



## Climate Change the Global Phenomena, Uganda in Perspective: What is it? What does Policy Makers need to know and to do?



### What is climate change?

Ordinarily, any change in global temperature and rainfall over a period of time. Commonly associated with global warming, the sustained spatio-temporal differential increases in average temperature of earth near surface air and oceans since the 20th century. In practice, radiations from the sun upon reflection from the earth or ocean surface to the atmosphere are reflected back by a layer of green house gasses in the stratosphere. Green house gasses such as Carbon dioxide, Methane, Chlorofluro carbons and Nitrogen oxide come from automobile emissions, bush and charcoal burning, refrigerators and other human activities. The concentration of these green house gasses in the atmosphere, which is the problem, has been increasing among others due to diminishing forest cover in land uses.



### What are and or will be some of the impacts of climate change globally?

- alteration of rainfall regimes
- frequent extreme temperatures (lower and higher in the North and South Latitudes)
- shifts in species geographic distribution
- shifts in species' phonologies (reproductive cycles, mechanisms and success)
- extinction of some species that will fail to adapt
- yields increase and or decrease depending on species and or geographic regions
- phenotypic plasticity of species in response to environment stress; and
- Genetic variation/evolution/emergency of new species

### How much is not yet known about climate change globally?

- actual effects the changes in and frequency of extreme temperatures will have on specific developmental stages of different species
- threshold temperature for onset of responses in species at different developmental stages
- much about the mechanisms underlying yield reductions
- combined effect of increasing temperature and carbon dioxide concentration on yields

## Uganda situation in perspective; what are the manifestations of climate change so far?

- increased occurrence of floods, hail storms and landslides
- increased average temperatures especially in the highlands (Kabale for example)
- melting of ice in the Rwenzori, a mountain whose glaciers provide water to people; and
- Crop yield failures among others.

## What has Uganda done so far to address climate change?

- in process of domesticating the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol
- developed a National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) for climate change
- established a Climate Change Unit under the Ministry of Water and Environment; and
- Has a Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change to guide decisions on climate change.

## What remains to be done to address climate change problems in Uganda?

- develop a national climate change policy and regulations
- equip and adequately staff the meteorology

department to a level where they timely deliver on monitoring, prediction and dissemination of data on climate change provide refresher training to personnel of the Environment and Natural Resources department to enable them keep up-to date with climate change

- increase climate change awareness among rural communities up to national levels
- establish institutions to carry out policy research, education and development of technologies for climate change adaptations and mitigations
- integrate climate change education in primary and secondary school curriculum and, stress the use of clubs and societies to enhance knowledge and practice of climate change management among learners
- implement Climate Change Adaptation activities (NAPA) in all sectors
- ensure schools and hospitals cater for climate change impacts like lightning
- use available climate and weather data in planning and decision making in all sectors
- establish climate change sector to implement the adaptation and mitigation strategies
- mainstream, prioritize and allocate funds to Climate Change in development programmes
- develop a national climate change action plan and implement it annually at all levels
- promote energy use efficiency in all sectors ; and
- Stop deforestation, and promote appropriate tree planting land uses.

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***As members of the Natural Resources Committee and the Forum for Climate Change, allocate more of your debate time and priority to climate change, make decisions and use your mandate to compel government to do these things that need to be done to address climate change.***

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Prepared by Uganda Wildlife Society in contribution to the International Year of Forests 2011, with financial support from FAO-The National Programme Facility, through the Uganda Forest Working Group. At the Fore Front of Conservation in Uganda Since 1998 when it was cubed out of the East African Wild Life Society, Uganda Wildlife Society is a member of the Uganda Forest Working Group.

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