



**OPENING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**

**AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SECOND REGIONAL
WORKSHOP ON THE NBSAP 2.0: MAINSTREAMING
BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**8TH JULY 2013, IMPERIAL RESORT BEACH HOTEL,
ENTEBBE, UGANDA**



Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at the opening ceremony of this very important workshop on the second regional workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development Project and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bio-finance (BioFin) Project.

You are welcome to Uganda the Pearl of Africa and I would like to urge you to find time during your stay to tour and enjoy the serene environment of Entebbe and its biodiversity.

I thank the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and its partners and you the delegates for choosing Uganda to host the second regional workshop.

As most of you may already know, biodiversity and ecosystem services underpin sustainable development. During the Rio+20 conference the global community recognized the important role of biodiversity in the achieving sustainable development in the outcome document titled "The Future We Want".

Heads of States at Rio+20 reiterated commitment to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) namely: Conservation of biological diversity; Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources.

It important to note that in the review and updating of NBSAP biodiversity conservation should include the RIO+ 20 outcomes post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework and green economy.



Bearing in mind the above, the Governments at Rio+20 emphasized the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi targets that were adopted in 2010 during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD in Nagoya Japan.

For effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi targets at the national level, mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectoral plans, policy and programmes is crucial.

Target 2 of the Aichi targets is very specific on mainstreaming. It states that "By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems".

The project on Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development Project is therefore very relevant and enhance the capacity of countries participating in the project (Botswana, Namibia, the Seychelles and Uganda) on mainstreaming biodiversity and reporting progress towards the achievement of Aichi target number 2.

Very important in the implementation the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi targets is resource mobilization. It was agreed it was agreed during COP10 that the means of implementation for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi will include provision of financial resources. In this regard Decision X/3 on the Strategy for Resource Mobilization was adopted.



The upcoming UNDP BIoFin project that project aims to support countries in resource mobilization for NBSAP implementation including mainstreaming provides a good opportunity for countries to report progress on Decision X/3 and Aichi target 20. I am informed that the BioFin countries benefiting from this project are Botswana, the Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Aichi target number 20 requires that by 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I now would like to point out some key achievements by Uganda on mainstreaming biodiversity.

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda has provision on biodiversity. It provides for the State and local government to promote the rational use of natural resources so as to safeguard and protect the biodiversity.
2. Vision 2040, launched by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda on 18th April 2013 has provision on environment. Pursuance of a green economy, maintaining a healthy and functioning ecosystems, restoration of degraded ecosystems and sustainable use of natural resources are emphasized which all important entry point for mainstreaming of biodiversity in Government development programmes.
3. The Government of Uganda has instituted ENR concerns in the sector planning and budgeting processes (Budget Framework Papers-BFPs) at both local and national levels.



4. Environment and Natural Resource (ENR) management has been incorporated into the National Development Plan (NDP) as an enabling sector. Biodiversity has been mainstreamed in the NDP mainly at ecosystem level.
5. The sector (outside forestry, wetlands and wildlife) in which biodiversity conservation is mainstreamed most is the energy sector and this include hydropower development, oil and gas subsectors. The energy policy has provisions on environment which includes biodiversity
6. A National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was developed in 2002 and is being reviewed and updated to align it to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi targets as well as to capture new and emerging issues of which mainstreaming is one of them.
7. The NBSAP is also being reviewed and aligned to Vision 2040 to ensure that its implementation is contributes to realization of Government priority programmes and activities on environment in Vision 2040.
8. In aligning the Aichi targets, Uganda has developed provisional national biodiversity targets and also aligned the objectives of the NBSAP to the 5 strategic goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Issues on mainstreaming are being addressed under target 2 of the Aichi targets.
9. Uganda is undertaking a study on financing biodiversity in the country within the framework of Decision X/3. The outcome of this will be Guidelines and Action Plan for Financing Biodiversity in Uganda. The study is being coordinated by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on behalf of Government.



10. Biodiversity is among the key issues assessed during review the Environment Impact Assessment Reports (EIA) for proposed development projects.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, mainstreaming biodiversity is tool that will help Governments not only to create awareness on the importance of biodiversity for human wellbeing and sustainable development but also assist in the mobilization of financial resources for the conservation and management of biodiversity for the benefit of the present and future generations.

I would like to thank IIED and its partners for the financial support for this workshop and all of you for finding time to participate in this workshop.

I thank the team from NEMA for the hard work that made it possible for this workshop to take place.

With these remarks, I now declare the second regional workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity and development project and BioFin officially opened.

For God and My Country