UGANDA MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
P.O. BOX 20026 KAMPALA, UGANDA.

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC)

UGANDA ROUND TABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE
(16 to 18 April 2009, Kampala Uganda)

REPORT

Introduction

A three-day Round Table Meeting, under the auspices of the East African Community was convened in Kampala, from 16 to 18th April 2009 to contribute to the development of a Uganda position on climate change. This was a follow up of the development of a comprehensive approach and joint initiative to address Climate Change by the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The Round Table was conducted under the following thematic areas:

1. Adaptation, Mitigation and SDM,
2. Uganda's Capacity building needs as it feeds into the EAC Climate Change master plan and COP-15 Negotiations,
3. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and Agriculture Forest and Other Land Use (AFOLU),
4. Bio-carbon initiative, and
5. Governance and Decision Making.

Papers were presented on the first, second and third days under various sections.

The meeting was attended by a cross section of stakeholders, namely, Regional institutions, Government institutions, the Private Sector, and NGOs / CSOs / CBOs.

- The regional institutions included the EAC and COMESA.
- The Government institutions were MWE, MoFA, MAAIF, MoH, NEMA, NFA, NARO and Universities.
- The Private Sector included media
- The International NGOs included ICRAF, Red Cross, OXFAM
- The Ugandan NGOs / CSOs / CBOs were as follows Climate Change Concern, ECOTRUST, Common Wealth Association (Uganda).

The business on the first day was organized in three sessions encompassing presentations chaired by Mr. Phillip Gwage, for session one; Dr. James Epila-Otara, for session two; Dr. Festus Bagoora of NEMA, for session three. Business in session one was administrative in nature, namely, welcome remarks by Mr. Phillip Gwage (Climate Change Focal Point) who thanked the Danish Embassy for supporting Uganda's preparation for the coming negotiations in COP-15 in Copenhagen. He

pointed out that Uganda's preparation for COP-15 was being made belatedly and that the Round Table discussions would generate elements for Uganda's position rather than position for the EAC. The Chairperson invited Dr. Brent Swallow of ICRAF to brief the meeting on aspects of the purpose of the Round Table; and the commissioner for Meteorology to make opening statements for the Round Table.

Doctor Swallow described the genesis of the Bio-Carbon Initiative (Its initiation in Pretoria in July 2008, endorsement in Nairobi by COMESA in October 2008, and launch at COP-14, 2008 in Poznan). He pointed out that the Round Table would enable Uganda to consider bringing on board AFOLU in mitigation efforts.

The Commissioner for Meteorology Mr. Steven A. K. Magezi, the guest, in his address gave apology for the absence of the Hon. Minister for Water and Environment who was unable to attend the round table owing to heavy schedules outside the country. He emphasized the importance of climate change and that the plan for the EAC to get involved was timely, and that the Bio-carbon Initiative is most welcome. Uganda's involvement in REDD activities is at an advanced stage and because of this, Uganda will give priority to REDD over AFOLU at the COP15 negotiations, as combining the two is likely to retard the advancement. He expressed concern that the regional body, the East African Community was coming at the 9th hour in the concretizing the EAC position for COP15. He touched on the issue of adaptation to climate change and emphasized the importance of adaptation, while at same time not forgetting mitigation. The EAC, SADC & COMESA were called upon to be extra-active in lobbying for resources for activities on adaptation and mitigation. Finally he wished participants good deliberations and declared the meeting open.

Session Two

The second session was chaired by Dr James Epila-Otara of the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), National Forest Resources Research Institute (NaFORRI).This Session was devoted to presentations on two aspects, namely, "Bio-Carbon Initiative", and "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)".

The EAC-SADC-COMESA Bio-carbon Initiative (BCI) was presented by Dr. Brent Swallow of ICRAF, Nairobi. He outlined the genesis of the BCI, giving its features and explaining in detail the process and progress. On the interaction of REDD and AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Landuse), the potential of AFOLU to yield more co-benefits than REDD was spelt out; AFOLU is "multi-sectoral" while REDD is "uni-sectoral".

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) was talked about by the REDD lead person, Mr. Xavier Mugumya, together with Dr. Brent Swallow. In Uganda the focal institution for REDD is the National Forestry Authority (NFA). The presentation highlighted the Genesis of REDD, its Importance to Uganda and beyond. While the methods of REDD implementation are being worked out, the

political level is capitalizing on incentives for REDD. Involvement of Uganda in REDD issues is quite advanced, with the country strategy under preparation. REDD Project identification Note (R-PIN) has been prepared (and submitted to the World Bank for a $200,000 project development grant.
Uganda has also established linkage with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

The key elements emanating from session two, relevant to the Ugandas Negotiating Position are outlined below:

- *BCI requires political support (from grassroots to the convention).*
- *BCI needs support for technology transfer and capacity building*
- *COP-15 should include a clause initiating a process on AFOLU*
- *Bali Road Map-COP-13 (2007) embracing REDD, is a spring board for Ugandan negotiators to lobby for technology transfer and capacity building to operationalize REDD.*
- *COP-15 should concretise operational mechanisms for both fund and market on REDD (building on the Montreal clause on REDD?, COP-11)*
- *Need to articulate REDD as an adaptation Option (apart from being a window for Mitigation)*

A point, raised earlier in the session, concerning possible consideration in the preparation for COP-15 negotiations, of the carbon benefits from the Congo Forest (and/or its equivalent) in the geographical region was accidentally over looked in the discussions

Session Three
Session three was chaired by Dr. Festus Bagoora of Uganda National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). It covered two aspects, namely, (i) objectives of the Climate Change Convention, the UNFCCC and (ii) the key climate change issues relevant to Uganda and their integration into climate change negotiations. The two aspects were covered by Mr Philip Gwage of Ministy of Water and Environment, Climate Change Unit, and Focal Point for the UNFCCC. The presentation brought out the following aspects

- The presentation echoed the objectives of the climate change convention and pointed out some "sensitive" elements of it that stipulate "enabling economic development in a sustainable manner."
- The issue of the need for "developed and developing" countries to mitigate now in order to minimize future costs of adaptation was not over looked.
- The need to advocate for an increase in numbers of developed country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol was emphasized.
- Additional mitigation actions for developed countries under the Bali Action Plan and their comparability were swatted out.
- Mitigation actions by developed and developing country Parties (*to minimize future adaptation costs*).

- Implementation of concrete adaptation activities in developing countries (*hence the need to lobby, for technology transfer and capacity building).*
- Capacity building.
- Access to existing clean technologies and their diffusion (eg, *Solar and wind energy*).
- Stimulating development of future mitigation technologies and development of adaptation technologies. (*Development of adaptation technology should be undertaken in the geographical region of application, rather than being imported)*).
- Provision of financial resources to support mitigation and adaptation activities, access and development of technologies.

Session Four (day two)
Session four (day two) was chaired by Mr. Michael Nkalubo of MWE, Department of Meteorology, and it covered the following seven activities:

- Recap of activities of day-one, by the Rapporteurs
- Brief remarks on the Uganda Round Table, by Dr George Wamukoya of COMESA, representing the EAC.
- Presentations in the following areas:
    - Adaptation, Mitigation and the CDM: weaknesses of the Kyoto regime and proposal for the post-2012 Climate Change regime, by Mr.Chebet Maikut & Mr. Paul Isabirye, both of MWE, CCU,
    - "REDD, AFOLU and Africa Bio-carbon Initiative: A reflection for Uganda" by Dr. P A Minang and Dr. Brent Swallow both of *ICRAF,*
    - EAC Climate Change Master Plan Mr. John Mwangi of EAC, and
    - "Role of civil society in climate change negotiations" by Mr. John Twinomugisha of OXFAM, Uganda.

In his brief remarks on the Uganda Round Table Dr. Swallow pointed out that:

- the purpose of the Uganda Round Table was to enhance development of a national position on CC, and that elements of Uganda's national position on CC would be fed into the EAC,
- the Round table was funded by Norway,
- COMESA is keen to work with EAC member states in developing a common front for REDD-readiness,
- Uganda needs to undertake analytical activities to enable articulation of evidence-based negotiations, and that
- Uganda should, by way of a recommendation from the roundtable, assist CSOs to get organized for participation in the planned Pan African CSO Nairobi meeting of May 2009.

"Adaptation, Mitigation and the CDM: Weaknesses of the Kyoto Regime and Proposals for the Post-2012 CC Regime" by Mr.Chebet Maikut & Paul Isabirye (CCU - MWE)

The presentation by Mr. Chebet Maikut echoed the sentiments of the Montréal deliberations and the Bali action plan. The weaknesses of the Kyoto regime were swatted out as reflected in the implementation mechanisms, LULUCF and / or AFOLU. This presentation made proposals, in connection with adaptation, mitigation and the CDM, for consideration for incorporation in the Uganda position for the post-2012 CC regime. These are:

- Strengthening commitment,
- Capacity building,
- Mitigation actions,
- Adaptation action activities,
- Strategies to access clean technologies, financing etc, and
- Encouraging partnerships, common purpose, etc

☐ *An issue was raised, but overlooked in the response, as to whether insurance compensation be proposed for the post-2012 CC regime.*

The forth presentation on day two was on the topic "REDD, AFOLU and Africa Bio-carbon Initiative: A reflection for Uganda", and was prepared by P.A. Minang and Brent Swallow, and presented by Dr. It touched on a number of aspects reflecting on REDD, AFOLU and the Africa Bio-carbon Initiative, ranging from:

- private sector involvement in the carbon market,
- generation of student-based research data in the EAC region, needed for evidence-based negotiation.
- Wetlands, one of the "other land uses" in "AFOLU", to
- "Dry land Agro Forestry System", beneficial to livelihoods and at the same time enhancing carbon storage (pertinent to REDD).

Further more the presentation highlighted various regional-level initiatives relevant to Africa Bio-carbon Initiative, namely, COMESA Conservation Agriculture Initiative, and Africa Soils Information Service (AfSIS).

From the discussion of the presentation it was felt that some aspects of wetland and climate change should be drafted for inclusion in the Ugandan position for the climate change negotiations at COP-11. This is because wetlands, constituting 13% of the total area of the country, are carbon sinks and can also be sources of GHG emissions, providing an opportunity for Bio-carbon Initiative activities.

- EAC Climate Change Master Plan Mr. John Mwangi of EAC, and

The fifth presentation on day two was on EAC Climate Change Master Plan, presented by Mr. John Mwangi. The presentation highlighted the justification for development of an EAC CC master plan, namely, impacts Climate Change observed among the EAC partner states, in form of: reduced water availability; increased food insecurity, human and animal ill-health, extreme weather events, and Loss of snow cover on Kilimanjaro (now controversially linked to sublimation). The observed impacts prompted responses

from EAC partner states by developing an EAC CC Master Plan. The presentation narrated the genesis of the Master Plan, and its objectives, namely, to (i) enhance CC prediction, (ii) identify CC vulnerability hotspots in the EAC region, (iii) develop mitigation and adaptation steps, and (iv) undertake CC impact assessment. The current progress of the Master Plan was described as follows: two consultative meetings held, CC working groups on various thematic areas (adaptation, mitigation etc) formed, and COMESA/SADC/EAC working group on bio-carbon project is in Progress. The planned activities include development & implementation of regional CC projects. The expected outputs were: (i) enlargement of capacity in various aspects of climate change in the EAC region. And (ii) advancement in adaptation and mitigation efforts from the various levels in the EAC region. The discussion of the presentation on the EAC climate change Master Plan raised a multitude of concerns, questions, complements, suggestions etc. Some of these are that:

- The process of EAC CC Master Plan should be highly consultative to embrace many sectors and stakeholders
- The EAC CC master plan should have medium and long term adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- To undertake research projects to generate the badly needed evidence-based information for use in CC negotiations.
- EAC being a regional body, is well placed to mobilize resources to strengthen meteorological services to provide information to feed into adaptation efforts

There was no readily extractable points from the EAC presentation that could be directly exported into Uganda's CC negotiations position for COP-11.

- ☐ The sixth presentation was "Role of NGOS in Climate Change and development" It was presented by Mr. John Twinomugisha of OXFAM. The presenter observed that the UNFCCC recognizes NGOs. He outlined the roles NGOs in climate change and development, namely, to "exert pressure for development, provide services, offer support to local climate change initiatives (sensitization, empowerment, technical, and capacity building). He revealed that the NGSs in Uganda were in process of forming a coalition.

The discussion of this presentation, raised various issues relating to NGOs in climate change negotiations, namely, that NGOs are in constant touch with people at the grassroots, both marginalized and non-marginalized, and so NGOs should contribute ideas to the national negotiation strategies. Furthermore, should prepare to participation in the Pan African NGO meeting scheduled for May 2009 in Nairobi.

Session Five (day two)

Session five was chaired by Mr. Steven Muwaya of MAAIF, Uganda. The session covered presentations on two aspects, namely, (i) Uganda's capacity building needs in preparation for COP-15, and (ii) Role of the "African Ministerial Conference on Environment" (AMCEN) in consolidating country views.

"Uganda's capacity building needs in preparation for COP15 in Copenhagen and for benefiting from the Global climate change Mechanisms" was presented by Dr. Mackay Okure of Makerere University. The highlights of the presentations were:

- Background to the capacity building needs.
- Outline of the obligation of capacity building under the convention.
- Touched on articles of the UNFCCC relevant to capacity needs.
- Scope of capacity building
- Listing of Capacity building needs under UNFCCC
- Capacity building needs under CDM
- Current efforts on capacity building
- A long list of issues (16) related to capacity, for addressing CC was given.
- The key capacity needs to address climate change were outlined.
- The Bali action plan, and its implications in addressing climate change, was sufficiently articulated.
- Points, relating to capacity building needs for Uganda for negotiation at COP-15 were listed.

(A soft copy of the presentation was availed).

The second presentation (Role of the "African Ministerial Conference on Environment" (AMCEN) in consolidating country views) of Session five on the second day was made by Dr.George Wamukoya. He narrated the genesis of AMCEN, and outlined the 3 climate change–related focal areas of AMCEN, namely:

(i) Adaptation (3 aspects)
- disaster reduction & risk management,
- sectoral planning & implementation,
- building economic and social resilience)

(ii) Mitigation (4 aspects)
- Energy sector,
- REDD plus?
- LULUCF
- Carbon markets

(iii) Supporting and enabling measures (3 aspects)
- Capacity building,
- Finance, and
- Technology development and transfer

- Points of urgency:
  - Deadline for receipt in Bonn of Uganda's contribution to COP15 24th, April, 2009
  - Assemble elements out of the Kampala round table discussions, relevant to the AMCEN meeting scheduled for 29th, May, 2009 in Nairobi

Acknowledgements:

Organizing committee in Uganda:
Mr. Paul Isabirye, MWE, Climate Change Unit

Mr. Philip Gwage, MWE, Climate Change Unit
Mr. Akiiki J. B. Magezi, MWE,
Mr. Chepet Maikuti, MWE, Climate Change Unit
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Definitions of abbreviations

CCU	=	Climate Change Unit
MWE	=	Ministry of Water and Environment
CSO	=	Civil Society Organization
NGO	=	Non Governmental Organization
REDD	=	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
AFOLU	=	Agriculture Forest and Other Land Use
EAC	=	East African Community
COP	=	Conference or the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
NEMA	=	National Environment Management Authority
UNFCCC	=	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
COMESA	=	Common Market East and Southern Africa
BCI	=	Bio-Carbon Initiative
NARO	=	National Agricultural Research Organization
NaFORRI	=	National Forest Resources Research Institute
CDM	=	Clean Development Mechanisms
ICRAF	=	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
NFA	=	National Forest Authority
LULUCF	=	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

ANNEX 1

Contribution of the Uganda Round Table Deliberations to Uganda's Negotiating Position for COP-15

Negotiations Talking points

Three areas, namely, a, b, and c, for the Negotiations.

Area (a): Adaptation (3 aspects)

Aspect (i): Disaster risk reduction & risk management
Aspect (ii): Sectoral planning & implementation,
Aspect (iii): Building economic and social resilience

- Support implementation of NAPA (immediate and urgent actions)
- Develop and implement medium and long term adaptation plans

Area (b): Mitigation (4 aspects)

Aspect (i) Energy sector,

- Mini-hydro
- Natural gas
- Renewable energy: solar, bio-gas, wind,
- Energy-saving stoves
- Geo-thermo

Aspect (ii) REDD Plus

- REDD important to Uganda
- Partnerships
- 18 points
- Submissions made
- As an adaptive capacity
- REDD focal point to spearhead the write-up (comprehensive structure in place)
- Capacity strengthening
- Fund and market mechanisms
- Transfer of money to forest owners – how?
- Measurement of carbon should be realistic/friendly
- Differences among countries
- AFOLU
    - Energy farming

Aspect (iii): LULUCF

- Controversial
- Methods
- Wetlands (potential for mitigation)
- Conservation agriculture
- Agro-forestry
- Assisted natural regeneration and forest rehabilitation

Aspect (vi): Carbon markets

- Voluntary aspect
- Simplify methods
- Problem of double standard in marketing
- Incentives
- Price

- Bio-carbon fund (should lobby)
- Proceeds
- Quantification of emission reduction based on scientific evidence from IPCC (450 ppm)
- Africa's disadvantaged position within the existing market regime needs special consideration

Area (c) **Supporting and enabling measures (3 aspects)**

Aspect (i): capacity building,
Aspect (ii): finance,
Aspect (iii): technology development and transfer

ANNEX 2

Contribution of the Uganda Round Table Deliberations to the EAC Climate Change Master Plan

Objectives of Master plan

1. Enhance CC prediction, monitoring and dissemination
2. Identify and map CC vulnerability hotspots in the region,
3. Undertake CC impact assessment
4. Develop steps for mitigation and adaptation

Strategies

- Resource mobilization
- Partnerships
- Research and development
- Capacity building
- Technology development and transfer
- Insurance?

Expected outputs

1. CC prediction, monitoring and dissemination enhanced in the region
2. CC vulnerability hotspots in the region identified and mapped
3. CC impact assessment undertaken
4. Steps for mitigation and adaptation developed

Activities recommended by the Round Table for the various objectives

The exercise on developing the activities for each of the objectives covered only the first objective during the plenary owing to time constraint. The round table meeting therefore recommended that the country task forces established under the EAC auspices should complete the exercise.

Objective 1:

- Activity: Expanding and upgrading weather stations and other early warning systems

Implementation

- Development & implementation of regional CC projects

ANNEX 3

Table 1: Uganda Round Table Climate Change attendance list, 16th to 18th 2009.

No.	Family Name	Other Names	Oragnization	E-mail	Day		
					1	2	3
1	Akileng	I.Oluka	MWE/FSSD	oluka_akileng@yahoo.com	•	•	•
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4	Banyezaki	Jaafrr	DWRM/MWE		•	•	•
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7	Gwage	Phillip	MWE	pgwage@gmail.com	•	•	•
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9	Kabongo	Isacc	ECO	kaboisaac@gmail.com	•	•	•
10	Kaddu	John.B	Makerere.U.K	kaddujb@zoology.mak.ac.ug	•	•	•
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34	Ntamabaho	Winnie	EAC	ntamabaho@eachq.org	0	•	•
35	Obua	G.H	MWE	obuagh@yahoo.com	•	0	•
36	Okoke	Mark	MWE/MET		0	•	0
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Key

• = attended

0 = Absent