



NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, LAND AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Annual Budget Monitoring Report

Financial Year 2023/24

October 2024

Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
ACRONYMS	iv
FOREWORD	viii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	ix
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Programme	1
1.3 Programme Goal	2
1.4 Programme Objectives	2
1.5 Programme Outcomes	2
CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY	3
2.1 Scope	3
2.2 Approach and Sampling Methods	3
2.3 Data Collection and Analysis	3
2.4 Limitations	5
2.5 Structure of the Report	5
CHAPTER 3: PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE	6
3.1 Overall Programme Performance	6
3.2 Water Resources Management Sub-Programme	9
3.2.1 Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at catchment level:	10
3.2.2 Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels	22
3.3 Environment and Natural Resources Management Sub-programme Introduction	24
3.3.1 Strengthen conservation, restoration of forests, wetlands and water catchments and hilly and mountainous areas	27
3.3.2 Increase investment in value addition to environment and natural resources products and services	34
3.3.3 Mainstream environment and natural resources management in policies, programmes and budgets with clear budget lines and performance indicators	35
3.3.4 Increase funding for promoting non-consumptive uses of the natural resources	35



3.3.5 Develop and implement a framework that reduces adverse per capita environmental impact of cities (air quality and waste management practices)	36
3.3.6 Undertake applied research and innovation on sustainable consumption and production to ensure resource use efficiency to reduce domestic material consumption per	38
3.3.7 Enhance access and uptake of meteorological information	38
3.3.8 Install new and adequately equip and maintain existing automatic weather stations to ensure maximum usage	38
3.3.9 Support local community-based eco-tourism activities for areas that are rich in biodiversity or have attractive cultural heritage site	39
3.3.10 Integrate education for sustainable development in national curricula at all levels for an environmentally literate citizenry	39
3.3.11 Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels	40
3.3.12 Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use natural resources and mitigate disaster	41
3.4 Land Management Sub-programme	42
3.4.1 Fast-track the formulation, review, harmonization, and implementation of land laws, policies regulations, standards and guidelines	44
3.4.2 Strengthen the capacity of land management institutions in executing their mandate geared towards securing land rights	44
3.4.3 Promote land consolidation, titling, and banking	45
3.4.4 Complete the rollout and integration of the Land Management Information System with other systems	45
3.4.5 Promote tenure security including women's access to land	46
3.4.6 Capitalize the Land Fund to ensure access to land by lawful and bona fide occupants ..	46
3.4.7 Develop and implement a Land Valuation Management Information System (LAVMIS)	46
3.4.8 Undertake a comprehensive inventory of Government land	47
3.4.9 Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at catchment level	47
CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	49
4.1 Programme Conclusion	49
4.2 Overall Challenges	49
4.3 Recommendations	50
REFERENCES	51
ANNEXES	52



Annex 1: Monitored Interventions under the NRECCLWM Programme FY2023/24.....	52
Annex 2: Performance of the Water Resources Management Sub Programme by 30 th June 2024.....	53
Annex 3: Performance of the Environment and Natural Resources Sub Programme by 30 th June 2024	56
Annex 4: Performance of the Land Management Sub-Programme by 30 th June 2024	63



ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
ALC	Area Land Committees
bn	Billion
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
CCD	Climate Change Department
CCOs	Certificates of Customary Ownership
CCRC	Climate Change Research Consortium
CFRs	Central Forest Reserves
CLAs	Communal Land Associations
CMCs	Catchment Management Committees
CMPs	Catchment Management Plans
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
CORS	Continuously Operating Reference Stations
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
DLB	District Land Boards
DLGs	District Local Governments
DLO	District Land Officer
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project
EBA	European Banking Authority
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources Management
EPF	Environmental Police Force
EPPU	Environment Police Protection Unit
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
ESIA	Environment and Social Impact Assessments
EU	European Union
EURECCCA	Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through Catchment-based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources
FFS	Farmer Field School
FMPs	Forest Management Plans
FSSD	Forestry Support Services Department
FY	Financial Year
GHG	Green House Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System.
GPS	Global Positioning System
GW	Ground Water
Ha	Hectares
ICRP	Irrigation for Climate Resilience Project



ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IEC	Information Education Communication
IFMS	Integrated Financial Management Systems
IFPCD	Investing in Forest and Protected Areas for Climate Smart Development Project
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
INRM	Integrated Natural Resources Management
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
ISO	International Standards Organisation
IUEA	International University of East Africa
IWRDMP	Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Plan
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
Km	Kilometres
KTB	Kenya Top Bar
LAVMIS	Land Valuation Management Information System
LFRs	Lateral Force Resisting System
LIS	Land Information System
LM	Land Management
LTS	Long-Term Climate Strategy
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
METARS	Meteorological Aerodrome Report
MFPEd	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MLHUD	Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPP	Multi-Purpose Project
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MUCCRI	Makerere University Center for Climate Change and Innovation
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
MZOs	Ministry Zonal Offices
NAP EXPO	National Action Plan Exposition
NAPHS	National Action Plan for Health Security
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDPIII	The Third National Development Plan
NEAP	National Environment Action Plan
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization



NIRA	National Identification and Registration Authority
NITA-U	National Information Technology Authority
NLIS	National Land Information System
NRECCCLWM	Natural Resources Environment Climate Change, Land and Water Management Programme
NSOER	National State of Environment Report
NTR	Non Tax Revenue
NWQRL	National Water Quality Monitoring Reference Laboratory
OAG	Office of the Auditor General
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PBS	Parish Physical Development Plans
PNFs	Parallel Network File System
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
Q4	Quarter Four
RCMRD	Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
RECP	Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production
RED	Reducing Environment Degradation
RIA	Regulatory Impact Assessment
SACRIAC	Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity and Resilience of Communities in Uganda's watersheds
SADCAS	Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLAAC	Systematic Land Adjudication and Certification
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SMC	Sound Management of Chemicals
SW	Surface Water
ToR	Terms of Reference
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
Ug shs	Uganda Shillings
UgNLIS	Uganda National Land Information System
UIA	Uganda Investment Authority
ULC	Uganda Land Commission
UMA	Uganda Manufacturers Association
UMU	Uganda Martyrs University
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMA	Uganda National Meteorological Authority
URA	Uganda Revenue Authority
URSB	Uganda Registration Services Bureau
USD	United States Dollar
UWEEK	Uganda Water and Environment Week



VAT	Value Added Tax
VWMZ	Victoria Water Management Zone
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WECs	Water and Environment Cooperative Societies
WED	World Environment Day
WEIS II	Water and Environment Information System
WIS II	Water Information System Phase II
WMD	Wetlands Management Department
WRM	Water Resources Management
WRMZs	Water Resources Management Zones



FOREWORD

At the start of the Financial Year 2023/24, the Government of Uganda outlined strategies to restore the economy back to the medium -term growth path and improve competitiveness. The strategic interventions that were prioritized under various programmes included: roads under Integrated Transport; electricity under the Sustainable Energy Development; irrigation under Agro-Industrialization; Industrial parks under Manufacturing; support to medical schools and science-based research and development under Human Capital Development; as well as oil and gas among others.

Annual programme assessments have been made, and it has been established that performance was fairly good. This implies that programmes are on track, but with a lot of improvements required. To that effect, I urge you to critically review the findings of the performance reports with a view to improving effectiveness in implementation of activities going forward. These monitoring findings form a very important building block upon which programmes can commence the reflective exercises.

The government has embarked on the 10-fold growth strategy that demands for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness within programmes. We cannot afford to have fair performance scores hence forth, as this will jeopardize the prospects of doubling the economic growth rates in the medium term.

Ramathan Ggoobi

Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Treasury



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land, and Water Management (NRECCLWM) Programme supports the NDPIII objective of “Enhancing Value Addition in Key Growth Opportunities.” Its main focus is to reverse the degradation of the environment and natural resources, ensure the availability of sufficient water resources for national development, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and promote effective land management.

The programme's objectives are achieved through three subprogrammes: Water Resources Management (WRM), Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM), and Land Management (LM).

This Annual Monitoring Report presents findings from tracking the execution of the NRECCLWM Programme budget for the period from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024. The performance measurement is based on budget commitments and the NDPIII targets for the same fiscal year.

Overall Programme Performance

Financial Performance

The total approved budget for the NRECCLWM Programme for the Financial Year (FY) 2023/24 was Ug shs 497.186 billion (bn), reflecting a nominal increase of Ug shs 39 bn from Ug shs 457.89 bn in FY 2022/23. The annual release amounted to Ug shs 360.75 bn, which is 96% of the budget, with Ug shs 206.7 bn (57%) spent by 30th June 2024. This marks a commendable release and fair expenditure performance. However, the Lands Management sub programme had the lowest spending rate at 37%, followed by the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) sub-programme at 56%.

Several factors contributed to the under-expenditure, including delays in executing contracts under the Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project (CEDP) due to prolonged approval and clearance processes by the World Bank. Other reasons included an incomplete procurement process caused by late initiation, unspent salary balances due to delayed staff recruitment, delayed payments within the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS), and late submission of invoices by contractors.

Performance Highlights

The overall performance of the Programme was rated at 73%, indicating that it is moderately on track to achieve several targets and objectives outlined in the NDPIII. The Water Resources Management sector performed well with a rating of 77%. The Environment and Natural Resources Management received a fair performance rating of 68%, while the Lands Management sub-programmes scored 74%.

The NDP III sets goals for forest and wetland coverage at 15% and 12%, respectively. Restoration efforts for wetlands and forests include demarcation, formal gazettement, evicting encroachers, and replanting in encroached areas. Additionally, the government aims to prioritize climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. These efforts include: increasing forest and wetland coverage, restoring and protecting hilly and mountainous areas as well as rangelands; strengthening land use



and management practices; maintaining a clean, healthy, and productive environment; and promoting inclusive, climate-resilient, low-emission development at all levels.

To achieve these objectives, the Programme is committed to increasing national forest cover from 12.4% to 15%, surpassing the NDP III target of 13.9%, and to raising wetland coverage to 9% in FY2023-24. Specifically, the goal is to restore 850 square kilometres of wetlands and forests and to protect 6,200 kilometres of the boundaries of Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) from encroachment through re-surveying and demarcation.

By the end of FY2023/24, the Programme's overall performance remained good at 73%. This success can be attributed to several factors, including off-budget support for wetland restoration through the Green Climate Fund Project (GCF), external financing for forest restoration activities via the Investing in Forest and Protected Areas for Climate Smart Development Project (IFPA-CD), and the supply of seedlings from UNHCR and Irish AID. Additionally, regular monitoring of water quality and quantity benefited from a newly acquired water quality monitoring vessel.

However, there were some instances of underperformance, primarily due to slow procurement processes related to delayed World Bank grant of *No Objection*, intermittent issues with the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS), late invoices from suppliers and contractors, and poor planning in certain activities that did not contribute meaningfully to the PIAP outputs/interventions.

Despite these challenges, progress was made in forest and wetland coverage, reaching 12.2% and 9.3%, respectively. In Lands Management, the percentage of titled land increased to 30%, achieving 86% of the targeted 35%. However, the turnaround time for land processing remained at 15 days, which is longer than the 7-day target. The programme's achievements are detailed further across different sub-programmes.

Water Resources Management Sub-Programme

The developed Water Information System Phase III was successfully implemented in the Victoria, Upper Nile, Kyoga, and Albert Water Management Zones (WMZs). Additionally, the National Water Quality Management database was upgraded to a web-based system, and 55,296 hydrological data records were archived. The four regional laboratories were operated and maintained; however, the Quarterly National Water Quality Status Reports were not prepared. Three Catchment Management Plans (CMPs) for Nyamugasani and Kafu were developed to 95% completion.

Water quality monitoring was conducted at the National Water Quality Reference Laboratory (NWQRL) and the four regional laboratories in Mbarara, Mbale, Lira, and Fort Portal. The laboratories generated Ug shs 610 million at the NWQRL alone. However, some parameters, including heavy metals (iron, lead, cadmium, arsenic, and mercury), total iron in water, and oil and grease in water, could not be tested in the regional laboratories due to lack of equipment. Samples for these tests were sent to the NWQRL in Entebbe.

A water quality vessel was shipped to dock temporarily at the Pier in Jinja and became operational. The construction of the NWQRL reached 50% completion, surpassing the targeted 40%. The outstanding payments for raised certificates were critical since the contractor threatened to impose interest.



In total, 2,009 water samples were analyzed for compliance with drinking water standards at the point of collection. The compliance rates for piped water systems were 75.9% in urban areas and 60.15% in rural areas. The results indicated that a significant rural population continues to be exposed to unsafe water supplies, especially during the rainy season when water quality deteriorates.

The analysis of 14,249 wastewater and environmental samples in both NWQRL and regional laboratories showed 68% compliance with wastewater discharge standards. Specifically, there was a 75% compliance level for Total Nitrogen (TN), 44.4% for Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), 62.9% for Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and 82.9% for Total Phosphorus. Lower compliance levels pose a greater threat to water resources and aquatic life. For example, low COD compliance can lead to reduced oxygen levels in water, potentially resulting in fish deaths.

To ensure effective water quality management, 27 Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for water resource-related projects were reviewed, and comments were sent to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). Seven Environmental Audits were conducted, achieving 70% of the target against a goal of 90%. A total of 540 permit holders were monitored for compliance with permit conditions, achieving an 88% compliance rate. Additionally, 429 Water Abstraction Permits were issued (comprising 257 new permits and 172 renewals). The 88 surface water manual stations and 30 groundwater manual stations were operated and maintained, along with 13 surface water telemetry stations and 10 groundwater telemetry stations. Data collected from these stations were transmitted for planning and reporting purposes.

Efforts to protect and restore degraded water catchments were implemented through various catchment management measures/plans (CMM/CMP). The CMPs for Nyamugasani and Kafu were developed to 95% completion, while development for CMPs for Sezibwa and Okweng were at 65%, and behind schedule due to payment delays. Restoration efforts on degraded lands, wetlands, and riverbanks were undertaken, and alternative income-generating activities (IGAs) were introduced. For instance, the sub-catchment plan for Ayila-Abong was implemented in 2021.

The buffer zone along the Ayila River was marked with stone markers, and the community was supported in beekeeping. Two groups were provided with 40 beehives, distributed in Pakwach and Nebbi districts. Additionally, emergency flood mitigation works along the Nyamwamba River in Kasese district were completed.

Environment and Natural Resources Sub-Programme

To enhance coordination and monitoring, consultancy services to expand the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for Waste and Transport sub-sectors were ongoing, with average annual GHG emissions increasing by 1.27%, above the targeted 1.15%. The MWE participated in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

To bolster environmental management, NEMA finalized and gazetted three key regulations: i) Management of Hazardous Chemicals, ii) Air Quality Standards, and iii) Environment Protection Force Regulations. The National Land Policy review commenced alongside the draft of the Land Resettlement policy.



Meteorological information accuracy reached 70%, below the 90% target. Two seasonal climate outlooks were issued, and weather data was collected from 88 Automatic Weather Stations. A total of 57,163 METARs and 84 marine forecasts for Lake Victoria were disseminated.

By June 2024, wetland area increased to 9.3%, with 25 district wetland maps and 183.3km of wetlands demarcated. About 8,102.78ha of wetland were restored.

In forest conservation, 6,025ha of the annual 10,000ha target were restored, while 519.3km of Forest Reserve boundaries were marked. A total of 14,724,110 assorted tree seedlings were supplied, and 146 modern forest management equipment were procured.

Key compliance issues included dumping and encroachment. The EPF conducted restoration of 1,526 hectares of the Lubigi wetland system, while 2,566 Environmental Impact Assessments were reviewed, alongside 125 court attendances for litigation related to environmental issues.

Land Management Sub-Programme

The draft for the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Policy was completed, and the review of the National Land Policy (NLP) commenced. To enhance land management, 46,390 valuation assessments and inspections were conducted across 22 Ministry Zonal Offices (MZOs). Additionally, 176,569 land conveyances, including mortgages, caveats, and transfers, were processed.

The automation of the Land Information System (LIS) was 78% complete, and training was provided to users from the MZOs in Mbale, Moroto, Soroti, and Tororo. The LIS was maintained in all 22 MZOs and other LIS sites.

In efforts to promote land consolidation, titling, and banking, 30% of the land was titled against a target of 35%. A total of 49,743 land titles were issued to both men and women. Furthermore, 1,410 certificates of title were granted to lawful and bonafide occupants in the Buwekula county-Mubende district.

Overall, 2,372.71 hectares of land were acquired through compensation to absentee landlords, ensuring the security of lawful and bonafide occupants in Buganda, Bunyoro, Ankole, and Toro, including females, males, persons with disabilities (PWDs), youths, and companies. There were 1,092 lease transactions: 885 were approved (513 for companies, 274 for males, and 98 for females), while 163 were deferred, and 44 were rejected.

To complete the rollout and integration of the Land Management Information System with other systems, the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development (MLHUD) scanned the old National Atlas for revision, geo-referenced 82 sheets, digitized 40 pages, and collected data for 8 maps of the National Atlas for revision.

A total of 27 topographic maps for three districts—Napak, Moroto, and Namisindwa—were revised, updated, and disseminated. The Government Cadastral Data Inventory and consolidation were completed for Mawokota and Gomba counties both under Mpigi MZO. 18 kilometres of two inter-district boundaries in Kyaka were affirmed to reduce border disputes and protect the fragile ecosystem.

Approximately 65,128 property valuations were conducted, and national valuation standards and guidelines were developed. Additionally, 213 land acquisitions for government development projects were supervised, and compensation rates for 14 districts/cities were reviewed and approved.



Programme challenges

1. Impunity is widespread as individuals blatantly encroach on forests and wetlands, illegally seize land, and corruptly obtain titles, demonstrating a flagrant disregard for the law.
2. Illegal titles for forest reserves and wetlands are exacerbated by political interference, which encourages further encroachment and results in numerous unresolved court cases.
3. The persistent underfunding of land management in natural resources perpetuates unresolved land conflicts and obstructs timely project and infrastructure development.
4. The alarming low absorption of released funds stems from delays in disbursements and procurement processes, including sluggish approvals from the World Bank and delayed Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs).
5. Weak collaboration among sub-program implementers is unacceptable; it leads to unnecessary duplication of efforts and waste of valuable resources.
6. The limited integration of the Programme Implementation Action Plan (PIAP) into annual budgets must be rectified to ensure that the programme achieves the set objectives effectively.

Conclusion

The NRECCLWM programme performance was rated as good at 73%. However, only 57% of the released funds were spent which was fair financial performance. Some efforts were made towards the natural resource protection, restoration and management by both government and other agencies to achieve the set targets in the FY.

Compliance to drinking water quality standards was at 77%, while accuracy of meteorological information was at 75% against the 90% target. The forest cover was at 12 compared to 13.3% in the previous FY and the NDP III target of 15%. The wetlands increased by 0.1% from 8.9% to 9.3% though below the targeted of 12%.

Illegal land titles, land claims and court injunctions continue to affect the government's desired objective of reversing environment and natural resource degradation. Land titling increased to 30% from 22.4% although it still took an average of 15 days to get a land title as it was in the previous FY in spite of the 7 days' target. Generally, the programme was a paltry 40% on track to meet the NDPIII targets with just a year remaining.

Recommendations

1. The MWE/NEMA should strengthen their institutions' capacity to enforce laws, regulations and policies protecting forest land. The institutions should prosecute individuals and companies engaging in illegal forest/wetland encroachment activities.
2. The Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development should speed up the process of cancellation of illegal titles in both wetlands and forest reserves.
3. The Programme Working Group should prioritize land management funding in the programme budgets and allocate a dedicated budget for land acquisition, conflict resolution, and sustainable land use planning, to ensure secure and equitable access to land for projects and infrastructure development.
4. The MFPED and MDAs should focus on removing bottlenecks to timely release and absorption of funds to investment ready interventions in order to ensure timely initiation of procurements to avoid delays in implementation.



5. The MWE and its agencies should enhance intra-programme collaboration and synergy, prioritize resource allocation, and focus on core activities to avoid duplication and waste of resources.
6. The MWE and implementing agencies should allocate resources to prioritized PIAP commitments into their annual work plans.





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The mission of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED) is, “*To formulate sound economic policies, maximise revenue mobilisation, and ensure efficient allocation and accountability for public resources so as to achieve the most rapid and sustainable economic growth and development.*”

The MFPED through its Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU) tracks implementation of programmes/projects by observing how values of different financial and physical indicators change over time against stated goals, indicators and targets (how things are working). The BMAU work is aligned to budget execution, accountability, service delivery, and implementation of the Domestic Revenue Mobilisation Strategy (DRMS).

Starting FY 2022/23, the BMAU is undertaking Programme-Based Monitoring to assess performance against targets and outcomes in the Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs)/Ministerial Policy Statement. Semi-Annual and Annual field monitoring of government programmes and projects is undertaken to verify receipt and application of funds by the user entities and beneficiaries, the outputs and intermediate outcomes achieved, and level of gender and equity compliance in the budget execution processes. The monitoring also reviews the coherency in implementing the PIAP interventions; the level of cohesion between sub-programmes; and challenges of implementation.

The monitoring covered the following programmes: Agro-Industrialisation; Community Mobilisation and Mindset Change; Digital Transformation; Human Capital Development; Innovation, Technology Development and Transfer; Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services; Manufacturing; Mineral Development; Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management; Public Sector Transformation; Regional Development; Sustainable Development of Petroleum Resources; and Sustainable Energy Development.

This report presents findings from the annual monitoring of the Natural Resource, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management (NRECCLWM) programme for FY2023-24.

1.2 Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Programme

The NRECCLWM Programme contributes to the NDPIII objective of “*Enhancing Value Addition in Key Growth Opportunities*”. The programme focuses on reversing environment and natural resource degradation, ensuring availability of adequate water resources for national development, containing the effects of climate change and fostering effective land management. The programme was delivered through three sub-programmes namely: (i) Water Resources Management (WRM), (ii) Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENR), and (iii) Land Management.

The lead agency for this programme is the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), while the other partner MDAs are: National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA), National Forestry Authority (NFA), Local Governments (LGs), Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and Uganda Land Commission (ULC).



1.3 Programme Goal

The programme goal is to reduce environmental degradation and the adverse effects of climate change as well as improve utilisation of natural resources for sustainable economic growth and livelihood security.

1.4 Programme Objectives

The programme objectives are to: (i) Ensure availability of adequate and reliable quality freshwater resources for all uses; (ii) Increase forest, tree and wetland coverage and restore and protect hilly and mountainous areas and rangelands; (iii) Strengthen land use and management; (iv) Maintain and/or restore a clean, healthy, and productive environment; (v) Promote inclusive climate resilient and low emissions development at all levels; (vi) Reduce human and economic loss from natural hazards and disasters; and (vii) Increase incomes and employment through sustainable use and value addition to water, forests and other natural resources.

1.5 Programme Outcomes

The programme outcomes over the NDP III period are: Increased compliance to all water permit conditions; Enhanced water resources management; increased land area covered by forests and wetlands; High compliance to environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) condition by developers; and improved air quality in cities.

Others are: Climate change responsive development pathway established; Reliable and accurate meteorological information provided; Reduced human and economic loss from natural hazards and disaster, increased titled land; and reduction in land conflicts.



CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope

This report is based on selected interventions in the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management (NRECCLWM) Programme by 30th June 2024, based on three sub-programmes of: i) Water Resources Management, ii) Environment and Natural Resources Management and iii) Land Management.

The monitoring covered interventions implemented during the FY2023-24 (1st July 2023-30th June 2024). The interventions reviewed under the three sub-programmes are listed in *Annex 1*.

Monitoring involved analysis and tracking of inputs, activities, processes, outputs and in some instances intermediate outcomes as identified in the Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs), Ministerial Policy Statements and Annual and Quarterly work plans, progress and performance reports of MDAs.

The selection of interventions to monitor was based on the following criteria:

- 1) Significant contribution to the programme objectives and national priorities.
- 2) Level of investment, interventions that had a large volume of funds allocated were prioritized.
- 3) Planned outputs whose implementation commenced in the year of review, whether directly financed or not. In some instances, multiyear investments or rolled over projects were prioritized.
- 4) Completed projects to assess beneficiary satisfaction, value for money and intermediate outcomes.

2.2 Approach and Sampling Methods

Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used in the monitoring exercise. Physical performance of interventions, planned outputs and intermediate outcomes were assessed through monitoring a range of indicators. The progress reported was linked to the reported expenditure and physical performance.

A combination of random and purposive sampling was used in selecting sub-interventions and outputs from the Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs), Ministerial Policy Statements (MPS) and progress reports of the respective Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs) and (MDAs) for monitoring.

To aid mapping of PIAP interventions against annual planned targets stated in the Vote MPS and quarterly work plans, a multi-stage sampling was undertaken at three levels: i) Sub-programmes ii) Local governments, and iii) Project beneficiaries. The selection of districts and facilities considered regional representativeness.

2.3 Data Collection and Analysis

Data Collection

The monitoring team employed both primary and secondary data collection methods. Secondary data collection methods included;



- i) Literature review from key policy documents including, Ministerial Policy Statements(MPS) FY2023-24; National and Programme Budget Framework Papers; A handbook for implementation of NDPIII Gender and Equity commitments, Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs), (NDP III), quarterly progress reports and work plans for the respective implementing agencies, Quarterly Performance Reports, Budget Speech, Public Investment Plans, Approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, project reports, strategic plans, policy documents, Aide Memoires and Evaluation Reports for selected programmes/projects.
- ii) Review and analysis of data from the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS); Programme Budgeting System (PBS); Budget Portal; Quarterly Performance Reports.

Primary data collection methods on the other hand included;

- iii) Consultations and key informant interviews with Institutional heads, project/intervention managers, Service providers (National Water and Sewerage Corporation; Umbrella Organisations), and service beneficiaries at various implementation levels. Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were also held in instances of group beneficiaries.
- iv) Field visits to various districts, for primary data collection, observation and photography.
- v) Call-back in some cases were made to triangulate information.

Data analysis

The data was analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Qualitative data was examined and classified in terms of constructs, themes or patterns to explain events among the beneficiaries (interpretation analysis) and reflective analysis where the monitoring teams provided an objective interpretation of the field events. Quantitative data on the other hand was analyzed using advanced excel tools that aided interpretation.

Comparative analyses were done using percentages, averages, and cross tabulations of the outputs/interventions; intermediate outcome indicators and the overall scores. Performance of outputs/interventions and intermediate outcome indicators was rated in percentages according to level of achievement against the annual targets. The sub-programme score was determined as the weighted aggregate of the average percentage ratings for the output/intermediate outcomes in the ratio of 65%:35% respectively.

The overall programme performance is an average of individual sub-programme scores assessed. The performance of the programme and sub-programme was rated on the basis of the criterion in **Table 2.1**. Based on the rating assigned, a BMAU color coded system was used to alert the policy makers and implementers on whether the interventions were achieved or had very good performance (Green), or good performance (yellow), fair performance (light gold) and poor performance (Red) to aid decision making.

**Table 2.1: Assessment Guide to Measure Performance in FY2023-24**

Score	Performance Rating	Comment
90% and above		Very Good (Achieved at least 90% of outputs and outcomes)
70%-89%		Good (Achieved at least 70% of outputs and outcomes)
50%- 69%		Fair (Achieved at least 50% of outputs and outcomes)
49% and below		Poor (Achieved below 50% of outputs and outcomes)

Source: Author's compilation

Ethical considerations

Entry meetings were undertaken with the Permanent Secretaries/and Accounting Officers or delegated Officers upon commencement of the monitoring exercises. Consent was sought from all respondents including programme or project beneficiaries. All information obtained during the budget monitoring exercise was treated with a high degree of confidentiality and only used in policy making and improving service delivery.

2. 4 Limitations

1. Lack of reliable and real time financial data on donor financing which was not accessible on the IFMS.
2. Lack of disaggregated financial information for specific outputs.
3. Repetitive interventions/outputs/activities across the different interventions which made it difficult to match finances under the respective interventions. This may lead to overstating or understating performance.
4. The outcome indicator performance was provided by the PWG with no supporting datasets and could be over stated

2.5 Structure of the Report

The report is structured into four chapters. These are: Introduction, Methodology, Programme Performance, Conclusion and Recommendations respectively.

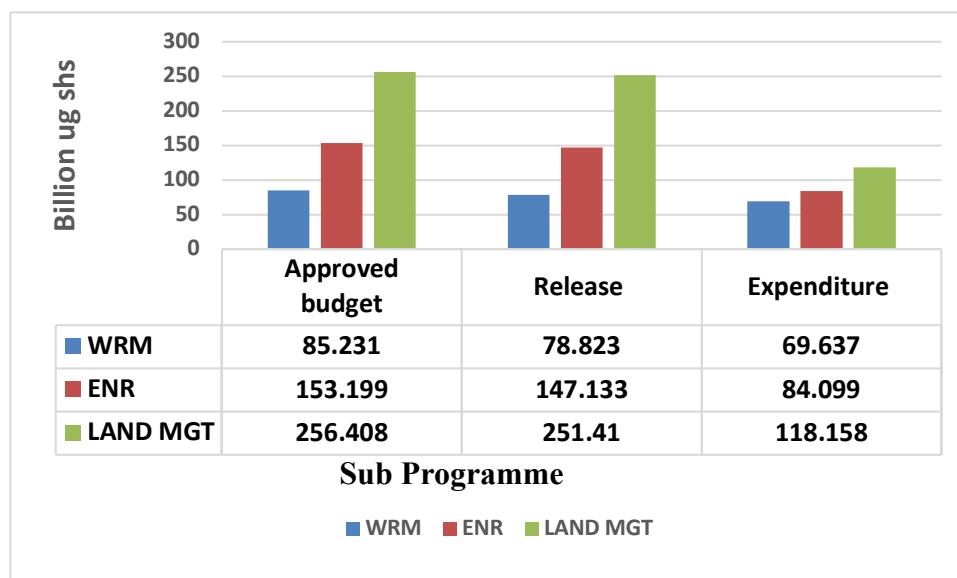
CHAPTER 3: PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

3.1 Overall Programme Performance

Financial performance

The total approved budget for the Natural Resources Environment Climate Change, Land and Water Management Programme for FY2023-24 was Ug shs 497.186 billion (bn), of which Ug shs 480.337bn (96%) was released and Ug shs 275.271bn (57%) expended by 30th June 2024. This was good release and fair expenditure performance. The lowest expenditure was under the Land Management sub programme at 37%, followed by ENR (59%) and WRM (88%). Under expenditures were mainly under the external financing caused by delayed procurement and delay in recruitment yet funds for salaries had been provided. The detailed financial performance is in Figure1.

Figure1: Financial performance for the Natural Resources Environment Climate Change Land and Water Management Programme for FY2023-24 (in billion Ug shs)



Source: Approved Budget Estimates, IFMS, Vote Work Plans, and Q4 Performance Reports*Figure 1 excludes KCCA

Physical performance

The overall physical programme performance was good at 73%. The performance of each of the three sub-programmes was as follows: The WRM performance score was 77%, ENRM 68%, while for LM had 74%. The general performance of the different Sub-programmes is reflected in Table 3.1. The completed Water Information System Phase II (WIS II) was rolled out at the center and in the four regions. Water samples from drinking water sources were at different compliance levels. Whereas rural was at 60%, for urban it was 75%. The wastewater compliance was at 75%.



The Catchment Management Plans for Nyamugasani and Kafu development was completed and catchment management activities implemented. A total of 424 permit holders were monitored while 96 new applicants qualified for issuance; A total of 227 illegal water abstractors and waste water dischargers were identified. Overall, 2,182 Environmental Audits were assessed and reviewed. No forestry management plans were completed.

A total of 6,025ha of degraded Central Forest Reserve (CFRs) were freed from encroachment; 4,817ha restored and 519.3kms of forest boundary surveyed and marked with pillars. A total of 546ha of plantations were established by NFA and 56,851 by licensed tree planters. A total of 467.75kms of wetlands were demarcated with pillars and 8,102.78ha of the degraded wetlands restored countrywide. A total of 49,743 land titles were processed and issued to both men and women while 507 land titles in fragile ecosystems (wetlands and forest reserves) were cancelled.

Table 3.1: The NRECCLWM Programme Performance by 30th June 2024

Sub-program	Performance Rating	Remark
Water Resources Management	77	Good Performance
Environment and Natural Resources Management	68	Fair performance
Land Management	74	Good Performance
Overall programme performance	73	Good Performance

Source: Authors' Compilation

Performance of outcome indicators

The overall programme performance in terms of intermediate outcome achievement ranged from fair to good with 20% of them achieving their targets. The two indicators i.e. Percentage of Land Area covered by wetlands and Average Annual change in Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions (MtCO₂e) achieved the annual targets. However, the rest (80%) did not achieve the targets but were on track, save for turnaround time for land title acquisition which was operating at less than 50% of the target (15 days against the target of 7 days). The non-achievement of the set targets was caused by inadequate planning with duplication of activities that do not contribute to the outputs and intermediate outcomes.

The challenge of staffing under the Lands Management both at the center and in the 22 Regional MZOs affects the time taken to provide land titles. General delays in procurements and the need to obtain a 'no objection' from the World Bank hindered progress of the works. The outcome indicator performance is highlighted in Table 3.2 below.


Table 3.2 Performance of Annual Planned Outcome indicators by 30th June 2024

Outcomes	Indicators	Target FY2023-24	Achieved FY2023-24	Remarks
Water Resources Management sub programme				
Increased Compliance to all water permit conditions.	Compliance to abstraction permit conditions (%) - ground water	80%	78.7%	Not Achieved
	Compliance to abstraction permit conditions (%) - surface water	80.5%	78.6%	Not Achieved
	Compliance to wastewater discharge permit conditions (%)	67%	66%	Not Achieved
Environment and Natural Resources sub programme				
Increased land area covered by forests and Wetlands	Percentage of Land Area covered by forests	13.9	12	Not Achieved
	Percentage of Land Area covered by wetlands	9	9.3	Achieved
High Compliance to Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Condition by Developers.	Percentage change in permit holders complying with ESIA conditions at the time of spot check.	80	70	Not Achieved
Climate Change Responsive Development Pathway.	Air Quality Index PM2.5	145	111	Achieved
	Average Annual change in Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions (MtCO ₂ e).	1.07	1.07	Achieved
Reliable and Accurate Meteorological Information	Percentage Change in the Accuracy of Meteorological Information.	80	75	Not Achieved
	Percentage automation of weather and climate networks.	70	69	Not Achieved
Land Management Sub programme				
Increased titled land.	Titled land as a percentage of total land owned	35	30	Not Achieved
	Turnaround time for titling of land (days)	7	15	Not Achieved

Source: PBS Quarter four reports for FY2023/24 and Programme Documents



3.2 Water Resources Management Sub-Programme

Introduction

The Water Resources Management Sub-programme objective is to: ensure availability of adequate and reliable quality freshwater resources for all uses. The sub-programme has two interventions that were monitored. These are; i) *improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at the catchment level* and ii) *Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels*.

The sub programme NDP III targets are to increase water permit holders complying with permit conditions at the time of spot check for ground water from 80% surface water to 80.5% and waste water discharge permit conditions to 67%. It also targeted to increase water samples complying with national standards at the supplies/collection point to 74% and for water bodies to 63% in the FY2023-24.

Sub-Programme Performance

By the end of June 2024, the sub-programme performance was good at 77%. The routine water quality monitoring was conducted at the National Water Quality Monitoring Reference Laboratory (NWQRL) and in the four Regional Laboratories. The construction works for the National Water Quality Monitoring Reference Laboratory was at 50% progress; the accreditation process of the NWQRL to ISO/IEC 17025 2017 progressed to 85%; Feasibility studies and detailed designs for Angololo MPP were completed; and water management measures were implemented in priority sub-catchments. A summarised performance of the intervention is given in Table 3.2 and detailed performance in *Annex 2*.

Table 3.2: The Overview of the WRM Intervention Performance by 30th June 2024

No	Intervention	Performance rating	Remarks
01	Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at the catchment level	On track	Good performance at 71% as the (NWQRL) and Regional Laboratories were functional and Water management measures implemented
02	Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels	Off track	Poor performance at 0%. No relevant activities were carried out for the planned output

Source: Authors compilation

The detailed performance of the monitored interventions is discussed hereafter:



Intervention Performance

3.2.1 Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at catchment level:

This intervention aims at ensuring regulated and coordinated use of the water resource sustainably. The key implementer of this intervention is the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE). The 13 planned and monitored outputs under the intervention were:

i) Joint Trans boundary catchment investment projects prepared; ii) Water resources data (Quantity and Quality) collected and assessed; iii) National Water Quality Monitoring infrastructure and networks upgraded and functionally; iv) Operational Water information systems at the central level and in the 4 Water Management Zones; v) Operational optimal Surface Water and Ground Water monitoring network established; vi) Functional gender sensitive water catchment management committees established; vii) Demonstration centers for demonstration of innovative catchment management measures established;

Other planned outs are: viii) Degraded water catchments protected and restored through implementation of catchment management measures; ix) National Water Quality Reference Laboratory analytical capacity upgraded and regional Laboratories established to address issues related drinking water, pollution and Sustainable Development Goals; x) Catchment Management Plans in the Water Management Zones; xi) Water management measures implemented in priority sub-catchments xii) Increased water storage capacity to meet water resources use requirements; xiii) Improved water use efficiency for increased productivity in water consumptive programmes (Agro-industrialization, manufacturing, mineral development). 2. National water budget to inform equitable and efficient allocation for all water uses determined; Robust E-based Water Resources Information System

Overall, the intervention achieved 71% of its set targeted outputs, earning a good performance rating. The detailed analysis is attached as **Annex 3** (This considers 11 outputs). The other two outputs had uncoordinated activities which were not contributing much to the intervention of “*improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at the catchment level*”; whereas, “*strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels*” intervention had no relevant activities implemented.

The status of implementation by the end of June 2024 is illustrated hereafter:

i) Joint Trans boundary catchment investment projects prepared

This output focuses on sustainable management and use of catchments and water resources shared between the countries of Uganda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tanzania. Trans boundary initiatives are jointly implemented by the countries sharing a given water body. The output performance at the end of the FY2023-24 was good (70.7%), having achieved most of the planned targets. The four Joint trans boundary projects (Angololo MPP, Luzira Wastewater project, Groundwater for Deep Resilience project and Trans boundary project) were prepared as scheduled.

The feasibility and designs for the rehabilitation of wastewater ponds and auxiliary activities in the Luzira catchment were completed. The Financing Agreement for its implementation was cleared by Solicitor General and yet to be signed by Minister of Finance. Coordination and



Participation in the groundwater project for the two trans boundary aquifers (Mt. Elgon and Kagera aquifers) activities to 100% completion. The draft designs for Managed Aquifer Recharge Pilot Projects were completed. Engagements were made with communities in Ntungamo and Bulambuli district to secure land for construction works and a draft concept note for the funding of the domestic water supply for the Angololo MPP was developed.

ii) Water resources data (Quantity and Quality) collected and assessed

The plan was: 55 stations on Lake Victoria, eight Kyoga, seven Albert, seven Edward and 10 George monitored for compliance to ambient water quality; 10,000 data records processed; 50 industries supported to implement Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP); National Water Quality Status Report prepared; and National Water Quality Network (NWQMN) reviewed and upgraded; 4,000 industries and municipal wastewater establishments monitored for compliance to wastewater discharge standards. The output performance was good at 81.6% performance.

The progress of activities was as follows: All the designated 55 stations were monitored for compliance to ambient water quality. All together 1129 samples were collected from lake monitoring stations; It was noted that 78% of water samples in the lakes complied with good ambient water quality. The 42 stations monitored on L. Victoria in the inner Murchison Bay revealed concentrations of nutrients in the lake impacted by pollution from various activities in the catchment. These include discharge of industrial and municipal waste, cage fish farming and unregulated poor agricultural practices. These discharges caused excessive algae growth, as a result the aquatic habitats and fisheries were affected.

By the close of the FY, 14,249 samples out of the planned 10,000 water, wastewater and environmental samples were analyzed in National Water Quality Reference Laboratory (NWQRL) and Regional Laboratories. Only 2,315 Water Quality data records were entered in the data management system. The data review and analysis were still on-going for the upgrade of the NWQMN. The National Water Quality Status Report was not prepared as planned.

Only six out of the planned 50 Industries were supported on Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP) best practices. Four (4) Industries (Roofings Ltd-Namanve, Steel and Tube Industries, Crown Beverages and Namanve Plastics) were able to apply for support on RECP. The activity was limited by inadequate resources.

Additionally, 96 industries and municipal wastewater establishments were monitored for wastewater discharge standards. The Compliance to National Wastewater Effluent Discharge Standards was 40.5%, and 45.2% with respect to Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and Biology Oxygen Demand (BOD) respectively. These reflect poor treated waste water releases into the environment that may affect human health, aquatic life and water quality.

iii) National Water Quality Monitoring infrastructure and networks upgraded and functional:

The planned activities included: four (4) Groundwater and four (4) Surface water stations rehabilitated for increased resilience to climate induced impacts; One Water Resources assessment



undertaken to 100% in (Mpologoma catchment); Hydromet equipment (five groundwater, five surface water, two automatic weather stations supplied and installed; 4,000 boreholes, shallow wells, protected springs and piped water systems monitored, samples collected for compliance to National drinking water standards;

Other outputs planned were: two (2) mobile laboratories procured; Detailed design for flood control management undertaken; Emergency dredging and maintenance works on 5.4kms of selected hotspots along river Nyamwamba completed, and one comprehensive feasibility study and detailed designs for maintenance works on River Nyamwamba undertaken. The output was rated fair at 60.8% performance.

By the end of June 2024, out of the planned four surface water monitoring stations to be rehabilitated; only three were executed. These stations were on Rivers: Katonga, Kafu and lake Wamala. The recording of water levels was restored at the previously destroyed stations by floods and increased water levels. The water resources assessment for Mpologoma catchment progressed to 30%; six surface water station files were updated (Nakivubo- 6th street, Sezibwa, Mayanja, Kafu, Jinja pier and Entebbe pier) and six groundwater wells were georeferenced (two Bugolobi, three Wobulenzi and one Bombo) instead of the planned 16.

The hydromet equipment supplied and installed comprised of five groundwater, five surface water, and two automatic weather stations. By the end of the FY, the hydromet equipment was procured and delivered to the Directorate of Water Resources Management stores; the installation and training was awaiting substantial completion of the construction of the monitoring stations. The procurement of two mobile laboratories and the detailed design for flood control management were not carried out.

The 32 Surface Water (SW) and 10 Ground Water (GW) monitoring stations were operated and maintained in the Victoria Water Management Zone (VWMZ). The collected data was utilized to assess aquifer responses and inform the design of infrastructures like bridges, water resources assessment and research by academia.

In total, 2,009 samples were collected and analyzed out of the planned 4000 from boreholes, shallow wells, protected springs and piped water systems for compliance to National drinking water standards. The samples collected and tested composed of drinking, wastewater, client samples and ambient water. A total of 878 water samples from piped water supplies and point water sources were monitored for compliance to national standards for drinking water. Compliance to drinking water standards was 60.15% for rural (boreholes, shallow wells and protected springs); and 75.9% for urban (piped water systems). At least 4,167 data records were entered into the data management system for Water Quality monitoring.

The River Nyamwamba Maintenance and construction was 100% completed; Works comprised of; protection of the vulnerable sections of the river through construction of gabion masonry wall and cyclopean concrete, desilting and cleaning of built-up flood debris at priority hotspots, reinstating/reinforcing and realigning of eroded riverbanks, supporting excavation sides and extracting water. The plan was to undertake maintenance works on check since the floods could still occur anytime. A detailed comprehensive feasibility study and detailed designs for River maintenance works on River Nyamwamba were yet to commence.



iv) Operational Water information systems at the central level and in the four Water Management Zones

The output aim is to improve the existing water information system to meet customer/stakeholder satisfaction and operationalize the national water management information system. The plan was for the Water Information System Phase II (WIS II) developed and fully rolled out. The WIS II is meant to provide centralised and systematic access to water and environment data, information and knowledge products in the MWE. The output performance was at 100%ss

The Water and Environment Information System (WEIS II) was 100% developed, rolled out in the four Water Management Zones and launched in December 2023 as planned. The System was fully functional as noted in Victoria, Upper Nile and Albert WMZs that were visited. The operational acceptance phase to support adoption and operationalization through technical support, fixing bugs, improving process flows, training, updating user manuals, documenting best practices and lessons learnt was ongoing. The WEIS was integrated with National Information Technology Authority (NITA-U). The test cases for integrating WEIS into Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), and NIRA were successful. The draft MoU between MWE, URA and MWE, NIRA were under internal reviews (MWE) prior to seeking clearance from the Solicitor General.

v) Operational optimal Surface Water and Ground Water monitoring network

The output performance was 52.4% by the end of Q4. The plan in the FY was: Hydrological yearbook prepared and published; Aquifer system in one cattle corridor district in KWMZ (Nakasongola) characterized; One new rating curve developed; Four rating curves updated and compiled into a report; twelve monitoring stations (five Ground Water, 5 Surface water, 2 Automatic weather stations) constructed to 100%; 20 Water level dippers for groundwater monitoring network supplied and distributed.

By the end of the FY the output performance was fair at 52%. The Hydrological Yearbook was not prepared. The 55,296 Hydrological data records obtained from 90% of the hydrological monitoring stations network was validated, quality assured and archived. These stations include: 91 from 131 Surface water (SW) stations and 50 out of 75 Ground Water (GW). The data is utilised for water resource management, environmental conservation, public safety, and scientific research.

Out of the planned 16 surface water stations, 13 were successfully configured and calibrated. However, the scope was limited to surface stations and ground water telemetry stations were not addressed. The procurement for the service provider to supply water level dippers was initiated, the evaluation of bids was completed and a contractor identified to supply the water level dippers.

Generally, 90% of the two (Aquifer and Aquitard) Aquifer systems for Nakasongola were characterized to assess the status of Ground Water within the water stressed zone. The process involved porosity assessing through geophysical well logging and lithological rock formation analysis. Permeability was assessed through pump testing while laboratory tests were conducted on the aquifer rock samples; Transmissivity and Hydraulic conductivity were also determined. Subsequently, the maps will be developed and status reports produced.

The development of the new rating curve to improve the quality of data was at 80% complete with only one out of the targeted, four rating curves updated. The surface water telemetric stations were configured and calibrated to transmit accurate data. These were: R. Manafwa at Mbale-Tororo and



R. Mpologoma at Budumba; R. Agu in Ngora and R. Awoja at Mbale – Soroti Road, R. Sezibwa, Lake Victoria at Jinja pier, River Kafu along Gulu road, Bugondo, Para, Masindi port, Semliki and Katwe stations.

The surface water stations were constructed to 45% (protective structures, fence, inspection chambers plus conduit laid at Aswa 1 and Pager and pillar gauges at Pager). The Ground water stations were constructed to 65% at the stations of Kaliro, Mityana, Arua, and Bullisa Construction of a protective house at Kaliro was still ongoing). Automatic weather stations were at 50% level of completion (Fabrication of the towers) level. The construction works were affected by heavy rains and increased water levels.

vi) Functional gender sensitive water catchment management committees established

The Catchment Management Committee (CMC) guidelines require that women be elected in at least two key management positions.

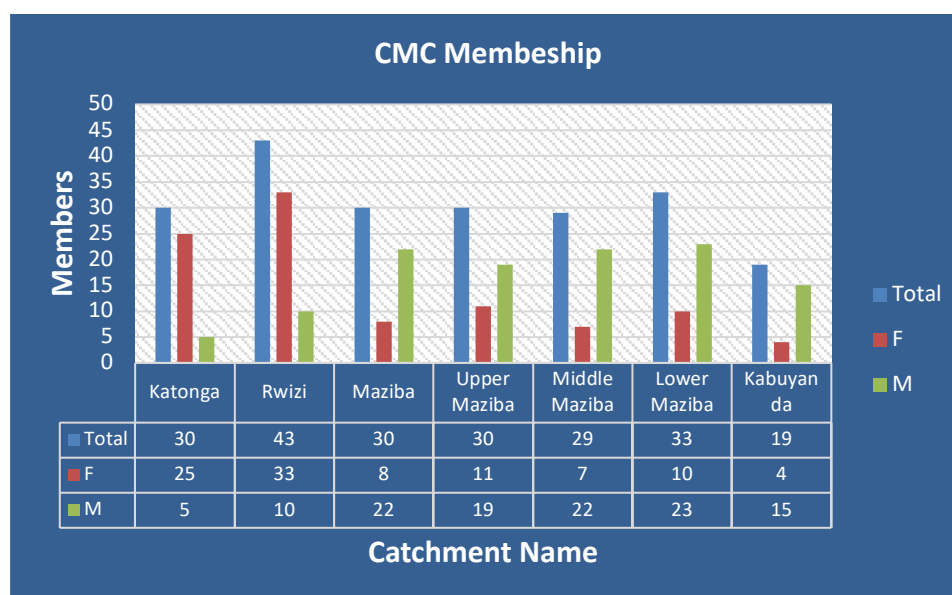
The plan was to operationalise CMCs Quarterly meetings. The output performance was good at 83% as the CMCs were operational. The meetings were held and supported. In addition, the outputs of Water and Environment Cooperative Societies were monitored and repayment of revolving funds tracked. Quarterly meeting for operationalization of sub catchment committees were held.

Under the Catchment-based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources (EURECCCA) project in Maziba catchment, alternative income-generating measures were undertaken through Water and Environment Cooperative Societies (WECS). The aim was to improve livelihoods of community members who formerly encroached on the reprotected riverbanks and wetlands in sub catchments. This included the establishment of three (3) WECs in Maziba catchment.

Each of the three WECs in Maziba, received a maximum of USD 25,000 which was made available for borrowing by legible groups on an annual incremental basis. By the end of the FY, a total of Ug shs 43,464,400 was disbursed to Kabashehe, Ug shs 52,683,200 to Rufuha and Ug shs 68,673,600 to Upper Maziba WECs. Some of the Income Generating Activities (IGAs) include: Fish farming, Beekeeping, Goat/Sheep rearing, Animal and produce trade, Piggery among others. The Victoria Management Zone committee membership is indicated in Figure 2.



Figure 2: The Victoria Water Management Zone Catchment Management Committee membership



Source: MWE Reports

vii) Demonstration centers for demonstration of innovative catchment management measures established

The plan was 14 Water and Environment cooperatives supported to implement income generating activities; 32 income generating activities implemented by Water and Environment Cooperatives, 160kms of soil and water management structures constructed; 10 small water harvesting and flood control structures constructed; four private tree nursery supported to produce tree seedlings; three priority actions in the integrated water resources development and management plan (IWRDMP) for Albertine graben implemented.

The output achieved (74%) as there was continued support of WECs in the respective areas among others. By the end of the FY, 14 Water and Environment Cooperative Societies (WECS) were supported to implement IGAs through disbursement of USD 630,000 that the WECS board loans out to members of the WECS. Kapeta Water and Environment Cooperative Societies in Kaabong district received the 1st tranche of the revolving fund worth Ug shs 91,040,000 to support implementation of IGAs targeting communities formerly encroaching on wetlands.

Thirty-two (32) income generating activities were implemented by Water and Environment Cooperatives: These included; goat rearing, cattle keeping, simsim growing, piggery, poultry, fish farming, apiary, sunflower growing, mushroom, briquette making, shea nut production of variety products, basket making, and banana mulching. The WECs used the revolving fund lent out or borrowed by members of the WECS and returned with interest for other members to also borrow



Fish Pond for Kyere WEC in Kumi district



Soil and water conservation check dam in Manafwa district



Gwaramot tree Nursery owners and Office constructed in Bukedea district



Omanakoit protected spring in Namisindwa district

viii) Degraded water catchments protected and restored through implementation of catchment management measures

The catchment management measures provide a broad framework for water resources, land use practices and management decision-making by stakeholders who are dependent on those catchments. The annual planned activities included; 80% of the National Groundwater management study to assess available resources and demand undertaken; Catchment management measures implemented in six Micro-Catchment Managements in the Refugee Settlements; 160kms of soil and water management structures constructed.

Others are: 60hectares (ha) of degraded forest restored; 60ha of degraded Wetlands restored; 120kms of degraded river banks demarcated and planted with pillars; Environmental Social Impact Assessment studies along River Nyamwamba undertaken.

By the end of the FY, 79% of the planned activities were undertaken. The targeted 80% for the Groundwater study was at 50% progress. The inception report, data gap and baseline assessments were completed; Groundwater resources availability and demand assessments were conducted. A draft threats and pressures report on the Groundwater resources was prepared and submitted to MWE for review. The consultant carried out a detailed field confirmatory test on the impacts of



groundwater abstractions. During the exercise, eight boreholes were test-pumped and four boreholes drilled to clearly ascertain the impact of ground water abstraction.

The preparation of the 6 micro-catchments around refugee settlements were completed and tender documents for procurement of the service providers for implementation of the priority measures were pending approval by the World Bank.

By the end of June 2024, 17.75kms of soil and water management structures (infiltration trenches, contours, terraces) were constructed in Ruhezamyenda catchment, Muko Sub County and Victoria Nile Catchment, Kamuli district, Namasagali Sub County in Bwiiza and Kasozi parishes. Three soil and water conservation measures (conservation/minimum tillage, pit gardening, Zai pits) were promoted targeting 180 farmers in two micro-catchments. The soil and water conservation structures were implemented in semi-lunes, infiltration trenches, fanya-ju fanya-chini and in Tapac and Lotisan sub counties in Moroto district.

A total of 79 percolation pits and gully plugs were constructed in Ruhezamyenda catchment, Muko Sub County and Victoria Nile Catchment, Namasagali Sub County, Bwiiza and Kasozi parishes. Brachiaria grass was planted around the structures to stabilize the banks and trap excess soil thus reducing erosion. Community members from 17 villages of Bwiiza and Kasozi parishes in Kamuli district were trained on Soil and Water Conservation measures and tree nursery establishment and management. Two (2) private tree nurseries were supported to produce seedlings in Busambu Primary School - Kamwenge district, and Namasagali Sub County, Bwiiza parish -Kamuli district.

The degraded landscapes restored with fast growing multipurpose tree species were integrated with crops and livestock rearing targeting 800 pastoralists. Generally, 40ha Forests were restored in Karangura Sub County in the villages of Kibwa, Kamabare, Kanyamurwa, and Nyakitokoli in Kabarole district.

The restoration sites and Farmers' groups to implement agro forestry/ fast growing multipurpose tree species were selected in Moroto, Napak, and Nabilatuk. Three soil and water conservation measures (Semi-lunes, infiltration trenches, fanya-ju fanya-chini) were implemented on six acres of agricultural land in Tapac and Lotisan Sub counties in Moroto district.

The flood assessments were undertaken to establish threshold for flood-prone rivers on Kafu, Nyamwamba and Lake Albert. A total of 14kms of Kamurojo wetland in Serere district was demarcated with pillars. The communities welcomed the exercise and requested for more demarcations. The Environmental Social Impact Assessment studies along River Nyamwamba were not implemented.



Left: Planted Calliandra tree Top Right: grass growth on eroded soils in Manafwa District and stone quarrying on river Nyamwamba banks in Kasese District

In Erusi Sub County, Nebbi district, activities were undertaken to restore the degraded catchment of R. Ayilla. The buffer zone boundary was marked. Eighty (80) bee hives were given to two groups as alternative livelihoods. The soil and water conservation structures for storm water control were constructed, and soils stabilised with elephant grass. These were established into three demonstration plots and the community was expected to replicate this.



L: Storm water control percolation trenches; R: Bee hives for alternative livelihood in Erusi Sub County, Nebbi district

ix) National Water Quality Reference Laboratory analytical capacity upgraded and regional Laboratories established to address issues related drinking water, pollution and SDGs

The National Water Quality Reference Laboratory (NWQRL) is meant to assess pollution in drinking water, wastewater and the environment. The annual plan was the National Water Quality

Reference Laboratory constructed to 40% and the NWQRL accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 2017 undertaken; Regional laboratories of Mbale, Mbarara and Fort portal maintained and operated.

The output performance was fair at 62%. The construction for the National Water Quality Reference Laboratory was at 50%. The accreditation of the National Water Quality Reference Laboratory to ISO/ IEC 17025 2017 was at 85% level of progress. The Quality Management System documentation was completed and an application to Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was submitted. The Laboratory participated in the Proficiency Testing to demonstrate its competence in conducting specific tests as part of the accreditation process.



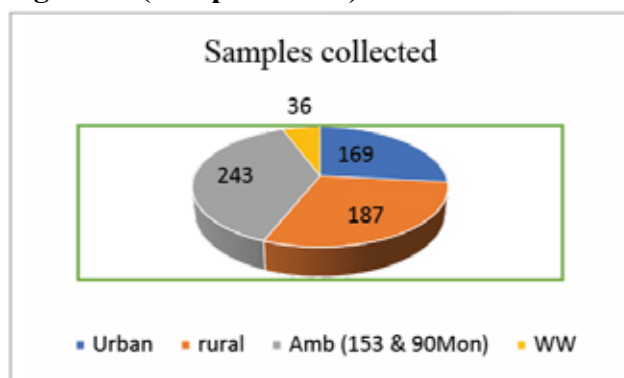
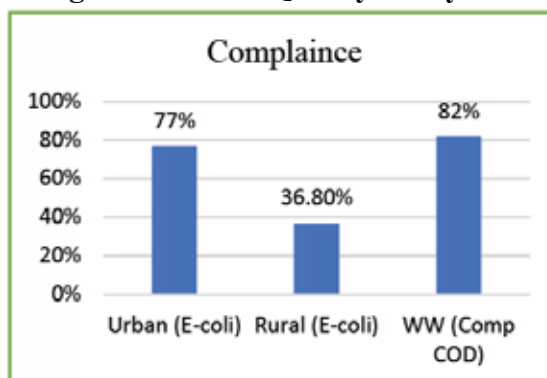
Water Quality Vessel at Jinja Pier and the National Water Quality Reference Laboratory structure in Entebbe

The National Water Quality Reference Laboratory and the 4 Regional water quality laboratories in Mbarara, Mbale, Lira and Fort Portal were operated and maintained. Chemicals and reagents including gases like Argon, Nitrogen and Helium gas were procured through framework contracts.



Water samples and cylinders for Argon and Nitrogen

Under the Victoria Water Management Zone (VWMZ), the Regional Water Quality Laboratory functionality was at 80%. A total of 512 samples were received and analyzed through the VWMZ laboratory. The region had limitations in analyzing wastewater. Some of the samples were sent to Entebbe NWQRL for cases beyond its capacity. Out of the client's samples, Ug shs 18,040,000 was raised as Non Tax Revenue. The water quality analysis results for Victoria Water Management Zone in FY2023-24 are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Figures 3 (Samples taken)

Figure 4: Water Quality Analysis


Source: MWE Documents *CP – Construction Permit, SW – Surface water abstraction permit, WW – Wastewater discharge permit, DP – Drilling permit, GP – Groundwater abstraction permit

For VMZ alone, (50 Ground), (13 Waste), (35 Surface) water permit applications were assessed and recommended for issuance; 60 GW, 35 SW, 15WW permit holders were monitored with compliance level at 46 % under VWMZ; 43 potential permit holders were identified and supported to apply for water permits (30 GW, 10 SW and 3 CP) under VWMZ.

x) Catchment Management Plans in the Water Management Zones

A Catchment Management Plan provides a long-term strategy for sustainable development and utilization of water and related resources. The country adopted a catchment management approach with water resources planning and development aligned along 5 hydrological water management zones. The plan in the FY2023/24 was i) Catchment measures implemented; ii) 480 water abstraction and waste water discharge permit holders Monitored for compliance; iii) two rangelands restoration plans for two micro-catchments prepared. The output performance was rated 76% no CMP development was completed.

The catchment management measures were implemented in Lwakhakha, Aswa II, Kochi and Middle/Lower Awoja sub catchments to 67%. Twenty (27) water sources were rehabilitated and protected, 629,991 tree seedlings planted; 725.12 Ha of Soil and Water conservation constructed; 135.5kms of the riverbank stabilized; 256.1 ha of the degraded wetlands restored; 10 apiaries each with 25 Kenya Tob Bar beehives established; 1,737 improved energy saving cook stoves constructed; three fishponds were constructed and stocked with 13,500 fingerlings; 1.3kms of the gullies were constructed with gabions.

At least 424 permit holders were monitored for compliance to permit conditions and different actions taken according to the need including warning letters and recommendations for improvement. A final draft of the Drought Management Plan for Lokere was submitted for review pending a stakeholder validation working session. The Drought Management Plan identified restoration measures for rangelands in Omanimani and Nangolol Apolon sub catchments.

Catchment Management Plans in the Water Management Zones:

Catchment Management Plans promote integrated planning, development, and management of water and related resources. These plans largely facilitate the reversal of catchment degradation, increase ecosystem resilience. Under the output, the progress of activities was:



The development of Catchment Management Plans for Nyamugasani and Kafu was at 95% completion. This included the Inception phase, Water Resources Assessment, Strategic Social and Environment Assessment, Stakeholder Engagement. The scenarios and options evaluation were completed pending finalisation of the CMPs, popular versions and documentaries. The Catchment Management Plans (CMPs) for Kabuyanda sub catchment was also developed under Victoria Management Zone.

The preparation of Sezibwa and Okweng sub catchment plans were at 65% instead of the planned 80% completion. The inception phase, Water Resources Assessment, Strategic Social and Environment; Stakeholder Engagement were completed. The evaluation of scenarios and options was still ongoing. The Albert Water Management Strategy and Action Plan preparation was at 95% completion. The inception phase and diagnostic assessments were completed; the draft Strategy and Action Plan report was validated by the stakeholders; and the updated report was submitted, reviewed and approved by MWE. The pending work consisted of producing the documentary and popular version.

Under the Victoria Management Zone

The following measures were noted during the field visit:

Rwizi Catchment Management Measures in Catchment implementation: Capacity building and induction training for Rwizi CMC Members, EPPU and Media were undertaken. The launch/commissioning of NTUCODA-Rushaha, Rwanyampazi tree planting group for sand mining; Save R-Rwizi marathon; Sensitization on un regulated human activities along river Rwizi buffer zone; two radio talk shows were held. The planting of over 300 trees at Rushasha and Rwanyapazi was completed and 3.5 ha restored in Kashaka River bank with afforestation. The needs assessment of 12 environmental conservation groups in the Rwizi catchment where additional checks on their progress was undertaken.

Implementation of Catchment Management Measures in Katonga Catchment: Monitoring the demarcation of 40kms of Lake Wamala in Kasanda; soil and water conservation in Kyotera and Rakai. A total of 45,600 assorted trees were planted in Kyotera district. A total of 446 farmers (255 males and 191 females) in Sango Bay were sensitized on land degradation (SLM) practices, sustainable land management and Farmer Field School (FFS) approach.

Catchment management measures implemented in 6 Micro-Catchment Managements in the Refugee Settlements: Preparation of the 6 micro-catchments around refugee settlements were completed and tender documents for procurement of service providers for implementation of the priority measures stopped at approval by the World Bank.

Water and environment cooperatives supported to implement income generating activities: Kapeta Water and Environment Cooperative Society received the 1st tranche of the revolving fund worth 91,040,000 to support implementation of IGAs targeting communities formerly encroaching on wetlands. A total of 14 Water and Environment Cooperative Societies (WECS) were supported to implement IGAs through disbursement of USD 630,000 that the WECS board loans out to members.



xi) Water management measures implemented in priority sub-catchments

The scope covered one Water storage infrastructure constructed. The performance was poor at 26%. The water infrastructure was not constructed as planned. Implementation was yet to commence in Mpologoma catchment due to delays in signing of the grant agreement. A reconnaissance field visit was conducted in Mpologoma catchment in Bududa, and Butaleja districts in the sub counties of Bubulo, Kachonga, Mazimasa and Butaleja town council. Support was given for completion of the restoration and demarcation activities using live markers around Nsooba and Mayanja rivers.

3.2.2 Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels

Under this intervention, the planned output was water resources compliance monitoring equipment procured and installed. However, no monitoring equipment was procured. The planned activities do not directly contribute to the output.

Key Challenges of the Sub programme

- i) The repeated and uncoordinated intervention/outputs/activities for the sub programme points to wasteful resource utilisation and non-achievement of the intended objectives.
- ii) There is inadequate capacity (equipment and personnel) to undertake water quality testing for all piped systems in the country especially the Gravity Flow Schemes which in some cases compromises the quality standards.
- iii) The limited staffing in the WRM department at 40% constrains the few existing staff, moreover, the limited wage bill did not provide for over time or promotions.
- iv) The existing laws/guidelines are still exploited by private laboratory operators to offer water quality testing services thus compromising with the standards in some cases.
- v) The delay in release of funds adversely affected timely implementation and number of samples collected from department network stations. Most of the samples analyzed were from private clients.
- vi) Delayed payment of suppliers and contractors affects progress of works and the supply of laboratory chemicals, reagents, supplies. Inadequate reagents for water quality analysis, plus long down time for equipment was affects timeliness in terms of service delivery to the client's number and NTR generation.

Conclusion

The sub programme performance was good (on track) at 77%. A number of sub programme output were achieved. The water quality was conducted both at the center and in the regional laboratories and catchment measures were implemented. EIAs were carried out and Environmental Audits undertaken to ensure compliance to set standards. The untimely releases implementation of some of the planned outputs was still ongoing after the end of the FY. In spite of the one FY (2024/25) remaining to the end of the NDPIII, no output had reached its target. Some were on track while others were off-track.

However, there was a mix up of intervention activities in various outputs, a reflection of poor planning. In other cases, the outputs had uncoordinated planned activities which were not



contributing to the interventions. These include outputs like, “improved water use efficiency for increased productivity in water consumptive programmes, increased water storage capacity to meet water resources use requirements and operational optimal surface water and ground water monitoring network established. This made analysis quite difficult since expenditures were incurred on unrelated activities.

Recommendations

- i) The MWE should foster coordination and collaboration harnessing synergies to enhance learning and optimise resource utilisation.
- ii) The MWE should expedite the review of the water policy clearly stipulating the water quality testing laws/guidelines governing private practitioners.
- iii) The MWE should prioritise filling up positions of staff in the approved structure waiting for recruitment after the payroll audit exercise.
- iv) The MWE should prioritise procurement of the necessary water quality testing equipment to improve on the portable water.
- v) There is need to beef up effort in sensitising communities to cope with climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.
- vi) The MWE should prioritise debt clearance with the suppliers in order to have constant flow of reagents for water quality testing since it generates NTR and meet its contractual obligations to avoid claims.



3.3 Environment and Natural Resources Management Sub-programme Introduction

The sub-programme contributes to the NRECCLWM Programme's goal of reducing environmental degradation and adverse effects of climate change and improving the utilisation of natural resources for sustainable economic growth and livelihood security. The sub-programme objectives are: i) maintain and /or restore a clean, healthy, and productive environment; ii) increase forest, tree and wetland coverage and restore and protect hilly and mountainous areas and rangelands; iii) promote inclusive climate resilience and low emissions development at all levels; iv) reduce human and economic loss from natural hazards and disasters; and v) increase incomes and employment through sustainable use and value addition to water resources, forests, rangelands, and other natural resources. All the planned 12 interventions under the sub-programme (100%) were sampled for monitoring.

The sub-programme is mainly contributed to by NFA, NEMA, UNMA, OPM, MWE-Water Resources Department, Wetlands Department, Forestry Support Services Department (FSSD), Environmental Affairs Department and Climate Change Department (CCD).

Financial performance

The total approved budget for FY2023-24 was Ug shs 153.100bn, of which Ug shs 147.133bn (94%) was released and Ug shs 84.099bn (64%) spent by 30th June 2024. This was a fair release and poor expenditure performance. The reasons for under expenditures included: Delayed funds approval process hence funds were not paid in the course of the financial year, Delays in finalization of the procurement process hence delayed payment.

Sub programme Performance

The overall sub-programme output performance was fair at 68%. The achievements registered included: Three (3) Environment regulations were reviewed/formulated; 125 court attendances and 123 prosecutions were undertaken and 1,193,345 ha of CFRs were protected from illegal activities and encroachment. A total of 50,594 kg of assorted seeds were supplied; 8,102.78ha of degraded wetlands were restored; 3,665 wetlands were gazetted; and 215.4km of wetlands were demarcated.

Over 546ha of commercial tree plantations were established under NFA and 56.851ha planted under the licenced tree famers in the CFRs. The UNMA was able to develop two seasonal climate outlooks (September to December and March to May) with advisories. The Radar and Wind Shear Operations maintained in Lira, Rwampara and Entebbe stations. A summarized interventions' performance is shown in Table 3.3 and detailed performance is attached in *Annex 3*.



Table 3.3: Performance of the Interventions monitored under the Environment and Natural Resources Sub-Programme by 30th June 2024

No	Intervention	Performance rating	Remarks
1	Strengthen conservation, restoration of forests, wetlands and water catchments and hilly and mountainous areas	On track	Fair performance at 64.7%. Approximately 1,193,345ha of CFRs were protected from illegal activities and encroachment
2	Increase investment in value addition to environment and natural resources products and services	On track	50% fair performance. No value addition was reported; However, there is an effort to enforce compliance through EPPU
3	Mainstream environment and natural resources management in policies, programmes and budgets with clear budget lines and performance indicators.	Off track	0% poor performance; The planned outputs were not in tandem with the intervention
4	Increase funding for promoting non-consumptive uses of the natural resources	Achieved	80% good performance; 50,594 Kg of assorted seeds were supplied from the National Tree Seed Centre
5	Develop and implement a framework that reduces adverse per capita environmental impact of cities (air quality and waste management practices)	On track	Fairly performed at 56.3%; 123 prosecutions were undertaken; 55 Environment Practitioners and 220 inspectors were trained on ENR management
6	Undertake applied research and innovation on sustainable consumption and production to ensure resource use efficiency to reduce domestic material consumption per capita	Off track	Poor performance at 31.6%; Only draft NEMA Research Agenda and a draft resource Mobilisation strategy were developed
7	Enhance access and uptake of meteorological information	Achieved	Good performance at 89%; the September-December Seasonal Forecast produced. Though accuracy levels are still low (at 75%).
8	Install new and adequately equip and maintain existing automatic weather stations to ensure maximum functionality	Achieved	At 84%, Radar and Wind shear Operations maintained at Lira, Rwampara and Entebbe.



No	Intervention	Performance rating	Remarks
9	Support local community-based eco-tourism activities for areas that are rich in biodiversity or have attractive cultural heritage sites	Achieved	At 84% -519 kms of boundary were cumulatively maintained and 4,817 ha of degraded CFRs restored
10	Integrate education for sustainable development in national curricula at all levels for an environmentally literate citizenry	Achieved	70.3% performance 19 categories of IEC Materials were procured and video raising awareness on ESIA carried out
11	Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels	Achieved	Good performance at 80% as 146 assorted modern forest management equipment were supplied
12	Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use natural resources and mitigate disaster	Achieved	Good performance at 85% as 35,500 tree seedlings were supplied

Source: Author's compilation

The planned interventions were 13: a) Strengthen conservation, restoration of forests, wetlands and water catchments and hilly and mountainous areas; b) Increase investment in value addition to environment and natural resources products and services; c) Mainstream environment and natural resources management in policies, programmes and budgets with clear budget lines and performance indicators; d) Increase funding for promoting non-consumptive uses of the natural resources; e) Develop and implement a framework that reduces adverse per capita environmental impact of cities (air quality and waste management practices);

Others are: f) Undertake applied research and innovation on sustainable consumption and production to ensure resource use efficiency to reduce domestic material consumption per capita; g) Undertake applied research and innovation on sustainable consumption and production to ensure resource use efficiency to reduce domestic material consumption per capita; h) Enhance access and uptake of meteorological information; i) Install new and adequately equip and maintain existing automatic weather stations to ensure maximum functionality; j) Support local community-based eco-tourism activities for areas that are rich in biodiversity or have attractive cultural heritage sites

Inclusive of; k) Integrate education for sustainable development in national curricula at all levels for an environmentally literate citizenry; l) Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels; and m) Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use natural resources and mitigate disaster



3.3.1 Strengthen conservation, restoration of forests, wetlands and water catchments and hilly and mountainous areas

This intervention aims to restore and conserve the environment and natural resources through demarcation, planting, restoring, and maintaining Central Forest Reserves (CFRs), wetlands, water catchments, and hilly and mountainous areas. It is mainly contributed to by NFA, NEMA, Wetlands Department, Forest Support Services Department, and Department of Environmental Affairs.

The intervention planned the following outputs which were assessed;

- i) Improve coordination, regulation and monitoring of environment management at both central and local government levels.
- ii) Restoration of critical wetlands; Demarcate, gazette and restore 900 Kms of wetlands; Gazette 6 critical Wetlands.
- iii) Mobilize stakeholders and develop and implement costed management plans.
- iv) 12,200km of CFRs boundary resurveyed, marked and maintained
- v) 55 Forest Management Plans prepared and revised
- vi) Percentage increase in forest cover
- vii) 1.265mha of CFRs protected and freed from illegal activities/encroachment
- viii) 200 million seedlings supplied (5m-Bamboo, 50m-Indigenous and 145m exotic species)
- ix) Undertake an inventory of degraded wetlands; Restoration of critical wetlands; Demarcate, gazette and restore 900Kms of wetlands; Gazette 6 critical Wetlands.
- x) Forest cover increase (Percentage)

The intervention performance was fair at 64.7%. Performance details are given below;

i) Improve coordination, regulation and monitoring of environment management at both central and local government Levels

The output aims at smoothening environment management at all levels. The output performance was good at 76%. The progress of planned activities was as follows:

A field survey was conducted in the three districts of the Sebei sub region (Kapchorwa, Kween, and Bukwo) and the most vulnerable sub counties were mapped out as part of the detailed baseline vulnerability assessment. The Clean Development Mechanisms, climate change adaptation and mitigation projects were monitored. These included adaptation interventions under the Global Climate Change Alliance+ project in the districts of Luweero, Nakasongola, Nakaseke, Sembabule, Kalungu, Gomba, Kiboga, Lyantonde and Mubende. Climate smart mitigation livestock management practices were also monitored in the districts of Nakasongola and Mbarara.

On aggregate 90% of the hydrological data was collected, quality assured and validated. A draft Hydrological yearbook was prepared but pending was final model simulation runs. The rating curves were developed and updated for 5 stations. Two rating curves were for Nile at Mbulamuti



and Laropi developed and 3 rating curves for Katonga, Kagera and Sio updated. As a result, the measurements for 48 rivers were carried out. This is comprised of 32 rivers in Albert Water Management Zone (AWMZ) and 16 rivers in Kyoga Water Management Zone (KWMZ). Three out of the planned four surface water quantity assessments for selected rivers were carried out for Rwizi and Kafu rivers.

The Wetlands Sector Strategic Plan 2020-2030 was reviewed and was pending printing and dissemination to relevant stakeholders. A draft wetlands bill was undertaken; principles were prepared pending presentation to cabinet.

The international and regional conservation meetings and sessions (the Ramsar Corporation of Parties (COPs), IPBES, etc.) were attended. The World Wetlands Day celebrations were commemorated on 2nd February 2024 in Gulu City. The awareness on Wetland conservation was raised through local Radio and TV talk shows held on NBS, NTV and UBC.

The concept notes for preparation of the 5-year National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) and the strategy for management of chemicals were prepared. The preparation of the NEAP and the chemical strategy were however affected by budgetary constraints. The procurement of a consultant to develop guidelines for brick making was at evaluation stage. A training on wetlands conservation including demarcation and restoration was undertaken in Wakiso (Entebbe), with representation of staff from local governments and MDAs.

The development of a sector-specific climate vulnerability index draft which to be used for training was developed. Advocacy and awareness of gender and climate change mainstreaming of selected agriculture policies were facilitated. Hands-on training on the use of the national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) tool for Agriculture, Forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sectors was conducted for one hundred national and sub-national participants. The training workshop for Transport and Waste sector stakeholders to address Greenhouse Gas (GHG) capacity needs and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) tracking for MRV implementation was conducted.

The vulnerability and adaptation assessment for the Health sector was validated for climate change impacts and vulnerability assessments as the annual target. The National Climate Change Information system was developed by the Makerere University Center for Climate Change and Innovation (MUCCRI) together with the knowledge portal.

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), and Long-Term Climate Strategy (LTS) communication materials were prepared. The National Climate Change Act (2021) and the updated NDC were disseminated in the districts of Kamuli, Nakaseke, Luweero, Nakasongola, and Kiboga. The process of developing the Climate Change Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was initiated and Terms of Reference for procuring a consultant to develop the system were prepared. The communities were trained on Climate Smart Agricultural practices to enhance farmer resilience to the impact of climate change in the districts of Rukiga, Rukungiri, Mitooma and Ntungamo.

The capacity was built for the Climate Change Department (CCD) and emitting sectors on MRV tool i.e. the transport and the waste sectors. Of the 10 LGs and MDAs to be supported in environmental planning including support in the preparation of Environment Action Plans and



Budget preparation processes target in the FY. A total of 18 Local Governments and four MDAs were supported in environmental planning including support in preparation of Environment Action Plans and Budget preparation processes¹: The concept notes for undertaking economic valuation of gazetted river banks, including R. Nile, Wambabya, lakeshores (L. Kwanja, and L. Kyoga) and mountain ecosystems including Mt. Rwenzori, Mt. Elgon and Mt. Muhavura were prepared pending release of funds.

The profiling of Mt. Rwenzori and Virunga ranges in the districts of Kasese, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Bundibugyo, Kisoro, Kabale and Kanungu and hilly areas in the Eastern region in the districts of Busia, Bugiri, Iganga, Jinja, and Mayuge to inform baseline studies for gazetted river banks was undertaken. Eight projects were monitored for compliance and technical backstopping was provided for the implementation of environment and social safeguards. These included; IFPCD, EBA, LIFE AR, GCF wetlands project, SACRIAC, ICRP, Nexus Green and Karamoja Resilience Project.

Compliance monitoring was conducted for five oil and gas projects (Tilenga project area, King Fisher project area, EACOP project area, Kabalega industrial park and the airport) and water projects. These include: Mukunguru valley Tank, Mabira dam, Kyenshama dam, and Kamwema Namurungi Valley Tank and Nyehanga Small scale irrigation scheme. Performance assessment of environment safeguards of earlier completed projects were benchmarked on lessons learnt in 16 Local Governments of Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu Rubanda, Masaka, Rakai, Lyantonde, Kalungu, Bukedea, Bukwo, Bulambili, Busia, Abim, Madi okollo, Adjumani and Agago while six ESIAs and 13 project brief were reviewed.

To make a robust environmental assessment, monitoring and surveillance plan operational in cities/municipalities and countrywide was affected by budgetary constraints. A field inspection visits to Zirimiti Central Forest Reserve was conducted and performance monitoring report for the financial year was being prepared. Of the five National Tree Planting Days only three days were commemorated.

Three community sensitization and awareness creation engagements were undertaken during the celebration of the national tree planting days out of five annual target. The International Regional conservation meetings and sessions (COPs, IPBES, etc.) were attended. Wetlands Management Department (WMD) staff were adequately supervised and appraised to perform key result areas.

The 30% annual target of wetland resource users and other stake holders in the project areas sensitization was undertaken and stakeholders were in preparation for the establishment of a water retention facility in Kaliro. An MoU was signed between Kaliro District and the Wetland Users, and categorization of the former wetland degraders was undertaken in preparation for distribution of livelihood options e.g. fish farming, vegetable growing. Materials including banners and T-shirts were disseminated in the 24 project districts. The World wetlands day was commemorated in Gulu out of the 5 conservation days' target annually. While the National Action Plan Exposition (NAP EXPO) 2023 was not attended

¹ Yumbe, Koboko, Kwanja, Omoro, Jinja, Kaliro, Bulambuli, Bukedea, Ngora, Kumi., Kabale, Wakiso Mbarara, Ibanda, Kiruhura, Soroti City, Ngora and Bukedea District

i) **Restoration of critical wetlands; Demarcate, gazette and restore 900 Kms of wetlands; Gazette 6 critical Wetlands**

The output performance was good at 74%. The NDP III wetland coverage target is 12%. In the FY, the target was 900ha of wetlands restored and by the end of the FY, some critical wetlands were demarcated, and restoration activities carried out. The restorations were carried out in different parts of the country as shown.

A total of 8,102.78ha of degraded wetlands were restored in Sezibwa wetland (20ha), Aswa wetland (25ha), Omunyai-Awoja (45ha), Kyambura wetland (48ha) Minera-Rubabo wetland-Rukungiri District (103), Tademeru wetland - Budaka District (50.6), Akelo wetland-Bukedea (120), Mpologoma wetland-Butaleja (624), Kaipei wetland-Butebo (218), Lumbuye wetland-Kaliro (434), Lwatama-Nanoko and Kituti wetland-Kibuku (700).

Other wetlands restored were; Kanyamutamu – Kituba-Buseta wetland-Kumi (650), Bunghoko-Namale wetland-Mbale (273.9), Kiwanyi-Ivukula Wetland-Namutumba (602.1), Kopege-Angod wetland-Ngora (196.3), Lake Lemwa wetland-Pallisa (362.2), Kasipodo wetland-Tororo (310), Rwentuha-Kamira-Kyeyare wetlands-Buhweju (122), Kyamugambira wetland-Bushenyi (702), Kyanamira-Maziba-Kabanyonyi among others. 3,665 wetlands were gazetted and the gazette was approved by the Minister during the World Wetlands Day Celebrations in Gulu City.

More so, 112ha of degraded wetland sections were restored as follows: in Central-Mayanja wetland (31ha), Northern-Aliro-Tochi wetland (31ha), Western-Kaija, Muziizi (30ha) and Eastern-Kibimba wetland (20ha) by the end of June 2024. In addition, 215.4km of wetlands were demarcated out of the planned 500km of the degraded wetlands.

At least 25 wetland maps were produced along the 10 project wetland systems of Mpanga and Sezibwa, to guide districts in wetlands management. Others were; 16 wetland maps for Mayanja (7), Lumbuye (6) and Kibimba (3) were produced and distributed to respective districts of Nakaseke, Wakiso, Kiboga, Mpigi, Kyankwanzi, Mityana, Kiboga and Mayuge, Luuka, Kaliro, Jinja, Kamuli, Iganga, Busia, Bugiri and Namayingo.

A wetland wise use models/demonstration sites (Fish ponds) was completed in Nakaseke. The one in Minakulu sub county Oyam district in Northern Uganda stalled. Fish ponds were dug but no fingerlings were introduced. There was minimal communication to the beneficiary communities on the way forward.



Unstocked fish ponds for the wetland wise use at Minakullu sub county Oyam district



The status wetlands visitation during monitoring was as given in Table 3.4

Table 3.4: Wetland restoration in Mitooma, Sheema, Ntungamo and Bushenyi in FY 2023-2024

SN	District	Restored wetland and location	Planned restoration area	Area restored (ha)
1.	Mitooma	Kishenyi -Rweiraara wetland in Mitooma and Katenga sub counties 8km for Ncwera wetland in Mitooma district was demarcated with concrete pillars (Bitereko in Bugongo Parish and Kanyabwanga in Rwenkureju Parish)	450	80
2.	Sheema	Kandekye - Ruhorobero wetland in Kitagata, Kakindo, Masheruka and Kigarama sub counties	700	320
3.	Ntungamo	Lwengwe - Kyabwaato wetland, Rukoni west sub county	600	240
4.	Bushenyi	Kyamugambira wetland in Rwentuha and Kyabugimbi Town Councils, Nyakabirizi Division, Kyeizooba and Bumbari Sub counties	700	373
		Nyamirembe Wetland section in Kizinda Town Council, Nkanga Sub county		329
Totals			2450	1342

Source: MWE Documentation

The major activities done in the wetland restoration included the following: Rapid assessment and mapping of the wetland to be restored; Identification of wetland resources users; Stakeholders awareness and engagements on wetland services and functions, laws governing wetlands management in Uganda and procedures followed during restoration among others; Formation and training of wetland restoration team to monitor the activity; Formation of the grievance redress mechanism committee; Actual wetland restoration or demarcation and Continuous compliance monitoring.

The restoration wetland had some benefits to the affected communities. For example, in Kyamirangira wetland the project benefited 251 people (114 females, 137 male) whose livelihoods were affected by the wetland degradation. Livelihood support was given in form of money depending on what the communities preferred as an AIGA. Overall, Ug shs 50m (against a budget of Ug shs 284.9m) was given to the community to support them in goat and cattle rearing.

Several challenges were faced while carrying out restoration activities inclusive of; Climate change effects that caused prolonged droughts and floods; Political influences at local government levels; Population increase and thus encroaching on wetlands due to lack of land; Lack of sound

transport to conduct wetlands management activities; Inadequate funding for wetlands related activities. Return of some communities in the wetlands due to delayed livelihoods and lack of patience to allow the wetlands regenerate and benefit from wise use of wetlands.



Restored part of Kyamugimbira wetland in Ntungamo district



Replanted part of Kakindo wetland in Mitooma district

ii) Mobilize stakeholders and develop and implement costed management plans

The planed activity was to mobilize stakeholders and develop and implement costed management plans. Local Governments and Urban Councils of Kanungu, Mitooma and Nakaseke where restoration was undertaken, were technically backstopped and coordinated but the activity was not related to the output. Therefore, the output performance was poor at 10%.

iii) 12,200km of CFRs boundary resurveyed, marked and maintained

The plan was 1.265mha of CFRs protected from illegal activities and encroachment in all the 9 Ranges and 7 plantation areas across the country. The output scored 94% performance mark which was very good. Throughout the FY, 1,193,869ha (94.4%) of the 1.265mha of 506 CFRs were protected from illegal activities and encroachment across the country (in the 9 Ranges and 7 plantation areas across the country)². This is achieved through forest law enforcement patrols supported by the environmental Protection Police (EPF) and Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) in 16 NFA management areas across the country. In total, 71,131ha (5.6%) of CFRs remained under encroachment settlements with some holding illegal titles.

The rest of the forest reserve areas remain under encroachment with some encroachers holding titles. For example, out of the 45ha of Rwemitongore Forest Reserve in Mbarara, there were only 9ha remaining. The rest was given out to private owners for ecotourism because it had been encroached with some claimants having titles from the Land Commission. They sued NFA for destroying their property and the case was in the courts of law.

² Ranges; Achwa, Karamoja, Kyoga, Lakeshore, Sango bay, South West, Muzizi River, Budongo systems and West Nile; and Plantation; Lendu, Mafuga, Mwenge, South Busoga, Rwoho, Opit-Abera, and Mbarara

In order to ensure the protection of forests, rangelands and mountain ecosystems, 519.3km of Forest Reserve boundaries (74.2%) were re-surveyed and marked. This constituted 50.2% (4,899km) of the total 9,755km for the 506 CFRs under National Forestry Authority (NFA). However, there were cases of fire outbreaks especially in the dry season and conflicted land. The case in point was in Bugamba Forest Reserve where over 10ha were destroyed by the fire at the time of visitation on 26th July 2023.

Cumulatively, 4,817ha of degraded CFRs were freed from encroachment and restored with fast growing indigenous tree species and bamboo out of the planned 10,000ha of degraded CFRs. This constituted 54.7% (486,484ha) of the projected NDP III program output of 889,115ha natural forest cover on Central Forest Reserves in the country. For example, in Budongo, 110ha were restored. Five (5ha) in Kanolwa Forest Reserve in Masindi district; 500Ha in Bugoma, Kikuube district; and another 500ha restored in Kagombe-Kagadi district; and 300ha and Kagombe-Kagadi. A total of 385.8 kms of forest reserve boundaries were maintained.



L-R: Boundary demarcation of Laguti CFR in Gulu district and Soroti CFR

iv) 55 Forest Management Plans prepared and revised

The NFA planned the development of 55 Forestry Management Plans (FMPs) by the end of NDP III period. Overall, only 20 FMGs were prepared and 35 revised in the running NDP period. In the FY2023-24 the performance of the output was fair at 56%. None of the 2 planned Forest Management Plans were completed. The preparations for the Forest Management Plans (FMPs) for Budongo, Bugoma, and Maramagambo CFRs were at the final drafting before approval.

v) Percentage increase in forest cover

The target for the FY was 2000kg of assorted tree seeds supplied including 1000kg of exotic, 500kg indigenous and 500kg of bamboo. The output achieved the target. Cumulatively 50,594 kg of assorted seed were supplied by end of the FY. A total of 14,724,110 assorted seedlings were raised and supplied from tree nurseries in Budongo Systems, Kyoga, Sango Bay, Muzizi, Lakeshores, West Nile and Karamoja Mbarara, Mwenge, Mafuga, South Busoga plantations.

The breakdown of the Seedling production and supply was; 17,189 seedlings in West Nile, 48,000 in Kyoga, 273,000 in Budongo Systems, 50,251 in Sango Bay, 250,000 in Muzizi, 105,000 in South West and 50,808 in Lakeshores were supplied to communities. These were from Lendu (13,000 seedlings), Kabale (136,000 seedlings), Mbarara (659,841 seedlings); Mwenge (688,800



seedlings); South Busoga (9,664 seedlings); and National Tree Seed Center (NTSC). The 426,368 seedlings comprised of 805 clients (583 Male, 146 Female and 76 Institutions).

In total, 863 Kg of assorted seedlings were produced and supplied by the NTSC. Those supplied during National Tree Planting days like the World Environment Day were 22,000. In Mbarara alone, 773,082 seedlings mainly indigenous of 23 different types plus eucalyptus, pine and fruit trees were produced for Orukinga and Nakivale under United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (NHCR).

vi) 113,000 ha of forest established (13,000 ha under NFA and 100,000 ha under Licensees on CFRs)

Cumulatively, 546ha of commercial tree plantations were established under NFA against the 300ha target with survival rates above 70%. This was in Kasana Kasambya, Mafufa, Rwoho, South Busoga, Bugamba, Katuugo, Mwenge and Opit plantations. A total of 56.851ha were planted under the licenced tree famers on the CFRs against the targeted 20,000ha. This was an increase from 110,368ha (55%) in 2023 to 165,00ha in 2024 of the 210,000ha forest area allocated to private planter in the 256 CFRs. 793.95 ha of forest inventories and harvesting plans were updated.

In total, 4,922 ha of commercial tree plantations were cumulatively protected from fires under NFA with survival above 70 percent. The area of commercial tree plantations maintained was 510.2 ha and stood as follows: 80ha in Kana-Kasambya in Muzizi Range. Mafuga (40ha), Kirima (40ha), Rwoho (88.8Ha), Bugamba (61.4Ha), Oruha CFR (100ha), and South Busoga (100ha).

vii) Undertake an inventory of degraded wetlands; Restoration of critical wetlands; Demarcate, gazette and restore 900 Kms of wetlands; Gazette six critical Wetlands

The EPPU carried out post restoration compliance monitoring and surveillance in the GCF project areas where restoration and demarcation was undertaken countrywide in different wetlands.

viii) Integrated Forest Information Management System developed; Forest databases updated

The targeted forest cover data base update was not completed. Updating of the National Forest and Land Cover 2023 technical report was 70% completed. This included the update of the private commercial tree farmers data base in CFRs. Overall, 94 boundary surveying stakeholder engagements were conducted. The Inventory and biomass plots assessed/and harvesting plans update was 1,376ha assessed (28%) out of the planned 5,000ha. The National Biomass/Forest-land cover 2021 technical and report update awaited publishing and dissemination.

3.3.2 Increase investment in value addition to environment and natural resources products and services

The planned outputs under this intervention were: Protection and restoration of strategic fragile ecosystems undertaken and improved compliance to agro forestry practices. The performance of the intervention was rated very good at 90.5%.



i) Protection and restoration of strategic fragile ecosystems

The MWE strides on protection and restoration of strategic fragile ecosystems was rated good at 81%. The plan was to have 150 proposed and existing developments near or in wetland areas, monitored, inspected and regulated for compliance. During the FY, the EPPU carried out several enforcement activities ranging from compliance enforcement, post-restoration monitoring, field operations, among others. The EPPU received 33 cases related to degradation, arrested 32 suspects, served 25 compliance agreements to non-complying entities and impounded 8 trucks and assorted tools (hoes, pangas, spades, wheelbarrows).

ii) Improved compliance to agro forestry practices

The project start-up workshops in Unyama and Namalu irrigation schemes were conducted as planned thus the output was 100% achieved.

3.3.3 Mainstream environment and natural resources management in policies, programmes and budgets with clear budget lines and performance indicators

The planned outputs were: climate change innovations natured; Effective engagement and participation in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Protocols; and Effective engagement with UN and other partners in Environment issues; Partnerships established; Environmental Inspectors, other ENR managers and committees trained on Environmental regulation and enforcement quality standards; Increased funding to non-consumptive uses of the natural resources; The institutional capacity of the relevant institutions to manage and regulate environmental aspects including oil and gas activities enhanced.

The intervention performance was fair at 69%. However, the activities and outputs do not rhyme with the intervention objective while others appear in other interventions. For example, the curriculum for Nyabyeya Forestry College was reviewed and approved by the National Council for Higher Education and the National Curriculum Development Centre. However, this is not aligned to the intervention.

The NEMA engaged in partnership endeavours with organizations such as Makerere University, GIZ, PSFU, and Busitema University for partnerships establishment. The subscription to three bodies were made i.e. CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), Minamata, and Institute of certified, Public Accounts of Uganda (ICPAU); and 11 project proposals were developed. However, the activities implemented were not aligned to the intervention output.

3.3.4 Increase funding for promoting non-consumptive uses of the natural resources

The intervention aims at protecting and preserving the natural resources in a sustainable manner for future generations. The NDP III planned output was; 200 million seedlings supplied (5m-Bamboo, 50m-Indigenous and 145m exotic species). In the FY under review, the NFA targeted 2000kgs of assorted tree seeds supplied. By end of FY, 50,594 kgs of assorted seeds were supplied from the National Tree Seed Center and from other partners such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and IRISH AID.

3.3.5 Develop and implement a framework that reduces adverse per capita environmental impact of cities (air quality and waste management practices)

The planned activities were; Ensuring 25 cities/ municipalities with Functional solid waste / e-waste) have management facilities; A legal framework for environment management strengthened; A robust environmental assessment, monitoring and surveillance plan operational in cities/municipalities and country wide; An environmental enforcement strategy developed and operationalized; Capacity of relevant stakeholders on environmental laws and standards enhanced; Environment management by Lead Agencies undertaken; and Environmental Inspectors, other ENR managers and committees trained on Environmental regulation and enforcement quality standards. The intervention performance at the end of the FY, was rated fair at 56%.

i) 25 cities/municipalities with functional solid waste/e-waste) management facilities

The Environment Managers from ten districts³ in West Nile region were trained on key environment issues including; legal and policy framework, Climate Change, Montreal Protocol, and role of local governments in the ESIA process. These included; 30 officers from selected MDAs trained on environment legal frameworks, laws, policies and regulations on environment in Uganda and three DLGs including: Mpigi district, Kampala Capital City Authority and Kira Municipality, who were supported to establish ENR committees and trained on their roles in the production of the chemicals inventory.



A woman selling onions and tomatoes in Owino Market around a heap of garbage

However, solid waste management remains a challenge to the cities; the worst case being the collapse of Kiteezi landfill where more than 35 lives were lost. The cities are characterized by unregulated disposal habits evidenced by solid waste like plastic bags (*Kaveera*) littered and floating in the surrounding environment.

ii) Legal framework for environment management strengthened

The NEMA took a step to strengthen the legal framework and the following was achieved: Eight (8) Regulations were reviewed/formulated of which three of these (regulations (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals, Regulations, 2024, Air Quality Standards, Regulations 2024, and the EPF Regulations, 2024) were completed and the regulation gazetted. The review of the other five regulations was still ongoing. These include: Noise and Vibrations regulations, Environment practitioners' regulations, Access to benefits sharing regulations, Express penalty, administrative fine and coercive fine regulations and Extended Producer Responsibility and product stewardship regulations.

³ i.e. Arua, Terego, Nebbi, Pakwach, Madi-Okollo, Yumbe, Adjumani, Moyo, Koboko, Obongi and Arua city



iii) A robust environmental assessment, monitoring and surveillance plan operational in cities/municipalities and country wide

The annual plan incorporated; development of 1 sensitivity at least for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and 1 sensitivity atlas from the Albertine Graben; 1 tier 2 Oil Spill Contingency Plan supported; 1000 planned environment compliance and audit inspections undertaken, only sensitivity Atlas for Albertine Graben region was developed and a validation exercise conducted. For the EACOP Sensitivity atlas the process was just initiated. An Oil Spills Contingency Plan was developed for the districts Buliisa, Kikuube and Hoima. The plan will guide the districts to identify potential oil spill risks and sources.

iv) An environmental enforcement strategy developed and operationalized

The aim was to have 50 prosecutions undertaken; one gazettement of environmental practitioners; and 200 Environmental Inspectors gazetted. By the end of June 2024, 123 prosecutions were undertaken. The prosecutions were mainly due to; undertaking projects without Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and approvals by the Authority, wetland degradation, noise pollution, violation of ESIA conditions and dumping soil in the wetland. Fifty-five Environment Practitioners were trained on ENR Management and will be gazetted.

A total of 170 Environment Practitioners were also trained on Electronic Logistics Management Information System (ELMIS). A total of 220 inspectors were trained. The gazette was by titles and institution and 221 titles and institutions were gazetted with a list of 991 individuals. For this case, the gazette shall run for 3 years ending 2027. For example, under Mbarara regional office, 66 cases were reported under different categories. Most of the cases were reported under illegal sand mining in wetlands; 25 cases for degradation of the wetlands; 11 cases were for people operating without licences for dumping; and two cases for noise pollution. The cases were in courts of law whilst suspects on bail, prison or even convicted and paid fine or serving their sentences in jail.

v) Capacity of relevant stakeholders on environmental laws and standards enhanced

The activities carried out were not related to the output, examples of such activities are: Policy briefs were developed, environment pollution and degradation incidences reported and responded to and 200 PPEs procured.

vi) Environment management by Lead Agencies undertaken

The draft lead agency coordination and management strategy was produced; Focal point persons of lead agencies were trained on the scope of environmental laws, policies and regulations.

vii) The national state of environment report prepared

The National State of the Environment Report (NSOER) was not completed. NSOER 2022 was finalised, pending publication and dissemination; Compilation of the first draft of the NSOER 2024 was ongoing.



3.3.6 Undertake applied research and innovation on sustainable consumption and production to ensure resource use efficiency to reduce domestic material consumption per

The annual target was; a research agenda produced and disseminated; one research strategy developed. The drafts for NEMA Research Agenda and resource Mobilisation strategy were developed. The performance of the intervention was poor at 31% progress.

3.3.7 Enhance access and uptake of meteorological information

The target was Information and knowledge base on projected climate trends and impacts established and disseminated; and Research on future climate trends and potential impacts undertaken. Notably, only two (2) seasonal rainfall performance evaluations were undertaken in Northern, Western and Eastern regions out of the planned four due to insufficient funds. The two (2) seasonal forecasts were disseminated through conducting 11 radio talk shows across the country and vulnerability maps produced for 2 regions (South-western and West-Nile).

Two seasonal climate outlooks (September to December and March to May) were developed with advisories to key sectors according to climatological zones. The daily forecasts were disseminated to three (3) media houses of UBC TV, Star TV, and Bukedde 1 T.V for presentation after the newscasts in Luganda, Swahili and English.

In order to raise public awareness on weather and climate, a National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF) was held in Entebbe, 4 Sub-Regional Climate Outlook Forums (SNCOF) in Moroto, Soroti, Fort portal and Mbarara and 3 Participatory Scenario Planning workshops in Kiboga, Sembabule and Isingiro. Customer engagements were held for over 60 Government communicators and NGO's dealing with weather and climate.

Radio talk shows were conducted in Jinja (1), Mbale (2) and Soroti (1) to assess weather and climate information dissemination and related feedback. Three radio programs were conducted on CBS radio, Bukedde Radio and KFM on seasonal forecast, monthly updates and 6 Television Interviews were conducted on NTV (2), NBS (2), BBS TELEFAINA and UBC on monthly updates and severe weather alerts.

Engagement visits were undertaken to increase weather information dissemination at the Local Governments of Bududa, Nakasongola, Soroti, Kamuli, Lira, Gulu, Kitgum and Masindi. There was limited feedback from the consumers of this information due to limited transfer and feedback mechanisms. It was observed that very few samples are sometimes used to extrapolate the feedback.

3.3.8 Install new and adequately equip and maintain existing automatic weather stations to ensure maximum usage

The planned outputs were; Weather and air pollution monitoring station network expanded and functional and automatic weather stations installed and maintained: A total of 2196 Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts, 146 SIGMETs and 16887 Flight folders were produced. Flight folders were issued for Entebbe and Soroti; 57163 METARs were issued from 11 synoptic stations of Gulu,



Masindi, Mbarara, Makerere, Kasese, Soroti, Lira, Kabale, Jinja, Entebbe and Tororo. The Radar and Wind shear Operations were maintained at Lira, Rwampara and Entebbe stations.

All 88 ADCON Automatic Weather Stations, 95 Rainfall stations and 32 Manual Weather Stations were maintained in terms of equipping them with airtime for data transmission, inspection, and keeping them clean and functional.

3.3.9 Support local community-based eco-tourism activities for areas that are rich in biodiversity or have attractive cultural heritage site

The intervention had only one output of: Ten new Eco-tourism concessions developed.

During the FY, the NFA licensed the development of 7 of the 30 ecotourism concessions in partnership with the private sector to Support local community-based eco-tourism activities in CFRs that are rich in biodiversity and have cultural heritage sites. A total of 146 ha of CFRs were managed under 10 ecotourism licensees across the country; 14ha for three new ecotourism sites; (5ha-Ntungamo CFR, 3ha in Budondo and 6ha in Buuka), 14ha in Budongo System, 47ha-Lakeshore and 21ha in Kyoga Range, 1ha in Muzizi River, 40ha in Sango Bay, 9ha in Kalinzu CFR in South West Range, 10ha in Arua CFR in West Nile Range. At least 13 ecotourism sites were managed, 4-under NFA in Budongo, Kalinzu, Mpanga and Mabira and 7-under private licensees.

In total 3,369 eco-tourists (1,853 males and 1,516 females) visited ecotourism sites in Nile Bank, Kalagala falls, Mabira, Mpanga, Kalinzu, Budongo and Lutobooka Kalangala Island. However, no compliance assessment of eco-sites in Lutobooka CFRs was undertaken.

3.3.10 Integrate education for sustainable development in national curricula at all levels for an environmentally literate citizenry

i) Education for Sustainable Development integrated in education curricular

In the FY, the aim was four (4) education institutions engaged on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and topical activities undertaken in education institutions. During the FY, five Topical activities were undertaken in education institutions. These were: i) Schools debate on World Tourism Day, ii) Installation of signposts in 11 schools where NEMA had greening initiatives, iii) engagement with Nkozi University, and iv) Schools debate competitions and Restoration in Nabudere Technical institute were conducted.

ii) Information, Education and Communication materials on environment developed and translated into local languages

The planned activities were; One audio Visual materials developed; Four Categories of Information Education Communication Materials (IEC) produced. By the end of June 2024, 19 categories of IEC Materials were procured including calendars, dairies, newsletters, posters, branded tent, tear drops banner, pull up banner, and seasons cards. Others included: exhibition chairs, tables and tablecloths, brochures, stickers, t/shirts and backdrop banners, Popup banners and WED Magazines. One awareness raising video on ESIA, a radio spot on wetland management,



a radio message on waste management, a spot message on World Environment Day, nine documentaries on greening initiatives in schools and two newspaper supplements were developed.

iii) Public education programs and campaigns on environment enhanced

The NEMA intended to do the following in the FY: Four International and National days celebrated; two preventive maintenances undertaken; One NEMA Website developed; eight visibility initiatives undertaken; one award and recognition engagement undertaken; one CSR undertaken.

Five National and International environment and biodiversity days and events were commemorated i.e. World Tourism Day, World Wetlands Day, World Environment Day, WED, and International Day for biodiversity. The NEMA Website developed; 10 visibility initiatives were undertaken. The communication strategy was reviewed and IEC materials developed. The entity conducted education awareness programmes in schools, participated in national and international events, was active on social media, produced audio visual materials and awareness campaigns like *Yonja* (clean) Uganda tour. One award and recognition engagement was undertaken as well as corporate social responsibility in Sironko, and Masaka.

3.3.11 Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels

The intervention had three planned outputs in the NDP III period which are: 1770 modern forest management infrastructure procured; 750 professional staff recruited at forest protection level and a sustainable natural resource management communication strategy developed. By the end of June, 2024, staff had been recruited, and some equipment procured.

i) 1770 modern forest management infrastructure procured

The NFA planned 14 inventory and Survey equipment for digitising forest boundaries and procure planning and budgeting software. An Electronic Planning, Budgeting and Reporting System was not procured. The digitisation of number plates and procurement of Laptops for Echuya, Ndekye, Kalinzu, Southwest, Pakwach, Koboko, Moyo, Kisindi systems were also not achieved.

ii) 750 professional staff recruited at the forest protection level

The outputs planned and implemented here were not related to professional staff recruitment.

iii) Sustainable natural resource management communication strategy developed

The plan was for 1 Public Relations (PR) strategy reviewed. The target was achieved. The development of the NFA Public Relations strategy 2023-2027 was finalized. On the other hand, Forest Management committees at Parish level were not established. A National Tree Planting day was organized on 21st February 2024.



3.3.12 Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use natural resources and mitigate disaster

The intervention had only one PIAP output of 48 business project developed. There was no Business proposal developed by the end of June 2024. A project proposal was conceptualized and developed. This was on Restoration of Wetlands Catchments on Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) in selected districts in Uganda. A total of 35,500 tree seedlings were cumulatively supplied during the year.

Sub programme challenges

1. Uncoordinated planning and budgeting in the different sub programmes working in silos leading to wastage of resources
2. The sub programme still experiences continuous encroachments on both forests and wetlands aggravated by unclear boundaries and the lengthy process of cancellation of illegal titles on these plots.
3. The misguided disposal of rubbish especially plastics that end up causing blockage of drainage channels and limited water absorption in the soils.
4. Climate change characterized by long droughts and flush floods resulting into soil erosion and infertility, leading to loss of lives and livelihoods.

Conclusion

The sub programme output performance was fair at 68%. All the 12 planned interventions were monitored and analyzed and it was ascertained that six interventions achieved the output targets. The other four were on target while two were off target. However no of these intervention achieved the NDP III outcome targets that achieved their annual targets while one was off track and four on track. The sub programme performance directly affects the programme outcome 'increased forest and wetland cover' which is key to the programme objective of reversing the adverse effects of climate change.

Recommendations

1. The NRECCLWM Programme working group should spearhead coordinated planning and budgeting to avoid duplication and wasteful expenses.
2. The MLHUD should closely follow up with the Ministry of Justice on establishment of an environmental court and the pending court cases of the polluters and encroachers of forest lands and wetlands.
3. The NEMA should enforce existing laws on waste disposal and advocate for streamlining garbage collection and disposal including countrywide campaigns promoting the safe disposal or reuse of plastics.
4. The MWE should advocate for joint effort to implement sustainable agricultural practices, invest in soil conservation, and develop early warning systems and community based adoptive measures.

3.4 Land Management Sub-programme

Introduction

The sub-programme aims to reduce land-related conflicts by 30% and increase the percentage of titled land from 21% to 40% in the NDP III period thereby contributing to the objective of strengthen land use and management. The key sub-program implementers are the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD), and Uganda Land Commission (ULC). The planned outcome indicators in the FY were to increase the percentage of titled land to 35% and to reduce the turnaround time for titling land to seven (7) days. The sub-programme planned for nine interventions which were all assessed. These are listed below:

i) Fast-track the formulation, review, harmonization, and implementation of land laws, policies regulations, standards, and guidelines; ii) Strengthen the capacity of land management institutions in executing their mandate geared towards securing land rights; iii) Promote land consolidation, titling, and banking; iv) Complete the rollout and integration of the Land Management Information System with other systems; v) Promote tenure security including women's access to land; vi) Capitalize the Land Fund to ensure access to land by lawful and bona fide occupants;

Others are: vii) Develop and implement a Land Valuation Management Information System (LAVMIS); viii) Undertake a comprehensive inventory of Government land; ix) Improve coordination, planning, and regulation, and monitoring of water resources at the catchment level.

Sub-programme Financial performance

The annual sub-program budget for FY2023-24 was Ug shs 256.408bn (with a supplementary release of Ug shs 135.103bn for the Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project (CEDP).

By 30th June 2024, Ug shs 251.41bn (98%) was released and Ug shs 251.41 (47%) was expended. This was a very good release with poor expenditure. The poor absorption was mainly under the CEDP where procurement delays affected work progress.

Sub-program physical performance

The Land Management Sub-programme performance was good at 74.6%. During the FY, 49,743 land titles were issued, while 256 titles issued in fragile ecosystems were cancelled. The titled land in the country increased to 30% achievement. In total, 60 Land Information System (LIS) users from the MZOs of Mbale, Moroto, Soroti and Tororo were trained. The role of four traditional institutions (Ankole, Buganda, Bugisu, and Acholi) in carrying out their mandate in land management was strengthened. A total of 15 District Land Officers and 49 Area Land Committees were trained in land management. The Land Acquisition and Resettlement policy and Land Acquisition was drafted while the National Land Policy (NLP) review was still ongoing. The Lands Management interventions' performance is summarized in Table 3.5 and the detailed performance is presented hereafter. Refer to *Annex4* for details of sub-programme, intervention, and outputs performance analysis.

**Table 3.5: Overview of the intervention's performance by 30th June 2024**

No	Intervention	Performance Rating	Remark
1	Fast-track the formulation, review, harmonisation, and implementation of land laws, policies regulations, standards and guidelines.	On track	Fair performance of 63% Drafted Land Acquisition and Resettlement Policy; National Land Policy review initiated
2	Strengthen the capacity of land management institutions in executing their mandate geared towards securing land rights.	On track	At 78% good performance; 40 DLB appointments reviewed and approved; the role of traditional institutions in land administration strengthened; 15 DLBs, 15 DLOs and 59 Area Land Committees trained
3	Promote land consolidation, titling and banking	On track	At 76%-Ug shs 74.357 bn revenue generated; 49,743 land titles were issued
4	Complete the rollout and integration of the Land Management Information System with other systems.	On track	Good performance at 71%- Rollout was estimated at 75%. 45,000 Deed plans were produced, Old National Atlas revision and digitization was ongoing for data integration
5	Promote tenure security including women's access to land	On track	At 84%-land conflicts resolved; 49743 titles issued; 1024 certificates of customary land issues. 363 lease transactions processed for male, female, PWDs, youths and companies' lessees.
6	Develop and implement a Land Valuation Management Information System	Achieved	At 100% -very good performance. National Valuation Standards and guidelines were finalized and LVMIS development ongoing
7	Undertake a comprehensive inventory of Government land	Off track	Poor performance at 20% as only five out of 240 surveys and certificates of titles processed for MDAs
8	Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at catchment level	Achieved	Very good performance 6.34 square kilometres of Wetlands and other ecologically sensitive areas subdivided and titled for protection in partnership with other MDAs
9	Capitalize the land fund to ensure access to land by lawful and bona fide occupants	On track	At 84.4% performance. Approximately 2372.71 hectares of land acquired through compensation to absentee landlords for securing lawful and bonafide occupants

Source: Author's compilation



The Lands Management interventions' performance is summarized hereafter;

3.4.1 Fast-track the formulation, review, harmonization, and implementation of land laws, policies regulations, standards and guidelines

The intervention aims to create an enabling legal atmosphere in the management of land matters. During the FY, performance was fair at 63.7%.

The annual planned output was land laws, policies, regulations, standards and guidelines formulated and reviewed. Under this output, the planned activities were; National Land Policy review conducted; Land Acquisition and Resettlement policy finalized adopted and implemented; Land regulations disseminated; National Gender Strategy on land reviewed; and Guidelines for registration of customary land developed.

The three planned policies were not completed. The drafts for National Land Policy; Land Acquisition and Resettlement policy were produced and the draft guidelines for registration of customary land and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) developed. This will improve land use planning, land tenure management, conservation and protection of sensitive ecosystems among others, will be ensured. The land regulations were disseminated in 22 ddistricts and Jinja City.

The Land Acquisition and Resettlement Draft policy was developed. A Cabinet memo was prepared and draft guidelines for registration of customary land and (ADR) developed. The land Act was also under review whereas the National Gender Strategy on land review did not take place. The review of the Land Act was at 25% out of the planned 100% completion. This activity was halted due to the Presidential Directive. The Land Acquisition and Resettlement Act adaptation and implementation could not be achieved since the policy was still in draft form.

3.4.2 Strengthen the capacity of land management institutions in executing their mandate geared towards securing land rights

The annual plan was to have the capacity of Land Management Institutions (state and non-state actors) strengthened. So the MLHUD aimed at training 40 District Land Boards (DLBs), 40 District Land Offices (DLOs) and 120 Area Land Committees in land management; 40 District Land Board appointments reviewed and approved; 10 Public sensitizations on Land Matters Undertaken in 10 sub regions; The role of 4 traditional institutions in land administration strengthened; 20 District Land Offices, 20 District Land Boards, and 22Ministry Zonal Offices (MZO) across the 4 regions supervised, monitored and technically supported. The intervention performed well at 78.7%.

During the FY, DLBs and ALCs were trained in land management. These were:15 District/City Land Boards, 15 District/City Land Offices and 59 Area Land Committees of Buvuma, Apac, Ntoroko, Omoro, Kyenjojo, Gulu, Jinja City, Adjumani, Kabale, Luuka, Bukomansimbi, Bugiri, Rubanda, Kabale and Namutumba DLGs. A total of 42 District Land Board appointments were reviewed and approved out of the planned ten. Twenty-two (22) public sensitizations on Land matters were undertaken in 21 Districts from four regions and Jinja City, represented by all groups especially women and the vulnerable.



The role of five traditional institutions in land administration was strengthened i.e. Atoro, Palaronya, Lamogi, Madi Cultural institution and Ker Kwaro Acholi (Payira Clan). Twenty (25) District Land Offices and 25 District Land Boards supervised, monitored and technically supported though 20 were planned. Nine Ministry Zonal Offices (MZOs) i.e., Mbarara, Lira, Gulu, Arua, Masaka, Rukungiri, Kabale, Mbale and Masindi supervised, monitored and technically supported out of all the 22 planned MZOs.

3.4.3 Promote land consolidation, titling, and banking

The intervention aims to increase titled land. The plan was Land demarcated, surveyed, registered and certified. The intervention performed at 76.3%. By the end of the FY, 30% of the land was titled against a target of 32%. A total of 49,743 titles were processed and issued and Ug shs 74.357 bn revenue was generated. Through systematic land adjudication and certification, 5,686 land titles were prepared for beneficiaries in 11 refuge hosting districts as follows: Kamwenge (801), Isingiro (473), Kiryandongo (2,176), Lamwo (519), Yumbe (372), Adjumani (130), Terego (712) and Obongi (503). About 2,917 of these land titles were distributed to their beneficiaries by the end of June 2024. Another 280 titles for the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UgIFT) facilities were processed. A total of 1,410 certificates of title to lawful and bonafide occupants in Buwekula Mubende were offered and Ug shs 7.739bn was collected from leasehold holders from across the country in premium and ground rent.

3.4.4 Complete the rollout and integration of the Land Management Information System with other systems

The planned output was Land Management Information System (LMIS) automated and integrated with other systems; Data Processing Centre established; and topographic maps, large-scale maps, and a revised National atlas. The annual targets were: 45,000 deed plans produced; National Atlas revised; Boundary separation for 10 combined blocks in Wakiso and Bukalasa carried out; Surveys and boundary opening of the Sango Bay region for the palm oil project undertaken. This output performance was good with 71% of the targets achieved as illustrated below:

The data center was established in the previous year. The integration of the Land Management Information System with other systems was estimated at 75.28%. All the planned 45,000 Deed plans were produced, and the old National Atlas revision and digitization was ongoing for data integration, scalability and preservation.

The boundary separation for 10 combined blocks in Wakiso and Bukalasa was carried out. The new survey and boundary opening of the Sango bay region for the palm oil project was completed. Out of the planned 200kms only 37kms of international border were surveyed and demarcated on the Uganda-Kenya side.

The two planned regional tourist maps were revised i.e. Murchison Falls National Park and Mt Elgon National park (Kapakwai National Forest Exploration Centre). The Government Cadastral Data inventory and consolidation for Mawokota and Gomba in (Mpigi MZO) were undertaken. The Arua City Large scale map and the two Maps for Mbale, and Gulu were not produced. Only 18 Topographic maps of Napak and Moroto District were updated and disseminated out of the



planned 54 that were revised. Forty (40) surveys and mapping data were carried out across 22 MZO's in the country.

A total of 12,495 parcels of land were adjudicated and demarcated out of the planned 751,360 parcels. This output was affected by delays in signing contracts for Lots 1–6 under the CEDP project. A total of 79 Parish Physical Development Plans (PDPs) were developed for the 16 selected Systematic Land Adjudication and Certification (SLAAC) districts. A total of 85 Parish PDPs were developed under 16 Sub counties and 3 Town Councils in Kaabong district.

Through SLAAC, 5,686 land titles were prepared for the beneficiaries in 11 refuge hosting districts as follows: Kamwenge (801), Isingiro (473), Kiryandongo (2,176), Lamwo (519), Yumbe (372), Adjumani (130), Terego (712) and Obongi (503). At least 2,917 of these land titles were distributed to their beneficiaries by the end of June 2024.

3.4.5 Promote tenure security including women's access to land

The aim is to promote tenure security including women's access to land. The annual plan was to have Land conflict mechanisms reviewed and tenure security for all stakeholders including women enhanced. The output performance was good at 84%. During the FY, different pieces of land were demarcated, surveyed, registered, and certified for the different categories of people. By 30th, June 2024, 90 lease transactions were processed for males, females, People with Disabilities (PWDs), youths, and companies. Ug shs 0.38bn was collected from across the country.

3.4.6 Capitalize the Land Fund to ensure access to land by lawful and bona fide occupants

In FY2023/24, there was a good performance at 84.4%. ULC planned to capitalize Land fund to make it accessible to bona fide and lawful occupants. A total of 2372.71 hectares of Land was acquired through compensation to absentee Landlords for securing the land for lawful and bonafide occupants in Buganda Bunyoro Ankole and Toro. A total of 8,049 sub-division surveys were conducted for parcels of land for title processing for lawful and bonafide occupants; and 1410 certificates of title were processed and issued to lawful and bonafide occupants on Block 247 plot 24 in Kigando, Mubende district and Block 209, Kitenyi in Koome, Gomba ddistrict.

3.4.7 Develop and implement a Land Valuation Management Information System (LAVMIS)

Property is valued for various reasons including: determination of taxes, calculation of compensation, issuance of tittles, and dispute resolution among others. The plan was for National Valuation Standards and Guidelines to be developed and disseminated.

The National Valuation Standards and Guidelines were finalized and sent to the Uganda National Bureau of Standards for further scrutiny before adoption. A total of 65,128 property valuations were carried out and supervised comprising of various categories; Market Valuation: 314 Properties, Rental Valuation: 216 Premises, Custodian Board Survey: 42 Cases, Boarding off: 55 Cases, Asset valuation: 28 Cases, Probate valuation: 20 Cases, Terms: 272 Cases, Mortgage Valuation: Five (5) cases; Rating: 2 Town Council, General compensation: 69 Cases, Stamp duty assessments: 64,134 cases.



The data for land valuation databank was collected, and the Alpha version was prepared. The preparation of property yields and indices for Gulu and Mbarara City were at data analysis stage. The databank for compensation rates was updated to promote fair compensation rates for all including the elderly, women, and People with Disabilities (PWDs) as well as the land market prepared. The Beta version of Databank for compensation rates was developed and tested.

The development of National Land Information System (NLIS) enhancements was ongoing with Version 7.1 of the NLIS developed and this was yet to be installed and rolled out. The SMS notification was functionalized. The Land Valuation Management Information System (LaVMIS) design was ongoing. A total of 61,135 Parcels were adjudicated and demarcated out of the planned 800,000 and 100 Communal Land Associations (CLAs) were formed and registered out of the planned 600. The 18kms of 2 National (inter-district) boundaries in Kyaka were affirmed to reduce border disputes and protect the fragile ecosystem; Two (2) large-scale maps for Jinja and Arua cities were revised; 27 Topographic maps for 3 districts of Napak, Moroto, and Namisindwa districts were revised, updated and disseminated.

3.4.8 Undertake a comprehensive inventory of Government land

The MLHUD plan was to undertake a comprehensive and up-to-date government land inventory. By the end of the FY, the intervention was at 20% progress. During the FY, three consultative meetings were held on the revision of the ULC Bill 2017, 1000 copies of Land Fund Regulations and Guidelines disseminated to lawful and bonafide occupants in Bunyoro, Ankole, Buganda, and Toro (male, female, PWD, youth, and companies). Sixty (60) Land Court Cases were managed across the country and 30 land inspection and sensitization reports were produced.

Five certificates of title were processed for Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDA's), and five out of 240 surveys were conducted for processing of certificates of title for land under MDAs. As a result, Ug shs 6.191 bn was collected from all lessees across the country.

By the end of the FY, Ug shs 6.191 bn was collected from all lessees across the country, 729 lease transactions were processed across the country for male, female, PWDs, and companies' lessees and 232 Court cases were successfully managed.

3.4.9 Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at catchment level

The strategy was conserved and degraded wetlands demarcated and gazette. During the FY, the Wetlands and other ecologically sensitive areas were subdivided and titled for protection. The output performance was rated at 100%. Cumulatively, 6.34 square kilometres out of 2 square kilometres of wetlands and other ecologically sensitive areas were subdivided and titled for protection ecologically sensitive areas subdivided and titled for protection in partnership with other MDAs.

Sub programme challenges

1. Understaffing persists at the Ministry/Survey department and MZOs, causing a significant backlog in land title processing as workload exceeds capacity.



2. It's concerning that DLBs often struggle with insufficient funding to carry out their important responsibilities. This lack of resources can leave clients at risk of falling prey to questionable individuals within the value chain.
3. The Ministry lacks guidelines for land compensations processing to ensure fairness, transparency and equitable land compensation.
4. The Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project (CEDP) experienced significant low fund absorption due to delays in procuring service providers. This obstruction hindered progress as the project approached its deadline.

Conclusion

The sub-programme demonstrated a solid performance with a completion rate of 74% due to the achievement of several planned outputs. Overall, the end-of-year release of funds was excellent at 98%, but expenditure was low, standing at only 47%. Notable accomplishments included the issuance of 49,743 land titles aimed at strengthening tenure security for both men and women. At least, 256 titles issued in fragile ecosystems, such as wetlands and forest reserves, were cancelled.

Additionally, the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Policy was drafted, and the development of the National Land Policy was initiated. A total of 729 lease transactions were processed nationwide for male and female lessees, including persons with disabilities (PWDs) and companies. Furthermore, 232 court cases were managed, and the automation and integration of the Land Management Information System (LMIS) with other systems was estimated at 78%.

Recommendations

1. MLHUD should develop a user friendly online portal for customers to submit applications, track progress and access land title information.
2. MLHUD should prioritise allocation of funds to the district land boards in order exercise their mandate.
3. MLHUD should develop the land compensation guidelines to guide the whole process of compensation.
4. MLHUD should develop guidelines for the land's compensation process.
5. MLHUD should closely follow up the cancellation of illegal titles in the fragile ecosystems.



CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

The performance of the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, and Land Management program for the fiscal year 2023/24 was moderately satisfactory, achieving an overall rating of 73%. The annual budget release was commendable at 96%, but the expenditure was underwhelming at only 35%. This low expenditure was primarily due to delays in procurement and recruitment of staff, resulting in the inability to consume their emoluments in the Land Management and Environment and Natural Resources sectors. The ratings for the sub-programs were as follows: Water Resources Management received a rating of 77%, Environment and Natural Resources was rated at 68%, and Land Management received a rating of 74%.

The positive performance is attributed to consistent activities such as water quality testing at the National Water Quality Research Laboratory (NWQRL) and Regional Water Quality Research Laboratories (RWQRL). Additionally, the installed Water and Environmental Information System (WEIS) at the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the four Water Resources Management Zones (WRMZs) was operational. The Radar and Shear stations provided regular weather updates, and ongoing multi-year externally funded projects focused on wetlands and forestry were not hindered by late budget releases. The Land Valuation Management Information System was functional, and the capitalization of the Land Fund facilitated the titling of both individual and government land.

By the end of the fiscal year, progress on forest and wetland coverage was recorded at 12.2% and 9.3%, respectively. The percentage of titled land increased to 30%, slightly below the target of 35%. Title acquisition took 15 days, compared to the targeted duration of 7 days. The accuracy of weather forecasts was measured at 75%, although the goal was set at 80%. The average annual change in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions was reported at 1.27%. However, only 20% of the National Development Plan III (NDP III) annual targets were achieved.

4.2 Overall Challenges

1. Impunity was/is rampant as individuals openly encroach on forests and wetlands. This is compelled by the illegal seize of land and obtaining titles through corrupt means, showing blatant disregard for the law and no fear of consequences for their actions.
2. Illegal titles for forest reserves and wetlands are sometimes exacerbated by political maneuvering, which encourages further encroachment, along with a backlog of unresolved court cases.
3. The lack of prioritization for land management funding in natural resource programs perpetuates ongoing land conflicts, particularly surrounding contested land prices and acquisition issues. This situation hinders the timely implementation of projects and infrastructure development.
4. The low absorption rate of released funds for the program is due to delayed releases and disbursements to implementing agencies, resulting in late procurement initiation. Slow



procurement processes are further affected by World Bank no-objection conditions and the need to obtain Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs).

5. Weak collaboration and linkages among sub-program implementers lead to duplication of efforts and wastage of resources.
6. The integration of the Programme Implementation Action Plan (PIAP) commitments into annual approved budgets and work plans is limited, which impedes the achievement of the intended program objectives and outcome targets.

4.3 Recommendations

1. The MWE and NEMA should strengthen government capacity to enforce laws protecting forest lands and prosecute illegal encroachment.
2. The Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development must expedite the cancellation of illegal land titles in wetlands and forest reserves.
3. The Programme Working Group should prioritize land management funding in budgets for land acquisition, conflict resolution, and sustainable planning to ensure equitable access for projects.
4. The MFPED and other Programme MDAs should eliminate obstacles to timely fund release and start procurements promptly to avoid delays.
5. The MWE and its agencies should enhance collaboration, prioritize resource allocation, and focus on key activities to reduce duplication.
6. MDAs in the programme should integrate prioritized commitments from the Public Investment Action Plan (PIAP) into annual budgets, aligned with the National Development Plan III (NDPIII) in the final implementation year.



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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Monitored Interventions under the NRECCLWM Programme FY2023/24

1.	Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at catchment level
2.	Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels:
3.	Strengthen conservation, restoration of forests, wetlands and water catchments and hilly and mountainous areas
4.	Increase investment in value addition to environment and natural resources products and services
5.	Mainstream environment and natural resources management in policies, programmes and budgets with clear budget lines and performance indicators.
6.	Increase funding for promoting non-consumptive uses of the natural resources
7.	Develop and implement a framework that reduces adverse per capita environmental impact of cities (air quality and waste management practices)
8.	Undertake applied research and innovation on sustainable consumption and production to ensure resource use efficiency to reduce domestic material consumption per capita
9.	Enhance access and uptake of meteorological information
10.	Install new and adequately equip and maintain existing automatic weather stations to ensure maximum functionality
11.	Support local community-based eco-tourism activities for areas that are rich in biodiversity or have attractive cultural heritage sites
12.	Integrate education for sustainable development in national curricula at all levels for an environmentally literate citizenry
13.	Fast-track the formulation, review, harmonisation, and implementation of land laws, policies regulations, standards and guidelines.
14.	Strengthen the capacity of land management institutions in executing their mandate geared towards securing land rights.
15.	Promote land consolidation, titling and banking
16.	Complete the rollout and integration of the Land Management Information System with other systems.
17.	Promote tenure security including women's access to land
18.	Develop and implement a Land Valuation Management Information System
19.	Undertake a comprehensive inventory of Government land
20.	Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at catchment level
21.	Capitalize the Land Fund to ensure access to land by lawful and bona fide occupants
22.	Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use natural resources and mitigate disaster



Annex 2: Performance of the Water Resources Management Sub Programme by 30th June 2024

Outputs Performance							Remark	
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance			
		Annual Budget (Ug shs billion)	% of budget received	% of release spent	Annual Target (%)	Cum. Achieved Quantity (%)		Physical performance Score (%)
Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at catchment level	Joint Trans boundary catchment investment projects prepared	2.25	99.0	100	100.00	70.00	70.72	Feasibility studies and detailed designs for Angolo MPP were conducted. Bilateral Agreement to source for funding for its implementation was discussed; Nyimur MPP: Draft MoU for Nyimur with South Sudan formulated; Kagera RBM: Joint Action plans for Kagera and Mt. Elgon aquifer formulated.
	Water resources data (Quantity and Quality) collected and assessed	5.22	98.1	100	100.00	80.00	81.56	Routine ambient water quality monitoring was conducted on Lakes Victoria, Albert, Edward, and George. Oxygen levels were favorable for fish. However accumulation of nitrogen and phosphorous were observed in all lakes which could disrupt the natural ecosystem balance.
	National Water Quality Monitoring infrastructure and networks upgraded and functional.	11.01	90.5	74	100.00	55.00	60.78	Three out of eight water monitoring stations were rehabilitated; Supply and installation of Hydromet equipment in 12 monitoring await completion of civil works; The four regional laboratories operated and maintained.
	Operational Water information systems at the central level and in the 4 Water Management Zones	3.83	89.4	62	100.00	98.00	100.00	The WEIS installed at MWE and in the four WRMZs; the user acceptance testing was completed and support and maintenance phase was ongoing
	Operational optimal Surface Water and Ground Water monitoring network established	5.76	89.6	75	100.00	47.00	52.43	Five out of 20 water level dippers for groundwater monitoring network supplied but not installed
	Robust E-based Water Resources Information System	1.57	99.8	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	Increase in permits assessments and issuance due to a robust E-based system.



Outputs Performance								Remark
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance			
		Annual Budget (Ug shs billion)	% of budget received	% of release spent	Annual Target (%)	Cum. Achieved Quantity (%)	Physical performance Score (%)	
	Improved water use efficiency for increased productivity in water consumptive programmes (agro-industrialization, manufacturing, mineral development). 2. National water budget to inform equitable and efficient allocation for all water uses determined	11.10	71.7	80	100.00	95.00	100.00	Activities were majorly administrative. Staff salaries and office management.
	Functional gender sensitive water catchment management committees established	5.98	72.1	69	100.00	60.00	83.26	Gender sensitive catchment management committees formulated where implementations are ongoing but are not active
	Demonstration centers for demonstration of innovative catchment management measures established	5.07	81.1	68	100.00	60.00	73.95	13 Water and Environment Cooperatives supported to implement IGAs as alternative livelihoods to avoid catchment degradation
	Degraded water catchments protected and restored through implementation of catchment management measures	13.11	50.4	72	100.00	40.00	79.34	17.75km of soil and water management structures, 79 percolation pits and gully plugs and 40 Ha of degraded forests restored. There was limited implementation for soil and water conservation structures
	National Water Quality Reference Laboratory analytical capacity upgraded and regional Laboratories established to address issues related drinking water, pollution & SDGs	3.64	97.4	100	100.00	60.00	61.63	Accreditation of the National Water Quality Reference Laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025 2017 is at 85% level of progress; National Water Quality Reference Laboratory constructed to 58% level of completion; The four regional laboratories were operational



Outputs Performance							Remark	
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance			
		Annual Budget (Ug shs billion)	% of budget received	% of release spent	Annual Target (%)	Cum. Achieved Quantity (%)	Physical performance Score (%)	
	Catchment Management Plans in the Water Management Zones	7.85	65.6	51	100.00	50.00	76.23	Final draft of Drought Management Plan for Lokere under review; 2 Climate-smart WASH and Catchment Management plans were not developed Implementations yet to commence in Mpologoma catchment. There were delays in signing of the grant agreement 40/60ha of degraded forests restored, but the planned restoration of riverbanks and wetlands not done Not undertaken
	Water management measures implemented in priority sub-catchments	0.83	35.0	100	100.00	10.00	28.57	
	Increased water storage capacity to meet water resources use requirements	4.99	84.3	69	100.00	22.00	26.10	
	Water resources compliance monitoring equipment procured and installed	2.23	89.3	100	100.00	0.00	0.00	
Strengthen enforcement capacity for improved compliance levels								
Average Outputs Performance							66.31	Fair Output performance
Outcomes Performance								
Outcome Indicator			Annual Target (%)	Achieved (%)	Score (%)	Remark		
Compliance to abstraction permit conditions - Ground water			80	78.7	98			
Compliance to abstraction permit conditions - Surface water			80.5	78.6	98			
Compliance to waste water discharge permit conditions			67	66	99			
Average Outcomes performance							98.2	Very good outcome performance
Overall sub-program Performance							77.5	Good overall performance of sub-program



Annex 3: Performance of the Environment and Natural Resources Sub Programme by 30th June 2024

Outputs Performance									Remark
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance				
		Annual Budget (Ug shs)	% of budget received	% of budget spent	Annual Target	Cum. Achieved Quantity	Physical performance Score (%)		
Strengthen conservation, restoration of forests, wetlands and water catchments and hilly and mountainous areas:	Improve coordination, regulation and monitoring of environment management at both central and local government levels	31,003,897,436	97.7	43	100.00	75.00	76.78	International and national days commemorated; 8 projects monitored for compliance to environmental and social safeguards; 18 LGs and four MIDAs supported in environmental planning and budgeting; Agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors were trained on the use of the Monitoring Reporting and Verification tool	
	Restoration of critical wetlands; Demarcate, gazette and restore 900 Kms of wetlands; Gazette 6 critical Wetlands.	3,456,222,222	93.5	93	100.00	70.00	74.90	2 wetland based community enterprises were developed and supported in Nyangiriire wetland in Western Uganda and in Maziba wetland in Eastern Uganda; 8,102.78ha of degraded wetlands were restored; 3,665 wetlands were gazetted; and 215.4Km of wetlands were demarcated	
	Mobilize stakeholders and develop and implement costed management plans.	788,888,889	99.7	100	100.00	10.00	10.03	Local Governments and Urban Councils of Kanungu, Mitooma and Nakaseke where restoration was undertaken, were technically backstopped and coordinated	
	12,200km of CFRs boundary resurveyed, marked and maintained	526,142,857	90.6	100	100.00	81.80	90.34	1,193,345 ha of CFRs were protected from illegal activities and encroachment	
	55 Forest Management Plans prepared , 1,265mha of CFRs protected and freed from illegal activities and encroachment, 365,000ha of natural forests restored,62,657ha forest inventory and biomass assessed	3,980,126,985	88.4	86	100.00	50.00	56.58	Forest Management Plans (FMPs) for Budongo, Bugoma, and Maramagambo CFRs at final drafting for approval; 40 Private Tree Nursery Operators were certified	



Outputs Performance									Remark
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance				
		Annual Budget (Ug shs)	% of budget received	% of budget spent	Annual Target	Cum. Achieved Quantity	Physical performance Score (%)		
	Percentage increase in forest cover	347,333,333	82.6	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	50,594 Kg of assorted seed were supplied	
	113,000 ha of forest established (13,000 ha under NFA and 100,000 ha under Licensees on CFRs)	347,333,333	82.6	100	100.00	55.00	66.56	14,924 ha protected from fires in 9 ranges and 7 Plantation Areas	
	Undertake an inventory of degraded wetlands; Restoration of critical wetlands; Demarcate, gazette and restore 900 Kms of wetlands; Gazette 6 critical Wetlands.	955,333,333	98.4	100	100.00	42.00	42.69	The EPPU carried out post restoration compliance monitoring and surveillance in the GCF project areas where restoration and demarcation was undertaken.	
	Protection and restoration of strategic fragile ecosystems undertaken	57,536,815,074	97.4	38	100.00	79.00	81.08	150 proposed and existing developments near or in wetland areas monitored, inspected and regulated for compliance. The EPPU was supported and it carried out several enforcement activities. Though no investment made in value addition	
Increase investment in value addition to environment and natural resources products and services	Improved compliance to standard agro-forestry practices	937,777,778	85.9	70	100.00	100.00	100.00	Project Start-Up Workshops were conducted	
	Climate change responsive innovations nurtured and financially supported	5,584,307,692	98.5	23	100.00	0.00	0.00	Activity implemented was not aligned to the output	
Mainstream environment and natural resources management in policies, programmes and budgets with clear budget lines and performance indicators.	Effective engagement and participation in Multilateral Environmental	3,740,707,071	95.9	89	100.00	63.47	66.20	NEMA has engaged in partnership endeavors with organizations such as Makerere University, GIZ, PSFU, and Busitema University	



Outputs Performance									Remark
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance				
		Annual Budget (Ug shs)	% of budget received	% of budget spent	Annual Target	Cum. Achieved Quantity	Physical performance Score (%)		
	Agreements (MEAs) and Protocols								
	Effective engagement with UN and other partners in Environment issues	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	85.00	89.62	NEMA has engaged in partnership endeavors with organizations such as Makerere University, GIZ, PSFU, and Busitema University	
	Partnerships established	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	100.00	100.00	NEMA has engaged in partnership endeavors with organizations such as Makerere University, GIZ, PSFU, and Busitema University	
	Environmental Inspectors, other ENR managers and committees trained on Environmental regulation and enforcement quality standards	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	50.00	52.72	Activities implemented were not well aligned to the output	
	Increased funding to non-consumptive uses of the natural resources	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	77.50	81.72	11 project proposals were developed	
	The institutional capacity of the relevant institutions to manage and regulate environmental aspects including oil and gas activities enhanced	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	90.00	94.90	Staff were recruited at NEMA; Staff salaries and welfare catered for.	
	Develop and implement a framework that reduces adverse per	1,475,909,091	94.8	1	100.00	53.00	55.88	03 DLGs i.e. Mpigi district, Kampala capital City Authority and Kira Municipality were supported to establish ENR Committees and trained on their roles	



Outputs Performance									Remark
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance				
		Annual Budget (Ug shs)	% of budget received	% of budget spent	Annual Target	Cum. Achieved Quantity	Physical performance Score (%)		
capita environmental impact of cities (air quality and waste management practices)	management facilities								
	A legal framework for environment management strengthened	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	100.00	100.00	8 regulations were reviewed/ formulated; 125 court attendances were undertaken	
	A robust environmental assessment, monitoring and surveillance plan operational in cities/municipalities and country wide	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	75.00	79.08	A sensitivity Atlas for Albertine Graben region was developed and a validation exercise conducted; Oil Spills Contingency Plan was developed for Buliisa, Kikuube and Hoima Districts	
	An environmental enforcement strategy developed and operationalized	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	75.00	79.08	123 Prosecutions were undertaken; 55 Environment Practitioners and 220 inspectors were trained on ENR Management	
	Capacity of relevant stakeholders on environmental laws and standards enhanced	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	0.00	0.00	Activities implemented were not aligned to the output	
	Environment management by Lead Agencies undertaken	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	80.00	84.35	Focal point persons of lead agencies were trained on the scope of environmental laws, policies and regulations undertaken	
	The national state of environment report prepared	2,951,818,182	94.8	86	100.00	50.00	52.72	NSOER 2022 was finalised, pending publication and dissemination; Compilation of the first draft of the NSOER 2024 ongoing	



Outputs Performance									Remark
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance				
		Annual Budget (Ug shs)	% of budget received	% of budget spent	Annual Target	Cum. Achieved Quantity	Physical performance Score (%)		
Integrate education for sustainable development in national curricula at all levels for an environmentally literate citizenry	Environmental Inspectors, other ENR managers and committees trained on Environmental regulation and enforcement quality standards.	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	0.00	0.00	Activities implemented were not aligned to the output	
	Education for Sustainable Development integrated in education curricular	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	60.00	63.26	Topical environmental activities undertaken in education institutions Schools debate	
	Information, Education & Communication materials on environment developed and translated into local languages	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	50.00	52.72	19 categories of IEC Materials were procured and video raising awareness on ESIA carried out	
Undertake applied research and innovation on sustainable consumption and production to ensure resource use efficiency to reduce	Public education programs and campaigns on environment enhanced	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	90.00	94.90	National and International environment and biodiversity days and events were commemorated; NEMA Website developed	
	Research and innovations conducted	1,475,909,091	94.8	86	100.00	30.00	31.63	A draft NEMA Research Agenda and a draft resource Mobilisation strategy were developed	



Outputs Performance								Remark
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance			
		Annual Budget (Ug shs)	% of budget received	% of budget spent	Annual Target	Cum. Achieved Quantity	Physical performance Score (%)	
domestic material consumption per capita								
Support local community-based eco-tourism activities for areas that are rich in biodiversity or have attractive cultural heritage sites	10 new Eco-tourism concessions developed	1,052,285,714	90.6	100	100.00	0.00	0.00	No new ecotourism concession was developed, and the compliance assessment for eco sites in Lutoboka CFRs were not undertaken
Increase funding for promoting non-consumptive uses of the natural resources	200 million seedlings supplied (5m-Bamboo, 50m-Indigenous and 145m exotic species)	347,333,333	82.6	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	50,594 Kg of assorted seeds were supplied from the National Tree Seed Center and from other partners such as UNHCR, IRISH AID
Enhance access and uptake of meteorological information	Information and knowledge base on projected climate trends and impacts established and disseminated	151,500,000	43.6	100	100.00	50.00	100.00	2 seasonal rainfall performance evaluation in Northern, Western and Eastern regions; Vulnerability maps produced for South-western and West-Nile sub regions
	Research on future climate trends and potential impacts undertaken.	13,982,500,000	95.0	94	100.00	66.40	69.92	The National Meteorological Training School Supported; Research manuscript on weather and climate drafted; Research on impacts of severe weather events on People with Disabilities (PWD) in Kaberamaido, Dokolo and Lira was completed and report produced; State of the Climate of Uganda Report 2023 was completed.
Install new and adequately equip and maintain existing automatic weather stations to ensure	Weather and air pollution monitoring station network expanded and functional	961,000,000	92.3	97	100.00	60.00	65.01	There were no major network expansions. The functionality of stations was evidenced by the issuance of forecasts and flight folders. Equipment for radar stations was maintained.



Outputs Performance							Remark	
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance		Physical Performance				
		Annual Budget (Ug shs)	% of budget received	% of budget spent	Annual Target	Cum. Achieved Quantity	Physical performance Score (%)	
maximum functionality	Functional automatic weather stations installed and maintained	835,000,000	83.7	97	100.00	43.00	51.37	The functionality of existing weather stations were maintained by equipping 88 Automatic Weather Stations and 32 Manual Weather Stations with airborne for data transmission
Average Outputs Performance				64.69				
Outcomes Performance								
Outcome Indicator								



Annex 4: Performance of the Land Management Sub-Programme by 30th June 2024

Outputs Performance								Remark
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance		Physical Performance				
		Annual Budget (Ug shs)	% of budget received	% of releases spent	Annual Target (%)	Cum. Achieved Quantity (%)	Physical performance Score (%)	
Fast-track the formulation, review, harmonization, and implementation of land laws, policies regulations, standards and guidelines.	Land Laws, Policies, Regulations, standards and guidelines formulated and reviewed	573,300,000	91.0	100	100.00	58.00	63.76	Stakeholder engagements were held to review the draft National Land Policy; Developed the draft Land Acquisition and Resettlement Policy; Land regulations disseminated in 22 districts and in Jinja City
Strengthen the capacity of land management institutions in executing their mandate geared towards securing land right	Capacity of Land Management Institutions (state and non-state actors) strengthened	167,500,000	100.0	99	100.00	91.40	91.40	40 DLB appointments reviewed and approved; the role of traditional institutions in land administration strengthened; Public sensitization on land matters undertaken; DLO, DLB and ALC trained in land management
Promote land consolidation, titling and banking	Land demarcated, surveyed, registered and certified	6,186,333,333	98.4	87	100.00	75.00	76.24	Ug shs 74,357 bn revenue generated; 176,569 land conveyances carried out; Fewer land titles issued than targeted
Complete the rollout and integration of the Land Management Information System with other systems.	Land Information System automated and integrated with other systems	186,653,000,000	100.0	30	100.00	62.00	62.00	Version 7.8 of the NLIS developed but yet to be rolled out; design of LaVMIS is underway at 75% progress
	Data Processing Centre established	6,136,000,000	98.4	87	100.00	100.00	100.00	The center was established in previous FY. The staff and LIS users were trained.
	Revised topographic maps, large scale maps and National atlas	592,000,000	100.0	100	100.00	51.00	51.00	27 topographic maps for three districts of Napak , Moroto and Namsindwa revised, updated and disseminated; Two large scale maps for Jinja and Arua Cities revised; The old National Atlas scanned for revision, data collected for 8 maps of the national Atlas for revision and digitization.
Promote tenure security including women's access to land	Land conflict mechanisms reviewed	75,500,000	99.3	100	100.00	68.00	68.45	Achievements were below set targets: Land related court cases resolved for both men and women; land disputes resolved; 49743 land titles issued; 1024 certificates of customary land issues.



Outputs Performance										Remark
Intervention	Out put	Financial Performance			Physical Performance					
		Annual Budget (Ug shs)	% of budget received	% of releases spent	Annual Target (%)	Cum. Achieved Quantity (%)	Physical performance Score (%)			
	Tenure security for all stakeholders including women enhanced	405,800,000	87.2	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	363 Lease transactions processed for male, female, PWDs, youths and companies' lessees.		
Develop and implement a Land Valuation Management Information System (LAVMIS);	National Valuation Standards and Guidelines developed and disseminated	15,564,000,000	71.5	85	100.00	80.00	100.00	The development of the National Valuation Standards and guidelines were finalized. These were under review by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards for adoption		
Undertake a comprehensive inventory of Government land	A Comprehensive and up to date government land inventory undertaken	811,600,000	100.0	87	100.00	20.00	20.00	Poor performance as only five out of 240 surveys and certificates of titles processed for MDAs		
Improve coordination, planning, regulation and monitoring of water resources at catchment level	Conserved and degraded wetlands demarcated and gazette.	405,800,000	87.2	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	6.34 square kilometres of Wetlands and other ecologically sensitive areas subdivided and titled for protection in partnership with other MDAs		
Average Outputs Performance							75.71	Overall Output performance		
Outcomes Performance										
Outcome Indicator		Annual Target			Achieved		Score (%)	Remark		
Percentage of Government Land titled		44.4			33.7		76			
Percentage of titled land		35			30		86			
Turnaround time for titling of land (days)		7			15		53			
Average Outcomes performance							71.5			
Overall sub-program Performance							74.3	Overall performance of sub-program		



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