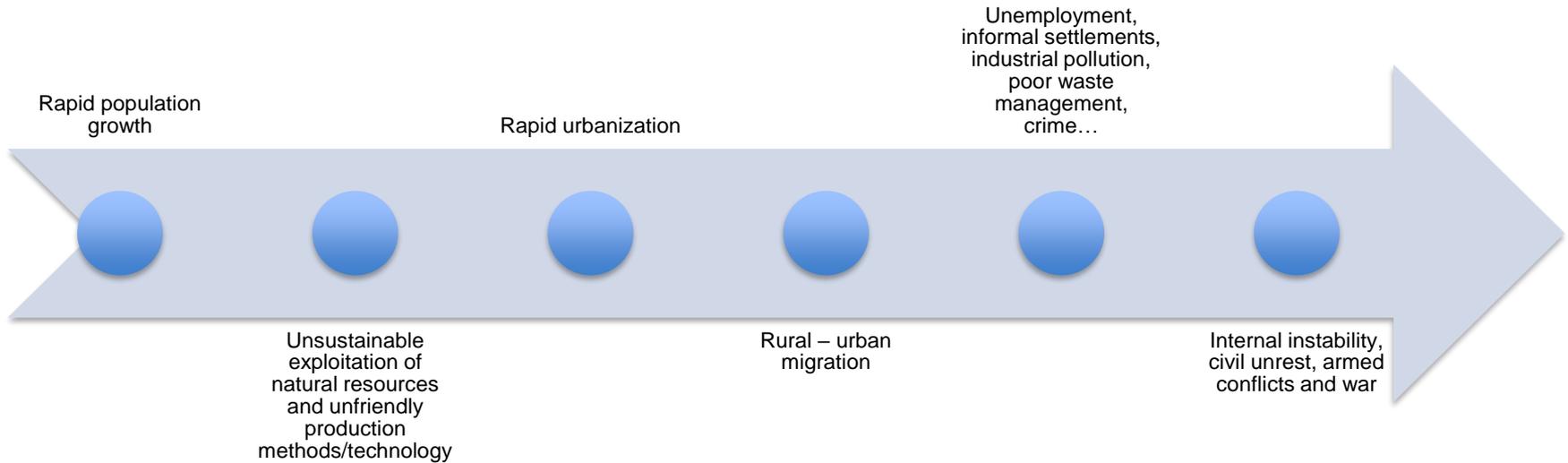
Our natural capital

- According to UNEP in its report on **'Our Work in Africa'**, the African continent is home to:

- 30% of the mineral reserves in the world

- 8% of the natural gas

- 12% of the oil reserves

- 40% of the world's gold

- 90% of chromium and platinum

- the largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, and uranium

- 65% of the world's arable land

- 10% of internal renewable fresh water sources

The curse of Colonialism

- The arrival of Europeans in Africa and colonization of the continent has been associated with intensive and extensive environmental transformation whose impact has not been comprehensively measured.

- From indiscriminate exploitation of resources, to introduction of aggressive production and economic activities largely depended on ecologically unfriendly energy sources, the 'self-inviting' foreign investors occasioned unprecedented environmental degradation that will take Africa a long time to recover from.

Post-colonial scenario

Rapid population growth

Rapid urbanization

Unemployment, informal settlements, industrial pollution, poor waste management, crime…

Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and unfriendly production methods/technology

Rural – urban migration

Internal instability, civil unrest, armed conflicts and war

Environmental Governance Efforts

Legal and policy framework

- Domestication of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
- Africa Agenda 2063 (inclusive and sustainable development; Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities)
- Progressive constitutions and laws (Environmental rights)
- Development of National Environmental Policies
- ME&R Instruments
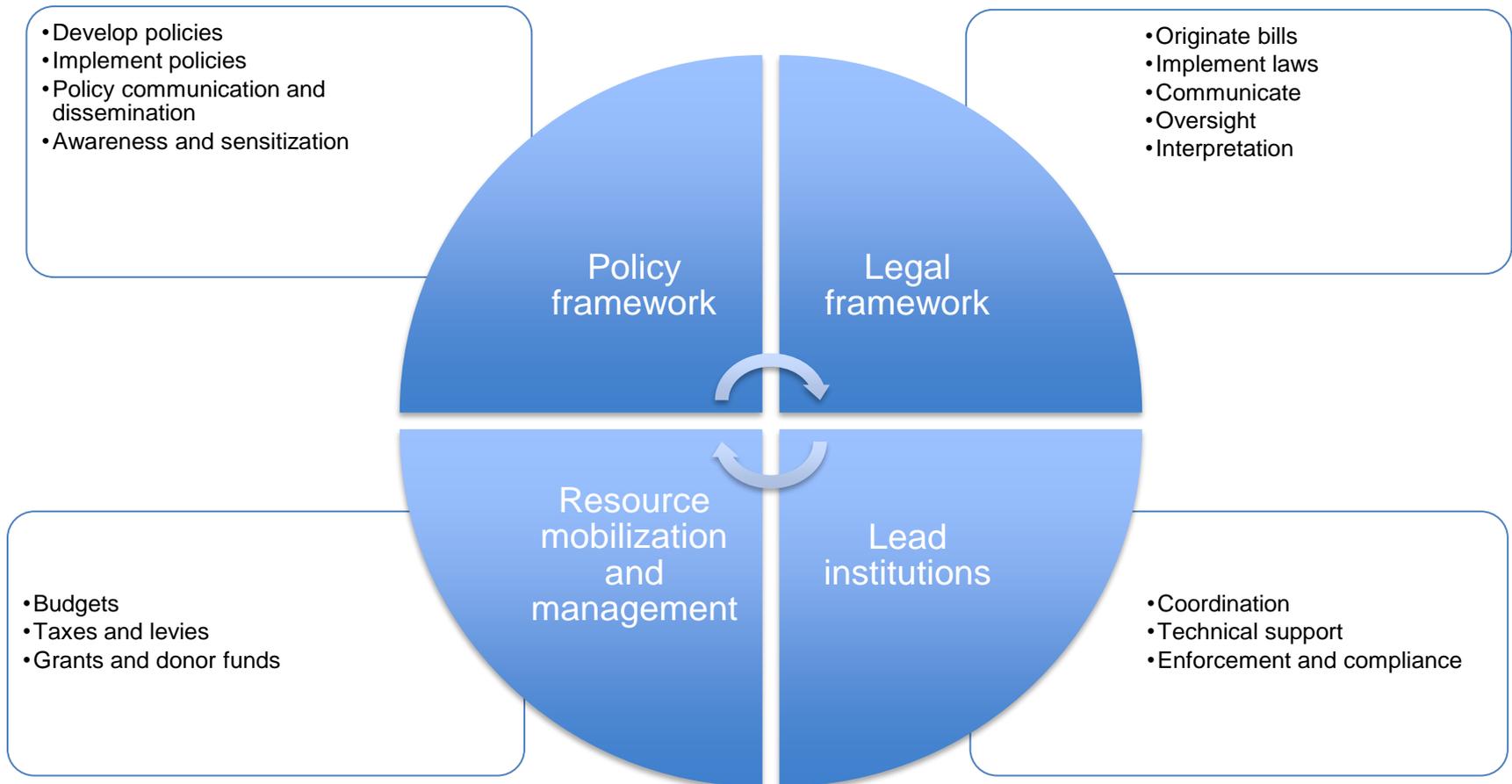
Institutional Framework

- UNEP domiciled in Africa
- Creation of Government MDAs
- Establishment of Specialized Judicial Courts
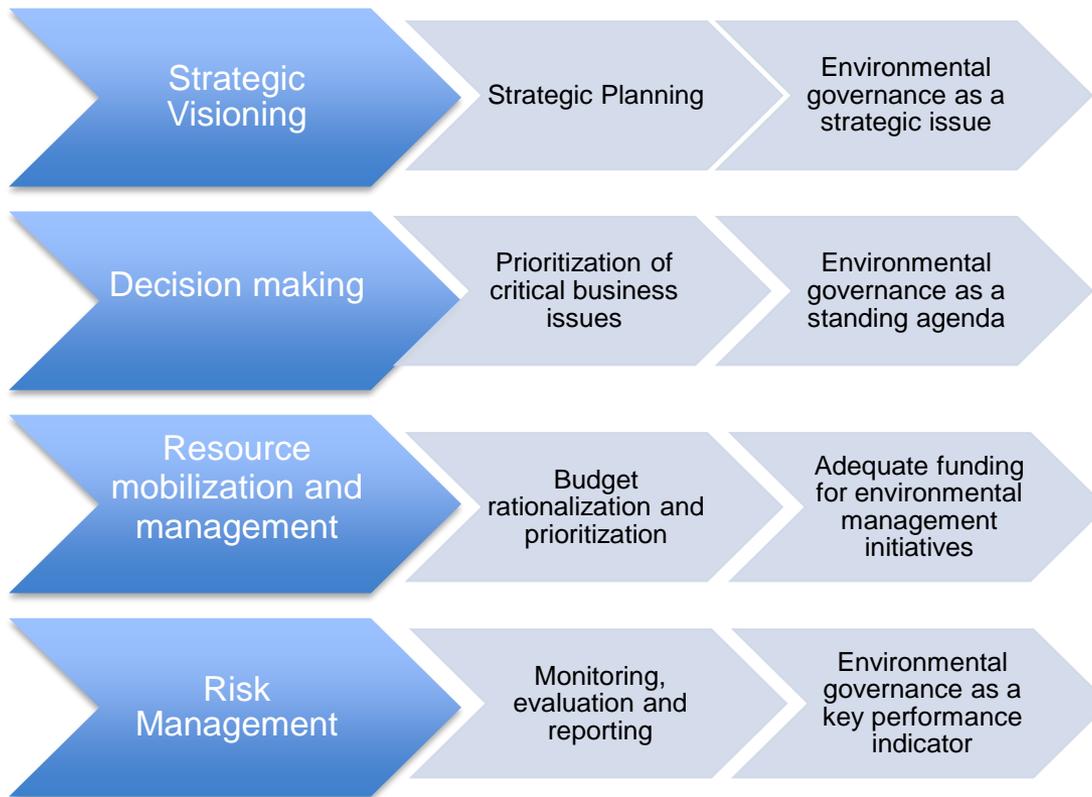- Civil Society and NGOs

Capacity Development

- Introduction of specialized environmental courses
- Specialized funds to address environmental issues
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Increased scientific research
- Awareness and sensitization programs

Role of Public Sector

- Develop policies
- Implement policies
- Policy communication and dissemination
- Awareness and sensitization

- Originate bills
- Implement laws
- Communicate
- Oversight
- Interpretation

Policy framework

Legal framework

Resource mobilization and management

Lead institutions

- Budgets
- Taxes and levies
- Grants and donor funds

- Coordination
- Technical support
- Enforcement and compliance

Leadership and Environmental Governance

Strategic Visioning	Strategic Planning	Environmental governance as a strategic issue
Decision making	Prioritization of critical business issues	Environmental governance as a standing agenda
Resource mobilization and management	Budget rationalization and prioritization	Adequate funding for environmental management initiatives
Risk Management	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Environmental governance as a key performance indicator

Conclusion

- Sustainable development emphasizes intergenerational equity in the use of environmental resources

- Remarkable progress has been made at all levels in terms of setting in place environmental governance framework to ensure the aspirations of sustainable development are realized.

- Transformational leadership especially in the public sector is therefore expected to play a significant role in entrenching the objectives and principles of environmental governance

THANK YOU