



Brief on dissemination of Biodiversity Information Products to inform decision making processes in the Agriculture sector as well as signing of MoU for collaboration between NEMA, NFA and MAAIF

NEMA in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is implementing a project titled CONNECT: Mainstreaming biodiversity information into the heart of government decision making processes. In the first phase of the project, a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) study was undertaken at the national and sector levels. The national level PEA identified agriculture as the thematic focus for CONNECT project because of its high-profile as a primary growth area that provides the basis for growth of other sectors and its impacts on biodiversity. Consequently, a PEA study was conducted for agriculture sector to identify the political and governance context that can influence the success of efforts for better use of biodiversity information in decision making in the sector. This study also identified the most critical Biodiversity Information Products (BIPs) for development to inform decision making processes in the agriculture sector.

In the second phase of the CONNECT project, development of the identified BIPs to facilitate decision-making in the agriculture sector was undertaken. The development of identified BIPs was spearheaded by NEMA in partnership with NFA, MAAIF and other partners at the national and international levels. The development of identified BIPs involved a comprehensive national Spatial Biodiversity Assessment (SBA) of the state of biodiversity, covering terrestrial and inland aquatic environments. In line with identified BIPs, the assessment introduced two headline indicators for assessing the state of Uganda's biodiversity: Ecosystem Threat Status and Ecosystem Protection Level.

The primary purpose of the SBA was to provide a high-level summary of the state of Uganda's biodiversity that can be regularly updated. The SBA is intended for decision-makers both inside and outside the biodiversity sector. It generated maps as BIPs on the following themes: ecosystem classification, pressures on biodiversity, protected areas, the threat status and protection level of ecosystems, and priority biodiversity hotspots.

For sustainable development of the above BIPs, NEMA developed an MoU for collaboration with NFA and MAAIF. The MoU spells out roles and responsibilities of each party in the development of BIPs now and after project closure. The draft MoU was submitted to the Solicitor General for clearance before being signed by the concerned parties. The Solicitor General cleared the MoU for signing by NEMA, NFA and MAAIF and the signing is taking place on 30th April, 2021.