



The Republic of Uganda

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

**UGANDA NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY
(SUMMARY VERSION)**

*Transformation through Climate Change
Mitigation and Adaptation*

September 2018

FOREWORD

The Climate Change Policy as well as several other studies carried out by different institutions clearly show that climate change affects and will continue to affect us all, through its impacts on different sectors and other crucial aspects of our lives.

Uganda's National Development Plan II (2016-2021) as well as the Country's vision 2040 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) already recognise that addressing the challenges of climate change is key to enhancing sustainable economic and social development.

The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and its accompanying costed implemented strategy which were approved by Cabinet on 1st April 2015 were intended to guide all climate change activities and interventions in the country. The goal of the policy is to ensure a harmonized and coordinated approach towards a climate-resilient and low-carbon development path for sustainable development in Uganda.

The main objective of the policy is to ensure that all stakeholders address climate change causes and impacts through appropriate measures, while promoting sustainable development and a green economy. This buy-in by all stakeholders is made possible by the fact that the NCCP was developed after a comprehensive and widespread consultation process at both the national and local levels. The process was driven by the Ministry of Water and Environment.

This national climate change policy summary version is intended to provide key highlights and to summarize the NCCP, which offers a long-term vision for Uganda's climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and actions in all sectors of the economy.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the many stakeholders, including Non-Governmental Organisations, Community-Based Organisations, Private Sector Associations, Local Governments, Academia, Development Partners and the various Government MDAs, for their commitment, time and knowledge contributed during the development of the policy, its costed implementation strategy and the summary version of the policy. The contribution of all these stakeholders and their active involvement in the policy development process ensured that the policy is coherent, comprehensive and in line with the country's needs, priorities and development agenda.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the team of consultations who supported this process and the staff of MWE for their hard work and dedication during the development of this summary. Special thanks go to, Feed the Future Uganda Enabling Environment for Agriculture Activity (EEA) for the methodological and financial support offered to have the final print of this summary.

I look forward to following closely with all of you the implementation process for the National Climate Change Policy, a process in which we all have a role to play to effectively address the challenge of climate change in our Uganda.



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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| FOREWORD | iii |
| STATEMENT | iv |
| 1.0 INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 1.1. How is climate change affecting our development? | 1 |
| 1.2. Why is it important to have a National Climate Change Policy? | 1 |
| 2.0 THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY | 2 |
| 2.1. What is the goal of the National Climate Change Policy? | 2 |
| 2.2. What is the main policy objective? | 2 |
| 2.3. What are the specific policy objectives? | 2 |
| 2.4. What are the guiding policy principles? | 2 |
| 2.5. What issues does the National Climate Change Policy address? | 2 |
| 3.0 HOW WILL THE GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENT THE POLICY? | 3 |
| 3.1. Common policy priorities | 3 |
| 3.2. Adaptation measures | 3 |
| 3.3. Mitigation Measures | 7 |
| 3.4. Monitoring, Detection, Attribution and Prediction Actions | 9 |
| 4.0 WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE NCCP? | 10 |
| 4.1. Institutional Arrangements and Legal Framework | 10 |
| 4.2. Financing and Resource Mobilisation | 12 |
| 5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION | 13 |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) was approved by Uganda's Cabinet on April 1, 2015. This booklet summarizes the NCCP, which offers a long-term vision for Uganda's climate change mitigation and adaptation plans in all sectors of the economy.

1.1. How is climate change affecting our development?

Climate change is caused by 'global warming', an increase in the Earth's surface temperature resulting from increased volumes of heat-trapping gases, referred to as greenhouse gases (GHGs). The threat of climate change affects all sectors of the economy and its impacts go beyond national borders. The economy of Uganda is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its impacts on key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, water resources, forestry, energy, health, infrastructure and settlements. The effect of climate change on these key sector hampers efforts to reduce poverty and to improve people's well-being and household incomes. This necessitates policy actions to build climate change resilience and climate-compatible development through climate change adaptation and mitigation, while at the same time promoting economic and social development.

1.2. Why is it important to have a National Climate Change Policy?

The policy provides direction to all sectors that are affected by climate change to facilitate adaptation and mitigation and to strengthen coordination of efforts amongst all sectors to build an overarching national development process that is more resilient. Specifically, the policy will:

- Reduce the country's vulnerability to climate change impacts by adjusting to and managing the projected impacts of climate change on the nation.
- Address the challenges brought about by extreme weather events such as increased warming, droughts, unpredictable rainfall patterns, floods and storms.
- Increase the resilience of the economy and allow the economy benefit from some opportunities brought about by climate change.
- Provide guidance for how Uganda can develop sustainability while also producing less greenhouse gases that cause climate change.
- Setup an institutional arrangement to ensure Uganda can adequately respond to climate change.

2.0 THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

2.1. What is the goal of the National Climate Change Policy?

To ensure a harmonised approach towards a climate-resilient and low-carbon development path for sustainable development in Uganda.

2.2. What is the main policy objective?

Ensure that all stakeholders address climate change impacts and their causes through actions that promote a green economy and sustainable development.

2.3. What are the specific policy objectives?

- Identify and promote collective policy priorities to address climate change.
- Identify and promote actions to enable stakeholders adapt to climate change.
- Identify and promote control measures to climate change.
- Identify and promote monitoring, detection, attribution and prediction policy responses
- Support integration of climate change concerns into planning, decision making and investments in all sectors and at all levels.
- Enable the mobilization of financial resources to address climate change.

2.4. What are the guiding policy principles?

- Mainstreaming climate change issues in national and local policies, plans and budgets.
- Communicating effectively and promoting participatory approaches to support participation and behaviour change inside and outside the government.
- Promoting community-based and bottom-up approaches to adaptation.
- Devoting adequate attention capacity development and institutional setups.
- Devoting adequate attention to technology needs development and transfer.
- Identifying, developing and influencing financing mechanisms.
- Providing a credible delivery structure.
- Address cross-cutting issues such as gender, vulnerable groups and HIV/AIDS.

2.5. What issues does the National Climate Change Policy address?

The policy addresses climate change adaptation; mitigation; research and systematic observation, including monitoring, detection, attribution and prediction.

3.0 HOW WILL THE GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?

The Government will implement the policy by taking actions to advance common policy priorities, adaptation and mitigation measures, and actions that enable monitoring, detection, attribution and prediction as outlined below.

3.1. Common policy priorities

- Promote and support climate change education, awareness raising and capacity development for stakeholders from the local level to the national level.
- Provide support for policies and programmes that consider the interactions between population dynamics, climate change and development.
- Provide support for information sharing and research to better understand the impacts of climate change and the vulnerabilities of particular groups and populations to better inform actions for adaptation to climate change.
- Promote research and development, transfer and diffusion of technology using appropriate information sharing, incentive schemes and support mechanisms.
- Mainstream gender issues in climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches to reduce the vulnerability of women and children to the impacts of climate change and recognize their key role in tackling this issue.

3.2. Adaptation measures

a. Agriculture (Crop and livestock)

- Promote highly adaptive and productive crop varieties and hybrids in drought-prone, flood-prone and rain-fed crop farming systems.
- Promote highly adaptive and productive livestock breeds.
- Promote conservation agriculture and ecologically compatible cropping systems to increase resilience to the impacts climate change.
- Promote sustainable management of rangelands and pastures through integrated rangeland management to avoid land degradation and deforestation.
- Promote diversification and improved post-harvest handling, storage and value addition to mitigate rising climate change related losses and improve food security and household incomes.
- Support community-based adaptation strategies through extension services and improved systems for conveying timely climate information to rural populations to enhance the resilience of agricultural systems to the impacts of climate change.
- Develop innovative insurance schemes (low-premium policies) and low-interest credit facilities to insure farmers against crop failure due to droughts, pests, floods and other weather events.

b. Water

- Promote water harvesting and efficient water use by individuals, households and institutions.
- Ensure availability of water for production in water dependant sectors to increase their resilience to climate change impacts.
- Promote and strengthen the conservation and protection against degradation of watersheds, water catchment areas, river banks and water bodies.

- Promote Integrated Water Resource Management (including underground water resources) and planning for extreme events such as floods and drought.
 - Ensure that guidelines for infrastructure/hydraulic works mainstream climate change.
 - Improve trans-boundary cooperation regarding water resources management.
 - Support institutional and human capacity building in water resource use and management.
 - Strengthen water resource monitoring networks and flood warning systems.
- c. Fisheries and aquaculture**
- Promote climate change resilient fishing practices.
 - Promote sustainable fish farming as a means of economic diversification while enhancing the resilience of the fishing sector to the impacts of climate change.
 - Promote collaborative and participatory management of aquatic ecosystems.
 - Promote awareness of climate change-related impacts on fisheries amongst the various stakeholders, such as local communities, resource managers and policy makers.
 - Provide economic incentives to diversify livelihood options to reduce dependence on climate-sensitive fisheries resources.
 - Promote biological engineering and restoration of stress-tolerant organisms.
 - Improve and strengthen trans-boundary cooperation regarding fisheries ecosystems.
- d. Transport and works**
- Integrate climate change into infrastructure risk assessment guidelines and methodology.
 - Establish and enforce climate change resilient standards for transport and infrastructure, planning and development through monitoring and reporting systems.
 - Integrate climate change concerns into transport and infrastructure development strategies.
 - Promote water catchment protection in infrastructure development and maintenance.
 - Climate-proof infrastructure by conducting Geo-technical Site Investigations to determine if areas are appropriate or inappropriate for infrastructural development.
- e. Forestry**
- Strengthen the national forestry policy to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.
 - Promote intensified and sustained afforestation and reforestation programmes
 - Promote efficient biomass energy production and use technologies to reduce biomass use.
 - Encourage agro-forestry to enable rural households to meet their subsistence and energy needs.
 - Strengthen forestry research and encourage conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems critically threatened by climate change.
- f. Wetlands**
- Strengthen national wetland policy to prevent wetland degradation and encroachment.
 - Promote and intensify wetland protection and restoration of degraded wetlands.
 - Strengthen collaborative and participatory management of wetland resources.
 - Strengthen existing wetland research and encourage conservation and restoration of ecosystems critically threatened by climate change.

g. Biodiversity and Ecosystem services

- Identify biodiversity hotspots where only restricted development should be allowed.
- Encourage collaborative management and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Build on efforts underway to strengthen sustainable land management in fragile ecosystems, especially rangeland ecosystems, hilly and mountainous ecosystems.
- Promote valuation and payment for ecosystem services, and streamline other ecosystem benefit-sharing schemes.
- Ensure that any human activity within the vicinity of protected areas does not compromise the integrity of the ecosystem.
- Strengthen the capacity for monitoring the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services.

h. Health

- Conduct vulnerability assessments of the health sector to climate change impacts.
- Put in place contingency plans to develop climate change-resilient health systems.
- Assess the impacts of climate change on human health and wellbeing.
- Improve the capture, management, storage and dissemination of health information.
- Heighten surveillance of disease outbreaks and provide rapid responses to control epidemics.
- Strengthen public health systems by building hospitals and supplying them with medicine, equipment and well-trained personnel.
- Make provisions for a safe water chain and sanitation facilities to limit outbreaks of water-borne diseases and implement strong public awareness programmes to promote better hygiene.
- Increase health workers' awareness of the relationship between climate change and health.
- Develop further support action plans against HIV/AIDS to enhance the climate change resilience of HIV/AIDS affected persons and communities.

i. Energy

- Promote and participate in water resource regulation to ensure the availability of water for hydropower production.
- Promote and participate in water catchment protection as part of hydroelectric power infrastructure development.
- Diversify energy sources by promoting the use of alternative renewable energy sources such as solar, biomass, mini-hydro, geothermal and wind that are less sensitive to climate change.
- Promote energy-efficient cook stoves and solar and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cookers.
- Conduct research to determine the potential impacts of climate change elements like rainstorms on the country's power supply chain.

j. Wildlife and Tourism

- Develop a national wildlife adaptation strategy including climate change adaptation strategies.
- Promote measures that preserve the integrity of ecosystems that provide critical wildlife habitats and host endangered species.
- Develop park management practices that will enable wildlife to adapt to the changing climate.
- Encourage mechanisms of improving local vulnerable populations' livelihoods using revenues generated from the tourism industry.

- Develop and diversify tourism products that are less sensitive to climate change, as an adaptation and substitute for the many natural attractions that are quickly disappearing.
- Develop weather-resilient infrastructure to support tourism in the region while ensuring minimal damage to wildlife habitats.

k. Human settlements and Social infrastructure

- Promote proper planning of urban centres to have climate change-resilient settlements.
- Create “green spaces” in urban centres to moderate temperatures and provide fresh air.
- Revise structural/building codes and standards to consider the expected changes in climate.
- Develop climate change awareness programmes involving all communities and stakeholders.
- Improve disaster preparedness by increasing the number of well-equipped health facilities, constructing dams and dykes in flood-prone areas, improving disaster preparedness and knowledge management skills in regions prone to climatic disasters.
- Establish insurance schemes targeting regions affected by climatic disasters.
- Disseminate climate-change and early-warning information in local languages to improve community disaster preparedness.
- Diversify economic activities to improve the resilience of rural communities dependent on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and livestock rearing.

l. Disaster risk management

- Develop and implement a climate change-induced disaster risk management strategy.
- Create an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for disaster management.
- Promote vulnerability risk mapping (including the social and economic impacts of climate change) of the whole country and all sectors.
- Improve early-warning systems and preparedness to avoid or minimise the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Strengthen climate change induced disaster management institutions at the national and local levels to reduce causality and ensure preparedness.
- Provide basic needs to victims of climate change induced disasters in the form of financial assistance or donations of food, goods and services as the need arises.
- Encourage the formation of resident associations that can respond to emergencies, and involve them in key decision making to reduce risks.
- Strengthen the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre and establish a National Contingency Fund.
- Promote innovative insurance schemes to insure households, institutions and businesses.

m. Cross cutting: Vulnerable groups

- Put in place social protection mechanisms to ensure that vulnerable groups and communities are empowered to effectively and adequately adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Support and encourage vulnerable groups to engage in sustainable adaptation mechanisms to cope with climate change impacts.
- Integrate climate change related issues into economic policies and action plans that address the needs of vulnerable groups.

3.3. Mitigation Measures

a. Forestry

- Ensure that the forest sector continues providing global services in mitigation of climate change while supporting sustainable development needs of the country.
- Provide financial support, technology transfer and provision for capacity building, especially to forest-dependent communities.
- Provide incentives to establish commercial woodlot plantations, including peri-urban plantations.
- Supporting research and regular data collection and monitoring the status of the forests in terms of areal extent, distribution, plantation species introductions and biodiversity.

b. Land use and Land-use change

- Demarcate areas reserved for industrial use and other land development.
- Strengthen urban authorities by providing funds and the ability to enforce regulations.
- Promote human resource development in land management.
- Strengthen law enforcement and regulate activities on land.
- Ensure that new climate change strategies are closely linked to the existing strategies.

c. Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)

- Conserve the existing forests and implement REDD+ programmes to access additional funds from carbon markets.
- Set-up mechanisms to regulate the implementation of REDD+ projects and establishment of equitable benefit sharing schemes.

d. Wetlands

- Promote wetland protection and restoration to enhance sinks of greenhouse gases.
- Promote sustainable use of wetlands.

e. Agriculture

- Promote conservation agriculture, ecologically compatible cropping systems and agricultural practices to increase GHG sinks.
- Promote the sustainable management of rangelands to reduce GHG emissions from soil and land degradation.
- Promote the sustainable utilisation of agricultural products.

f. Energy generation

- Promote investment in clean energy generation under public private partnerships.
- To promote, encourage and incentivise co-generation which entails production of heat or steam and electricity from renewable biomass by Industries.
- Provide tax incentives and other benefits to private-sector companies who invest in cleaner energy generation.
- Promote the use of alternative renewable energy sources such as solar, biomass, wind and biofuels as well as their associated technologies.
- Develop hydroelectric and geothermal power systems and integrate them into the East

African Power Pool in the medium term.

- Promote the use of combined-cycle gas turbines in cases where there is a shortfall in renewable energy power generation systems.
- Regulate the oil and gas sector and use of fossil fuels to reduce GHG emissions.

g. Energy utilisation

- Promote the development of energy conservation and efficiency projects in all sectors.
- To enforce building codes with the aim of reducing energy consumption and encouraging designs that maximise the use of natural daylight in buildings.
- Promote the use of energy-efficient technologies such as compact florescent lamps and other commercially available high-efficiency lamps.
- Promote efficient firewood/charcoal stoves, solar and LPG cookers to address the high costs of acquiring these technologies through household subsidies or tax waivers.
- Reduce deforestation by providing alternative clean energy sources and efficient appliances for energy use, management and conservation.

h. Transport

- Improve road infrastructure and traffic management in urban centres to reduce traffic congestion and GHG emissions.
- Promote reduction of greenhouse emissions from the transport sector.
- Promote private-sector investment in the biofuel industry, covering the whole biofuel chain from cultivation to fuel processing.
- Establish national standards for emissions and implement strict vehicle emission standards in line with measures to gradually phase out old inefficient motor vehicles, while encouraging the importation of efficient ones.

i. Waste management

- Promote waste to energy programmes to reduce GHG emissions and increasing energy generation and access.
- Promote proper disposal and sustainable use of wastes including sorting and composting.
- Promote the gasification and incineration (burning) of large quantities of waste to generate thermal energy or electricity.
- Promote the use of human waste for production of biogas, which can be used for cooking and lighting in institutions while effluent can be used as fertiliser.

j. Industrial sector

- Promote new technologies in cement processing industries.
- Improve the efficiency of and alternative fuels for lime kilns.
- Promote cleaner production in the industrial sector.
- Review and enforce emission regulations in the sector.

k. Cross cutting mitigation actions

- Ensure adequate capacity development for technology transfer.
- Create a technology fund that can facilitate the transfer, deployment and diffusion of technology and promote the capacity building necessary to support the implementation of clean and low- carbon technologies in other sectors, such as LULUCF and agriculture.

- Introduce improved seeds and draught-resistant, fast-growing tree species as part of the process of technology transfer in the forestry sector.
- Provide financial support for capacity building, especially in forest-dependent communities.
- Provide support for research and development and accurate data for timely weather monitoring and dissemination of information.
- Enforce monitoring of the carbon footprint.

3.4. Monitoring, Detection, Attribution and Prediction Actions

- Support capacity development for weather data collection, analysis and monitoring.
- Support timely sharing and dissemination of relevant data and information with potential users at both the national and district levels.
- Support development of reliable climate modelling, prediction and early-warning systems.
- Support research and development in monitoring, detection, attribution and prediction.

4.0 WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE NCCP?

The NCCP will be implemented by various stakeholders based on their mandates and roles. These include Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), local governments, private sector firms and associations, academia, and development partners.

4.1. Institutional Arrangements and Legal Framework

The following institutional framework is required to support the integration of climate change issues into planning, decision making and investments in all sectors.

a. The Focal Climate Change Institutions

National Climate Change Commission (NCCC)—will undertake the following functions:

- Monitor the implementation of the NCCP and its implementation strategy
- Serve as an information clearinghouse on climate change concerns
- Provide policy and strategic advice on climate change
- Support awareness raising, communication and outreach on climate change
- Ensure the integration of climate change concerns into overall national planning through coordination with the relevant ministries, departments and governmental agencies
- Provide secretarial services to the Policy Committee on Environment (PCE) on climate change matters and to the National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)-designated National Authority
- Serve as the focal point for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Policy Committee on Environment (PCE)—as provided for in the National Environment Act (1995) will be strengthened to guide and advice on climate policy implementation. It will also ensure information flow on resource allocation for the implementation of the policy.

National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC)—will be put in place to ensure working level coordination and to provide climate change technical input to the PCE.

b. Other Key Coordinating Ministries and Authorities

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED)

- Ensure that national, sectoral and district budgets and indicative planning figures integrate climate change through appropriate provisions for the implementation of the policy and its strategy.
- Review quarterly and semi-annual reports from MDAs to ensure that resource use is in line with expected and actual progress in implementing the policy.
- Facilitate the introduction of relevant financial mechanisms and tools to the relevant stakeholders to support financial resource mobilisation and investment for the implementation of the policy.

The National Planning Authority

- Ensure that MDAs integrate climate change into their annual work plans.
- Ensure that the work plans are implemented through a review of quarterly and semi-annual reporting by the MDAs concerned and follow-up actions by the NPA as needed.

The Ministry of Local Government

- Provide guidance to the districts to translate the policy priorities and the implementation strategy into coherent plans at the district level.
- Ensure that districts make adequate provisions in their development plans, annual plans and budgets for the implementation of the NCCP.
- Ensure that districts' plans are acted upon through a review of relevant reports from the districts and with appropriate follow-up actions as required.

c. Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Each MDA with a role to play in the implementation of the policy will designate a focal point and will be accountable for the implementation of the policy responses that concern their department.

d. At the Decentralised Level – Local Governments

While the climate change focal point is anchored within the Natural Resources Department of the District Local Government, all departments will ensure that climate change issues in their sectors are integrated into the District Development Plans. The existing Environment Committee structure at the district level will act as a mechanism to ensure cross-sectoral coordination.

e. Collaboration and Coordination

The PCE will coordinate policy implementation and ensure information flow on resource allocation for the implementation of the policy. The NCCAC will ensure working level coordination and will provide technical input to the National Climate Change Policy Committee.

f. Legal and Regulatory Framework

Objective X111 of the Uganda Constitution advocates for the management of the environment for sustainable development. Article 39 states that “every Ugandan has a right to a clean and healthy environment”. Article 245 states that “Parliament shall, by law, provide for measures intended: (a) to protect and preserve the environment from abuse, pollution and degradation; (b) to manage the environment for sustainable development; and (c) to promote environmental awareness.”

By signing and ratifying both the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, Uganda has committed to the adoption and implementation of policies and measures designed to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. The East African Community (EAC) Climate Change Policy urges member countries to develop consistent national policies to ensure harmonised action.

Amending the National Environment Act, 1995

The National Environment Act, 1995 will be amended to provide for a section on climate change legal and institutional framework to ensure climate issues are not overshadowed.

Climate Change Law

The need for Climate Change Law is justified by the following:

- GOU signed and ratified the UNFCCC which requires member states to demonstrate action on climate change by domesticating the UNFCCC provisions in national legislations.
- The EAC Climate Change Policy calls on partner states to have climate change policies and laws. It also calls on partner states to create climate change funds, which require authorizing legislation.
- There are several CDM and carbon mechanism initiatives in Uganda from which the GOU can get levies, but there is no legal framework to guide the GOU on how to do this.

- Climate change is an environment and development issue, so to avoid scattered actions over sectors in terms of policy and legislation, a new all-encompassing climate change law is necessary.

4.2. Financing and Resource Mobilisation

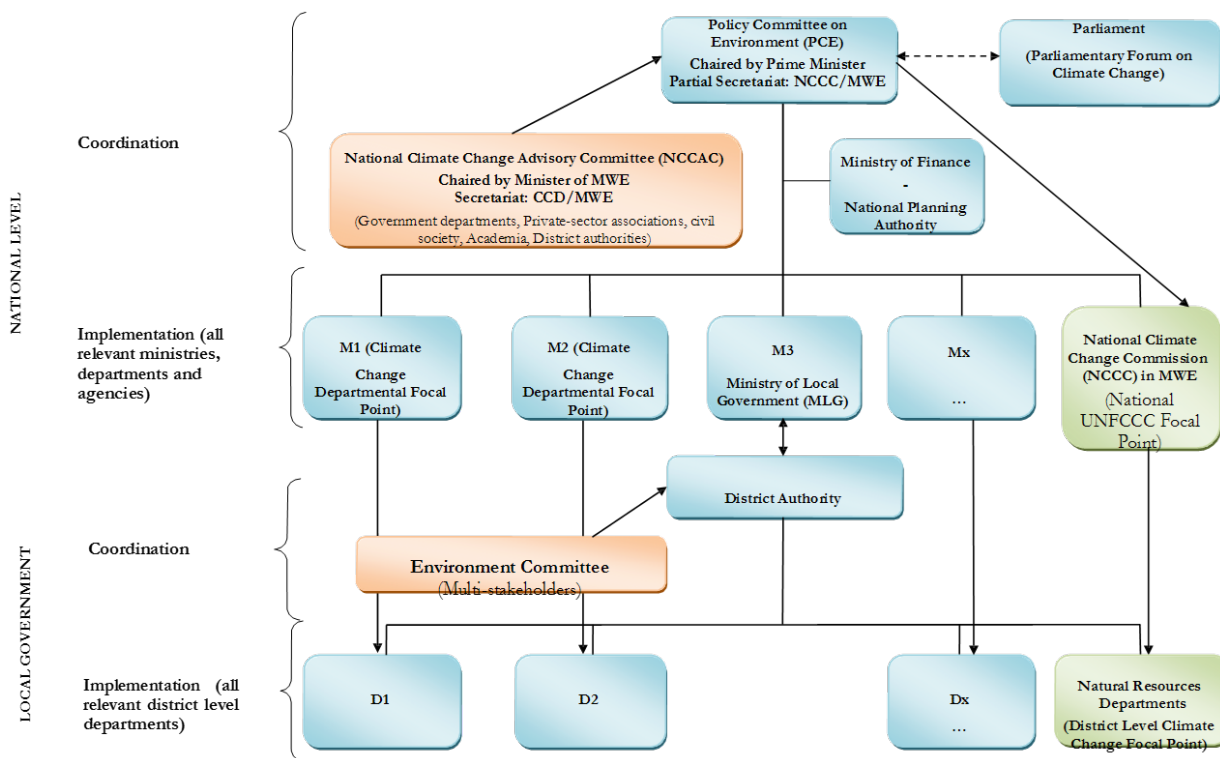
The main sources include the following:

- National and Sectoral Development Plans and Budgets, as climate change concerns are mainstreamed and leveraged through various development plans.
- Private sector investments in energy, industrial developments and technology transfer.
- Multilateral and bilateral development partner support and support from international climate change funds, particularly for capacity development, technical assistance and awareness raising.
- Market-based mechanisms for climate-related actions, such as CDM, benefit-sharing schemes under REDD+, emissions-trading revenues, tax incentive and tariff schemes.
- Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Schemes which is the practice of offering incentives to farmers or landowners in exchange for managing their land to provide an ecological service.

5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Each MDA for which specific accountabilities are identified, will ensure enforcement of the relevant policy priorities and measures, using means and mechanisms at its disposal. A monitoring report shall be shared with all stakeholders during joint sector review meetings.

Annex B: Organisational Chart



The production of the popular version of the NCCP was made possible by the support of the American people through the Feed the Future Uganda Enabling Environment for Agriculture Activity, an activity of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The contents of the popular version are the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) of the Republic of Uganda and do not reflect the views or USAID or the United States Government.

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