

**A NATIONAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF  
PARTIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT  
DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD) IN UGANDA**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### *Introduction*

Uganda is located in East Africa and is a member of Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), one of the Sub-regions most affected by desertification in Africa. Uganda occupies an area of 241,000 km<sup>2</sup> of which 80,000 km<sup>2</sup>, is drylands. It has a human population of 19.5 millions of which 90% live in rural areas. Women constitute 51% of this population, contribute 82% of the labour force and account for 80% of the food production (MFPED, 1997).

Uganda's drylands, which receive between 500 mm and 1000 mm of rainfall occupy an area commonly referred to as the "cattle corridor", stretching from the north-east through central to the south-west of the country. In addition, there are scattered dryland areas throughout the country. These areas receive erratic rainfall often resulting into prolonged periods of drought, to such an extent that some of them already exhibit desert-like conditions.

Uganda actively participated in the negotiations of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), and held the following responsibilities; Vice Chairman of Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification Working Group 2, and Vice President of COP I in Rome, Italy, in September 1997. It demonstrated its commitment to implementation of the CCD by signing and ratifying it on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1994 and 25<sup>th</sup> June 1997, respectively.

### *Purpose of the National Report*

Preparation of a National Report is part of the process of implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The main purpose of the report is to inform other parties to the Convention about the situation in Uganda with regard to the measures being taken to implement the CCD in the country. It also serves to strengthen institutional and human capacity of the CCD National Focal Point in order to improve co-ordination and implementation of the CCD in the context of fostering sustainable development.

### *Institutional measures to implement the Convention*

Uganda established a multi-sectoral stakeholder National Coordinating Body (NCB) as the starting point in building a functional partnership in the National Action Programme (NAP) process. It consists of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF) as the lead Ministry and a National Steering Committee (NSC) with a wide representation of stakeholders including relevant government departments and institutions, representatives of NGOs and external partners. In addition to the existence of a CCD National Focal Point, a National NGO Coordinating Committee on Desertification (NCCD) consisting of NGOs and CBOs at all levels was established in April 1998 to strengthen NGOs and CBOs co-ordination and participation in the NAP process.

The NSC guides policy formulation and advises government on matters concerning implementation of the CCD in the country. The NSC activities are based on a work plan designed to guide the implementation of the Umbrella Support Project for the initial support to formulation of the NAP process in Uganda.

Institutional arrangements to ensure that local actors fully participate, control and take ownership of

designing and implementing the NAP processes, have resulted in the establishment of District Steering Committees for Combating Desertification (DSCCD) in nine districts.

The Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and MAAIF are charged with the overall supervision of the activities of the NSC. The Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has to ensure that MAAIF, as the lead agency, carries out its responsibilities. The MFPED through the Aid Liaison Department carries out supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of activities of the NSC, while NEMA is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all activities of the NSC are within the broad framework of NEAP.

Key stakeholders participate in guiding and coordinating the NAP process through representation to the NSC, the District Steering Committees on Desertification consisting of representatives of various stakeholder groups mainly government departments, NGOs, CBOs, the private Sector and representatives of external partners. In addition the NCCD working closely with district NGO for a guides and coordinates the activities of NGOs and CBOs in implementation of the CCD. At district level, NGOs also network and exchange information through their district NGO fora.

*Participatory process in support of the preparation of the NAP process.*

In 1998, a series of activities were carried out to raise awareness and solicit views of key actors on priority areas for the NAP. These included:

- NGO workshop to elaborate co-ordination and networking arrangements for NGOs involved in combating desertification;
- A District Team Leaders' workshop on elaboration of the NAP process;
- District and sub-county level stakeholder awareness and consultation workshops;
- Workshop on Gender considerations in the NAP process;
- Workshop for sensitizing Parliamentarians on the CCD / NAP process;
- A public lecture on the 'Bare hills of South-Western Uganda' - organized by the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Uganda;
- The First National Consultative Forum on the NAP process to Combat Desertification in Uganda;
- Sensitization Workshop for Makerere University academic community;
- Workshop on Rehabilitation of Rangelands using forage legumes; and
- Commemoration of the World Day to Combat Desertification

The NCB has utilised the local councils, and women and youth councils established under the Uganda Constitution as a means for mobilizing local communities and raising awareness of the NAP process at all levels.

Awareness raising activities about the CCD and its innovative approaches including the launching of the National Action Programme (NAP) process involving a wide cross-section of stakeholders, have been going on. Mass media programmes and campaigns to this effect have been organised under the Umbrella Support Project of the NAP process initiated in January 1998. The message and contents for the campaigns emphasised social and economic issues land degradation, gender concerns, participation of NGOs, CBOs, private sector and the affected communities regarding desertification.

On gender the Government of Uganda has taken steps to provide an enabling environment for gender consideration in development programmes by creating the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development. The constitution also established local councils from village to district level and stipulates that one third of each committee/ council at all levels be women. In addition, the constitution creates special councils for women and youth from village to national level. The NAP process has used all these structures to involve local communities in the awareness and consultation activities in the NAP process. Despite the enabling environment women participation in NAP process is still low registering only 27%.

### *National Plans and Strategies*

Prior to the UNCCD, some steps had been taken to address the problems of drought and desertification. In September 1977, for instance, Uganda participated at the United Nations Conference on Desertification, which was held in Nairobi. In 1981 Uganda hosted a mission from UNSO which recommended that the government initiates the formulation of a national strategy to combat desertification and establish a machinery within the government for coordinating and implementing the strategy and translating it into concrete programmes and activities. Furthermore, from 1991 to 1994, the government of Uganda developed a National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) providing a framework for addressing deforestation, soil erosion, rangeland deterioration, fuel-wood shortages, loss of biodiversity, and drainage of wetlands. The Action Plan presents practical solutions and options in the areas of policy, institutional reforms and new investments with view to promoting sustainable socio-economic development by changing people's ways of utilizing and conserving natural resources.

Initiatives taken in other socio-economic areas and are of relevancy to combating desertification include; the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP); Water Action Plan; National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan; Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme; Karamoja Project Implementation Unit; Famine Early Warning and Disaster Preparedness; Livestock Systems Project; Dryland Husbandry Development through Conservation; Poverty Eradication and Food Security in the Luwero Triangle; and Mt. Elgon Conservation Project.

In 1993, a Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) was formulated with a goal of eradicating absolute poverty by the year 2017. The PEAP aims at promoting interactions, which improve quality of life of the poor, and also directly enhances the potential for increasing incomes of the target groups.

Presently there are a number of on-going programmes and projects in agriculture and natural resources management embodying CCD principles, and require integration in the NAP process. These include, among others, Poverty Alleviation Project, Agriculture Sector Management Programme, Water Resources Monitoring and Assessment Project, Collaborative Management of Forestry Resources, Uganda Photovoltaic Pilot Project for Rural Electrification, East African Cross-Border Biodiversity Project and Dryland Husbandry Project. The Government of Uganda is promoting utilization of Climate information and prediction products in the planning and administration of socio-economic sectors, in particular the agriculture industry.

However, the information system for the NCB is still limited in terms of facilities and the information

base in other relevant sectors is very weak, and the available data is sometimes not precise. Information exchange, circulation, and transfer involves use of leaflets, posters, flip charts, TV and Radio programmes, newspaper articles, use of electronic media and documentary films on land degradation and activities undertaken to reverse it.

#### *Legal and regulatory frameworks*

With regard to legislation on the environment and related fields, the Uganda Constitution of 1995 provides a sound basis upon which environmental laws are made in the country. A number of laws have recently been enacted in the field of natural resources utilization and environment conservation and management. They include the National Environment Statute, No.4 of 1995; the Land Act, 1998; the Local Government Act, 1997; the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, 1998; the Water Statute, 1995; and the Uganda Wildlife Statute, 1996. Also in existence are the Forest Act, 1964; the Prohibition of Burning of Grass decree, Decree No. 5 of 1974; the Soil Conservation Act, 1964; the Cattle Grazing Act, Cap 222, 1964; and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1964.

#### *National Action Programme financing, support and technical cooperation*

The initial phase of the NAP process in Uganda has been facilitated by government agencies, NGOs, and external partners. On Its part the government makes a contribution by providing office accommodation and meets salaries of government officers working at the NAP Secretariat and those serving on the National Steering Committee (NSC). The UNSO and UNDP provided funds for initiating the NAP process in the country through the Umbrella Support Project. Support has also been extended to some selected local community initiatives to build their capacity in the implementation of NAP process in the districts of Nakasongola, Kamuli, Mbarara, Kotido, Moroto, and Pallisa through NGOs. A project Promoting Farmers' Innovations (PFI) was launched in 1998 to enhance exchange and adoption of farmer innovations relevant to combating desertification in the Districts of Kumi, Soroti, and Katakwi, and has already registered tremendous success. The steps taken so far, however, have covered a small portion of the affected areas largely due to the limited resources available. Other donors who have supported related activities include GTZ, DANIDA, Australian Government, USAID, FAO, CCD Secretariat, and International NGOs such as LWF, World Vision, Econews Africa, IUCN, and SNV.

With regard to technical cooperation in the context of combating desertification, Uganda has benefited from UNSO, CCD Secretariat, SNV, USAID, the Australian Government, IUCN, and EcoNews Africa who have facilitated and provided consultants. Technical cooperation is, however, still required in a number of priority programme areas particularly research in the fields of Soil and Water conservation and management, sustainable utilization and management of drylands, and development of appropriate technologies for rural development.

The government of Uganda has taken steps to establish a Uganda National Fund to Combat Desertification (UNFCD). A bill to that effect has been prepared and is to be presented to parliament soon. The bill provides for grants and micro-credit to be availed to finance community activities that address drought, desertification and poverty.

Mechanisms for convening international partners and exchange of views with the government exist but are yet to be effectively utilized to achieve greater participation of international partners in the NAP process. Uganda participated in preparation of the sub-regional Action Programmes within the

framework of Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD).

#### *Measures planned within the NAP framework*

During the First National Forum on the NAP process held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 1998, it was resolved that efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought focus primarily at grassroots community levels. In addition, measures to address capacity building as well as priority programme areas and activities for short, medium, and long term action plan were agreed upon. These include:

- Enhancing information generation and exchange by setting up information networks between stakeholders, and developing databases on desertification;
- Promote training and awareness raising by including topics on desertification and drought in the national school curriculum, continued sensitization of high level policy and decision makers, extension staff, NGOs, CBOs and local communities particularly women and youth groups;
- Support local community initiatives to combat desertification through provision of micro-credit grants and establish a UNFCD;
- Review policies and strategies relevant to NAP;
- Provide institutional support to activities of NSC and DSCD, and strengthen the National CCD Focal Point and the NCCD;
- Improve soil management and conservation by training farmers and pastoral communities in soil fertility conservation, range and land management;
- Development of alternative sources of energy;
- Promotion of afforestation programmes; and
- Development of appropriate technologies for combating desertification

A number of measures are also envisaged to increase in people's knowledge on desertification. These include: setting up an information network of key stakeholders and affected areas; inclusion of topics on desertification and drought in the school curriculum; continued sensitization and training of policy and decision makers, and extension workers in the relevant sectors; collection and dissemination of indigenous knowledge, and technologies on combating desertification.

#### *Conclusion*

In the initial phase of the NAP process in Uganda a number of stakeholders have been consulted and made aware of the UNCCD, They have also been sensitised on the need to formulate and implement the Action Programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. The NAP consultation process culminated into the First National Forum on NAP in Uganda during which a number of priority programme areas were identified for short, medium and long term action plans. The second phase of the NAP process will, therefore, focus on the development and implementation of sector, district and community level priority programmes.

The government of Uganda recognises that for the successful implementation of the UNCCD efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought must focus primarily at the grassroots community level. In view of this major steps have been taken at the National level towards the establishment of a UNFCD. The fund is expected to provide a sustainable source of funding for



community level activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Operationalisation of the fund and its capitalization are areas in which support from external partners is called for.

For the successful implementation of the NAP process and programmes there is a need for all stakeholders to participate. Participation of interest groups particularly women, pastoralists and the private sector in the NAP process should be strengthened. In addition sensitisation of and collaboration with external partners need to be increased to enhance their support to the NAP process in Uganda.

The weaknesses in information generation and exchange among the key actors in implementation of the CCD in Uganda need to be addressed. There is need to further develop the information system on desertification by strengthening data collection through research, analysis and dissemination to support planning processes at all levels. Support for capacity building from external partners in this area is welcome.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

A number of Institutions involved in the implementation of the UNCCD in Uganda participated in the preparation of the National Report. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, appreciates the inputs of the members of the multi-sectoral Steering Committee for the NAP process, the National NGO Coordinating Committee on Desertification, the National Environment Management Authority, and representatives of various stakeholder groups who participated in reviewing the report during the Workshop held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1999.

The Contribution of CCD Secretariat, UNEP, OSS, IGAD, UNSO, and GTZ in providing both technical and financial support to the process of formulating this report is highly appreciated.

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

<b>ADF</b>	African Development Fund
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organization
<b>CCD</b>	Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>COP</b>	Conference of Parties
<b>DANIDA</b>	Danish International development Agency
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>DSCD</b>	District Steering Committee on Desertification
<b>EIA</b>	Environment Impact Assessment
<b>FEWS</b>	Famine Early Warning Systems
<b>GTZ</b>	German Technical Cooperation
<b>IDA</b>	International Development Agency
<b>IGAD</b>	Inter-Governmental Agency on Development
<b>INCD</b>	Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification
<b>IUCN</b>	The World Conservation Union
<b>LC</b>	Local Council
<b>LWF</b>	Lutheran World Federation
<b>MAAIF</b>	Ministry of agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
<b>MFPED</b>	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
<b>MTTI</b>	Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industries
<b>MUK</b>	Makerere University, Kampala
<b>MWLE</b>	Ministry of Water Lands and Environment
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Programme to Combat Desertification
<b>NARO</b>	National Agricultural Research Organization
<b>NCB</b>	National Coordinating Body
<b>NCCD</b>	National NGO Coordinating Committee on Desertification
<b>NEAP</b>	National Environment Action Plan
<b>NEIC</b>	National Environment Information Centre
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environment Management Authority
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NSC</b>	National Steering Committee on NAP
<b>PRA</b>	Participatory Rural Appraisal
<b>RAP</b>	Regional Action Plan
<b>RUWASA</b>	Rural Water and Sanitation Project
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Agency
<b>SNV</b>	Netherlands Development Cooperation
<b>SRAP</b>	Sub-regional Action Plan
<b>SWARP</b>	South-western Agricultural Rehabilitation Project
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNCCI</b>	Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change
<b>UNSO</b>	United Nations Sahelian Office to Combat desertification

**USAID**

United States Agency for International Development

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 The UNCCD and the NAP process in Uganda.**

Uganda is located in the East Africa and is a member of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), one of the sub-regions most affected by desertification in Africa. Uganda occupies an area of 241,000 km<sup>2</sup> of which 80,000 km<sup>2</sup>, is drylands. It has a human population of 19.5 millions of which 90% live in rural areas. Women constitute 51% of this population, and they contribute 82% of the labour force, and account for 80% of the food production (MFPED, 1997).

Uganda's drylands, which receive between 500 mm and 1000 mm of rainfall occupy an area stretching from the north-east through central to the south-west of the country, an area commonly referred to as the "cattle corridor". In addition, there are scattered dryland areas in the north of the country. These areas experience erratic rainfall patterns often resulting into prolonged periods of drought, to such an extent that some areas already exhibit desert-like conditions.

In Uganda, the main factors contributing to desertification include drought, deforestation, poor farming practices and overgrazing. They are exacerbated by poverty and human population increases on the land. This scenario has intensified land and environmental degradation leading to loss of biological productivity of the land resulting in frequent famine, low household incomes, and increased social unrest in the affected areas.

In recognition of the above, the government of Uganda actively participated in the negotiations of the CCD, and held the following responsibilities; Vice Chairman of Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification Working Group 2, and Vice President of COP I in Rome, Italy, in September 1997. Uganda further demonstrated its commitment to the implementation of the CCD by signing and ratifying it on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1994 and 25<sup>th</sup> June 1997, respectively. A number of activities aimed at raising awareness of the CCD and its innovative approaches including the launching of the National Action Programme (NAP) process, involving a wide cross-section of stakeholders have been going on. The First National Forum on the NAP process was successfully held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 1998, where it was resolved that efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought should focus primarily at grassroots community levels. It was further resolved that partnership arrangements be put in place to support the affected local communities to carry out participatory planning and implement programmes and activities to address desertification and drought.

#### **1.2 Purpose of the National Report.**

The main purpose of the National Report is to inform the parties to the Convention on the progress to implement the UNCCD in Uganda. Pursuant to decision of II/COP.1, the specific objectives for the procedures for formulating the Report include:

- (a) To ensure effective assessment of the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the Convention and to enable the COP to make appropriate recommendations to further those objectives;
- (b) To exchange information and data among parties in order to maximise the benefits of successful measures and initiatives taken under the convention;
- (c) To ensure that the Committee on Science and Technology and the global mechanism have access to the information and data necessary to carry out their mandates; and
- (d) To ensure that information on implementation is in the public domain and available to the international community particularly, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, and other interested entities.

The formulation of the report is part of the process of implementing the convention. The report, therefore, also serves to strengthen institutional and human capacity of the CCD National Focal Point in order to improve co-ordination and effective implementation of the UNCCD in the context of fostering sustainable development. Since Uganda is already engaged in the process of preparation and implementation of the National Action Programme (NAP) to combat drought and desertification, the formulation of the National Report mainly reflects the NAP process.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2.0 STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND/OR POLICIES.**

#### **2.1 National plans and strategies available in other social and economic area**

Plans and strategies exist in other areas, which are relevant to combating desertification. Some of these are programmes on a regional basis while others are pilot projects targeting a few selected districts.

Since 1991, the government of Uganda has been developing a National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) which provides a framework for addressing deforestation, soil erosion, rangeland deterioration, fuel-wood shortages, loss of biodiversity and drainage of wetlands, among other problems. The NEAP also provides a strategy for integrating environmental issues into the national socio-economic planning and development process. The Action Plan presents practical solutions and options in the areas of policy, institutional reforms and new investments with the view of promoting sustainable socio-economic development by changing peoples' ways of utilizing and conserving natural resources (NEAP/MNR, 1995). In addition, a National Non-formal Environmental Education strategy and Action Plan has been developed. It describes how to involve NGOs, Government Officers, Civil Society and all families at the grass roots level in practicing better environmental management activities.

Poverty is one of the factors, which contribute to land degradation and exacerbates the effects of drought. In 1993, a Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) was formulated with a goal of eradicating absolute poverty by the year 2017 (MFPED, 1993). The PEAP aims at promoting interactions, which improve the quality of life of the poor, and also directly enhances the potential for increasing incomes of the target groups. The government of Uganda carried out a review of the Public Investment Plan and identified high priority projects for the period 1997/99 to the year 2001, which are poverty focused. These include; provision of basic social services, promotion of disaster preparedness, food security targeting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, improved rural technology and skills, generation of mass employment of skilled and non-skilled labour, increasing rural production, promotion of transparency and accountability, and enhancement of popular participation and involvement of the communities.

With regard to modernization of agriculture, MAAIF has been mandated to promote, support, and guide the production of crops, livestock and fisheries, so as to ensure improved quality and increased quantity of agricultural produce and products for domestic consumption, food security and export. The government has prepared a medium term plan for the modernisation of agriculture with a sector wide approach. The plan identifies the following priority areas of action for both government and private sector:

- Improving research, extension and farmer linkages;
- Investment in infrastructure (markets, roads, power, water, communication etc.);
- Promoting agricultural production for the market;
- Agricultural education (formal and informal);
- Improving access to and availability of credit in rural areas;
- Promoting private sector role in the modernisation of agriculture;
- Capacity building in Central and Local Governments (regulatory services, data base

- establishment including production of agricultural statistics);
- Promoting development of rural agro-based enterprises;
- Environmental management; and
- Forestry development and management

The government of Uganda is promoting utilization of climate information and prediction products in the planning and administration of socio-economic sectors, in particular the agricultural industry. The Department of Meteorology through national, regional, and international efforts is now issuing timely improved and reliable seasonal to inter-annual weather and climate information and prediction products, which are vital for planned and information based agricultural practices.

There are other initiatives that have been taken to address social and economic concerns and are relevant in combating desertification. They are; the Water Action Plan; National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan; Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme; Soil and Water Conservation Project in the drylands of Uganda; Karamoja Project Implementation Unit; Famine Early Warning and Disaster Preparedness; Poverty Eradication and Food Security in the Luwero Triangle; and Mt. Elgon Conservation Project.

## **2.2 National Plans/strategies developed prior to the UNCCD**

Prior to the UNCCD, some steps had been taken to address the problems of drought and desertification. In September 1977, for instance, Uganda participated at the United Nations Conference on Desertification, which was held in Nairobi at which government presented a report indicating lack of a national strategy to combat desertification. However, in the 1981 to 1990 Development Plan, Government included provisions which, though not explicit, promised to address issues of desertification. These included reconstruction and development of the Agricultural Sector, rehabilitation of the physical infrastructure, processing of agricultural products, and improvement in the security situation (MFPED, 1993).

In May 1981, Uganda hosted a mission from the UNSO Desertification Control Planning and Programming unit. The purpose of the mission was to hold discussions with the government and NGOs on the preparation of its national strategy and machinery for combating desertification, to assess relevant on-going activities, and to help identify and formulate anti-desertification projects for which the Government wished UNSO to assist in resource mobilization. Based on its findings and the discussions held with government, the mission made the following broad recommendations:

- a) In line with the World Plan of Action to Combat Desertification adopted by the United Nations Conference on Desertification, the Government of Uganda was advised to initiate the formulation of a national strategy to combat desertification.
- b) A machinery to be established within the government for the purpose of coordinating and implementing the above strategy and translating it into concrete programmes and activities.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION**

#### **3.1 The National Co-ordination Body**

In Uganda, the National Coordinating Body (NCB) consists of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF) as the lead agency and an Inter-sectoral National Steering Committee (NSC) having a wide representation of stakeholders.

The NSC guides policy formulation and advises government on matters concerning implementation of the CCD in the country. It is also responsible for drawing up work plans and quarterly budgets for the NAP project and monitors the implementation of the decisions taken. Sub-committees are drawn from the NSC to constitute task forces to undertake specialized activities whenever need arises. The NSC, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of MAAIF, is made up of 19 members and a NAP secretariat headed by the CCD Focal Point was established to co-ordinate the activities of the NAP process.

##### **3.1.1 Composition of NSC**

The NSC is multi-sectoral and consists of key government departments and institutions, representatives of NGOs, and external partners. The Permanent Secretary of MAAIF requested heads of relevant Departments, Institutions, and Organizations involved in work relevant to combating desertification to nominate senior officials to represent them on the NSC.

There are 15 representatives of Government departments, three of NGOs and one representative of the donor community. Of the total 19 members, seven are women.

The following social and economic sectors are represented:

- i) MAAIF;
- ii) Ministry of Local Government;
- iii) Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development (MFPED);
- iv) Ministry of Justice;
- v) IGAD Focal Point in MAAIF;
- vi) Meteorology Department;
- vii) National Environment Management Authority (NEMA);
- viii) Makerere University;
- ix) Uganda National Farmer's Association;
- x) Uganda Women Tree Planting Movement;
- xi) Directorate of Water Development;
- xii) Soil and Water Conservation Society;
- xiii) Energy Department;
- xiv) UNDP; and
- xv) Natural Resources Sector
- xvi) Aid Liaison Department of Donor funded projects.

### 3.1.2 Professionalism of members of NSC

- a) Representatives from MAAIF;
  - i) Mr. David, O. O. Obong, Social Administrator
  - ii) Mr. J. B. Kalule Sewali, Irrigation Specialist
  - iii) Ms. Redemptor Kabyetsiza, Agriculture
  - iv) Mr. Stephen Muwaya, Rangelands Ecologist
  - v) Mr. S. Kabuye, Agricultural Extensionist
  - vi) Mr. James Kaweesi, Agricultural Economist
- b) Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
  - i) Mrs. Edith, Kateme-Kasajja, Agricultural Economist
- c) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - i) Mr. M. Mangusho, Foreign Service Officer
- e) Ministry of Justice
  - i) Mrs. Jane Anywar, State Attorney
- e) NEMA
  - i) Dr. Festus Bagoora, Natural Resources Management Specialist
- f) Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment
  - i) Mr. Philip Gwage, Meteorologist
  - ii) Mr. A. W. Majugu, Meteorologist
  - iii) Mr. Enock Dribidu, Water Engineer
- g) Ministry of Local Government
  - i) Ms. P. Boonabantu, Social Administrator
- h) Makerere University
  - i) Prof. E. N. Sabiiti, Pasture Agronomist
- i) Non- Governmental Organisations
  - i) Dr. Mary Silver Rwakaikara, Soil Scientist
  - ii) Mrs. Ruth Mubiru, Environmentalist
  - iii) Hon. Henry Mutebi Kityo, Member of Parliament and Farmer
- j) UNDP
  - i) Ms. Alexandra Karekaho, Economist

### 3.1.3 Communication and networking among members of NSC

Members of the NSC meet at least once a month to review progress and lay strategies for implementation of the CCD. Proceedings of the meetings are recorded and are circulated to members for follow-up and taking appropriate actions. Workshops, seminars, reports on various activities that are carried out, mass media and sharing of awareness-raising materials on drought and desertification are some of the other avenues for communication and networking among members of NSC and the groups they represent. For instance, during 1998, NSC members attended the following workshops /seminars:

- NGO workshop to elaborate co-ordination and networking arrangements for NGOs involved in combating desertification;
- A District Team Leaders' workshop on elaboration of the NAP process;
- District and sub-county level stakeholder participatory workshops;
- Workshop on Gender considerations in the NAP process;
- Workshop for sensitizing Parliamentarians on the CCD / NAP;

- A public lecture on the 'Bare hills of South-Western Uganda'- organized by the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Uganda;
- The First National Consultative Forum on the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification;
- Sensitization Workshop for MUK academic community;
- Workshop on Rehabilitation of Rangelands using forage legumes; and
- Commemoration of the World Day to Combat Desertification;

### **3.1.3.1 World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD)**

The WDCD has been marked in Uganda since June 1996. The day is used to raise public awareness of the innovative approaches of the UNCCD to the problems of dryland desertification in the country. A ministerial statement on the year's theme is aired on all media, and public functions to mark the day are held on every 17<sup>th</sup> day of June. In 1998, the WDCD was marked in Pallisa District through a series of activities including demonstrations on soil and water conservation, irrigation, pasture improvement and tree planting. It was on this day, 17th June 1998, that the NAP process was officially launched in Uganda. This year's (1999) WDCD venue will be in Kasongola District.

### **3.1.4 Supervision, control and evaluation of work of the NSC**

The MFPED; NEMA; and MAAIF are charged with the overall supervision of the activities of the NSC. The Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has to ensure that MAAIF, as the lead agency, carries out its responsibilities. The MFPED through the Aid Liaison Department carries out supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of activities of the NSC, while NEMA is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all activities of the NSC are within the broad framework of NEAP.

With regards to carrying out NSC activities, a work plan was designed to guide implementation of the umbrella project for initial support to the formulation of the National Action programme to Combat desertification in Uganda. The work plan covered a period of 12 months. Shorter work plans are prepared to cater for tasks to be undertaken on a quarterly basis. In January 1999, a six months work plan was designed to map out activities to be carried out in preparation for setting up a Uganda National Fund for Combating Desertification.

The activities of the NSC are regularly reported on by the National Focal Point who prepares quarterly and annual progress reports describing the main activities and bench marks that have been achieved. The reports are distributed to the Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries; UNSO/UNDP; and other stakeholders. Thus, liaison has to be made with UNSO/UNDP and IGAD for reporting, information sharing and other matters relating to implementation of the NAP process.

In addition, UNSO, IGAD, and the CCD secretariat periodically send missions to the country to review the implementation status and give guidance to the NAP process. Multi-sectoral meetings are also convened to evaluate the work of the NSC. In this regard, a Tripartite Review meeting was held in December 1998.

## **3.2 Strengthening the Institutional framework.**

### **3.2.1 National level**

With respect to institutional arrangements, Uganda considered the establishment of a multi-sectoral stakeholder National Coordinating Body as the starting point in building a functional partnership in the NAP process. The First National Forum for NAPs, held in November 1998, reviewed the composition of the NCB and proposed the inclusion of the following:

- i) Ministry of Education
- ii) Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development
- iii) Disaster Preparedness Council
- iv) Private sector
- v) Town and County Planning Boards

In addition to the existence of a National Focal Point for the CCD, a National NGO Coordinating Committee on Desertification (NCCD) consisting of NGOs and CBOs at all levels was established to strengthen NGOs and CBOs co-ordination and networking. This is a 16 members committee, consisting of seven National level NGOs and nine NGOs/CBOs operating in nine districts. It works through District NGO Focal Points and District NGO fora, and is represented on the NCB by three members.

### **3.2.1 District level**

To ensure that local actors fully participate, control and take ownership of designing and implementing the NAP processes, District Steering Committees on Desertification (DSCD) have been established in nine districts. The DSCs consist of councilors, heads of relevant technical departments, NGOs and CBOs. The main function of the committees is to co-ordinate the activities of the NAP process and to provide technical guidance to local community initiatives.

## **3.3 Status of data and information**

The capacity of the information system for the NCB is still limited to keeping reports about the activities carried out and correspondences with other partners. Information technology is yet to be fully developed and utilized. For, at the national level, exchange of information is limited to ordinary mail as many of the members of the NSC have no access even to e-mail services. Thus, information flow, access and exchange are still limited. This has made it difficult to share experiences and knowledge with other Country Parties as well as research organizations and institutions.

Databases available at the NCB include study reports, proposal for establishment of the Uganda National Fund to Combat Desertification (UNFCD), inventory of stakeholders, workshop proceedings and consultations reports. Specifically, the NCB keeps a list of stakeholders involved in the NAP process, work plans of the NCB, NGOs and CBOs, broad- priority programme areas for NAPs, and records of the following:

- i) Uganda National study in support of the Inter-government Negotiating Committee on Drought & Desertification (1993);
- ii) National Plan of Action on Drought and Desertification (1995);
- iii) Status Report on NAP (1998);
- iv) Proposal for establishment of a UNFCD;

- v) Inventory of stakeholders;
- vi) Sub-county and District consultation reports;
- vii) Report on Gender Considerations on NAP;
- viii) Proceedings of an NGO workshop on elaboration of coordination and networking arrangements;
- ix) Proceedings of a workshop for parliamentarians on NAP;
- x) Proceedings of District Team Leaders Workshop, and
- xi) Report on the First National Forum on NAP.

Furthermore, some data relevant to desertification exist in other departments and institutions in the country in the form of Status of the Environment Reports (1994 & 1996); Status of Land Degradation in Uganda; the National Environment Action Plan; Climatological data, and the District Environment Profile reports.

An Environment Information Network (EIN) has been initiated by NEMA with the aim of building awareness of information management needs, capacity building, promotion of standardization and elaboration of data release policies by data producing institutions. The EIN has led to the development of a meta-database acting as a directory of information held by various national institutions participating in the EIN. The meta-database, though still in its infancy, is accessible to any individual institution or organization interested in its contents.

The information base in many of the relevant sectors is still very weak, and even the available data is sometimes unreliable as well. There is, therefore, need to strengthen data collection, analysis and dissemination among various sectors and actors to support national and local level planning processes.

### **3.4 Measures to ensure sustainability and effectiveness**

Utilizing existing structures and institutions rather than creating new ones; for example the DSCs are built on the already existing District Production and Environment Committees which only co-opt NGOs and the private sector representatives when dealing with matters concerning drought and desertification. The strategy is to strengthen local level structures nearer to the affected local communities. This is more effective than relying on one or several national structures.

The NGO fora already exist in many districts. These are being utilized to facilitate co-ordination and networking among NGOs, with a District NGO Focal Point linking each district to the NCCD. Representatives of both national and district NGOs and CBOs on the NCCD ensure that views of local actors are taken care of when planning for NGOs and CBOs. On the other hand, the National Steering Committee of NAP, with its broad representation of professions and stakeholder groups enhances technical capacity and coordination of work undertaken by various stakeholders.

Women are, however, yet to be equitably represented in the NAP process as evidenced from the results of participants of the various workshops and consultations so far made (see Table 4.2). It is, therefore, necessary to work out ways to increase their participation at all levels.

As regards to weather and climate, the Meteorological Department is the official government department

with the mandate of monitoring, processing, and achieving of climatological data and information. It issues regular dekal, monthly and seasonal forecasts. Presently it is in the process of digitizing the data.

In the implementation of the NAP process, the Focal Points for the CCD and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have been working in close association. The Focal Point for the UNFCCC is a member of the multi-sectoral Steering Committee for the NAP. In addition, the Focal Point for the CCD is a member of the Inter-Ministerial Committees charged with preparing the first communications to the COP for the UNFCCC. The Focal Points for UNFCCC and Conventions on Biodiversity have been involved in the preparation of the National Report on the implementation of the CCD.

In support of synergies among Rio Conventions, a Strategic Planning Workshop for the Conventions on Biodiversity and NGO working group was held in April 1999 in Kampala. It put in place, a committee to work with various biodiversity related Conventions Focal Points to identify possible synergies among them with a view to recommending their incorporation in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

### **3.5 How capacity and Institution building has been addressed**

The following are the measures that have so far been taken to enhance capacity and institutional building of key players in the NAP process:

- Consultations at National, district, and sub-county levels;
- Awareness raising about CCD;
- Planning Workshop for District Team Leaders;
- Training in participatory methods for staff, and local communities in 9 pilot districts;
- Specifying roles and responsibilities of stakeholders at various levels;
- Establishment of District Steering Committees on desertification; and
- Supporting co-ordination and networking activities of NGOs and CBOs; e.g. facilitation of NGO workshops and support of local community initiatives aimed at combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.
- Regular reporting on the activities and programmes of the NAP to all stakeholders and the COP.

During the First National Forum on Drought and Desertification, the following were identified as key measures to be taken to address capacity building of local and national institutions in order to facilitate the implementation of the NAP process and make its structures operational:

**Table 3.1: Measures to address Capacity building of local and national Institutions**

MEASURES	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Information generation and exchange	a) Set-up network of key stakeholders at national level and in some affected districts b) Develop database on Desertification	Availability of information to stakeholders to facilitate planning and implementation of programmes addressing drought and desertification at National, District, and Community levels	a) Short-term  b) Medium-term	NEIC NAP Secretariat/ DSCs
2. Training and Awareness raising	a) Include desertification and drought topics in the National Education Curriculum b) Sensitize high-level policy and decision makers c) Sensitize local communities, extension staff, NGOs, women and youth groups d) Popularize the PFI e) Sensitize Mass media people	Increased understanding and integration of the NCCD principles i.e. participation, partnership and programme approach, and provide better understanding of problems of drought and desertification among key actors at all levels.	a) Medium-term  b) Short-term  c) Short-term	a) National Curriculum Centre, Ministry of Education and Sports b) NAP Secretariat c) NCCD, NGOs, DSCD d) NAP Secretariat e) NAP Secretariat
3. Policy Review	a) Review of policies relevant to NAP	Enabling legal and policy framework put in place to support implementation of NAP.	Medium and long term	MAAIF, MLWE, NEMA, District Councils
4. Support/funding Local Community initiatives to combat desertification	a) Micro-credit Schemes e.g. Ntandikwa Scheme b) Grants to communities c) Establishment of Anti-desertification Fund	Local community initiatives to deal with drought and desertification supported	a) Medium-term b) Medium-term c) Medium-term	a) Donors/MFPED, UNCCI b) MAAIF c) MAAIF
5. Institutional Support	a) Support establishment of District Steering Committees (DSCs) b) Capacity building of NAP Secretariat and DSC c) Strengthen the NCCD/CBO status d) Review composition of the NAP Steering Committees	Technical and managerial capacity of national, district institutions and local communities enhanced to support NAP implementation	a) Short-term  b) Medium-term  c) Medium-term  d) Short-term	a) MAAIF/NEMA  b) MAAIF/NEMA  c) NCCD/NAP Secretariat  d) MAAIF

### **3.6 National Action Programmes as part of the National Economic and Social Development Plan**

A study of the status of the NAP process for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought in Uganda was carried out in 1998 with support from CCD secretariat and IGAD. The study indicates that various government development programmes have embraced UNCCD principles of participation, partnership and programme approach.

Rural development initiatives are presently emphasizing a bottom-up approach to planning processes, which ensures active participation of grassroots communities in planning and implementation of local development programmes. For instance, the East African Biodiversity Project launched in 1998 adopted participatory methodologies and partnership arrangements among key local actors in cross-border biodiversity conservation, which is carried out by supporting community conservation projects.

Research institutes have also started to actively involve farmers in the development of new technologies. In this regard, measures have been taken to strengthen research-farmer-extension linkages. Another strategy is the Promotion of Farmer Innovations (PFI) in rain-fed agriculture in the drylands of Uganda. This project which was launched on a pilot basis in 1997 in three districts of Soroti, Kumi, and Katakwi aims at sustainable improvement of rural livelihoods by increasing diffusion of appropriate land management practices particularly water harvesting and soil conservation. So far, through the PFI programmes, identification of farmer innovators in the districts of Soroti and Katakwi has been carried out and information on their innovations gathered and disseminated. In addition, exchange visits within and outside the country have been organized for farmers so that they can learn from one another the innovative ways about soil and water harvesting and conservation. These innovations are being incorporated in the NAP process and are to be emulated in other affected districts.

The NAP process in Uganda is still in the primary stages whereby key stakeholders have been consulted and made aware of the CCD, and the need to formulate and implement national action programmes to combat desertification. The second phase will concentrate on the development of various sector, district, and community action programmes. During a Second National Forum, the action programmes will be considered for integration into the broad national development plan.

### **3.7 Legal and regulatory framework**

The Constitution of Uganda of 1995 forms the basis upon which environmental laws are made in the country. In Article 245, the constitution requires that parliament by law provides measures intended to protect and preserve the environment from abuse, pollution, and degradation. This requirement is also reiterated in Principle XXVII of the National Objectives, which seeks to promote sustainable development and public awareness of the need to manage land, air, and water resources in a balanced and sustainable manner for the present and future generations.

The Constitution further, in Article 237, vests land in Uganda in the citizens. It provides for land tenure



systems under which land can be owned as customary tenure, freehold, mailo, or leasehold. To ensure that holders secure adequate interest in land, the constitution provides that holders of customary land should get certificates of ownership of their land. Apart from customary owners of land in Uganda, all the three remaining tenure systems are characterized by land titles.

To date, several laws have been enacted in the field of natural resources utilization and environment conservation and management. They include;

**i) The National Environment Statute, No. 4 of 1995**

This is the framework law for the management of environment and natural resources in Uganda. The Statute establishes the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) whose functions include coordinating, monitoring and harmonizing the integration of environmental issues in Uganda. NEMA liaises with lead agencies in other departments and government ministries in the field of management of the environment.

The Statute in particular provides for the management of lakes and rivers; wetlands; mountainous areas; forests; rangelands and soils. The Statute further provides that where the environment has been degraded, restoration orders should be issued to those whose activities would have contributed to the degradation. In terms of public participation, the Statute provides for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), a process as provided for under the EIA Regulations, 1998, which involves the public in monitoring and evaluating the effects of their activities on the environment.

**ii) The Environment Impact Assessment Regulation, 1998**

The regulation requires that any developer, whose activities are provided for in the Third schedule of the National Environment Statute, should carry out an environment impact assessment to determine the effect of his/her activities on the environment. In case it is found out that such activities are deleterious to the environment, the law requires that the developer adopt mitigating measures to avert those adverse effects.

**iii) The Land Act, 1998.**

This Act provides for the tenure, ownership and management of land in Uganda. The Act, in consonance with the Constitution rests all land in Uganda in the people. It, however, enables Central or Local Governments to acquire land in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution for purposes intended to benefit all people of Uganda.

In respect to sustainable utilization of the environment, and in a bid to avert the problems of desertification and drought, the Act imposes a duty on the owner or occupier of land to manage and utilize the land in accordance with the provisions of other laws in place. These include the Forests Act, the Mining Act, the National Environment Statute, and the Water Statute.

**iv) The Local Government Act, 1997.**

This Act provides for the decentralization and devolution of powers, functions and services from the Central Government to the Local Governments. It also ensures that there is democratic participation by the people in the control of the environment.

The system of Local Governments provided for under the Act is based at the district as the main administrative unit. Lower councils, too, have administrative functions, but these must be in consonance with the district plans. By devolving administrative powers to lower levels the Act empowers the masses to manage their environment in accordance with other environmental and natural resources laws in place. Public participation, an aspect emphasized in the Act is essential for the sustainable management of the environment, hence the relevance of the Act to the subject of combating desertification and drought.

**v) The Water Statute, 1995**

The Statute provides for use, protection and management of water resources in the country. One of the main objectives of the Statute is to coordinate all public and private activities that may influence the quality; quantity; distribution; use; and management of the water resources.

**vi) The Uganda Wildlife Statute, 1996**

This Statute establishes the institution of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, which is expected to involve the public in the collaborative management of the wildlife resources. It requires that an Environment Impact Assessment be done in all programmes concerning wildlife management.

**vii) The Forest Act, 1964**

The Act prohibits cutting, taking, working or removing forest produce in or from a forest reserve, village forest or open land without a license. It further prohibits clearing, using or occupying any land in a forest reserve save as permitted under the Act.

**viii) The prohibition of Burning of grass Decree, Decree No. 5 of 1974**

The Decree prohibits the unauthorized burning of grass. Enforcement powers are given to the sub-county chief who is expected to consult a veterinary or agricultural officer before authorizing controlled burning of grass for a specified purpose.

**ix) The Soil Conservation Act, 1964**

It imposes a duty on every owner or occupier of land to use such land in a manner that will not subject it to soil erosion.

**j) The Town and Country Planning Act, 1964**

The Act has provisions relating to the management of forest resources. It requires that a scheme be prepared by the planning authority empowered to acquire land for purposes of roads, open spaces, gardens, schools, places of religious worship, recreation grounds, car-parks, aerodromes, markets, slaughter houses, and cemeteries. This however, is an old Act not providing for environment impact assessment. The other regulatory measures adopted included formulation of sectoral policies for the management of natural resources. Specific policies included those on land, agriculture, forestry, wet- and rangelands, among others.

**k) The Cattle grazing Act, Cap 222, 1964**

The Act makes provisions for the control and regulation of grazing of cattle, to prevent overstocking and overgrazing. The administration of this Act is entrusted upon the Commissioner of the Veterinary Services and Animal Industry, under the direction of the Minister. The Minister may by statutory instrument declare an area to be non-grazing area. This Act, too, requires the improvement in its

enforcement mechanism.

Some studies concerning environmental laws in Uganda have been carried out. It should be noted that various legislative instruments including the Constitution aim at developing measures for greater responsibility and participation of the people in the management of the environment. The decentralization policy enunciated by the Constitution, which has been adopted by most of the recent legislation including the Local Governments Act, the National Environment Statute, and the Environmental Impact Regulations, 1998, all aim at empowering the public to actively participate in making decisions concerning management of the environment. It should also be noted that some strides have been taken by the government in enacting laws aimed at instituting appropriate arrangements for the management and preservation of natural resources and the environment.

For instance, the Department of Meteorology is in the final stages of submitting a National Action Plan for the delivery of meteorological services in Uganda to the Cabinet. Part of the measures in implementing the Action Plan will be the establishment of the Department of Meteorology as a legal entity solely responsible for the delivery of meteorological services in the country.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4.0 PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME**

#### **4.1 Effective participation of actors involved in defining national priorities.**

##### **4.1.1 Strategy of communication and public awareness**

Efforts were made under the umbrella project to organize mass media programmes with the aim of raising awareness of the general public about CCD and the NAP process. Programmes presented on TV and articles in newspapers targeted high-level policy makers, parliamentarians, donors, and the private sector. Radio programmes, leaflets, posters, flip charts, and documentaries were produced and targeted mainly local populations in the affected areas, local leaders, women and youth groups, NGOs, and CBOs. Drama competitions on themes relevant to combating desertification were organized in Kamuli District, one of the nine affected districts. Over 30 local women and youth groups participated in the competitions. The message and contents for the campaigns were determined according to the CCD principles of participation, partnership and programme approach, focusing on key issues affecting the local communities and target groups being addressed.

Following the enactment of several laws on the environment, a number of initiatives have been taken by both the Government, NGOs, and CBOs to sensitize the public about the laws and their role in implementing the management of the environment. This aspect has been approached both through the formal and informal awareness drives. Environmental concerns are now addressed in schools and tertiary institutions through the education curriculum. The Primary Schools Science and Social Studies syllabus and the Secondary Schools geography syllabus emphasize aspects of understanding and managing the environment. In higher institutions of learning like the University, environmental issues including environmental law are taught.

Informally, the public has been sensitized on their role to manage and enhance proper environment management through public lectures to the local communities by both the government and NGOs, and also through the mass media. As a result of these intense environmental education programmes, local communities have started to actively promote the proper management of the environment by, among other things, planting trees, and letting the degraded resources especially wetlands to regenerate

##### **4.1.2 Participation in guiding and coordinating the NAP process**

A number of actors relevant to NAPs including government departments, NEMA, NGOs and donor representatives attend and fully participate in regular meetings to guide the NAP process. Similarly, in the 9 pilot districts, local councils, relevant government departments, NGOs and private sector representatives form the District Steering Committees on Desertification. These committees provide guidance and technical support to the NAP planning process at lower levels. In addition, the NCCD plays an active role in mobilising, and coordinating NGO activities aimed at combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. At district level, the NCCD operates through NGO fora. During 1998, a

series of activities were carried out with the aim of soliciting views of key actors on priority areas for

NAP. The different categories of stakeholders who participated in these workshops are summarised in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1. Workshops held to solicit views of relevant actors on priority areas for the NAP**

	Category of Stakeholders involved									No. of Participants
	Govt Dept	NGOs	CBOs	LCs	Civic Leaders	MPs	Private Sector	Institutions	Mass media	
Workshop for NGOs										34
Sub-county consultations										772 <sup>1</sup>
District level consultations										808 <sup>2</sup>
District Team Leaders Workshop										44
Workshop on Gender on NAP										40
Workshop for parliamentarians										72
Sensitization of Makerere University academic community.										95
1 <sup>st</sup> National Forum on the NAP										160
Total										2025

#### 4.1.3 Gender and the NAP process.

In Uganda various sectors and programmes have provided for affirmative action for women participation and advancement, and streamlined gender planning and implementation processes. For instance, the Constitution of Uganda provides for the establishment of local councils and youth councils right from LCI to LCV i.e. from village to district level. In addition, a third of the membership of the local councils has to be constituted of women. The NAP process has taken consideration of these structures and used them as a means of mobilizing local communities and raising awareness about the NAP process. Local councils are also supposed to empower the populace at the lowest level to participate in decision making, and to identify the potential for their areas, and lay strategies for current and future developments. Despite the enabling environment, women participation in the NAP process is still below the expected levels as indicated in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2. Women involvement in the NAP consultative process**

Process	Total No. of participants	No. of Women	% No. of Women
1. National Steering Committee	19	7	36.8
2. District consultations workshop	808	254	31
3. Sub-county level workshop	772	167	21
4. District Team Leaders' planning workshop	40	7	17.5
5. NGO workshop	34	6	17.6
6. Gender workshop	44	27	61.3
7. Parliamentarian workshop	72	14	19.4
8. Sensitization of MUK academic community workshop	95	30	31.6

<sup>1</sup> Consultations were carried out in 8 districts

<sup>2</sup> Consultations were carried out in 8 districts

9. First National Forum	160	26	16.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2044</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>27.7</b>

#### **4.1.4 Representatives of various actors in the NAP process**

The government agencies, NGOs, consultants, and external partners have facilitated the awareness process of NAP. The government agencies include MAAIF, NEMA; Ministry of Local Government; Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment; Ministry of Justice; MFPED; and Local government councils. The NGOs at the national and local levels have played key roles in the awareness process. The donor community, particularly UNSO and UNDP have been instrumental in providing funds for initiating the NAP process in the country. Consultants have been involved in preparation of awareness raising materials and development of mass media programmes.

The various actors were prepared for their respective tasks through negotiations, as was the case with the donor community, and by holding consultative workshops at all levels. The consultative process was decentralized by holding consultations among civic leaders, NGOs, and CBOs, at sub-county level.

A mechanism for ensuring consultations has been initiated, but is yet to be strengthened. A National Steering Committee on NAP and District Steering Committees on Desertification have been formed in the 9 pilot districts. Such steering committees are yet to be established at lower levels and also in other affected districts. Additionally, the NCCD plays a role in ensuring continuous dialogue with its partners and other stakeholders.

#### **4.1.5 Exchange of Information**

The system for exchange, circulation, and transfer of information involves use of leaflets, posters, and flip charts, TV and Radio programmes together with newspaper articles, and use of electronic media. However, utilization of e-mail services is largely limited to communication with external partners. Documentary films and CD ROM materials on land degradation and the activities undertaken to reverse it have been prepared and availed to the NAP Secretariat, and some have already been multiplied and circulated to the affected communities.

With regards to consultations, concerns of local communities are presented to the national fora by their representatives, who are drawn from heads of organizations among the local communities. Representatives of other social and institutional categories nominated are; civic leaders, leaders of government departments of production, environment and community development and leaders of NGOs which address poverty, drought and land degradation. The first National Consultative Forum was convened in November, 1998 during which broad priority programme areas for NAP, partnership arrangements, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, coordination and funding mechanisms were discussed.

As a follow-up to the consultations, the various actors in collaboration with their relevant partners are expected to formulate action programmes and work plans indicating the activities they intend to carry out. A number of such initiatives have been supported by the NAP secretariat. Publicity about the activities is made and reports prepared, so that information generated is shared with other actors.

Besides, some communities have local and traditional knowledge, which can be useful in other areas prone to drought and land degradation. For instance, in the districts of Kumi, Soroti, and Katakwi, farmers have evolved innovative ways of harvesting water and carrying out soil and water conservation activities. These innovations are being incorporated in the NAP process and expected to be copied in other affected areas.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NAP**

#### **5.1 Adopted financial mechanisms**

Financial support was received from UNSO/UNDP for initiating the NAP process in Uganda. This was a provisional arrangement from which some local actors received very limited resources to support their activities relevant to combating drought and desertification. A list of probable sources of funding has not yet been prepared.

Steps have been taken to establish a Uganda National Fund to Combat Desertification. A bill to that effect has been prepared and is to be approved by the parliament soon. This bill provides for grants and micro-credit to be availed to finance activities that address drought and desertification. Local area fund committees aimed at involving local actors in decision making on utilization of the fund are to be set up.

A Board of Trustees at the National level shall administer the fund and be charged with the custody, management, and control of the fund's property and assets. At the District level, Advisory Committees are to be set up to guide in formulation and implementation of district programmes to combat desertification. The District Desertification Advisory Committees will also be expected to screen and approve community project proposals submitted by local area Fund Committees; and monitor utilization of funds availed to support community projects.

#### **5.2 NAP Financing**

The government of Uganda sought support for the formation and implementation of National Action Programmes to combat desertification from a number of partners. In 1993, UNSO supported a case study in three districts on the magnitude, causes and effects of desertification in Uganda. On the other hand, GTZ in 1995 financed a national awareness workshop on CCD organized for high-level policy makers and NGOs. The UNDP, and DANIDA through UNSO/UNDP and the CCD Secretariat have supported the implementation of an umbrella project on the NAP process in Uganda, while the Australian government extended support to a local agro-pastoral community in Nakasongola District. Other partners who have supported the NAP process include USAID, FAO, LWF, World Vision, Econews Africa, IUCN and SNV. A total of US\$211,500 has so far, been committed by the partners. The government had requested for US\$435,000 to support activities of the initial phase of the National Action Programme to combat desertification.

On its part the government makes a contribution of providing office accommodation for the NAP secretariat; transport; and meets the salaries of representatives of government departments and institutions. The NAP Secretariat is equipped with a computer, photocopier, filing cabinet, chairs and desks. Evidently, the financial and material resources of the NCB are still greatly constrained. The Global Mechanism was contacted but has not yet responded to support the NAP process in Uganda.



### 5.3 International support and cooperation

A number of partners as shown in Table 5.1 below have supported various activities in the initial phase of the National Action Programme on desertification:

**Table 5.1. Degree of participation of international partners**

Types of Donors	Provided funds	Participated in local consultations on NAP	Participated National level Consultation /forum	Provided technical support to NAP
<b><u>Bilateral donor</u></b> -GTZ -DANIDA -AUSTRALIA -USAID				
Multilateral donors -UNSO/UNDP -FAO -CCD Secretariat				
International NGOs -LWF -World Vision -Econews Africa -IUCN -SNV				

### 5.4 Uganda's efforts to involve international partners in the NAP process

International partners have been invited to participate in both national and local level activities on NAP consultations and awareness process as indicated in Table 5.1. In addition, representatives of international partners in Kampala have been contacted and briefed on the CCD/NAP process, and subsequently called upon to participate in the process.

At the national level, mechanisms for convening international partners and exchange of views between them and the government exist. Various partners meet every three months to discuss priority areas for national development in relation to natural resources management, agriculture and human development. This mechanism, however, is yet to be effectively utilized to solicit greater participation of international partners in the NAP process. Besides, a "Chief de file" for Uganda is yet to be identified by the government of Uganda.

### 5.5 Technical cooperation

The following are some of the aspects of technical cooperation extended to Uganda in the context of combating drought and desertification:

- In 1981, an UNSO mission held discussions with the government of Uganda on the preparation of a national strategy and machinery for combating desertification
- UNSO missions provided technical support to the establishment of a task force in 1996 for the preparation of a proposal to establish a UNFCD, and to a National Workshop to Discuss the Proposal in 1997.
- In February 1998, a CCD mission to the country reviewed the implementation of the CCD and gave guidance on how to proceed with the NAP process.
- In 1998, the Australian government provided a consultant, who assisted National Team to develop a programme of activities that were carried out in preparation for the First National Forum on NAP, and also supported the consultant who was a resource person at the 1<sup>st</sup> National Forum.
- A UNSO Technical Support Unit in Nairobi together with a mission from the CCD Secretariat provided technical input at the First National Forum on drought and desertification.

Technical cooperation, however, is still required in the following areas:

- Identification of appropriate technologies and practices to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
- Development of alternative energy sources;
- Development of desertification information systems;
- Preparation of sector action programmes to combat desertification;
- Research to validate farmers' innovations and how to institutionalize PFI approach to land management and mitigation of the effects of drought
- Research on sustainable utilization and management of Ugandan rangelands.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **6.0 MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME**

#### **6.1 Diagnosis of past experiences in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought**

A national case study on the magnitude, causes, and effects of desertification and drought was carried out in 1993 by a multidisciplinary team of 19 national experts (MAAIF, 1993). The team undertook consultation activities in the counties of Kakuto, Rakai District; Buruli, Nakasongola District; and Dodoth, Kotido District. Two-day consultative workshops at county level were also held involving key actors including resources users, local leaders, government, NGOs, and CBOs. A national workshop was later convened to discuss the findings of the study. Results of the study and consultative workshops were used to prepare a draft National Action Plan to Combat Desertification specifying measures to be taken in areas of policy changes, investment in anti-drought and desertification activities, and a number of priority areas.

Though they yielded useful information, the consultations had a limitation of inadequate participation of NGOs, external partners and the private sector. Furthermore, the three counties consulted are not a fair representation as they form a very small portion of the affected areas. Nevertheless, the study report and the draft NAP formed the foundation for the NAP process in Uganda.

Other past experiences in combating desertification include, soil erosion control; tree planting exercises; bare hills management and rehabilitation; control of animal stock numbers; and improvement of animal breeds and crop varieties.

#### **6.2 Technical programmes, and their integration into combating desertification.**

There are a number of on-going programmes and projects in agriculture and natural resources management, which embody CCD principles. These programmes and projects that need to be integrated in the NAP process as summarized in Table 6.1 below.

**Table 6.1: Programmes in Agriculture and Natural Resources.**

Donor	Project	Budget (US\$ millions)/ duration	Features/ Components	Constraints to address
ADF	Poverty alleviation Project	4.66/5 years	Support income and employment generating activities	Poverty in women, youth, and other vulnerable groups
EEC	Animal Water Supply, Karamoja	1.63/ 1992-2001	Construction of valley tanks	Water scarcity
DANIDA	Agriculture Sector Programme	42.9/5 years or more	Sub-tertiary Agr. Education	Low Status of Agriculture as a profession
			Research on livestock systems	Overgrazing, low productivity of breeds, disease
			Support for agricultural organizations	Little competition, weak extension capacity
			Household Agriculture support in 6 or 7 districts	Self-reliance, capacity building, facilitation to encourage group investment in agric.
			Support for regulatory services in MAAIF; MAAIF restructuring	Poor policy and planning skills and weak infrastructure
	Water resources monitoring and assessment	5.4/3 years with extension	Support to Directorate of Water Development	
			Enhance capacity to monitor and assess water quality and quantity.	
			Meteorological data support	
NORAD	Collaborative management of Forest resources		Development of collaborative management of Mt. Elgon forests	Poor understanding by the civil service community management as a long term change in strategy
	Biomass project		10 years project which has mapped vegetation cover nationwide	No World-class data available to assist in prioritization

UNDP/GEF	Uganda Photovoltaic Pilot Project for Rural Electrification	1.8/5 years	Provide high quality Photovoltaic (PV) based electricity to 2000 households and 4 communities Provide a revolving fund for beneficiaries; Strengthen the private sector in managing PV systems; Subscribe to the global efforts in combating the build-up of CO <sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere	Low level of rural electrification Lack of long-term investment capital Insufficient technical skills in the private sector Reduction of CO <sub>2</sub> build-up causing global warming
	East African Cross-border Biodiversity Project	1.77/4 years	Reduction in rate of habitat (forest and wetlands) loss	Biodiversity loss

<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Soroti, Lira integrated rural development projects	n.a	Emphasis on strengthening farmer organizations at all levels, agricultural credit and marketing	Weak farmer organisations. Need for small, targeted loans of Shs. 150,000/= max., per farmer
	Integrated Rural Development in West Nile, Arua, Nebbi, Kafumani	n.a	As above	Slow progress in decentralization
	Bwindi Park Trust Fund	n.a	Management costs of second five year programme	Trust funds considered suitable for park management but not rural development.
	Sustainable energy use in Household and Industry	0.5/3 years	Rural cookstove training programme; Improvement of Traditional rural charcoaling; Improvement of energy efficiency-lime production; Afforestation and tree planting.	Raise awareness in use of efficient cookstoves Reduce energy wastage-charcoaling  Low efficiencies in lime making Availability of tree seedlings
	PFI programme in the drylands of Uganda	0.2/2.5 years	Promotion of water harvesting, soil and water conservation	Improper land and water management
<b>USAID</b>	Critical Ecosystem programme (Strategic Objective 2)	>30.0/5 years 1998 – 2002	Programme funding of proposals for environmental protection	Need for combined rural development initiatives. Concern overuse of trust funds outside parks
	Increased incomes for rural men and women (strategic objective 1)	>30.0/5 years 1998 – 2002	Programme funding for private sector development, micro enterprises	Covers pressing problems (food security) long term development
	Post-harvest handling and storage	2.9/4 years	Identification, testing and validation of technologies	Crop losses
<b>UNITED KINGDOM (DFID)</b>	Agriculture and Rural livelihoods and Natural Resources Management	22.0/5 years	Programme for rehabilitation of research and extension based at Serere Agricultural Research Station.	Collaborative research, farmer need driven, extension, farming systems research
			Management of Lake George and Lake Kyoga	Priority is livelihoods first then community building, then degradation problems
	Natural Resource Management	8.0/5 years possibly more	Uncommitted funds	Poverty focus, bottom-up-approach required
<b>WORLD BANK</b>	Agric. Extension and Research Strengthening IDA loans	1994-98 and extension to 2000	Village level participatory approach to extension in poverty stricken areas. Strengthening of District Farm Institutes for research	Urges cooperation by national team of Umbrella project, with donor sub-group on agriculture
	Protected Areas Management	1994 ongoing	Bwindi Trust	
	Restructuring of MAAIF		Restructuring to emphasize research, extension and regulation	
<b>GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA</b>	Water for livestock		Excavation of valley dams in the cattle corridor	
	Karamoja Development Agency		Infrastructure development, food security, and provision of water.	
<b>SIDA</b>	Drylands Husbandry Project	1995-2000	Pastoral Communities and livestock development	Pasture degradation, water and animal health

**Adopted from MFPEd, 1998.**

Following the conclusion of the first phase of NAP in 1998, which concentrated on awareness raising and collecting views of stakeholders on the NAP formulation, the Second Phase will concentrate on developing and reviewing sector, district, and community programmes and projects intended to address drought and desertification, with a view to ensure that they integrate the principles of UNCCD during formulation and implementation.

### **6.3 Priority actions and planned measures**

Table 6.2 below presents programme areas and activities to be undertaken as agreed upon during the first National Forum on NAP.

**Table 6.2: Priority Actions and Measures for implementation of NAP**

<b>PRIORITY AREA</b>	<b>PRIORITY ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>FOCUS AREA</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
Information generation and exchange	a) Set up net work of key stakeholders at National level and some affected districts	National and pilot Districts	Short-term	NEIC/NEMA NAP Secretariat
	b) Develop Data base on Desertification.	National	Medium-term	
Training and Awareness raising	a) Include/strengthen climate, Desertification and Drought issues in National Curriculum for schools	National	M/T	National Curriculum Centre Ministry of Education. NAP Secretariat.
	b) Sensitise high-level policy and decision makers/Donors/Private Sector	National and Affected Districts	Short-term	
	c) Sensitise local Communities	Affected Districts	Short-term	NCCD
Improve water availability:	a) Water for human consumption	Affected Districts	Medium-term	RUWASA/District Steering Committee District Steering Committees MWL&E &MAAIF
	b) Water for Livestock			
Improve soil Management and Conservation:	a) Training the farmers and pastoral communities in soil fertility Conservation	Affected Districts	Medium-term	District Steering Committee, NCCD
	b) Training the farmers in Range and land management	Affected Districts Starting with NAP pilot Districts.	Medium-term	
	c) Promote Farmer innovator Concept for			Farm Development Dept/MAAIF District Steering Committees/NCCD
	d) Soil Conservation and Water Harvesting.			
Policy Review	Review of policies relevant to NAP	National and Districts	Medium-term	MAAIF, MLWE, NEMA, District Councils and others
Develop alternative Sources of Energy	a) Rural electrification	National	Long-term	UEB/NCCD NCCD/Extension works MENR, MOF MENR NCCD/Private Sector
	b) Fuel saving technology	Community Level	Short-term	
	c) Examine energy taxation policy	National	Medium-term	
	e) Promote Solar energy, wind energy, Geothermal energy, Biomass energy	Community Level	Medium-term	
	f) Improving efficient energy use	National	Medium-term	
	g) Training women in making energy conserving stoves	Community Level	Medium-term	



Afforestation & Agroforestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Harmonise NAP with forestry and water action programmes</li> <li>b) Promote Agroforestry practices through training, provision of seeds</li> <li>c) Afforestation programmes</li> <li>d) Promote water and land management programmes</li> </ul>	<p>National</p> <p>Districts and Community levels</p> <p>National, Districts</p> <p>Districts and Community levels</p>	<p>Short-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p>	<p>Forest Department MAAIF</p> <p>NEMA NCCD Extension staff, NARO, MAAIF. Forestry Departments, Faculty of Forestry and Natural Conservation (MUK),NCCD District Councils</p>
Appropriate Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Carry out inventory of indigenous knowledge to combat desertification</li> <li>b) Review available technologies that are useful to combating desertification</li> <li>c) Create National Committees on Science &amp; Technology for combating desertification</li> </ul>	<p>National &amp; Districts</p> <p>National</p> <p>National</p>	<p>Short-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p> <p>Short-term</p>	<p>NAP Secretariat/MUK, NARO</p> <p>National council for Science and Technology, NARO, MUK</p> <p>MAAIF</p>
9. Support/funding Local Community initiatives to combat desertification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Micro-Credit Schemes e.g. Ntandikwa Scheme</li> <li>b) Grants to communities</li> <li>c) Establishment of National Fund to Combat Desertification</li> </ul>	<p>Most affected Districts</p> <p>National</p> <p>National</p>	<p>Medium-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p>	<p>Donors/Ministry of Planning</p> <p>UNCCI</p> <p>MAAIF</p>
10. Institutional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support establishment of District Steering Committees (DSC)</li> <li>b) Capacity building of NAP Secretariat and DSCs</li> <li>c) Strengthen the NCCD</li> <li>d) Review composition of the NAP steering committees</li> </ul>	<p>Districts</p> <p>National &amp; Districts</p> <p>National &amp; Districts</p> <p>National</p>	<p>Short-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p> <p>Short-term</p>	<p>MAAIF/NEMA</p> <p>MAAIF/NEMA</p> <p>NCCD/NAP Secretariat</p> <p>MAAIF</p>
11. Facilitation of the marketing systems and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve road infrastructure especially rural feeder roads</li> <li>b) Improve marketing information</li> <li>c) Provide Improved Marketing Infrastructure including storage/preservation infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>Affected districts</p> <p>National</p> <p>Affected districts</p>	<p>Medium-term</p> <p>Long-term</p>	<p>Ministry of Works, District Councils</p> <p>District councils, MTTI, MAAIF, NGOs</p> <p>NCCD</p> <p>Local Councils</p>

S/T = Short term: less than 1 year; M/T = Medium term: 1 to 3 years; L/T = Long Term: More than 3 years NEIC =

## **6.4 Implementation of the National Action Programme**

### **6.4.1 Measures to conserve natural resource**

The following are some of the areas where initiatives have been taken to sustainably utilize and conserve natural resources:

- Training and raising awareness on the need to conserve natural resources;
- Improvement of water availability for domestic consumption and agricultural production;
- Improvement of soil management and conservation;
- Afforestation and agro-forestry;
- Improvement of energy management and conservation;
- Improvement of rangelands for sustainable animal production; and
- Development of alternative energy sources.

### **6.4.2 Measures to increase knowledge about desertification.**

The following are envisaged:-

- Set up an information network of key stakeholders at national level and affected areas;
- Make provisions for desertification and drought topics in the school curriculum;
- Continue sensitizing and training of high level policy and decision makers, extension workers, religious leaders, and local communities and their leaders;
- Collect and disseminate indigenous knowledge and technologies concerning combating desertification.

### **6.4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Uganda National Environment Management Authority has the responsibility of spearheading the monitoring and assessment of resource degradation in the country. It also guides District Steering Committees on Desertification, where they exist, to monitor and assess the effects of drought and land degradation.

The NEMA is the lead agency in Uganda responsible for regulating, monitoring and supervising environmental management. The Authority prepares and disseminates a National State of the Environment Report every two years. Likewise, districts are required to prepare District State of Environment Report every year. Besides NEMA, other institutions manage environmental information. They collect data at national, district and community levels resulting from their activities. These activities, however, remain sectoral and provide basic data rather than information in the holistic and integrated form required for environment management (NEMA, 1997).

## **6.5 Linkage with Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAPs) and Regional Action Programmes (RAPs)**

Within the framework of the IGAD, Uganda has participated in the preparation of the SRAPs, which address trans-boundary and cross-cutting issues on drought and desertification in the region. The IGAD

also coordinates member states to adopt a common position during negotiations and when Conferences of Parties are convened.

On the other hand, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) coordinates member states in the African region in the preparation of RAPs. However, Uganda did not attend the previous two meetings convened to prepare the Regional Action Programme due to poor communication arrangements. Nonetheless, Uganda benefits from such links.

## **6.6 Local capacity building**

This has been enhanced through consultations with the local communities through seminars and workshops on CCD/NAP. Government, NGOs, and other partners in development have been mobilizing local communities for community action and planning for development.

Support to selected local community initiatives on implementation of NAP is another aspect, which has contributed to capacity building. However, the steps taken so far have covered a small portion of the affected areas. There are plans to institute committees at local levels to deal with land ownership and utilization. In the bill seeking to establish a Uganda National Fund for Combating Desertification, it is proposed that local area fund committees be established. These will determine how to utilize the funds for sustainable management of natural resources.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

In the initial phase of the NAP process in Uganda a number of stakeholders have been consulted and made aware of the UNCCD, They have also been sensitised on the need to formulate and implement the Action Programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. The NAP consultation process culminated into the First National Forum on NAP in Uganda during which a number of priority programme areas were identified for short, medium and long term action plans. The second phase of the NAP process will, therefore, focus on the development and implementation of sector, district and community level priority programmes.

The government of Uganda recognises that for the successful implementation of the UNCCD efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought must focus primarily at the grassroots community level. In view of this major steps have been taken at the National level towards the establishment of a UNFCD. The fund is expected to provide a sustainable source of funding for community level activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Operationalisation of the fund and its capitalization are areas in which support from external partners is called for.

For the successful implementation of the NAP process and programmes there is a need for all stakeholders to participate. Participation of interest groups particularly women, pastoralists and the private sector in the NAP process should be strengthened. In addition sensitisation of and collaboration with external partners need to be increased to enhance their support to the NAP process in Uganda.

The weaknesses in information generation and exchange among the key actors in implementation of the CCD in Uganda need to be addressed. There is need to further develop the information system on desertification by strengthening data collection through research, analysis and dissemination to support planning processes at all levels. Support for capacity building from external partners in this area is welcome.

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