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Insight into EA's climate change platform

Climate change concerns have shot at the heart of Environmental Alert's (EA's) vision of seeing communities free of hunger and managing their natural resources sustainably. Our tireless efforts and those of others are increasingly endangered by effects of climate change amidst a highly vulnerable population and fragile economy. We see hopelessness in the face of escalated environmental burdens arising from climate variability and change YET the country at the most critical moment for regional and global consensus, remains with scattered efforts, very low awareness among the population and extremely negligible actions on tested scenarios for adaptation and resilience. It's important to move with the appropriate momentum, with guided actions for mainstreaming climate change adaptation in development planning and budgeting.

Climate Change is not a new concern at EA. EA's indulgence in both technical and public discourse is well known. Thus EA faces significant external demand to respond, support and implement own actions on climate change. In 2007 EA chose to undertake desk reviews and develop a concept for organizational programme re-engineering. This was a mix of studying literature, documenting field observations, clarifying processes on the government side and active participation in regional, continental and global climate change forums. Some key landmarks and products prior to this launch of the climate change agenda include:

- Inception interactions for production of the Uganda NAPA - 2005
- Support to publication of the Uganda NAPA - 2007
- Organised the Commonwealth Climate Change Workshop (Pre-CPF) – November 2006
- Developed the EA conceptual framework for leadership and engagement
- Clarification of priority issues for Uganda and Africa
- Participated and was on the drafting Committee for the Commonwealth CSO position on financial climate change – Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting in Guyana, October 2007. (See published CSO position on Commonwealth Foundation website)
- Made a key presentation on climate change, its effects, what CSOs are doing and what collaborative forestry management (CFM) can do, at the Commonwealth CSO preparatory meeting targeting Commonwealth Finance Ministers June 2007 (See presentation)
- Hosted a side discussion on financing climate change at the common wealth peoples forum (CPF), 2007 in Uganda and participated in drafting the CSO submission to the common wealth heads of governments meeting (CHOGM) in November 2007 (EA was a member of the CPF Steering Committee)
- Produced and disseminated popular stickers on global warming
- Organised Annual Environmental Alert Awards with a Climate Change theme and rewarded best practice winners 2007(see film and report)
- Participated in Documentary launch events for Oxfam GB in Uganda and featured with Oxfam on Vision Voice Radio – 2008
- Participated in Climate change programme inception workshop and establishment of an Africa Forestry Forum (AFF) facilitated expert group – Nairobi September 2008 (Executive Director Chairs the AFF)

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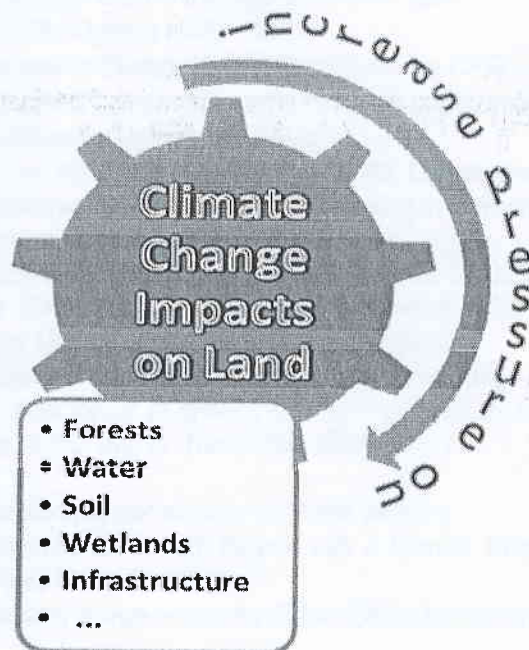
Please Contact: Christine Nantongo, Executive Director on Email cnantonqo@envalert.org or Joshua Zake, Senior Program Officer Environment and Natural Resources on Email: jzake@envalert.org. For more information, **Head Office:** Plot 475/523 Sonko Lane, Kabalagala (behind Payless Supermarket), off Gaba Road, P. O. Box 11259, Kampala Uganda, Tel: 256-414-510547, Email: envalert@envalert.org. www.envalert.org. **Moyo office:** Arua Road, P.O. Box 293 Moyo, Tel: 047 629119



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climate change Working Group, a subgroup of the AFF Governing Council). Also see AFF position on Climate Change (copy and website)

- Provided input into key donor and government consultations, participated in evaluating responsiveness of programmes as well as the concept for developing the UNDP Uganda country report, 2009. We have been visited by over 10 international agencies including representative of western governments and researchers in the last 18 months alone
- EA was a member of the technical team that developed the Government working paper of ENR and climate change as part of formulating the new National Development Plan (see working paper and EA issues paper, 2008)
- EA reviewed various National Development Plan (NDP) government and CSO working papers to ensure their climate sensitivity e.g agriculture working paper, education working paper among others
- EA participated in the CSO pre-African Minister Conference on Environment (AMCEN) meeting and the formulation of the CSO paper to African Ministers in 2008 and again in 2009 for their attention to climate change concerns from a social justice perspective. (see CSO positions and updates on AMCEN)
- EA is a member of the Pan African Climate Justice Network and Climate Change Action Network Uganda (see briefs and Websites)
- We are now part of a small group kick-starting the Uganda reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) readiness plan in liaison with the Government of Uganda focal person



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Please Contact: Christine Nantongo, Executive Director on Email cnantongo@envalert.org or Joshua Zake, Senior Program Officer Environment and Natural Resources on Email: jjake@envalert.org. For more information, **Head Office:** Plot 475/523 Sonko Lane, Kabalagala (behind Payless Supermarket), off Gaba Road, P. O. Box 11259, Kampala Uganda, Tel: 256-414-510547, Email: envalert@envalert.org. www.envalert.org. **Moyo office:** Arua Road, P.O. Box 293 Moyo, Tel: 047 629119