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World Environment Supplement - Climate Change Actions

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The problem of climate change in the country continues to pose serious development challenges and undermines attainment of our economic development and transition to the middle income status beginning from 2020. This is particularly so since our economy is heavily dependent on its natural resources such as the climate, forests, wetlands, lakes, rivers, soils, rangelands, biodiversity, wildlife, etc. These God-given natural resources are already under threat and most vulnerable to the changing climate. Climate change therefore is the greatest threat to the attainment of our Vision 2040. This emerging threat can disrupt the natural balance of ecosystems and adversely affect development investments. Already it is having an impact at the national and local levels in different parts of the country as manifested in the just ending prolonged droughts. The impacts of droughts and other extreme weather events are envisaged to exacerbate the constraints on livelihoods activities leading to a decline in water availability, famine, reduced hydro power energy generation, ecological insecurity, rising unemployment and the spread of diseases and vectors. The Ministry of Water and Environment is therefore glad to be part of 2017 World Environment Day in creating awareness and connecting people to nature in the city and on land from the poles to the equator.

2. SYNOPSIS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY.

Although the climate change issues and concerns are cross-sectoral, they are nonetheless key in every sector in contributing to poverty reduction and social economic transformation efforts. This contribution cannot be over-emphasized in supporting the National Development Plan (NDP) major objective of "Strengthening Uganda's Competitiveness for Sustainable Wealth Creation, Employment and Inclusive Growth". Because of the cross-cutting and enabling nature of climate change challenges, actions to address them require involvement of all relevant sectors.

3. POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COORDINATING THE CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE AND ACTIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

The NRM Government has already demonstrated strong political will to contribute to efforts to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. Consequently, it has put in place the necessary policy and institutional framework. The Climate Change Unit established in 2005 was upgraded to a stand-alone Climate Change Department (CCD) in July 2014 in the Ministry of Water and Environment. The Department is responsible, among others, in providing the overall coordination and response in implementation of climate actions, promote carbon investments, assist in mobilization of climate finance, establish a robust well-functioning National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System for the country, enhance the country's capacity in proactively engaging in the inter-governmental climate change policy processes and preparation of the requisite reports and communications under the three climate change instruments and domestic reporting.

4. INTERNATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Uganda ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in September 1993, acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in March 2005 and ratified the Paris Agreement in September 2016. Uganda as a Party to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, has obligations and commitments to fulfil. Domestication of the three international climate change regimes requires the supporting domestic legislation and a strong coordinating institutional arrangement.



The 2017 UN Climate Change Conference will take place from 6 to 17 November, 2017 at the World Conference Centre in Bonn, Germany, the seat of the Climate Change Secretariat. The Conference will be convened under the Presidency of Fiji.

Climate change is a global challenge which requires international relations and cooperation so as to reduce the adverse effects as they affect everyone on the planet earth. However, adaptation and mitigation capacities vary and so the need for the developed world to support the developing world in adaptation and mitigation strategies through finance, technology improvements and research activities. As the projections show that the poorer people who entirely depend on natural resources are the most vulnerable to these changes in climate.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Achieving long-term sustainable economic growth in the face of climate change is a primary concern for Uganda. The Government of Uganda (GoU) is already taking climate change and its impact on development seriously through its development planning frameworks and Strategic Plans.

Uganda cannot afford to choose between addressing climate change and promoting economic development, the two are interlinked and therefore must be addressed concurrently. Building climate resilience or increasing the ability to adapt to climate change while progressively shifting to a low carbon development pathway will help Uganda achieve Sustainable Development Goals and the Vision 2040 goals.

6. DELIVERING ON THE CARBON TRADE

In order for any Party to the Kyoto Protocol to participate in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Carbon Trading, there must be an institutional framework in place. The Minister of Water and Environment is the CDM Designated National Authority (DNA) for Uganda. The Minister issues Letters of Approval on the recommendations of the inter-ministerial National Climate Change Advisory Committee and the Climate Change Department (CCD) acting as the Secretariat.

The Sustainable Development (SD) criteria template for the CDM Projects has been developed to facilitate documentation of the project contribution to national sustainable development. Because of the awareness created by CCD, many project ideas in different sectors have been developed and submitted to the CDM-DNA Secretariat (CCD). 14 Projects have received Letters of Approval (LoA) from the DNA and 5 Approved Projects have already been registered by the CDM-Executive Board, making Uganda the best performing country among the 48-Member Least Developed Countries and 4th best in Africa. Some of these CDM Projects include the Bajajjal Hydropower, Uganda Nile Basin Reforestation Project, Bugoye 13.0 MW Run-of-River Hydropower Project, Municipal Solid Waste Composting Project, Improved Cook stoves, and water purification.

7. OTHER MITIGATION MEASURES

Some of the major mitigation measures aimed at promoting additional investments to contribute to economic growth, wealth creation and employment opportunities include the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs). Initial priorities under these include:

- Agriculture Sector NAMAs championed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries- Key mitigation actions focus on promotion of Upland Rice; and reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases from livestock farming practices.
- Energy Sector NAMAs championed by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development- Key mitigation actions focus on construction of institutional cook stoves (also known as the Green Schools NAMA) in selected secondary and primary schools across the country as well as the Vehicle Fuel Efficiency. The Green Schools NAMA funding proposal has been submitted to the NAMA Facility in Germany for funding.
- Transport Sector NAMA championed by the Ministry of Works and Transport- Bus Rapid Transit for Kampala, and enforcing periodic vehicle inspection for emissions and roadworthiness.
- Waste Sector NAMAs being championed by the National Environment Management Authority, KCCA and 4 major Municipalities- These include the Municipal Solid Waste Compost for Smaller Urban Areas, and the Integrated Waste Water and Biogas Production NAMA which has so far progressed after programming US\$ 3 Million for implementation.

There are equally opportunities to be tapped from our efforts in forest conservation through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD Plus); Wetlands conservation, climate smart agriculture and increased generation of electricity from renewable sources such as solar and geothermal under the country's Nationally Determined Contributions and the Green Growth strategy.

8. ADAPTATION MEASURES THROUGH PROMOTION OF RAINWATER HARVESTING IN THE COUNTRY

There are currently a number of efforts being spear-headed by the Ministry of Water and Environment on harvesting water from roof tops and run-off water after downpour. This is expected to augment the current efforts of diffusion of the solar-powered water irrigation technology for domestic use and water for production.



Solar water pump



Rainwater harvesting

9. CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

There are already initiatives led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries in scaling up climate smart agriculture practices for both adaptation and mitigation measures in different agro-ecological zones and encouraging the use of high yielding drought resistant and early maturing seed varieties. Improved livestock breeding for enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity in the advent of changing climate has been initiated.



10. TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER

In accordance with the provisions of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, greater efforts are now required in the country to tap from advances of science, technology and innovations essential for fighting climate change problem. Efforts are being pursued to engage more with the Technology Mechanism and the Climate Technology Centres Network as well as other Agencies and the private sector with the view to assisting the country access the much need technologies in key sectors driving the economy. Under the UNFCCC process, Government has designated the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) as the Designated Entity on Technology Transfer. Already advanced efforts to mobilize grants to undertake a comprehensive Technology Needs Assessment and the feasibility studies for geothermal power generation in the country are on-going.

11. NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMME OF ACTION (NAPA)

Uganda's NAPA was developed in 2007 and the NAPA pilot projects implementation started in 2014 in different climate-prone areas. Some of these included:

- Semi-arid ecosystem – Apac and Nakasongola Districts. Pilot activities included construction of valley tanks, rainwater harvesting, crop irrigation and climate smart agriculture practices.
- Lowland ecosystem–Palisa District. The main focus of this pilot project was the demonstration of the drip irrigation technology to local farmers, initiation of alternative income generating activities and the construction of Roof rain water harvesting tanks in households.
- Highland ecosystem – Harugere Sub County, Bundibugyo District.

The focus of this pilot project was slope stabilization to prevent soil erosion and landslides on steep slopes. Activities in this pilot included, establishment of tree nursery beds, training of trainers in the making of improved cook stoves and hedgerow planting.



Tree planting in schools

12. THE NATIONAL GREEN HOUSE GAS (GHG) INVENTORY SYSTEM

The national GHG inventory system housed at the offices of the CCD has been developed and now operational. It was launched at a high profile event in September 2016.



Hon. Sam Cheptoris launching National GHG Inventory system, Climate change offices

The system will help the country to:

- Identify the sectors, sources, and activities that are responsible for greenhouse gas emissions.
- Understand emission trends
- Quantify the benefits of activities that reduce emissions
- Establish a basis for developing an action plan
- Track progress in reducing emissions
- Set emissions goals and targets for future

13. CLIMATE FINANCE MOBILIZATION EFFORTS

One of the key functions of the Ministry of Water and Environment through International Relations and Cooperation, is to identify and mobilize sources of funds for climate change actions. There has therefore been a lot of effort to engage bilaterally and multilaterally in order to take advantage of the existing climate change financing. Climate financing continues to be one of the most important issues in international climate negotiations, and hence Uganda's engagement in the international process is paramount.

14. PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS NEEDING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

Some of the required investments include:

- Conducting a Climate Change vulnerability and Capacities Assessment in the country. This assessment is important in guiding decisions on climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions.
- Capacity enhancement of Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Local Governments to integrate climate change issues into their development plans, annual work plans and budgets and thereby climate-proof their developments.
- Promoting and piloting through demonstration projects community Based Adaptation Approaches to Climate Change and rolling out appropriate clean technologies especially renewable energy.
- Emission profiling.
- Strengthening institutional capacity for purposes of accessing climate finance.
- Mainstreaming of climate change in all

Lastly the Ministry of Water and Environment which is the focal institution for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, expresses its compliments to all Development Partners, European Union, Donors, Civil societies, Non-Government Organization, Private Sector stakeholders, Local Government, and all stakeholders for the support always extended to my Ministry particularly in the action to combat the Impacts of Climate change in the Country.

16. CONCLUSION

Government shall play a more proactive role in sourcing for the climate grant financing and through the proposed climate change legislation strengthen the institutional capacity to undertake this enormous task. Government shall further consider establishment of a national financing vehicle to bolster green investments and catalyze finances from a variety of sources.

Government of Uganda has already made progress by putting in place the relevant policy and institutional arrangements to address the challenge of climate change. This initial success however, needs to be propped up by putting in place the relevant enabling legal frameworks and providing sufficient human, financial and logistical requirements adequate to confront the climate change challenge in the country.