



Building business readiness to engage in climate and SDG action in Uganda

Dates: 18-19 June 2019

Venue: Premier Best Western Hotel, Entebbe

Introduction

The Paris Agreement on climate change is a landmark global agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low-carbon future. Climate action is of key importance in Uganda. While Uganda is a low-emission country¹, it currently remains particularly vulnerable to climate change with low levels of readiness to address its impacts.²

The Government of Uganda has been proactive in identifying the actions needed to build up the country’s readiness to mitigate and adapt to climate change in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Uganda’s priority is adaption, focused on increasing resilience in the key sectors of agriculture and livestock, forestry, infrastructure, water, energy, health and disaster risk management. For mitigation, Uganda has committed to a 22% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to business-as-usual (BAU). The protection of vulnerable groups, including women, is a crosscutting NDC priority.

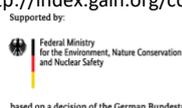
Uganda has a private-sector led economy – the ingenuity and innovations of the private sector in Uganda have driven the growth and development process of the country over the last three decades. The contributions to date of the private sector towards the achievement of Uganda’s climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement cannot be under-estimated. Private actors have provided much-needed finance for various climate change mitigation projects, facilitated technology development and transfer, and enabled infrastructure development that have all contributed positively to mitigating climate change. Through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), private sector players have mobilized resources by trading their Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) which has led to the implementation of projects in renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.

Awareness – and real-life experiences – are on the rise across the private sector in Uganda on the risks that climate change poses to doing business-as-usual, as well as the significant market opportunities that are opening up. Overall climate investments in sub-Saharan African, particularly for clean energy, represents a US \$783 billion opportunity. The potential for solar and wind energy in sub-Saharan African would be more than enough to meet future demand. Climate Smart agricultural techniques can increase farmer production and incomes. Investments in reforestation are growing. Ugandan cities can leapfrog many urban development challenges by adopting smart housing and mobility solutions.

To build the business case for climate action, the private sector needs access to climate information, an understanding of business opportunities, and the capacity, partnerships and finance to implement. In this context, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Water and Environment(MWE) Climate Change Department (CCD) in collaboration with the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) are organizing an interactive two-day workshop to bring together companies across Uganda to share experiences, challenges and remaining needs for engaging in climate action, and learn about business opportunities and supporting tools available to contribute to Uganda’s NDCs and SDGs.

¹ WRI (2017) <http://cait2.wri.org/>

² The ND-GAIN index summarizes a country’s vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with readiness to improve resilience. <http://index.gain.org/country/uganda>



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



Objectives

Participants of this interactive workshop will:

- Learn about methodologies and resources available to build the business case for climate mitigation and adaptation actions;
- Gain insight into the needs and interests of Ugandan companies in taking action and reporting their impact on climate change and the SDG (based on recent survey results);
- Participate in peer-to-peer sharing of climate change risks and real-life impacts on business operations in Uganda across key sectors;
- Be introduced to a new framework on business opportunities to contribute to Uganda's NDC and SDGs and gain access to a digital tool to explore opportunities and connect with peers;
- Discuss domestic and international climate finance opportunities and mechanisms for the Ugandan private sector to access financing for implementation of NDC/SDG actions;
- Contribute to discussions on further support and partnerships needed to catalyze climate action and investments across the Ugandan private sector.

Target Group

This interactive workshop will bring together representatives from Ugandan companies across different sectors including renewable energy and energy efficiency, waste management, biomass and manufacturing, and transport and logistics. Representatives from financing institutions, community-based organizations, international development and UN agencies, and the Government of Uganda will also participate.

Draft Programme for the Workshop (to be finalized)

Tuesday June 18th	
Time	Activity
8:00 - 8:30	Arrival & Registration
8:30 - 9:45	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome remarks from the Ugandan Climate Change Department, Private Sector Foundation Uganda and UNDP. Introduction to workshop agenda Participant introductions and expectation-setting
9:45-10-15	Why the Private Sector in Uganda should be involved in climate action - PSFU
10:15 – 11:30	<p>Session 1: Sharing climate risks and impacts on Uganda businesses</p> <p>Climate change is causing weather fluctuations and extreme weather events that can impact business operations. Heavy and unexpected rainfall can impact transport routes, labour productivity, health, agricultural yields and more.</p> <p>This session will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the latest trends in assessing climate risk and impacts on business operations? What initiatives current exist in Uganda to collect and disseminate business-relevant climate data, projections and costs? What are the risks that climate change poses in key sectors in Uganda? What are real-life examples of impacts on the operations, supply chain and models of Ugandan businesses?
11:15 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 – 13:30	<p>Session 2: Understanding business opportunities to contribute to Uganda’s NDC and SDGs</p> <p>Uganda’s NDC outlines a set of priority actions across key sectors that will be needed to build up the country’s resilience to climate change. Many of these priority actions also contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).</p> <p>This session will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the current priorities, interests and actions being taken by the Ugandan private sector towards the NDC/SDGs? (results of the April 2019 NDC/SDG Business Needs survey in Uganda)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What business actions can be taken to contribute to Uganda’s NDC and SDGs? • What tools are available for Ugandan companies to learn about SDG/NDC business opportunities and connect with business peers on climate initiatives? • What further support is needed to raise understanding and catalyse climate action across the Ugandan private sector?
13:30 - 14:30	LUNCH
14:30- 16:30	<p>Session 3: Accessing climate financing opportunities in Uganda</p> <p>Access to climate financing can be key for businesses to overcome barriers to entry of climate action – by reducing risks and providing capital for investments into low-carbon technologies, processes and projects.</p> <p>This session will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current landscape of climate financing opportunities in Uganda, domestic and international, public and private? • What is the current experience amongst the Uganda private sector in accessing climate financing? • What challenges remain for the Ugandan private sector to access climate financing? • What approaches or partnerships can be built in Uganda to attract and accelerate climate financing?

Wednesday June 19th	
Time	Activity
8:30-10:30	<p>Session 4: Understanding benefits of contributing to climate and SDG action</p> <p>Ugandan businesses are increasingly aligning their operations to contribute to the SDGs and Uganda’s NDC. A digital tool will be introduced in this session that helps businesses quickly explore SDG opportunities suited to their sector.</p> <p>This session will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the latest trends and benefits being realized by businesses that contribute to climate and SDG action? • What are current practices and benefits experienced by Ugandan businesses on SDG assessment and reporting? (results of the April 2019 NDC/SDG Business Needs survey in Uganda) • How can Ugandan businesses use the digital tool to discover SDG business opportunities and highlight their SDG initiatives? • How can the digital tool be customized for use in Uganda to highlight NDC business opportunities and connect Ugandan businesses?
10:30 - 10:45	COFFEE BREAK

10:45 – 13:15	<p>Session 5: Building partnerships and projects for climate and SDG action</p> <p>Partnerships will be key to support businesses, especially MSMEs, to engage effectively in climate and SDG action.</p> <p>This session will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are leading global and African climate partnerships? What are their objectives and achievements? • What are current initiatives in Ugandan to build up and support private sector climate partnerships? • What are remaining capacity building and partnership needs of the Ugandan private sector? • What interest exists within the Uganda private sector to take on a leadership role to pilot new NDC/SDG innovative tools and programs to lead climate action across their sector?
13:15 – 13:30	WRAP-UP AND FAREWELL