



The National Forestry Stakeholders' Dialogue

Communiqué to the Sector Stakeholders

Rt Hon Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Water and Environment,

Government agencies, Development partners, Civil society, Academia, Implementing partners

Ladies and gentlemen,

On 21st March, 2019, the School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences, Makerere University in partnership with the Forest Sector Support Department and other stakeholders convened a National Forestry Stakeholders Dialogue that was attended by over 200 participants. The overarching purpose of the dialogue was to provide a platform where stakeholders could engage, explore and generate strategies to address the historical and contemporary threats to forests in Uganda and explore mechanisms of increasing the contribution of forests in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGD's).

Cognizant of the role of forests and trees in attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Aware of the wanton deforestation and forest degradation that is occurring in Uganda with current forest estate estimated at 8 % (2019) down from the 24% as of 1990,

Recognizing the commitments of government and other stakeholders towards forest and landscape restoration through initiatives such as Bonn Challenge, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Agenda 2030,

Considering that the targets and commitments we have set for ourselves as a country are achievable through a concerted and shared responsibility, we therefore call for the following:

- a) Increase investment in research in forestry with a focus on basic research that Uganda was well-known for as a global leader in tropical forestry. The government and private sector need to provide finances to support the national forestry research agenda with focus on addressing contemporary challenges in forest management
- b) Recognize the value of forests and other environmental resources in National Accounting Systems in our quest for sustainable economic growth
- c) Support forest law enforcement across all scales



- d) Promote inter-sectoral linkages and alignment of priorities, plans, budgets and activities in the forestry sub-sector to improve decision making and efficiency.
- e) Strengthen the forestry extension service through improving the structure of the District Forest Services
- f) Promote integration of trees on farms to restore degraded landscapes and reduce pressure on natural forests
- g) Promote payment for ecosystem services from forests
- h) Operationalize the Tree Fund as provided in the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003 to increase tree cover among small land owners.
- i) Support the enactment of the Foresters Act to promote professionalism in Forestry
- j) Promote and sustainably manage urban forests and trees to attain resilience of cities and towns
- k) Incentivize owners of private natural forests to improve forest cover on privately owned land
- l) Improve forest product development through research, value addition and establishment of incubation centres
- m) Promote responsible forest management through existing forest certification schemes
- n) Ensure those who commit forest crimes are given sanctions that are commensurate to the crime
- o) Government cancels illegal land titles in all forest reserves.

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Moderator of the Dialogue

Philip Kihumuro
Rapporteur