

CLIMATE CHANGE AND UGANDA'S 2020/2021 NATIONAL BUDGET

Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change-Uganda (PFCC-U) appreciates the fact that climate change is a cross-cutting issue. The 2020/2021 National budget recognises climate change as a major constraint to the productive sectors of the economy such as agriculture, industry, tourism, oil and gas and water among others. Studies undertaken by IIED indicate that it will require Uganda USD 406 Million per year to address climate change actions, while inaction will cost 20 times more.

Accordingly, the government in its budget strategy for FY2020/2021, identified 19 proposed sector plans and expenditures under the themes **“Stimulating the economy to safeguard Livelihoods, Jobs, Business and Industrial Recovery”**. Based on the PFCC-U mandate, we bring you **an analysis of the 2020/2021 climate related actions considered and their respective budget allocations** as detailed below;

1. Water, Climate and Climate Change

Among others, the 2020/2021 budget is committed to increasing the functionality and usage meteorological information to support sector specific early warning to combat the effects of climate change and disaster risks, to increase the sustainable use of environment and natural resources through restoration and maintain the hitherto degraded ecosystems and undertake massive nation-wide tree planting. The economy will continue to depend on the available stock of environmental and natural resources to produce goods and deliver services. Consequently, in this FY2020/2021 the sector has been allocated UGX133 billion maintaining the allocation in the previous FY2019/2020. These are meant for;

- i. Distribution of 04 million assorted tree seedlings,
- ii. Demarcation of 200km of critical wetlands boundaries,
- iii. Restoration of 1250ha across the country and development of 04 management plans for restored wetlands.

2. Rural water supply and sanitation programme; UGX 150.06 billion was allocated increasing from 120 billion from FY 2019/2020 to directly improve the quality of life for the individuals through improved health and in turn triggers economic growth. This is meant for;

- i. 9 Gravity Flow Schemes (GFS);
- ii. Retention for 3GFS;
- iii. One Highway sanitation facility;
- iv. 40 solar powered water supply systems;
- v. Drilling of 285 hand pump wells;
- vi. 100 production wells and;
- vii. 70 large diameter wells drilled

3. Urban water supply and sanitation; UGX 702.577 billion was allocated for;

- i. Construction of 30 water supply and sanitation systems;
- ii. Rehabilitation of piped water supply and sanitation system;
- iii. Complete construction of 4 Faecal Sludge Management (FSM)

- iv. 10 feasibility studies;
 - v. Public and institutional sanitation facilities constructed in 5 towns among others.
4. **Water for production**; UGX 118.204 billion to increase water for production storage capacity to facilitate;
- i. Construction of bulk water supply schemes studies;
 - ii. Completion of Rwengaaju irrigation scheme in Kabarole;
 - iii. Construction of small scale powered irrigation schemes;
 - iv. 20 Parish valley tanks;
 - v. 30 small scale irrigation schemes.
5. **Policy planning and support services**; UGX 39.456 billion was allocated among others to ensure completion of regional Ministry of Water and Environment and environment offices, renovation of staff houses, college internal roads among others.
6. **Climate Change Department (CCD)**; this is mandated to coordinate and monitor implementation of Uganda's climate change policy and the respective international agreements for increased resilience of Uganda's population to climate change and disaster risks. CCD was allocated UGX 0.660 Billion only. Sister agencies were allocated as; NEMA UGX 26.052 billion; KCCA UGX 15.934 billion; NFA UGX 32.499 billion; Local Governments (LG) UGX 59.330 billion and UNMA UGX 26.763 billion.
7. **Agriculture infrastructure**; to boost agriculture infrastructure, mechanisation and water for production, UGX 60.436 billion was allocated under Ministry of Agriculture, Animal husbandry and Fisheries to facilitate;
- a) 3 set of heavy moving equipment each comprising of a dump truck, a rig, bulldozer an excavator,
 - b) 10 cars for crop inspection and certification,
 - c) 10 cars for animal disease control,
 - d) Regional mechanisation centre in Mbale and Kiryadongo districts,
 - e) A medium to large irrigation scheme in Acomeri on River Sironko,
 - f) A large irrigation scheme in Atari,
 - g) Large irrigation infrastructure in Igogero, Bugwiri district and Naigombwa, Bugwiri district,
 - h) 20 large bulk and processing infrastructure for cereals, frits and cassava,
 - i) 2 large aquaculture parks in Mwena, Kalangala and in Apac districts,
 - j) Relocation of entomology insectary at Nakyesasa from Tororo districts,
 - k) 2 animal holding grounds in Nshara and Lusenke.
8. **Clean and Renewable energy and power supply**; in order to meet the energy needs of Uganda's population for social and economic development in environmentally sustainable manner, GoU allocated UGX752.244 billion and UGX 566.017 billion for large hydro power infrastructure (power generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure) and rural electrification respectively. This will target;
- i. Complete the CDAP for Karuma and Isimba hydro power projects and the construction of transmission and distribution lines and the associated wayleaves as well as Resettlement Action plan for the various power projects

Gaps and Observations

- i. Other than the line Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), only 3 sectors (Roads, Agriculture and Energy) have direct components that address climate change in their budgets. In summary, only 10% of the sectors have mainstreamed environment and climate change into their programming (MWE BFP2020/2021) which contradicts most Ugandans' desire to have climate change mainstreamed by all sectors.
- ii. The MWE sector highlights a funding gap of UGX5 billion for environmental protection police unit to undertake protection and eviction in the critical wetlands and increment of ENR conditional grant by UGX 34.9 billion across the 137 LGs to support their mandate. The challenge of climate policy enforcement still exists.
- iii. Allocations to LGs have not increased significantly in other instances. It has remained stagnant at the expense of growth in new districts and other administrative units. Addressing the increasing vulnerabilities in Ugandan Hotspots wasn't put into context since all LGs are treated the same way.
- iv. Local governments conditional grant intra allocations revealed a meagre allocation to Natural Resources Management of UGX 0.790 billion compared to water supply of UGX 58.5 billion. Without appropriate management of water sheds, water supply will remain a challenge in the country and hence preservation of the resources should attract more funding.
- v. Air pollution is one of the unfunded priorities by NEMA and KCCA yet it is one of the leading global public health and atmospheric risks.

PFCC-U Prayers are;

1. Parliament to demand the presentation of the Climate Change Bill on the floor for subsequent finalisation to direct the implementation of CC commitments.
2. Parliament to institute tax-based measures and subsidies in energy sector to reduce biomass energy consumption.
3. GoU to develop a database or inventory of illegal land titles and cancel all such titles in wetlands and forest reserves.
4. Additional funding to finance rehabilitation and investment in small scale irrigations and strengthening capacities of community based management systems.
5. Ministry of Finance to fast-track the budget tagging process of issuing a certificate of climate change mainstreaming compliance as a pre-condition for sector budget approval. We expect this to compel sectorial ministries to budget and implement climate change actions.