



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

## **OPENING REMARKS**

**BY**

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

**LAKE VICTORIA HOTEL ENTEBBE**

**24 NOVEMBER 2015**

**The Guest of Honour, the Hon. Minister for Water and environment**

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

**The representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

**Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies**

**Ladies and gentlemen in your various capacities**

I would like, on behalf of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), to welcome you to the sub-regional capacity building workshop on financial reporting and resources mobilization under the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD) for English speaking African countries.

Uganda ratified the CBD on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1993. Uganda is also a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety having ratified it on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2001.

Furthermore more Uganda is a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. Uganda acceded to the two Protocols on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

NEMA is the CBD National Focal Point and therefore coordinates, on behalf of Government, implementation of the CBD and all the Protocols made under the Convention.

NEMA works closely with other biodiversity related Convention focal points such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Ramsar Convention, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna (CITES), UNFCCC and UNCCD among others.

Being a Party to these Conventions is good for the conservation and sustainable of biodiversity. But implementing these Conventions remains a challenges and lack of financial resources accounts largely for the slow progress of implementation at the national level.

For those of you that are familiar with the discussion on resource mobilization under the CBD, Parties to the CBD were requested to submit information on the following, among others:

- a) financial resources for biodiversity conservation covering international financial flows;
- b) domestic financial resources;
- c) steps being taken to implement the CBD Strategy on resource mobilization, south to south cooperation.

Information available indicates that most Parties to the CBD did not provide this report. Information on the CBD website indicates only five Africa countries submitted the report as by end of 2014 namely: Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia and Uganda.

In order for African countries to make a strong case for increased funding for biodiversity from international and domestic levels, information how much each country needs is vital and financial reporting is one way of influencing the process. Proper financial report will guide decision making on resource mobilization for the CBD.

The sub-regional capacity building workshop on financial reporting and resource mobilization therefore provides participants the opportunity to exchange experiences, ideas and chart a way forward on resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation.

I would like to thank Ms Monique Akullo and Mr. Francis Ogwal and the team from the CBD Secretariat for working together for the success of this workshop.

I thank you for your attention.

For God and My Country