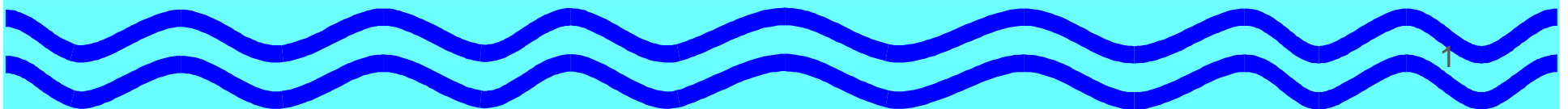




# REGIONAL JOINT SECTOR TECHNICAL REVIEW MEETING

POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES CONCERNING  
ENR-SUBSECTOR IN THE REGION

Presented by  
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# INTRODUCTION

Land and natural resource degradation in Uganda account for over 80% of the annual costs of environmental degradation. By 1991, conservative estimates of the annual cost of environmental degradation were put at about US\$ 157–480 million.

The severity of this environmental problem is compounded by the fact that the livelihoods of many Ugandans intimately depend on the environment, both as a source of subsistence and as a basis for production.

The region, however, is rich in water resources ie the rivers eg Manafwa, Namatala, Mpologoma which along with extensive wetlands drain into Lake Kyoga.



# Institutional implications

→ Uganda legal framework ie

The Local Government Act (1997): second schedule provides for the decentralized function of the Wetlands by the local government councils

→ The Land Act (1998): Wetlands are held in trust by the Government or a local government for the people as stipulated under the subtitle of control of environmentally sensitive areas

→ The National Environmental (Wetlands, River Banks and Lake Shore Management) Regulations 2000: The regulations, among others, are one of the most important legislative instruments for wise use of wetlands.

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# Institutional implications continued

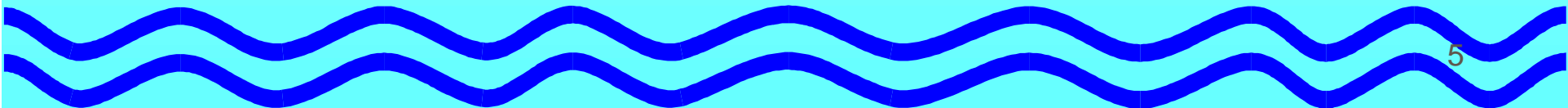
- ➔ the Constitution of Uganda Article 237 on Land ownership. prescribes that the Government or local government shall hold in trust for the people and protects natural lakes, rivers, wetlands, forest reserves, game reserves, national parks and any land to be reserved for ecological and touristic purposes for the common good of all citizens.




→ Amidst the above land degradation is worse in more populated areas and in the more fragile mountainous areas and the flood plains of this region

→ In such areas, soil erosion is increasing, land slides, soil infertility, and agrochemical pollution and desertification as well as floods are on the rise.

→ However, the alarming rate at which natural resources are being depleted shows that these laws and policies are not enforced effectively.





Estimates foresee water stress by the year 2025 (MWE–WMD 2004). One reason for this is the conversion of wetlands.

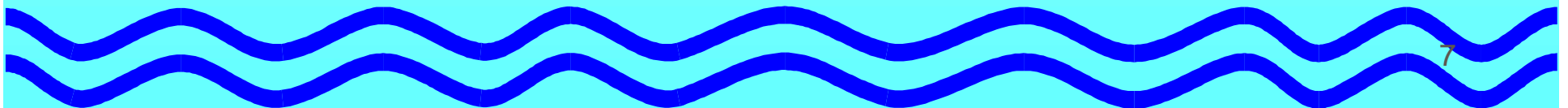
These ecosystems perform important regulatory functions such as flood control and groundwater recharge.

They are, however, under severe threat: conversion or modification takes place at very high rates for development purposes. This is considered a rightful and development-oriented activity even by policy-makers at all levels of government



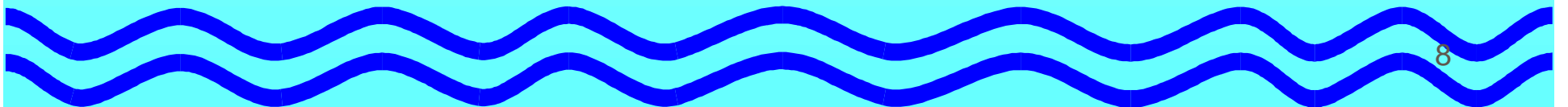
→ In addition to that, population growth and increasing per capita usage have already made the demand for water a problem .

→ Water scarcity is a source of conflicts because of dwindling water resources communities experience conflicts directly related to water and wetland use this has been observed as boarder conflicts eg between Butaleja /budaka on Namatala wetland which is the most recent , Mbale/ Budaka-Namatala, Kibuuku /Palisalimoto, Pallisa/Ngora, Bukedea/Sironko –on acomai wetland





Uganda is among the few African countries that have setup a legal and policy framework for promoting environmental protection. This policy framework seeks to integrate “environmental concerns in the socioeconomic development planning of the country.” It acknowledges the link between development and the environment as fundamental in achieving sustainable development



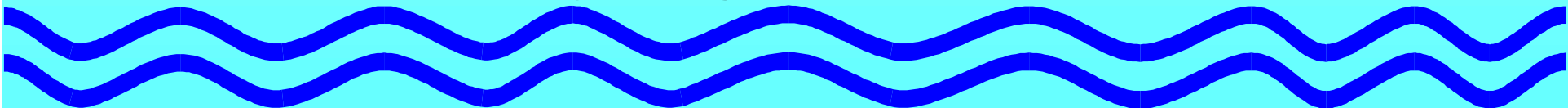




→ the policy framework also recognizes integrative environmental management as the most viable approach for “achieving the overall policy goal of sustainable socioeconomic development which maintains and enhances environmental quality to meet the needs of present and future generations .

→ Several policies and statutes have been developed, such as the National Environment Statute (MLWE 1995), the National Wetlands Policies (MoNR 1995), the Environmental Impact Assessment Resolutions (1998), the National Land Use Policy, land act and the National Land Policy.

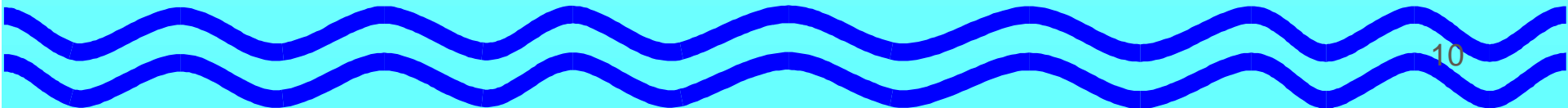
→ However, despite the existence of these policies and implementing organs, research shows that resources are continuously being encroached upon






and are being depleted at an alarming rate. We therefore also reviewed the existing policy regime and examined how it is being applied in response to the problem of blatant encroachment and subsequent depletion of environmental resources.

The 2001 Forestry Policy empowers civil society organizations to be at the fore front in the management of the country's forest resources. However, no networks of civil societies at grassroots levels exist that fight for collaborative forest management issues. For example, in The districts of Butaleja, Budaka, Manafwa there are not enough civil society actors working on environmental issues compared to other similar critical issues such as health, gender, and Education





→ scarcity of funding and low budgetary allocations from both the central government and the local government are major impediments to the effective implementation of environmental laws and policies. Obviously, the seriousness of and commitment to combating environmental degradation therefore cannot be judged by the mere existence of laws and provisions in the Constitution but depend on action relating to implementation, financing and budgeting.

→ It is however important to note that, in spite of these policy provisions, governments commitment to environmental conservation is still questionable given the meager budget allocation to the environment sector.



The following actions would help make implementation of existing policies and laws more effective:

- Empowerment of the farmers in sustainable resource management: they constitute the majority of potential environmental degraders while also bearing the hope of being environmental protectors
- involvement of the political leaders in environment and water catchment management.
- Strengthen the uptake of Integrated approaches in the ENR and Water sectors



# continuation

- information gathering at local government be given priority to enable proper policy implementation.
- Adequate funding should be ensured through allocation of funds to the three relevant sectors(Health, Water and Environment, and Education and Sports).
- Strengthen alternative initiatives to promote sustainable use of the natural Resources and rewarding those who are compliant
- most laws and policies are conservationist in nature. It is therefore recommended to include restoration policies in all environmental policy regimes so that the already depleted environ-mental resources are restored.



# conclusion

- despite the fact that Uganda has a number of laws and policies geared toward conserving the environment, natural resources continue to be encroached upon. The rate at which water catchment areas are being depleted is growing at an exceedingly high speed, and as a result, the majority of rivers, swamps, wetlands, and other catchment areas have either already been depleted or encroached.
- For Uganda, environmental conservation is no longer just a matter of scenic beauty but a question of economic survival for both households and Nation.





Thank you Very much  
Mwebaaale Nyoo