

# CALL TO ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - UGANDA

The Uganda Call to Action Plan aims to integrate climate resilience and sustainable development to drive inclusive economic growth, environmental protection, and social well-being. It aligns with national policies such as Vision 2040, the Third National Development Plan (NDPIII), Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the Climate Change Act, ensuring that all stakeholders, from government agencies to private sector players and local communities are working toward a common goal. The plan's ultimate success will result in a climate-resilient Uganda with sustainable industries, improved livelihoods, and stronger global positioning in climate action.

A key component of this initiative is sector-specific interventions that support climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy expansion, resilient infrastructure, and green finance. By providing incentives for businesses to invest in sustainability, mobilizing climate finance through innovative funding mechanisms such as green bonds and carbon markets, and strengthening regulatory frameworks, the plan fosters private-sector participation. Additionally, it ensures that vulnerable groups—including smallholder farmers, women, youth, and refugees—benefit from climate adaptation programs that improve food security, health, and economic opportunities.

The roadmap for implementation follows a three-phase approach: (1) Planning and Alignment, which involves engaging stakeholders, aligning policies, and securing funding; (2) Implementation and Scaling, which focuses on launching sector-based initiatives, training programs, and innovation support; and (3) Monitoring, Evaluation, and Expansion, where successful models are scaled, impact is assessed, and policies are refined. Key milestones include the establishment of a governance framework, large-scale implementation in the, and measurable national impact.

Despite the strong potential for success, several risks could hinder progress, including policy inconsistencies, financial constraints, resistance from vested interests, and limited awareness among local communities. To address these challenges, the plan proposes a robust coordination mechanism, diversified financial sources, extensive community engagement, and investments in capacity-building programs. The integration of early warning systems and disaster risk management further ensures that climate shocks do not derail progress.

The proposed Uganda Call to Action Plan is a transformative approach that balances environmental sustainability with economic development. It delivers broad benefits—reducing carbon emissions, improving infrastructure, creating green jobs, and strengthening Uganda's position as a climate leader. With the right policies, financing, and stakeholder collaboration, the plan will accelerate Uganda's journey toward a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

## MAIN GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

### 1. SDG-Climate Investment Accelerator Program

**Objective:** Facilitate partnerships between private sector investors, development finance institutions, and climate-focused projects aligned with SDGs to mobilize blended finance solutions.

### **Key Components:**

- **Investor-Project Matchmaking:** Identify and connect local businesses, community-based organizations, and government projects working on SDG and climate initiatives with potential investors.
- **Capacity Building:** Train businesses and project owners on structuring climate-smart investment proposals to attract sustainable financing.
- **Policy Dialogue:** Work with regulators to create incentives such as tax breaks or subsidies for climate-friendly SDG projects.
- **Pilot Fund:** Establish a small grant or blended finance mechanism to de-risk early-stage SDG-climate projects.

**Expected Impact:** Increased private sector investment in climate adaptation and mitigation projects that also drive SDG progress.

## **2. Climate-Smart SDG Innovation Challenge**

**Objective:** Encourage youth-led start-ups, SMEs, and innovators to develop scalable, sustainable solutions that address both climate and SDG challenges.

### **Key Components:**

- **Thematic Focus Areas:** Energy access (SDG 7), climate resilience in agriculture (SDG 2 & 13), sustainable cities (SDG 11), and waste management (SDG 12).
- **Incubation & Mentorship:** Provide technical and financial support for winning ideas through partnerships with universities, incubators, and the private sector.
- **Showcase & Scale:** Facilitate connections with investors, policymakers, and development partners to scale the most promising solutions.

**Expected Impact:** Foster innovation-driven solutions that simultaneously address climate resilience and broader SDG objectives while creating employment and economic opportunities.

### **Main goal and objectives**

To drive integrated and scalable financing and implementation strategies that align Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with climate action in Uganda, ensuring efficient resource utilization, strengthened partnerships, and impactful development outcomes.

### **Objectives by Sector/Theme/Issue Area**

1. **Finance & Investment:**
  - Mobilize blended finance solutions to scale SDG-climate projects.
  - De-risk early-stage sustainable investments through innovative financial instruments.
2. **Private Sector & Entrepreneurship:**
  - Foster business-led climate solutions that align with SDG targets.
  - Support SMEs and start-ups in climate-resilient innovation and green technology.
3. **Agriculture & Food Security:**
  - Enhance climate-smart agricultural practices for resilience and sustainability.
  - Strengthen market linkages and finance mechanisms for sustainable farming.
4. **Energy & Infrastructure:**
  - Expand access to clean energy solutions for urban and rural areas.
  - Promote green infrastructure investments, including climate-resilient urban development.
5. **Policy & Governance:**
  - Advocate for policy frameworks that incentivize SDG-climate integration.

- Strengthen public-private partnerships for effective implementation.
- 6. **Youth & Innovation:**
  - Support youth-driven climate entrepreneurship and capacity building.
  - Establish innovation hubs for scalable SDG-climate solutions.
- 7. **Health & Social Well-being:**
  - Strengthen climate-adaptive healthcare systems.
  - Promote sustainable and resilient urban development to mitigate climate-related health risks.

## IMPORTANCE AND LINKS WITH UGANDA'S STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

Alignment with Uganda's Strategies and Policies is important to ensure policy coherence and government support, facilitate access to climate finance and development funding, enhance multi-sectoral collaboration for impactful implementation, and accelerate Uganda's progress on SDGs and climate resilience commitments.

1. **Uganda Vision 2040** – Provides the long-term development framework (emphasizing sustainable economic growth, industrialization, and climate resilience)
2. **Third National Development Plan (NDPIII) (2020/21 – 2024/25)** – Guides national development priorities, including climate adaptation, green growth, and sustainable financing.
3. **National Climate Change Policy (2015, updated 2023)** – Establishes Uganda's climate action framework, integrating mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building.
4. **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement** – Defines Uganda's commitments to reducing carbon emissions and enhancing climate resilience across sectors.
5. **Green Growth Development Strategy (GGDS) (2017/18 – 2030/31)** – Promotes sustainable industrialization, renewable energy, and climate-smart agriculture.
6. **National Energy Policy (2023)** – Supports the transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency, which are key for SDG-climate synergy.
7. **National Agriculture Policy (2013) & Climate-Smart Agriculture Program (CSA)** – Ensures food security through sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices.
8. **National Environment Management Policy (2019)** – Strengthens environmental governance and natural resource management for sustainable development.
9. **National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2017)** – Focuses on resilience-building against climate-induced disasters.
10. **Uganda's Sustainable Finance Roadmap (2021)** – Encourages green finance mechanisms to fund SDG and climate-related projects.

## INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN UGANDA & ADDED VALUE BY SECTOR

The Overall Impact of integrating climate and sustainable development helps to strengthen Uganda's transition to a climate-resilient and sustainable economy, enhance private sector engagement and global partnerships, and Improve livelihoods, economic stability, and environmental health.

### 1. Finance & Investment

- Integration: Blended finance, green bonds, and incentives for climate-smart projects.
- Added Value: Increased investment in sustainable infrastructure and climate adaptation.

### 2. Private Sector & Entrepreneurship

- Integration: Promotion of green businesses, sustainable supply chains, and climate-focused startups.
- Added Value: Innovation-driven growth, green job creation, and economic resilience.

### 3. Agriculture & Food Security

- Integration: Climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, and sustainable irrigation.
- Added Value: Enhanced food security, increased productivity, and farmer resilience.

### 4. Energy & Infrastructure

- Integration: Expansion of renewable energy (solar, hydro, wind) and eco-friendly urban planning.
- Added Value: Reduced carbon emissions, lower energy costs, and sustainable development.

### 5. Policy & Governance

- Integration: Alignment with Uganda Vision 2040, NDCs, and green growth strategies.
- Added Value: Stronger policy coherence, global climate finance access, and effective implementation.

### 6. Youth & Innovation

- Integration: Climate-focused innovation hubs and funding for sustainable startups.
- Added Value: Scalable solutions, increased youth participation, and inclusive development.

### 7. Health & Social Well-being

- Integration: Climate-resilient healthcare, sustainable urban development, and pollution reduction.
- Added Value: Improved public health, reduced disease burden, and safer living conditions.

## MOTIVATION FOR STRATEGY – MAKING THE CASE TO STAKEHOLDERS IN UGANDA

The Rationale for the overall Case for Action in Uganda would translate into Economic and social benefits outweighing costs, Climate action ensuring long-term national stability and competitiveness, Integrated SDG-climate solutions unlocking financing and accelerate development.

1. **Ministers, Ministries, and Government Agencies**
  - Economic Growth & Job Creation: Climate-smart investments drive industrialization, innovation, and employment.
  - Policy Alignment & Global Commitments: Supports Uganda's Vision 2040, NDPIII, and international agreements like the Paris Agreement and SDGs.
  - Climate Resilience & National Security: Reduces climate risks (droughts, floods) that threaten food security and infrastructure.
2. **Citizens**
  - Improved Livelihoods: Climate-resilient agriculture and green jobs increase income opportunities.
  - Health & Well-being: Clean energy and environmental protection reduce pollution-related diseases.
  - Affordable Energy & Infrastructure: Expanding renewables lowers energy costs and improves urban planning.
3. **Banks & Financial Institutions**
  - New Investment Opportunities: Green finance and sustainable business models offer profitable returns.
  - De-risking & Incentives: Government and development partner support lower financial risks for climate investments.
  - Regulatory Compliance & Global Standards: Aligns with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) requirements and international banking trends.
4. **Development Partners & Donors**
  - Sustainable Impact: Ensures long-term resilience and inclusive economic growth.
  - Leverage & Scalability: Aligns with global financing mechanisms, mobilizing more resources for Uganda.
  - Multi-Sectoral Collaboration: Strengthens partnerships across public and private sectors for systemic change.

## KEY STAKEHOLDERS AFFECTED BY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN UGANDA

Though there are very many stakeholders to engage in Uganda, the key considerations should be balancing economic interests with sustainability, ensuring inclusivity so vulnerable groups benefit from interventions, and engaging resistant stakeholders through incentives and policy dialogue.

1. **Vulnerable Groups (Most Affected)**
  - Smallholder Farmers & Rural Communities – Highly dependent on climate-sensitive agriculture; need climate-smart solutions.
  - Low-Income Urban Populations – Affected by pollution, inadequate infrastructure, and climate-related health risks.
  - Women & Youth – Disproportionately impacted by climate change but crucial for green jobs and innovation.
  - Refugees & Displaced Populations – Often live in high-risk areas with limited climate adaptation resources.
2. **Vested Interests (Potential Barriers)**
  - Fossil Fuel & High-Emission Industries – May resist clean energy transition due to economic stakes.

- Certain Political & Business Leaders – Those benefiting from unsustainable practices may oppose reforms.
  - Large-Scale Landowners & Developers – May resist land use changes for conservation or climate adaptation.
3. **Local Communities**
- Indigenous & Traditional Groups – Hold key knowledge on sustainable resource management but need recognition.
  - Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) – Essential for grassroots implementation and capacity-building.
4. **Key Enablers & Supporters**
- Government Ministries & Agencies – Drive policy, regulations, and implementation (e.g., Ministry of Water & Environment, NEMA).
  - Private Sector & Financial Institutions – Provide investment in green businesses and climate-smart infrastructure.
  - Development Partners & NGOs – Offer funding, technical support, and advocacy for climate adaptation and SDG acceleration.

## ULTIMATE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE CALL TO ACTION PLAN IN UGANDA

The overall vision for success should be a climate-resilient, sustainable Uganda with a thriving green economy, improved quality of life, and stronger global positioning in climate action and sustainable development.

1. **Climate & SDG Impact**
  - Reduced Carbon Emissions & Environmental Protection – Increased use of renewable energy, reforestation, and climate-smart practices.
  - Enhanced Climate Resilience – Strengthened adaptation measures to mitigate climate shocks (e.g., floods, droughts).
  - Accelerated SDG Progress – Stronger integration of climate action with poverty reduction, health, education, and economic growth.
2. **Sectoral Benefits**
  - Agriculture & Food Security: Increased productivity through climate-smart farming, reducing hunger and improving rural livelihoods.
  - Energy & Infrastructure: Expanded clean energy access, lower costs, and more resilient infrastructure.
  - Finance & Investment: Growth in green finance, attracting local and international investors.
  - Private Sector & Job Creation: More sustainable businesses, green jobs, and economic diversification.
3. **Community Impact**
  - Improved Livelihoods: Better incomes, job opportunities, and access to resources for vulnerable groups.
  - Health & Well-being: Reduced pollution, improved healthcare services, and cleaner environments.
  - Social Inclusion: Greater participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in economic and climate action.

#### 4. Government & Policy Outcomes

- Stronger Governance & Institutional Capacity: Effective implementation of climate policies and regulatory frameworks.
- Increased Global Funding & Partnerships: Access to international climate finance and stronger donor collaboration.
- Economic Growth & Stability: Sustainable industrialization, trade, and a resilient economy.

## KEY RISKS & MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR THE CALL TO ACTION PLAN IN UGANDA

The Overall Risk Management strategy / Approach should provide for Strong governance and coordination mechanisms, Diverse funding streams to ensure financial sustainability, Community-driven solutions to enhance local ownership, and Continuous monitoring, evaluation, and policy adaptation.

#### 1. Political & Institutional Risks

- Risk: Policy inconsistencies, bureaucratic delays, and lack of coordination among government agencies.
- Mitigation: Establish a cross-sectoral coordination body, ensure high-level political commitment, and align with existing national policies (Vision 2040, NDPIII).

#### 2. Financial Constraints

- Risk: Limited funding for climate and SDG projects, dependence on external donors.
- Mitigation: Develop diversified financing mechanisms (green bonds, public-private partnerships, carbon markets) and integrate climate finance into national budgets.

#### 3. Private Sector & Investment Barriers

- Risk: Limited incentives for businesses to adopt green solutions.
- Mitigation: Provide tax incentives, low-interest green loans, and strengthen regulatory frameworks to encourage sustainable investments.

#### 4. Community Resistance & Low Awareness

- Risk: Local communities may resist change due to limited understanding of climate and SDG benefits.
- Mitigation: Conduct awareness campaigns, engage community leaders, and provide training on climate-smart solutions.

#### 5. Climate & Environmental Risks

- Risk: Unpredictable extreme weather events (floods, droughts) disrupting implementation.
- Mitigation: Strengthen early warning systems, promote climate-resilient infrastructure, and integrate disaster risk management into planning.

#### 6. Technological & Capacity Gaps

- Risk: Limited expertise in climate-smart technologies and sustainable development practices.
- Mitigation: Invest in capacity-building programs, partner with universities, and leverage international technical support.

# ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CALL TO ACTION PLAN IN UGANDA

Taking a phased approach would ensure a greater likelihood of success through: establishing a framework, securing funding, and launching pilot programs; Large-scale implementation across key sectors; showing sustainable growth, measurable impact, and global recognition.

## Phase 1: Planning & Alignment

### Stakeholder Engagement & Consensus Building

- Convene key stakeholders (government, private sector, development partners, communities).
- Align with national policies (Vision 2040, NDPIII, NDCs) and global SDG-climate goals.

### Policy & Regulatory Review

- Identify gaps in existing climate and SDG-related policies.
- Develop an enabling policy framework to support green investments.

### Funding & Resource Mobilization

- Secure initial funding from government, private sector, and development partners.
- Establish green finance mechanisms (climate bonds, blended finance).

## Phase 2: Implementation & Scaling

### Sector-Specific Interventions

- **Agriculture:** Roll out climate-smart farming programs, provide financing for farmers.
- **Energy:** Scale up renewable energy investments, improve grid infrastructure.
- **Infrastructure:** Implement resilient urban planning, eco-friendly transport solutions.
- **Finance:** Develop incentives for banks and investors to support climate projects.

### Capacity Building & Awareness

- Train government officials, businesses, and local communities on climate resilience.
- Launch public awareness campaigns on climate adaptation and SDG benefits.

### Private Sector & Innovation Support

- Incubate green startups and SMEs.
- Foster public-private partnerships for sustainable solutions.

## Phase 3: Monitoring, Evaluation & Expansion

### Impact Assessment & Data-Driven Decision Making

- Develop a national monitoring framework for tracking SDG-climate progress.
- Use digital platforms for real-time reporting on implementation progress.

### Policy Adjustments & Scaling Best Practices

- Identify successful initiatives for scaling across the country.
- Adjust policies and strategies based on evaluation results.

### Global Positioning & Continuous Improvement

- Strengthen Uganda's role in international climate negotiations.
- Continue refining climate finance and sustainability strategies.