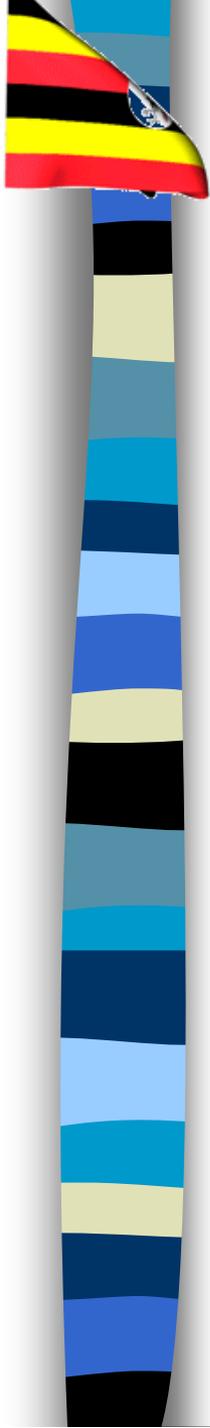




# **Existing National Policies on Natural Disaster Management and Implementation: A Case of Landslides and Mudslides in Uganda**



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# INTRODUCTION

- Disasters are one of the greatest challenges of our time that represent an urgent and irreversible threat to human societies and the planet.
- At the very heart of the response to climate change impact lies the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climatic disasters.
- The magnitude of each disaster, measured in terms of deaths, damages to lives and property depends on the level of vulnerability of the population.
- Vulnerability to climate change in Uganda is high because of the country's heavy reliance on climate dependent resources and activities such as rain-fed agriculture and degraded ecosystems.

# MAIN NATURAL DISASTERS IN UGANDA

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- Drought
  - Rising Temperatures
  - High Population Growth
  - Declining Water levels
  - Fish Depletion
  - Floods
  - Landslides
  - Mudslides
  - Earthquake
  - Epidemic

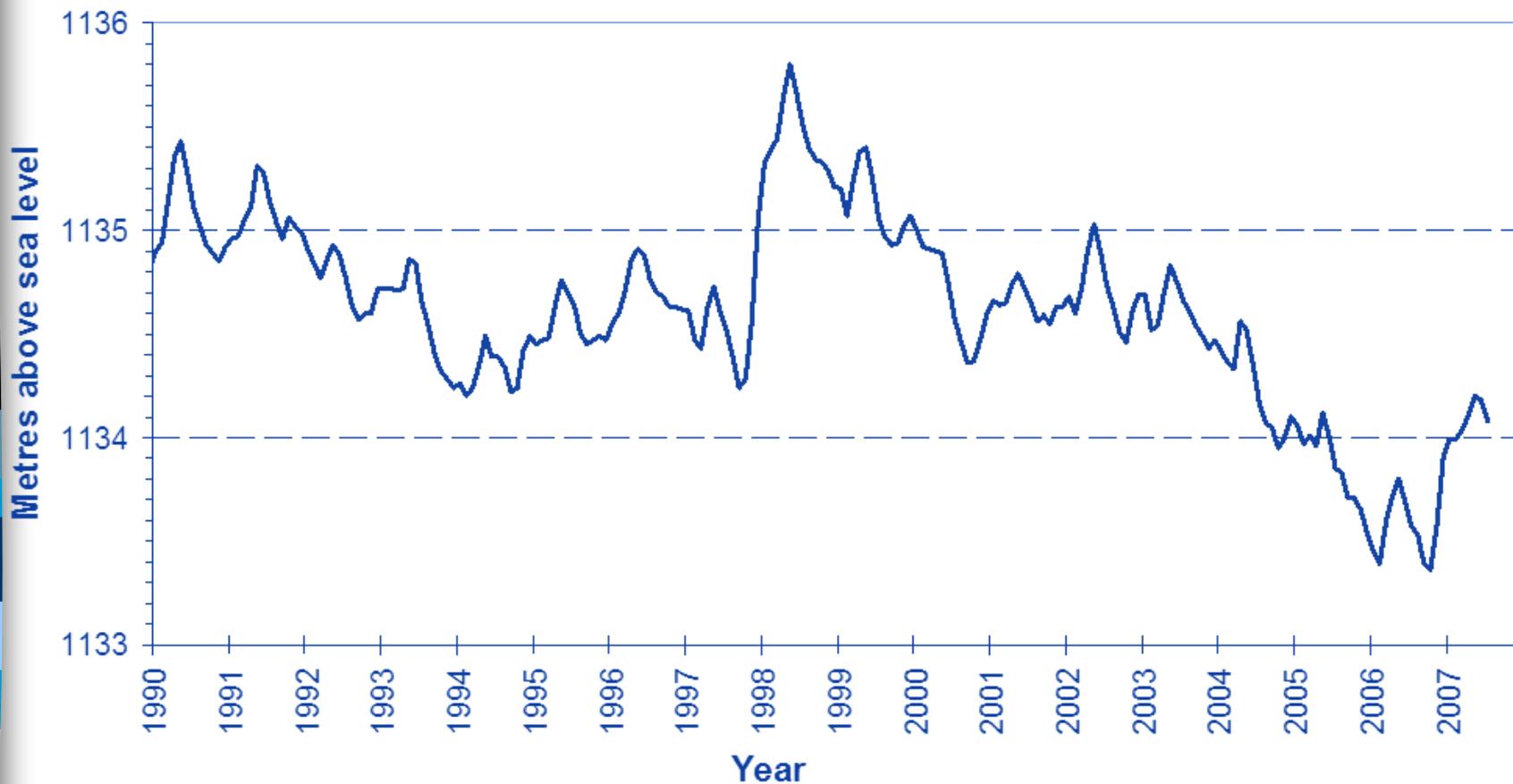
# Table 1: A Summary of Disasters that have affected Uganda (1979-2007)

Type of Disaster	Date	No. of People Affected
Flood	15 – Aug – 2007	718,045
Drought	Mar – 2005	600,000
Drought	June – 2002	655,000
Drought	Aug – 1999	700,000
Drought	Jan – 1998	126,000
Epidemic	26 – Nov – 1997	100,000
Flood	14 – Nov – 1997	153,500
Earthquake	6 – Feb – 1994	50,000
Drought	Dec – 1987	600,000
Drought	1979	500,000

*Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, 2007*



Lake Victoria level at Jinja (1990 to 2007)





# The National Policy For Disaster Preparedness And Management

- Enacted in 2010.

## Policy Mission:

- To create an effective framework through which Disaster Preparedness and Management is entrenched.

## Goal of the policy:

- To establish institutions and mechanisms that will reduce the vulnerability of disasters in Uganda.

# Policy Objectives

- Establish Disaster Preparedness and Management institutions at national and local government levels;
- Equip institutions and ensure that the country is prepared at all times;
- Integrate Disaster Preparedness and Management into development processes at all levels;
- Promote research and technology in disaster risk reduction;
- Generate and disseminate information on early warning for disasters;
- Create timely, coordinated and effective emergency responses.

# Main Thrust of Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy

- To make disaster management an integral part of the development process.
- Recognizes the profound impact of human activity on the interrelations within the natural environment as well as the influence of population growth, the high density of urbanization, industrial expansion, resource exploitation and technological advances.
- Emphasizes the critical importance of restoring and maintaining the quality and overall welfare and development of human beings in their environment.

# Guiding Principles of the Policy

- Sound Planning Using a Multi-Sectoral Approach
- Community Participation
- Public Awareness and Education
- Institutional Capacity Building
- Adequate Expertise and Technology
- Vulnerability Analysis

# Institutional Arrangement for Disaster Preparedness/Mitigation in Uganda



- Multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary process.
- Involves all government ministries, humanitarian and development partners, the private sector, local governments and the community.
- Ministry responsible for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees is the lead agency.

# Institutional Hierarchy For Disaster Preparedness/Mitigation In Uganda

- President of the Republic of Uganda

*Article 110 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda gives the President the mandate to declare a state of emergency in any part of the country in the event of a disaster.*

- Cabinet

- Ministerial Policy Committee (MPC)

- The Office of the Prime Minister – Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management

- MDGs (Ministries, Departments & Government Agencies)

# Case Study:

## Landslides and Mudslides in Uganda



- Are rapid movements of a large mass of mud, rocks, formed from loss soil and water by gravity.
- Usually follows heavy rainfall and high ground water flowing through cracked bed rocks lead to movement of soils or sediments.
- Mostly affected in Uganda by landslides and mudslides are Mt. Elgon region, Ruwenzori region and Kigezi.
- In 1997 alone, 92 landslides displaced about 11,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of soil and debris.
- In 2010, landslides killed about 250 people with over 8,500 affected.
- In 2012, landslide claimed 3,480 persons in 421 households which were completely buried



Fig 1: Landslides and Mudslides in Uganda



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# Mitigation Efforts for Disaster Management

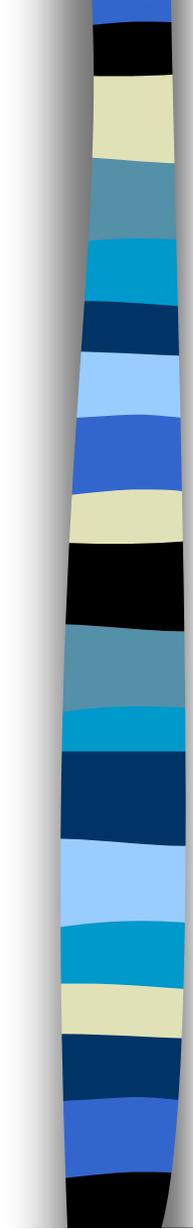
- The Copenhagen Accord provides that developing nations implement mitigation actions (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions).
- The Government of Uganda launched a Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) project.
- Key sectors identified in Uganda include agriculture, energy, and transport and waste.

# Specific Policy Actions for Landslides and Mudslides

- Gazette landslide and mudslide prone areas
- Resettle all persons living in land/mudslide prone areas
- Undertake measures to promote afforestation and reforestation
- Enforcement of relevant laws and policies
- Apply appropriate farming technologies and land use practices
- Demarcation of land surrounding affected areas
- Reduction of high population growth rate



# Difficulties Facing Uganda in Implementing Policy Actions on Landslides and Mudslides

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- Demarcation and its enforcement.
  - Poverty.
  - Poor technology for agricultural practices and for handling actual disasters.
  - Weak Coordination.
  - Over-politicization of disasters.
  - People's mindsets to change.

# Suggestions For Further Improving The Existing Policy On Landslides And Mudslides



- Improvement of generation of and access to accurate data on weather forecasts.
- Prioritization of disaster management into mainstream planning
- Coordination of various stakeholders to plan and respond to disaster management.
- Building up capacity in stakeholders' departments
- Establishing a sustainable mechanism for identifying and availing funds
- Streamlining demarcation and its enforcement.
- Enforcement of regulations governing the reserved areas affected with mudslides and landslides.
- Mobilization and sensitization of community and ensuring community benefits
- The availability of baseline GHG data is a key attribute in the selection and development of NAMAs.



**THANK YOU**