



Green Economic Recovery: Uganda's Perspective

INFO NOTE: UGANDA

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Context:

In 2020, East Africa faced triple crises of COVID-19, the largest locust outbreak in 70 years and floods with record high water levels in Lake Victoria in 170 years. In addition, and in particular, Uganda remains the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa (with over a million refugees) which further exacerbates the situation especially in light of the already strained resources. The situation is only likely to worsen in view of the second wave of COVID 19 that is currently ravaging the country and that has led to a total lock down. Risk has therefore become systemic and produces multiple, intersecting and complex hardships i.e. the COVID 19 crisis, the Economic crisis - threatening jobs worldwide & poverty reduction gains; and the all-time climate crisis – exacerbating the others

Rationale of Greening the recovery

The huge overlap between the pandemic and climate-related disasters has pointed to the need for a multi-layered response, especially in light of the compounded vulnerability faced by communities in developing countries. 2020 showed, more starkly than ever, that crises do not happen in siloes and that we cannot deal with them singly or in isolation. Just like with any other crisis, the pandemic has presented an opportunity to integrate resilience at the core of macroeconomic fundamentals so as to advance a truly green and resilient economy. It is therefore crucial for recovery packages to be anchored in low carbon development pathways as they have potential to deliver on both economic recovery and climate action.

What is green recovery?

Green recovery is a widely used term for packages of measures which address the social, economic and political consequences of the COVID-19 crisis in a way that sets a course for long-term structural reforms and a transformative shift towards sustainability, biodiversity protection, resilience and climate neutrality.

Why Green Recovery?

A green recovery approach from COVID-19 is critical in: safeguarding against future pandemics; reversing climate change; boosting economic growth, strengthening social cohesion and accelerating the transition towards climate neutrality more effectively than carbon-intensive recovery measures. In addition a green recovery will be vital for making progress on international, national and local agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The Context - Multiple Crises

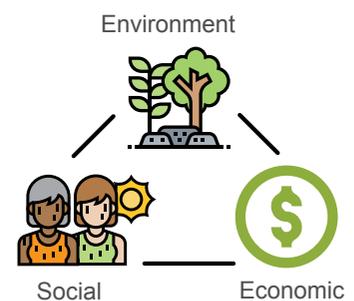
Amidst COVID-19, Uganda also witnessed the largest locust outbreak in 70 years and floods with record high water levels in Lake Victoria in 170 years.

Greening Recovery

Recovery approaches need to be anchored in low carbon development pathways for sustainable economic recovery and climate action.

The importance of Green Recovery

This approach focuses on safe guarding against future pandemics , reversing climate change and boosting economic growth



How do we do green recovery?



Alignment with existing policies



Economic, Monetary and Fiscal Tools



Just transition & Employment



Nature based solutions



Sustainable Urban Development



Financing

Who does green recovery? State and Non - State actors (Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Non-Governmental organizations, Development Partners, Academia, Religious and Cultural leaders, Media)

Greening Uganda's Recovery: Where is Uganda at?

Aligning policies	Economic monetary and fiscal tools	Just transition and employment	Nature based Solutions	Local action and sustainable urban development	International cooperation and financing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDG Business Strategy - The Climate Change Act was enacted in 2021 - National Development Plan III - Uganda's draft NDC - Green Growth Development Strategy (GGDS) - The Uganda Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management - Uganda's COVID-19 recovery plan - Public Finance Management Act 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2017-2022 - Green fiscal and monetary policy: - Pricing carbon - Green sectoral policy plan: - Small business support: - Carbon budgeting - Clean Energy Policy - National Green Jobs Strategy is being developed - The Recovery plan includes: Microfinance Recovery Fund and credit facilities - Removal of Value Added Tax (VAT) on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanding labour intensive public works in urban and peri-urban areas - Providing seed capital to Youth Fund, Women Entrepreneurship Fund and the 'Emyooga' Talent Support scheme - Providing relief aid - Social Assistance Grant for the Elderly (SAGE)- - Plastic Recycling: Masks for inclusivity: COVID Masks for hearing impaired people are being made from Uganda's mountains of plastic waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature based solutions - The stimulus package: provision of improved agricultural inputs and upscaling agriculture extension services - Readiness Review for the 2030 Agenda - Natural Capital Accounting Programme - Nature based fiscal reform: the National Environment Act 2019 includes the use of fiscal and tax instruments to preserve the environment and natural resources - GCF Project on Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda - The European Union (EU) and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) funds for IUCN biodiversity conservation covering an area of 1,625 Hectares; 53,268 trees and 328 tree species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Urban Climate Change Profile 2018 - Climate Change Mainstreaming Guidelines in the Lands, Housing and Urban Development 2019 - Kampala Climate Change Action Strategy 2016 - has greening the economy as one of its focus areas: - Green Circular Economy: Developed an urban agricultural map with a focus on mushroom and vegetable farming in urban areas. - An online green services platform for linkages between certified organic farmers and buyers. The Local Governments (Kampala City Council) (Urban Agriculture) Ordinance, 2006 further creates an enabling environment. - Urban Forestry Management Plan covering an area of 1,625 Hectares; 53,268 trees and 328 tree species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uganda is updating its NDC and also developing its Long-Term Strategy (LTS) on climate change - Benefitting from the NDC Partnership having been the first African country to come up with a National NDC partnership Plan - Supporting the off-grid solar and cook stove sectors to survive the COVID-19 crisis and increase resilience.