

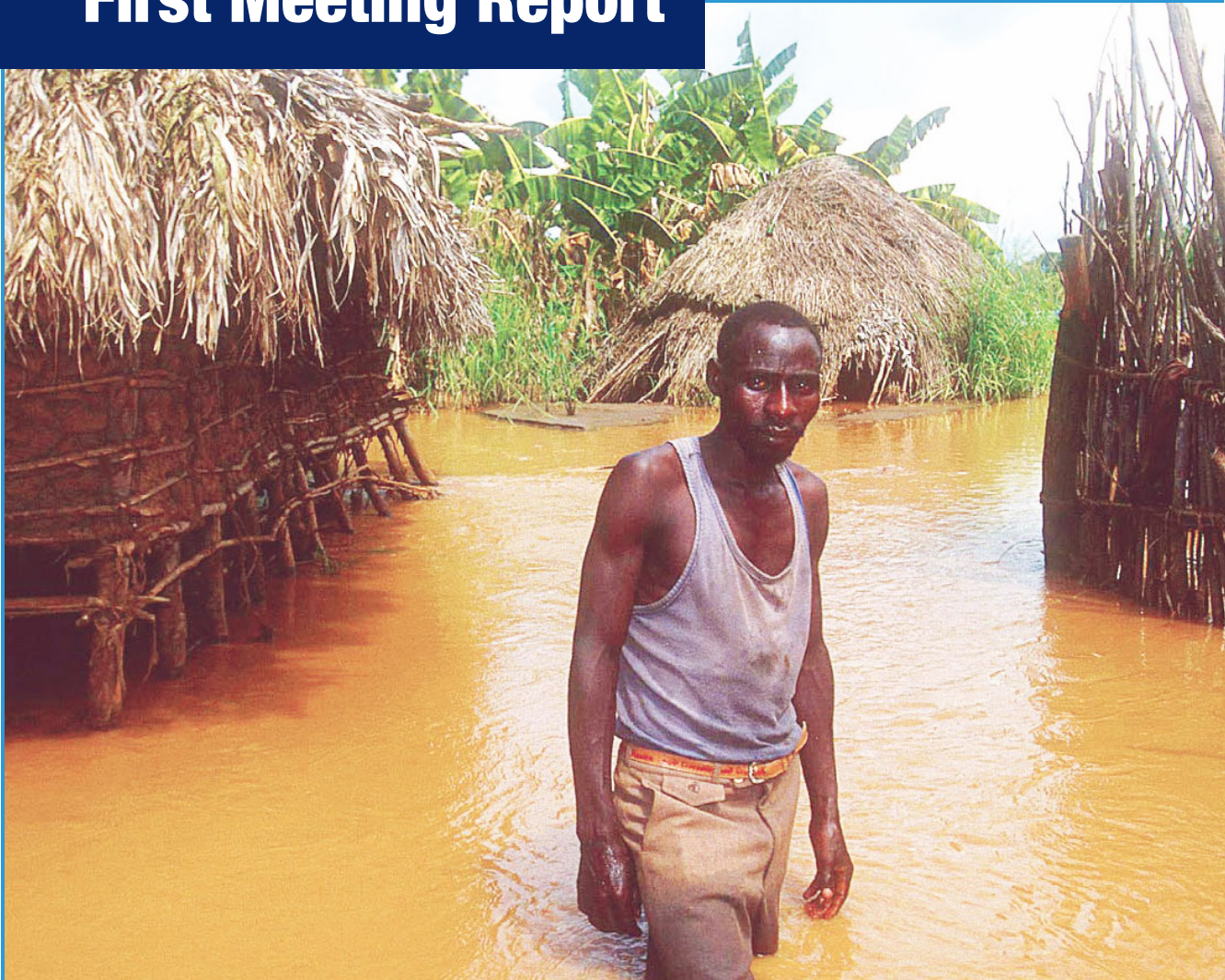


*Sciences For Prosperity*

# Policy Advising in Uganda:

## Establishing the Advisory Committee on Climate Change

### First Meeting Report



UGANDA NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



## *Sciences For Prosperity*

Uganda National Academy of Sciences  
A4 Lincoln House  
Makerere University  
P.O.Box 23911  
Kampala  
Uganda

Tel: +256 414 533 044

Fax: +256 414 533 044

Email: [unas@unas.or.ug](mailto:unas@unas.or.ug)

Website: [www.ugandanationalacademy.org](http://www.ugandanationalacademy.org)

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## UGANDA NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) works to achieve improved prosperity and welfare for the people of Uganda by generating, promoting, sharing and using scientific knowledge, and by giving evidence-based advice to the government and civil society.

UNAS was founded in 2000 and was granted a Charter by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda in 2009. It is an honorific and service-oriented organization, founded on principles of objectivity, scientific rigor, transparency, mutual respect, linkages and partnerships, independence, and the celebration of excellence.

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Prof. Charles Basalirwa** (Chair). Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Climatic Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala.

**Dr. Peter Ndemere.** Executive Director, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, Kampala.

**Mr. Paul Isabirye.** Coordinator, Climate Change Unit/Secretary- Climate Change Policy Committee, Ministry of Water and Environment, Kampala.

**Mr. Onesimus Muhwezi.** Team Leader, Energy and Environment, United Nations Development Programme. Kampala.

**Prof. Peter Ndimbirwe Mugenyi.** Executive Director, Joint Clinical Research Centre, Kampala, and Chancellor, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara.

**Prof. John Baptist Kaddu.** Professor of Zoology, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala.

**Prof. Frank Kansiime.** Professor, Environmental Eco-technology, Department of Environmental Management, Makerere University, Kampala.

**Prof. Joseph Mukiibi.** Former Director General of the National Agricultural Research Organization, Kampala.

**Prof. Joseph Obua.** Regional Coordinator, Lake Victoria Research Initiative, Kampala.

**Hannington Oryem-Origa.** Professor, College of Natural Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala.

**Prof. Noble Ephraim Banada.** Professor, Agricultural & Bio-systems Engineering, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala.

**Dr. Evaline Komutunga.** Agricultural Research Officer National Agricultural Research Organization, Kampala.

**Prof. John Robert Stephen Tabuti.** Professor of Ethnobotany, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Makerere University, Kampala.

**Prof. Tom Oti.** Professor of Physics, College of Natural Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala.

**Prof. David Justin Bakibinga.** Professor of Commercial Law and Head, Department of Commercial Law, Makerere University.

## PREFACE

The vision of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) is improved prosperity and welfare for the people of Uganda through Science. The mission of UNAS is to generate, promote, share and use scientific knowledge and to give evidence based advice to government and civil society. Achievement of this mission would contribute to Uganda's Vision 2040 which is to "*Transform Ugandan Society from a peasant to a modern prosperous country within 30 years*" as approved by cabinet in 2007 (NPA, 2013).

To fulfill its mission, UNAS has, since its founding in 2000, used a number of advisory models that have included both convening and consensus activities to highlight and elucidate issues and also provide recommendations for addressing these issues. The modalities have included conducting workshops where experts speak with authority on pertinent issues, convening expert committees to undertake consensus studies, and like in this case, forming advisory committees.

The idea for convening a Climate Change Oversight Committee was initially a recommendation from an in-depth assessment of Uganda's Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Preparedness conducted by Heinrich Böll Stiftung in 2010 (Hepworth 2010). The funding for the establishment phase of this committee was provided through the Capacity Building Grant (CBG) run by the Network of African Science Academies, which aims at enhancing the capacity of African Academies to provide evidence based advice to empower policy makers and stakeholders to make informed decisions for the good of the nation. Funding for the CBG is provided by the German National Academy of Science Leopoldina, and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

UNAS and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC ) have partnered before to address the challenge of Climate Change by hosting an East Africa-wide Regional workshop titled "The Role of Science Academies in Generating Evidence Based Advice for Effective Policy Decision Making: the Case of Climate Change" which was held in Kampala in October 2010 (UNAS, 2010). The outcome from this regional meeting highlighted the need to form multi-disciplinary expert committees to provide the needed information to policy makers and stakeholders addressing Climate Change. The need for deeper interaction between government, private and academic sectors was emphasized.

This report covers the efforts made by UNAS to constitute an independent expert Committee on Climate Change in Uganda, highlighting its roles, composition and strategic steps being taken to ensure relevance, effective impact and self sustainability.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the members of the Climate Change Committee who have graciously volunteered their expertise and time to serve for the good of their country.

Our deepest appreciation goes to the reviewer, Dr. Charles Mugoya, who seriously analyzed the content of this report, and gave valuable criticism and feedback. This has enriched the quality of this product.

We also wish to thank Network of African Science Academies, the German National Academy of Science Leopoldina, and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research that have provided and administered funds for the establishment phase of this committee.

Finally, thank you to the editors, whose tireless efforts have resulted in this report.



**Prof. Charles Basalirwa**

Chair, Climate Change Committee



**Prof. Nelson Sewankambo**

President, Uganda National Academy of Sciences

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	6
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	7
ACRONYMS.....	7
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	8
INTRODUCTION.....	10
FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE.....	12
THE COMMITTEE’S INAUGURAL MEETING.....	13
INAUGURAL MEETING ACTIVITIES.....	13
PRESENTATIONS.....	13
BIAS AND CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DISCLOSURE.....	14
MEETING RESOLUTIONS AND WAY FORWARD.....	14
REFERENCES .....	16
APPENDICES .....	17

### ACRONYMS

CCU	Climate Change Unit
NASAC	Network of African Science Academies
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NPA	National Planning Authority
UNAS	Uganda National Academy of Sciences
UNDP	UNITED Nations Development Program



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Within its mandate, Uganda National Academy of Sciences initiates and coordinates research on topical issues relevant for Uganda's development. One such issue that the country is grappling with is climate change and its impacts. In Uganda, climate change is undermining socio-economic gains made in the recent past. Because of climate change and weather changes, the country is experiencing more frequent floods, landslides in mountainous areas and disease outbreaks. For example, in the period 1991-2000, Uganda experienced seven drought episodes (Oxfam, 2008).

Given the urgency of climate change and weather variability on socio-economic development, there are a plethora of ongoing activities in Uganda aimed at mitigating climate change and to build resilience to climate change impacts. These activities include research action as well as responses to disasters.

A challenge with these actions is that they are not well coordinated. There are many projects that are duplicating effort or some that are poorly designed and likely to generate irrelevant data. This justified the creation of an oversight platform to share experiences, results and coordinate activities. This could be done by creating a long term database at a localised centre where major activities/projects aimed at climate change adaptation and mitigation can be categorised and recorded. This platform will be useful for Government, Community Based Organisations and Development Partners to ensure efforts are complimentary and additive. A multi-sectoral board of key experts in areas relevant to climate change adaptation and mitigation (e.g. social, gender, environmental, policy/legal, public health, agriculture) has been constituted by UNAS, to analyze these efforts, and to give a wholesome view on their anticipated benefits and the end of program outcomes.

The key objective of the committee is to promote the responsible interpretation and use of climate science and change scenarios, track the costs benefits, efficacy and outcomes of government and development partner effort and investment on climate change adaptation to provide institutional incentives, and promote integrity and accountable performance.

In the establishment phase of this project, UNAS aimed to:

- Identify highly credible specialists to comprise the committee, using the rigorous academy processes that ensure an independent and bias free entity.
- Get buy –in for the facility through strategic advocacy and networking with key stakeholders to ensure its sustainability.

This facility will be complimentary to the roles of the Climate Change Unit under the Ministry of Water Lands and Environment, the National Environment Management Authority and the Climate Change Resource Centre under the College of Agriculture and Environmental Studies, Makerere University.

## INTRODUCTION

Uganda's Vision 2040 (NPA, 2013; section 5.9) acknowledges that whereas Climate Change affects all sectors of the economy, making the need for preparedness inevitable, there is still poor understanding of climate change and variability in Uganda and hence inadequate adaptation and mitigation measures currently in place in the country. There is insufficient attention being given to climate change initiatives by the Government, the Private Sector, the Civil Society and at community levels.

An in-depth analysis of Uganda's Climate Change vulnerability and adaptation preparedness by Hepworth (2010), found that despite some positive signs, Uganda is generally not well prepared for the challenge of adapting to climate change. The technical capacity and resources which exist are geared at serving the needs of the international agenda rather than actively planning and working to build Uganda's domestic resilience. Furthermore, although the donor community is committed to close collaboration and coordination under the Paris Declaration, there is an apparent lack of meaningful coordination and leadership on climate change issues, and this risk further undermines the government response through imposition of disparate, externally set priorities.

A key recommendation to address this challenge was the need to establish and support a national research and advocacy facility with the mandate to promote the responsible interpretation and use of climate science and change scenarios; track the costs, benefits, efficacy and outcomes of government and development partner effort and investment in climate change adaptation, to provide institutional incentives, and promote integrity and accountable performance.

Within its mandate, Uganda National Academy of Sciences initiates and coordinates research on topical issues relevant for Uganda's development. In Uganda, climate change is undermining socio-economic gains made in the recent past. Some of the challenges the country is facing that are attributed to climate change and weather changes, include: experiencing more frequent floods, landslides in mountainous areas and disease outbreaks.

For example, between 1991 and 2000, Uganda experienced seven drought episodes (Oxfam 2008).

UNAS responded to the above challenges by creation of a climate change oversight platform to share experiences, results, and coordinate activities. This platform proposes to create a long term database at a localized centre where all activities/projects aimed at climate change adaptation and mitigation can be categorized and recorded. The platform will be useful for Government, Community Based Organizations and Development Partners to ensure efforts are complimentary and additive. A multi-sectoral board of key experts in areas relevant to climate change adaptation and mitigation (e.g. social, gender, environmental, policy/legal, public health, agriculture) has been constituted by UNAS, to analyze these efforts, and to give a wholesome view on their anticipated benefits and the end of program outcomes.

The main objective of the committee is to promote the responsible interpretation and use of climate science and change scenarios, track the costs benefits, efficacy and outcomes of government and development partner effort and investment on climate change adaptation to provide institutional incentives and promote integrity and accountable performance.

In the establishment phase of this project, UNAS aimed at:

- Identifying highly credible specialists to comprise the committee, using the rigorous academy processes that ensure an independent and bias free entity.
- Getting buy –in for the facility through strategic advocacy and networking with key stakeholders, and to ensure sustainability.

Key activities for the establishment phase included:

- Identification of eminent persons in the different fields relevant to climate change mitigation and adaption in accordance with standard Academy procedures to serve on the Committee.
- Networking and advocacy for buy in with key stakeholders like the Climate Change Unit of the Ministry of Water and Environment, Parliamentary

Forum on Climate Change, the various development partners and NGOs with an interest in climate change adaptation and Academic Institutions. A GTZ study done in 2010 (Hepworth 2010) mapped the climate change actors and landscape and the UNDP has a database of climate change related activities and priorities of various organizations and donor agencies in Uganda.

- Development of a strategic work-plan for the facility to ensure technical and financial sustainability. Based on this strategic work-plan, different avenues of funding for the long term work of the facility will be explored.

## **FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE**

Before convening the Advisory Committee on Climate Change for its first meeting, UNAS developed a proposed slate of committee members indicating areas of expertise that were critical to the committee's viability and suitability and to the execution of its mandate. Experts with a track record of achievement in these respective fields relevant to climate change were then approached and invited to participate on the committee. The biographies of those that accepted the invitation were assessed for potential bias and conflict of interest to ensure that any biases were balanced, and conflicts of interest declared. This was crucial to guarantee the creation of a balanced, impartial committee capable of generating objective policy recommendations, with no personal gains or profit to institutions with which they are affiliated. They would also serve on a voluntary basis. The Committee was expected to function with 15 members. Committee members serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of organizations to which they belong.

## THE COMMITTEE'S INAUGURAL MEETING

The UNAS Advisory Committee on Climate Change held its first meeting on 28th March 2014.

The attendance list is attached as Appendix 1 and Agenda as Appendix 2.

### Inaugural meeting activities

#### Presentations

The first meeting was flagged off by Prof. Eli Sabiiti, a member of the UNAS council, who thanked members for accepting the privilege to serve on the Advisory Committee on Climate Change. He noted that climate change was a very dynamic and challenging phenomenon facing the country and formation of an oversight facility was indeed timely.

At the launch meeting, the secretariat briefed the committee on the academy process, particularly the merits of a science academy: as a neutral independent body of experts, working through scientifically rigorous processes to advice government. Thus Academies are well placed to provide access to a wealth of high quality multi-disciplinary locally-developed scientific advice – based on their convening powers.

The committee members were also taken through the Statement of Task, highlighting the mandate and objectives of the committee. The secretariat also outlined the modulus operandi, including:

- a) Conditions of membership: As voluntary service based on expertise and active participation in relevant areas related to climate change. All members were to declare any potential biases, and conflicts of interest. The committee Chair would be a senior and widely respected member nominated during the launch meeting. Members were also expected to attend at least 75% of committee meetings as a show of commitment.
- b) Meetings: the UNAS secretariat would offer secretarial support to meetings including making meeting appointments at least one week before the

scheduled date, agenda circulation, and taking minutes during the meeting. Quorum would be achieved with at least half the committee plus the Chair in attendance. Committee would meet at least once every 3 months, and whenever necessary, or upon the request of Chair or Secretariat. Meetings are closed and non-members may attend by invitation only.

- c) **Communication:** The Chair would present the Committee's recommendations to the UNAS council for approval before stakeholder dissemination. UNAS council would on behalf of the Committee, publish its final report. The Chair and/or any designated member would carry out relevant advocacy at national and regional level

Members were informed that the first objective of the establishment phase of the committee, which was to identify highly credible specialists in the field of climate change to comprise the committee had been done. The second objective, which was to get buy-in for the facility through strategic advocacy and networking with key stakeholders to ensure sustainability, was the outstanding task at hand.

### **Bias and Conflict of Interests Disclosure**

The disclosure session uncovered no major biases, or conflicts of interest among members. Signed declaration forms were submitted to the secretariat for filing and future reference, if required.

### **Meeting Resolutions and Way forward**

Having formally constituted the committee, the members nominated within themselves a Chair (Prof. Charles Basalirwa) and proceeded to suggest some action points for the Climate Change Project as a way forward:

- a) UNAS was to host an information centre for Climate Change Information through creation of a database. This would contribute to storage and dissemination of information and making it accessible to users.
- b) Organise a half day workshop for stakeholders/NGOs to increase visibility of the committee and to know what work is being done on climate

change. This would popularise the work of the committee of experts on climate change by identifying a niche as UNAS and what it can contribute to Climate change adaptation methods. They noted the need to seek alternative sources of funding for the workshop.

- c) Gather information on who was doing what and where on Climate change issues.
- d) Owing to the fact that NASAC-Leopoldina, the funders of the establishment phase of the project, may not support the project beyond the initiation stage of six months, the committee was tasked to write a sustainability concept note of the committee including a budget, and actively promote it to other potential funders.
- e) Co-opt Prof. E.N. Sabiiti, a member of the NEMA Board, to brief National Environment Authority (NEMA) about the climate change committee.
- f) Constitute a sub-committee to identify areas of need that can be filled by this committee.
- g) Publish information on climate change on the UNAS website.
- h) The Chair of the committee was to write to the Minister of Water and Environment to formally introduce this UNAS Committee on Climate Change and express its readiness to work with his ministry to resolve some of the issues on climate change and other future collaborations.
- i) A resolution by members that the Climate Change Committee meetings be held quarterly.



## REFERENCES

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1:

#### Attendance list of the Inaugural meeting held on 28th March 2014

##### Members present

1. Prof. Charles Basalirwa – Chairperson
2. Prof. Tom Oti – Member
3. Prof. Hannington Oryem-Origa – Member
4. Prof. John R.S. Tabuti – Member
5. Prof. John Baptist Kaddu – Member
6. Prof. David J. Bakibinga – Member
7. Prof. Frank Kansiime – Member

##### Members absent with apology

1. Prof. Noble Ephraim Banadda – Member
2. Prof. Joseph Obua – Member
3. Prof. Joseph Mukiibi – Member
4. Mr. Onesmus Muhwezi – Member
5. Prof. Peter N. Mugenyi – Member
6. Prof. Peter Ndemere – Member
7. Mr. Paul Isabirye – Member

##### UNAS Council and Secretariat

1. Prof. Elly N. Sabiiti – UNAS Council Representative
2. Ms. Celia Nalwadda – Research Officer
3. Mr. Louis Javuru – Intern

## Appendix 2:

### Agenda for the Inaugural meeting of the Advisory Committee on Climate Change



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## UGANDA NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

### Meeting Agenda

28 March 2014

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

#### Inaugural Meeting

#### AGENDA

- 08H30 – 09H00: Registration  
All
- 09H00 – 09H05: Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda  
**Prof. Eli Sabiiti** – UNAS Council Representative
- 09H05 – 09H10: Self Introductions  
**All**
- 09H10 – 10H00: Brief on Academy Process and Consensus Study  
**UNAS Secretariat**
- 10H00 – 10H15: **Tea / Coffee Break**
- 10H15 – 10H45: Statement of Task for the Committee  
**UNAS Secretariat**
- 10H45 – 11H30: Bias and Conflict of Interest Discussion  
**UNAS Secretariat and All**
- 11H30 – 11H40: Election of Chair  
**All**
- 11H40 -12H20: Information sharing and recommendations for action  
**All**
- 12H20 – 12H30: Closing Remarks  
**Chair**
- 12H30 – 13H30: Lunch and Departure



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