



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

UPDATED CONCEPT NOTE

JOINT CELEBRATION FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AND THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY 2010

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**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



1. THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY 2010

Biodiversity, the short word for biological diversity, refers to the variety of living things of both plants and animals that are found on earth. It forms the basis of life for well-being and survival of the human race, and is vital for poverty reduction and socio-economic development. Thus, biodiversity is a global asset of tremendous value both for the benefit of the present and future generations. At the same time, the threat to biodiversity has never been as great as it is today. Species extinction caused by human activities is continuing at an alarming rate. Most of these extinctions are tied to human activities that are polluting and depleting water resources, changing and degrading habitats and altering the global climate.

In order to tackle the threat to biodiversity in a collective manner, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was adopted by the global community during the 1992 Summit on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil on 5th June, 1992. By 4th June 1993, 168 countries had signed the Convention and to-date (as in March, 2010), there are 193 countries that have signed and ratified the Convention. Uganda signed and ratified the Convention on 12th June, 1992 and 8th September, 1993, respectively.

CBD is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of biodiversity. In recognition of the importance of biodiversity, the United Nations General Assembly in December, 2000, adopted 22nd May, as the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB), and this is mainly referred to as the World Biodiversity Day. Thus, each year the global community celebrates World Biodiversity Day basing on a selected theme, and the theme differs from year to year. This year's World Biodiversity Day is special; in that, the United Nations General Assembly under Resolution 61/203 declared the year 2010, **the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB)**, with the goal of safeguarding biodiversity and preventing its further loss with slogan Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life. The theme for the IYB is: **“Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation”**

The IYB is being coordinated by the CBD Secretariat based in Montreal, Canada. The objectives of the IYB are to:

1. enhance public awareness about the importance of conserving biodiversity and the underlying threats to biodiversity;
2. raise public awareness on the importance of biodiversity and the consequences of its loss to human well-being;
3. promote innovative solutions to reduce the threats to biodiversity;
4. encourage individuals, organizations and governments to take immediate steps to halt biodiversity loss;

5. encourage dialogue between and among stakeholders on the steps to be taken in the post-2010 period.

This year's World Biodiversity Day celebrations also coincide with the 2010 Biodiversity Target adopted by the Conference of Parties to CBD (COP), during the sixth meeting (COP6) which took place at the Hague in the Netherlands in April, 2002. During the meeting the Parties committed themselves to achieve by the year 2010, a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biodiversity at the global, regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. The 2010 biodiversity target was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa and was incorporated as a new target under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 7).

2. THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 5 JUNE 2010

World Environment Day (WED) was founded by the UN General Assembly in 1972. This event is commemorated every year on 5th June. The theme for this year's World Environment Day '*Biodiversity: Ecosystems Management and the Green Economy*'. For both the IYB and WED, biodiversity is the main focus. In order for Uganda to maximize the scarce resources for celebrating WED and IYB, these two events will be merged and one national theme adopted. Like IYB, WED aims at creating awareness challenges the world is facing in managing the environment and what needs to be done by each and every one of us whether individuals or organizations.

3. THE NATIONAL THEME FOR WED AND IYB

Since over 90% of the population in Uganda depends on natural resources for their livelihood, and also bearing in mind that Uganda's economy is natural resource-based, this theme is aimed at creating the opportunity for the different stakeholders to raise public awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation and its relevance socio-economic development.

The national theme is: '*Biodiversity for National Prosperity*'. The main focus of this theme will be linking biodiversity human well being, national development and poverty eradication. The importance of ecosystem management as a key factor in biodiversity conservation, green economy and the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target shall also be covered under the national theme.

4. PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR IYB AND WED IN UGANDA

As already mentioned in part 3 above WED and IYB will be celebrated jointly. There are a series of proposed activities which will be carried out by the different stakeholders including Government agencies, development partners, the private sector, the NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that are engaged in biodiversity conservation. In line

with the national theme, institutions, CSOs, NGOs and the private sector will focus their attention on activities/programmes on/related biodiversity conservation and link these poverty eradication, ecosystem management and greening the economy where possible.

Networking and collaboration is required for Uganda to have a successful IYB and WED celebration. In this regard, each organization is expected to prepare pullouts for news papers, participate in exhibition and as well as participate in radio and television talk shows. Organizations are encouraged to use, in addition to their logo, the international logo for IYB which can be downloaded from: <http://www.cbd.int/iyb/images/2010-iyb-logos-en.zip>.

Organizations shall prepare a brief document on their activities/programmes which shall be aligned to the national theme for IYB and WED and submit to NEMA for compilation into one booklet which is expected to be displayed during the national celebrations on 5th June 2010. This booklet shall be used for future reference beyond the IYB/WED and therefore the information should be factual and concise with illustrations which may graphs, diagrams, tables, pictures among others. Organizations are encouraged to submit soft copy of their logo for inclusion in the booklet. This is for purposes of recognition of the effort of organizations that will have participated.

5. PROPOSED TIME FRAME FOR CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES

No.	Activity	Timeframe/date	By who
01.	Meeting of stakeholders discuss IYB	12 th April, 2010	Already convened by NEMA
02.	Preparation of brief and concise documents on activities and programmes relevant to the national theme	19 th – 24 th April, 2010	Stakeholders
03.	Submission of concise documents to NEMA	25 th April, 2010	Stakeholders
04.	Second meeting of stakeholders to review progress	26 th April 2010	NEMA to convene the meeting, Form a Steering Committee
05.	Compilation documents into one document booklet	27 th April – 3 rd May 2010	NEMA
06.	Share document with stakeholders and receive input-comments (through e-mail)	4th May 2010	NEMA
07.	Receive feedback on draft booklet	10 th May 2010	Stakeholders
08.	Finalize the booklet	11 th – 14 th May 2010	NEMA

09.	Print the booklet	22 nd May 2010	NEMA in collaboration with partners
10.	Field visits to selected sites in Kanungu district, the venue for WED/IYB by stakeholders and the media	24 th – 29 th May 2010	NEMA to take lead, Stakeholders to be involved
11.	Running of news paper articles, pull outs, documentaries on TV, radio announcements, interviews	1 st – 6 th June 2010	NEMA, Stakeholders, the Media
12.	Radio/Television talk shows,	1 st – 2 nd June 2010	NEMA to take lead
13.	Press conference – Media House	1 st June 2010	NEMA to take lead stakeholders and the media to attend
14.	Press conference – Executive Director NEMA	2 nd June 2010	NEMA to take lead, stakeholders and the media to attend

(NEMA – National Environment Management Authority)