

VITAL SIGNS

Vital Signs Uganda Stakeholders Workshop

Workshop Report
Protea Hotel, Kampala
February 25, 2014

Background and Purpose

Vital Signs is an integrated monitoring system for Human Wellbeing, Agriculture and the Environment. It is operational in Tanzania and Ghana, and proposes to start up in Uganda. A stakeholder workshop was convened under the auspices of the Ministry of Water and Environment to introduce the concept, determine if there was interest in implementing Vital Signs in Uganda, and if so, how that implementation would proceed.

Attendees

No	Name	Institution	Title	Contact
1	Hon Ms Flavia Munaba Nabugere	Ministry of Water & Environment (MWE)	Minister of State (Environment), MWE	nflavnet@yahoo.com
2	Robert Waiswa	MWE	Senior Asst Secretary/PA to Minister, MWE	Robert.waiswa@gmail.com
3	Sam Kule	MWE	Logistical Assistant to Minister	kulesam@yahoo.com
4	Julius Walwasa	MWE	Logistical Assistant to Minister	jwalwasa@gmail.com
5	Prof John Kaddu	Makerere, Faculty of Zoology	Prof of Zoology, Climate change focal person	Johnkaddu2006@yahoo.co.uk
6	Chebet Maikut	Climate Change Unit – (MWE)	Deputy Coordinator	chmaikut@gmail.com 0752 609 414
7	Bob Natifu	Climate Change Unit – (MWE)	Senior Climate Change Officer	bob.natifu@ccu.go.ug 0752 609 414
8	Khalid Muwembe	MWE/Meteorology	Senior Met Officer	muwembe@yahoo.co.uk
9	Fred Kakaire	Uganda Chartered	Executive Director	fkakaire@healthnet.or.ug,

		Healthnet		0752 222 822
10	Dr Edison Mworozzi	Uganda Chartered Healthnet	Principal Investigator	emworozi@gmail.com 0772 619 355
11	Patrick Kibaya	Uganda Chartered Healthnet	Project Officer	pkibaya@gmail.com; 0752 222 821
12	Tom K. Balemesa	ACODE	Research Officer	Tom.balesesa@acode-u.org 0772 561 727
13	John Diisi	National Forestry Authority (NFA)	Coordinator GIS and Mapping	johnd@nfa.org.ug
14	Dr. Francis Esegu	NaFORRI (Forest Research Institute)	Director	naforridir@infocom.co.ug 0772470764
15	Dr Japheth Magyembe	NARO H/Qrs	Head, Competitive Grant Scheme	cgs@naro.go.ug
16	Patrick Okello	UBOS (Bureau of Statistics)	Principal statistician (Agric & Env)	pokello@gmail.com 0772521294
17	Ms Joyce Ruhweza K	Min Finance, Planning and Economic Dev.	Principal Economist	Joyce.ruhweza@finance.go.ug 0772 404 427/ 0414 707 163
18	Hadad Kavuma	EMLI (NGO)	Director	Kaluma.hadad@gmail.com
19	Prof Bob Scholes	CSIR, South Africa	Vital Signs Technical Council, Co-PI of Vital Signs	bscholes@csir.co.za
20	Dr Patrick Mutuo	Vital Signs (CI)	Regional Field Officer, Africa	Pmutuo@conservation.org
21	Dr Mark Musumba	Vital Signs	Postdoctoral fellow, VS	mmusumba@ei.columbia.edu
22	Dr Johnson Nkuuhe	I-Network (NGO)	Independent Consultant	Johnson.nkuuhe@gmail.com

In addition, the following stakeholders were also consulted/looped in prior to the meeting:

1	Hon Betty Bigombe	Minister of State (Water)-MWE	Minister	bbigombe@parliament.org.ug 0782-547431/0701615555
2	Hon Prof Z. Nyiira	Minister of State for Agriculture, livestock and Fisheries (Crop Agriculture)	Minister	znyiira@gmail.com ; 0772966661 mosagmaaif@hotmail.com
5	Dr Evelyne	NEMA	District support	Elutalo@nemaug.org

	Lutalo		officer	0772 652 728
6	Monique Akullo	NEMA	Head of Biosafety	makullo@nemaug.org 0754 837 935
7	Paul Buyera Musamoli	National Forest Authority (NFA)	Head of Corporate affairs	paulm@nfa.org.ug 0772466569
9	Dr Maxwell Otim Onapa	UNCST (Uganda National council for Science and Technology)	Deputy Executive Secretary	Maxwell_otim@yahoo. com 0772997450
11	Seth Mayinza	UBOS (Bureau of Stats)	Diector, Agriculture and Env. stats	seth.mayinza@ubos.o rg 0772511407
12	Dr Ambrose Agona,	National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)	Acting DG	aagona@naro.go.ug 0772423245
14	Prof M. Bashasha	Makerere University	Principal (School of Agriculture)	bashaasha@agric.ma k.ac.uk 0772627249
15	Prof David Kabasa	Makerere University	Principal (School of Vet)	kabasajd@yahoo.com 0772 099 027
16	Prof. Moses Tenywa	Makerere University	Former Director, MUARIK	tenywamakooma@ya hoo.com 0772 827 710
17	Dr Michael Kansiime	AFRISA (African Institute for strategic Animal resources and Dev.)	Director, Programs	mkansiime@afri sa-africa.org 0776763330
18	Dr Arthur Bainomugisha	Advocates Coalition for Dev & Environ (ACODE)	Executive Director	a.bainomugisha@aco de-u.org 0772 428 963
19	Dr Roselline Nyamutale	Sasakawa Global 2000	Country Director	rnyamutale@saa.org 0312 277 714
20	Dr Nuhu Hatibu	Kilimo Trust	Executive director	nuhu.hatibu@kilimotru st.org 0755 216 326
21	Dr Joseph Mudiope	Kilimo Trust	Senior Agronomist	mudiope@yahoo.com 0752 87 87 15
22	Justus Rugambwa	Deniva Uganda	Executive Director	jrugambwa@deniva.or .ug 0782 673 464
24	Dr Robert	Institute of	Director	bitariho@itfc.org

	Bitariho	Tropical Forest Conservation		0392 709 753
25	Badru Mugerwa	Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation	TEAM Site Manager	mugerwa@itfc.org; 0752 526 128 bmugerwa@gmail.com; 0779 255 3959
26	Dr Everline Komutunga	CoCoRaHS	Agricultural meteorologist, NARO	Komitungae@gmail.com
27	Dr Andrew Plumptre	Wildlife Conservation Society,	Director, Albertine Rift Program	aplumptre@wcs.org
27	Dr Alastair McNeilage,	Wildlife Conservation Society,	Director Uganda Program	wcsuganda@wcs.org; 0414 50102; amcneilage@wcs.org;
29	Florence Ochola	Uganda Fund	Project Director	projectdirector@ugandafund.org
30	Dr Andrew Seguya	Uganda Wildlife Authority,	Executive Director	Director@ugandawildlife.org 0772 722 210

Opening by Hon Ms Flavia Nabugere, Minister of State (Environment) Ministry of Water and Environment

Minister Nabugere remarked that increasing food production had to be balanced by the need to sustain the benefits the farmers receive from nature. She indicated that she found the Vital Signs approach very exciting. The Honorable Minister thanked the institutions behind the project, namely; Conservation International (CI), The Earth Institute at Columbia University and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa; for being willing to work with us here in Uganda.

She also cautioned that there has been over crowding of effort around Lake Victoria. The Minister pointed out the need to select diverse sites to implement the monitoring system, for example some lakes like Lake Kyoga, Lake Albert, and Lake Edward, which she pointed were often ignored. “They are silting, drying up and we need to assess their impact on livelihoods in these areas”, she added. On behalf of the Government of Uganda, she declared the half-day Vital Signs Stakeholders Workshop in Uganda, officially launched.

Topics Discussed

Dr Scholes, a member of the Vital Signs Technical Council and one of the three principal Investigators in the Phase 1 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation, presented an overview of the Vital Signs concept, sampling frame and measurements, followed by questions and answers.

Q: How will the indicators and data be used once obtained by Vital Signs?

A: The VS data are open and accessible for use by anyone, subject to protection of sensitive information such as the identity of individual households. VS is neither a research organization nor an advocacy organization, but an organization promoting the standardized and sustained collection of data necessary for making good development choices.

Q: How are the ethical considerations regarding the use of household survey information dealt with?

A: According to international best practice. Clearance has to be given by the national authorities for the collection of household information; each household gives prior informed consent; only authorized people are permitted to access the raw data and only aggregated data are available in open databases.

Q: Is Vital Signs high tech?

A: Vital Signs uses appropriate technology, which in some cases is high tech where that is an effective solution.

Q: Why does Vital Signs use 10 x 10 km landscapes? Can there be more than about 6?

A: 10 x 10 is the maximum size of a very high-resolution satellite image and is emerging as an international standard. The financial resources for implementing Vital Signs in Uganda currently are more or less fixed, and our experience in other countries suggests that this translates into about 6 landscapes. If implementation in Uganda is less expensive, or if we secure additional funding, more landscapes can be done.

Q: Will Vital Signs be sustainable in the future?

A: If implementation is successful, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is likely to continue to support it for a second phase, envisioned to take 5 years, and a third phase, envisioned to take 3 years. Other funding agencies have also shown interest. It must gradually build a support base in country.

Further technical details can be found on the website www.vitalsigns.org and especially in the Sampling Frame Document, the Protocols, and the Vital Signs Threads document.

The workshop then had an open discussion on issues related to implementation of Vital Signs in Uganda. Stakeholders were able to give their input on what data exist and who collects it. For example:

- There are currently 112 districts in Uganda. Uganda Bureau of Statistics conducts a population census of all households every 10 years - the next one is due soon. It includes a module on agriculture, though a full agricultural survey is meant to follow 2 years after. The Bureau has collected panel data from LSMS surveys with the last wave in 2011/2012. The last agricultural census data is for 2008/2009; it includes information collected at a sub-national (district or even sub-county) level. Prior agricultural surveys were in 1991 (but not easy to use) and 1963-65. The DHS Household Survey was last performed in 2011; in principle it is done every 5 years, but provides only regional level statistics (East, West, North, and Central (South)).
- The Department of Meteorology collects data on precipitation and temperature from about 100 daily stations, of which about half are automatic. The Water Resources unit runs 18 gauging stations.
- Biodiversity – The last land cover map for Uganda was produced 10 years ago. It has 13 landcover classes – 5 forest types, shrublands, grasslands, 3 types of wetlands, open water, bare ground, 2 types of croplands (subsistence and commercial), built-up areas and bare ground.

Meeting Decisions and Next Steps

1. There was strong support across a wide range of stakeholders in Uganda for implementation of the Vital Signs monitoring system in Uganda.
2. The stakeholders emphasized:
 - a. The most useful aspects of the Vital Signs system are its integrated nature, and the human-wellbeing information should be prominent rather than overshadowed by the agriculture or environment information;
 - b. Due consideration must be given to the use of the information, including what information is needed by the users and by what pathway they could receive it;
 - c. The need to ensure that existing data collection efforts, for instance, the population census, agricultural survey, weather monitoring,

hydrological monitoring and land cover mapping, be considered in the VS design and supplemented where needed.

- d. Data frequency and cost of collection are important issues in relation to usefulness and sustainability, respectively.
3. An Advisory Committee should be formed to ensure good coordination with existing programs and alignment with national needs. Its initial composition should include Ministry of Water and Environment (Climate Change Unit and Meteorological Office); Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (NAFORRI); Ministry of Finance (Bureau of Statistics); NGOs (ACODE, Uganda Chartered Healthnet); University of Makerere (CAES, Zoology) and Ministry of Health (Environmental Health)
4. The VS Uganda coverage should be the entire country. The most useful resolution is at district scale. The four 'regions' are widely used, but have no constitutional basis. There are 9 or 10 Agroecological Zones. The distribution of landscapes could be based primarily on the four regions (North, East, Central and West) with a secondary distribution within regions based on agro-climatological zones or particular issues important in those regions. Vital Signs, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, will identify where the intensively-sampled landscapes could be located.
5. The Uganda Chartered Health Network was suggested as a potential implementing partner. Conservation International, on behalf of Vital Signs, will put out an open request for proposals (RFP) in the month of March; following review of proposals received, negotiations for engagement with a specific partner will be undertaken.