

About Environmental Alert

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in 1988 and this year (2018) marks 30 years of contribution to improved livelihoods and development in Uganda through several interventions in sustainable agriculture, environment, natural resources management, water, sanitation and hygiene. EA is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

To accomplish its mission, EA specializes in policy engagements 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 WASH facilities and services. Furthermore, this interaction generates experiences, lessons and facts which inform EA's issue based advocacy agenda at the community, local, national and international levels.

EA, as a host of the Secretariats of major national CSO Networks

EA has vast experiences in mobilizing stakeholders for civic expression on forestry concerns developing and nurturing stakeholder participatory structures like networks (both formal and informal) and foras in the Environment and Natural Resources sector with a deeper understanding of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus (REDD+) issues and the REDD+ processes, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, institutional arrangements, benefit sharing, facilitating collaborative forest management processes.

EA has played and continues to play a leading role in the following areas in the forestry sector:

- A) EA Represents CSOs on the **Environment and Natural Resources Sector Working Group** for the Ministry of Water and Environment;
- B) EA is a member of the **National Wetlands Advisory Group**;
- C) EA is a member of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** and a Member of The **IUCN National Committee** for Uganda;

D) EA is a Member of the **Project Steering Committee** for the 8 years **GoU/UNDP** project titled, '**Building Resilient Communities and Ecosystems through restoration of Wetlands & associated catchments in Uganda.**' The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund and implementation is 2017-2025 in 20 districts.

E) EA led and coordinated the participation of civil society in the national consultative processes that resulted into the forest sector policy and institutional reforms in Uganda. These reforms gave birth to the new Forestry Policy, the National Forest Plan, the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, and a new institutional structure for managing forestry in the country;

F) EA coordinates and hosts the secretariats of three major civil society networks;

- I. The Environment and Natural Resource-CSO Network (ENR-CSO Network)¹;
- II. The Uganda Forest Working Group (UFWG)²;
- III. The Promoting Local Innovations for sustainable agriculture and sound Natural Resource Management (PROLINNOVA)³ Network – Uganda.

¹ The ENR-CSO Network is another 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.

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.

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 processes for sustainable livelihoods.'

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Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda

Project Outcomes!

- I. Restoration and management of wetland hydrology and associated catchments;
- II. Improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihoods in wetland catchments;
- III. Strengthening access to climate and early warning information to farmers and other target communities.



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Resilient nations.

A) Background

Time Frame: 8 Years (2017-2025),

Budget: Total budget - US\$ 44,262,000 (Green Climate Fund – US\$ 24,100,000, Government – US\$ 18,122,000, and UNDP – US\$ 2,000,000):

Executing Agency: United Nations Development Programme.

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Water and Environment.

Responsible Parties: Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA).

In order to contribute towards addressing the impact of the climate change, in September, 2017, activities for the project: **Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda were initiated.** The project is funded by the Global Climate Fund, the accredited agency is UNDP and the responsible partner is the Ministry of Water and Environment. It will run for 8 years from 2017 until 2025.

To achieve this, the project will employ a three pronged approach including; restoration of wetlands and associated forests, improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihood options in the wetland catchment areas and strengthening access to climate and early warning information to farmers. It is anticipated that the restored wetlands will also enhance communities' climate change adaptation and resilience, by reducing risk to flooding and drought associated with changing climatic conditions.

About 4million people are estimated to be living adjacent to wetland areas in Uganda and rely on these areas to feed their families and make a living. Wetlands are also an important ecosystem that captures carbon and their conservation will contribute to lowered greenhouse gas emissions.

The project will also diversify economic activities for the vulnerable communities living in the South western and Eastern regions of Uganda through the introduction of improved fishing and agricultural practices among other activities.

These efforts will be key for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals particularly Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 13 on Climate Action, Goal 14 on Life below water as well as Goal 15 - life on land.

The project will be implemented by the Ministries of Water and Environment, Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries together with the Uganda National Meteorology Authority. It will also engage various civil society (**Environmental Alert-EA** being among) and the private sector groups.

B) Project Objective

The Project is focusing on Building Resilient Communities and Ecosystems through Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments in Uganda.

C) Project Outcome

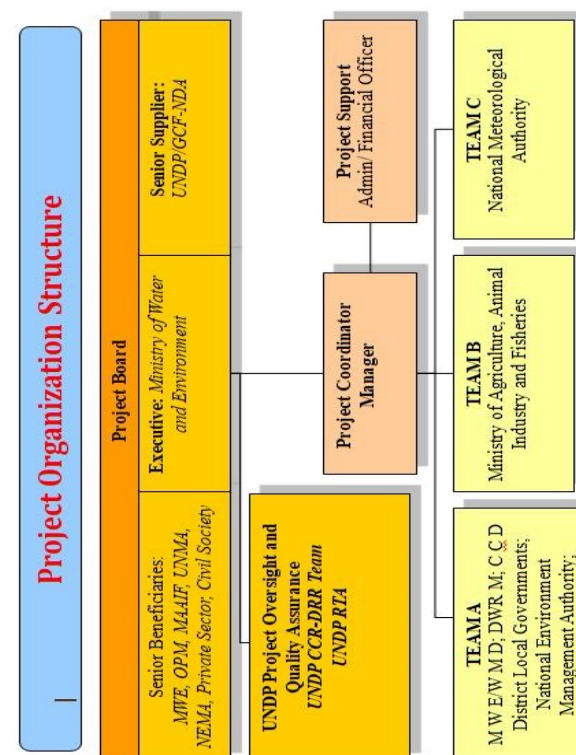
Component 1. Restored and sustainably managed wetlands for resilient livelihoods.

D) Project outputs:

- I. Restoration and management of wetland hydrology and associated catchments.
- II. Improved agricultural practices and alternative livelihoods in wetland catchments.
- III. Strengthening access to climate and early warning information to farmers and other target communities.

E) Project Sustainability

- i. To sustain the project interventions beyond its implementation period, this project will put in place the necessary ownership, capacity and identify financing schemes to ensure continued sustainable management of wetlands, sustained adoption of resilient livelihood practices, and maintenance of the climate information network.
- ii. Promotion of national ownership, enhancing South-South Cooperation (SSC) and continuous learning.
- iii. Integrating project outputs into National and sub national plans and budgeting to foster ownership.
- iv. Leveraging resources from government and other development partners in integration and scale through Government cost sharing and in-kind co-financing.



F) Target beneficiaries and geographical focus

- i. Project is expected to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in Uganda dependent on subsistence agriculture and wetlands for their livelihoods.
- ii. Targeted areas are South Western Uganda (10 districts of Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Greater Bushenyi and Ntungamo) and Eastern Uganda (10 districts of Pallisa, Kibuku, Bukedea, Namutumba, Butaleja, Budaka, Tororo, Kaliro, Ngora & Mbale).
- iii. Primary beneficiaries: At least 800,000 people in and around wetlands will directly benefit from the proposed investment including women (adult), youth (young females and males) and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs),
- iv. Secondary beneficiaries: Total population of target districts is 3,946,366 people with land area of 13,000 Km².