

ISSUE 2

THE CLIMATE PULSE

Climate Can't Wait. Neither Can We



CAN
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Uganda

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear reader,

Climate Action Network Uganda

Climate change is not a distant threat it is a lived reality that is reshaping livelihoods, ecosystems, and economies in Uganda and beyond. As the board of Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-U), we remain committed to ensuring that civil society plays a leading role in shaping inclusive, people-centered climate solutions.

The stories in this edition of our magazine showcase the powerful work that CAN-U and its members are undertaking to drive policy reform, elevate community voices, and strengthen Uganda's climate resilience. Whether it is our engagement with the EU's deforestation regulations, carbon market frameworks, or our advocacy for inclusive forest policies, CAN-U is at the forefront ensuring that no community is left behind.

We extend our appreciation to all our members, partners, and stakeholders who continue to walk this journey with us. Together, let's amplify our collective voice and take bold action because climate can't wait and neither can we.

Mr. Eric Philip Bkalikwira

Chairperson Board

Climate Action Network Uganda



Uganda Civil Society Mobilizes Around EU Deforestation Law to Safeguard Forests and Exports

DATE: JUNE 28, 2025

BY: CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK UGANDA

KAMPALA, UGANDA – Uganda's civil society, government officials, and trade experts have stepped up efforts to respond to the European Union's Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR), a sweeping policy that could reshape Uganda's forest-based exports. Set to take effect in July 2024 for small companies and by 2025 for larger firms, the regulation requires that all commodities entering or exiting the EU such as coffee, cocoa, palm oil, and timber must be proven legal, traceable, and not linked to deforestation or forest degradation.

In light of this, Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-U) held a timely virtual consultative meeting on June 27, 2025, under the theme "Emerging Issues in the Forest Sector: Implications of the European Union Directive on Deforestation." The event, organized under the "Valuing Forests in Uganda" project with support from Forests of the World – Denmark, brought together over 30 participants. Attendees included government officials from trade experts from SEATINI, civil society leaders, and CAN-U member organizations from across the country.



Opening the session, CAN-U's National Coordinator Anthony Wolimbwa introduced the objectives of the meeting, emphasizing the urgency of equipping stakeholders with knowledge on how EUDR will affect Uganda's forest sector and export economy.

"This is more than a trade compliance issue, it's a matter of environmental justice," said Susan Khaita Wasubire. Programs officer Climate Action Network Uganda "We must ensure that smallholder farmers are not excluded from markets simply because they lack access to digital tools or registration systems.

Key issues raised included the limited awareness among value chain actors, especially smallholder farmers, about the regulation and the traceability requirements it demands. Concerns were also voiced about the low number of registered coffee farmers, the lack of geospatial data infrastructure, and the absence of protective legal frameworks to safeguard farmers' data and rights. Participants expressed fears that large corporations might comply with the regulation at the expense of smallholder inclusion, increasing the risk of greenwashing while undermining equitable trade.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of sustained technical engagement. Stakeholders proposed forming a working group to develop advocacy strategies and monitor emerging regulations such as the UK's deforestation law and the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. Additionally, Cafe Africa was tasked with sharing its recent study on data governance and awareness among farmers.

The meeting revealed Uganda's vulnerability in meeting EUDR obligations, especially as the country is currently categorized under the EU's "standard-risk" group, which calls for more stringent due diligence. The regulation's requirement for geo-location data, legality proof, and risk assessments for every export poses a significant hurdle, particularly in sectors like coffee that support over 12 million Ugandans.

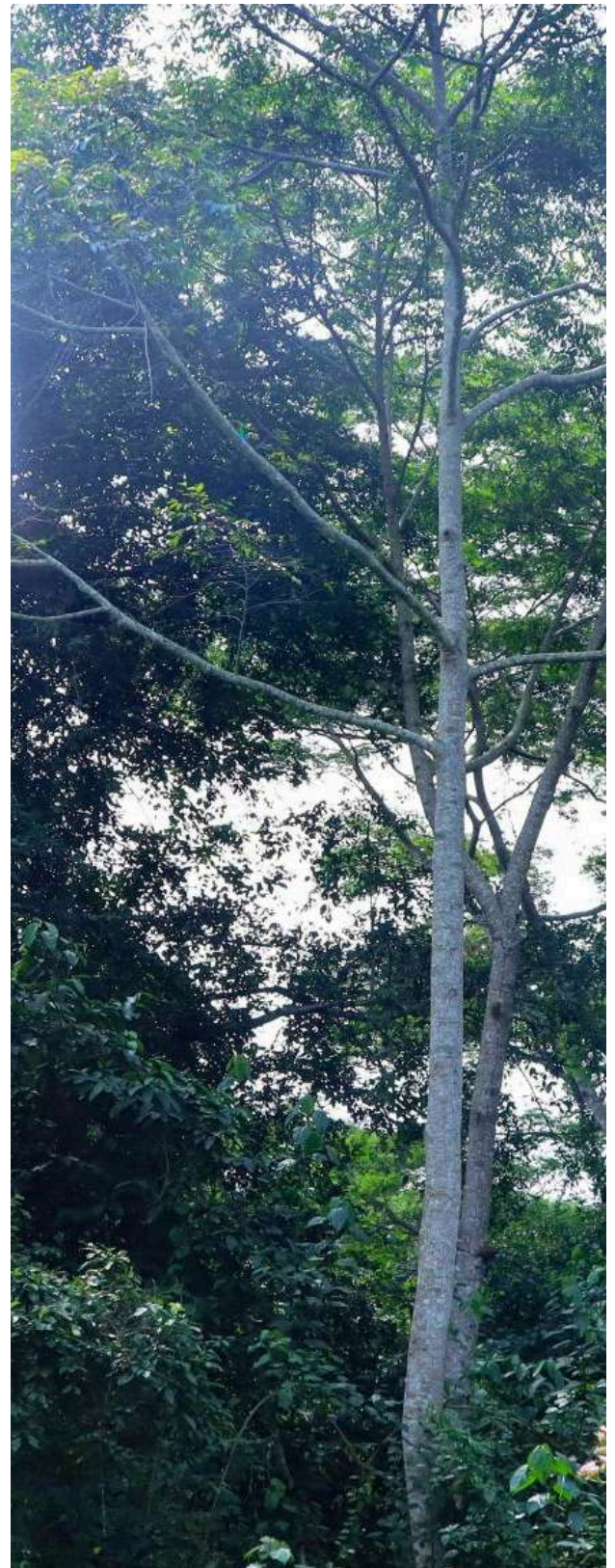
Despite the challenges, the meeting was marked by a strong sense of collaboration and determination to act. Participants agreed that the government must urgently finalize and implement regulations under the National Coffee Act 2021 and ensure that resources are allocated in the 2025–2026 budget for traceability systems. Civil society organizations committed to raising awareness among farmers, strengthening grassroots capacity, and advocating for inclusive digital solutions. The need to engage Parliament, especially through platforms like YALA, was underscored as a strategy for developing a unified East African position on EUDR.

"Uganda's forests and farmers are at the heart of sustainable trade," The regulation is clear, but the road to compliance must be inclusive. We must leave no farmer behind." Jonathan Lubega, SEATINI This regulation can be an opportunity if we work together to ensure that no one is left behind."

Since 2021, CAN-U has been at the forefront of advocating for forest policy reform in Uganda, contributing to the national review of the 2001 Forest Policy and ensuring that the rights of indigenous and forest-dependent communities are protected. The June 27th meeting builds on these efforts, reinforcing CAN-U's commitment to advancing sustainable forest governance that aligns with global standards while safeguarding local livelihoods.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue the conversation and prepare stakeholders for the changes ahead. A comprehensive report will be published, and materials from the meeting will be shared through CAN-U's digital platforms. Post-event evaluations will assess knowledge gained and help refine future engagements.

As Uganda navigates the complex terrain of global trade and climate policy, this meeting served as a pivotal moment. It signaled a clear message: the country must not only prepare to comply with international regulations, it must do so in a way that is inclusive, just, and climate-smart.



UGANDA'S FORESTRY FUTURE UNDER REVIEW: CAN-UGANDA ENGAGES GOVERNMENT ON CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE FOREST POLICY REFORMS

Uganda's efforts to reform its National Forest Policy received a critical boost as the Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-Uganda) convened a high-level stakeholder meeting with the Ministry of Water and Environment at Hill Plaza Hotel, Ntinda. The meeting focused on integrating climate change concerns into forest governance and aligning sector reforms with the ongoing Regulatory Impact Assessment (RAPEX) process. Mr. Bob Kazungu, Assistant Commissioner for Forestry, delivered a data-rich keynote address, highlighting both alarming trends and policy opportunities. He noted that Uganda lost over 1 million hectares of forest between 2000 and 2019, with forest cover declining from 3.78 million to 2.73 million hectares a 28% reduction. Most of this loss 91% occurred on private land, underscoring weak governance and lack of incentives for private forest stewardship.



Mr. Bob Kazungu, Assistant Commissioner for Forestry

"The biggest challenge is that we failed to implement many of the noble aspirations of the 2001 Forest Policy," Mr. Kazungu stated. "Despite increasing industrial plantations, we are still losing vast natural forests, especially on private land, due to weak enforcement, poor coordination, and limited incentives for communities to conserve."

- Kazungu highlighted that although plantation forests grew from 21,340 hectares in 2000 to 314,350 hectares in 2019, the forest industry remains underdeveloped. Issues include rudimentary processing technologies, limited kiln-drying facilities, weak value chains, and an influx of illegal timber from both local and regional sources such as the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Mr Richard Kimbowa Sustainability Advisor

He also emphasized institutional gaps, noting that only 13% of the Community Forest Management (CFM) groups had valid agreements by 2018, despite the growth in numbers. Moreover, law enforcement remains weak and poorly coordinated, and public procurement policies still allow the use of illegal timber.

Mr. Kazungu pointed out that the ongoing policy review includes strong provisions for:

- Establishing a centralized legality assurance and tracking system for forest products.
- Developing a forest finance strategy, including dedicated funds and incentives for private sector and community investments.
- Promoting gender equity and participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

The policy review process, initiated in 2019, is built upon various assessments and strategies such as the National REDD+ Strategy and Forest Landscape Restoration Opportunities. Key reforms focus on strengthening forest law enforcement, enhancing access to climate finance, formalizing partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and promoting transparency and inclusivity.

As the forestry sector awaits presidential assent to the NFA Repeal Bill and the finalization of the updated National Forest Plan, stakeholders agreed on the urgency of sustained dialogue and joint action.



Photo moment after the meeting

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Philip Eric Bakalikwira, Chairperson of the Board of Directors at CAN-Uganda, underscored the importance of embedding climate resilience in Uganda's forestry framework.

"Climate change is not a future threat it's a current crisis. Any forest policy that doesn't address climate resilience, community ownership, and equity will only serve the status quo," Mr. Bakalikwira said. "We are here to ensure that civil society voices are heard, and the policy reforms reflect the realities on the ground."

He reaffirmed CAN-Uganda's commitment to supporting the government in crafting a policy that delivers both environmental integrity and social justice.

The meeting also touched on the implications of the newly gazetted Climate Change Mechanisms Regulations of 2025, which revoked provisions on carbon credit trade, affecting forest-based climate financing.

Kampala, Uganda June 20, 2025 Uganda is poised to become a major player in the global carbon market following the introduction of the National Climate Change (Climate Change Mechanisms) Regulations, 2025, which provide a legal framework for trading carbon credits. The move aligns the country with international climate agreements, especially Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, potentially unlocking millions of dollars in climate finance.



**Mr. Philip Eric Bakalikwira Chairpoerson
CAN-U delivering his presentation**



UGANDA SETS STAGE FOR CARBON TRADING WITH NEW REGULATIONS, EYES TRILLION-DOLLAR MARKET



Mr. Robert Bakiika Deputy Executive Director at Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement Bwaise Facility (EMLI)

"Carbon markets offer Uganda a unique opportunity to reduce emissions while attracting investments in clean energy, forestry, and sustainable agriculture," said Irene Chekwoti, Principal Climate Change Officer at the Ministry of Water and Environment. "With the right infrastructure, we can benefit from both compliance and voluntary markets."

REGULATIONS OPEN DOORS TO CARBON CREDIT PROJECTS

The new regulations spell out procedures for carbon project approval, monitoring, and benefit sharing. Project developers are now required to submit a Project Idea Note, conduct feasibility studies, and seek a letter of no objection before securing full approval. Once approved, projects can generate Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) that are eligible for both domestic and international trade.

Under the rules, ownership of emission reductions is granted to those who own the mitigation source such as land or renewable energy technology ensuring clarity and accountability. International transfers of credits must be authorized by the ministry and are subject to a 10% corresponding adjustment fee. Potential to Tap into USD 1 Trillion Global Market.

To mitigate these risks, Uganda is setting up a national emissions registry and aligning with the UNFCCC's tracking systems, including requirements for annual reporting, unique identifiers for each credit, and validation by registered third-party experts.

"With clear regulations and political will, Uganda has what it takes to lead Africa in carbon trading," said.)

"We must now focus on raising awareness and public education, implementation, capacity building, and ensuring that communities benefit fairly and sustainably"

EMBRACING SUSTAINABILITY: KABALE LEADS THE CHARGE ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

A Day of Unity and Purpose



National Coordinator CANU Mr. Wolimbwa Anthony Leading the march

The hills of Kabale came alive with environmental consciousness as communities, organizations, and government officials converged to commemorate World Environment Day 2025. Under the global theme focusing on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience, the event showcased Uganda's commitment to building a sustainable future through collective action.

The celebration brought together diverse stakeholders, each contributing their unique perspective to the environmental dialogue. Among the notable attendees was Mr. Stuart Maniraguha, Executive Director of the National Forestry Authority (NFA), who took time to visit various exhibition stalls, engaging directly with grassroots organizations making a difference in their communities.





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One of the most compelling discussions of the day revolved around the interconnected nature of environmental challenges. The persistent issue of plastic pollution, which continues to plague our landscapes and waterways, found an unexpected ally in forestry initiatives.



From Plastic Problems to Forest Solutions



Kikandwa Environmental Association stal

At the Kikandwa Environment Association stall, conversations centered around innovative approaches to environmental conservation. The association's work exemplifies how local communities can drive meaningful change through practical sustainability initiatives that address both environmental and economic needs.

The success of Uganda's ban on plastic bags (kaveera) has opened doors for alternative materials sourced from sustainable forestry practices. This material transition demonstrates how forest conservation can directly contribute to plastic reduction, creating a win-win scenario for both environmental protection and economic development.



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Building Sustainable Communities.

The event highlighted several key areas where communities can make immediate impact:

Waste Management Innovation:
Local groups showcased creative approaches to waste reduction and recycling, proving that environmental stewardship begins at the household level.

Sustainable Forestry Practices:
Discussions emphasized how responsible forest management can provide alternatives to environmentally harmful materials while supporting local livelihoods.

Climate Action Integration: The day's activities demonstrated how environmental protection, climate action, and community development can work hand in hand.

A Vision for Tomorrow

As the day concluded, participants left with renewed commitment to environmental action. The conversations and connections made in Kabale serve as a reminder that sustainability is not just an environmental imperative it's an economic opportunity and a pathway to community resilience.

The World Environment Day celebration in Kabale proved that when communities, government, and organizations work together, meaningful environmental progress is not only possible but inevitable. The challenge now lies in sustaining this momentum throughout the year, turning one day of awareness into 365 days of action.

The success of events like these depends on continued collaboration between all stakeholders. As we move forward, the lessons learned and partnerships formed in Kabale will serve as a blueprint for environmental action across Uganda and beyond.



UGANDA'S CLIMATE TRANSPARENCY REVOLUTION: FROM DATA GAPS TO GLOBAL LEADERSHIP



Ms. Charity Nalyaya, Senior Director Technical Oversight, Africa, CI-GEF, delivering opening remarks

Uganda secures \$1.5 million in funding from the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting systems as part of international climate commitments under the Paris Agreement.

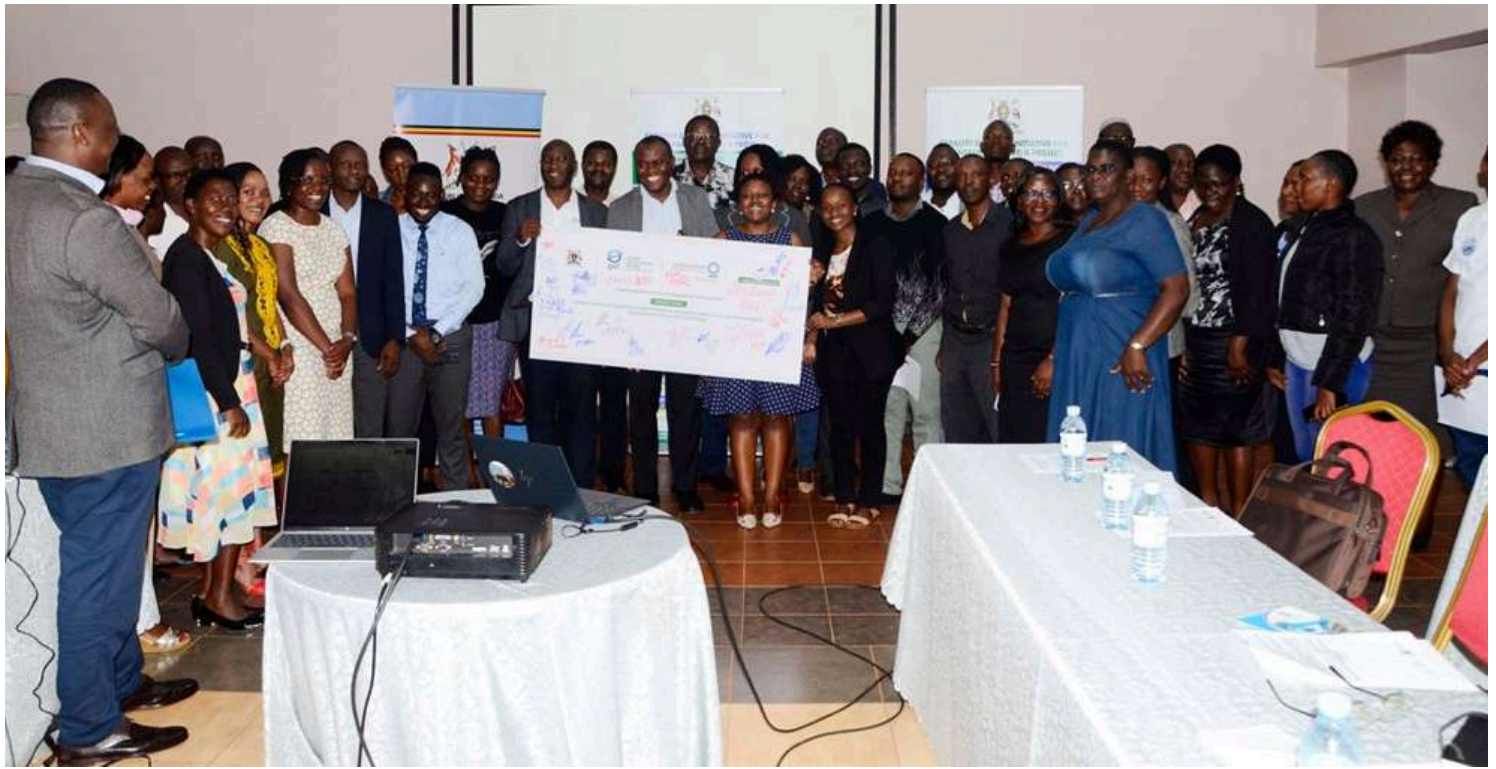
The four-year Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Phase II (CBIT II) project addresses critical gaps in Uganda's climate data collection across six major emission sectors including agriculture, energy, transport, forestry, waste management, and industrial processes.

The Ministry of Water and Environment's Climate Change Department will implement the project in partnership with Africa Innovations Institute, with technical and financial oversight from Conservation International as the GEF implementing agency.

Uganda currently faces significant barriers in collecting comprehensive greenhouse gas data needed for international climate reporting. Major challenges include weak coordination between institutions, inadequate technical capacity for data management, and difficulties accessing emissions information from academic institutions and private sector organizations.

"A substantial amount of activity data goes unreported due to its unavailability, particularly data from academia and non-state actors," according to project documentation. Current data collection tools lack standardization, resulting in missing key greenhouse gas indicators required for accurate reporting.

The project aims to address these gaps by operationalizing data-sharing agreements, building technical capacity among stakeholders, and developing standardized collection protocols that comply with international transparency standards.



Participants posing for a group photo while holding a placard board signed by stakeholders during the CBIT Uganda Phase II project launch held on November 1, 2024, at Silver Springs Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. Photo credit: Atwiine Matthew Kariisa, Ministry of Water and Environment

CBIT II builds upon Uganda's successful first-phase project (2018-2020) that established foundational data-sharing frameworks between 10 government institutions and six emission sectors. The initial phase created inter-ministerial cooperation agreements and technical guidelines for greenhouse gas data sharing.

Uganda is among the first countries globally to receive second-phase CBIT funding, reflecting the success of its initial transparency building efforts. The first phase trained 81 national greenhouse gas inventory experts and developed sector-specific inventories covering 2016-2019 data.

Key achievements from the first phase include signed memorandums of understanding for data sharing between the Ministry of Water and Environment and six sectors, development of Uganda's MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, Verification) portal, and integration of gender considerations into greenhouse gas inventory operations.

Comprehensive Capacity Building Approach

The new project will strengthen both institutional and technical capacity across state and non-state actors involved in climate data collection and management. Training programs will target at least 40% women participation, supporting Uganda's commitment to gender-inclusive climate action.

The initiative encompasses four main components: strengthening institutional coordination for greenhouse gas inventory management, building technical capacity for data collection and analysis, enhancing knowledge sharing with international transparency initiatives, and implementing gender-sensitive monitoring frameworks.

Participating sectors include the National Forestry Authority for forestry data, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development for energy emissions, Ministry of Works and Transport for transportation data, Ministry of Trade Industries and Cooperatives for industrial processes, Ministry of Agriculture for agricultural emissions, and National Environment Management Authority for waste sector data.

The project aligns with Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, which established the Enhanced Transparency Framework requiring countries to regularly report on greenhouse gas emissions and climate actions. Uganda's enhanced reporting capabilities will improve compliance with international standards for Transparency, Accuracy, Completeness, Consistency and Comparability (TACCC).

Uganda will connect to the CBIT Global Support Program housed at UNEP Copenhagen, providing access to international transparency networks, technical resources, and quality assurance mechanisms for climate reporting. This connection enables knowledge sharing with other developing countries facing similar transparency challenges.

The program offers training opportunities, peer review processes for national reports, gender integration toolkits, and access to a global database where countries archive their climate transparency reports.



Prof. G. William Otim-Nape, CEO AfrII, delivering opening remarks





THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE FOR TRANSPARENCY (CBIT) II PROJECT

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF INSTITUTIONS IN UGANDA TO COMPLY WITH THE TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT (CBIT UGANDA PHASE II PROJECT)

Project Objective:

To strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of Uganda to respond to the Enhanced Transparency Framework requirements of the Paris Agreement

Project Components:

- 1. Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Improved Transparency Over Time.**
Outcome 1.1: Strengthened state and non-state institutions to coordinate and manage the sectoral and national GHG inventory systems.
Outcome 1.2: strengthened collaboration and coordination between CCD and other sectors.
- 2. Strengthening The Technical Capacity of State and Non-State Actors for Enhanced Transparency Reporting**
Outcome 2.1: Strengthen the technical capacity of stakeholders to collect, process, and analyze activity data and feed GHG sectoral data into the national GHGI (at least 40% women).
- 3. Learning and Knowledge Sharing**
Outcome 3.1: strengthened coordination, learning and sharing between the CBIT II Uganda project and ongoing transparency initiatives.
- 4. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).**
Outcome 4.1: A gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation framework for the project

GEF Implementing Agency: Conservation International
Executing Agency: Climate Change Department, Ministry of Water and Environment, and Africa Innovations Institute.

PROJECT GRANT:
\$1.5 Million

PROJECT DURATION:
November 2024 – February 2028

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL    

For more information visit: [https://www.conservation.org/gef/projects-list/strengthening-the-capacity-of-institutions-in-uganda-to-comply-with-the-transparency-requirements-of-the-paris-agreement-\(cbit-phase-ii\)](https://www.conservation.org/gef/projects-list/strengthening-the-capacity-of-institutions-in-uganda-to-comply-with-the-transparency-requirements-of-the-paris-agreement-(cbit-phase-ii))

The project targets strengthened coordination between Uganda's Climate Change Department and emission sectors, improved technical capacity for greenhouse gas data collection and processing, and enhanced participation of non-state actors in national climate monitoring systems.

Successful implementation is expected to improve Uganda's access to international climate financing by demonstrating robust monitoring and reporting capabilities. Enhanced transparency systems will better position the country to track progress toward Nationally Determined Contributions and secure additional funding for climate adaptation and mitigation projects.

The initiative includes comprehensive safeguards including an Accountability and Grievance Mechanism, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and Gender Mainstreaming Plan to ensure inclusive and effective implementation across all participating institutions and sectors.

Development of priority emission factors for higher-tier reporting will enable more accurate greenhouse gas calculations, while strengthened institutional arrangements will ensure sustainable data collection and management systems beyond the project period.



CAN

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