

Tracking the green economy in Uganda



Status of the Green Economy: Is the barometer needle moving?

- **Green Growth Strategy** is in place, with the National Planning Authority responsible for its formulation and implementation;
- Ugandan Government has put into place a **Green Incubation Programme** – the *Songhai Model* which has been operationalised with the opening up of the Kampiringisa Green Agricultural Centre;
- Integrating **natural capital** into national accounting has commenced. The Ministry of Water and Environment has undertaken a study on the contribution of water and natural resources to GDP;
- Uganda Bureau of Statistics is taking the lead in preparing a national plan for advancing **environmental economic accounting** in Uganda.



GE and civic movement: signature issues gaining traction

- There is a need to protect environment and natural resources;
- There is a need to raise awareness on sustainable natural resource management/utilisation;
- There is a need to enforce environmental laws without compromising local livelihoods;
- The need for innovative and inclusive financing to meet initial high costs of transition to a green economy.

“Due to population increase, people don't have enough land so I think scarcity of land leads people to continue encroaching on the wetland. Secondly, we are poor, forcing us to degrade River Rwizi looking for ways of survival”.
- **Fisherman on River Rwizi**

“You should let us also survive. We did not study as we failed to get school fees and we are here struggling to survive. When they chase us away from the river, where shall we go? Just leave us to have a livelihood in this place.”
- **Sand miner on River Rwizi.**

Natural capital: vital to Uganda's economy

- Uganda depends heavily on natural resources for growth and livelihoods
- Between 1990 and 2015, +50% of forest and wetlands have been lost
- Failure to undertake climate change adaptation will cost the economy from US\$ 3.2 - 5.9 billion over next 10 years
- Inaction will cost x24 the cost of action

Policies to watch: wins and warnings

- Uganda's Third National Development Plan is being developed;
- Draft National Public Sector Procurement Policy recently published;
- A Draft Climate Change Bill is being debated by Parliament;
- National Environment Management Act (2018) is in place.



What is being done, and who's doing it?



Government action

- The National Planning Authority is developing the 3rd National Development Plan & is incorporating green growth aspects therein;
- The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has developed a draft National Public Procurement Policy that incorporates sustainable and inclusive procurement aspects;
- Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development is reviewing the National Renewable Energy Policy (2007-2017) and is incorporating green growth aspects;
- Parliament passed the National Environment Management Act (2018);
- The Ministry of Water and Environment has drafted a National Climate Change Bill;
- Parliament of Uganda has proposed creation of a stand alone Parliamentary committee on climate change.

International action

- GGGI is supporting Government of Uganda in skills development, capacity building in form of trainings, dialogues and exposure visits; and also supports bankable projects aligned to Government priorities;
- GGGI trained Policy Analysts from ministries, departments and agencies on regulatory best practices for green growth policies development;
- GGGI is working with the Ministry of Water and Environment to improve institutional arrangements for green house gas data collection and processing in agriculture, forestry, energy, transport and waste.
- EU Switch Africa Green programme is supporting development of green businesses and eco-entrepreneurship by MSMEs and business service providers through grants;
- GIZ facilitated a partnership between government, businesses and civil society to develop a River Rwizi catchment management plan.

ACODE action

- ACODE has organized radio and television talk shows to sensitize stakeholders on the need to restore the environment;
- ACODE led on the formation of the Uganda Green Growth Network that meets regularly;
- ACODE has submitted a memorandum of understanding to Parliament for the establishment of the Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change;
- ACODE has produced a country's Green Growth Barometer study that was launched by the National Planning Authority;
- ACODE has conducted a study on River Rwizi Degradation and Restoration to inform interventions.

Citizen action

- Citizens living around wetlands have organised themselves into wetland management associations that protect wetlands and promote their sustainable use;
- Citizens who double as resource users participated in a problem solving workshop and focus group discussions where they requested to be allowed to derive a livelihood from river Rwizi catchment and expressed willingness to be sensitised on sustainability practices;
- Citizens use ACODE's Citizen Monitor Mobile App to report actions that degrade river catchments such as unsustainable agricultural practices, pollution with detergents and poor disposal of plastic wastes.



How are dialogues helping the transition?



Signature issues gaining traction

In the River Rwizi catchment area:

- Farming is degrading ecologically vital wetlands and steep slopes
- Wetland degradation is being accelerated by artisanal sand and stone mining
- Seasonal floods and droughts replace once reliable water supply
- Uncontrolled building in watershed has resulted in flood disaster
- Prolonged droughts now compromise city water supply
- Mbarara's elevation to city status now uncertain
- No one can live without water. We need it to drink, grow food
- People are demanding action

Action and evidence:

what's working and how is it spreading?

- Community Engagement meetings are helping to create awareness about the need to protect the river and galvanising community support for its restoration;
- Dialogues have generated consensus among key stakeholders on joint interventions to save the ecosystems;
- Through dialogues Government has informed citizens that it is going to enforce environmental laws;
- The need for innovative financing for access to and adoption of green technologies.

Policies being affected

- National Development Plan.
- The National Environment Act (2018).
- Draft Climate Change Bill.
- Draft National Public Procurement Policy.

Resonance:

what are we learning?

- Constant and inclusive dialogues at national, sub-national and local levels are needed in facilitating Uganda's transition into a green economy;
- Need for regional approaches to save cross boundary resources such as the River Rwizi which is part of the Nile Basin.

