



Mak CENTRE AT A GLANCE (2019 -2020)

The Environment for Development initiative (EfD-Mak) centre Uganda started its full operation in the Financial year 2019-2020. The center went through a full process of institutionalization and established a fully functional office with five (5) Administrative staff managing its operations. The center has lived to its mandate by enrolling 25 Research fellows (13 Senior Research fellows, 9 Research fellows and 1 Junior Research fellow). We have conducted four (4) trainings and seven (7) policy dialogues both at low and high-level and exchanged ideas and debate on the status, impact and direction of environmental policy in the country. We have conducted research, published, written policy briefs and established local and international research and policy networks with collaborating research institutions and policy makers in Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. This report gives you the major impact activities undertaken by the center in its 16 months of her existence.

1.0: INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CENTRE AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

1.1: Admission of Makerere University to the EfD



Makerere University Administration block before it was gutted by fire

Makerere University was on 5th November 2018 admitted to Environment for Development (EfD) Initiative Network in Hanoi Vietnam following a proposal submitted by the School of Economics, College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Edward Bbaale and the School of Agricultural Sciences, College of

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) under the leadership of Prof. Johnny Mugisha . The university witnessed an academic marriage between the two colleges CoBAMS and CAES under the stewardship of the then interim directors who steered the process taking the university through various stages of vetting.

1.2: Official Appointment of the Center Directors at the inception meeting for Research Fellows.



L: Director EfD-Mak Center Assoc. Prof Edward Bbaale shaking hands with his Deputy Prof. Johnny Mugisha® on the inauguration day.

About 20 nominated research fellows for the EfD-Mak Centre convened the first meeting on 14th August, 2019 where Assoc. Prof. Edward Bbaale and Prof. Johnny Mugisha were endorsed official Director and Deputy Director respectively. The meeting officially presented and introduced the Centre to the Researchers and discussed the road map to success through their input mainly the production of quality research outputs. The meeting further introduced the core administrative team of the centre (Data Manager, Project Administrator and

Communications Officer) to the research fellows. Researchers were implored to carry forward the spirit and competition to realize the desired goals of the EfD-Mak Centre after the Centre had been granted operations from the Secretariat and secured an office space at the university with preliminary activities already taking shape. Through this meeting, researchers provided an official consent to appointment and regularization of the Director and his Deputy. Researchers also identified and expressed their preferred research areas by filling the designed forms.

1.3: EfD-Mak Centre launched



A section of participants attending the launch

Makerere University on 29th August 2019 launched the Environment for Development Initiative (EfD-Mak) Centre, the first of its kind in Uganda. The ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor as Chief Guest. The function attracted representatives from the Swedish Embassy, EfD Kenya, Uganda Government Ministries and agencies, development partners, civil society organization and the Private sector. Members of university top management. The launch signified Makerere University's commitment to tackle environmental issues with appropriate sobriety, creating mechanisms of living sustainably as a centre of research and innovations. The EfD-Mak centre was envisioned to open more frontiers for strategic partnerships towards enhancing the

visibility and internationalization of the university which is a key pillar in Makerere University's agenda. Besides pledging support, the Vice Chancellor tasked the center leadership to propel it to a "Centre of Excellence", build capacity in environmental economics, inform government on the sense of direction based on evidence and to connect students beyond the gates of Makerere. The center was also implored to establish and nurture multidisciplinary networks in priority areas such as fisheries, Parks and Tourism and sustainable agriculture to earn support from government. Other roles were mentoring, conducting research, providing policy briefs and coming up with critical interventions that can address critical community and global issues.

1.4: Acquisition of a video conferencing facility and office commissioning



L: Director EfD-Mak Centre Prof. Edward Bbaale gives a brief about the facilities as the Principal CoBAMs Prof. Eria Hisali listens during the commissioning of the facilities

EfD-Mak Center Uganda acquired an assortment of IT equipment worth over \$20,000 funded by the project funds from Sida. The acquired equipment includes a video conferencing facility with a 65” screen and a camera and other accessories including a 30 seater conference table and 20 chairs. The center procured six laptop computers for the core administrative staff, a four seater workstation, a projector, printer, scanner and photocopier as well as a water dispenser, file cabinets, a video-still photo camera and a recorder. The equipment was handed over to the center by the Principal, Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) Prof. Eria

Hisali on behalf of the university management on 24th August, 2020.

The facilities are important for the visibility of the university and for purposes of capacity building for the university staff, the country and the continent through research undertaken by participating in different networks. With this fully furnished video conferencing facility, the center is going to help the university in exchanging ideas locally and to interact with other researchers globally via zoom and other modern communication channels. Our researchers are to enjoy managing huge data sets that require very fast machines and computers of the latest technology.

2.0: TRAININGS/CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS

2.1: Webinar on Harnessing the COVID -19 Recovery programmes to combat climate Change in Uganda

THEME

Harnessing the COVID-19 Recovery Programmes to Combat Climate Change in Uganda.

Panelist
Dr. Daniel Babikwa
(NEMA)

Panelist
Prof. Razack Lokina
Director EfD - Tanzania

Panelist
Mr. Aron Welikhe
National Planning Authority

Presenter
Prof. Edward Bbaale
Director EfD - MAK Centre

Moderator
Dr. Madina Guleba
EPRC.

Wednesday, 24th June, 2020

Time:
11:00am - 1:00pm

zoom Meeting ID: 957 1931 9281 Password: 057026

On 24th June, 2020 the EfD-Mak Centre Uganda in collaboration with EfD-Tanzania held a Webinar with a purpose of distilling lessons learned from the COVID-19 response and how these can be transposed to climate change campaign. The Webinar also highlighted how COVID-19 recovery packages can be harnessed to address climate change effects and curtail environmental degradation. The electronic meeting attracted over 70 participants including the representative from the EfD Secretariate in Sweden Dr. Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah, Center Director and Senior Research Fellow at *EfD Tanzania* Dr. Lokina Razack, the Director EfD-Ghana Prof. Akpalu Wisdom and Prof. Nnaemeka Chukwuone from University of Nigeria.. Representatives from Uganda government Ministries, Departments and Agencies including Mr. Aron Welikhe from the National Planning Authority (NPA), Dr. Daniel Babikwa from the National

Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) also participated. The meeting was also joined by students and staff from Makerere University. The Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic on 11th March 2020. Countries world over are experiencing and trying to cope with its unprecedented rapid spread that has claimed many lives and devastated the social economic activities. Given the absence of a vaccine, partial and total lockdowns, social distancing, wearing of face masks, handwashing and sanitizing were recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the global remedy for to contain the spread of COVID-19.

2.2: Government Officials training on Environmental Valuation



Participants posing for a group photo after the training

Over 40 trainees including representatives from Uganda line Ministries, Departments and Agencies including the Ministry of Lands and Housing, the Ministry of Water and Environment, the National Forest Authority (NFA) the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) the National Planning Authority (NPA) and Civil Society Organizations on 10th July, 2020 converged at Makerere University for a one-day training on Environmental Valuation.

The training was also attended by the Member of Parliament Ora County Zombo district Hon. Biyika Lawrence Songa who is the Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee in charge of Climate change.

Environmental Valuation refers to how a monetary value is put on an environmental resource such as a lake, National Park, a wetland and a forest among others. However, in most cases the value of these natural resources is not known and because it is not known, people take it to be free goods that is why they keep destroying them for charcoal, for settlement, for houses and others.

So the purpose of training the policy makers, the politicians, the researchers and the graduate students was to equip them with relevant skills and knowledge of valuing resources so that they can work better and technically.

2.3: Researchers training on Experimental Economics



Participants posing for a group photo after the training

About forty researchers on 30th-31st July 2020 converged at Makerere University for a refresher training to sharpen their skills in Experimental Economics. The overarching objective of this training was to equip the trainees with both theoretical footings and empirical applications of experimental economics. The training covered the theoretical underpinnings of experimental economics, designing of an experiment(s), pro and cons for each type of experiment while highlighting some of the mistakes that

researchers normally make especially during impact evaluations. The training also focused on analyzing of data from experiments (done through practical works -presentations and actual data analysis). At the end of the course, the participants were able to explain the various theoretical footings of experimental economics, differentiate the various forms of experiments, design both natural and lab-in-the-field experiments in research, analyze and interpret results from experiments.

2.4: Short course on Environmental, Valuation, Evaluation and Accounting



Participants posing for a group photo after the training

On 27th September, 2019, EfD-Mak Centre organized a one-day training on Environmental Valuation, Evaluation and Accounting. The training targeted experts from public and private sector including: government ministries, agencies, researchers, academic staff and students from Makerere University. Over 80 participants turned up for the training. The objective of the training was to provide both theoretical and empirical basics of environmental analysis. The seminar covered basic issues in

environmental economics, valuation of environmental goods, evaluation of environmental goods and environmental accounting. Most of the environmental goods are non-market goods and thus do not have standard prices and thus demand curves. At the end of this course participants were well grounded in areas of valuation, evaluation, accounting and analysis of environmental goods with emphasis mainly given to the modelling approaches and estimation techniques.

3.0 THREE POLICY DIALOGUES /TOURS HELD ON GOVERNANCE AND NATURAL RESOURCE UTILIZATION: CHALLENGES, GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Tree harvesting for charcoal in one of the districts in central regions of Uganda

Environment is a vital component for sustainability of livelihood and national development. Uganda's stock of natural resources and the environment (ENR) has potential of providing a long-term supply of goods and services and is thus an important part of the country's asset base. This asset base underpins and determines the speed and magnitude of economic growth and development. As such it is a major source of livelihoods for the people.

Uganda is endowed by natural resources including water bodies, forests, mountains, hills, rich fertile agricultural land, wetlands, minerals and oils reserves, woodlands, forests, wildlife and grasslands. However, the ever-increasing pressure on these resources resulting mainly from population growth, affluence, poor planning and policy failure, the state of many of the environment and natural resources is worrying. The repercussions from the deteriorating state of environment and natural resources have been evidenced in depletion and extinction of species, ecosystem destruction, pollution and climate change. The losses in wellbeing resulting from these events have been enormous.

Although government has made progress in environmental laws, implementation remains a challenge. Population trends affects environmental management through the availability and

renewability of natural resources and a vast majority of Uganda's population is dependent on natural resources.

It is within this context that the Environment for Development (EfD) Makerere University Centre, Uganda held three (3) policy dialogues on the theme, **“Governance and Natural Resource Utilization: Challenges, Gaps and Opportunities.”**

The Uganda constitution (eg Local Government Act, Cap 243; The National Environment Act, 2019; Forest and tree planting Act, 2003; Physical Planning Act, 2010 and the Wild life Act 1996 and many others mandates government to keep natural resources for the people of Uganda.

The National Environmental Act (NEMA) of June 2019 provides under section 26 Environmental management by urban and district councils. Subject to this Act and any other applicable law, urban and district councils are responsible for the management of the environment and natural resources under their jurisdiction.

And, Since local leaders are charged with an oversight role over different natural resources researchers from the EfD-Mak centre thought that they must touch-base with local leaders to come up with workable solutions that can accelerate the rate of growth in the district without compromising the status of the environment.

3.1: The Kampala policy dialogue



A section of the participants attending the policy dialogue at Makerere University

The first policy dialogue on Governance and Natural Resource in Uganda was held at Makerere University Kampala on 7th November 2019. The objective was to share research findings the university had come up with that guide government in policy implementation.

The event attracted over 150 participants from public and private sector, research institutions, civil society organizations, representatives from government ministries and agencies, development partners, staff and student from Makerere University among others. The Research Manager at the EfD secretariat based at Gothenburg University,

Sweden, Dr. Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah also graced the occasion.

The half day dialogue was officially opened by Makerere University Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe while the Keynote address was delivered by the Executive Director National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). Dr. Patrick Byakagaba

from the Department of Environmental Management gave the main presentation. The meeting discussed a number of transformational issues such as urbanization, population explosion, poverty, ICT, food production, industrialization, power relations and policies and how they have impacted on natural resource utilization and the way forward.

3.2: Policy tour to Wakiso district:



The Director EFD-Mak Centre Prof. Edward Bbaale presenting during the policy meeting

Environmental degradation in Wakiso district is alarming. Wakiso is one of the highly populated districts in Uganda endowed with a number of natural resources. Its central location in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan area depicts and presents special urban challenges of this locality especially those related to infrastructure thriving on natural resources. Environmentalist and economists from the EFD- Mak Centre set out for a policy tour to Wakiso district headquarters to discuss how

to sustainably use the environment while upholding the development paradigm shift being faced in Uganda on 9th January, 2020.

The meeting attracted district executives, (Chairperson for committees, town council chairpersons and clerks, sub county chairpersons and sub county chiefs, Municipality mayors, town clerks, physical planners, engineers, environmental and tourism officers and councilors from the district committee of Natural Resources.

3.3: Policy tour to Mukono district



Participants posing for a group photo after the meeting at Mukono district headquarters

The third policy engagement on Lake Victoria's rising water levels and pollution was the policy tour in Mukono district on 20th February 2020. Over 80 participants including the Resident District Commissioner, LC5 Chairman, Chief Administrative Officers, District Natural Resources' officers and officials from the Environmental Police unit convened at Mukono district administrative hall where they deliberated on the status, challenges in

the management of Natural resources and possible solutions to mitigate degradation. The dialogue was officially opened by the Secretary for Production, Environment and Natural Resources Mr. Faisal Kigongo Luggya and closed by the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) Mukono District Mr. Mayanja Majwala Badru. The main presentation was delivered by Dr. Patrick Byakagaba from Makerere University's Department of Environmental Management.

3.4: Results from the policy meetings on Governance of Natural resources in Uganda

3.4.1: Resolutions from the policy meetings

In all the three districts, the dialogues attracted different stakeholders from government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), local government, academia, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), private sector and development partners

There were common concerns and agreement that there is need for proper coordination, cooperation, integration and participation of all stakeholders in the governance, management and utilization of natural resources in Uganda and that at all times, there must be a balance among economic, social and environmental goals to ensure sustainability in natural resource utilization. There were also similar sentiments that Uganda has best legislation on environment and natural resources with the biggest problem being implementation. The need to enforce the laws with deterrent penalties, increase in budgetary allocation for Environment and Natural resources protection and manpower were proposed.

3.4.2 Policy brief on the Governance of Natural Resources in Uganda

The policy brief was written by Mr. Peter Babyenda and edited by Mr. Fred Kasalirwe on behalf of EfD-Mak Centre, Kampala, Uganda. The policy brief has been shared at different meetings with a number of stakeholders including policy makers.

Key messages in the policy brief

- Sustainable and efficient governance and utilization of natural resources requires:
- Transparency, accountability, rule of law, inclusive participation and cooperation of all stakeholders and actors in natural resources.
- Balancing economic, social and environmental goals in all government programs and plans including private investments.
- Integrated decision making among all environmental protection agencies and users (NEMA, NFA, UWA, NSWC, UNRA, physical planners, tourism board and citizens) including within and across all government departments.
- Absence of political and public interference in the management of the natural resources.
- Independent, capable and efficient well-facilitated and equipped environmental and natural resource protection and regulatory agencies.
- Changing the definition of GDP to reflect the stock of natural resources in the annual national accounts.
- Ensuring full costing of environmental and natural resources such as water and other products from nature such as timber, minerals and charcoal, sand.
- Using technology, social media and press in awareness campaigns and monitoring natural resource conservation and protection in the country

Conclusion

- Effective and sustainable governance of natural resources requires the participation of every citizen, media, state agencies, development partners and all political actors in the country.
- There must be clear nationally defined environmental, social and economic goals to be achieved simultaneously.
- More resources should be devoted to environmental protection and conservation and there must be political and public will to support all the efforts geared at protecting and restoring the environment. Both the politicians, media, civil society and technicians

should be targeted in the efforts to have sustainable governance and utilization of natural resources.

- The role of local leaders and the community in the protection of natural resources should be promoted and should be empowered with the required skills necessary to protect the environment including the harmonious coexistence between the community and natural resources including the wildlife.

4.0: FOUR POLICY TOURS HELD ON THE THEME, “CHANGES IN LAKE VICTORIA’S HYDROLOGY, WATER QUALITY, AND LIVELIHOODS”



Disintegrated and floating vegetation that choked the Jinja Hydro Electricity Power station early this year

Lake Victoria is a trans boundary natural resource, underpinning the economies and livelihoods of the people within the wider catchment area of Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda. The lake acts as a source of fresh water, fishing, tourism, a waste repository and provides food, energy, water for drinking, irrigation, industry and for within and cross border transportation. However, the lake and its surrounding areas are facing many challenges including rising lake water levels, floating islands-resulting from human encroachment on its banks, declining fish stocks, ecological and biodiversity degradation.

During the period of late January 2020, the effect of Lake Victoria bursting its banks started to be felt with several landing sites and settlements damaged by floods leaving almost half a million people homeless and property worth billions of money had been lost in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

It is within this background that EfD-Mak Centre) based at Makerere organized a series of policy tours on the changing Lake Victoria hydrology, water quality and livelihoods in Uganda's lake basin districts of – Jinja,, Masaka, Bugiri and Kampala.

4.1: Policy tour to Jinja district:



Participants posing for a group photo after the dialogue in Jinja district headquarters

Jinja District is in Busoga sub-region, in the Eastern Region of Uganda. It sits along the Northern shores of Lake Victoria, near the source of the White Nile. Jinja is an industrial and tourism city harboring a number of industries, Uganda's largest Hydro Power Electricity dam and many islands on the lake. Uganda witnessed a disintegrated and moving island that entered turbines at Jinja main Hydro Electricity Power station that left the entire country into a total blackout when the president was expected to address the nation on the COVID-19.

Environmental economists from EfD-Mak Centre on 26th August 2020 visited Jinja and held a policy dialogue with district local government officials on the theme, "Lake Victoria's Hydrology, Water Quality and livelihoods".

The workshop held at Jinja district Council Hall attracted about 40 participants including the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Chairperson Local Council V (LCV), District Natural Resources' Officers, officials from the Environmental Police unit, Civil Society organizations and the Private sector among others.

The purpose of the dialogue was to discuss and brainstorm on the status of the Lake Victoria hydrology, water quality, livelihoods and other challenges facing the management and utilization of Lake Victoria

so as to identify the possible solutions to mitigate environmental degradation of around Lake Victoria basin

4.2 Policy dialogue in Masaka district



Participants posing for a group photo after the meeting at Brovad Hotel Masaka

On 24th September 2020, the university was in Masaka because, it is one of the districts bordering Lake Victoria especially, the Bukakata area where the catchment area has been grossly degraded, forest cover cut with rampant swamp reclamation.

The meeting discussed several issues about Lake Victoria's rising water levels and pollution which is related to water quality and livelihood. The livelihood question addresses the question of fishing just as a component.

The workshop held at Hotel Brovad attracted about 40 participants including the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Chairperson Local Council V (LCV), District Natural Resources' Officers, officials from the Environmental Police unit, Civil Society organizations and the Private sector among others.

4.3: Policy tour to Bugiri district



Participants posing for a group photo after the meeting at Bugiri district headquarters

Researchers from the EfD-Mak Centre on 28th -29th October, 2020 pitched camp in Bugiri district in Eastern Uganda to dialogue with the local government officials on Lake Victoria's water rising levels and pollution. The team met with Bugiri district local government officials including the administrative and technical arms of the district at the district headquarters.

Officials met include the Chief Administrative officer (CAO), The Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Clerk to Council, Chairperson Local Council V, District speaker, the District Police Commander and officers from the Environmental Police Protection Unit. The technical team was largely composed of the District Natural Resources' officer, Forestry and Water officers, District planners and

engineers. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Civil Society organizations (CSO) and the Private sector.

Bugiri District is located in Busoga Sub-region in Eastern Uganda with a total land area of 1,045.9 km² (403.8 sq mi). The university was in Bugiri because of its location and unique features.

The district is located in a flat and rolling topographical zone with 90% of its landmass constituting the drainage basins of Lake Victoria and Lake Kyoga. As a result, there are numerous swamps that crisscross the district and landing sites. The land surface is characterized by gentle undulating hills with few higher residual features. The district has a total of 1062m² covered by land, 1562m² covered by water and out of this water body,

there is Wakawaka landing site covering 26178 m², *Namatu* 62505m², *Rwenge maziriga* 30024m² and *Rwenge karent* 26645m² where the catchment area has been grossly degraded, forest cover cut and swamps reclaimed.

The researchers and district officials discussed with the status, challenges and to came up with strategies how to have a nuance existence between the environment and human development.

4.4: The Kampala End of Year Policy Dialogue on the Theme “Changes in Lake Victoria’s Hydrology, Water Quality and Livelihoods



Center Director Assoc. Prof. Edward Bbaale ® presenting during the dialogue at Makerere University

The end of year EfD-Mak Centre policy dialogue was held on December 16th, 2020 at Makerere University Senate Conference Hall. This was the end of year round off policy dialogue on Changes in Lake Victoria’s Hydrology, Water Quality and Livelihoods after policy tours in different districts situated in the Lake basin, The policy dialogue attracted over 60 participants drawn from the members of the public, private sector, policy makers, civil society, EfD secretariat in Sweden, academia and

students. The dialogue was opened by the Director of EfD Secretariat at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Prof. Gunnar Kohlin who joined virtually via zoom. Dr Gunnar welcomed the participants and highlighted the background of EfD and the activities it engages in. He informed the gathering that the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) had renewed a five-year financing plan of EfD activities across the world.

4.5: Results from the policy meetings on Lake Victoria's rising levels

4.5.1: Proposals and recommendations from the policy meeting

During these dialogues, it was noted that the Lake's buffer zone requirement of 200 meters set by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) has been widely violated resulting in severe encroachment on the lake by the farmers, illegal fish mongers, hotels and beaches, industries and settlers. The intensity of such human activity has contributed to soil erosion resulting in the sedimentation of the lake. Polythene bags, plastics and untreated waste also continue to pollute and damage the lake's water quality and are an existential threat to its aquatic life. Political interference, poor fishing methods, inadequate lake monitoring and poor implementation of the existing laws on the management and utilization of the lake were noted as key factors perpetuating the lake's degradation.

During the several sessions, stakeholders resolved that there should be urgent involvement and mass sensitization of the local communities around the lake on issues of sustainable management and use of the lake, deepening transboundary cooperation and regulation of the lake activities, tackling both point and non-point source pollution including designing a coherent action plan for conservation and rehabilitation of the Lake's ecosystem. NEMA, Uganda's environment watchdog together with the relevant authorities at the different levels of government should ensure that the lake buffer zone is observed through active regulation of socio-economic activity around the lake. In addition, programs aimed at restoring and conserving wetlands, grasslands and forests in the lake catchment areas must be prioritized. It was also resolved that government should focus on alternative livelihood options to reduce dependence on natural resources and the environment.

4.5.2. Policy brief on the theme

The policy brief was written by Mr. Peter Babyenda and edited by Mr. Fred Kasalirwe on behalf of EfD Makerere Centre, Kampala, Uganda for sharing with the key stakeholders including policy makers.

Key Messages

Lake Victoria Basin is facing a number of challenges:

- Ecological and biodiversity degradation.
- Declining fish biomass catch and exports.
- Rising water levels and moving islands.
- Untreated and poorly disposed wastes.
- Lake sedimentation due to catchment and buffer zone encroachment.
- Reducing business activity along the lake shorelines leading to poverty, Unemployment and high crime rates.
- Infrastructure, power and transport disruptions.
- Encroachment of the surrounding wet lands such Lwera and forests such as Mabira and Wakawaka.
- Disbandment of beach management units.

Measures to strengthen sustainable management and use of the Lake Basin ecosystem services:

- Empowering the local communities and media to protect the lake basin, biodiversity and ecosystem.
- Effective regulation of all the lake activities including fishing and waste disposal.
- Managing the lake basin jointly as a transboundary resource.
- Efficient enforcement of the existing laws such as the 200m buffer zone away from the lake.
- Finding alternative land for industries away from the lakes, rivers, forests and wetlands.
- Incorruptible, efficient, skilled and well equipped lake regulatory body to effectively monitor all activities on the lake.
- A coherent plan for conservation and rehabilitation of the lake fish fauna.
- Restoration of the degraded wetlands and forests within the basin.

Conclusion

Nature is talking and thus, we need to listen. “*Humanity can forgive and forgets but mother nature neither*” said Pope Francis II, which implies that nature destruction has far reaching consequences. Effective management of Lake Victoria Basin requires participation of all stakeholders, local leaders and the community in the basin and all Lake Basin countries. The ongoing degradation and pollution of the lake should be treated as an emergency case just as the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that the lake biodiversity, ecology, species and boundaries are protected. The government should take lead in sensitizing the masses, training environmental policy makers and regulators and media on the importance of conservation and sustainable use of Lake Victoria. In addition, the government should increase its budget allocation to the environmental and natural resources’ sector and ensure that the sector is well equipped with skilled, capable and incorruptible human resource and monitoring equipment.

5.0: OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

5.1: Contribution to the EfD Network Policy Note

Prof. Edward Bbaale was part of the team that contributed to the Policy Note (Published 30 October 2020) titled, “*Policy Responses to Ensure Access to Water and Sanitation Services During COVID-19: Snapshots from the Environment for Development (EfD) Network*”. This policy note provides a snapshot of water and sanitation measures implemented by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 14 countries in the Global South: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Chile, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Panama, South Africa, Uganda and Vietnam.

5.2: EfD –Mak Research Fellow Dr. Nicholas Kilimani presents paper during the ESSA Conference in South Africa and writes policy brief on household nutrition effects of crop commercialization in Uganda



A business woman selling some of the cereals in a Kampala suburb

EfD-Mak Research Fellow, Dr. Nicholas Kilimani on 1st-12th September, 2019 travelled to South Africa to participate at the Economic Society of South Africa Annual Conference at Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre, Johannesburg. Dr. Kilimani presented a paper on, “ Household nutrition effects of crop commercialization in Uganda”, The paper analyses how government policies and programmes aimed at agricultural commercialization have contributed to household nutrition in Uganda.

Using a nationally representative data set, the study analyses whether such programmes as the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA), the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), the Rural Development Strategy (RDS), and the Prosperity for All programme have contributed to an improvement in the intake of calorie, proteins, calcium, zinc, iron and vitamin A. The research was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant to the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) under a thematic research project on evaluating the impact of agricultural and food policies on nutritional outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa.

Key findings

- ❖ While commercialization has contributed towards increasing agricultural income, its impact on nutrition has been adverse as neither production nor the accrued income resulted in nutrition sensitive consumption;
- ❖ Agricultural policies and programmes seem to have focused more on market oriented production and less on nutrition sensitive agriculture;
- ❖ There is inadequate nutrition knowledge among the population as no significant difference between nutrient intake of the more educated and higher income households and the less educated low income households was found;

- ❖ While rural households potentially stand to gain more from the policies and programmes, they need support in order to gain from them as they lack the capacity to orient their production towards the market, confining them to subsistence agriculture;
- ❖ Presence of agricultural markets was found as crucial for both commercialisation and household nutrition, reinforcing the need to develop more such infrastructure.

Conclusion

Overall, commercialization generally presented negative effects on nutrition. In addition, nutrient intake was found to depend on several pathways such as the amount of resources available, the choice of what is produced, presence of markets as well as how decisions concerning production and consumption are made. It is thus important to understand first, the socioeconomic and cultural setting before identifying the channels for impact.