



**Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations (ENR-CSO) Network Statement in respect to the Semi-Annual Performance Review (FY 2020/2021) for the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Program, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

**Presented by:** Dr. Joshua Zake (Ph.D.), Executive Director of Environmental Alert,  
**On behalf of the ENR-CSO Network Secretariat, hosted at Environmental Alert.**

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*Minister of Water and Environment;*  
*Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment;*  
*Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development; Office of the Prime Minister;*  
*Executive Directors of Government Authorities i.e. Executive Directors - National Forestry Authority;*  
*National Environment Management Authority; Uganda National Metrological Authority; National Planning Authority;*  
*Director, Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and all technical staff of the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development;*  
*Development Partners - European Union and the World Bank;*  
*Fellow CSOs and Networks, Member of the General public; All protocol observed.*

I greet you all in your capacities and as well welcome you to the 1<sup>st</sup> Semi-Annual Program review for the (FY 2020/2021) for the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Program. Thank you for the demonstrated actively participation through presentation

**Great appreciation for the demonstrated leadership** by the 2 Ministries for successfully organizing this semi-annual program performance review. In the same vein, **many thanks for consideration of the CSOs to make this CSO statement** as a way of active participating and contribution to this initiative. The development partners are equally appreciated for the financial and technical support towards implementation of the program aspirations

**Fellow CSOs**, thanks for the continuous structured engagements with the Government through the respective line Ministries, Authorities and Departments by providing alternative policy recommendations for consideration. **We congratulate the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development** – for the good coordination during the preparation of the National Development Plan, III to come up with clear commitments, targets, and outputs for the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Program.

Furthermore, for the **Programme achievements** delivered to date as shared through the various presentations made since morning. ***This notwithstanding, we note that the Program still faces various challenges/limitations which limit performance and program delivery against the set commitments, targets, and outputs***

**The following are some of the key challenges/limitations:**

**a) Inadequate resources** to support policy implementation, enforcement and services delivery in the water, environment, climate change, natural resources and land sub sectors especially at the lower local government levels. *For instance, the budget allocations to the environment & natural resources is at 3.7% of the total budget (for the FY 2020/2021). Thus, on average the environment and natural resources sector receives about 800 billion shillings annually. However, investments required to*



address program issues is estimated at 9 times the current funding investment (MWE, 2018). The current funding is far below the estimated national adaptation costs 194.5 million USD per year, (National Climate change Policy, (2013). Previous experience showed that inadequate funding to the across sectors resulted in failure in deliver on several targets under the NDP II, (2015/16-2019/20).

**b) Severe reduction in the forest cover and wetland degradation** (thus, currently 12.4 and 8.9%, respectively, MWE, 2020) which exacerbate the effects of climate change on Water, Environment and Agriculture

**c) Climate variability and change associated impacts** including: raising water levels resulting into flooding in the Lake Victoria, Albert and Kyoga basins. Thus, climate induced disasters are more prevalent in various parts of the country.

**d) Corona Virus Disease – 19 (COVID-19) Pandemic** total lock down impacted on all the sectors and the economy, largely due to restricted movements, loss of business and livelihoods. Besides various development projects were suspended due to reduction in financial flows, there compromising implementation, enforcement and service delivery in the water, environment, climate change, natural resources and land sub sectors.

### **Suggested recommendations going forward**

**a) Step up resources (e.g. financial, human, technological) allocation** to support effective implementation of the planned undertakings and the associated commitment and targets for the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Program. This requires structured engagement with high level decision makers e.g. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; National Planning Authority; President's office.

**b) Advance Private sector involvement** in the planning, implementation (especially at the landscape and water catchment management levels) and review of the program performance and reporting

**c) Promote Investment in Science, Technology, Engineering, Innovation, Research and development** for purposes of advancing sustainable infrastructure development, efficiency and effectiveness of the environment & natural resources management, but also supporting responsive community-based adaptation and mitigation to climate change and variability

**d) Active participation of the Local Government, Cities Authorities** (i.e. Kampala, Masaka, Gulu, Arua, Fort Portal, Mbarara and Mbale) in the planning, implementation and review of the annual program performance and report.

**e) Review and update the monitoring, reporting and verification frameworks** (earlier based on sector approach) to track performance and reporting against the set Programme targets and committees in the National Development Plan III, (2020/21-2024/25).

**f) Update the current strategies for gender strategies** earlier based on sectors to integrate the requirements and aspirations in the Programme in respect to gender and gender-based violence.

**g) Promoting environment, natural resources, climate action stewardship through exemplary leadership** (by Government technocrats, Politicians, Private Sector, Cultural, Religious, Academia) at all levels.

**h) Develop and implement the COVID-19 green recovery action plan** to enable effective implementation of the Programme.

**i) Strengthening the existing institutional and coordination mechanisms** for effective implementation of the programme activities in the forest landscapes, water catchments, district and community levels.

Lastly, as the ENR-CSOs we commit to align our programme implementation to the NDP III, so we can make value adding contributions towards the Programme targets. Besides, we will continuously pursue structured evidence-based engagements with the Government at all levels to provide alternative policy recommendations targeted at contributing to improved community livelihood, economic



development and resilience to climate change while sustainably managing the environment and natural resources

Thank you for listening.

**A) Some key References for further reading:**

**ENR-CSOs Position Paper on Performance in the Environment and Natural Resources Subsector for the Financial Year 2019/2020.** Available at: <http://enr-cso.org/news/enr-csos-position-paper-on-performance-in-the-environment-and-natural-resources-subsector-for-the-financial-year-20192020/>

**Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations (ENR-CSOs) Consolidated Annual Performance Report, 2019/2020.** Available at: <http://enr-cso.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ENR-CSO-Report-2019-2020.pdf>

**Water and Environment Sector Annual Performance Report, 2020.** Ministry of Water and Environment. Available at: <https://mwe.go.ug/sites/default/files/library/Water%20and%20Environment%20Sector%20Performance%20Report%202020.pdf>

**B) About the ENR-CSO network**

Founded in 2009, the ENR-CSO Network is a semi-formal network whose Vision is, 'Uganda's environment and natural resources sustainably managed for (socio-economic) transformation.'

**Mission:** 'Promoting and advocating for good governance of Uganda's environment and natural resources.'

**Key Result areas for the ENR-CSO Network:**

- 1) *Enhanced joint advocacy and strategic engagement*
- 2) *Capacity strengthening of ENR CSO Network members*
- 3) *Improved information management and sharing*
- 4) *Enhanced ENR CSO Network membership and partnerships management*
- 5) *ENR CSO Network financial and institutional sustainability*

The ENR-CSO Network Secretariat is hosted at Environmental Alert.

**C) About Environmental Alert**

Environmental Alert was founded in 1988 and is officially registered Non-Government Organization with board. Thus, in 2018 – EA made 30 years of contribution to food security and sustainable environment and natural resources management in Uganda.

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

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

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

Environmental Alert's mission is to, '**Contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by Enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resources management.**'

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

Environmental Alert as a Secretariat mobilizes and coordinates 250 CSOs/CBOs for joint action engagement at national and local levels through the various CSO Networks