



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

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**AT THE OPENING OF THE SUBREGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING
WORKSHOP ON FINANCIAL REPORTING AND RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

LAKE VICTORIA HOTEL ENTEBBE

24 NOVEMBER 2015

The Representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Executive Director of National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Ladies and gentlemen in your various capacities

Welcome to Uganda the Pearl of Africa. A country blessed with diverse species of plants, animals and ecosystems and as well as diverse culture most of which are associate with biodiversity.

As some of you may be aware, this is the second workshop on Resource Mobilization for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that Uganda is hosting. The first workshop took place from 11-14 February 2014 here in Entebbe. Today Uganda is hosting another workshop for the Africa sub-region this time focusing on building capacity on financial reporting in addition to resource mobilization.

It therefore gives me great pleasure, on behalf of Government of Uganda, to officiate at the opening this workshop.

I would like to thank the Secretariat of the CBD for identifying and working closely with Uganda on matters related to resource mobilization for implementing the CBD and especially the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi targets.

Ladies and gentlemen Parties to CBD have agreed to take urgent action to halt biodiversity loss by 2020. This is by no means a simple task. But with collective effort progress can be made toward this mission.

Loss of biodiversity as you all know is one of the global environmental challenges today the other being climate change.

Habitat conversion, invasive alien species, pollution, over exploitation, illegal wildlife trade are some the factors leading to loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

What is needed most are actions to address the root causes of biodiversity loss. In the case of Africa include though not limited to poverty, increasing human population growth, lack of alternative income for the local communities, weak implementation of the policies and laws among others

For Africa loss of biodiversity is loss of livelihoods and culture. Most of the economies in Africa depend on biodiversity. Therefore Loss of biodiversity also affects national development in Africa.

To address loss of biodiversity the root causes leading to biodiversity loss needs to be addressed. A number of decisions have been adopted by the Conference of Parties to the CBD to this effect. The challenge is in translating those decisions into action at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels down to the district level.

With respect to resources mobilization a target on domestic resources was agreed upon during COP12 in October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. It states:

“Mobilize domestic financial resources from all sources to reduce the gap between identified needs and available resources at domestic level, for effectively implementing by 2020 national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP)”

Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure your respective countries and Governments are all taking measures in mobilizing domestic financial resources for biodiversity conservation. A lot needs to be done taking into account the magnitude of biodiversity loss not only in Africa but globally as well.

Let me take this opportunity to highlight some of key milestones Uganda has made to-date on resource mobilization.

1. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is the CBD Focal Point for Resource Mobilization.
2. The NBSAP has been mainstreamed in the National Development Plan (NDPII) 2015/16 – 2019/2020. This is a vital entry point for resource mobilization because the NBSAP is now integrated into the Government planning and development programme.
3. A study on financing biodiversity conservation in Uganda was undertaken in line with decision X/3. The outcome has been the development of Guidelines and Action Plan for Financing Biodiversity Conservation in Uganda.

The Guidelines were launched on 22nd May 2015 in commemoration of the International Day for Biodiversity. Appreciation goes to UNEP for assisting Uganda to access funds from the GEF for this activity and UNDP for providing financial support for printing the Guidelines

4. Development of Uganda Biodiversity Conservation Trust Fund is underway. The project for setting up the trust fund was also launched on 22 May 2015. USAID is providing financial support through Wildlife Conservation Society.
5. Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and Biodiversity Offsets has been integrated in the review of the National Environment Management Policy of 1994 and the National Act Cap153 As some you may know PES and Biodiversity Offsets are among the innovative financial mechanism adopted by Parties to CBD.
6. The EU, the Government of Germany and Switzerland are supporting Uganda through BIOFIN project to generate information on the funding needs and gaps for implementing the NBSAP and on that basis a resource mobilization plan to address the funding gap will be developed. I thank UNDP for assisting Uganda to access the funding for this activity.

7. The EU and the French Facility for Global Environment are supporting the development of a mechanism for sustainable financing of the Ruwenzori National Park through WWF Uganda Country Office.

I would like to thank the CBD Secretariat for organizing this workshop. I believe participants at this workshop will acquire some additional knowledge on resource mobilization and financial reporting at the end of the workshop.

I would like to conclude by thanking the European Union and Government of Japan for the financial support for this workshop

Lastly I thank the team from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) for coordinating the preparation of the workshop on behalf of Government.

With these remarks, I declare the Sub-regional Capacity Building Workshop on Financial Reporting and Resource Mobilization for English Speaking Africa opened.

For God and My Country