

THE ENR-CSO NETWORK BROCHURE

What is the ENR-CSO Network?

The Network for Civil Society Organisations in Environment and Natural Resources sector (referred to as the ENR-CSO Network) is a loose coalition of civil society organizations engaged in policy lobbying and advocacy towards good governance and better service delivery in the environment and natural resources sector in Uganda. It is a membership network composed of mainly local NGOs and CBOs with a few International NGOs.

How did the Network Evolve?

In October 2008, a joint sector review, combining the Water and Sanitation as well as the Environment Sub-sectors, was conducted for the first time. However, the stakeholders from ENR-Sub-Sector only attended as observers, to acquire experience in preparing and contributing to the Annual Sector Performance Review process.

In 2009, Environmental Alert (EA) was invited by the Ministry of Water and Environment to participate in the Ministry's Environment and natural resources sub-sector working group as a member of the committee representing the civil society but also participate in the Ministry's annual joint sector review process. EA

In 2010, a mapping process of ENR CSOs in the country and their related contributions to the sector in their respective areas of operation was carried out by Environmental Alert in 2011 with support from CARE International in Uganda and IUCN Uganda.

In the same year, EA mobilized CSOs to form a network so as to formalize their participation in the Ministry's annual joint sector review process but also ensure effective representation of CSOs in the Ministry's planning processes. CSOs agreed on modalities for collection and documentation of their own contribution to sector development targets for inclusion in the Ministry of Water and Environment annual sector performance report. As an advocacy strategy,

the CSO performance report with policy recommendations submitted to the Ministry is meant to influence sector priorities determined during the joint sector review every year.



Hon Munaaba Launching the CSO position paper, 2011

Progressively, it has become evident that advocacy for enabling policy frameworks in the ENR sector requires a holistic engagement mechanism and utilization of several formal and informal spaces in addition to the Joint Sector Review process. The network has thus grown from focusing on the JSR process alone to strengthening civil society coalitions at the grassroots so as to create more advocacy space but also ensure that ENR issues are considered on the policy agenda right from the local to the national level.

Why the ENR-CSO Network?

The driving force behind the formation of the ENR-CSO Network was the need for the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to get organized and formalize their participation in the annual Joint Sector Review process (JSR) under the Ministry of Water and Environment. The Joint

Sector Review process includes an annual meeting Convened by Government/Ministry of Water and Environment for the Sector players (Government, Development partners and other Stakeholders) to assess performance of Sector commitments and targets during the concluding financial year and set new commitments and targets for the coming financial year.

The network provides a platform for civil society to coordinate and jointly engage in policy lobbying and advocacy with a collective voice but also provide opportunities for capacity building through learning and information sharing so as to ensure evidence based advocacy towards good governance of the country's natural resource base.

Vision, Mission and Goal

- **Vision:** The Vision of ENR-CSO Network is “Uganda’s natural environment providing goods and services, on sustainable basis, for national socio-economic development.”
- **Mission:** The Mission of ENR-CSO Networks is to “Mobilize CSOs to effectively promote good governance, effective management and sustainable utilization of Uganda’s natural resources”.
- **Goal:** The Goal of ENR-CSO is “Ensuring that ENR-CSO network members effectively contribute to achieving good governance for effective service delivery in the ENR sector.”

Objectives of the network

- Proactively influence conservation and development policies and programmes for good governance, effective management and sustainable utilization of Uganda’s environmental resources.
- Build a credible and recognized Network within the Environment and Natural Resources Sector.
- Strengthen ENR-CSO Network and members’ capacity to implement the Mission of the ENR-CSO Network.

Governance structure

The ENR-CSO Secretariat is hosted by Environment Alert (EA) at its Head Offices in Kabalagala, Kampala and the overall governance structure is composed of the following:

- **General Assembly:** platform for all members of the ENR-CSO Network. It serves as the apex decision making and reference Organ for the ENR-CSO Network.
- **Secretariat:** hosted by Environmental Alert (EA) in Kampala. The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day administration of network business.
- **Thematic Working Groups:** consisting of wetlands, forestry, environment, weather, and climate and, good governance themes. Each theme is coordinated by a Thematic Lead institution

Thematic Working Groups

Theme Working Group	Theme Leader and co-lead
Environment	Uganda Wildlife Society and CODECA
Forestry	Environmental Alert and Tree Talk
Wetlands	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Uganda) & Nature Palace Foundation
Weather, Climate and Climate change	Environmental Management and Livelihood Improvements (EMLI)
Good Governance	Advocates Coalition on Development and environment (ACODE)

Operations of the Network

Core business

- Lobbying and advocacy for enabling sector policies and good governance in the ENR Sector.
- Membership mobilization, information sharing and joint monitoring/advocacy
- Networking among members and between the network and other players in ENR Sector.
- Capacity building for the network members.



Network members attending a Thematic working group meeting

Strategic Interventions

- 1) Engaging and influencing decisions making processes and policy implementation in the ENR Sector.
- 2) Generation and dissemination of lessons from ENR-CSO members' activities and information about the sector performance
- 3) Strengthening capacity of ENR-CSO Network members and other stakeholders in lobbying and advocacy
- 4) Building a credible ENR-CSO Network

Membership to the Network

As of 2013, there are 65 Network members comprising of local, national and international NGOs across the country:

- a. Grassroots, district and national level civil society organizations engaged in the development and management of natural resources in Uganda.
- b. International Civil Society Organizations engaged in the development and management of natural resources in Uganda.
- c. National and International Civil Society Networks, Coalitions and Trust funds.

The network is still mobilizing for more membership especially at the sub-national level.

Opportunities of the Network

- The Network provides an opportunity to share emerging issues/challenges/opportunities and lessons from the government's undertakings.
- It also provides an opportunity for CSOs to recommend actions to be undertaken by government and builds on efforts for institutional collaboration and bringing the Government of Uganda and Ugandan ENR CSOs for development.

Why Join the ENR-CSO Network

By joining the ENR-CSO Network, members become a part of a dynamic and strategic coalition of stakeholders to:

- Share knowledge and experiences on ENR within and outside Uganda;
- Amplify a collective voice on pertinent issues in the ENR sector;
- Pool resources and expertise for advocacy and capacity building;
- Harness and benefit from existing opportunities in the ENR sector

How to become a member

Interested individual or organizations fill the application forms obtained from the Secretariat, attach their organisation profile or CV in case of an individual and submit them to the Secretariat. The application will be reviewed and assessed by the steering committee and the applicant will receive a written notice informing them of the status of their application.

Financial support to Network activities

Activities of the Network are supported by member own contributions. CARE International in Uganda, IUCN Uganda, WWF-UCO and Environmental Alert have provided additional support to run activities of the Network through supporting coordination and selected Thematic working groups.



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