



MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO DEVELOPMENT MAINSTREAMING IN UGANDA

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Location of Uganda

The Pearl of Africa

Figure 1: Location of Uganda in Africa



- ➡ Protected area constitute 16% of the total area of Uganda.
- ➡ There are 10 National Parks, 12 Wildlife Reserves, 506 Central Forest Reserves, local forest reserves and 12 Ramsar Sites and 3 IBAs

Biodiversity , Poverty Eradication and Development Linkage

- Over 80% of the population in Uganda (current estimate about 31 million people) depend on subsistence agriculture and biodiversity for income generation and these are the mainly the poor rural communities.
- The economy of Uganda is dependent on its natural resources including biodiversity. Coffee, tourism ,fisheries are among the major revenue generating sectors
- The energy sector is also dependent on biodiversity with over 90% of the population using biomass and about 8% using hydropower
- Therefore mainstreaming biodiversity in the development processes is very important

Vision for mainstreaming biodiversity in Uganda

- All Government programmes be it on biodiversity conservation and management has to be aligned to, and contribute to the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP)
- The NDP is a planning framework and aims at assisting Government in eradicating poverty and transforming Uganda from a peasant society to modern and prosperous country.
- The vision of the current NBSAP for Uganda is *a rich biodiversity benefiting present and future generations for national development*
- Therefore the vision for mainstreaming biodiversity in Uganda is to have *a rich biodiversity for national development and livelihood improvement*

Progress in mainstreaming

- Biodiversity has been mainstreamed into NDP – mainly on ecosystem restoration – wetlands, forests
- The sector (outside forestry, wetlands and wildlife) in which biodiversity conservation is mainstreamed most is the energy sector – hydropower development, oil and gas subsectors
- Biodiversity is among the key issues assessed during the EIA process for proposed energy projects
- The energy policy has provisions on environment which includes biodiversity

Some key aspects on mainstreaming biodiversity in Uganda

- The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda has specific provision on biodiversity. **Objective XXVII of the Constitution on Environment** provides among others that **The State, including local government, shall promote the rational use of natural resources so as to safeguard and protect the biodiversity**
- Collaborative natural resource management and revenue sharing are embedded in legislation on environment
- Aspects of offset is being taken on board especially energy projects and especially hydropower projects
- The CSOs/NGOs contributing to mainstreaming biodiversity in development activities
- Biodiversity conservation is an integral part of REDD initiatives

Challenges/constraints to mainstreaming

- Poverty and population increase
- Limited/inadequate financing
- Limited infrastructure and human capacity
- Lack of data/information to guide decision
- Weak institutional collaboration

Opportunities

- Value addition to biodiversity products
- Improved market access for biodiversity products
- Employment opportunities
- Use of biodiversity resources to alleviate poverty
- Valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their linkage to national development
- Policy, legal and institutional framework in place
- On-going discussion on REDD and development of REDD Strategy for Uganda
- Development of a Clearing House Mechanism – coordination and info sharing

How the mainstreaming diagnostic tool can support the NBSAP review process in Uganda

- Having a vision for mainstreaming
- Having baseline information on how far the different sectors have integrated or made attempts to mainstream biodiversity
- Knowing the policy, institutional, governance and political interventions that promote mainstreaming
- Knowing the knowledge gaps that exist on the linkages between biodiversity and poverty eradication
- Documenting those success stories/cases on mainstreaming biodiversity
- Identifying and understanding the constraints to mainstreaming biodiversity and opportunities available