



UGANDA

Atlas of Our Changing Environment



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA)



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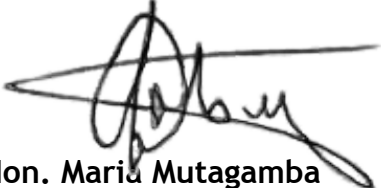
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Foreword




Hon. Maria Mutagamba
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Uganda is a landlocked country in Eastern Africa. Our country is rich in natural resources and in the recent years we have been blessed with the discovery of oil in the Albertine Graben. It is now common knowledge that development of any society should not be at the cost of future generations. Many people especially in rural areas, are dependent on natural resources for their livelihood, and hence mainstreaming the sustainable use of these resources into Government plans and programs at all levels has been a priority of the NRM Government since it came to power in 1986. This Atlas seeks to highlight changes that have arisen from the effects of local activities and global phenomena. It also demonstrates the capacity Uganda has built over the last twelve years in using new technologies to provide information to aid decision making processes. Tracking environmental changes is not new because warnings have been issued bi-ennially in the National State of Environment Reports (NSOER) since 1994. However, the uniqueness of this publication is the evidence based information from multi-temporal satellite images, ground photographs and graphics to confirm some of the negative and positive changes in our environment.

This Atlas presents some positive changes in some areas which decision makers and other readers will find useful. However, allow me to highlight some key findings which need to be integrated in development plans in order to reverse the negative effects. The siltation of our lakes due to uncontrolled activities on land especially for Lakes Albert and Victoria needs urgent attention. The shrinkage in area of some lakes especially for Wamala affecting the fish catch requires urgent intervention measures. Loss of woody biomass due to charcoal burning and encroachment of forested ecosystems especially in Nakasongola, Nakaseke and Kiboga Districts will have big consequences on the water regime and needs urgent intervention at both national and local government levels. Finally unplanned settlements in drainage channels especially in urban areas resulting in floods should be halted immediately.

I hope that this Atlas will make all the people of Uganda believe in the wealth of our natural resources and also threats that we face as a country because of human activities. There is a saying that “seeing is believing” and this Atlas provides visual information of our changing environment.

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