FAST FACTS

Country: Republic of Uganda
Programme: Sustainable Land Management in the Cattle Corridor Districts of Uganda
Programme Period: 4 years - 2009 - 2014
Donors: Government of Norway through UNDP/DDC and UNDP/GEF
Total Funding: US $ 4,430,730.00

Country Basic Profile
Population: 33.8 million (UN, 2010)
Total land area: 241,038 sq km
% of drylands: 43%
Poverty: 31%
Per capita GNP: $481 (WB 2011)
GDP (US$ billion): 17.0 (WB 2011)
Agriculture (%GDP): 22.5% (2009 est.)
Life expectancy at birth: 53 yrs (2011 est.)
Adult literacy: 75%
HDI: 0.422 (UNDP, HDR)

Status of UNCCD Implementation
- A National Poverty Action Fund & National Environment Fund already exists

Major national policies and programmes
- National Development Plan (NDP)
- Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP) of the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)
- National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP); Sector-wide, district development, district environment action, and sub-country, local and environment action plans and donor cooperation frameworks.
- Draft Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management
- Draft Rangelands Policy

Bilateral and multilateral programmes
- Country Programme Document (2010-2014)
- UNDAF (2010-2014)


Programme Implementing Partners

Main implementing partner: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)

Other implementing partners: Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives and Industry (MTCI), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Development Partners, NGOs and Civil Society.
### Brief description of issues/problems addressed by programme:

1. **Enabling Environment for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to Overcome Land Degradation in the Uganda Cattle Corridor Districts Project**: is providing land users and managers with the enabling policy, institutional and operational environment for effective adoption of SLM within the complexity of the cattle corridor production system.” Activities are being implemented in two cattle corridor districts namely; Nakasongola and Kamuli. This is funded through UNDP/GEF.

2. **Mainstreaming and Implementation of SLM Activities in six Cattle Corridor Districts Project**: is addressing the problem of severe land degradation in the cattle corridor districts of Uganda, which has led to reduced land productivity resulting in abject poverty and other socio-economic hardships in the districts. Activities are being implemented in six districts namely; *Semabule, Lyantonde, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Kamuli* and *Kaliro*. This is funded by the Government of Norway through UNDP/DDC.

### Brief Description of Programme:

**Mainstreaming and Implementation of SLM Activities in six Cattle Corridor Districts Project**

**The long term project objective is:** to contribute to sustainable land management and enhance the livelihoods of local communities in the drylands of Uganda.

**The immediate Project objectives are:**

- a. Support the Mainstreaming of SLM issues into District Development Plans and Budgets;
- b. Support adoption of sustainable livelihood and land management practices by local communities in the cattle corridor, and
- c. Strengthen the UNCCD/NAP focal point office in the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the inter-ministerial committee on SLM to support implementation of the national SLM Investment Framework.

**The Project Outputs based on objectives are:**

1. SLM priority interventions integrated in the District Development Plans (DDPs) and budgets of selected Districts in the cattle corridor.
2. SLM priority interventions identified and implemented by local communities in six (6) target Districts.
3. The UNCCD/NAP Focal Office and Inter-ministerial committee on SLM capacitated to manage SLM Country Programmes.

**The Project Activities under each output are:**

**Output 1: SLM priority interventions integrated in the DDPs and budgets of selected Districts in the cattle corridor.**

- Develop Sub-county Environment Action Plans (SEAPs) and District Environment Action Plans (DEAPs) in the Districts of Lyantonde, Nakaseke, Kamuli and Kaliro
- Integrate priority SLM issues including climate change adaptation issues in Sub-County Development Plans (SDPs) and DDPs of 6 Districts and selected Sub-counties
- Strengthen the capacity of the Districts for SLM monitoring and decision making through appropriate support tools and systems

**Output 2: SLM priority interventions identified and implemented by local communities in six (6) target Districts.**

- Identify, prioritize and pilot local community livelihood interventions on SLM
- Undertake integrated research on termites

**Output 3: The UNCCD/NAP Focal Office and the Inter-ministerial committee on SLM capacitated to manage SLM Country Programmes**
• Support Project Management Unit (PMU) to implement the UNDP DDC project component.
• Strengthen the capacity of the UNCCD/NAP Focal Point in MAAIF to coordinate SLM activities at global, national and local levels.
• Strengthen the SLM Inter-ministerial committee and the Country Strategic Investment Framework (CSIF).

Enabling Environment to Overcome Land Degradation in the Uganda Cattle Corridor Districts Project

Expected Outcomes

The 3 major outcomes of the project are:
i) The policy, regulatory and institutional environment support sustainable land management in the cattle corridor (in particular policy and legislation for sustainable charcoal and the security of tenure strengthened);
ii) Knowledge based land use planning forms basis for improving dry lands farming and pastoralism for sustainable economic development (capacity for land use planning developed and utilized).
iii) Local economic development facilitated through diversification and access to finance and insurance;
iv) Project managed effectively and lessons used to upscale SLM in the cattle corridor districts and the country.

The Project has facilitated environment action planning processes including establishment of taskforces, sensitization at community and sub-county and districts levels; stakeholder consultations to generate environment and SLM issues, led to prioritization of identified issues, action planning and drafting of plans (PEAPs, SEAPS and DEAPs).

Brief summary of project achievements to date:
• 210 Parish Environment Action plans (PEAPs), 30 SEAPs and 4 DEAPs developed; SLM activities integrated into SDPs in 2 sub-counties and first priority environment and SLM issues integrated into DDPS in 2 Districts.

• Capacity of the 6 districts built and enhanced for SLM monitoring and decision making.
  o 12 District technical staff from the 6 districts and 28 farmer group leaders trained in basic skills and approaches for implementing SLM community initiatives. Group Leaders are now providing outreach and overseeing activities of the 14 selected farmer/community groups (in total 420 farmers).
  o Technical task force units of the 6 districts trained on SLM monitoring and decision making and equipped with appropriate tools, including motorcycles for facilitating extension activities and data collection, desktop computers and operational funds for supervision, training, monitoring and reporting on SLM related work at district levels.
  o 36 rain gauges installed in 36 sub-counties by the National Department of Meteorology (NMD) -- contributing partner to the programme -- to collect rainfall data. 72 sub-county personnel trained as rainfall observers, these will monitor and collect data to be sent to NMD for further processing. A computer based system, RANET will be installed in each sub-county to capture weather data to be interpreted and used in decision making at sub-county, community and district levels.
  o Guidebook for mainstreaming drylands issues into DDPs produced and adopted in all the 6 Districts (available in hard and electronic copies).

The DEAP process has catalyzed the following developments at District level:
i. Nakasongola has integrated water harvesting at household levels into its DDP and allocated a budget of up to 12 million UGX for 2012. The DEAP process has improved internal and external awareness of the districts ENR (environment and natural resources) issues from <5% in 1997 to 75% in 2012 (DEAP review presentation - by District Environment Office).
ii. Kamuli has adopted construction of fuel-wood saving stoves as a practice to reduce the rate of indiscriminate harvesting of trees for charcoal. Additionally the District has put aside a budget of
up to 3million UGX to establish a tree nursery that can be used to rebuild wood stocks.

iii. Led to increase in budget allocation to SLM at district level and new partnerships have emerged to support SLM priorities in the SDPs and DDPs. For example, Sembabule received an extra allocation of funds from the Local Government Management and Service Delivery (LGMSD) Programme which rewards districts that integrate environment concerns in the DDP and an increase in their budget support from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFPED). Furthermore the programme run by the Ministry of Water and Environment on harvesting water for communal production especially for watering animals in the District was expanded to include household water harvesting. This has now changed from establishing only public utilities such as valley dams to making drilling machines accessible to individual households on a cost sharing basis.

iv. District Teams are using technical committee meetings to raise and get critical issues attended to, for example in Nakasongola and Sembabule water harvesting structures for government funded buildings have been made mandatory through bye-laws.

v. Nakaseke, the development of DEAP enabled the task force to reach the furthest end of the District that has often been left out of many development activities. This is an area that is largely populated by pastoralists, by reaching out to them, the project has made a significant contribution in highlighting the unique SLM and environment issues typical to pastoral communities.

- **SLM Priority interventions identified and implemented by local communities in 6 target districts.**
  - 420 farmers from six Districts are piloting SLM initiatives to address issues identified in the DEAPs. These will also on an experimental basis implement initiatives learnt (as part of the farmer to farmer exchange - learning visits) and/or drawn from other regions
  - 80 members (26% women) from 14 community groups in all the six districts trained in conservation agriculture practices in particular minimum tillage, weed management, fertilizer application, soil and water conservation and planting techniques, small scale irrigation, farm planning and group dynamics.
  - 42 leaders from the selected 14 groups trained as TOTs on conservation agriculture practices.
  - Farmer to farmer learning visits held between districts, 30 farmers from Nakaseke visited Nakasongola and 32 farmers from Kamuli visited Sembabule district. From the visits made to Sembabule, 2 farmers learned and put in practice a method of water harvesting using underground pits lined with polythene.

**Partnerships and Synergies with other programmes**

- Partnerships built and synergies established on SLM and climate resilient development in all the cattle corridor participating districts with the Conservation Agriculture Regional Programme (CARP) funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs which works with REDs (Rural Enterprise Development Services) to promote conservation agriculture; and with the Stimulating Community Initiatives for SLM (SCI-SLM) project funded by GEF on demonstrating integration of SLM innovative technologies in NRM using the Innovative Systems Approach (ISA).
- In partnership with SCI-SLM project, the national SLM team participated and contributed to a Regional review of community initiatives and methodologies for their implementation involving South Africa, Ghana, Morocco and Uganda. As part of the Regional SCI-SLM Steering Committee, Uganda hosted members of the community initiatives from South Africa, Ghana and Morocco who came to observe and learn from Uganda’s SLM community initiatives.

**Advocacy and Outreach**

- Brochures for the “Enabling Environment for SLM to overcome land degradation in the Uganda cattle corridor Districts” and “Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management Activities in Six Cattle Corridor Districts of Uganda” developed and disseminated to promote visibility of the projects.

- **UNCCD/NAP Focal Point Office and Inter-ministerial Committee on SLM capacitated to**
manage SLM Country Programmes
  o The project has contributed to strengthening the UNCCD/NAP focal point office by facilitating establishment and staffing of the Programme Management Unit (PMU) with a team of 4 technical persons. The PMU team spearheads the implementation of the project and provides policy advice, technical backstopping for programming to the Districts teams, monitors and reports on progress towards achievement of the projects outputs.
  o Collaboration has been strengthened between the Global Mechanisms market access and trade programme under the National Implementation Unit of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), managed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTTI) and the SLM programme. This has resulted in: participation of MTTI in the Uganda Sustainable Land Management Strategic Investment Framework (U-SLM-SIF), identification and inclusion of trade and SLM priorities which are cross-cutting among the five sectors involved in U-SLM-SIF, mainstreaming of trade and SLM priorities into the main national trade development processes in particular the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), and the appointment of a Trade and SLM Advisor within MTTI to ensure SLM relevant trade priorities are well integrated into national trade development policies, strategies and plans, including the National Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS).

- SLM inter-ministerial committee and the Country Strategic Investment Framework (CSIF) Strengthened
  o The CSIF has been developed as part of the agriculture sector development plan, finalized and published by the Government. The purpose of the CSIF is to upscale SLM practices across sectors programmatically, thereby avoiding duplication across stakeholders and sectors.
  o As part of implementing the CSIF, a rangelands policy and pastoral code has been developed and is under review and finalization.
  o SLM has been mainstreamed into national development planning; and the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan. A number of initiatives are now harmonized together.

Brief summary of programme achievements of the Enabling Environment to Overcome Land Degradation in the Uganda Cattle Corridor Districts Project to date:
   A collaborative arrangement was reached between UNDP, FAO, and the SLM -PMU to use the Land Degradation Assessment (LADA) and WORCAT methodologies to carry out studies for land degradation assessment in the project area.
   Terms of References developed and agreed with respective government sectors and studies are on-going in the following areas: (1) economic analysis on land use practices, (2) valuation of natural resources and costing of competing land use activities, (3) review of existing policy and regulatory framework for the charcoal sub-sector with a view to defining a legal sustainable charcoal production (SCP) regime in Uganda, (4) identifying issues affecting access to land ownership and control arrangement supportive to sustainable land management (SLM), (4) identifying issues affecting access to land ownership and control arrangement supportive to sustainable land management (SLM), (5) biophysical and social-economical assessments in the cattle corridor Uganda, (6) carrying out capacity needs assessment studies, (7) inventory survey and mapping of degraded lands, available fodder resources in the two districts of cattle corridor, Nakasongola and Kamuli.

Lessons Learnt Section 1: Approaches being used in the implementation process

A cross-sectoral and integrated approach to SLM is being applied, based on a cooperation Framework agreed between different sectors, MAAIF, MWE, MLHUD, MEMD and MTCI. The operational tool for implementing this partnership is the U-SLM-SIF. A number of SLM investment projects have already been formulated and/or are being implemented.

Development of DEAPs that follows a bottom-up approach starting with formulation and review of PEAPs and SEAPs. These plans have been used to mainstream issues of natural resources management in particular SLM into district and sub-county development plans. PEAPs and SEAPs have also been used to identify and
prioritize areas of support to community initiatives on SLM.

The SCI-SLM methodology/approach has been adopted for piloting SLM initiatives in the six districts. Emphasis is being put on encouraging social and technical innovations, mutual learning through exchange visits (farmer to farmer) and linking research and traditional knowledge through joint experimentation.

Partnering with agencies/CSOs, and Private Sector agencies to support training and SLM technology dissemination, e.g., Vi- Agro forestry, Rural Enterprise Development Services (REDS), Africa 2000 Network (A2N) and MUARIK.

Prioritization of rangelands and pastoralist issues: these were identified as areas that require clear policy frameworks. Currently on-going, (1) the finalization of a rangelands management policy spearheaded by MAAIF, (ii) development of pastoralism policy spearheaded by the President’s Office, this will result in the (iii) merger of the rangelands and pastoralist policy including merger of the respective bodies for the two policies.

Promotion of Conservation Agriculture (CA) as a key SLM and climate adaptation approach/technology in agriculture dominated landscapes has been prioritized. The focus is direct engagement at farm level working closely with private sector firms promoting CA. The approach has emphasized on farmer group identification, hands on training and establishment of observation plots.

The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) and LADA methodologies/approaches are being applied in land degradation assessment and land use planning. Capacity building has been identified as critical especially to undertake community level land assessment and land use planning.

Constraints and challenges faced in the implementation process:

- Limited Resources: given the resource envelop, it has not been possible to cover all sub-counties within each of the six participating districts, and yet some environmental issues cut across sub-county boundaries and would rather be addressed at the district level. And if not captured at sub-county level while developing the SEAP, they are not likely to be captured by the DEAP at District level since the priorities in these are derived from the former. This constrained decision making on priorities to address such cross sub-county boundary issues.

- Power black outs/power load shedding delayed finalization (editing and processing of reviewed drafts) of draft SEAPs and DEAPs and their subsequent presentation to approving councils, hence lengthening the approval processes.

- Adoption of issues into the DDPs requires that the Environment Officers at the district level lobby the important actors to be present in the council before they present the DEAP for approval, which is not usually easy to do given that the officers do not have adequate advocacy skills. This constrained finalization and approval of DEAPs.

- The SEAPs and DEAP development process created more and higher expectations from the communities than what the project could offer. Communities were not interested in addressing environment issues in isolation or separate from other sustainable development issues that they attach great importance to which slowed down decision making process on how the identified issues can be addressed, let alone prioritized by the communities. For example, access to water for production (especially for watering animals) and rural health centers are not part of this project however communities in some cases put them before everything else. Communities also have other pressing development issues such as roads, electricity schools which they don’t want to separate from environment issues. These made decision making on priorities much difficult and the pace slower.

- In some cases (particularly in Kaliro district), farmers avoided raising for discussion issues that could lead to drastic actions (e.g., eviction from the land they occupy) against them from rich landlords.
This meant that if the facilitating team did not question them about such issues or if they did not have prior knowledge about these issues, they would without doubt remain in the background and unaddressed.

- It was a challenge to balance the selection of pastoralists with crop based groups. Pastoralists are less organized and coherent in their groups, and it was difficult for them to meet the selection criteria relating to the level of group organization of different enterprises, yet the project targets both agro pastoralist and pastoralists. Furthermore well organized groups tended to be concentrated in specific areas forcing selection criteria to change sometimes in order to balance the distribution. The pastoralist groups are spread out so the assessing teams had to spend extra time to try and reach these groups.

**Opportunities**

The institutional framework of the local government setting from national through district to sub-county level avails a very unique and excellent opportunity for programme implementation. District leaders in the six participating districts have demonstrated a high level of political will to mainstream SLM into District Planning and budgetary systems. Similarly at national level all implementing partners, i.e., sectoral ministries have contributed and continue to do so to ensure the successful implementation of the projects activities at district and community levels.

**Linkage of policy and activities at the local level (decentralization processes)**

The mainstreaming process has already influenced policy in a number of pilot districts, e.g.:
- The districts of Sembabule and Lyantonde have reported increased integration of SLM in NAADS (The National Agricultural Advisory Services) activities by ensuring that each enterprise being promoted includes SLM as a component of technologies being disseminated.
- Nakasongola, as a result of the SLM mainstreaming and sensitization has adopted a new policy requiring all new building plans to include harvesting structures before these are approved.
- Sembabule's 5 year DDP has a chapter on SLM issues. The District also issues an environment certificate for each building to be built based on how the SLM issues are depicted in the bill of quantities. Furthermore the district approved a law, which is attached to construction of schools under the Schools Facilitation Grant to ensure effective roof water catchments and the replacement and re-planting of trees on cleared sites or another identified site. The District has put aside funds to carry out massive awareness on SLM using documentaries to influence sustainable use of resources on SLM including those from outside this project.

**Scaling – up of this linkage at the macro policy level at national and sub-regional levels**

Mainstreaming SLM in national policy framework has yielded very encouraging results. The National Development Plan and Agricultural Sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan (programme 1.4 on enhancing production and productivity), have identified SLM as a priority for national and sector development. This was greatly influenced by the SLM-SIF prepared with support of the SLM Mainstreaming Project, the World Bank and FAO.

The mainstreaming process has been effective in committing districts and sub counties to allocate resources for SLM, e.g., Nakasongola District Local Government has planned to upscale the activities of the SLM projects by making budget provisions for the SLM projects for the Funding Year 2011/ 2012. The DEAP process that strongly integrates SLM has also been attractive for building new partnerships, e.g., VI- Agro forestry chose Sembabule as one of its project areas based on the well articulated SLM priorities in the DEAP.

**Innovative techniques being used to implement Uganda's programme**
- The project has adopted the Stimulating Community Innovations (SCI-SLM) approach, applied being under by the sister enabling environment project. The approach is centred on identifying
innovative forms of land management within communities themselves, demonstrating their capacity to come up with solutions to problems of land degradation internally. Communities are characterized, their innovations validated, and improved upon through (i) joint experimentation with researchers and scientists and (ii) stimulating the communities to go forward with their efforts through farmer to farmer cross visits.

- Conservation Agriculture (CA) is being promoted as the main approach for addressing SLM and climate adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural dominated landscapes and drought prone regions particularly in the cattle corridor. The technique promotes minimum tillage practices, continuous soil cover, crop rotation and agro-forestry, and integrated nutrient management including the proper use of agro-inputs. This involves identification of farmer associations, training them in techniques for CA, supporting them to establish observation plots, organizing field days and farmer to farmer exchange visits.

- Land use planning using FAO-LADA-WOCAT methodologies: Communities are being supported under the SLM project to develop village/community land use plans to guide natural resource management, drawing lessons from the Kagera TAMP project. This will involve training of staff from the project districts in Land Use Planning techniques, supporting community planning and implementation processes, in addition land degradation assessment will be carried out.

**Perspectives** (what next for Uganda Programme? Beyond 2012)

- To develop comprehensive project to upscale lessons learned to more districts of cattle corridor and other land degraded hot spots e.g., the highlands, Lake Crescent areas and Eastern and Southern Uganda.
- Intend to ensure that under the Government of Uganda (GoU) support, an increase in financial resources is made to support SLM and to integrate the approaches into the NAADS.

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