

Country Name	National Wetlands Management Project
Republic of Uganda	

### I. Project Outline

Background	In Uganda, wetlands cover 2.9 million ha, accounting for 10-13 % (2008) of the total land area of the country. They have intrinsic attributes, perform functions, and produce goods and services. The Government of Uganda recognized its vital role for the sustainable development of the country, and thus placed wetland conservation and management on the primary policy agenda. Wetland management planning was an indispensable process in translating the policies into specific actions. However, most local governments did not come up with such plans or did not bring them into action. Limited information availability on wetland characteristics was also a constraint for the effective and efficient management of wetlands. It was said that about 25% of wetland areas had diminished in the past fifteen years over the country.												
Objectives of the Project	Through the upgraded information system, wetland management plans, pilot activities for the wise use of wetlands, training of wetland management officers, the project aimed at establishing a model of conservation and wise use of wetlands, thereby contributing to the dissemination of the model. 1. Overall Goal: A model of conservation and wise use of wetlands is disseminated. 2. Project Purpose: A model of conservation and wise use of wetlands is established.												
Activities of the project	1. Project site: Doho-Namatala and Awoja wetland systems. 2. Main activities: Upgrading of the National Wetland Information system, preparation of wetland management plans, implementation of pilot activities for the wise use of wetlands, training of wetland management officers, etc. 3. Inputs (to carry out above activities) <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Japanese Side</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Ugandan Side</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1) Experts from Japan: 10 persons</td> <td>1) Staff allocated: 17 persons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2) Training in Japan: 10 persons</td> <td>2) Land and facilities: Office space, etc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3) Equipment: Vehicles, PC, UPS, etc.</td> <td>3) Local cost: Replacement of machinery, spare parts, transportation of equipment, etc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4) Local cost: travel expenses, etc.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Japanese Side	Ugandan Side	1) Experts from Japan: 10 persons	1) Staff allocated: 17 persons	2) Training in Japan: 10 persons	2) Land and facilities: Office space, etc.	3) Equipment: Vehicles, PC, UPS, etc.	3) Local cost: Replacement of machinery, spare parts, transportation of equipment, etc.	4) Local cost: travel expenses, etc.	
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Project Period	January 2012 to December 2016 (Extended period: January 2016 to December 2016)	Project Cost	(ex-ante) 556 million yen, (actual) 558 million yen										
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Wetlands Management Department (WMD), District Local Governments (DLGs).												
Cooperation Agency in Japan	CTI Engineering International Co., Ltd, OYO International Corporation, Earth & Human Corporation.												

### II. Result of the Evaluation

< Special Perspectives Considered in the Ex-Post Evaluation >

- Continuation of the project effects (utilization of the model of conservation and wise use of wetlands) were not confirmed with the three indicators set by the project, but it was verified by confirming if the wetlands management plans developed by the project were utilized and income-generating activities introduced by the project continued, because the two indicators were related to the pilot activities which were concluded by the time of project completion and the other indicator was about developed manuals which would be verified as part of the technical aspect of sustainability.

- Because of the outbreak of COVID-19, information was collected mainly through a questionnaire survey and phone interviews to make evaluation judgement in the ex-post evaluation.

#### 1 Relevance

<Consistency with the Development Policy of Uganda at the time of Ex-ante Evaluation>

Wetlands management was one of the priority areas in the National Development Plan (2010/11-2014/15). And, it was explained related to the sustainable use of natural resources which was one of the priority areas in the "Environment and Natural Resources Sector Investment Plan" (2008/09-2017/18). Thus, the project was consistent with the development policy of Uganda at the time of ex-ante evaluation.

<Consistency with the Development Needs of Uganda at the time of Ex-ante Evaluation>

About 25% of wetland areas diminished after the 2000s. It was reported that lowering the water level and associated soil erosion reduced the rice yield. Wetland users were vulnerable because their means of production depended on the productivity of the land. Thus, the project was consistent with the development needs of Uganda at the time of ex-ante evaluation.

<Consistency with Japan's ODA Policy at the time of Ex-ante Evaluation >

In the policy consultation with the Government of Uganda in 2006, one of the priority areas for the assistance was the agricultural development such as the promotion of rice production and the improvement of added value of agricultural products<sup>1</sup>. Thus, the project, which aimed to establish a model for conservation and wise use of wetlands including paddy rice promotion was consistent with Japan's ODA policy at the time of ex-ante evaluation.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the relevance of the project is high.

#### 2 Effectiveness/Impact

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "ODA Databook 2011."

<Status of Achievement for the Project Purpose at the time of Project Completion>

The Project Purpose was achieved by the time of project completion. At the catchment level, significant impacts on ecology have not emerged since the pilot activities began in 2015 for demarcating wetlands and setting out rules for management and tree planting activities were commenced in 2016 which does not provide adequate time to generate visible impacts. However, the ecological monitoring activity has identified the improvement of ecological character as a result of the project intervention through the creation of protection zones and tree planting along the important water bodies in the pilot sites (Indicator 1). All the target communities adopted the sustainable livelihood options introduced by the project in a participatory manner, specifically in preparing the plans and identifying the preferred livelihood options (Indicator 2). All of the manuals and guidelines for wetlands management were printed by MWD. It could be judged that the manuals were approved as official documents (Indicator 3). From these achievements, it can be said that a model of conservation and wise use of wetlands was established by the project.

<Continuation Status of Project Effects at the time of Ex-post Evaluation>

The project effects have continued. First, MWE has utilized the model by adopting the approach for supporting communities with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) of the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) and funds from other donors including the German Agency for International Cooperation (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit: GIZ). Specifically, the model has been used in zoning the wetland before restoration and demarcation initiatives in Districts of Budaka, Butaleja, Kibuku, and Pallisa. Also, based on the Framework Management Plan developed by the project, the project for Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through Catchment Based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources in Uganda (EURRECCA Project) in Awoja and the GCF-Wetland Restoration Project in Namatala have been implemented. The new five-year action plan was developed from the Sub-county Wetland Action Plan, and it has been integrated into the District Wetland Action Plan (DWAP). Furthermore, following the model developed by the project, efforts have been started for the restoration of River Mpologoma in 18 districts including Kaliro, Namutumba, Kibuku, Mbale, Pallisa in the Eastern Region and Kabale, Kisoro, Ntungamo, Mitooma in the South-Western Region, with support from the United Nations Development Programme and GCF. In addition, based on the experience, MWD has implemented the GCF project “Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda” (2017-2025) with the aim of restoring 64,370ha of degraded wetland areas.

Second, according to the tree investigated DLGs (Budaka, Sironko, and Kibuku), pilot IGAs have been sustained to some extent as they have been the basis for wetlands planning and conversation in the respective districts. However, it was reported that some wetlands have been degraded with destructed buffer zones since they have been no law on wetlands which could enforce conservation.

<Status of Achievement for Overall Goal at the time of Ex-post Evaluation>

The Overall Goal has been achieved. The model of conservation and wise use of wetlands developed by the project has been disseminated to other wetland systems. In the Nalugugu wetland system in Bukiise Sub-County of Sironko District, part of the catchment area has been conserved by establishing contour bunds in Bukiridya village. In Limoto wetland system located between Pallisa and Kibuku Districts, 936 hectares of wetlands have been restored with livelihood options supported at the edge of the restored wetland. The livelihood improvement activities have been implemented through fishponds, water retention facilities, small scale irrigation facilities, and many others. For diffusing the model, WMD has conducted training for staff of the districts and other key institutions, and more than 200 staff have been trained in the Eastern Region. The manuals produced by the project have been disseminated to the local governments and some were shared at the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) held in Dubai in 2018.

<Other Impacts at the time of Ex-post Evaluation>

First, as various livelihood alternatives such as horticulture and fishing have been introduced by the project and become active, the road networks have been improved and new markets for vegetables have been established, by DLGs, MWE, the Uganda National Meteorological Authority, development partners including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, and so on, which have contributed to the increased in farmers’ income. Second, related to gender, there have been both positive and negative impacts. Both men and women have come to actively participate in agricultural activities. Women have been involved in horticulture farming during the dry season when other agricultural work is off. However, it has brought overburdening to women and even children because the labor-intensive horticulture work has been added to their house chore such as weeding, fetching water, fastening plantlets on the stakes. To tackle this issue, efforts have been made by MWE for promoting gender equality, by sensitizing both male and female farmers for work scheduling and encouraging to hire laborers to lessen the female burden, as all the costs could be comfortably offset by the agricultural profits.

Another negative impact has been reported by DLG of Sironko that soil and water contamination was caused by the misuse of agrochemicals. As a follow-up, DLG has continuously provided monitoring and extension services for adherence to prescribed quantities of agrochemicals, and it has been mitigated

<Evaluation Result>

Therefore, the effectiveness/impact of the project is high.

Achievement of the Project Purpose and Overall Goal

Aim	Indicators	Results
<p>(Project Purpose) A model of conservation and wise use of wetlands is established.</p>	<p>1. Ecological character of the pilot sites shows no changes or improvement in pilot sites based on the ecological monitoring plans of each site.</p>	<p><u>Status of achievement: Achieved.</u> (Project Completion) - The ecological monitoring plans adopted a combination of three tools: photo point monitoring, water quality monitoring, and description and recording of plant community by using Relevé datasheets. At the catchment level, significant impacts on ecology did emerge since the pilot activities began in 2015 for demarcating wetlands, and setting out rules for management and tree planting activities were commenced in 2016. - The ecological monitoring activity identified the improvement of ecological character as a result of the project intervention through the creation of protection zones and tree planting along with the important water bodies in the pilot sites.</p>

	2. At least 50% of the pilot activity participants adopt sustainable livelihood options introduced by the project.	<u>Status of achievement: Achieved.</u> (Project Completion) - All the target communities supported adopted the sustainable livelihood options introduced by the project.
	3. Wetland Management Manual is approved as one of the WMD's official document.	<u>Status of achievement: Achieved.</u> (Project Completion) - WMD agreed to print the following manuals and other materials 1. Implementation Guideline 2. NWIS Handbook 3. Guideline for Wetland Assessment 4. Ecosystem Assessment Report 5. Livelihood assessment Doho-Namatata Wetland System 6. Livelihood assessment Report Awoja Wetland System 7. Framework Management Plan -Doho-Namatata Wetland System 8. Framework Management Plan -Awoja Wetland System 10. Sub-County and District Wetland Action Plans Development Manual 11. Sub-county Wetland Action Plans 12. Wetland Management Planning Process Manual 13. Community-Based Wetland Management Plan 14. Guideline for Paddy Rice - It could be judged that the manuals were officially approved because WMD agreed to print them, although the evidence as official documents was not confirmed.
(Overall goal) A model of conservation and wise use of wetlands is disseminated.	1. Measures for conservation and wise use of wetlands introduced by the project are implemented in at least 1 wetland system other than the target wetland systems.	<u>Status of achievement: Achieved.</u> (Ex-post Evaluation) - The model of conservation and wise use of wetlands has been introduced in the wetland systems of Nalugugu in Sironko District and Limoto in Pallisa and Kibuku Districts.

Source: Project Completion Report and information provided by MWE and District Local Governments.

### 3 Efficiency

Although the project cost was as planned, the project period exceeded the plan (ratio against the plan: 100% and 125%, respectively). Outputs were produced as planned. The project period was extended because livelihood improvement activities were started in the last period of the project and therefore time was required to fully monitor their performance and conduct follow-up them. Therefore, the project efficiency is fair.

### 4 Sustainability

#### <Policy Aspect>

Promotion of the wetland management has been prioritized in the “Wetland Sub Sector Strategic Plan” (2011-2020) and the “National Wetlands Management Bill” which was effective at the time of ex-post evaluation. The “National Wetland Policy” (2019) was reviewed and to be submitted for approval at the time of ex-post evaluation.

#### <Institutional/Organizational Aspect>

The organizational structure of the National Wetland Advisory Group to sustain and disseminate the model established by the project has remained the same since the time of project completion. Two technical staff have been assigned at the Regional Office of MWE in Mbale, and WMD answered that this has been sufficient to sustain and diffuse the model established by the project, although there has been a shortage of staff at the sub-county and district level to fully mainstream and guide the wetlands conservation concept.

The National Wetland Information System has been sustained, as it has functioned as the guiding principle for generating maps for degraded sections and hotspot areas. Wetlands have been given a unique identifier that is a numerical value that defines the system followed by the name to aid mapping and guiding decision-making in gazettement. The monitoring system of the Framework Management Plan strengthened by the project has been utilized in Doho-Namatata and Awoja, through which WMD has been able to coordinate and supervise DLGs to ensure compliance with existing environmental regulations and standards.

#### <Technical Aspect>

WMD staff has sustained necessary skills and knowledge to disseminate the model introduced by the project, through continuous refresher training. Also, WMD staff have exercised their skills acquired from the project in the ongoing GCF initiatives (2017-2025). The manuals and guidelines developed by the project have been utilized. For example, the “Wetland Management Planning Manual” has been referred to by WMD for developing community-based wetland management plans. “Community Wetlands Action Planning Manual” and “Wetland Use and Livelihood Assessment” have been used by DLGs for making action plans and training.

#### <Financial Aspect>

Financial data could not be available at the ex-post evaluation survey. WMD answered the budget has not been sufficient for disseminating the model introduced by the project. Funds from the central government have been limited to key annual priorities like wetland demarcation, management planning and restoration. However, MWE has shown commitment for streamlining the wetland management, coordination, and collaboration with DLGs and other non-state actors by committing and mobilizing funds to ensure that the concept of conservation and wise use be integrated into wetland management.

#### <Evaluation Result>

In the light above, there have been issues in the institutional and financial aspects. Therefore, the sustainability of the effects is fair.

### 5 Summary of the Evaluation

The model of conservation and wise use of wetlands was developed and has been disseminated to other wetland systems. Both positive

impacts (female participation in agricultural activities and income improvement) and negative impacts (water and soil contamination and labor burden on women and children) have been reported. Regarding sustainability, the organizational structure and WMD's skills have been sustained for diffusing the developed model, while more staff at the district level and budgets have been needed. As for efficiency, the project period exceeded the plan.

Considering all of the above points, this project is evaluated to be satisfactory.

### **III. Recommendations & Lessons Learned**

Recommendations for Implementing agency:

- In order to secure funds for further dissemination of the developed model, it is recommended to WMD to discuss the importance of the wetland management as well as its demarcation and restoration within MWE and also to have a dialogue with other institutions for financial collaboration.

Lessons Learned:

- The project succeeded in developing and diffusing the model of wetland restoration and its wise use, although there has been a human and financial resource shortage at the sub-county and district level. This is because the model was developed by reflecting the wetland users' needs for its restoration and being accompanied by practical livelihood improvement options for them. Also, it is because the guidelines for wetland management have been not only officially approved by WMD but also made known in other ministries, related agencies and local government. Multisectoral coordination such as agriculture, land use in the upper stream of catchment was also a key factor. For diffusing a multi-sectoral model, it is important to develop a practical one based on users' needs and then share it with organizations of related sectors other than the implementing agency for gaining their cooperation.