

Environment and Natural Resources Sub-Sector: Civil Society Organizations Performance Report FYR 2013/2014 and Positions for FYR 2014/2015



Promoting bee-keeping among Tobacco growing communities in Northern Uganda. (Photo by Nature Uganda)

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List of Acronyms

ACCU	Anti-Corruption Coalition in Uganda
ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
AUPWAE	Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment.
BATBP	British American Tobacco Biodiversity Partnership
BFP	Budget Framework Paper
CAN-U	Climate Action Network-Uganda
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CFM	Collaborative Forest Management
CFR	Central Forest Reserve
CODECA	Community Development and Conservation Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CWMP	Community Wetland Management Plan
DOM	Department of Meteorology
DP	Development Partner
DWRM	Directorate of Water Resources Management
EBA	Ecosystem Based Adaptation
EMLI	Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources
ENR-CSO Network	Environment and Natural Resources Civil society Organizations
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FLEGT	Forestry Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FMP	Forest Management Plans
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FSSD	Forestry Sector Support department
FY	Financial year
HEP	Hydro-Electric Power
ICT	Information, Communication Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JESE	Joint Efforts to Save the Environment
JSR	Joint Sector Review
KACODA	Kapchorwa Community Development Association
KASUFU	Kabende Sustainable Forest Users group
KRC	Kabarole Research Centre
LFR	Local Forest Reserve
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NAPA	National Adaptation Programs of Action
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NEMP	National Environment Management Policy
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NU	Nature Uganda

PA	Protected Areas
PROBICOU	Pro-Biodiversity Conservation in Uganda
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SPR	Sector Performance Report
SWAGEN	Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment
TBG	Tooro Botanical Gardens
UCSD	The Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development
UWS	Uganda Wildlife Society
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WGI	Water Governance Institute
WMD	Wetlands Management Department
WRM	Water Resources Management
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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1 Executive Summary

Every Financial Year since 2009, CSOs in the environment and natural resources sub-sector have been developing performance assessment reports to demonstrate their investment and contribution to the development of the sector. In the spirit of delivering development through partnership, 48 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are members of the ENR CSO network invested USD 6,549,951 in the sector. These resources have been utilized to network and expand the negotiation space through meetings, workshops, awareness and communication initiatives in support of the above undertakings.

That investment goes with programmatic innovations. First, the ENR CSO network strengthened its operations in the Albertine Rift Region (through the FOREST Project) as well as Northern Uganda and this will see the implementation of forest tenure and pro-poor Reducing Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) approaches in the region in the coming financial year.

The ENR-CSO Network has partnered with Government of Uganda, through the European Union/Food and Agriculture Organization (EU/FAO) funded Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) implemented by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Uganda Country Office to consider legalising of timber trade in Uganda considering compliance with forest trade regulations of the country.

The ENR-CSO Network, with Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement (EMLI) taking the lead has participated in the review process for the National Environment Management Policy and the development of the National Development Plan (Phase II). The plea has been for government to strengthen institutional collaborations and clarification of roles and mandates among ENR sector institutions.

The Standards Development Group (SDG) has facilitated the drafting of national forest certification standards which await approval upon validation against agreed International Generic Indicators. This should be finalised the coming financial year.

There has been an innovation to promote evidence based reporting of illegal tendencies in the forest sector by use of Information and communication Technology (ICT) to promote good governance in the forestry sector. Under this approach, a whistle blower sends an SMS to a central code, this message is finally sent to a duty bearer in the locality where the crime is committed for action.

The ENR-CSO Network has supported the development and finalization of Wetlands Management Action Plans, with specific reference to the Management Plans for Torchi and Okole wetlands that span through the districts of Oyam, Apac, Kole and Gulu.

The ENR-CSO Network has promoted Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) as a simple, rapid and low cost method for tree farming in gardens, or grazing areas or areas set aside for forests.

The main activity in FMNR is to manage re-growth from existing tree stumps and roots that sprout and trees germinating from self-sown seeds in the soil that can germinate.

This financial year, there was demonstrated collaboration between the ENR-CSO Network and the Ministry of Water and Environment in organizing the international week of forest instead of one international day event. During the week, the State of Forest Governance in Uganda report was launched by the minister.

Whereas Ministry of Water and Environment has had success against the implementation of the agreed annual undertakings for 2013/14, as detailed in the sector performance report (SPR), ENR-CSO Network still see a need to address the following challenges.

In the forestry sub-sector:

- The State of Forest Governance Study concluded in 2014 indicates a deteriorating status of governance in the forest sector institutions (National Forestry Authority, Forestry Sector Support Department, and the District Forest Services). This is attributed to the lack of adequate institutional support (and capacity) for them to undertake their institutional mandates and address corruption;
- There is increasing forest tenure insecurity arising from politically motivated forest encroachment and disrespect of the rural of law and how it applies to forest resources management;
- There is Limited access to information, knowledge and skills for sustainable forestry management at the local level.

Wetlands sub-sector challenges include among others:

- Inadequate information(baseline data) on the wetlands to guide policy and decision making on sustainable wetland management (wise use of wetlands);
- There is an escalated conversion and encroachment on wetlands resources country wide with indiscriminate reclamation for brick-laying and settlement in urban areas and for agriculture (in particular, paddy rice) in the rural areas;
- Despite discussions on lack of coordination among key government institutions that impact on the use of natural resources including wetlands (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, National Environment Management Authority, Wetlands Management Department, and Local Government), these institutions continue to operate in isolation. As a result these institutions send out contradicting messages to the general public resulting into misuse and mismanagement of the natural resources.

Within the non-green sub-sector of environment:

- There is inadequate awareness/appreciation and compliance with environmental laws/standards and norms by communities and some political leaders. Therefore, there is need to support districts with enforcement and develop a comprehensive communication and

advocacy strategy that enhances compliance and strengthens the interface between enforcement agencies, key environment institutions and the public.

For the weather, climate and climate change sub-sector:

- There are adequate inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for climate change interventions in the country. Despite the existence of climate change mainstreaming guidelines, there is little evidence of sector-wide approaches for addressing climate change in sectoral development plans and programmes at national and local levels;
- The financing mechanism of climate change is inadequate and unsustainable as it is largely premised on official development assistance and the bureaucratic multilateral funding arrangements that are likely to frustrate time-bound targets set out in the National Climate Change Policy.

2 Context of the report

2.1 Background

The ENR-CSO Network memberships have been undertaking an assessment of their performance since 2009/2010. The assessment is intended to ascertain their contribution towards the development of the environment and natural resources sub-sector. Over the years the ENR-CSO Network has reported increases in levels of investment in the sector but also demonstrated new thematic innovations and approaches leading to sector development at community level. The details provided in the sections below are a compilation of the contribution of members of the ENR-CSO Network towards sector development.

Methodology

A data collection tool was shared among active network members and used to collect data structured along ENR-CSO Network thematic governance structures.

In 2011/2012, 35 ENR-CSO Network presented data. In 2012/2013, 42 ENR-CSO Network were able to submit data and information that has been used to produce this report. This year, 2013/2014, 48 ENR-CSO Network availed information that has been compiled to produce this report. Furthermore, the thematic heads of Environment, Forestry, Wetlands, Good Governance, Climate Change and Weather held a meeting that shaped the assessment of performance of the undertakings for the financial year 2013/2014 and individual reports have been subjected for validation by network members. These assessments are provided in Section 5 of this report.

A draft report was presented for comments during the ministry's Joint Sector Review (JSR) retreat to review the Sector Performance Report. A validation meeting for members of the network was organized during which contents of this reported were scrutinized for validation.

Out of this assessment, a position paper of the ENR-CSO Network was developed and presented during the JSR to inform government decisions for financial year 2014/15. This was presented to government during the presentation of the Sector Performance Report, a function that ENR CSO members attended. Besides this, nation-wide dissemination of the ENR-CSO Network position was done by publishing it in print media ahead of the Annual Joint Sector Review in October 2014.

2.2 ENR-CSO Network participation and coordination

Every financial year, ENR-CSO Network undertakes an assessment of their performance and contribution to the sector and this is conducted alongside the Joint Sector Review process. In addition, they provide an independent assessment of the performance of the ministry as pertains to the accomplishment of sector commitments and undertakings for every financial year.

ENR-CSO Network are organised under the ENR-CSO Network that is hosted by Environment Alert. Last financial year, membership stood at 120 member organisations. With increased engagement in mid-western and Northern Uganda, membership has now grown to 151 member organisations.

The network is increasingly expanding through a registration and accreditation drive as CSOs continue appreciating benefits of being a member and working as a team. The network benefits from the nodes of existing regional nodes of the Uganda Forest Working Group, Climate Action Network – Uganda (CAN-U) and the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas.

2.3 Self-assessment and areas requiring improvement

This year, members of the ENR-CSO Network thematic heads met to review the performance of the network and propose mechanisms for improvement. Key among the issues addressed was:

- The need to revise the data collection tool to make it simpler so that members can easily use it for regular reporting. Whereas this proposal had been presented last financial year, no action had been taken. The thematic heads recommended that the Secretariat should take immediate action to finalize the revision of the data collection tool. The revised tool will be used for data collection from members as they report their performance and contributions to the Environment and Natural Resources sector for the next financial year.
- It is also recommended that the ENR-CSO Network Secretariat invest a little more time and resources in the process so as to be able to report validated information.
- There is need to have quarterly meetings and develop a plan of actions leading to the development of the report.
- The network also needs to develop a standard calendar and align it to the calendar of events for the JSR that leads to the Sector Performance Report.
- The assessment of performance by government is still qualitative. ENR-CSO Network needs to engage the ministry to find out how best to assess them.

2.4 CSO Investments in the Environment and Natural Resource Sector

There is an increase in investment in the sector as well as an increase in number of ENR-CSO Network member organisations that share in information in this regard. In the financial year of 2010/11, twenty nine (29) NGO's invested 3,856,802 US\$, in the FY 2011/12, thirty five (35) NGO's declared an investment of US\$, 4,012,624 and in FY 2012/13, 42 NGO's declared an investment of US\$, 6,050,170. This financial year, 48 NGO's declared an investment of US\$ of 6,549,950¹. The majority of NGOs reporting are mainly local NGOs (74%) and these operate in the thematic areas of environment (32%) and forestry (40%). See Figure 1.

“We appreciate that there is low funding in the sector but also we should advocate for an evaluation of performance of the low funding”,
Margaret Adata, Ag. Commissioner, Forest Sector Support Department.

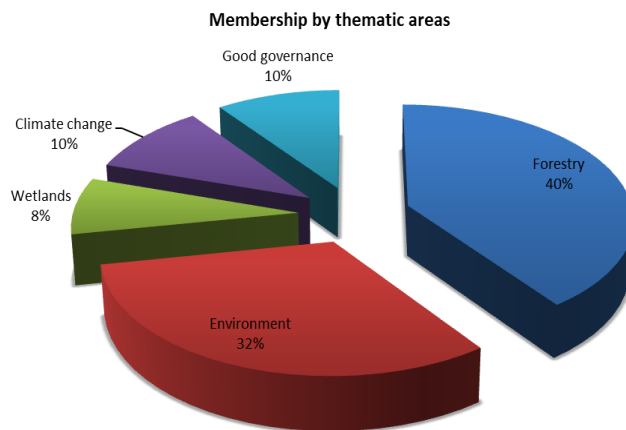
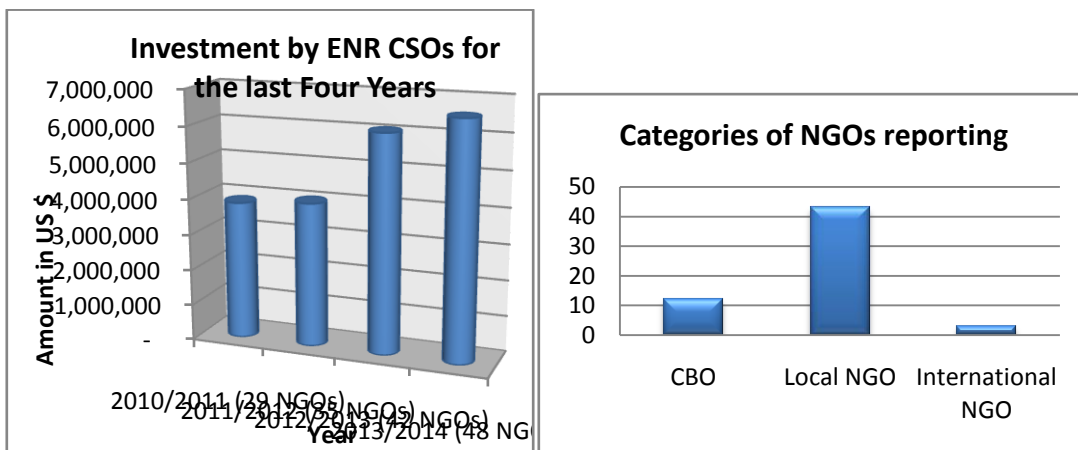


Figure 1. Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations financial contributions to the sector for the financial year 2013/14.

¹ This excludes wages and salaries as NGOs/CSOs submitted only programmatic expenses

2.5 What has been new this financial year?

2.5.1 Networking and expanding the negotiation space

The ENR-CSO Network aims at improvement of civil society coordination, networking and multi-stakeholder collaboration across the country. The network has worked towards strengthening CSOs networking and expansion of the negotiation space for a more inclusive management of forest resources in the Albertine Rift and northern Uganda. As a result, 4 sub-national forestry platforms (Kiryandongo, Masindi, Hoima, Kabarole and Northern Uganda) have been established as ENR CSO wings in a bid to get closer to the forest dependent and adjacent communities.

This is through the FOREST Project for the Albertine Rift region (funded by CARE and implemented by Environment Alert and network members), Integrated Natural Resources Management Project (funded by Danida and implemented by Tree Talk) and the British American Tobacco Biodiversity Partnership Project (implemented by Nature Uganda and its partners). Further funding has been negotiated and sourced through the Pro-poor REDD Project to be implemented in Agoro- Agu next financial year (by International Union for Conservation of Nature), the Forest Tenure Project (in Lamwo, Masindi, Bushenyi and Kalangala) implemented jointly by ENR-CSO Network/Uganda Forestry Working Group and the Forest Sector Support Department.

2.5.2 Legalizing Timber Trade in Uganda

World Wide Fund for nature (WWF) Uganda Country Office, in collaboration with the Forest Sector Support Department and other partners, and with support from EU and FAO, is promoting the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade initiative, which considers compliance with forest trade regulations of the country.

Before ensuring compliance, it is only logical that there is sufficient level of awareness among parties involved along the entire value chain and chain of custody. For this matter, leadership nodes of timber dealers have been established in Mbale (for Eastern region), Wakiso (for Central region), Mbarara for Western region) and the Great Virunga Range (for South-western region).

A communication strategy was developed and its implementation rolled out to fasten information dissemination and enhance awareness about compliance and the benefits associated with adhering to legal trade. Modern tools for harvesting timber have been promoted. It is important that dealers know that by engaging in illegalities, the country loses revenue but also perpetuates continued degradation of the forest resource to the detriment of the livelihoods of many Ugandans.

2.5.3 Participation in the National Environment Management Policy (NEMP) and the development of the National Development Plan (NDP) II process

The ENR-CSO Network, with EMLI, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment and Uganda Wildlife Society taking the lead have participated in the review process for the NEMP and the

development of the NDP II. Key considerations have been on the need for improved institutional collaboration and information sharing, strengthening the CSO roles to mobilize, create and facilitate civic spaces for articulation of needs and demands of communities and enhancing CSO involvement in the implementation of the National Environment Management Policy and the National Development Plan.

2.5.4 Outstanding activity for weather, climate and climate change

The ENR-CSO Network has promoted tree planting & renewable energy technologies. This is estimated to reduce approximately 6.5 million tons of carbon dioxide over a period of 15 years. In addition members of the network have promoted Ecosystem Based Approaches and Biodiversity Ecosystem Services restoration approaches thus benefiting communities in terms of building their capability to adapt, mitigate as well as build resilience towards climate change impacts and catastrophes.

2.5.5 Forest certification

ENR-CSO Network appreciate the fact that Sustainable Forest Management approaches, Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade, Collaborative Forest Management as well as initiatives for institutional reforms have provided no tangible results in improving the management of the forest resource. The approach now has been to consider the use of market forces to demand for certified products and services that are acquired from responsibly managed forests based on agreed criteria, standards and indicators.

Consequently, the Standards Development Group whose Secretariat is hosted at Environmental Alert finalized the first consultations and analysis of the draft national standards for Uganda and awaits the review of International Generic Indicators (IGIs) to concretise the National Standards for forest certification in Uganda. Once in place, producers of forest products and services will have to voluntarily choose to manage their forest management units in conformity with the principles, criteria and indicators therein.

The SDG has also started on the campaign to influence government ministries and their procurement entities to give special attention to certified forest products. The SDG is also working with the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) to consider mainstreaming of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification in their future Sawlog Production Grants Scheme. The SDG is also working with the Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA) that gives an entry point for marketing FSC forest certification and working towards creating a niche market for FSC forest certified products well in advance in order to sustain and expand the above highlighted demand for FSC forest certification in Uganda.

2.5.6 Finalisation of the State of Forest Governance in Uganda

An assessment of governance of the forest sector in Uganda was carried out based on 6 Principles including: Accountability, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Fairness/Equity, Participation, and Transparency. Overall, performance against the six principles is poorest at the implementation, particularly in aspects of enforcement and compliance. This indicates disparity between what is provided for in policy and law, and what is actually done on the ground.

This resonates with a widely held view that Uganda has relatively good policies, which are poorly implemented. Findings suggest that this weak implementation is due to inadequate institutional capacity in terms of human and financial resources and corruption but also, lack of political support to the sector. The ENR-CSO Network therefore, advocates for an approach that seeks to motivate political will, galvanizing non-traditional funding and enhance professionalism in the sector.

2.5.7 Use of ICT in curbing corruption and illegalities

Innovative options helping the promotion of evidence based reporting of illegal tendencies in the forest sector have been promoted. One such innovation is the use of Information and communication Technology (ICT) in promoting good governance in the forestry sector under the Forest Community Based Monitoring (FCBM) platform that is implemented by Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) in partnership with Joint Efforts to Save the Environment (JESE).

This ICT platform is supported by the Community Based Monitoring (CBMs) structures that promote citizens participation through monitoring, reporting any suspicious forestry activity observed within their vicinity as well as providing practical solutions.

This is piloted in 26 sub-counties in the districts of Kibaale, Hoima, Kyenjojo, Mubende, Kyegegwa and Kabarole with 190 volunteer Community Based Forest Monitors. The monitors report any suspicious activity that they observe by sending an SMS to 6006. The SMS is then forwarded to a respective duty bearer in the area reported for action.

The mobile phone application provides evidence in form of images and location where suspected illegal activity is being carried out. The information is collected on the server, analysed, and plotted on google maps, shared with duty bearers through direct access on a website for action.

The reports are thereafter used for informed advocacy engagements at the local and national levels. Preliminary results indicate that the public is participating, competence and confidence to report is being built, and there is increase in arrests and impounding of illegally acquired forest products.

The main challenge has been low response from the concerned duty bearers (especially the District Forest Services and the Environment Protection Force) that are not well funded. The other challenge is that sometimes information is sent to a wrong code meaning that such a case will not have been reported.

2.5.8 Biodiversity and ecosystem services restoration

Initiatives by Nature Uganda, the Tropical Biology Association, British American Tobacco-Uganda and Tree Talk to support the development and finalization of Wetlands Management Action Plans for Torchi and Okole wetlands that span through the districts of Oyam, Apac, Kole and Gulu have been on-going. Within the same landscape, the partners have promoted the establishment of woodlots of indigenous and broadleaved trees, bee-keeping through provision of bee-hives to communities, promoted the growing of fruits and establishment of energy saving cook stoves at over 200 households and 30 schools in the above mentioned districts. For all the activities undertaken, partners in this initiative have developed guidelines that will continuously be used even after the end of the project.

2.5.9 Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) approaches

FMNR is a simple, rapid and low cost method of looking after trees in gardens, or grazing areas or areas set aside for forests. The main activity in FMNR is to manage re-growth from existing tree stumps and roots that sprout and trees germinating from self-sown seeds in the soil that can germinate.

The basic method of FMNR is very simple. The farmer selects the stumps or self-germinated trees he/she will utilise and decides how many stems will be allowed to grow based on his needs. The excess stems are cut and used as firewood. The remaining stems are pruned. A good farmer will return every two to six months in the garden for an additional pruning exercise. Pruning is extremely important for stimulating rapid growth of more valuable, straighter stems. Because it involves indigenous trees, survival rates are high and deaths due to termite attack are reduced.

World Vision Uganda, with funding support from World Vision Australia, are implementing FMNR in the districts of Nakasongola (Nakitoma sub-county), Abim district (Nyakwae sub-county), Kotido district (Nakaperumoru sub-county) and Kibale district (Nalweyo). Over 40 farmers in each of the pilot sub-counties have been trained by champions and this is increasingly becoming the easiest and cheapest way of growing trees.

2.5.10 Celebrations for International Day of forests

The celebrations for the International Day of Forests enhanced collaboration between the ENR-CSO Network and the Ministry of Water and Environment. A week long events were organized and implemented in this respect. During the week, the State of Forest Governance in Uganda report was presented to the minister, an internet tool for monitoring illegal activities in the forest sector (jointly developed by JESE and CARE International – Uganda) was launched by the minister, and consultations for the finalization



Figure 2. Celebrations event for the International Day of Forests in Mpigi District

of the forest certification process were conducted by the Standards Development Group. To crown the week, the international day of forests, 21st March 2014, was celebrated at Mpigi District Local Government.

2.5.11 ENR concerns for northern Uganda

The Lord's Resistance Army conflict had impact on woody biomass (heavy depletion in some parts). Forested areas experienced significant biodiversity losses. Resettling the Internally displaced people in northern Uganda caused damage to plants and animals. Methods of clearing woody biomass, road construction, agricultural expansion, and land tenure are a concern.

Charcoal production to meet market demands in the South as well as neighbouring South Sudan is a big threat. At the same time, civil unrest in neighbouring countries has resulted in influxes of refugees into Uganda. These refugees need land on which to settle, cut poles with which to build settlements, and collect fuel wood for cooking and heating.

Trans-boundary conservation issues are a major concern. Sustainable financing of biodiversity conservation activities and strengthening of political will, institutional mobilization and enforcement capacity with respect to key institutions involved in conservation and environmental governance has been a priority for ENR-CSO Network.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (with the REDD Pro-poor in Agoro-Agu), UFWG/Forest Sector Support Department (with the Forest Tenure Project), Tree Talk (with the Integrated Natural Resources Management Project), Lutheran World Federation and ZOA (with support for woodlot establishment have been active rejuvenating the spirit of conservation in the region).

3 Sector achievements

3.1 CSO achievements in the forestry sub-sector

3.1.1 Direct contribution to service delivery in forest management

The notable contributions of the ENR-CSO Network to direct service delivery include:

--WWF-Uganda supported the Forest Sector Support Department to produce over 5,000 posters and 5,000 stickers aimed at promoting forest certification and legal timber trade in the country. These have been translated into local languages and widely been circulated across the country.

"We are planting a lot of trees as a country but also we are depleting much more than we are planting" say Prof. J.R.S. Kaboggoza, former chairman, NFA Board.

--Over 120 tobacco growing community members in the districts of Apac, Kole, Oyam and Gulu have been supported with apiary (60 Kenya Top Bar bee hives), agro forestry (500,000 seedlings), fruit tree

(10,000 seedlings) and woodlot establishment technologies (900,000 seedlings) by Tropical Biology Association, Nature Uganda and Tree Talk. There is an increasing appreciation by the tobacco growers about the need to restore ecosystem services within their landscapes.

--Management of tree nurseries to compliment efforts of the ministry to re-green the country. Over 30 seedling nurseries, of various sizes and carrying capacity, raised over 5 million seedlings. This translates into 4,500 hectares if planted at a conservative spacing of 3 metres by 3 metres. Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns, CARE International -Uganda, WWF-Uganda, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Uganda Wildlife Society, Tree Talk, Jane Goodall Institute, Ecological Christian Organisation, Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment and the National Association for Professional Environmentalists presented interesting nursery statistics In FY 2012/2013 and 2011/2012, 3 and 2 million seedlings were raised, respectively.



Figure 3. Pupils of Inomo Primary School preparing to grow trees. Photo by Tree Talk.

3.1.2 Contribution towards awareness and sensitization

At International level, ENR-CSO Network, with EMLI taking the lead, have raised awareness about climate change, reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the related funding mechanisms to help Uganda address catastrophes arising from climate change.

At regional level, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development with its partners in Kenya and Tanzania, have facilitated discussion on REDD through the REDD-net network, facilitated climate change discussions of regional interest and provided a link to the East African Legislative Assembly.

With funding support from CARE International -Uganda and coordination by the Uganda Forestry Working Group, ENR-CSO Network led by Environment Alert have implemented the FOREST Project that has helped setup and used multi-stakeholder for/community meetings, newsletters, brochures, radio/TV programs, websites, and social media to raise awareness about sustainable forest management.

With funding support from the Royal Danish Embassy, Tree Talk has operationalized the ENR-CSO Network regional node for Northern Uganda that is a forum for discussing and raising awareness about environment and natural resources management at local government level in Northern Uganda.

Jane Goodall Institute, International Union for Conservation of Nature, WWF-Uganda, Ecological Christian Organisation, CARE International – Uganda , Tree Talk, Environment Alert, and Nature Uganda among others, in collaboration with various district local governments have held sensitisation meetings and trainings with schools and communities adjacent to forests, in a bid to raise awareness for integrated natural resources management, conservation agriculture and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems services.

There is an increase in number of rural ENR-CSO Network and Community Based Organisations in raising awareness on environment concerns. JESE has continued to promote the idea of community based monitors in policing illegalities in Tooro sub-region.

3.1.3 Community participation

Together with National Forestry Authority, JESE has continued to facilitate the establishment of Village Forest Patrol Committees in Tooro sub-region to oversee management areas for Collaborative Forest Management groups around Matiri and Itwara forest reserve.

Tree Talk, the Tropical Biology Association, Nature Uganda and the Joint Environment and Energy Programme (JEEP) have trained over 80 Energy Service Providers that have continued to work with communities to construct energy saving cook stoves in Lango, Acholi and Madi sub-regions. The effort will result into 1,600 energy saving cook stoves constructed, which reduces the amount of fuel wood consumed.



Figure 4. Community training and awareness about forest management and tree planting in Lira. Photo by Tree Talk

The Jane Goodall Institute has continued to facilitate Collaborative Forest Management in Wambabya and Bugoma Forests in Hoima and facilitating nursery establishment and promoting ecological enterprises.

3.1.4 Capacity building

Over 500 teachers and 1,060 farmers in various districts of northern Uganda were trained by Tree Talk, Nature Uganda, JEEP, ZOA, Lutheran World Federation and Environment Alert on various aspects of tree tending, agri-business, energy saving stoves and water harvesting in the districts of Nwoya, Amuru, Gulu, Pader, Agago, Kitgum, Lamwo, Yumbe, Moyo and Adjumani.

3.1.5 Policy, planning, lobbying and advocacy engagements

The Uganda Forest Working Group and Forest Governance Learning Group have held policy dialogues with parliamentarians, academia, private sector, government and the general public on topical forestry issues like resources allocation, governance of sector institutions, the integration of ENR in National Development Plans and District Development Plans.

The Climate Action Network for Uganda (CAN-U), alongside the efforts of the Climate Change Unit, has participated in and shaped the debate on adaptation, mitigation and building resilience against climate change and has represented the country in regional and international platforms such as the Conference of Parties (COP).

Individual members of the network have advocated for specific concerns. International Union for Conservation of Nature has advocated and lobbied for pro-poor REDD plus approaches. WWF-Uganda has lobbied for improved taxation regimes in the forest sector, increases in legal timber on the market and forest certification. CARE International -Uganda has advocated for improved forest governance and food security. ACCU has advocated for a reduction in corruption in natural resources management. In doing so, the ENR-CSO Network has interfaced with Central Government, Members of Parliament, District Local Government, National Forest Authority, Resident District Commissioners, Natural Resources Managers, CSOs and communities to address gaps in the coordination of forest resources management.

3.1.6 Media engagement

The ENR-CSO Network has collaborated with various media institutions across the country broadcasting messages related to planting trees, protection of the environment, energy saving cook stoves, climate change concerns and ENR governance concerns across the country. Interactive radio talk shows, spot messages, DJ mentions, pre-recorded programs, live-links are some of the popular approaches used.

ACCU, PANOS Eastern Africa and the NGO Forum have held over 10 press conferences and issued press releases on topical issues such as issuance of land titles in forest reserves, un-controlled deforestation across the country, governance concerns in the oil sector, and lack of funding among others.

There is increased collaboration between ENR-CSO Network and environment reporters through their established networks such as the Water and Environment media network, the Uganda Environment Journalism Network

3.2 CSO achievements in the Wetlands sub-sector

3.2.1 Direct contribution to service delivery in wetlands management

Nature Uganda, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment, and the Natural Resource Offices of Apac, Kole, Oyam and Gulu districts has supported the development of Wetland Management Plan for Okole and Torchi Wetlands. The implementation of the management plans will commence next financial year.

“God’s intervention in management of environment and natural resources is what we have to resort to after all initiatives such as collaboration, law enforcement, institutional reforms and improved governance has failed. We need to pray,” Steve Nsita, Environment and Natural Resources Consultant.

International Union for Conservation of Nature has continued to build drought resilience for communities in Aswa River Catchment (in the districts of Lira, Otuke and Alebtong) through a village fund of \$150,000 benefiting 98 Villages (at least \$1500 each) for natural resources management. The aim is to promote and achieve Integrated Water Resources Management as an approach for natural resources management.

3.2.2 Awareness and sensitization on wetlands management and wise use

Nature Uganda promoted conservation of at the Nature Uganda Conservation Conference during which presentation on wetland conservation as habitats for birds were made. This attracted over 500 participants from central and local government, academia, private sector and communities.

During the demarcation of 25 kilometres of boundary for Rwambu wetland in Kamwenge and Ibanda Districts, JESE demarcated sensitised communities on utilization and conservation zones i.e. buffer zones, cultivation zones, fish farming, and fragile areas.

Through its radio programs in Wakiso, Luweero, Kampala and Buikwe, EMLI has raised awareness about the importance of wetlands and the need to plant trees along their boundaries in order to restore their physical and ecological integrity.

3.2.3 Capacity building

Nature Palace supported Mabamba Wetlands Eco-tourism Association (MWETA) as a resource-user group to effectively manage the ecosystem and promote wetland-based enterprises.

JESE trained Rwambu wetland adjacent communities in the enforcement bye-laws that were endorsed by Kizongu sub-county and approved by both Kamwenge and Ibanda Districts last financial year.

3.3 CSO achievements in the environment sub-sector

3.3.1 Direct contribution to service delivery in environment management

The ENR-CSO Network has piloted and tested a number of approaches that trigger action in natural resources management. International Union for Conservation of Nature has modelled a natural resources management approach that uses Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) principles to catalyse natural resources management in many sites.

“We now have the Environment Protection Police Force in place but also note that technical staff and politicians are interrupting the force as it executes its mandate”, Godber Tumushabe while presenting a paper on governance of the ENR sub-sector.

Nature Uganda, Tree Talk and the Tropical Biology Association have engaged communities in Apac, Oyam, Kole and Gulu on Bio-diversity and Ecosystem Services restoration in the agricultural landscapes of Lango. Communities are encouraged to invest in ecological enterprise such as apiary and commercial woodlot establishment using indigenous trees.

Nature Uganda in collaboration with Bird Life International developed capacity of community groups in governance and protection of habitats with a view of promoting conservation of birds (Lesser Flamingo in Queen Elizabeth National Park) and biodiversity conservation through community led actions among Lake Victoria Basin Communities.

3.3.2 Environmental awareness and sensitization

Conservation through Public Health (CTPH), the coordinators of the Population, Health and Environment Working Group, participated in the National Family Planning Conference for Uganda, during which it advocated that family planning should not be promoted on its own, but with health, education, economic development and environment conservation.

ECO conducted Population, Health and Environment campaigns through Village Health Trainers and supported Beach Management Units around Lake Victoria in fighting illegal fishing practices.

JESE continued to support the construction of infrastructures like fish slabs and cleaning units, Eco-SAN latrines, rainwater harvesting tanks among communities surrounding Lake George.

Greenwatch, Lake Albert Children/Women Advocacy and Development Organisation (LACWADO), Kitara Heritage Development Agency (KHEDA) and Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment (RICE) conducted community dialogues in Hoima, Buliisa and Nwoya districts on environmental aspects of oil and gas, land tenure systems, environmental conservation and oil exploration updates in the Albertine Region. This is shaping consideration for environment conservation by oil and gas exploration companies.

Greenwatch held a Public Interest Litigation Symposium for lawyers in East Africa with a view to awaken citizen's activism for natural resources management in the region.

3.3.3 Community Participation

JESE held sensitisation meetings on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) with schools and communities in Kamwenge district and consequently established IWRM demonstrations for best practices in 20 villages in Kamwenge district-reaching over 300 beneficiaries.

3.3.4 Policy, planning, lobbying and advocacy engagements

ENR-CSO Network (with EMLI taking the lead) have lobbied government and various aspects of environment management which include:

- Review of the National Development Plan (NDP);
- Review of the National Environment Management Plan and National Environment Act;
- Lobbied development partners to increase financial support and smoothen access for developing countries to funds administered by GEF;
- Policy engagements on National climate change policy and National Environment Management Plan.

3.4 CSO achievements in the weather and climate change sub-sector

3.4.1 Climate change awareness and sensitisation

EMLI conducted 3 Community public hearings in Luweero, Buikwe and Kampala districts on reducing greenhouse gases emissions reaching out to at least 450 people (300 women, 50 men and 100 youths). It also conducted a Trainer of Trainees (ToT) on how to manufacture

"There should be commitment to respond to illegalities and devise mechanisms evaluating officers deemed to be non-performers (fire them if they are not performing) otherwise we suffer the demise of climate change,"
Cornelius Kazora.

briquettes in Luweero and Buikwe districts and donated a set of briquette making machines to benefit at least 25 people (12 women, 8 men and 5 youths).

EMLI developed and disseminated a documentary on the Reducing greenhouse gas emissions project ahead of the 5th Global Environment Facility Assembly in Mexico. In addition, it produced information, education and communication materials on reducing greenhouse gas emissions that have been circulated and used by different actors across the country.

3.4.2 Climate change adaptation

International Union for Conservation of Nature continued promoting an Ecosystem Based Adaptation approach to climate change in Mt Elgon within which a Gravity Flow Scheme that supports over 100 households to access clean water was established. Together with communities, restoration of the River Sipi micro-catchment as an ecosystem-based solution to build social and ecological resilience was commissioned. A total of 120 land owners covering 130 acres of land along the banks of the River Sipi have enrolled in the community PES incentive scheme so far.

3.4.3 Climate change mitigation

International Union for Conservation of Nature, ECO-Trust, Uganda Carbon Bureau, Nature Harness, Tree Talk, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development, and the Jane Goodall Institute have continued building awareness, capacity and governance mechanisms for private forest owners and community groups to plant, grow and protect trees as mitigation measure.

EMLI convened advocacy workshops on pro-poor mitigation actions to be piloted at grass root levels. At least 60 participants were equipped with knowledge on pro-poor mitigation actions.

3.4.4 Policy, planning, lobbying and engagements

ENR-CSO Network developed a Civil Society Organisation position statement to government and COP 19/CMP9 that were presented at a preparatory workshop on COP 19/CMP9. Consequently EMLI as a representative of the CSO to the government delegation participated at COP 19/CMPP9. Upon return a feedback workshop on COP19/CMP9 to share outcomes of COP 19/CMP9 to better plan for upcoming regional and international climate change engagements was held.

ENR-CSO Network, with EMLI taking the lead, convened 4 strategic engagement meetings on the Climate change policy and National Environment Management Plan advocating for climate smart approaches, mindful of the green economy and increased financing of measures.

3.5 Governance as a cross-cutting issue

3.5.1 Civic education and stakeholder awareness of holding duty bearers accountable

As a result of the deteriorating state of forest governance, the Forest Governance Learning Group organized a Forestry Governance Dialogue during Forestry Week (18th March 2014) which attracted most forestry stakeholders from all over the country (including central and local government representatives, ENR managers, sector institutions, the private sector, civil society, the media among

“Ahead of the forth coming political cycle culminating into election in 2016s, we have to advocate for a round table with the political institutions to unlock the governance question that rocks the sector,” Onesmus Mugenyi, Advocates Coalition for development and Environment(ACODE).

others). The dialogue renewed partnerships between CSOs, the Ministry of Water and Environment, Forest Sector Support Department, the National Forestry Authority and the need for renewed debate on forest governance in Uganda. Articles on the need to step up financing of the sector, revitalization of the Tree Fund and other governance (transparency, accountability, fairness, equity) issues were in the press for a wider stakeholder readership.

ENR-CSO Network through its wing, the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) held a stakeholder dialogue (February 2014) with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and oil exploration companies. The dialogue intended to discuss environmental management, oil governance and livelihoods concerns of the citizenry and how this will affect development concerns of the nation.

As a result of the above, CSCO met parliamentary committee on finance, planning and economic development to present position paper on public finance bill and how this relates to oil exploration in the country and a letter was dispatched to Prime Minister seeking justice for people affected by refinery project in the oil exploration areas.

3.5.2 Research/studies and position papers

These have been the key research studies in the financial year 2013/14:

- State of Forestry Governance Report for Uganda, spearheaded by ACODE;
- Policy Brief on the Tree Fund’s Operationalization by ACODE;
- Study on access to justice in the forestry sector in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania;
- CSCO policy brief on Public Finance Bill/Position Paper on Public Finance Bill.

4 ENR Sub-sector challenges and recommendations – CSOs Perspective

4.1 Forestry sub-sector challenges

- **Challenge 1:** The State of Forest Governance Study concluded in 2014 indicates a deteriorating status of governance in the forest sector institutions (National Forestry Authority, Forestry Sector Support Department, and the District Forest Services) that is attributed to the lack of adequate institutional support (and capacity) for them to undertake their institutional mandates and address corruption.

“Until we see and appreciate the nexus between ENR and food security, the future is oblique,” Annet Kandole, CARE International in Uganda.

Recommendation 1: Provide financial, technical and professional support to the institutions and fast track the review of forest regulations, taxation of forest produce, District Ordinances relating to forest resources management and strengthen institutional coordination/collaboration, accountability, enforcement and compliance to standards and norms. In addition, government should support/embrace and adopt innovative approaches to sustainable forest management such a REDD+ and forest certification to ensure multiple benefits from forestry.

- **Challenge 2:** There is increasing forest tenure insecurity arising from politically motivated forest encroachment and disrespect of the rural of law and how it applies to forest resources management.

Recommendation 2: Government should undertake a comprehensive sensitisation of forest tenure including clarification on rights of access and use of gazetted and un-gazetted forest estates. There should also be a deliberate effort to register all forest owners across the country.

- **Challenge 3:** There is Limited access to information, knowledge and skills for sustainable forestry management at the grassroots level.

Recommendation 2: Continue building capacity within the Forest Sector Support Department to undertake its forest sector oversight role and responsibility, finance regular forest resource inventories for informative planning and decision making and support/finance traditional forestry extension to knowledge and skills and create awareness about forest values at the grassroots.

4.2 Wetlands sub-sector challenges

- **Challenge 1:** Inadequate information (baseline data) on the wetlands to guide policy and decision making on sustainable wetland management (Wise use of wetlands).

Recommendation 1: Improve the current national wetlands inventory and support the districts to develop wetland management action plans that spell out the social, economic and environmental benefits that accrue from well managed wetlands.

- **Challenge 2:** There is an escalated conversion and encroachment on wetlands resources country wide with indiscriminate reclamation for settlement in urban areas and for agriculture in the rural areas.

Recommendation 2: Create an attractive incentive package to encourage encroachers to vacate wetlands.

- **Challenge 3:** Despite discussions on lack of coordination among key government institutions that impact on the use of natural resources including wetlands (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development; National Environment Management Authority, Wetlands Management Department, and Local Governments), these institutions continue to operate in isolation, with contradicting messages to the general public resulting into misuse of the resource.

Recommendation 3: Government should expedite the clarification of coordination modalities among key government institutions in order to enable a harmonious work ethic in the wetlands sector.

4.3 Environment sub-sector challenges

- **Challenge 1:** Inadequate awareness/appreciation and compliance with environmental laws/standards and norms by communities and some political leaders.

Recommendation 1: Support districts with enforcement and develop a comprehensive communication and advocacy strategy that enhances compliance and strengthens the interface between enforcement agencies, key environment institutions and the public.

4.4 Weather and climate change sub-sector challenges

- **Challenge 1:** Inadequate inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for climate change interventions in the country. Despite the existence of climate change mainstreaming guidelines, there is little evidence of sector-wide approaches to addressing climate change in sectoral development plans and programmes at national and districts levels.

Recommendation 1: Ensure mandatory climate change mainstreaming in all development sectors which will also require allocation of a separate vote in the respective sectoral budgets; even at district level.

- **Challenge 2:** The financing mechanism of climate change is not adequate and unsustainable as it is largely premised on official development assistance and the bureaucratic multilateral funding arrangements are likely to frustrate time-bound targets set out in the National Climate Change Policy.

Recommendation 2: Design a locally feasible financing mechanism for climate change interventions based on locally generated revenue.

5 Assessment of government performance based on agreed undertakings for FY 2013/2014

Every year government plans to develop the forestry sector through its annual budget allocation under the Ministry of Water and Environment. As an accountability mechanism, the Ministry of Water and Environment compiles an annual Sector Performance Report (SPR) where it shares progress achieved with regard to implementing the set targets under its work plan including key priorities categorized as “Undertaking”.

“Government of Uganda is doing all it can to improve the quality of life of Ugandans by initiating livelihood and investment options that benefit the citizens despite the meagre resources we have at present,” Hon. Flavia Munaba, Minister of State for Environment, officiating at the World Environment Day in Kamuli.

In order to ensure improved accountability and good governance, civil society organizations assess government performance in light of its effectiveness in delivering its mandate based on commitments of the previous FY and propose practical recommendations for improvement. This is meant to ensure good governance and accountability in the sector which subsequently translates into improved service delivery.

The sections here below present a performance assessment on the four thematic areas of forestry, environment, weather and climate change, wetlands and good governance mechanisms in general.

5.1 Analysis of forestry performance

The area of natural forests and woodlands is quickly reducing. In 2009, Uganda’s forest cover was 18%, having declined from 24% in 1990 (SPR, 2013). Whereas the 15% of forests under Uganda Wildlife Authority have remained intact, the same cannot be said of the 15% under the National Forestry Authority and 70% under the District Forest Services.

Whereas the National Development Plan targeted to increase forest cover from 3.6 million hectares to 4.9 million hectares by 2015, achieving this feat will not at all be possible because of the high rate of deforestation currently at 1.8 million hectares per annum and low levels of investment in the sector. Investment in forestry remains a pre-requisite for sustained economic growth, a healthy population and poverty reduction.

5.1.1 Key achievements in the forestry sector during FY 2013/14

Forestry interventions for FY 2013/14 were implemented under two votes classified in the Water and Environment sector as: vote 019 – Ministry of Water and Environment, through Forest Sector Support Department and vote 157 – National Forestry Authority.

Key activities implemented under vote 019 – Ministry of Water and Environment:

Under this vote, a total of 231 hectares were established as small scale to medium commercial tree plantings by working with community groups and a total of 829 hectares of commercial plantations were established by individuals and institutions.

Key activities implemented under vote 157 - National Forestry Authority

Due to inadequate funding, priority interventions focused on tree seed and seedling production, forest management activities and maintenance of central forest reserves boundaries.

With regard to management of Central Forest Reserves (CFRs), boundary opening of about 116 kilometers in Buhingiro, Rwesambya, Kionda and Bukaleba CFRs was carried out and restoration planting carried out mainly in Lakeshore Range covering about 500 hectares.

In terms of Law enforcement; a total of fifty (50) out of the one hundred 150 Environmental Protection Force (Police) was deployed to beef up forest enforcement and compliance.

In addition, 4,871 kilograms of both local and imported seed variety were procured for plantation forestry.

During the period, 5,995,133 cubic meters of round wood were harvested from Mafuga plantations while 1,857.5 cubic meters of round wood were harvested in the reserves of Budongo, Matiri, Lwamunda and Mpanga Forests as compensation by corporate agencies of Uganda National Roads Authority, Rural Electrification Agency and Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited. In total, 5,998,649.5m³ of round wood was produced in plantations and natural forests.

5.1.2 Key Planned interventions for the FY 2014/15

National Forestry Authority has prioritised to undertake the following interventions:

- continue sensitizing local leaders on need to remove encroachers from CFRs;
- restoration planting of degraded CFRs;
- establishment of plantations resource base for industrial production & sustainable supply of forest products;
- Increase forest cover by the National Forestry Authority own planting and private sector planting under license and permits for planting trees in CFRs.

Other key planned activities under National Forestry Authority will include:

- continue selling mature trees in plantations & production zones of natural forests to generate more non tax revenue;
- Development of pine seed stand and increase local tree seed collection;

- Promote indigenous tree seed & increase number of nurseries and seedling production for commercial plantation development & individual tree planting during the four National Tree Planting days and; and
- Expansion of collaborative forest management arrangements to more groups.

5.1.3 Performance assessment of the forest sub-sector

The ENR-CSO Network acknowledges the work government has managed to accomplish in the forestry sector including what has been highlighted in the section above. However, the following key performance challenges have continued to hamper service delivery in the forestry sector and would require urgent attention for subsequent sector planning.

Limited facilitation of the District Forest Services (DFS) – Despite the breadth of the mandate to oversee 70% of the forest resources on private land, DFSs continue to miss out on government funding through conditional grants which would ensure protection, restoration and guide investment at farmer level. No wonder, there is escalating forest degradation currently estimated at 92,000ha per year.

Illegal land ownership in forest reserves – It is unfortunate that district land boards have not been adequately facilitated to clarify the status of tenure and gone ahead to issue land titles within forest reserves. Or, due to escalating levels of corruption, district land boards have gone ahead to do so. A case to site as an example is the issuance of land titles in Kyewaga and Nonve forest reserves by Wakiso District Land Board (and many more districts are following suit). It is also unfortunate that Ministry of Water and Environment has failed to offer the much needed support of securing tenure of forest reserves.

Limited transparency with regard to generation and expenditure of forestry revenue–Whereas the National Forestry Authority has exhibited effectiveness in collection of non-tax revenue, there is limited information provided on how much is generated and how much is spent and on what kind of investment. Even at Local government level, there is local revenue generated from forestry but on average (in most districts), less than 20% is re-invested to support forestry related activities.

Weak enforcement resulting into high encroachment on the reserves -Besides lacking the numerical capacity to protect forest resources mainly in protected areas, the Environment Protection Force (EPF) is equally underfunded and can hardly deliver its mandate because of limited resources. There are also cases of interference by the professionals in forestry and the political leaders as the EPF executes its mandate.

Poor performance of the sector Budget - By the end of March 2014, only 50% of the sector budget had been released and a slightly lower percentage for forestry related activities under National Forestry Authority and the Ministry of Water and Environment. In terms of relevance of planned interventions for the FY 2014/15, the National Forestry Authority budget has been reduced by about UGX 3 Billion Shillings at a time when National Forestry Authority is involved in efforts to secure

forest reserves lost to encroachers and beefing up their protection which requires investment in human resources.

5.1.4 Civil society positions

Position #1: Funding constraint to the forestry sub-sector

Motivating political will and galvanizing none traditional funding for forestry sub-sector is critical going forward.

Recommendation #1:The Board of the National Forestry Authority, in collaboration with the Forest Governance Learning Group, should document and package funding constraints and use such documentation in motivating political will. There is need to task the duty bearers and eliminate middle men that perpetually represent the office of the president whilst fuelling illegalities in the sector. We should be looking at generating momentum to support the existing will.

Recommendation #2:The District Forest Service (DFS) should be given a conditional grant to support forestry functions in the districts. National Forestry Authority's budgetary allocation should be stepped up considering that development partners no longer fund it. With increased funding, these institutions can be able to beef up their human resource in order to deal with the increasing pressures of encroachment on forest resources within their jurisdiction.

Recommendation #3: Using a sector-wide approach as stipulated in the current National Development Plan, government should increase funding to the energy sector in order to promote alternative sources of energy, and energy saving technologies to reduce reliance on charcoal and firewood that are key drivers of deforestation. It is of paramount importance for Uganda to secure its own energy needs, secure the forests, and popularize the link between forests and food security.

Position #2: Poor performance on the budget

The ENR-CSO network has observed inefficiency of forestry institutions in absorbing the allocated meagre resources which has consequently affected service delivery. Whereas this is not entirely the responsibility of Ministry of Water and Environment when attributed to late releases of funds from Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, the ministry has equally been responsible for limited absorption capacity because of inadequate staffing.

Recommendation #1: Ministry of Water and Environment and its respective forestry institutions should improve on their expenditure and absorption capacity of funds allocated. This can be achieved through timely execution of planned activities, improving transparency and accountability as well as fast tracking the review of institutional capacities including staffing levels.

Position #3: Corruption and weak enforcement

We are being bold and honest to say that government is undermining itself and complaining to itself. When the district land boards (government) issues land titles in forest reserves, Forest Sector Support Department (which is government), complains to government over the titles in the forest reserve.

Recommendation #1: Government should capitalize on the fact that such titles, according to the law, are null and void. There are over 600 acres of land under controversy in Kyewaga and Nonve Forest Reserves and a questioning should be presented to the land committees in charge. It is important that we keep the remaining forest reserves in urban areas for purposes of urban greenery rather than degazette.

Recommendation #2: We further recommend recruitment of staff at the Forest Sector Support Department to fill up positions in the newly proposed Forest Sector Support Department structure (approved by the Public Service Commission) that empowers it to monitor efficiently and effectively, to control corruption and strengthen enforcement.

Recommendation #3: The need to collaborate with the judicial system to reduce corruption; citing a case where an illegal timber dealer goes to the extent of saying that if you do not take the bribe, the judge will take it.

Recommendation #3: Whereas there is a ban on issuance of permits for tree planting in forest reserves, we note that this has facilitated increases in illegal cultivation and settlement in forest reserves. There is evidence that areas of forest reserves under tree planting permits have limited encroachment. We therefore advocate for the lifting of the ban on issuance of permits for tree planting in order to reduce illegalities and strengthen enforcement.

5.2 Analysis of wetland performance

Sustainable management of wetlands remains a point of concern, as industrial and agricultural development of the country needs land and water resources which are often found in the wetlands. This is common in urban areas.

This review therefore endorses recent developments with regard to wetland management, including the accelerated demarcation of wetlands and the decision by Cabinet to nullify land titles in wetlands issued less than 10 years ago, unless approved by National Environment Management Authority and granted by Kampala City Council Authority for the economic benefit of the country. The sector should follow suit by ensuring that all existing and future developments in wetlands will apply for a permit and the need for streamlining wetland management regulatory activities between National Environment Management Authority and the Wetlands Management Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment (Joint Technical Review, 2014).

While the Undertaking on Wetland Demarcation has been under government's plans for at least the last four years, actual demarcation has not been effectively implemented due to a number of reasons as given in Table 1 and under analysis in Section 3.0.

5.2.1 Assessment for the period 2013/2014

One of the priorities under wetlands was Undertaking No. 2 that aimed to complete demarcation of 6 new wetlands and commence the opening up of boundaries of 3 local forest reserves/finalize and implement the management framework of these ecosystems by the end of FY 2013/14.

The actual demarcation of wetlands was delayed following delays in procurement of the surveying consultant. This means the undertaking was not sufficiently achieved.

ENR-CSO Network urge in the consideration for the finalization of the surveys, community response/resistance towards the exercise should be cleared and/or integrated in the entire program of action and that the demarcation process should be made more participatory to register better community compliance.

ENR-CSO Network also note that:

- The public continues to view 'government-supported' projects in wetlands as causing adverse wetland degradation e.g. the establishment of a sewerage plant in Lubigi, Busega;
- Project developers in wetlands that are guarded by armed government personnel (Uganda Police Defense Force and/or Police) conveys a confusing message to the public, case of Lutembe wetland;
- The fact that the undertaking combines wetlands and Forest Reserves makes a bit difficult to monitor funds absorption, specifically for wetlands.

Under Undertaking No. 6, the sub-sector was supposed to finalise the Pollution Management Strategy to improve the long term waterquality of Inner Murchison Bay and initiate the implementation of its interventions by the end of FY 2013/14.

According to the Joint Technical Review 2014, the undertaking has been on track despite the delays in procurement of the consultancy for development of the Pollution Management Strategy.

5.2.2 Assessment in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and relevance

While the undertaking on demarcating wetlands has been on for at least the 4 years, actual demarcation has not been fully effected due to a number of technical, social and institutional factors:

- Surveying processes have taken a long time to complete;
- Resistance from encroachers, in some cases resulting into physical confrontation;
- Apparently unclear mandates between National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Water and Environment/Wetlands Management Department, Kampala Capital City Authority.

That the undertaking combines wetlands and Forest Reserves, presents some challenges in monitoring achievement and funds absorption. While success may be registered in forestry in a

given year, it may not be the same with wetlands. The different sub-sectors have different dynamics that impact on progress differently.

The nullification of all land titles in wetlands issued less than 10 years ago was welcomed by a wider layer of stakeholders as a big step in abating further degradation of the remaining wetlands, especially within urban areas. Some issues of concern, however, include:

- How far is its implementation?
- How many cases of nullified land titles are we talking about for proper informed advocacy and lobbying?
- There is need for publicizing the exercise; and creating awareness among would be perpetrators and avoid corruption tendencies.

Undertaking No 3 of 2013 was on delegation of wetland management functions to the Lead Agency (in a bid to address flaws in institutional arrangement issues). Unfortunately, National Environment Management Authority challenged its legality and as a result it was never implemented and never considered as a priority the following year. The concerns are:

- Was it the best choice to throw this undertaking in the dust bin, or could it have worked as a catalyst for future clarification of roles between the different players?
 - The issue of institutional arrangements also featured in the Joint Technical Review 2014, where the need for streamlining wetland management regulatory activities between National Environment Management Authority and Wetlands Management Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment was stressed
 - The National Environment Management Policy Review presents an opportunity to streamline institutional arrangements specifically clarification of roles and responsibilities and therefore delegation of management concerns to Wetlands should be addressed herein.

Considering that National Environment Management Authority is spearheading the National Environment Management Policy process. The opportunity presented by the National Environment Management Policy Review to streamline institutional arrangements could be missed in the event that National Environment Management Authority chooses to pursue selfish interests.

5.2.3 Registered achievement by March 2014

Under undertaking number 2, the following have been key achievements:

- 86 Hectares of wetlands in Jinja, Mukono , Makindye Division, Busheni and Masindi Districts were restored;
- Developed 6 wetland management plans for the districts of Masindi, Kumi, Ntungamo, Kasese and Kabarole;
- A total of 131 Kms of wetland boundary demarcated in Gulu and Lira.

Recommendation:

- There is need to publicize achievements through channels that can reach the wider public;
- There is need to put in place mechanisms for various stakeholders to learn from success so far registered;
- There is need to facilitate wider participation of all stakeholders, especially grassroots communities and ENR-CSO Network.

5.3 Analysis of Environment performance

Undertaking 1 on collection and verification of baseline data for Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) sub-sector performance measurement framework by the end of the FY 2013/14, and put in place a system for analysis and quality assurance and update it by the end of the FY 2014/15. This has been partially achieved through a piloting approach. Actual collection of complex/expensive datasets under ENR remains the main challenge. ENR-CSO Network recommends collaboration/joint effort with NGOs and private sector that may help government achieve the undertaking.

There was an Undertaking on *Operationalization of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the Albertine Rift Graben by the end of FY 2013/14*. There have been delays following withdrawal of Norwegian donor funding and therefore the undertaking may be achieved, though with delays. We recommend that Government should consider getting funds from oil exploration companies, to complete the undertaking.

5.4 Analysis of weather, climate and climate change performance

5.4.1 Assessment for the period 2013/2014

It is worth noting that the sub-sector weather, climate and climate change did not have a specific undertaking during the FY 2013/14. However the assessment was based on key performance indicators and planned activities.

With regard to Undertaking 1: Collect and verify baseline data for ENR sector performance measurement framework. Some action has been undertaken on climate change management.

Approx. 75% has been accomplished with regard to developing a performance measurement framework (PMF) on climate change with support from French Development Agency under “adeteF” (Assistance Technique France). Once this is finalized, the Water and Environment sector will have a specific performance indicator on climate change.

Table 1 provides a summarized assessment of performance and recommendations from the ENR-CSO Network.

Table 1. Annual Commitments/Planned Activities for FY 2013/14

No.	Government's Undertakings (U) and Commitments (CMT)/Planned activities	Status, Progress/ Performance During Financial Year 2013/14	Observations (Personal)	Recommendations
PA 1	Facilitate transformation of Met. Dept into Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA)	UNMA established by Act of Parliament & 1st Board inaugurated on March 20th, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Guidelines to operationalize the Act; - Limited funding to operationalize the Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a vote function for UNMA to leapfrog its operations under Weather & Climate issues
PA 2	Implement Quality Management system (QMS) for Aeronautical Meteorological Services	On track for ISO 9001: 2008 certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A lot of non-conformities & compliances for QMS still need to be addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rectify the identified non-compliance issues. (How this is voluntary though it is good practice)
PA 3	Maintain & Expand Weather & Climate Stations in the Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 automatic weather stations reactivated - 4 Climate information centers Maintained - 150 rainfall stations maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited personnel (200 rainfall observers only 30 were recruited) - Inadequate coverage of observation network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit more causal weather observers (100%) - Establish the Climate Prediction system
PA 4	Observe, receive, transmit weather and climate data to global Telecommunication systems (GTS) & Archive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 68,076 SYNOPS & METARS observed (91% performance) of 74,860 planned observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obsolete weather instruments - Reliance on Manual data management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Automate weather data monitoring
PA 5	Develop & translate weather & climate information into major local languages & train stakeholders on product interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 monthly bulletins produced & translated into 12 local languages - 4 seasonal forecasts produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 % daily weather forecast prepared & disseminated - weather forecast still complex information for users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue the simplification, translation and dissemination in local languages
PA 6	Provide Aeronautical Meteorological services to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issued 732 TAFs (terminal area forecast) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased volume of unscheduled flights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit more contract personnel

	International & Domestic Flights Using Uganda Airspace		- 51% TAFs issued - limited personnel	
PA 7	Maintain & expand RANET centers used to disseminate weather & climate information to rural communities	- 40% of Radio and internet communication (RANET) centers inspected & maintained - 4 new RANET Centers opened	- Retirement of senior meteorologists - low funding	- Negotiate Memorandum of Understanding with stakeholders on regular maintenance
PA 8	Maintain well-functioning meteorological equipment & instrument	- 50% of weather monitoring equipment maintained	- obsolete weather equipment	- Expedite the procurement of equipment (especially Radar system)
PA 9	Train & Carry out Research on new areas in Meteorology	- A few human capacity built	- No specialized meteorology training institutions in Uganda	- More Investment in human capacity needed (as was done for Oil & Gas)
PA 10	Feasibility study on modernization of Uganda Meteorological service & prepare 15 year Development plan	- 15 year Meteorological Development Plan in Place	- No funds to implement it	- Establish a vote function for UNMA
PA 11	Popularize meteorology in schools	- Developed educational manuals for schools	- Low levels of appreciation of meteorological issues	- Re-design to meet needs of various training institutions
PA 12	Continue provision of severe weather advisories to lake victoria users	- Received 2 mobile weather observing equipment from UK Meteorological Office	- Not yet installed on Vessels	- Expedite the commissioning of vessels so as to install the equipment.
Climate change Management				
PI 1	Strengthened national capacity for coordination, planning and prioritization of climate change activities in the country	- Partial approve of National Climate change Policy by National Environment Policy Committee chaired by the Prime Minister	- Cabinet has not yet received the latest version of the Policy for endorsement.	- Expedite the cabinet approval of National Climate Change Policy before December 31 st , 2014 - Initial the process of developing a climate change Law/Act

PI 2	Institutional capacities for climate change management in Uganda developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Climate change Unit has been elevated to Department of Climate change and by 2018, a climate change Commission will be established</i> - <i>Focal Points mapped, established and trained</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An Ag. Commissioner is in place but so many posts are yet to be filled as per agreed structure. - Lack of clarity on roles of Focal Points on Climate Change at Local Governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fill the vacant posts in the Department - Develop work plans for climate change actions at Local Government level
PI 3	Climate change considerations mainstreamed in sector & district plans, budgets & policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Climate Change Mainstreaming Guidelines finalized, launched and Disseminated nationally</i> - <i>Climate Change integrated in National Development Plan II</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited copies of Guidelines - No clear financing of climate change responses at Local Governments levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More copies of Guidelines needed and trainings to facilitate the mainstreaming work at local government - Expand the role of the Natural Resource Management conditional grant to cater for broad environment and natural resources (ENR) management & climate change response - Ring-fence the current vote function for Weather, Climate & Climate change to ONLY Climate changes Management issues under newly established Department of Climate change.
	Knowledge and capacities for	- <i>Undertook knowledge &</i>	- Inadequate knowledge &	- Need to develop a

<p>PI 4</p>	<p>climate change adaptation strengthened in cattle corridor</p>	<p>capacity surveys in 20 cattle corridor districts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implemented 4 NAPA pilots in Apac, Bundibugyo, Nakasongola and Pallisa districts 	<p>capacity on Climate Change at Local Governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited adaptive capacities in selected NAPA pilots 	<p>comprehensive strategy for Climate Change knowledge & capacity for Local Governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and evaluate the NAPA projects - Update NAPA to cover Medium and long term adaptation responses at a wider scale (perhaps initiate the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process)
<p>PI 5</p>	<p>Increased presence of Uganda in global carbon market particularly in the CDM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convened 9th Climate change Forum, participated at Conference of Parties (COP) 19, SBs 40 - Developed national framework for greenhouse gas Inventory system - Produced 2nd National Communication (Draft) - Registered 16 Clean Development Mechanisms projects - Developed 8 priority Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uganda playing a role in global climate change policy - Climate change responses appear more as documentation as opposed to bankable local activities - Inconsistent emission data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to design and support local bankable climate change response measures - Establish a clearing house mechanism for climate change information.

5.4.2 Civil Society Position on weather, climate and climate change

For the sector to making meaningful contribution to national development, the weather, climate and climate change sub sector needs to be more actionable and responding to needs of local communities since these suffer with the impacts of changing weather pattern and need the climate information for their livelihood.

The separation of Weather, Climate and climate change vote function needs to be looked into with the objective of creating space for the newly established Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) and leapfrog its activities. This is so because under the un-funded priorities in FY 2013/14, UGX 7.5billion is to be allocated kick start operationalization of the Meteorological Authority. This means that once allocated, climate change might have very limited budget for its planned activities.

Therefore the existing vote function 09 06 (Weather, Climate and climate change) should be renamed climate change to solely address issues concerning: coordination, guidance, and monitoring for climate change and adaptation measures for all the stakeholders locally and internationally.

6 Consolidated ENR-CSO Network Position on ENR Sector Performance ahead of the Annual Joint Sector Review 2013/14

The consolidated ENR-CSO Network position on ENR Sector performance focused on the theme, *'Call to Government of Uganda to improve financing of the environment sector in order to secure our environment, wetlands, forests and promote the linkage between environment, natural resources and food security.'* It highlighted the key issues and recommendations for consideration during the annual ENR Joint Sector Review for financial year 2013/14, which was held in October 2014.

Over 90% of the Ugandan population directly or indirectly depends on products and services from environment and natural resources (ENR). Currently ENR contribute over 50% of the country's gross domestic product and the sector contributes more than 92% of energy requirements for the country (National Forest Plan, 2013). ENR continue to form a major source of employment to millions of Ugandans (both formal and informal) and are also a major source of raw materials for industries, contribute towards food security, revenue generation and foreign exchange earnings through tourism.

Currently, the trend is that natural resources (and their management) continue to deteriorate in quality and quantity, affecting the quality of life of the people of Uganda. The poor are becoming poorer as environment conditions become severe due severe climate variations which, in part, are a result of mismanagement and/or maladministration of natural resources. Parts of the country are becoming food insecure, water insecure, energy insecure and other forms of vulnerability are on a rise. The ENR per capita ratio is getting lower every other year as levels of encroachment continue to escalate and remain unchecked.

The National Development Plan (NDP), currently under review, aims to promote sustainable use of the environment and natural resources to the benefit of the population. The Plan classifies environment and natural resources among the primary growth sectors that directly produce goods and services to cause development. Unfortunately the practice is not commensurate to the spirit of the NDP. There is limited funding dedicated to the management of natural resources. Consequently there is deteriorating governance of the ENR sub-sector as there are governance concerns at implementation, enforcement and compliance level despite the abundance of good policies and laws for natural resources management in the country.

It is for these reasons that the CSOs in the environment and natural resources sub-sector are making a case for improving financing of the ENR sub-sector in order to secure our environment, our wetlands, our forests and popularising the link between ENR and food security.

Reminding the civic and political leadership of the existing constitutional, policy, ministerial commitments and undertakings, in particular for the financial year (FY) 2013/2014 Joint Sector Review (JSR) Agreed Undertakings which among others were to:

a) *Collect and verify baseline data for ENR sector performance measurement framework by the end of the FY 2013/14, and put in place a system for analysis and quality assurance and update it by the end of the FY 2014/15.*

Whereas baseline data collection for the Environment and Natural Resources Performance Measurement Framework and related indicators has been piloted at sector institutions (Wetlands Management Department (WMD), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Department of Meteorology and some Local Governments), it still remains clear that there is a lack of information across the sector to guide and inform decision making in the management of environment and natural resources. The status quo is that ad hoc decisions are taken that are not informed by science and therefore the resultant deceptions in environment and natural resources management today.

b) *Complete demarcation of 6 new wetlands and commence the opening up boundaries of 3 local forest reserves/finalize and implement the management framework of these ecosystems by the end of FY 2013/14.*

Whereas there is commendable progress (based on the undertaking) resulting into the demarcation of 120 kilometers of 06 wetlands and over 113 kilometers of forest reserve boundary, it is still a public concern that boundary opening requires a lot of funding and that communities and government do not know boundaries for wetlands and forest reserves, leading to uncontrollable encroachment that undermines the integrity of the said resources.

c) *Operationalise the Oil Contingency Plan for the Albertine Rift Graben by the end of FY 2013 / 2014*

Despite the efforts to develop an Oil Contingency Plan and an Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA), the plea of the citizenry is to improve the governance of oil exploration and identify specific resources to support and enforce ecosystem restoration by oil exploration companies and interested community members to guard against environmental catastrophes in future.

d) Develop a pragmatic mechanism for enhancing and improving Local Governments' technical and financial capacities in ENR by the end of FY 2013/14

Whereas over 60 District Environment Officers trained in effective ENR planning management as well as resource mobilization for ENR Management at Local Government level, forestry and wetlands sub-sector have continued to be understaffed leading to high levels of encroachment in forests and wetlands. Whereas there are approved staffing structures for the ministry, the Ministry of Public Services has acted sluggishly to fill the proposed positions to enhance the capacity of the ministry to execute its oversight functionality in ENR management.

The Tree fund as provided for the National Forest Act and approved by Cabinet has never been set up hence denying the country an institutional framework that would be dedicated to community mobilization and resources for tree growing in the country. Meanwhile 90,000 ha of forest cover, most of which is on private land, are being lost annually.

In the spirit of delivering development through partnership, 48 NGOs that are members of the ENR CSO network invested USD 6,549,951 in the sector. These resources have been utilized to network and expand the negotiation space through meetings, workshops, awareness and communication initiative in support of the above undertakings. In addition, the network has promoted legal timber trade and forest certification as alternative approaches to ensure responsible forest management. The ENR-CSO Network has also participated in the review of the National Environment Management Policy as well as the National Environment Act. The ENR-CSO Network has also spent resources to address governance issues of the sector; advocating for improved accountability, effectiveness in delivery of services. The ENR-CSO Network has also promoted the use of information technology to curb illegalities, have promoted ecosystem restoration and promoted farmer managed natural regeneration – a process involving growing of trees from stumps, roots and natural germinations in the wild.

The ENR-CSO Network acknowledges the work government has managed to accomplish in the sector including what has been highlighted above. However, the following key performance challenges have continued to hamper the securing of environment and natural resources service delivery and would require urgent attention for subsequent sectoral planning and financing.

There is limited facilitation for the District Natural Resources (forestry, environment, wetlands) offices yet they manage the decentralized natural resources on private land. Districts continue to miss out on government funding through conditional grants and this has escalated natural resources degradation exemplified by loss of 92,000 hectares of forests per year.

Despite the recent effort to nullify illegal titles in wetlands and forestry resources, the number of developers in these public resources is growing and at a very fast speed because the district land

boards have not been adequately facilitated to clarify the status of tenure and the respective ministry has equally failed to offer the much needed support of securing tenure of wetlands and forest reserves.

Despite the existence of the Environment Protection Police Force (EPPF), the enforcement is very weak, resulting into high encroachment levels in both wetlands and forest reserves. The force is a white elephant, because it doesn't have the any command structures nor the numerical capacity, let alone the finances to protect environment and therefore can hardly deliver its mandate.

Going forward, sector institutions will require resources to effectively execute their mandates. Overall the Directorate of Environment (and the departments there-in such as the forest sector support department, the climate change department, and the environment department) is underfunded. The autonomous bodies too (such as NEMA, NFA and recently UNMA) are struggling to find resources to execute their mandate.

The ENR-CSO Network therefore suggest the following recommendations to address the above sector challenges:

- The implementation of the natural resources conditional grants for local governments from which each sub-sector (forestry, wetlands, environment and climate change) can draw resources using a vote calculated based on percentage should be expedited;
- For weather and climate change, the ENR-CSO Network urge government to establish a vote functions for Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) to leapfrog its operations. In addition, the ENR-CSO Network urge government to allocate adequate resources for implementation of the recently approved National Climate Change Policy and initiate the process of developing a climate change law and/or Act;
- For Departments within the Directorate of Environment and the autonomous institutions attached to it, the ENR-CSO Network urge government to proportionately increase funding within the respective votes, that measures with the mandates of the institutions;
- Demarcation of wetlands and forest reserves has been a major undertaking for government for the last 4 years but actual demarcation has not been fully effected due to a number of technical, social and institutional factors. We urge government to avail the necessary financial resources in order for mandated institutions to be able to open wetland and forest reserve boundaries and abate further gross degradation of wetlands, especially those in urban areas;
- The nullification of all land titles in wetlands issued less than 10 years ago was welcomed by a wider layer of stakeholders as a big step in abating further degradation of the remaining wetlands. The ENR-CSO Network urges government to find resources to enforce the nullification of the titles and consequently evict the concerned parties. In addition, The ENR-CSO Network urges government to nullify land titles in forest reserves too whilst insulating the process against corruption;
- There is an ongoing review process for the National Environment Act and the National Environment Management Policy. The ENR-CSO Network urges government to cease this

opportunity to clarify the mandates of the many institutions in the sector (NEMA, WMD, NFA, UWA, UNMA) to avoid future contests between institutions that would rather be collaborating to manage the country's natural capital;

- The ENR-CSO Network urges government to identify additional financial resources, adequate logistical facilitation and additional staffing to the Environment Protection Police Force so that it can effectively carry out its mandate;
- The ENR sector lacks information to guide its action. ENR-CSO Network urge government to finance the information gathering process and produce annually the state of wetlands report, the state of forests report to inform future the decisions within the sub-sector.

In order to attain the above recommendation, sector actors need to develop mechanisms for motivating political will to support the cause and galvanising non-traditional funding (such as cooperate social responsibility) and enhance professionalism to improve on the image of the sector.

In conclusion The ENR-CSO Network pledges to continue partnering with the Ministry of Water and Environment to deliver development in the sector and be part of the recommendations to develop a clear and effective roadmap towards improved financing and governance of the sector and ensure the implementation of the recommendations and undertakings for the FY 2014/2015.

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78. WWF Uganda Country Office	WWF Kamwokya/Kololo P.O. Box 8758 , Kampala	Humphrey Rwabugahya 0712886077

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About the Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society (ENR CSO) Network

The ENR CSO in Uganda Network was founded in 2009 as a loose network with a diverse membership of CSOs in environment and natural resources operating at national and sub-national levels. Since then the Secretariat of the ENR CSOs Network is hosted at Environmental Alert.

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.'* The ENR-CSO network will target to advocate for and influence environment and natural resources (ENR) policies and programmes and lobby mandated ENR institutions and other stakeholders at local/district, national, regional and international levels.

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