

ENR-CSOs Performance Report 2012/2013

“Enhanced performance of the environment sector through promotion of sustainable production, trade and investment in natural resources”



Swamp reclamation in Kampala (Photo by Nature Palace)

ENR-CSOs Network in Uganda

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List of Acronyms

ACCU	Anti-Corruption Coalition in Uganda
ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
AUPWAE	Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment.
BATBP	British American Tobacco Biodiversity Partnership
BFP	Budget Framework Paper
CAN-U	Climate Action Network-Uganda
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CDO	Community Development Officer
CFM	Collaborative Forest Management
CFR	Central Forest Reserve
CLA	Communal Land Association
CODECA	Community Development and Conservation Agency
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CWMP	Community Wetland Management Plan
DOM	Department of Meteorology
DP	Development Partner
DWRM	Directorate of Water Resources Management
EBA	Ecosystem Based Adaptation
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMLI	Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FLEGT	Forestry Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FIEFOC	Farm Income Enhancement
FMP	Forest Management Plans
FP	Fish Ponds
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FSSD	Forestry Sector Support department
FY	Financial year
HEP	Hydro-Electric Power
ICT	Information, Communication Technology
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWDP	Integrated Women Development Program
JESE	Joint Efforts to Save the Environment
JSR	Joint Sector Review
KACODA	Kapchorwa Community Development Association
KASUFU	Kabende Sustainable Forest Users group
KRC	Kabarole Research Centre
LFR	Local Forest Reserve
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NAPA	National Adaptation Programs of Action
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NU	Nature Uganda
PA	Protected Areas
PACJA	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
PoA	Program of Activities
PROBICOU	Pro-Biodiversity Conservation in Uganda
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REPA	Rights, Equity and Protected Areas
SPR	Sector Performance Report
SWAGEN	Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment
TBG	Tooro Botanical Gardens
UCSD	The Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development
UWS	Uganda Wildlife Society
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WGI	Water Governance Institute
WMD	Wetlands Management Department
WRM	Water Resources Management
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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Members of the network that contributed data and information and those that attended the validation meeting are also appreciated. Those that were unable to share their contribution are urged to do so in the subsequent years.

The Directorate of Environment in the Ministry of Water and Environment provided an opportunity to participate in the Joint Sector Review and retreat to review draft Sector Performance Report. As ENR CSOs, we are grateful for this positive gesture that demonstrates the desired partnership as we aim to deliver services to sector beneficiaries.

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1 Executive Summary

The Financial Year 2012/2013 has been a year of innovations for ENR CSOs network and its members. New approaches in ENR management have been explored. First, is the promotion of responsible forest management through forest certification which as an approach that seeks to utilize market forces to influence sustainable forest resource management. Secondly, the Community Based as well as Ecosystem Based Adaptation approaches that seek to address climate change adaptation actions based on thorough understanding of an ecosystem (mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, wetlands) and seek holistic approaches to better the lives of people living in the ecosystems. Thirdly, ENR-CSOs have promoted Integrated Natural Resources Management Approaches – that seek to address community and household problems in a single intervention (rainwater harvesting, sanitation, tree planting, sustainable agri-business approaches). And Lastly, ENR CSOs have facilitated government to deliver on their undertakings through Communication, Education and Public Awareness (radio/TV talk shows, publicity materials, newsletter, facebook, websites).

These have complimented government initiatives to deliver on agreed Undertakings for the FY 2012/2013 as detailed herein.

In the financial year of 2010/11, 29 NGO's invested 3,856,802 US\$, whereas in 2011/12, the number of NGO's declaring their investment increased to 35 with an investment of US\$, 4,012,624 and this current financial year of 2012/13 the number increased to 42 NGO's investing US\$, 6,050,170. Of the total investment for this financial year, 48.5 % went to forestry, 21.8 % on weather and climate change, 12.5% on environment and natural resources governance, 10.1% on environment and 7.4% on wetlands.

Forestry – This Financial Year members of the ENR CSO network partnered with government to promote approaches for sustainable management of the forest estate in the country. Over 30 nurseries, of various sizes and carrying capacity, raised over 3 million seedlings (compared to 2 million seedlings raised in the FY 2011/2012). Some of these seedlings have been used to support the National Forestry Authority and the District Forest Services in restoring forest reserves.

The Standards Development Group (part of the Uganda Forestry Working Group) initiated a process for adoption of responsible forest management through forest certification in Uganda using the Forest Stewardship Council approach. The approach aims to use market forces to demand for forest products and services from well managed and certified forest estates.

ENR CSOs have supported the REDD+ and REDD Preparedness Proposal through consultations, participation, piloting and raising awareness on reduction of green house gases through forestry practices.

Environment – ENR-CSOs have continuously pursued governance concerns in oil and gas with limited response from government on transparency concerns.

Wetlands – ENR-CSOs have supported MWE in raising awareness about the importance of wetlands and these can be used to improve the quality of life (ecotourism, art and crafts). They have also supported government in the failed process to pilot and open wetland boundaries in peri-urban Kampala.

Weather, climate and climate change – the biggest contribution has been around country wide consultations for the Climate Change Policy and Climate Change Guidelines. In addition, individual members have continued to pilot National Adaptation Programmes for Action (NAPA) in varied forms across various agro-ecological zones.

Governance – ENR CSOs have supported MWE in setting up and operationalisation of the Good Governance Working Group. They have held multi-stakeholder meetings aim at pursuing good governance of environment and natural resources. However, ENR CSOs are concerned about the overall governance in ENR sector that is still weak due to low funding especially at local government, increased corruption, declined law enforcement and compliance. There is therefore need for transparency in award of concessions, revitalization of stakeholder foras is needed and strengthening of Local Environment Committees, Forest Committees within the district local governments is still desired.

Whereas MWE has had success against agreed undertakings, as detailed in the SPR, ENR CSOs still see a need to address the following challenges:

- Un-sustainable agricultural practices and tendencies are devastating Uganda ENR resources. There is need therefore to explore and promote environmentally friendly land use practices with particular attention to sustainable agriculture.
- As usual, and for a long time, natural resources have been marginalised in terms of budget allocation (see Budget Performance Reports, Financial Years 2007/08 – 2011/12). Further more the Ministry of Water and Environment has failed to provide for a vote function for local governments to deliver forestry services to the community under the district forests services. This has had a negative impact on the state of environment and natural resources in the districts.
- The poor coordination among ENR sector institutions (NEMA, NFA, UWA, LGs, WMD, FSSD, and Directorate of Environment) perpetuates bureaucratic inefficiencies, undermines timely action and shifts responsibility from one institution without any of these institutions taking full responsibility.
- The Forest Sector Support Department has failed to operationalize forest multi-stakeholder forums provided for in Section 63 of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003. These mechanisms have not been functional, yet they would be good channels of detecting, receiving, discussing and averting grievances and conflicts emerging from different sections of forest sector stakeholders.
- There are increased numbers of cases of disrespect and inconsistent application and use of ENR laws and sister legal frameworks, regulations and procedures. This has led to “loss of confidence” over administrative procedures in wetlands, climate change, forestry, oil and gas. It has also led to loss of revenue as ENR products such as timber, charcoal and firewood go untaxed.
- Since 2003, MWE has not developed regulations intended to operationalise the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act.
- MWE has neglected clarifying the process of nominating the two NGO Representatives to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Board as stipulated under the law. The institution has therefore been deprived of the contribution from CSOs during strategic deliberations.
- There is still failure to implement court rulings. Recently court ruled that the manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of plastic containers, plastic food wrappers, and all other forms of plastic referred to as “kavera” violates the right to a clean and health environment (See High Court Misc. Cause No.005/2011). However, production of poly-ethene bags still goes on.
- There is inadequate and unreliable climate change related data and information. Recommendation: The climate change unit to step up dissemination of precise and timely information.

2 Context of the report

2.1 Background

Since 2009/2010, every financial year, ENR CSOs undertake an assessment of their performance and contribution to the sector. This is a process aligned alongside the Joint Sector Review process of the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Methodology

A data collection tool, designed and improved over the years in line with sectoral and national planning targets, was shared among network members. It was used to data structured along ENR CSOs thematic governance structures.

Compared to 35 ENR CSOs that responded last year, 42 ENR CSOs were able to submit data and information that has been used to develop this report. The first step involved collection of the filled template from members. The data and information was collated and compiled into a draft report. This was reviewed by members of the CSOs as well as the Ministerial Retreat for the finalization of the Sector Performance report.

There was an opportunity for 60 members to validate the content of the draft report and undertake an assessment of the performance of the Ministry of Water and Environment on agreed undertakings and commitments. This assessment is presented in Section 5 of this document. Out of this assessment, a position paper of the ENR CSOs is crafted that is presented during the JSR to inform government decisions the following financial year.

As part of the partnership with government in delivering services to communities, ENR CSOs attend and present their position to the JSR and participate in the JTR during the course of the year.

2.2 ENR CSOs participation and coordination

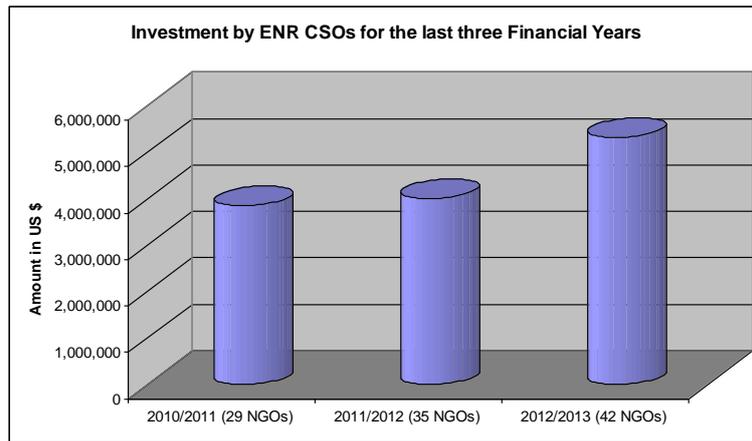
In order to build stronger partnerships to facilitate participation, coordination and increase visibility, credibility and legitimacy, the network started building synergies with NEMA to enroll and establish a database of genuine CSOs/NGOs within the country through the District Environment Officers.

As part of the above, there are initiatives to build capacity of regional and district based CSOs to undertake lobbying and advocacy at LG level. CARE, WWF and IUCN have continuously supported district level civil society organization to engage district local government through stakeholder fora in Mt. Elgon, Mt. Rwenzori and Northern Uganda.

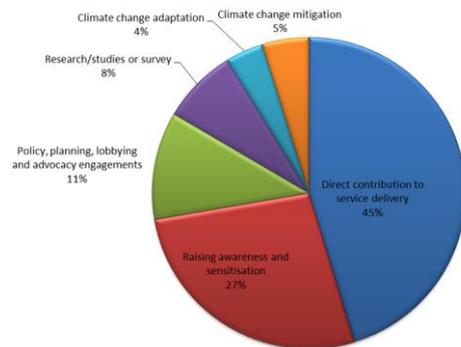
The Network undertook joint fundraising drives to raise resources for its activities. As a result CARE International is supporting the ENR CSO thematic area on forestry. The Forest Stewardship Council and WWF-Denmark are supporting the process for development of forest certification standards in Uganda. This funding resource is used to increase visibility of the network in the regions through the consultative process surrounding forest certification.

2.3 CSO Investments in Environment and Natural Resources

A comparison with the previous two financial years shows an increase in number of organisations sharing information on investment in the sector as well as increase in resources invested. In the financial year of 2010/11, 29 NGO's invested 3,856,802 US\$, whereas in 2011/12, the number of NGO's declaring their investment increased to 35 with an investment of US\$, 4,012,624 and this current financial year of 2012/13 the number increased to 42 NGO's investing US\$, 6,050,170 as per the figure below:



Of the total investment 48.5 % went to forestry, 21.8 % on weather and climate change, 12.5% on environment and natural resources governance, 10.1% on environment and 7.4% on wetlands.



The figure here below provides a further analysis of how the resources have been spent:

- Spending over 45% of ENR-CSOs total investment into service delivery is clear testimony that ENR-CSOs have been partners in the attainment of the set undertakings for FY 2012/2013
- Spending over 27% on raising awareness means CSOs created a smooth environment for achieving on the undertakings.
- ENR CSOs spent 11% on advocacy and lobbying and 8% on research and observed the need for

increased resource allocation for these activities if they are to attain evidence-based advocacy.

2.4 What has been new this financial year?

Forest certification

With funding support from WWF and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) the Uganda Forest Working Group, spearheaded by the Standards Development Group kicked started a process to engage stakeholder, explore policy and legal frameworks and change forest management through market driven forces guided by principles, criteria and indicators of the FSC standards. The Standards Development Group embarked on a process for domesticating the FSC standards to fit into the Ugandan scenario and this has attracted a lot of interest from forest resources managers.

Ecosystem Based Adaptation

ENR CSOs have also adopted the Ecosystem Based Adaptation, an approach that aims to ensure that, despite variability, uncertainty and likely natural changes in the ecosystem, the capacity of the ecosystems to produce food, revenues, and employment and, more generally, other essential services and livelihood, is maintained indefinitely for the benefit of the present and future generations. This implies conservation of ecosystem structures, processes and interactions through sustainable use. It also implies consideration of a range of frequently conflicting objectives and the needed consensus may not be achievable without equitable distribution of benefits. CARE, WWF, Nature Uganda and IUCN have taken lead on this in Eastern, Western, Central and Northern Uganda.

Restoration of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

ENR CSOs have observed over the years that cultivation and cropping are major causes of destruction and degradation of natural ecosystems through out Uganda. To address the challenge of maintaining the provision of ecosystem services while conserving or enhancing other ecosystem services and biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, a number of initiatives have been undertaken. These include among other planting trees in various agro-ecological zones, working with commercial agriculture enterprises (tobacco, sunflower, cotton) to plant trees, supporting the District Local Governments and the National Forestry Authority in enrichment plant in a number of forests and working with communities to increase tree cover in agricultural landscapes. Nature Uganda, Tree Talk, VEDCO, Ecological Christian Organisation and all members of PELUM-Uganda have promoted integrated natural resource management and well as sustainable agriculture approaches in various parts of the country.

Communication Education and Public Awareness

ENR CSOs have used this approach to attract motivation and mobilise individual and collective action through information exchange, participatory dialogue, education and social marketing. This has provided a means of developing networks, partnerships and support in knowledge management. Stakeholder groups of youths, communities have been targeted. Members of the Uganda Forestry Working Group (UFWG), the Climate Adaptation Network (CAN-U), the Civil Society Coalition on Oil (CSCO) have used this approach to reach out to the beneficiaries they serve to cause change in attitude and behaviour.

3 Sector achievements

3.1 CSO achievements in the Forestry sub-sector

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2010 provides the national objectives for forestry which are intended to:

- Restore forest cover from 3.6 million hectares (18%) to 4.9 million (1990 level - 24%) hectares by 2015 with ultimate goal of achieving overall forest cover of 30%
- Restore degraded natural forests in Forest Reserves and private forests
- Reduce pressure on forest cover as a source of wood fuel and construction materials
- Promote forestry based industries and trade

The National Forest Plan, 2013 details the 10 year forestry sector investment plans and programmes to guide forestry investments in Uganda. All actors in the sector seek to address the NDP aspirations and NFP expectations. The ENR CSOs, this financial year, had the following as contributions to that effort (see sections below).

3.1.1 Direct contribution to service delivery in forest management

ENR CSOs have supported communities in various parts of the country with trees seedlings that have complimented national targets on tree planting. Over 30 nurseries, of various sizes and carrying capacity, raised over 3 million seedlings (compared to 2 million seedlings raised in the FY 2011/2012). VEDCO, CARE-Uganda, WWF, IUCN, UWS, Tree Talk, Jane Goodall Institute, Ecological Christian Organisation, SWAGEN and NAPE presented interesting nursery statistics.

The CSOs also steered a process for adoption of responsible forest management through forest certification in Uganda. A Standards Development Group was setup to domesticate Forest Stewardship Council standards that forest resource managers will chose to adhere to. This was supported by WWF and facilitated by Environment Alert that hosts the Uganda Forest Working Group.

IUCN supported the REDD+ Secretariat at MWE to produce 500 posters that popularize the REDD+ Consultation and Participation Plan, the Gender and REDD+ Plan, finalization of the REDD+ National pilot projects guidelines and produced over 500 briefs to guide the development of a pro-poor REDD+ projects in Uganda.

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) and District Local Governments were supported to restore degraded forest reserves in various parts of the country. For example, Tree Talk supported NFA to plant 15 hectares in Opit and 20 hectares in Kulu-Obia Central Forest Reserves. It supported the district local government of Oyam to plant 10 hectares in Iceme Forest Reserve and Kole District Local Government to plant 8 hectares in Atang Forest Reserve. The Jane Goodall Institute supported efforts for natural regeneration of the riverine forest of Wambabya and Bugoma forests that is a habitat for chimpanzees and various populations of wildlife. SWAGEN in collaboration with communities around Rwoho Forest Reserves established 60 hectares of *Pinus Oocarpa*.

3.1.2 Sustainable forest management awareness and sensitization

ENR CSOs have setup and used multi-stakeholder fora /community meetings, newsletters, brochures, radio/TV programs, websites, and social media to raise awareness about sustainable forest management. Gender-based concerns, HIV AIDS, population and health issues relating to forest resources management were addressed.

Jane Goodall Institute, IUCN, WWF, CARE, Tree Talk, Environment Alert, and Nature Uganda among others, in collaboration with various district local governments have held sensitisation meetings and trainings with schools and communities adjacent to forests, in a bid to raise awareness for integrated natural resources management, conservation agriculture and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems services.

In Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa districts, JESE has sensitized 500 community members surrounding Itwara Central Forest Reserve and 300 community members around Matiri Central Forest Reserve and trained over 60 community based monitors to police illegalities at community level.

ECO, SWAGEN, UWS and Tree Talk have supported children and younger conservation trainings in schools (using various audio/visual promotional materials) as a mechanism of using them as future ambassadors towards promoting environmental conservation.

UWS trained 50 change agents from 5 local CSOs in Buliisa on the Uganda's National REDD+ strategy and engagement strategy.

At regional level, ENR CSOs, supported by UCSD, held a REDD-net regional workshop in Nairobi Kenya, as part of a concerted effort to develop environment safeguards under the REDD process.

3.1.3 Community participation

ENR CSOs continued to promote and support the establishment of various ENR inter-district forums for increased participation and management of forest resources. Examples are Mount Elgon Conservation Forum, the Northern Uganda Natural Resources Management Forum, the Mt. Rwenzori Conservation Forum among others.

ENR CSOs promoted community participation in natural resources management through Community based monitors/community policing. VEDCO facilitated Community Based Trainers in identifying advocacy issues relating to community forests in central Uganda. UCSD held quarterly community meetings in various districts within the Katonga River Catchments. Tree Talk worked with over 387 community members in Northern Uganda to establish commercial woodlots, energy saving stoves, water harvesting mechanisms and agribusiness approaches.

Over 700 house holds and 3 CFM groups were supported by JGI in nursery establishment, creation of land use plans around Wambabya and Bugoma forests in Hoima. In addition five (5) CFM Agreements and Plans for the protection of Budongo forests with a view of promoting forest based enterprises have been developed.

Together with NFA, JESE has facilitated establishment of Village Forest Patrol Committees, 60 Community Based Monitors who oversee management areas for 2 CFM groups around Matiri and one group around Itwara forest reserve.

UWS formulated wildlife resource sharing arrangements for 3 resource user groups (1 grass user group and 2 bee keeping groups) to regulated access to Bugungu wildlife reserve. These groups also report poachers and remove traps from the game reserve.

3.1.4 Capacity building

Over 210 teachers and 360 farmers in various districts of northern Uganda were trained by Tree Talk on various aspects of tree tending, agri-business, energy saving stoves and water harvesting in the districts of Nwoya, Amuru, Gulu, Pader, Agago, Kitgum, Lamwo and Adjumani.

Nature Uganda built capacity for forest conservation and community livelihoods in Kabale and Kisoro) with a view to step up conservation of Echuya Forest reserve, a major wildlife habitat attracting tourists in the country.

Tree Talk and Nature Uganda supported restoration of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Northern Uganda by building capacity and creating awareness for best practices on sustainable farm management among communities in the districts of Oyam, Kole, Apac and Gulu.

3.1.5 Policy, planning, lobbying and advocacy engagements

The UFWG and FGLG have held policy dialogues with parliamentarians, academia, private sector, government and the general public on topical forestry issues like resources allocation, governance of sector institutions, the integration of ENR in National Development Plans and District Development Plans.

IUCN, WWF and CARE continued to use inter-district multi stakeholder fora, comprising of District Local Government, National Forest Authority (NFA), Resident District Commissioners, CSOs and communities to address gaps in the coordination of forest resources management in Mt. Elgon and Mt. Rwenzori conservation areas.

Individual members of the network have engaged district local governments on forest resource conservation. For example, UCSD engaged 8 districts on matters on forest resources management along river Katonga catchment. Tree Talk engaged the districts of Apac, Kole, Oyam and Gulu to restore the degraded forest reserves surrounded by tobacco growing communities in these districts. JESE, through a multi-stakeholder forum process supported the harmonisation of charcoal, firewood and timber chain of custody. UWS held a public policy dialogue on the theme: Natural Resources Use and Management in the Albertine rift region.

3.1.6 Research/studies or surveys

These have been the main studies by carried out and disseminates by ENR CSOs for FY 2012/2013

No	Research/study/survey topics	NGO'S
1	Impacts of Oil Palm project in Kalangala and Buvuma Districts	Friends of Earth International, NAPE and Nature Place
2	Unlocking local community potential for sustainable NRM in Uganda's Albertine-oil region	Uganda Wildlife Society
3	Access to land in Central Forest Reserves; promoting transparency, civic awareness and collaborative forest management	ACODE
4	Unlocking progress on REDD+ and sector coordination in Uganda	UCSD
5	Promoting and implementing REDD+ safeguards at national level in East Africa	UCSD

6	A toolkit to assess proposed benefit sharing and revenue distribution schemes of community REDD+ projects	UCSD
7	Best practices for sustainable tree growing; a social forestry approach	Tree Talk

3.1.7 Media engagement

ENR CSOs have had collaboration with various media institutions across the country broadcasting messages related to planting trees, protection of the environment, climate change concerns and ENR governance concerns across the country. Interactive radio talk shows, spot messages, DJ mentions, pre-recorded programs, live-links are some of the popular approaches used.

Some CSOs published newsletters that are distributed across the country. Tree Talk for example released 2 issues (200,000 copies each), inserted in the New Vision Daily, distributed to over 10,000 schools, 20,000 individuals and like-minded institutions around the country. UCSD published bilingual Newsletters (Suswatchdog newsletters Volume 1 issue 1& 2) that were distribute in the East African Region.

Some CSOs such as ACODE, Environment Alert, published articles in the opinion pages of the New Vision and Daily Monitor newspapers

3.2 CSO achievements in the Wetlands sub-sector

Wetland coverage in Uganda is 11.9% of Uganda’s total land surface area down from the original 13-15% in previous year. Major wetland types include areas of seasonally flooded grasslands, swamp forest, permanently flooded papyrus, grass swamps and upland bogs. Wetlands are recognised as national assets for development and an enabling resource for sectors such as agriculture/fisheries, health, tourism and energy. ENR CSOs have continued to work with Government and communities to harness wetlands as a resource in a sustainable manner.

3.2.1 Direct contribution to service delivery in wetlands management

There have been initiatives to build drought resilience for communities in Aswa River Catchment (in the districts of Lira, Otuke and Alebtong). Under this initiative IUCN has established a fund of \$150,000 that 98 Villages qualify to access (at least \$1500 each) in three instalments based on performance in natural resources management. The aim is to promote and achieve Integrated Water Resources Management (river buffer, wells and water points, catchment restoration). The target is to reach 2,855 households and strengthen governance by local leaders.

Nature Uganda promoted conservation of grey crowned cranes and wetlands conservation (as habitat for birds) in the districts of Masaka, Bushenyi and Kabale.

JESE demarcated (using live markers) and geo-referenced 25 kilometres of boundary for Rwambu wetland in Kamwenge and Ibanda Districts. The wetland has been demarcated into utilization and conservation zones i.e. buffer zones, cultivation zones, fish farming, and fragile areas.

3.2.2 Awareness and sensitization on wetlands management and wise use

JESE mobilized and sensitized 400 people adjacent to Rwambu wetland on sustainable Rwambu wetland management and conservation. It also trained 200 Rwambu wetland adjacent community members in wetland laws, policies and regulations.

3.2.3 Capacity building

JESE trained Rwambu wetland adjacent communities in development and implementation of bye-laws which were endorsed by Kizongu sub-county and approved by both Kamwenge and Ibanda Districts.

UWS facilitated formation of Community Conservation Areas (CCA) in Rakai and Isingiro districts, as a means of building capacity for community participation in wetland management.

Nature Palace supported Mabamba Wetlands Eco-tourism Association (MWETA) as a resource-user group to effectively manage the ecosystem and promote wetland-based enterprises.

However there is a general desire to further capacity building for ENR CSOs especially at grass root level, build alliances with ENR institutions and strengthening initiatives of community based wetland management institutions for meaningful collaborative efforts.

3.2.4 Policy, planning, lobbying and advocacy engagements

CARE, IUCN and JESE have advocated for development of bye-laws and influenced lower level local governments to prioritise budget allocations for the ENR sub-sector and has registered a 10%, and 20% increase in allocations in Kabarole and Kasese District, respectively.

3.2.5 Research/studies or surveys

UWS in collaboration with IUCN, Nature Uganda and the Wetlands Division of MWE, undertook a study on the impact of current wetland use practices in Lake Nakivale-Kakyeru wetland system in Rakai and Isingiro Districts, and Lake Bisina-Opeta wetland systems in the Teso region. The study has been used in creating awareness for boundary demarcation, a key undertaking for FY2012/2013.

3.3 CSO achievements in the environment sub-sector

Uganda's environment is under threat from natural and man-made drivers of change including; poverty, rapid population growth, urbanization, agricultural expansion, informal settlement development, industrialization, and the impacts of climate variability among others. This has left environmental management with a number of issues/challenges. In addition, encroachment on steep slopes, and other fragile ecosystems especially rangelands have led to catastrophes such as landslides. There is weak governance at all levels, corruption and increased demand for natural resources and the development pressure in the country. Every body need to play a role to revert the current situation. The sections here below is what ENR CSOs have done for the FY 2012/2013.

3.3.1 Direct contribution to service delivery in environment management

IUCN has modelled a natural resources management approach that uses Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) principles to catalyse natural resources management in many sites. Overall, 98 Community Environment Conservation Funds have been established in 98 villages in Northern Uganda, 17 villages in Mt Elgon and 24 Villages in Karamoja. They are catalyzing local environmental governance and development that takes into consideration nature conservation.

Nature Uganda developed capacity of community groups in governance and protection of habitats with a view of promoting conservation of birds (Lesser Flamingo in Queen Elizabeth National Park) and biodiversity conservation through community led actions among Lake Victoria Basin Communities.

ECO conducted Population, Health and Environment campaigns through Village Health Trainers and supported Beach Management Units around Lake Victoria in fighting illegal fishing practices.

3.3.2 Environmental awareness and sensitization

ENR CSOs have been engaged in various aspects of environment management. VEDCO provided materials to support making and use of organic fertilizers and pesticides for communities, soil and water conservation and sustainable agriculture in central Uganda. JESE supported the construction of infrastructures like fish slabs and cleaning units, Eco-SAN latrines, rainwater harvesting tanks among communities surrounding Lake George.

Green Watch and members of the Civil Society Coalition on Oil network undertook sensitisation on environmental and social aspects of oil and gas for communities in Hoima, Buliisa and Nwoya Districts. A total of 309 participants were trained and have improved their understanding the creation of competent, knowledgeable and informed community members, and environmental advocates.

JESE held sensitisation meetings on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) with schools and communities in Kamwenge district and consequently established IWRM demonstrations for best practices in 20 villages in Kamwenge district-reaching over 300 beneficiaries.

3.3.3 Community Participation

Green Watch developed a community based guide on monitoring impacts of oil and gas on the environment. This guide was pre-tested with communities where the training has been conducted.

JESE engaged Beach Management Units on Lake George to develop and implement catchment management plans and participate in monitoring activities on the lake.

3.3.4 Capacity building

In collaboration with the Joint Environment and Energy Project, Tree Talk established a team of 40 Energy Service Providers (in 8 districts of northern Uganda) that are supporting communities to establish customized energy saving stoves in people's homes. Similarly, ECO trained 186 Energy Service Providers for the districts of Mayuge and Busia.

ECO has strengthened capacities of village Environmental Committees (VEC) and Beach Management Units (BMU) in local resources management, planning and use. Over 31 VEC were activated in Busii (Wakiso) and Jaguzi (Mayuge) and official structures activated and community bye-laws enacted.

EMLI together with NEMA convened the ENR CSO Conference to increase visibility, legitimacy and credibility of the ENR CSO network.

3.3.5 Policy, planning, lobbying and advocacy engagements

ENR CSOs (with EMLI taking the lead) have lobbied government and various aspects of environment management which include:

- Review of the National Environment Management Plan and National Environment Act.
- African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to develop guidelines for civil society engagement in AMCEN.
- Lobbied development partners to increase financial support and smoothen access for developing countries to funds administered by GEF.
- Representation of ENR CSOs at the NEMA Board

3.3.6 Research/studies/or surveys

PELUM conducted a write-shop to document experiences and best practices among farmers and member organisations in environmentally friendly agriculture, commonly referred to as sustainable agriculture. The publication titled; unfolding hidden treasure in sustainable agriculture; experiences from PELUM Uganda was published.

An overview of non-state actors in environment and natural resource management in Uganda. Working Paper, 2013. EMLI.

3.4 CSO achievements in the weather and climate change sub-sector

Climate change is already affecting the lives of Ugandans as seasons are shifting and temperatures varying from season to season. If un-contained, climate change will permanently alter the developments. Changes in rainfall patterns and total annual rainfall amounts are common. Recent recorded rainfall data indicate some significant variations and changes in various parts of the country (NAPA, MWE, 2007). Equally significant the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) notes that the rate of climate change will be more rapid than previously expected, and the adverse effects of climate change will disproportionately affect poor communities in poor countries. This implies that Uganda is highly vulnerable to climate change and climate variability – its economy and the wellbeing of its people are tightly bound to climate. This calls for every bodies actions. The sections below provide, interventions by ENR CSOs for the FY 2012/2013.

3.4.1 Climate change awareness and sensitisation

The Climate Adaptation Network (CAN-U) and PELUM-Uganda organised stakeholder consultative meetings on the Climate Change Policy and its costed Implementation Strategy. It undertook capacity building for 105 member CSOs/NGOs on various adaptations, mitigation measures and stories/effects. It undertook an induction for new Members of Parliament on climate change issues targeting the Parliamentary Forum for Climate Change.

EMLI convened 2 sub-county climate change hearings in Lamongi sub-county, Amuru district and Ongino sub-county, Kumi district that raised awareness of at least 500 locals.

Tree Talk trained Local Environment Committees on climate change and adaptation mechanisms in the Districts of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya, Adjumani, Kitgum, Lamwo, Pader and Agago

3.4.2 Climate change adaptation

IUCN promoted an Ecosystem Based Adaptation approach to climate change in Mt Elgon within which a Gravity Flow Scheme that supports over 100 households to access clean water was established. Together with communities, restoration of the River Sipi micro-catchment as an ecosystem-based solution to build social and ecological resilience was commissioned. A total of 120 land owners covering 130 acres of land along the banks of the River Sipi have enrolled in the community PES incentive scheme so far.

UCSD developed a popular version of the East African community climate change of April 2011 and this is widely shared within the region.

PELUM conducted a documentation exercise for sustainable agriculture practices that enhance the adaptive capacity of farmers to climate change. The document was printed and disseminate widely among PELUM network and other stakeholders.

Tree Talk trained farmers and Local Environment Committees on the importance of tree growing in adapting to climate change using the business model of tree planting.

EMLI participated at the Africa regional food security and adaptation conference in Nairobi at UNEP and shared the Ugandan experience.

ECO facilitated the establishment of Early Warning Systems, of 300 granaries in Nakapiririt, expected to serve over 700 households

Nature Palace continued to promote waste-to-Energy initiatives, recycling of biowaste into fuel briquettes for cooking and heating in Mpigi, Kampala and Wakiso districts.

3.4.3 Climate change mitigation

IUCN, ECO-Trust, Uganda Carbon Bureau, Nature Harness, Tree Talk, UCSD, JGI have continued building awareness, capacity and governance mechanisms for private forest owners and community groups to access carbon payments and benefit from REDD+ based approaches to climate change mitigation.

Nature Uganda has built capacity for local government and civil society on climate change Policy formulation and Ecosystem Service Assessment for climate change adaptation in communities surrounding Echuya Forest.

EMLI convened advocacy workshops on pro-poor mitigation actions to be piloted at grass root levels. At least 60 participants were equipped with knowledge on pro-poor mitigation actions.

ECO has supported 900 households with fruit tree seedlings and supported approximately 1,000 households with energy saving stoves to help them in the energy crisis situation in Nakapipirit District.

UWS trained communities on their participation in the national REDD+ process and developed a REDD+ training manual and a REDD+ strategy for Buliisa community participation.

Nature Palace has supported communities in Wakiso and Mpigi districts to establish herbal gardens to counteract rapid loss of plant resources resulting from habitat destruction due to climate change.

3.4.4 Policy, planning, lobbying and engagements

The key action area was the participation of PELUM/CAN-U/ENRCSOs members in the consultative process for the finalisation of the climate change policy and its related implementation strategy and budget.

3.4.5 Research/studies or surveys

- Study on climate change finance in Uganda by ACODE
- Innovative financing mechanisms for climate change response at the local government level by EMLI
- Critical issues for Pro-poor climate change mitigation actions in Uganda. Policy Brief. 2013
- Lake victoria climate change Readiness briefs No. 1 and No.2 on assessing progress and level of implementation of the East Africa Community Climate Change policy commitments related to mitigating effects of GHGs and adaptation to climate change to climate change in the Lake Victoria, by UCSD

3.5 Governance as cross-cutting issues

The World Bank developed five pillars of governance that countries need to address in the management of natural resources and these are:

1. Transparency, accountability, and public participation,
2. Reliability of institutions and conflict management,
3. Quality of administration and management of natural resources,
4. Coherence of legislation and rule of law and,
5. Economic efficiency, equity and incentives.

ENR CSOs, on top partnering with government to deliver services, they also undertake a performance check on government to see if it meets the basic principles underlying good governance. Here below is what ENR CSOs have undertaken this financial year.

3.5.1 Civic education and stakeholder awareness of holding duty bearers accountable

The ENR CSO network has continued to pursue governance concerns of the sub-sector related to institutional governance, inter and intra-institutional communication, corruption, abrogation of the rule of law and lack of enforcement of the laws. ENR CSOs have continuously reminded government that poor coordination among ENR sector institutions perpetuates bureaucratic inefficiencies, undermines timely action and shifts responsibility from one institution without any of these institutions taking full responsibility.

3.5.2 Capacity building

Green Watch and ACODE undertook trainings on EIA aspects in oil governance for communities in Buliisa, Hoima and Nwoya to assist them to better govern the environment through monitoring. A total of 80 people were trained.

3.5.3 Advocacy engagements towards good governance

Civil Society Coalition on Oil (CSCO) and ACODE undertook advocacy engagements on oil laws with local leaders, parliamentarians and civil society. The view was to raise awareness about the oil sector in Uganda.

Green Watch undertook advocacy work on enforcement of the court decision to ban the manufacture, distribution and use of poly-ethene (“kavera”) by engaging the Chairperson, Natural Resources Committee of Parliament and the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Jointly with NAPE, Nature Uganda and Green Watch filed a suit at the High Court in Kampala challenging the expansion of Rosebud Flower Farm into Lutembe wetland.

Together with ACODE, IUCN and Environmental Alert, Green Watch has assisted the Good Governance Working Group of the Ministry of Water and Environment to develop an Action Plan of implementation of activities aimed at fostering and promoting good governance in the ENR sector.

At regional level UCSD has developed LVEMP II Service Client Charter to guide the effective and efficient implementation of LVEMP II project

4 ENR sub-sector challenges and recommendations – CBO/NGO perspective.

Challenge 1: There is need to explore and promote environmentally friendly land use practices with particular attention to sustainable agriculture. **Recommendation:** ENR CSOs will continue lobbying government for joint inter-sectoral planning to strengthen collaborations.

Challenge 2: As usual, and for a long time, natural resources have been marginalised in terms of budget allocation (see Budget Performance Reports, Financial Years 2007/08 – 2011/12). Further more the Ministry of Water and Environment has failed to provide for a vote function for local governments to deliver forestry services to the community under the district forests services.

Recommendation: ENR CSOs to lobby the President, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and Parliament to allocate more financial resources to Water and create a vote function for local governments.

Challenge 3: There is generally poor coordination among ENR sector institutions (NEMA, NFA, UWA, LGs, WMD, FSSD, and Directorate of Environment) which perpetuates bureaucratic inefficiencies, undermines timely action and shifts responsibility from one institution without any of these institutions taking full responsibility. **Recommendation:** The Ministry of Water and Environment should clarify and harmonise institutional mandates of the respective institutions.

Challenge 4: The Forest Sector Support Department has failed to operationalize forest multi-stakeholder forums provided for in Section 63 of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003. These mechanisms have not been functional, yet they would be good channels of detecting, receiving, discussing and averting grievances and conflicts emerging from different sections of forest sector stakeholders. **Recommendations:** NGO/CSOs will continue lobbying MWE to operationalize the annual multi-stakeholder Forum provided for under the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act and formalization of the forest committees so that they execute their expected roles.

Challenge 5: There are increased numbers of cases of disrespect and inconsistent application and use of ENR laws and sister legal frameworks, regulations and procedures. This has led to “loss of confidence” over administrative procedures in wetlands, climate change, forestry, oil and gas. It has also led to loss of revenue as ENR products such as timber, charcoal and firewood go untaxed. **Recommendation:** ENR CSOs will pursue government on governance issues and reinstatement of transparency in the management of natural resources

Challenge 6: Since 2003, MWE has not developed regulations intended to operationalise the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act. **Recommendation:** MWE should expeditiously develop and publish the forestry regulations as required by law to enable full implementation of the Act.

Challenge 7: MWE has neglected to clarify the process of nominating the two NGO Representatives to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Board as stipulated under the law. **Recommendation:** The minister should initiate a process of nominating civil society representatives on the National Environment Management Board.

Challenge 8: Recently court ruled that the manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of plastic containers, plastic food wrappers, and all other forms of plastic referred to as “kavera” violates the right to a clean and health environment (See High Court Misc. Cause No.005/2011). **Recommendation:** The Environment Protection Force should enforce this ruling by litigating those still manufacturing unlawful material.

Challenge 9: Inadequate and unreliable climate change related data and information. **Recommendation:** The climate change unit to step up dissemination of precise and timely information.

5 Assessment of government performance based on agreed undertakings

5.1 Analysis of forestry performance

The key undertakings for the forestry thematic area of the ENR sub-sector for the FY 2012/2013 was Undertaking 2 within which MWE was supposed to commence demarcation of boundaries for 3 local forest reserves and this has not been achieved.

The other commitments that the NFA intended to accomplish, the following has been achieved:

- (i) Planted 1,487ha of plantation trees including Pines, Eucalyptus and *Maesopsis eminii*. These were established in North Rwenzori, Lendu, Rwoho, Mafuga and Opit CFRs.
- (ii) Entered into 3 Partnerships as was of Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) around the forests of Kasagala and Mubuku CFRs.
- (iii) 103 kms of forest boundaries demarcated in various parts of the country
- (iv) 581 ha of PFEs replanted in the CFRs of Masamya, Navugulu, Natyonko, Mabira, and Lwamunda through encroachment planting while 12ha planted in Kalinzu CFR with tree species such as *Fagara*, *Newtonia*, *Markhamia*, and *Prunus* spp.
- (v) 9,257,743 seedlings of both fruit (150,000) and timber(9,107,743) species were raised.
- (vi) Other achievements included maintenance of 8,729ha of CFRs in view of both silvicultural and other tending activities, employed 381 patrol personnel.

Whereas the National Forestry Authority was able to achieve the above, it is still grappling with improving its image in the public eye in as regards the mismanagement of the World Bank Funded carbon project in Rwoho, the partitioning of the remaining part of Namanve Forest Reserves and increasing number of encroachers and encroachment activities in the 506 CFRs it manages.

The is limited funding compromising key activities like boundary demarcation, patrols, and evictions that require substantial funding which is currently is lacking. The National Forest Authority, the District Forest Services and the Forest Sector Support Department need to be supported financially in order to deliver their mandate.

There is weak enforcement irrespective of the boost from the Environment Protection Force. The 50 members of the EPF that have been seconded to NFA are not enough to suppress the level of illegalities in the forest estate.

The current plantation establishment by the National Forestry Authority and the private sector face threats of fire as maintenance costs are high due to tax levied on equipment and tools. There is need for tax exemption on such tools so they are affordable.

Staffing level at the forest reserve level is low and participation of communities in forest management is still minimal. This has had negative impact on restoration of the forest estate.

5.2 Analysis of wetland performance

Undertaking 2 intended to complete demarcation of 11 urban wetlands, put in place the management framework for those wetlands, protect those that are not yet encroached and promote sustainable use of wetlands and forests by the end of FY 2012/2013 and evicting those that are in already gazetted and demarcated wetlands by FY2013/14.

ENR CSOs are concerned that the undertaking has not been achieved due to failure to mobilize the required stakeholders and delays in the procurement process. It is the assessment of the boundaries of the 11 urban wetlands that was done and only 5 wetlands were subjected to pilot boundary marking.

No actual demarcation therefore has taken place. In part, ENR CSOs feel a lack of political commitment to conserve wetlands throughout the country as there are increased degradation and encroachment in Lutembe, Kisasi-Bukoto, Busegu and Lubigi Wetlands.

ENR CSOs urge government to pilot boundary demarcation for rural wetlands that are less complex to handle, and that they are willing to partner with government on this cause particularly on public consultation and participation.

Undertaking 5 on water resource management required the development and implementation of two catchment management plans by the end of the fiscal year. ENR CSOs appreciate the effort on this undertaking where management plans have been prepared for 4 rather than 2 catchments areas. Whereas the reporting mentions 4 management plans, the available information is not enough to make a conclusive assessment. ENR CSOs wish to remind MWE that it is vital to work with communities so that local community livelihoods are protected and ensure proper ownership of catchment management plans.

5.3 Analysis of Environment performance

Undertaking 1 on collection and verify baseline data for ENR sector performance measurement framework by the end of the FY 2012/13, and putting in place a system for analysis and quality assurance and updating it by the end of the FY 2013/14. This is on track irrespective of the fact that it is complex and expensive. ENR CSOs recommend increased budget allocation for this undertaking for its completion.

Under Undertaking 3 intended to harmonise the operations of NEMA with those of the lead agencies as provided for in the National Environment Act (Cap 153), and expedite delegation of wetland management functions by the end of FY 2012/2013. This process is slow with reported resistance

(from NEMA) to comply with the harmonization process. ENR CSOs therefore recommend a review of mandates of the sector institutions and a review of the relevant legislation in order to distribute roles and responsibilities and avoid a situation where NEMA is seen, and wants to be, the only actor.

Undertaking 6 on the finalisation of the pollution management strategy to improve the long term water quality of Inner Murchison Bay and initiate implementation of its interventions by the end of FY 2012/13. This has not been achieved due to weak management system for addressing pollution and reliance on Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (whose funds were frozen due to improper accountability). ENR CSOs recommend that alternative funds should be sources to undertake this activity to save the integrity of Murchison Bay.

5.4 Analysis of weather and climate change performance

The key undertaking here was Undertaking 1, on Collecting and verifying baseline data for ENR sector performance measurement. ENR CSOs applaud the effort by MWE to accomplish task relating to this Undertaking. It installed weather instruments in Kakooge, Gulu, Bushenyi, Kyenjojo, Kabale. However ENR CSOs note that the installation of weather stations should have been done at regional level to take care of places such as Karamoja, Eastern Uganda and West Nile.

An office block was offered to the Climate Change Unit by the National Forestry Authority and it was also rehabilitated. ENR CSOs however note that the office block is so small to accommodate staff of and visitor to the Unit.

Daily weather forecasts were issued and quarterly returns done and 2 seasonal forecasts and advisories issued. Nile. The small room offered cannot handle advanced technology, daily operations for efficient work. Whereas these are aired on Uganda Broadcasting Corporation, ENR CSOs are of the view that this information can be distributed to FM Stations that can air the information in local languages at no cost. There is also need to use existing institutions to place forecasts in the Local Government structures and key institutions there in for a wider dissemination.

Often times the forecasts are not perfect and there is therefore need to undertake monitoring and evaluation of the forecasts to ensure that it works. The weather forecast centre needs to liaise with other East African stations for Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan to give a regional picture in order to improve on accuracy of the forecasts.

Agro metrological information has been updated and uploaded to the website regularly. Bulletins prepared and disseminated through websites and UBC radio. ENR CSOs however note that there are few Ugandans that access internet and therefore recommend use of FM radio stations to disseminate this information

The Climate Change Unit organized Uganda's participation in the COP. ENR CSOs however note that there are fewer representatives of CSOs on the Government Delegation to the COP and often times not funded.

Uganda's capacity and coordination for undertaking climate change activities is getting strengthened. Climate change has been integrated into Uganda national, district and sector policies, plans and budgets; education, information and communication materials on climate change have been produced and disseminated. However CSOs take note that some of the government staff who work with the farmers (such as NAADS Coordinators, Forest Supervisors, Community Development Officers and members of the Local Environment Committees are not knowledgeable in climate change issues. There is therefore need for farmer field demonstrations to test viability of climate change adaptation technologies whilst building capacity of the local government staff to understand climate change dynamics.

MWE committed itself to have certified emission rights for 15,000 tones of carbon received from World Bank Biocarbon Fund sequestered in Rwoho Plantation. Whereas ENR CSOs commend the progress made, there is a feeling that the National Forestry Authority did not manage this project in an appealing manner to the World Bank with so many queries arising before actual payments.

MWE committed to finalise, launch and popularize the Climate Change Policy and Implementation Strategy to ensure low emission. ENR CSOs note that whereas this is at its final

stage, it still requires clearance and a financial certificate from the Ministry of Finance before it is cleared. Efforts therefore should be geared towards finalizing and rolling out the policy.

There is a general observation on budget allocation to climate change that needs to be stepped up both at central and local government level. There is need for all ministries to have a component budgeted for climate change. There is also need to finalise initiatives for inclusion of climate change curriculum in the entire Uganda Education System.

5.5 Analysis of governance of the sector

Under Undertaking 2, MWE pledged to promote sustainable use of wetlands and forests by kick-starting boundary opening in selected wetlands and forest reserves. This has not been achieved because stakeholder mobilisation was inadequate; there was lack of trust by local communities and there was corruption in procurement procedures. ENR CSOs recommend a deeper involvement of local communities; providing local communities with information to ensure free, prior, and informed consent.

MWE also pledged to evict those that are already in gazetted and demarcated wetlands and this was not achieved. To the contrary, there are more encroachers and licenses awarded in protected areas illegally in forests and wetlands. ENR CSOs recommend enforcement of the legal provisions and investigate and prosecute government officials involved in these illegalities.

Under Undertaking 3, on harmonize the operations of NEMA with lead agencies. This harmonization has not been achieved. There is no clear institutional framework to take this forward; institutions have continued working in isolation and no exploitation of existing synergies has been done. ENR CSOs therefore recommend review of the National Environment Act (and related policy documentation) to clarify the institutional mandate of NEMA vis a vis the mandates that emerged after its creation.

Under Undertaking 3, MWE pledged to expedite delegation of wetland management functions and this has not been achieved. The district environment officers are not fully delegated to approve management plans, issue licenses and monitor plan implementation. There is therefore need for a statutory instrument for linking NEMA with relevant local government departments.

Under Undertaking 4, MWE pledged to develop a gender strategy for ENR subsector and this has not been achieved. ENR CSOs note the need for proper planning for procurement and recommend a fast tracking of the of the process to develop the desired gender strategy.

The commitment to have 150 Environment Protection Force personnel (EPF) trained and equipped has been achieved. However the EPF is not provided for in ENR institutional and organizational structures. ENR CSOs therefore recommend a review of the EPF mandate and formalize EPF in ENR agencies' structures.

MWE committed itself to enforce protection of endangered biodiversity (such as shea nut tree in Northern Uganda) and no action has been made in this direction. Endangered species including Shea continue to be endangered. ENR CSOs recommend development of a list of species that are endangered and endeavour to enlist them in the IUCN list of endangered species.

Overall governance in ENR sector is still weak due to low funding especially at local government, increased corruption, declined law enforcement and compliance. There is therefore need for transparency in award of concessions, revitalization of stakeholder foras is needed and strengthening of Local Environment Committees, Forest Committees within the district local governments is still desired.

6 List of contacted institutions and persons

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