



Engaging Stakeholders: A Case for a Nuclear Stakeholder and Communication Strategy for Uganda

**Sarah Nafuna
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
UGANDA**

**Presented at the 25th INPRO Dialogue Forum on nuclear Energy Development in
Embarking Countries, Nairobi Kenya 17-21 November 2025**

Content



- Introduction
- Background
- Public Perceptions
- Applicable Legal framework
- Scope and Purpose of the strategy
- Strategic Objectives
- Key Messages and Communication Channels
- Key Communication Challenges
- Conclusion.



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management
and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Introduction



- According to the IAEA, a sustainable Nuclear Power Programme is a commitment of **60-100** years,
- Requires that all the nineteen (19) milestone issues be considered and developed including
- **Stakeholder involvement**, in accordance to International guidelines
- Encouraging **national participation**.



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Introduction cont'd



- Developing a nuclear power programme involves national and international concerns,
- Environmental, Safety issues and Conformity to requirements.
- Importance of understanding the concerns and associated level of involvement of the key stakeholders in the nuclear power programme
- A **STAKEHOLDER** is any individual, group, or organization that can impact or be impacted by a project's decisions, activities or outcomes (**has a stake in the project**)



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Background: Vision 2040



Uganda Vision 2040 identified nuclear power as part of the diversification strategy for the country's energy mix which is predominantly Hydro

THE BUYENDE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROJECT

Back ground National Development Plan IV (2025-2030)



Nuclear Power Programme infrastructure in short to medium term through the Tenfold Growth Strategy

- Buyende NPP(8400MW) constructed,
- Uranium resources infrastructure developed
- A Center for Nuclear Science & Technology developed.



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Background Energy Policy 2023



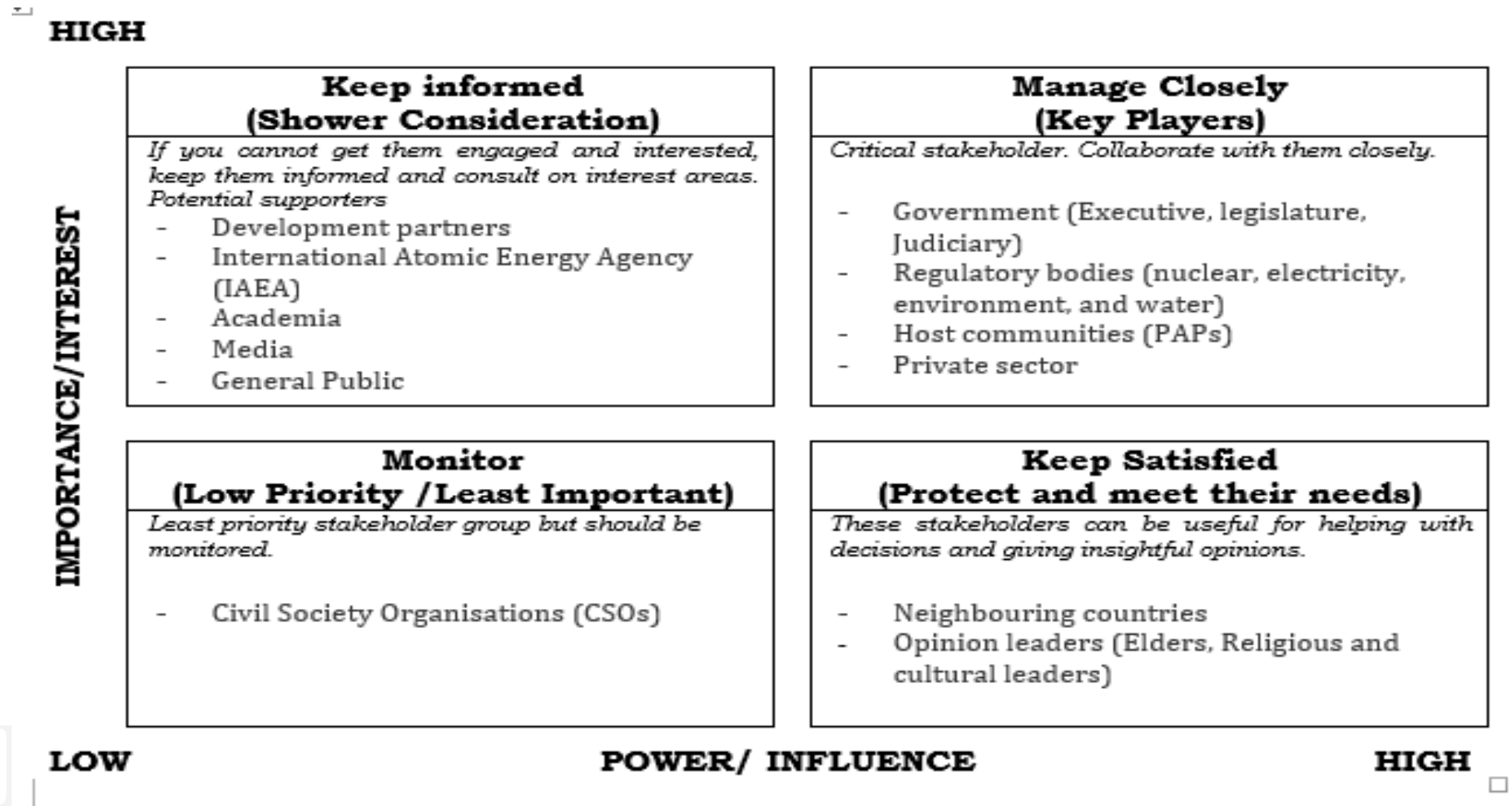
- Conducive environment for development of nuclear energy for power generation and other peaceful purposes.
- 52,481 MW generation capacity- long term, 24,000 MW will be nuclear power.
- The key electricity demand drivers include:-
 1. Electrification of the 25 industrial parks,
 2. Standard Gauge Railway,
 3. E-mobility
 4. E-cooking.



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources



Stakeholder map for Uganda's Nuclear Programme



Public Perception



In December 2016, the communication mapping in form of a survey of stakeholders' knowledge of nuclear power, highlighted the public concerns as follows;

- Human capacity to safely operate and manage an NPP, management of radioactive waste, environmental and occupational safety
- Need for sufficient water for cooling,
- Potential impact on the fishing industry,
- Emergency preparedness and response,
- Land acquisition,
- Stakeholder's involvement



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Applicable Legal Framework



- **The Uganda communications commission Act, 2013** facilitates for the need for body which regulates the communication sector.
- **The Electronic Media Act, 2011** regulates electronic transactions, including online data protection and privacy.
- **Access to Information Act, 2005** provides citizens with the right to access information held by public bodies.
- **Computer Misuse Act ,2011** prohibits unauthorised access, use or disclosure of computer data.
- **Official Secrets Act, Cap 302;** deals with State security and criminalizes the unauthorized disclosure of official information.
- **The Cyber law,2022** regulates online activities, including social media, online transactions and cyber security.
- **Energy Policy 2023**



Scope and Purpose of Strategy

Scope:

- This strategy which is part of the wide MEMD Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy .
- The strategy covers stakeholder engagement and communication activities for the nuclear power programme and other peaceful applications of atomic energy
- NOTE: The main focus is the nuclear power programme

Purpose:

To strengthen stakeholder engagement in national nuclear science and technology programs especially those on nuclear power and to clearly communicate the benefits and challenges of these technologies for the country's economic development



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Nuclear Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy



Vision

An enlightened Ugandan public on Nuclear Science and Technology programmes.

Mission Statement

To actively engage stakeholders and raise awareness on peaceful application of nuclear science and technology for sustainable socio – economic development.



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Strategic Objectives



- To raise public awareness and advocate for Nuclear Science and Technology programmes among all stakeholders.
- To ensure is that there is a communication leadership which is well coordinated and is responsive to the diverse information needs of the stakeholders.
- To provide mechanisms for the provision of timely, accurate, clear, objective and complete information on nuclear science and technology to the stakeholders.
- To address the public's communication and information needs and issues on nuclear science and technology sector routinely and evaluate public understanding and feedback on the process.
- To build capacity required to initiate and sustain stakeholder involvement processes.



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Guding Principles



- Provide meaningful information in a format and language that is readily understandable and tailored to the needs of the target stakeholder group(s).
- Disseminate information in ways and locations that make it easy for stakeholders to access it.
- Respect local traditions, languages, timeframes, and decision making processes.
- Encourage two-way dialogue that gives both sides the opportunity to exchange views and information, to listen, and to have their issues heard and addressed.
- Encourage inclusiveness in representation of views, including women, vulnerable and/or minority groups, processes free of intimidation or coercion.
- Provide clear mechanisms for responding to people's concerns, suggestions, and grievances.

Target Audience



International and National level

- IAEA and other nuclear/atomic energy organizations
- Partner Countries
- General public
- Government: MDAs, Parliament, Business partners and professional associations
- Civil Society Organisation (CSOs)

Regional level (Districts)

Local authorities

Students and academia

Traditional leaders

Religious leaders

Youth groups

Women groups

People with disabilities



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Key Messages



- Contribution of a nuclear power programme to the socio-economic development of Uganda.
- Benefits of nuclear energy projects i.e. job creation, revenue collection, improved infrastructure such as roads, schools, hospitals, water and electricity supply for the local communities.
- Siting criteria for a nuclear energy facilities.
- Environmental and Social impacts of a nuclear energy projects and their mitigation measures.
- Role of nuclear energy in the national energy policy; provision of baseload electricity to run heavy industries, energy security
- Nuclear technology and applications in health, industry, research & innovations
- Nuclear fuel supply options, nuclear fuel cycle and radioactive waste management.
- Opportunities for national participation in the nuclear energy projects.

Communication Channels



- Traditional media: Newspapers , TV, radio
- Social media ie website, face book, X (former Twitter), whatsapp, Ticktok, instagram, podcast
- Educational events, Fairs, for key journalists, members of Authorities and Agencies
- Printed materials and handouts, brochures, posters
- Newsletters
- Technical presentations
- Workshops and seminars

Feedback Avenues



- Suggestion boxes in regional offices
- Call in-during radio and TV programmes
- Question and answer sessions during meetings
- Internet chats
- Exhibitions
- Social media



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management
and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Feedback Example



MEM

VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

  @EnergyMinistry

Stakeholder Engagement & Public Awareness



Hon. R.A. Kadaga Chief Guest at the RAP Kick-off event Kasaato Village, Buyende District.



Engagement with the deputy speaker of parliament at an exhibition in Mbarara University



Engagement with Kiruhura District leaders.



Live Radio talk show in Lamwo District during site survey activities.



Key Communication Challenges on Nuclear

- Providing a communication leadership on nuclear issues by MEMD to fast moving issues and taking best advantage of the platforms as they develop to all stakeholders.
- Managing the fast-growing communication industry needs, with competing available sources of information to the media, the private sector, the general public and international community.
- Developing communication synergies with multiple and parallel institutions in government, and industry where there is limited coordination and collaboration.



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

Communication Challenges Contd



- Lack of adequate and sufficient funding and financing of the communication function in government
- Utilising the available communication tools to communicate consistently and effectively for the successful implementation of the strategy.
- Establishing communication hierarchy and accountability mechanisms for effective delivery of information on nuclear science and technology.



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

CONCLUSION



- A nuclear power programme is a major undertaking which requires careful planning, preparation, and investment in time and resources.
- The Government of Uganda recognizes Stakeholder Engagement and Communication as a key component of the Nuclear Power Programme Development.
- The Nuclear Stakeholder Engagement and Communication strategy is therefore enhancing national participation through creating awareness of the available opportunities to all stakeholders.



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources

THANK YOU



VISION: A Model of Excellence in Sustainable Management
and Utilisation of Energy and Mineral Resources