

**New Approaches for Conserving Biodiversity:
Adapting Law and Governance to a Changing Climate
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By Mr. Kenneth Kakuru
Director, Greenwatch Uganda

www.greenwatch.or.ug

E-mail: environment@greenwatch.or.ug

Tel: 256-414344613

256-752707071

Effects of climate change in Uganda



Changing weather patterns

- Extreme weather conditions
- Flooding
- Drought
- Violent storms
- High temperatures

Invasion of alien species

Invasion of alien specie:



A wattled Crane without a crown at Kibimba Rice Scheme in eastern Uganda. The bird is a native of Southern Africa and Ethiopia

Storm razes 150 Manafwa homes



Residents in disbelief at the ruins of what was once their home

Effects of changing weather (flooding)



- Disruption of agriculture/ food production Planting seasons/harvesting/ storage
- Destruction of crops /flooding of fields
- Extreme erosion/landslides
- Extinction of indigenous seeds
- Destruction/change of habitat

- Hunger
- Increased and new diseases (Human and animal)
- Destruction of property
- Destruction of infrastructure(roads, bridges, power lines)

Flooding



Destruction of infrastructure (roads)

The New Vision, Thursday, May 26, 2009

Rains block Mbale-Moroto road

EDUARDUSI VASHIMBA



Men try to dig out trucks that were stranded on the Mbale-Moroto road near Namalu trading centre in Nakagpirint district after a heavy down pour on Monday. The trucks were transporting merchandise to Moroto district. The state of the road worsened with the onset of the rains, which are expected to continue until August

Two lakes form in Kiruhura New vision, Monday, 4th May, 2009



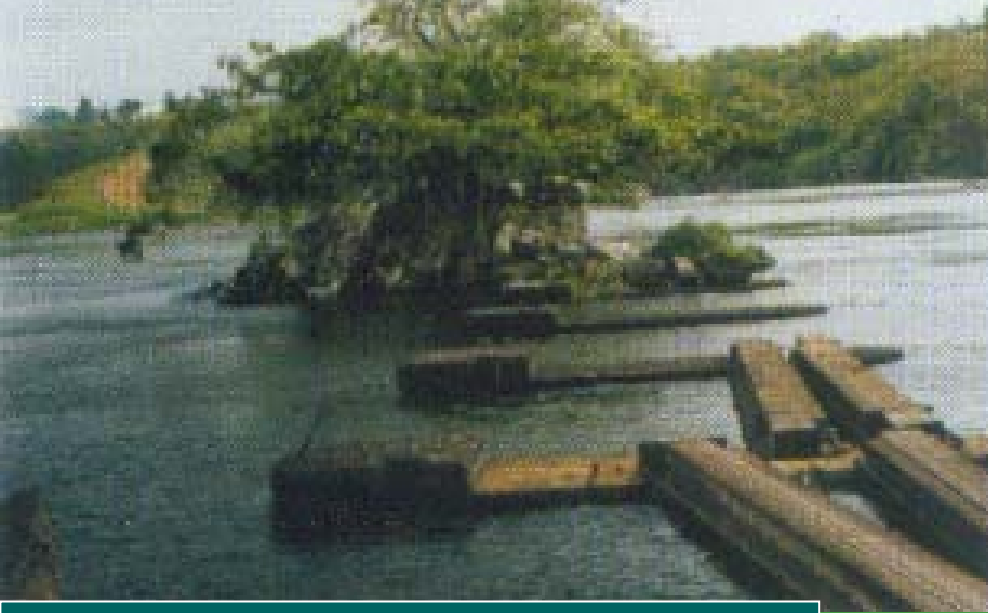
It is strange that even as the world dries up due to the devastating impact of global warming, two lakes have been created in Kiruhura district. The two lakes, Kayanja and Akageti, are located a few kilometres after Sanga town on Kampala-Mbarara highway.

The lakes have caused a lot of excitement among the pastoral communities who have been facing acute water shortages and had migrated to areas around Lake Mburo during the dry season.

Effects of changing weather patterns (Drought)

- Extreme temperatures
- Destruction of pasture
- Disruption of grazing patterns
- Increased wild fires
- Disruption of animal migration patterns
- Increased conflict wildlife and human

Water level at the source of the Nile, taken in October 2003



Glaciers on Mt. Rwenzori in 1986



Water level at the source of the Nile, taken February 2006



Declining Glaciers on Mt. Rwenzori 2006



Socio- economic

- Reduced capacity of people to feed themselves
- Reliance on food aid
- Poverty
- Infrastructure maintenance and repair
- Energy related expenses
- Human conflicts/resources related crime
- Increased conflicts over land and water
- Budget deficits due to low production
- Health related matters

Socio-political

- Regional conflicts over resources. (Migingo)
- Tribal / ethnic conflict (Teso- Karamoja)
- Land tenure and land rights (Buliisa)
- Increased crime related to conflict over resources
- Political instability over equitable national resource distribution
- Environmental destruction- forests and wetlands
- Unsustainable development
- Poverty
- Political unrest- Mabira riots

Adaptability of laws

- The exploitative nature of most laws that relate to environment and natural resources.
- Environmental laws concerned basically with management and preservation of natural resources and eco-systems
- Land laws relate to land tenure and rights
- Regional laws relate mostly to political and economic issues



Adapting the law to climate change

- Review existing laws
- Identify gaps
- Assess the people's understanding of the existing laws
- Seek expert opinion
- Comparative study with other regions and jurisdictions
- Make observations and recommendations



If we all did little, we would do much

Thank you for listening to me.