



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



## Press Statement

May 21, 2021

### **RE: International Day for Biodiversity honoured under theme; Restoring Nature Together**

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) in partnership with Uganda Biodiversity Fund, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), National Forestry Authority (NFA), Nature Uganda, WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society, and the African Wildlife Foundation alongside other partners are today commemorating the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB).

The day is an opportunity for Governments, partners and stakeholders to showcase major achievements in conservation, management and strategic intervention on biodiversity. It is a day to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the associated ecosystem services provided.

Uganda ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on September 8, 1993. The Convention entered into force on December 29, 1993. To date 196 countries are Parties to the CBD making it one of the Conventions with the biggest number of Parties. In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted May 22, as the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on May 22, 1992 in Nairobi, Kenya.

This year the IDB is being commemorated under the theme **Restoring Nature Together**. The theme is in response to the trend of environmental degradation in the country that has been manifested through loss of forest cover, reclamation and degradation of wetlands, air and water pollution that have all led to biodiversity and species loss among other negative effects.

The choice of the national theme for IDB 2021 is meant to mobilize all Ugandans to take concrete and sustainable actions to restore the environment with a major focus on forests, wetlands, and endangered and threatened species of wild plants (flora) and wild animals (fauna)

NEMA Executive Director, Dr. Tom Okurut noted that the UN declared 2021 -2030 as the Decade for Ecosystem Restoration. "Our national theme is timely and NEMA calls upon all stakeholders to design and implement sustainable biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration programs to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the associated ecosystem services provided," Dr. Okurut remarked.

Ms. Juliet Kyokunda, Executive Director of Uganda Biodiversity Fund, stated that these actions not only show the commitment of the different sectors, but also prove that change can be realized by everyone playing an active role. "We derive our livelihood from nature and therefore we must put back what we take out, because if we don't take care of nature, nature won't take care of us," Ms. Kyokunda said.

Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF) country Director for Uganda Mr, Sudi Bamulesewa remarked that AWF is working with all stakeholders to ensure that ecosystem protection is prioritised and that resources are channelled towards conserving bio-diversity. "The effort to save biodiversity rests with us all. We need active participation from government institutions, private sector, civil society organisations, communities and landowners," said Mr. Bamulesewa.

The national celebrations are being marked with a number of activities including a breakfast meeting where the private sector will be engaged on how best to conserve biodiversity; a restoration exercise at Nakindiba Central Forest Reserve; Television talk shows and production and distribution of Information Education and Communication materials.

## Ends

**For more information, please contact:**

### **Uganda Biodiversity Fund**

P.O. Box 26156, Kampala (U)  
Plot 245, Zzimwe Road,  
Telephone: +256 (039) 321 6445  
Email: [info@ugandabiodiversityfund.org](mailto:info@ugandabiodiversityfund.org)  
Website: [www.ugandabiodiversityfund.org](http://www.ugandabiodiversityfund.org)

### **National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)**

P.O.Box 22255 Kampala (U)  
NEMA House Plot 17/19/21 Jinja Road  
Tel: +256 414 251064/5/8  
Email: [info@nemaug.org](mailto:info@nemaug.org)  
[www.nema.go.ug](http://www.nema.go.ug)

