

UGANDA

The Measure of a Land



VITAL SIGNS

Uganda:

The Measure of a Land

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VITAL SIGNS IS AN INTEGRATED MONITORING SYSTEM FOR
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

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Uganda

The Measure of a Land



Foreword

The land we know as Uganda sits on the equator, located in the heart of Africa. Its fertile soils, rich biodiversity, and cool climate have long supported farming communities and growing cities, and these natural resources have positioned it to emerge as a central breadbasket for East Africa. Astonished by the beauty of the land, in 1908 Sir Winston Churchill described Uganda as the Pearl of Africa. Today the Ugandan landscape continues to be an example of natural richness, with ecosystem services that help support its rapidly growing population.

Though Ugandans depend a great deal on healthy ecosystems to support their livelihoods, many of these landscapes are now being degraded or used unsustainably. Several major drivers of degradation include land use conversion, the loss of soil nutrients, and increasing demand for food, water and energy. In addition, poorly planned agricultural development can have detrimental impacts on ecosystems and their services. This in turn disproportionately affects the poorest populations, those who depend most directly on natural resources for their livelihoods.

These issues are major challenges to Uganda, and they highlight the need for better information and more sustainable methods of harnessing agricultural resources and ecosystem services. The future of Uganda will be measured in part by how it manages the above challenges,

and its ability to remain resilient in the face of disturbances and shocks like climate change, and its increasing population.

The Government and the people of Uganda are aware of these challenges and the need to preserve the wealth and richness of the land. Through its Ministries, the Government is beginning to pursue sustainable management and development of Uganda's resources and the ecosystem services that support its people.

Uganda - The Measure of a Land will help leaders achieve these goals, providing them with integrated information on the landscape, climate, demography, ecosystem services and livelihoods of Uganda. It describes in detail the current status of ecosystems and livelihoods, and sets a benchmark against which we can be held accountable by future generations for the preservation of our soils, water, forests and biodiversity.

The drum is therefore sounded to ensure the sustainability and beauty of our land. I commend *Uganda - The Measure of a Land* for describing in detail the richness of Uganda's ecosystems and the livelihoods of those who depend on them. I recommend careful study of this atlas to all those working towards sustainability in Uganda. It is an important baseline, and a source of knowledge and inspiration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'G.W. Otim-Nape'.

Professor G.W. Otim-Nape

Chairman, Africa Innovations Institute, Kampala, Uganda

Preface

Feeding the growing world population will require an estimated 70 - 100% increase in food production, but agricultural activities are degrading ecosystems – and the benefits they provide for people – faster now than ever before. There is an urgent need for better data and risk management approaches to guide sustainable agricultural intensification and ensure healthy and resilient livelihoods and ecosystems.

Launched in 2012 with a US\$10 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Conservation International, the Vital Signs monitoring system is co-led by Conservation International, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa and the Earth Institute, Columbia University. Vital Signs addresses the need for open access data and for consistent, quantitative, multi-scale, co-located

metrics on agriculture, ecosystem services and human well-being. A key objective is to provide a small set of relevant, scientifically valid indicators to assess and manage risk and to support policy.

Vital Signs Uganda is a partnership with the Africa Innovations Institute. Vital Signs field teams collect data on agricultural management and productivity, ecosystems and human well-being. Field data are integrated with data from satellites and are analysed to provide diagnostic tools for leaders in Africa and around the world.

This book, together with an online atlas with downloadable data (uganda.vitalsigns.org/atlas), provides a baseline of available environmental, demographic and agricultural information for Uganda.

Sandy Andelman PhD, Cheryl Palm PhD & Bob Scholes PhD
Vital Signs Technical Council

A note on sources: Brief notes on the sources of data are provided on each double-page spread. These should be read in conjunction with the Endnotes on page 44 which give full details of all sources, together with citations and additional useful information.

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Introduction

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA IN BRIEF

Geographical extent	Covers 241,550 square kilometres of which 17%, or 41,100 square kilometres, is open water or wetland, principally Lakes Victoria, Kyoga, Albert and Edward. Of the remaining 200,500 square kilometres of land area, about 50% is cleared for crops, 24% is forest and woodland, 18% is savanna grassland and 8% is swamps and flooded grasslands.
Frontiers with	Democratic Republic of the Congo (west), South Sudan (north), Kenya (east) and Rwanda and Tanzania (south).
Recent history	Previously a British colony; became independent in 1962. Coups in 1971 and 1985, stable government under one President since 1986.
Administration	Multi-party democracy since 2005, with a single parliamentary house responsible for legislation. The President is the head of state, government and armed forces. In 2011 there were 4 regions and 112 districts. Each district is administered by an elected council and chairperson. Kampala is the capital.
Population	24.2 million in 2002, 34.9 million in 2014. 82% in rural and 18% in urban areas in 2014, population growth rate 3.2% between 1995 and 2014. Total fertility rate 6.2 children per woman in 2011, infant mortality rate 54 deaths per 1,000 live births, and under 5 mortality rate 90 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011.
Gross Domestic Product	US\$54.37 billion in 2013, and US\$1,500 per capita in 2013; growth of 5.1% in 2012/2013.
Contribution to GDP	In 2013/2014: services 45.4%; industry 26.3%; agriculture 22.2%; other 6.1%.
Exports	US\$2.408 billion in 2013. Main exports: coffee, petroleum products, fish and fish products, tobacco, cement, tea, animal and vegetable fats and oils. Main export partners: Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, European Union.
Imports	US\$5.871 billion in 2013. Main imports: capital equipment, vehicles, petroleum, medical supplies, cereals. Main import partners: India, European Union, China, Kenya.

Regions



Districts



Sources: Maps - <https://gistdata.its.uga.edu>
Text: Uganda Bureau of Statistics; Encyclopaedia Britannica, World Fact Book

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_16258

