



9th ANNUAL JOINT REVIEW OF THE WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR 2017

Theme: “Exploring financing opportunities for investments in the Water and Environment Sector”

ENR-CSO Network / Environmental Alert



**Presented on behalf of the ENR CSOs by Salome Alweny,
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Key highlights

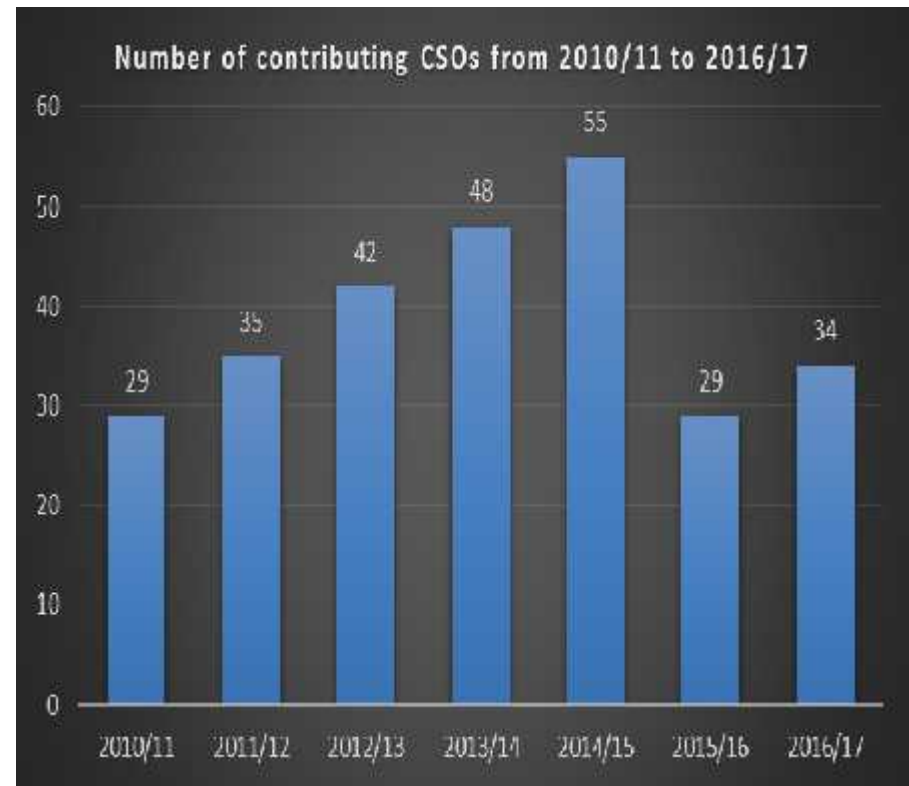
- This performance report is based on individual reports submitted by 34 ENR CSO Network members (i.e. 75% of the membership). Not a complete reflection of all CSOs operating in the sector
- Detailed ENR-CSO consolidated report and position paper was published in the New Vision dated 26th September 2017

Performance: Key Highlights

There was a 9.3% increase in financial contribution from ENR CSOs i.e from **USD 4,279,282 in FY 2015/2016 to USD 4,721,909** in FY 2016/2017.

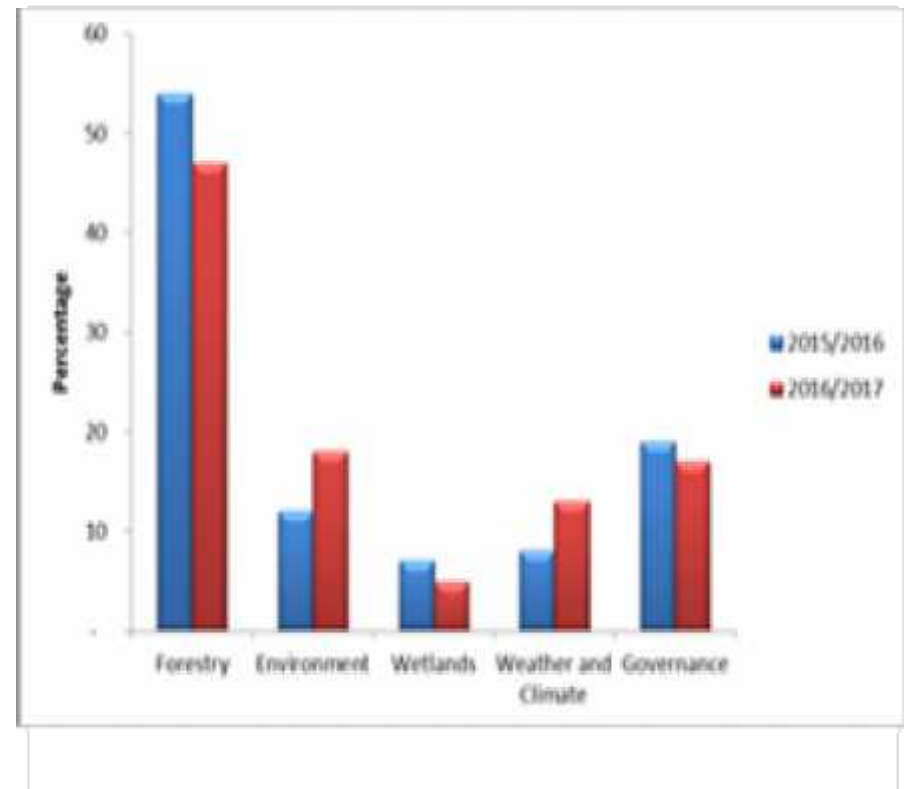
The slight increase is attributable to:

- More CSOs reporting their performance
- Donor funding to the ENR CSOs, as well as the entire sector, remained on the low side since FY 2015/2017.
- ENR CSOs do not have own Income Generating Activities (IGAs) to supplement support from the development partners.



Performance: Key Highlights

- Of the total financial contribution, **48%** was spent on **forestry**, **18%** on **environment**, **17%** on **governance**, **12%** on **weather, climate and climate change** and **5%** on **wetlands**.



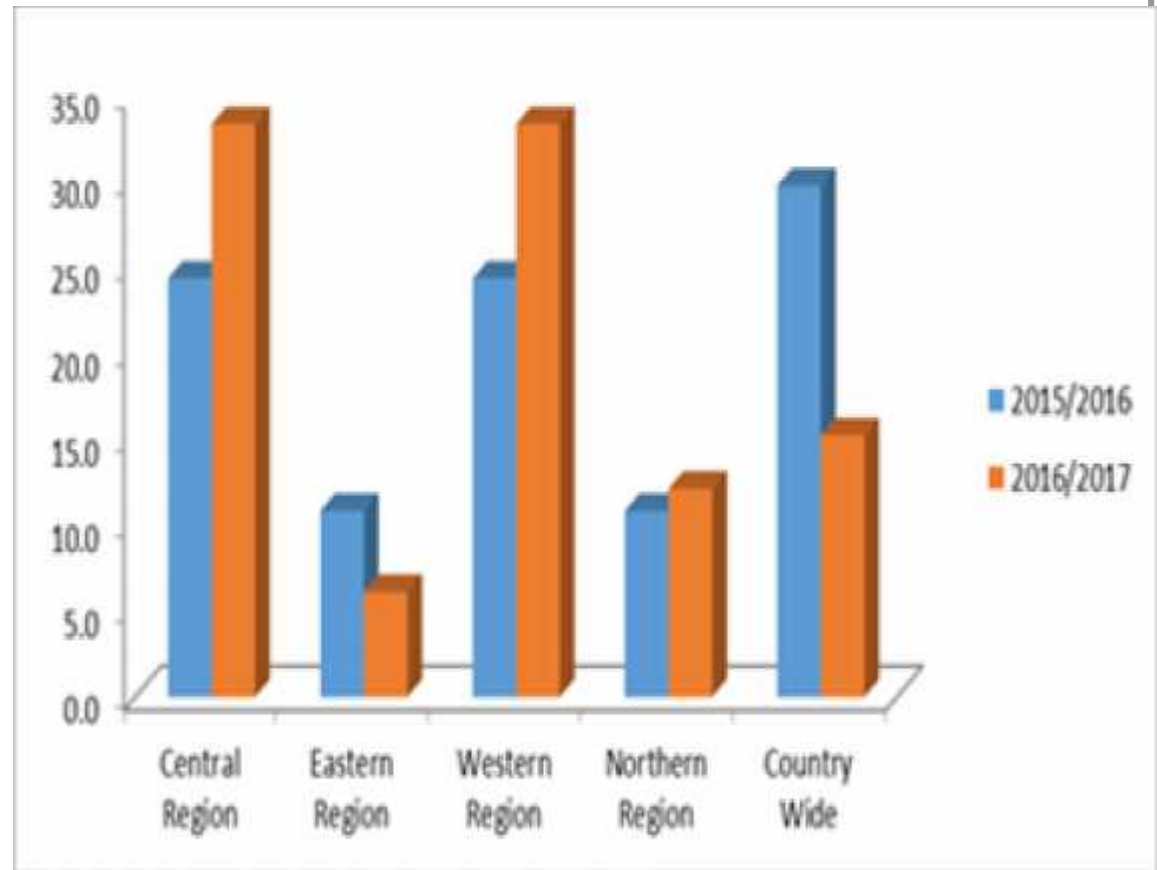
Reasons

Distribution of financial resources by regions in FY 2015/16 and 2016/2017

Central and western regions (particularly the Albertine rift) received most resources

Attributable to;

- the national level policy engagements
- Need to prepare communities for better environmental management approaches ahead of petroleum development that has health, environment and safety concerns respectively



Performance: Golden / Platinum Indicator(s)

Indicators under forestry

- % Uganda's land area covered by forest
 - % natural forest under strict nature reserve
 - % survival of tree seedlings past year 3
 - % rural households that travel more than 1 km to collect firewood
 - % forest reserves under management
-

a) A total of **950 hectares** of degraded and deforested lands were restored. **How??** Members of the network collectively distributed a total of **1,059,660** assorted tree seedlings which were planted in different parts of the country (*Hoima, Lamwo, Serere, Lira, Mpigi, Butambala, Mityana, Nakasongola and Masindi districts*).

b) ENR CSOs directly supported MWE (NFA) technically and financially), in the development of **benefit sharing guidelines in CFR** through deliberate integration of pro-poor principles.

Key achievements by ENR CSOs

a) ENR CSOs provided direct support to the development of frameworks/strategies and plans: **Forest Investment Plan, the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR)**, and the National REDD+ Strategy pending approval.

b) Members of the Standard Development Group, which is part of the Uganda Forestry Working Group, supported the finalisation of the **National Forest Standards based on the Forest Stewardship Council standard**, criteria and indicators and supporting the Uganda Bureau of Standards to develop national standards that will guide utilisation of forest products across the country; Based on this, the Uganda Bureau of Standards is currently developing national standards that will guide utilisation of forest products across the country.

Key achievements by ENR CSOs

c) ENR-CSOs actively engaged NFA and national level stakeholders ***on a number of illegalities (illegal land titling in CFRs, degazettment of Bugoma CFR for sugar cane production and illegalities in Zoka Central Forest Reserve among others.***

d) ENR CSOs supported the MoWE to organised the **World Mountain Forum 2016** under the main theme '*Mountains for our Future*'. There was a call for action in an outcome doc entitled "*Don't Leave Mountains Behind*" The National Sustainable Mountain Development Strategy was launched.

Key achievements by ENR CSOs

- e) ENR-CSOs conducted key studies e.g. elimination of illegal timber on the market – this generated evidence on the current timber trade and provided recommendations leading to regulation, motivation and improvement of legal trade in Uganda's timber industry.
- Comparative study on benefit sharing in the forest sector in Ug, Kenya, Tz
- Comparative study on access to justice in the forest sector in Uganda and Tz

Performance: Golden / Platinum Indicator(s)

Indictors under wetlands

- % of Uganda's land area covered by wetlands
 - % of Uganda's wetlands used under management plans
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- Restoration of over 320 hectares of degraded river-banks.
- ENR-CSOs demarcated 25 kilometres of river and wetland boundaries in Mutu and Akileng parishes in Agago and Amuria districts respectively as a measure to reduce wetland and riverbank encroachment.
- ENR CSOs also **disbursed 3 rounds of Community Environment Conservation Funds (CECF) to 27 villages in Mutu and Akileng parishes in Agago and Amuria districts**, respectively. --micro-catchment management plans, get micro-credit, support their livelihoods as they conserve env.

Key Challenges

- 1) Inadequate funds:** Reduced donor support for environment and natural resources. Donor interests/priorities have shifted to other sectors such as infrastructure for oil and gas and mineral extractives
- 2) New pests and diseases**(*Glycaspis brimblecombie* and *Thaumastocoris Peregrinus*) attacking forest plantations are affecting stocking in most plantations, largely due to climate variability and change
- 3) Lack of automated weather equipment** and distribution information systems to meet the demand for weather information country-wide.

Key Challenges

4) Slow process of developing and adopting and implementing legal and policy frameworks (National tree fund)

5) Weak enforcement of laws and policies by the duty bearers

6) Secretiveness surrounding oil and gas dev't e.g. issues of infrastructural development

7) Issuance of land titles in gazetted areas

Key Recommendations

1) MWE and Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development *should update the stakeholders about the status of implementation of the **presidential directive to cancel illegal land titles in wetlands and forest reserves.***

➤ **develop and implement a joint work plan with clear strategies, resources/funding and timelines for implementation** of the *presidential directive for cancelation of all illegal titles issued in wetlands and forest reserves;*

2) National Forestry Research Institute *should research and recommend options to reduce the pests and diseases affecting forest plantations.*

3) MWE and ENR CSOs *should fast track the development and finalization of the **Wetlands Bill** to fill the legal framework gap.*

4) MWE *commissions a **consultancy** to fast track mainstreaming of ENR issues in sector plans*

Key Recommendations

5. MWE should fast-track/ re-constitute the **NFA and NEMA BoD** so that they can deliver on their mandates as stipulated in the respective legislation;

6. UNMA, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) and Bank of Uganda should expedite the procurement of automated equipment e.g. the national weather radar & satellite Aviation Data distribution systems and re-tool zonal meteorological centers.

7. UNMA should fast –track the **development of the institutional strategic plan** to guide its operations in the short, medium and long term;

8. CCD undertakes the **development of a comprehensive national Climate Change vulnerability assessment** of key sectors of the economy and evaluate the national vulnerability index

Our Pledge for the coming FY 2017/2018

- We ENR CSOs in Uganda pledge to remain strategic partners with government **to address some of the above challenges towards implementation of the Undertakings and Agreed Actions for Water and Environment sub-Sector for FY 2017/18.**
- We will continue **playing the public watch dog role** as provided for in the **existing policy and legal framework.**

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!!!

