



# UGANDA

## PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

**FRANCIS OGWAL**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST**  
**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**



**P. O. BOX 22255 KAMPALA, UGANDA**  
**e-mail: [fogwal@nemaug.org](mailto:fogwal@nemaug.org), website: [www.nemaug.org](http://www.nemaug.org)**

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Figure 1: Location of Uganda in Africa





## BRIEF BACKGROUND

- Uganda signed the CBD on 12th June 1992 and ratified it on 8th September 1993.
- Uganda also signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 24 May 2000 and ratified it on 30th November 2001
- Preparation of the NBSAP started in 1998 and the final document was ready by 2002
- The preparation of the NBSAP involved establishing task forces and wide stakeholder holder consultation with NEMA taking the lead.
- The goal of the NBSAP is to enhance biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable utilization and fair sharing of the benefits



## PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING NBSAP

- **Institutional arrangement**
  - ✓ NEMA provides overall coordination for implementation of the NBSAP
  - ✓ Implementation of sectoral strategies in the NBSAP is the responsibility of the respective sectors e.g. wildlife, forestry, wetlands, fisheries etc
- **Key outcomes from the implementation**
  - ✓ **Biodiversity Conservation Coordination Initiative (BCCI)** has been put in place to improve institutional coordination in biodiversity conservation.



## PROGRESS OF NBSAP IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ **Draft Guidelines for Accessing Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing** was developed in 2007
- ✓ **Handbook for the conservation of biodiversity in Uganda was developed in 2007.** The purpose of the handbook is to create and enhance awareness on the importance of biodiversity
- ✓ **A National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan** is under preparation. The Goal of the strategy is to minimize the impact of invasive species on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems **for improved livelihoods, poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth**
- ✓ **Policy on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** is before the highest Government authorities for approval. Stakeholder consultation and technical work completed



## PROGRESS OF NBSAP IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ **A National Biotrade Programme** is in place and operational and contributes to one of the strategies of the NBSAP of promoting sustainable use of biodiversity which is through biotrade
- ✓ **The Forest Nature Conservation Master Plan** has been developed and it gives guidance on how to integrate biodiversity into forest management activities
- ✓ **Indicators for Monitoring Environment Quality and Trends** (including biodiversity) was prepared in 2006. This is a key milestone for monitoring progress towards the 2010 target
- ✓ **A National Biosafety Committee (NBC)** has been established and is comprised of experts from the different government departments and research institutions



## LESSONS LEARNT

1. Establishment of the **BCCI has greatly improved inter-institutional coordination, collaboration and information sharing;**
2. **Biodiversity is cross-cutting** and thus requires **constant networking with many stakeholders**. But this is also tedious;
3. The **Biotrade Programme** is attracting **more interest from the private sector** in biodiversity conservation;
4. **Biodiversity** conservation has to be **linked to government priority** programmes – e.g poverty eradication, livelihood improvement
5. Policy makers and local leaders are more interested in, and ready to support biodiversity **activities that have tangible results on ground**



## NEEDS FOR FURTHER SUPPORT

- **Financial support is needed for the following critical areas to enhance implementation of NBSAP:**
  - a) **Review of the NBSAP and Mainstreaming biodiversity** into District and Local Environment Action Plans, District Development Plans;
  - b) **Development of a National Biodiversity Policy;**
  - c) **Support to the CBD National Focal Point from the CBD Secretariat** for short consultants to prepare reports requested by the Secretariat;
  - d) **Support for on ground activities** with tangible results at local community level.