



Environmental Alert's Profile

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in 1988 and has contributed to improved livelihoods and development in Uganda through several interventions in four thematic areas: Sustainable Agriculture; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENR) and Climate Action/Climate Change. Gender and social inclusion is a cross-cutting theme across the four thematic areas. EA is officially registered with the NGO Bureau as a Ugandan non- governmental organization, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an independent Board of Directors that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

This brief profile presents more information about EA's competences, experiences and achievements over the years.

Vision- *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

Mission – *'EA exists to advocate for an enabling environment, sustainable natural resources management and food security for targeted communities through empowerment and policy engagement.'*

To accomplish its mission, EA specializes in policy engagement for better policies and delivery of services to poor communities in both rural and urban environments. EA undertakes structured service delivery mobilizing communities and facilitating development of their skills, approaches and technologies for the sustainable management of their agricultural systems, natural resources and Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and services. We generate experiences, lessons and facts which inform EA's issue-based advocacy agenda at the community, local, national and international levels.

EA is also host of the Secretariat of major national CSO Networks, which provides opportunity for mobilisation and coordinating stakeholders for issue-based advocacy, lobbying and policy influencing as well as uptake and scale up of good practices in the specific areas of focus. To achieve our goal EA works with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) such as Ministry of Water and Environment-MWE; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries-MAAIF; Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development-MEMD; National Environment Management Authority-NEMA; District Local Governments-DLGs at the decentralised level; private sector agencies; and with Network members in the different regions of the country.

EA operations and outreach

EA scale of engagements currently involves stakeholders in **40 districts across the country** (i.e., 20 in the Albertine graben) -- Arua, Nebbi, Koboko, Moyo, Adjumani, Yumbe, Maracha, Hoima, Buliisa, Kagadi, Kibaale, Kasese, Bushenyi, Rubirizi, Mitooma, Rukungiri, Kabarole, Kabale, Kisoro, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kyotera and Rakai); Kampala, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja, Bududa, Katakwi, Amudat, Buikwe, Luweero, Isingiro, Rakai, Kyegegwa, Gulu and Masindi.

EA as a host for Secretariat of major national CSO networks has vast experiences in mobilizing and coordinating **over 250 CSOs/CBOs** for joint action and issue-based policy engagement at national and local levels in the agriculture; environment; natural resources; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and renewable energy sectors. EA achieved this through CSO Networks such as **Uganda Forest Working Group** - <http://ufwg.entalert.org/>; **Standards Development Group; Environment and Natural Resources -CSO Network** - <http://enr-cso.org/>; **PROLINNOVA- Uganda Network** - <http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>; and **Renewable Energy CSO Network in Uganda** – <https://recso-network.org/>. EA also hosts and coordinates the **Running Out Of Trees (ROOTs) Campaign** on behalf of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE).

Therefore, EA has played and continues to play a representation and leadership role in structured CSO lobbying and advocacy engagements at the national, sub-regional and local levels.

The following are some of sector spaces where EA participates: EA is a member of the National *Wetlands Advisory Group*; a members of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Wetlands Restoration Project Steering Committee chaired by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE); the National REDD+1 Technical Committee; the Technical Committee of the Agroforestry & Urban Forestry Sub-forum of the National Forestry Forum; and the Environment and Natural Resources Sector Working Group for the Ministry of Water and Environment.

The table below summarizes some additional information about the spaces that EA currently uses or has previously used for policy engagements.

#	Area	Details
a.	National Climate Advisory Committee	Within the framework of this committee, through coordination by the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment, Environmental Alert among other stakeholders participated in several meetings and consultations that resulted into the formulation of the Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). But also relatedly, the review and validation of the Implementation Plan of the NDCs of Uganda. Through these interactions, Environmental Alert provided technical inputs for consideration by Government in this process. The inputs were based on Environmental Alert's own experiences & lessons in addition to those of the other CSOs in the Water and Environment sector, with due consideration that Environmental Alert hosts the Secretariat for the ENR-CSO Network
b.	EA coordinates and hosts the secretariats of five major civil society Networks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Environment and Natural Resource- CSO Network (ENR-CSO Network) ¹; 2. The Uganda Forest Working Group (UFWG)²; 3. The Standards Development Group 4. The Promoting Local Innovations for sustainable agriculture and sound Natural Resource Management (PROLINNOVA) Network – Uganda³ 5. The Renewable Energy CSO Network⁴
c.	EA has been part of the Southern Voices on Climate Change Adaptation initiative coordinated and supported by Care International and partners to monitor country level processes for the implementation of the National Adaptation Plans,	The objective was to advance structure evidence-based engagements with the Government and other stakeholders to influence decision-making towards delivery of the commitments made with these frameworks. Besides, the participating CSOs benefit greatly through awareness and training on how to sustain effective lobbying and advocacy on

	Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the SDGs.	
d.	EA is a member to several CSO networks at national and local level for effective issue-based policy engagements to deliver common interests and goals through collaboration for tapping into synergies and pooling resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>These CSO networks include:</i> ii. <i>International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - https://www.britannica.com/topic/international-Union-for-Conservation-of-Nature ;</i> iii. <i>The Uganda National Committee for the IUCN;</i> iv. <i>The Global Environment Facility CSO Network - http://www.gefcso.org/www.gefcso.org/index.html;</i> v. <i>The Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) - http://oilinuganda.org/civil-society-coalition-for-oil/;</i> vi. <i>The National NGO Forum - http://www.ngoforum.or.ug/ ;</i> vii. <i>Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda - https://www.pelumuganda.org/</i> viii. <i>The Land Actors Platform hosted at PELUM Uganda;</i> ix. <i>The Uganda NGO Network on Water and Sanitation - http://www.uwasnet.org/Elgg/address ;</i> x. <i>The Southern Voices on Climate Change Adaptation</i> xi. http://www.southernvoices.net/en/

EA Strategic and development partners (previous and current)

Care International in Uganda; The World Wide Fund-Uganda Country Office; Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA); Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD); The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; The International Union for Conservation of Nature; Water Aid Uganda; The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UNFAO); The United Nations Development Program (UNDP); GIZ-Uganda; The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE); The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD); The National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO); The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations; The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); The National Forestry Authority (NFA); Makerere University; Bukalasa Agricultural College; Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG); Trac FM; Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD); The Climate Action Network – Uganda (CAN-U); SUDWIND; and the Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

Contact information

Head office address: Plot 475/523 Sonko Lane, Kabalagala. P.O. Box 11259, Kampala, Uganda; **Email:** ed@envalert.org or jacinta.nekesa@envalert.org; **Tel:** +256 (0) 393 101 814.

EA Website: <http://envalert.org/>

Social media platforms:

Face book: Environmental Alert

Twitter: @Env_Alert

Websites for Networks:

UFWG: Website: <http://ufwg.envalert.org/> Twitter: @UFWG_UG; Face book: **Uganda Forestry Working Group**

ENR-CSO Network:

Website: <http://enr-cso.org/>

Twitter: @ENRCSO

Face book: ENR-CSO Network

<http://recso-network.org/recsonetwork/>

¹

The ENR-CSO Network is a civil society network that brings together local and international NGOs that work in the broader environment and natural resources sector. The ENR-CSO Network has an elected leadership and a secretariat that coordinates its activities. The Network is active in mobilizing its members' engagement in sub-national and national level forest policy process, including the national and district annual budget cycles. Further information about the ENR-CSO network is available at: <http://enr-cso.org/>

²

UFWG is a platform with a broad spectrum of stakeholders who play different yet complementary roles in their individual, collective and institutional capacities. These include field technical support, small grants management, research and products development, awareness creation, piloting alternatives, media publicity of issues and policy processes, public debate, advocacy and legislative lobbying, budget analysis and advocacy as well as independently monitor the implementation of the Forest Policy commitments. Environmental Alert is the Secretariat of the UFWG. Further information about UFWG is available at: <http://ufwg.entialert.org/>

³ PROLINNOVA Uganda is an NGO-led multistakeholder initiative to build a national learning network on promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). PROLINNOVA–Uganda envisions, 'a world in which women and men farmers play decisive roles in agriculture and NRM innovation process for sustainable livelihoods. Further information about Prolinnova Uganda is available at: <https://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>

⁴ Renewable Energy CSO Network (RECSO) is a loose semi-formal Network that brings together civil society organizations, academic institutions, individuals and Networks engaged in the promotion and development of activities and practices in the Renewable energy sub sector at all levels (i.e. national, local, sub-regional and community). This process started September 2017 with the identification, mapping and profiling of the CSOs and Networks in renewable energy for purposes of potential partnerships and effective coordination. However, in September, 2018, the Network was formalized where members agreed to have it as a **loose semi-formal Network**. More information about RECSO can be found here: <http://recso-network.org/recsonetwork/>

Running Out Of Trees (ROOTs) Campaign – Uganda has lost more than 23% of its tree cover between 2000 and 2020 (Global Forest Watch). Forest cover has declined from 3,786,547 ha in 2000 to 2,729,159 ha, a loss of 1,057,388 ha (equivalent to 28%). The overall annual deforestation rate between 2000 and 2019 was 55,652 ha, a deforestation rate of 1.5% annually. Deforestation has led to an average annual emission of 20.8 metric tons of greenhouse gases, resulting in a total release of 438 metric tons of carbon dioxide during the same period. Climate change, with its severe effects including extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and landslides, has resulted in substantial loss of lives and property. Therefore, to contribute to reversing this situation, the Ministry of Water and Environment and partners are implementing a nation-wide tree planting initiative called ROOTs, through which the Government of Uganda aspires to restore forest cover to 24% of the country's total land area by 2030. The campaign aims to plant one tree for every Ugandan annually, i.e. up to **40 million Trees per Year.**" EA hosts and currently acts as the Secretariat for the ROOTs Campaign.