



The Rio Conventions Project

1.0. Background

Environmental Alert (EA) in collaboration with National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF); and in partnership with Advocates Coalition on Environment and Development (ACODE), and Nature Uganda, is implementing a project called “**Strengthening Institutional Capacity for effective Implementation of Rio Conventions in Uganda**”. The project builds on the 2007 National capacity needs self-Assessment (NCSA) on implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Uganda. This is a 4 year pilot project implemented in the districts of Buikwe, Jinja, Kayunga, Mukono and Wakiso.

2.0. Objective

The objective is to **strengthen institutional capacity for effective implementation and monitoring of Rio Conventions in Uganda**. The three Rio conventions project covers the 3 MEAs namely the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The project will contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal **15** (Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss) and Goal **17** (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

The project has two main components namely: (1) Establishing a national institutional framework for environmental management; and (2) Development of coordinated information and data management systems.

NEMA on behalf of Government of Uganda in liaison with other relevant implementing partners, is committed to ensuring successful implementation of the Rio Conventions Project. NEMA thus recognises the input from other stakeholders in ensuring successful implementation of the project, particularly relevant ministries and Civil Society Organisations, including Nature Uganda, Advocates Coalition on Development and Environment (ACODE), Environmental Alert, among others.

This was followed by formalization of the collaboration in the framework of MoU between NEMA and the CSOs i.e ACODE, EA and NU given the overall objectives and common interest. This study fits in the MoU Framework.

3.0. Project Outcome:

This project is expected to contribute to three outcomes:

- i. Strengthened and elaborated national institutional framework for managing the environment and natural resources;
- ii. Technical and management staff sufficiently trained in monitoring and data analysis, and linkage to decision-making processes; and
- iii. An improved national system to manage data and information that supports monitoring and implementations of Rio Conventions.

4.0. Cordination among the 3 CSO (ACODE, EA, and NU)

The 3 Implementing CSOs namely ACODE, EA, and NU agreed that each CSO will coordinate the implementation of activities for a each financial year until the completion of the project. Below are the roles and responsibilities of the coordinating CSO.

4.1. Roles and responsibilities of the coordinating CSO

- i. Provide the lead role on the project Administration and coordination of the planned project activities;
- ii. Contracting and disbursement of funds to the implementing member;
- iii. Preparation and submission of consolidated reports (both technical and financial)
- iv. Undertake technical supervision of the implementation by the partners, including regular backstopping and periodic field monitoring visits and evaluation to provide the necessary support;
- v. Timely reporting to the NEMA as stipulated in the signed Memorandum of Understanding between NEMA, ACODE and Nature Uganda.

Box 1. 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 and natural resources management. 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.

EA is a 1st prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.

EA is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a Member of The IUCN National Committee for Uganda.

EA envisions, *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

EA's mission is to, *'Contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resources management'*

Program and institutional Components:

1. Environment and Natural resources management;
2. Food security and Nutrition;
3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
4. Finance and Administration;
5. Resource mobilization and Investment.

Scale of Implementation:

EA operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently EA's operations are in 20 districts across the country. EA undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements

EA is a Secretariat for following networks:

- a) The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network) - <http://enr-cso.org/>;
- b) Uganda Forestry Working Group - <http://ufwg.entalert.org/>;
- c) The Standards Development Group (for promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Uganda); and
- d) Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management (PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network) - <http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>.
- e) Renewable Energy Civil Society Organizations (RECSOs) Network.

Further information about Environmental Alert is available at: <http://entalert.org/>