

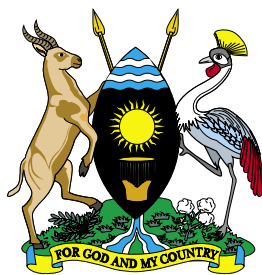


THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR UGANDA 2010







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# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR UGANDA 2010



WORLD BANK



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA)

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### Cover page photographs

*Top:* Cracks in soils in Bunamunzu, Manafwa District, pathways for fast flow of water into the lower layers of soils causing landslides.

*Below:* An Oil Rig at Butiaba, Floods in Karamoja region, Depleted Iyamuriro wetland.



# Foreword

It is now known worldwide that natural assets play a critical role in fostering economic growth hence the greater need to manage them well for sustainable development. It is the responsibility of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to update policy makers on environmental trends so as to make well informed decisions about the environment. This role is reflected in its systematic production of State of the Environment reports since the last two decades.



**Hon. Maria Mutagamba**

The State of the Environment 2010 with the theme, “**environment sustainability and health**” is an integrated assessment of the state and trends of key environmental resources including land, fresh water and aquatic resources, biodiversity and energy resources among others. The report takes a multi-pronged approach in assessing utilization and vulnerability of all environmental resources in the country. Resultantly, the report strives to highlight gaps and opportunities of the country to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

This publication is the 10th report produced by NEMA since 1994. The first report came at a time when knowledge on environmental issues was still at its infancy. It came barely two years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) hence was a direct response to what was agreed by governments on this historic event.

Through an in depth research and use of scenarios, the report clearly highlights the effects of environmental degradation at both local and national level. The country faces severe environmental problems including soil erosion and declining soil fertility, deforestation, pollution of land, water and air resources, loss of biodiversity and over-harvesting of forests, fisheries and water resources. This continued liquidation of the country’s natural capital undermines long-term economic progress and will aggravate poverty. To spur the contribution of environmental resources to national economic development therefore, it will be necessary to improve environmental governance with specific focus on information provision, compliance and enforcement as well as the participation of all stakeholders.

This report also reveals the impacts of some of the emerging challenges in the country such as the catastrophic effects of climate change. It also highlights that climate change can also bring with it other opportunities for the economic development, science and technology growth through targeted research and development programmes. It is pleasing to note that the State of Environment report for 2010 is one of the first publications in the whole country with an intention of providing useful information in order to mainstream the environmental issues in every sector of the economy. Therefore, I urge all policy makers at various levels to make good use of this vital information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Mutagamba'.

**Hon. Maria Mutagamba**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT**

# Acknowledgements

**T**he National Environmental Management of Uganda, NEMA is privileged to present its 9th State of the Environment report this year.



**Dr. Tom O. Okurut**

On behalf of the board and management of NEMA, I wish to thank the Government of Uganda for its steadfast support in the production of the State of the Environment reports throughout the years. I thank the Central Government institutions under the umbrella of the Environment information Network who authored this report. The districts across the country are also acknowledged for their valuable contributions. Much of the districts helped us to identify major environmental hotspots showing evidence of environmental degradation taking place around the country.

In addition, I appreciate the great support received from the development partners and here I wish to single out the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for their continued support.

I wish to thank the NEMA staff who coordinated and guided the process.

Last but not least, I also want to acknowledge those who provided guidance and useful comments to strengthen facts in this report.

I hope that this report will be used as a guiding tool in promoting a better environment for the current and future generations. I look forward to receiving your feedback.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tom O. Okurut', written in a cursive style.

**Dr. Tom O. Okurut**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA)**

# Table of Contents

Foreword.....□	
Acknow□	
List of Figu□	
List of Table□	
List of □	
Executive Summary.....	viii
<b>COUNTRY BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>xiii</b>
□	
Sustainable development processes and environmental reporting.....	xvi
The SOE process in Uganda.....	xvii
<b>CHAPTER 1: ENVIRONMENT AND CONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction.□	
Economic development, health and environmental management.....	2
Economic growth and sector performance.....	4
Challenges affecting sustainable development in Uganda.....	11
Opportunities for sustainable development: Towards Rio+20.....	14
Conclusion and Recommendations.....	21
<b>CHAPTER 2: LAND.....</b>	<b>25</b>
La□	
State□	
Opportunities to utilize the land resource better.....	32
Thr□	
Improving the management of land resources.....	44
Conclusion and recommendations.....	48
<b>CHAPTER 3: ATMOSPHERE.....</b>	<b>51</b>
Introduction.....	51
S□	
Opportunities provided by atmospheric resources.....	61
Challenges presented by climate change/climate variability.....	64
Prospects for alleviating the challenges facing atmospheric resources.....	67
Conclusion and Recommendations.....	68
<b>CHAPTER 4: FRESHWATER RESOURCES.....</b>	<b>71</b>
Introduction.....	71
Aquatic □	
Threats to the water resource.....	88
Strategies to improve water resources management.....	90
Conclusion and Recommendations.....	94

## **CHAPTER 5: BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES.....95**

Introduction□

The state of Uganda's biodiversity and opportunities provided.....95

Threats to biodiversity.....109

Strategies for better management of biodiversity.....115

Conclusion and Recommendations.....117

## **CHAPTER 6: ENERGY RESOURCES.....121**

Introduction.....121

Energy sources and options.....122

Opportunities for a sustainable energy supply.....132

Key challenges in the energy sector in Uganda.....133

Strategies for better management of Uganda's energy resources.....134

Conclusion and Recommendations.....135

## **CHAPTER 7: ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITY .....139**

Defining environmental vulnerability .....139

Why focus on environmental vulnerability?.....139

Challenges to managing vulnerability.....147

St□

Conclusion and Recommendations.....151

## **CHAPTER 8: SCENARIOS.....155**

Introduction.....155

The scenario descriptions.....156

Integrated analysis of the different scenarios.....158

Conclusion and Recommendations.....165

## **CHAPTER 9: POLICY.....169**

Introduction.....169

K□

Polic□

### **List of Figures**

Figure i: Administrative divisions of Uganda.....xiv

Figure ii: Census population of Uganda 1969, 1980, 1991 and 2002  
and mid year 2011 projection.....xv

Figure 1.1: National trends in poverty levels.....2

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