



**Faculty of Arts  
Makerere University**

**and**

**Organization for Social Science Research  
in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)**

**National Workshop  
on**

**Natural Resources and Development  
in Uganda**

**June 1995**

**Rapporteur's Report': *Muhwezi-Banyweine  
and  
Ndyabahika Matete  
Makerere University***

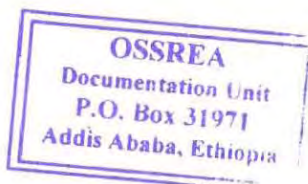
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# Natural Resources and Development in Uganda

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**Rapporteur's Report':** *Muhwezi-Banyweine  
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*Ndyabahika Matete  
Makerere University  
Department of Geography,  
P.O.Box 7062  
Kampala, Uganda*



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## **Preface**

OSSREA in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts, Makerere University organized a two-day workshop in Uganda from 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June 1995. The theme of the workshop was "Natural Resources and Development in Uganda." The workshop attracted over 100 participants who mostly included Makerere University Academic Staff and students. Eight papers were presented and the proceedings of the workshop are summarized in this report.

## **OPENING REMARKS**

The National OSSREA liaison officer in Uganda, Mr. J. M. Were welcomed all the participants to the workshop and invited the chairman of the opening session, Prof. Ginyera-Pinyewa to go ahead with the proceedings of the workshop. The Chairman introduced the representative of the Vice Chancellor, Makerere University as the guest of honour. He also introduced the executive representatives of OSSREA, the former president of OSSREA, Prof. J. Katorobo and the Dean, Faculty of Arts, Makerere University. The Executive Secretary of OSSREA was invited to give opening remarks.

### ***Prof. Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed - Executive Secretary, OSSREA***

Prof. Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed gave a brief background of OSSREA. He informed the participants that OSSREA was established in 1980 and currently its headquarters are in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He also reviewed the objectives of OSSREA and emphasized the major one as that of encouraging and promoting interest in the study of and research in the social sciences in Eastern and Southern Africa. He explained that the major activities undertaken by OSSREA to date are: discipline workshops, research workshops, research competitions, workshops on research methods, congresses, and publications. He also noted that students' seminars for both postgraduates and undergraduates will soon be part of OSSREA activities. In his concluding remarks, Prof. Ghaffar pledged that OSSREA will continue to support its activities in Uganda.

***Dr. O. B. K. Ndoleriire: Dean, Faculty of Arts, Makerere University, Uganda***

The Dean thanked OSSREA and the Uganda liaison officer for organizing a workshop of this nature in Uganda. He noted that the Faculty of Arts, Makerere University has been associated with OSSREA for a long time. He informed the executive members of OSSREA present that a lot is currently happening in Uganda in the academic and research fields. He, for example, mentioned that the Faculty of Arts has been successfully organizing seminars and conferences. He therefore emphasized that this is the time when more OSSREA support is needed in terms of assistance to publish some the seminar, workshop and conference papers. He further appealed to OSSREA to give more emphasis to other social disciplines like philosophy, language to mention a few instead of over emphasizing aspects like gender, political economy and economics alone.

***Prof. J. Katorobo: Former President, OSSREA***

In his opening remarks, the former president of OSSREA appreciated the changes that were taking place in Uganda especially the prevailing peace. He said that it's these changes that have enabled OSSREA to actively resume its activities in Uganda. On the theme of the workshop, Prof. Katorobo emphasized that natural resources and development is an important topic for discussion in Uganda today. He specifically raised the following issues for discussion:

- a) The issue of defining and measuring development in Uganda. On this note, he pointed out that whereas World

Bank publications indicate that Uganda's economy is performing very well, other reports, for example by OXFAM indicate that poverty has spread and deepened in magnitude.

- b) The issue of distribution of natural resources in Uganda. He specifically noted that the aspects for discussion should be: What is the available capacity to identify and utilize resources and what is the extent of the dormant or unutilized natural resources?
- c) The issue of the right utilization of natural resources. On this issue he specifically noted that resources must not be misutilised or overutilised.

***Mr. Godfrey Bazanye: Deputy Academic Registrar, Makerere University***

Mr. G. Bazanye officially opened the workshop on behalf of the Makerere University, Vice Chancellor. The Deputy Academic Registrar noted that the OSSREA objectives and activities were very much in line with some of the Makerere University objectives and activities and as such OSSREA activities deserve to be fully supported by Makerere University. The Deputy Academic Registrar noted that such an OSSREA workshop had come at a right time in Uganda's development process when Uganda needs to review the current situation in as far as natural resources use and utilization are concerned.

He specifically noted that despite the belief that Uganda has a lot of natural resources, the same Uganda is threatened by desertification, rapid soil deterioration, water resources deterioration, to mention a few. He therefore emphasized that such signs remind us to get concerned with our natural resources and the general environment in Uganda and hoped the workshop is going to do that.

The Vice Chancellor's representative concluded by requesting the participants to critically examine the situation of Natural Resources and Environment in Uganda especially with regard to Sustainable Natural Resources Utilization.

## **Paper Presentations and Discussions**

An attempt has been made to summarize the papers and presentations and where necessary the highlights of the discussion issues emanating from the papers are also presented. Overall the environmental related papers (the majority) were discussed in general as will be presented hereunder.

### ***Augustus Nuwagaba: Urbanization, Urban Poverty and Urban Governance in Uganda***

The paper attempted to examine the relationship between urbanization and urban poverty in Uganda and went ahead to evolve a model for urban governance for sustainable development in Uganda and developing countries in general.

The paper and presentation examined the growth of urban centres in Uganda since the colonial times and classified them into centres that constitute constellation of local administrative centres, intermediate centres and centres of socio-economic establishments and centres that come out as the fast urbanizing settlements along and at junctions of major highways. The presenter emphasized that major Ugandan urban centres constitute two distinct parts; the inner town with a dense population and densely built up areas and the surrounding suburbs with a semblance of some planned housing development. The paper notes that both the inner town and the suburbs are undergoing a phase of transition characterised by great changes in their landuse structures which calls for serious landuse planning and infrastructure development.

Looking at urban poverty he conceptualizes poverty in a holistic view to include material poverty, poverty of ideas and of the development process. The paper argues that poverty constitutes the most formidable hurdle to the managerial efficacy of the institutions of urban governance.

On the issue of urban governance, the paper argues that urban areas constitute "corporate bodies" which require an integrated management system. The paper concludes with a proposition of a new governance paradigm taking cognizance of the various actors, to incorporate the state, the private sector and the civil society. The paper emphasizes that management institutions should be linked with citizens and civic associations in order to harness effective management. In Uganda the paper recognizes that such deliberate effort is being made through decentralization and devolution of powers to lower tiers of local government which is backed up by increasing power of the civil society.



## **Discussion**

The following points and observations were emphasized during the discussion:

- Urban poverty highly relates to the urban poor and yet the urban poor are a big untapped resource. It was therefore noted that the urban poor should be empowered with information and opportunities so that they can be able to have the capacity to see and utilize the resources surrounding them.
- It was generally observed and agreed that urban poverty highly relates to the family structure, with the most poor households being those which are headed by women.
- On resources for poverty alleviation, it was emphasized that there is need to mobilise the resources by first building the capacity to mobilise them at urban level. It was further emphasized that among the practical areas that require attention are urban land management specifically for the poor, community participation and accessibility to opportunities.
- Urban poverty was found to be very multi-dimensional in that there was indigenous urban poverty and imported urban poverty and a combination of the two. It was also noted that the general environment was poverty ridden in

that it was characterised by illiteracy, corruption and bankruptcy and peasantisation of urban areas.

- Overall it was observed that urbanisation, urban poverty and urban governance were serious problem areas in developing countries because legal, social, economic and cultural institutions for their possible management were very weak.

***Peter Bauma and Leon Matagi: Natural Resources Depletion: Causes and Implications for Health in Uganda***

The paper contended that in the developing countries like Uganda the major environmental problems arise out of the misuse of natural resources while in the developed countries they are much related to over industrialization.

Looking at the state of the environment in Uganda, the paper explained the deterioration situation of the environment although the paper goes ahead to emphasize that the Government of Uganda has moved quickly to develop an environment policy aimed at safeguarding the environment through the 'sustainable use of resources' as the major theme. The major goals of the policy, the presenters explained them to be:

- (i) Coordinating all development activities.
- (ii) Alleviation of poverty and environment degradation
- (iii) Education that covers values of sustainable development
- (iv) To reinforce legislative measures
- (v) To protect the life supporting systems and ecological processes

On environmental degradation and health, the paper emphasized that there is evidence to show that environmental degradation has adverse effects on peoples' health because as UNICEF puts it "The state of human health is in many ways a reflection of the state of the environment". The paper explains that noise, overcrowding, strong radiation, poor solid waste disposal, loss of vegetation cover and the general decline in biodiversity all spell disaster for man especially in terms of his health.

The paper notes that people are generally aware that environmental degradation is a problem and as such this understanding should act as a basis for educational programmes and support for environmental regulations.

The paper concluded by noting that environmental degradation has its causes rooted in the socio-cultural, political, economic and governance factors. To stop and reverse environment degradation and its ill effects on the health of people, governments should take a multi-dimensional approach.

***F. C. Oweyagha-Afunaduula: Time: A Critical but Most Abused Environmental Resource in Uganda***

The paper presents that Uganda is a country emerging from decades of economic, political, social, ecological, environmental and intellectual doldrums of the last 30 years with the great challenge to reconstruct its general environment. The paper notes that to meet this challenge, there is need to emphasize a holistic approach to the study of the human and biophysical environment. This calls for an ecologically and environmentally conscious and literate allocation and exploitation of Uganda's resource base and most importantly the commitment of the national leadership to the concept of environment security as the true national security.

The paper comes up with resources that must be exploited and allocated in an ecologically and environmentally literate manner as the traditional systems of resource management, culture, languages, ethnicity, creativity, initiatives, imaginations, innovations, human capital, space, thinking correctly, materials (including traditional food type), local technology and time. The paper emphasized that of the above the most important ones are the resources of human capital and time.

The paper notes that time is not only an environmental resource that must be used carefully and intelligently by attaching suitable time scales to decision making, but also as an important dimension of the environment. The paper notes is, bound to make nonsense of all efforts to reconstruct the environment and make the already bad enough environmental debacle increasingly unmanageable.

The paper concludes by emphasizing that he who cannot manage time cannot manage anything else. The reality remains that as we march towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century, time is perhaps the most critical and yet most abused of all environmental resources available in Uganda for utilization in the development process.

### ***Rogers Nsubuga: Factors Influencing Natural Resources Degradation in Uganda***

The paper first looks at the status of Natural Resources Management in Uganda. On land and soil resources the presenter noted that their management is not sustainable. The same applies to plant resources, water resources, energy resources and the human resources. He emphasized for

example, that, characteristics like diseases, unemployment, poor feeding, poor living conditions, ignorance and poverty which are abundant in Uganda are some of the key indicators of how Uganda's human resources are poorly sustained.

On factors influencing degradation of Natural Resources in Uganda, the presenter centred them around economic factors, especially those relating to poverty; social factors especially societal responsibilities relating to social survival; and political factors especially those relating to poor policies, lack of political will, lack of political stability and unfair distribution of resources.

The paper concluded by recommending that practical solutions are still required if natural resources degradation is to come to a halt. The paper especially recommended actions like education that aims at conscientising all the people; spearheading of conservation programmes; implementable legislative frameworks; putting in place political systems that ensure political harmony; identification and use of appropriate technology and general recycling of what we call waste.

***Angelina Achieng: Social, Economic and Political Factors in Environmental and Resource Management***

Examining the evolution of the field of resource management the presenter noted that in both developed and developing countries, the evolution of resource management as a distinct field of study has been late and slow. The paper went ahead to examine the resource management techniques during the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial periods.

During the pre-industrial or pre-colonial period, resource management techniques were characterised by terracing, irrigation, transhumance and nomadism, use of fires and shifting cultivation which had emerged in Africa, Asia and South America. In addition resource exploitation remained labour intensive. During the colonial times, resource management policy in developing countries focused largely on the policy in developing countries focused largely on the protection of a few public domains for example wild life protection areas. Wildlife management became a widespread strategy for protection of flora and fauna throughout developing countries. This strategy the paper notes was characterised by unrealistic laws and regulations which allow wildlife conservation areas to be monopolized by foreign and urban tourists therefore excluding the majority indigenous poor who resided in the conservation area neighbourhoods. The impact of this was that these poor neighbours saw conservation areas as islands for the foreigners and the indigenous wealthy few.

During the late post-colonial times resource management has evolved to focus on the protection and enhancement of environmental quality and the establishment of guidelines of public or private use of some common resources as air, water, landscape and historical monuments. It is during this period that traditional technologies in Africa and Asia are being promoted to gain significant acclaim among international resources specialists.

The paper also examined the political, economic, and social factors in environmental and resource management. The paper elaborates on how various aspects of democracy, bureaucracy, progressiveness and materialism, emphasis on goods and services, growing population and increasing per capita consumption, have both important positive and negative implications for environmental management.

In conclusion the paper emphasized that developing countries have to adopt and adhere to an integrated approach to resource management. This means that any new direction in environmental management requires careful integration of ecological, economic, social and technological concerns. The development of comprehensive, highly integrated environmental policies and administration are key elements for future success.

***Peter Waalwo Kajura: Population Growth: Its role in Landuse Conflicts in Uganda***

The paper analysed the interrelationship between population growth and landuse conflicts in Uganda by examining the demographic dynamics which indicate that Uganda's population has increased more than three fold in 43 years (from 4.9 million people in 1948 to 16.7 million people in 1991.)

The presenter looked at the nature of rural agriculture, urban agriculture, rangelands and national parks and emphasized that due to mounting pressure as a result of population growth the agricultural areas and the rangelands are characterised by a multiplicity of landuse conflicts. The landuse conflicts are characterised by competition for expansion of agricultural land into new areas, expansion of urban areas into agricultural lands, expansion of agricultural lands into pastoral rangelands and general encroachment on protected wildlife conservation areas.

To control the land conflicts the paper recommended measures like controlling fertility, investment in education, research into appropriate technology and appropriate methods of farming, encouragement of rural to

rural migration, to mention a few. The paper emphasized that people should be encouraged to move from the densely populated areas to the sparsely populated areas.

***C. Asowa-Okwe: Reflection on Development in Fisheries sub-sector of Ugandan Economy with Particular Reference to Fish Consumption***

The paper examined the sources of fish for consumption, factors influencing fish consumption in Uganda, level of fish consumption in Uganda, identified the place of fish in the diet of different communities in Uganda, reasons why fish is not consumed in some areas of Uganda, problems or constraints faced by fish consumers in Uganda and solutions and recommendations for future research and action.

On the sources of fish for consumers, the analysis indicated that most of the fish consumers in Uganda rely on fishmongers. The factors influencing fish consumption in Uganda are the incomes of consumers, the distance from the source, the total population in a given consumption area, the culture of some of the peoples, and general consumers preferences. These factors, the paper notes, greatly affect level of fish consumption which varies from region to region.

According to the paper, the percentage of people who eat fish was very high. However, the paper noted that throughout the country communities or individuals do not eat fish despite its high protein content because of reasons related to traditions, taboos and allergy.



The paper also examined the constraints facing fish consumers in Uganda which range from lack of finance, accessibility to the source of fish, the state of the fish at the time of sale, scarcity, irregularity of fish supply and lastly the norms and values of the people.

To improve on fish supply and ensure some fish consumption in Uganda, the paper proposed that there is need to improve on and facilitate production of fish in the water bodies of Uganda. There is need to find viable solutions to the problems of water hyacinth (water weed); and efforts should be made to educate the fishermen on the possible negative results of harvesting of juveniles and indiscriminate use of beach sieve nets. There is need to educate the people on the importance of having a balanced diet. There is need for a comprehensive food policy, and to improve on the marketing and distribution of fish.

***Dan Lubowa: Conservation, Human Rights and Democracy in Uganda: Some Reflections***

The paper notes that the past three decades have been characterised by intense debates and changes in environment and natural resource management across the world. The paper, however, notes that every community has got its cosmological practices that actually best conserve its natural resources. The paper further emphasized that conservation policies should be flexible and effective.

On the way forward the paper emphasized that conservation policy frameworks should ensure the legitimization of diversity and provide for opportunities to explain the ideals of unity. Conservation practices should

also reflect inspirations, innovations and imaginations while nourishing the conservation activities. The paper further noted that conservation efforts should sustain individual groups and organizations with the initiatives and skills to be self-reliant in an environment that encourages diversification. Lastly the paper notes that natural resource management should be nurtured through participatory processes backed by conservation centres and supporting networks.

### **General Discussion and Comments on the Environment Issues Raised in the Papers**

All the papers were discussed at the same time and the following issues or comments were raised during the discussion:

- There is a tendency within our cultures to think that there is abundance of natural resources in developing countries which in itself is a big problem that must be addressed. It was pointed out that this is aggravated by the general lack of environmental consciousness as characterized by general mismanagement of natural resources and mismanagement of time.
- Arising from lack of environmental consciousness in the overall structures of public and private life some of the environmental problems are not taken seriously. An example of the water hyacinth in Lake Victoria was given as one which has not received the attention it deserves because most actors do not take the environment seriously.

- On the environment it was also emphasized that use of fertilizers does not necessarily mean better environment management. In most cases it leaves the environment worse off. It was further emphasized that dense populations do not necessarily mean environmental degradation, instead the sparsely populated areas are more sensitive to changes in environment than the densely populated areas. As such people should not be encouraged to move from densely populated areas to sparsely populated areas without careful planning.
- On the issue of time, it was noted that time needs good management. For example, it was noted that time-cycles are very important in the prediction of hazards, like famines, storms, etc. In addition time-cycles are very important in pastoral systems and in managing resources in dry grassland areas. Generally the workshop agreed that the good or poor management of time had great positive and negative implications on the environment.
- Generally it was also emphasized that poverty is not necessarily the major cause of environmental degradation. The problem is poverty of actions, ideas, oral materials to protect or conserve the environment.
- Overall, the discussion emphasized that there should be an integrated approach in handling poverty alleviation programmes and urban governance programmes.

## **Closure of the Workshop**

Before closing the workshop, an OSSREA business meeting was held. During the business meeting the Liaison Officer for OSSREA in Uganda, Mr. J. M. Were encouraged all the participants in the workshop to join OSSREA as members but not spectators. He noted that this can only be done by paying the membership and subscription fees.

The business meeting went ahead to elect three other members or representatives to help the OSSREA Country Liaison Officer in Uganda, or to generally act as the OSSREA Committee in Uganda.

The elected Committee Members to help the Liaison Officer in Uganda were:

1. Mr. Muhwezi-Banyweine, A.D.  
Department of Geography  
Makerere University
2. Mr. Charles Asowa-Okwe  
Department of Political Science  
Makerere University
3. Ms. Monica Lubega

After the election of the above members the business meeting was closed and the workshop was also closed. The closing remarks were made by Professor

J. C. Munene, Professor Akiiki Mujaju and the official closing remarks were made by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Makerere University.

**Official Closing Remarks by Dr. O. B. K. Ndoleriire,  
Dean, Faculty of Arts, Makerere University**

The Dean emphasized that such an OSSREA workshop in Uganda should be taken as a beginning of taking natural resources and development more seriously. As such there is need to organize more seminars and workshops of this nature. He specifically concluded by noting that future workshops should specifically address themselves to:

- (a) Land tenure and land legislations
- (b) Forest coverage, its depletion and re-afforestation programmes
- (c) Water resources and their depletion and most especially the problem of the water hyacinth
- (d) Crustal resources depletion especially the deteriorating soil resources
- (e) Urban poverty and urban management which still leave a lot of room for research.
- (f) Education whose levels are still very low.

## List of Participants

1. Ms. Achieng Angelina  
Dept. of Political Science
2. Mr. Afunaduula, F. C. O.  
Dept. of Zoology
3. Mr. Asingwire, N.  
Dept. of SWSA
4. Mr. Asowa-Okwe, C.  
Dept. of Political Science
5. Ms. Banga, Hope  
P. G. S. Political Science
6. Prof. Byarugaba, F.  
Head, Dept. of Political Science
7. Mr. Funa Peter  
MISR
8. Prof. Gingyera-Pinyewa  
Dept. of Political Science
9. Mr. Giyaya, C.  
P. G. S. Geography
10. Mrs. Hyuha, T  
Head, Agricultural Economics
11. Mr. Kagenda-Atwoki  
Dept. of Geography
12. Mr. Kajura, Peter  
ISAE
13. Mrs. Kisamba-Mugerwa  
Head, Dept. of Sociology
14. Mr. Kisembo, F.  
School of Education
15. Mr. Kyamanywa, T.  
P.G.S. Political Science
16. Mr. Kyasanku, G.  
Dept. of Psychology
17. Ms. Lubega Monica  
Guidance & Counselling Office
18. Mr. Lubowa, D  
MISR

19. Mr. Manyire, Henry  
Dept. of Women Studies
20. Mr. Matagi, L.  
Dept. of Psychology
21. Mr. Mubangizi, C.  
P. G. S. Geography
22. Mr. Mugisha, J.  
Dept. Agricultural Economics
23. Mr. Muhereza, Frank  
Centre for Basic Research
24. Mr. Muhwezi, A. D.  
Dept. of Geography
25. Mr. Muhwezi, O.  
Institute of Environment
26. Prof. Mujaju-Akiiki, B.  
Dept. of Political Science
27. Mr. Mukamba, G.  
Dept. SWSA
28. Dr. J. C. Munene  
Head, Dept. of Psychology
29. Mr. Musali, P. K.  
Dept. of Geography
30. Mr. Musoke Muiyia  
P.G.S. Political Science
31. Mr. Mutya Musolo, W.  
Dept. of Psychology
32. Mr. Mwanje, E.  
Agricultural Extension Education
33. Mr. Mwesigwa, H.M.  
P. G. S. Education
34. Ms. Nabweteme, Rebecca  
P. G. S. Political Science
35. Ms. Nakawesi, Anne  
P. G. S. Political Science
36. Mr. Nakileza, B.  
Dept. of Geography
37. Prof. Nsibambi, A.  
Director, MISR
38. Mr. Nsubuga, Rogers  
Dept. of Political Science
39. Mr. Ndyabahika, M.  
Dept. of Geography
40. Mr. Nuwagaba, A.  
Dept. of SWSA

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| 41. Mr. Obong, O.<br>Dept. of Political Science          | 51. Mr. Wandera, B.<br>Dept. SWSA                                    |
| 42. Mr. Obua, J.<br>Forestry Dept.                       | 52. Mr. Wanyama, R.<br>P.G.S. Political Science                      |
| 43. Mr. Owanje, J.<br>P. G. S. Political Science         | 53. Dr. Were, G. H.<br>Dept. of Political Science                    |
| 44. Mr. Oyana, T.<br>Dept. of Geography                  | 54. Mr. Were, J. M.<br>Dept. of Geography                            |
| 45. Dr. Rutiba, E.<br>Dept. of Religious Studies         | 55. Mr. Yiga, R.<br>P.G.S. Political Science                         |
| 46. Dr. Sengendo, H.<br>Dept. of Geography               | 56. Prof. Katorobo<br>MISR   |
| 47. Mr. Seruyange, P.<br>Dept. of Agricultural Economics | 57. Mr. Daniel Gebrewolde<br>OSSREA, Project Co-ordinator            |
| 48. Mr. Tego, Fred<br>Institute of Environment           | 58. Prof. John O. Shiundu<br>Member of OSSREA<br>Executive Committee |
| 49. Mr. Tiyoy, L. M.<br>P.G.S. Institute of Environment  | 59. Prof. Almaz Eshete<br>Resident Vice-President, OSSREA            |
| 50. Mr. Wabulya, S. P.<br>Dept. of SWSA                  | 60. Prof. Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed<br>Executive Secretary, OSSREA      |