

PERSISTENT CALAMITIES HINDERS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT; UGANDA'S EXPERIENCE.

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1.0 Introduction:

Uganda, one of the poorest countries in the world despite significant economic progress continues to be plagued by man-made and natural disasters. At the last count, three internal conflicts are having a devastating impact on the country and its people. In the North, the Lord's Resistance Army has been active for a decade. In north-western Uganda, the Nile Liberation Front is a destabilising force, while the Allied Democratic Front is fighting the government from bases in the western Rwenzori Mountains.

At the same time, the country is prone to natural disasters such as floods, droughts and earthquakes. Last but not least, the people of Uganda are among the primary victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has affected practically every family in the country as well as STDs, Malaria, TB etc.

Climate change and environmental degradation have led to food shortage and increased pressure on available land and water resources in the Horn of Africa including the Karamoja region. Sub-Saharan Africa including Uganda is the most vulnerable to climate change because wide spread poverty limits the region's capability to adopt continually changing climate.

Calamities have hindered human development. This is mainly due to prolonged dry seasons and flooding because of flash storm and hail storms, increasing shifts in seasons are of great concern. The last few decades have seen an increase in the frequency and intensity of these extreme weather events, with adverse social-economic consequences including loss of human welfare.

Of particular concern is the monthly variation of rain fall that has made it impossible for farmers to predict when to plant annual crops. As a result of the failure of these crops is now a common occurrence triggering famines and reliance on relief food aid, this undermines the country's food security situation and human development.

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Uganda is currently facing an electricity crisis after the water level in Lake Victoria dropped dramatically. Uganda relies almost exclusively on hydroelectric power, but drought and demand have cut generating capacity. Rolling blackouts leave residents and businesses without power for days.

2.0 Natural Calamities:

These are Crises caused by conflict and natural phenomena and where man fails to have control over them.

Disaster History

Disasters are rampant in Uganda. The earliest recorded disaster is an earthquake in 1897. These disasters have caused a great deal of suffering and loss of property and productive capacity for the peoples of Uganda. In so doing, disasters have contributed to the retardation of social development. Uganda has experienced a wide range of disasters directly affecting most of the country.

The following have been frequent: displacement of persons as a result of civil strife; famine as a result of drought; earthquakes; disease epidemics, livestock and crop disease; flooding and landslides as a result of heavy rains and injudicious environmental management; and technological accidents as a result of inadequate safety procedures. What is now new on the scene and most frightening is the phenomenon of terrorism.

3.0 Understanding Sustainable Development and Human Development:

Human Development;

Involves the process of widening people's choices and the platform for making such choices, especially through expanded human capabilities (UNDP 2002).

Sustainable Development and Human Development (SHD);

According to the Brundtland Commission, sustainable development is "development that meets of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". However since 1987, there have been many interpretations of and prescriptions for sustainable development.

In 1994, UNDP introduced the concept SHD as it means that we have a moral obligation to do at least as well for us. It also means that current consumption cannot be financed for long by Incurring economic debts that others must repay.

4.0 Climate Change and Variability:

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Climate change refers to the long-term change of one or more climatic elements from a previously accepted long-term value; while climate variability is the disruption of normal climate patterns that result in either excessive rainfall totals or prolonged drought conditions.

Climate change and Variability are important phenomena due mainly to the countries over dependency on its natural capital as an engine of economic growth and rural livelihood, where Uganda's back bone lies on natural capital.

4.1 Climate Change:

According to [TAC 1999], there is a scientific evidence that the earth surface temperature has been increasing over the last 40 – 50 years. That by the end of 1998, the warmest years on record since 1860, the global surface temperature was about 0.6°C higher than around 1990.

Climate change is now recognised as a pressing global environmental issue caused by increased amounts of greenhouse gases [GHGs] in the earth atmosphere, of which the most important is carbon dioxide [UNEP 2002]. One key outcome of the accumulation of GHGs is a rise in the earth's temperature. Although Uganda is a net sink for greenhouse gases, these gases do not respect national boundaries and as such the country is impacted by increases in the earth's temperature [NEMA 2001].

It's predicted that globally, increased temperatures will have various impacts. This includes shifts and reduction in agricultural production – Uganda's main engine of economic growth and the major source of rural livelihoods.

It includes the possibility of more frequent and more severe climatic events such as droughts and flooding and possible shifts in health problems with vector-borne diseases being re-introduced or introduced into different and new areas [UNEP 2002]

Climate, perhaps Uganda's most valuable environmental resource, is also at the same time the most neglected. Climate is neglected partly because until recently, it was predictable and the capacity of the atmosphere to assimilate degrading effects was well beyond the magnitude of polluting substances introduced into the atmosphere.

A second cause of neglect is that climate is a global common and at the same time transboundary. Thirdly, it is regarded as an act of God.

5.0 Agriculture:

Agriculture, Uganda's main engine of economic growth is mostly rain-fed. Agriculture is profoundly influenced by and dependent on climate. Uganda's subsistence farmers who constitute the majority of the poor are dependent on climate, which directly influences their ability to raise incomes and improve on their quality of life. Consequently, this has a bearing on Uganda's ability to attain the Millennium Development Goals, especially the one related to poverty reduction, the Government's ambitious goal of 10% mass poverty

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by 2017 notwithstanding. For the majority of Ugandans, human development is intricately linked to climate because of dependency on agriculture.

Climate change and climate variability are the two main issues of concern to Uganda by the release of greenhouse gases it generates plus those from other countries, since these gases know no national boundaries.

Climate variability is presently one of the most pressing environmental problems in Uganda (NEMA,1997). Persistent droughts as a result of prolonged dry seasons, and flooding due to flash storms and hailstorms, including shifts in seasons are of great concern because they impact directly on agricultural production and, hence, hinders human development.

The last few decades have seen an increase in the frequency and intensity of these extreme weather events, with adverse socio-economic consequences including loss of human welfare as illustrated in Box 1

Wrath of El Nino in Uganda

525 people died and additions 11,000 and more hospitalized and treated for cholera, which was triggered by the El Nino, induce floods and landslides

1000 people were reported to have died in floods- related accidents.

Infiltration of water resources and the flooding [sub merging of some pumping stations]

Damage to trunk and rural roads infrastructure was estimated at about \$4 million.

NEMA 2003

To make matters worse, the communities have largely abandoned traditional crop storage in granaries at house hold level as a food security measure. The government's grain silos are also empty! Bylaws requiring each household to have a minimum acreage devote to the growing of famine-reserve crops, such as drought resistant cassava, are not enforced. The northern and eastern region are particularly vulnerable since they depend mostly on one rainy season per year and grow annual crops, unlike their central and western counterparts who depend on perennial crops.

6.0 Vulnerability to Sudden Shocks and Changes in Physical Conditions:

The poor consider themselves highly vulnerable to sudden climate-related shocks and changes in physical conditions. Except for a few areas, rainfall in Uganda is relatively good. It is the uncertain start, duration and cessation of the rainy season which are of concern.

During the *Second Participatory Poverty Assessment*, the poor explained that due to their heavy dependence on environmental resources, their lively-hoods are highly vulnerable to sudden shocks and changes in physical conditions. In 9 out of 12 districts assessed, people reported that unpredictable weather patterns and climatic conditions, characterized by usually heavy and erratic/unreliable rains, lead to crop and infrastructure damage causing food insecurity. Strong winds and hailstorms, which

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destroy crops or disrupt fishing activities, were noted to be causes of poverty by people in five districts. In 10 of the 12 districts, it was reported that flooding damages crops and physical infrastructure, and contaminates domestic water sources, increasing vulnerability to diseases such as cholera. Drought was also said to be common in 11 of the 12 districts studied, causing declining crop yields and food shortages. In this case households cope by reducing the number of meals eaten per day, which in turn affects the health of women and children. Water problems associated with drought were mentioned in four districts by mainly cattle keepers, forcing them to move their livestock, leading to degradation of watering points (MoFPED, 2002).

Unfortunately, there are yet no significant investments being made to improve the country's ability to monitor and forecast climate change and climate variability. There are for example no early warning systems. Furthermore, the capability of the ministry for disaster preparedness and management in the office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to prepare for and handle disasters arising from adverse climatic changes is also limited. It should be relatively easy to advocate for a higher level of resource allocation for the Department of Meteorology and the ministry responsible for disaster preparedness and management in accordance with the principle that "prevention is better (cheaper) than cure".

7.0 Lands and Soils:

Uganda is a small country with a total area of 236,040 square kilometers of which the land area is 199,710 and water makes up the remaining 36,330 square kilometers. Uganda is a landlocked country of fairly high elevation in East Africa. At the lowest level, Lake Albert, the elevation is 621 meters above sea level, while at the highest, Mount Rwenzori, it is 5,110 meters. Uganda is an agricultural country of comfortable climate and good soils. The population is 24 million (2002 Census) of which 51% is female and 49% is male. Most of the economic activity is geared to the production, handling and marketing of crops, livestock, and wood and other products arising from these, the society is largely rural. Table 2. Shows that, of the total area of Uganda, 84,694 km sq. is farmland, in turn 84,010 km sq. of this farmland area is under subsistence agriculture while a mere 684 km sq. are commercial farms, illustrating the importance of land in supporting rural livelihoods. Land is thus the major constituent of household assets, an important component of the measure of human development.

Table 2: Area and distribution of land use/cover at National level

Stratum	Area (ha)
Plantations hardwoods	18,682
Plantations softwoods	16,384
Tropical high forests (normal)	650,150
Tropical high forests (degraded)	274,058
Woodlands	3,974,102
Bush lands	1,422,395
Grasslands	5,115,266
Wetlands	484,037
Subsistence Farmlands	8,400,999
Commercial Farmlands	68,446
Built up areas	36,571
Water	3,690,254
Impediments such as rocks, etc.	3,713
Total	24,155,058

Article 237 of the constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides that land belongs to the citizens of the country under four tenurial arrangements, namely: customary, freehold, malio and leasehold (RoU, 1995). These tenurial regimes are further provided for in the Land Act, 1998. The different land tenures and their features are presented in *table 2*

Land tenure categories, key features and geographical incidence

Tenure/Issues	Key Features	Geographical/incidence
Customary	“Traditional land tenure, varying in different areas. More individualized in south and west, more communal in north and east. Can be issued a customary certificate of ownership and this is an incentive to the customary tenant to invest in proper land management practices which are long-term.	countrywide
Leasehold	49 or 99 year leases, with development conditions. The conditions can be used to promote conservation or increase agricultural productivity. Ground rent and premium payable. Leasehold title issued.	Countrywide, especially in urban areas
Freehold	Registered ownership in perpetuity, with full powers of ownership including development and disposing the land at will. Can encourage land fragmentation, which	Predominantly in western and southern Uganda

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	is not conducive to proper soil management and conservation and this undermines production. Freehold title issued.	
Mailo	Limited form of freehold, which recognize tenants' rights. This ownership refers to the holding of registered land in perpetuity. Squatters have subjected some tracts of land to degradation for a long time. Mailo title issued. This should motivate tenants to invest in land improvement technology and increase agricultural productivity.	Central region of Uganda
Occupancy	Right to occupy land under specific conditions based on occupation prior to 1983.	Countrywide on any registered land
Renting	Use rights to land for a defined period subject to payment of rent.	Varies countrywide
Borrowing	Use rights to land for a defined period subject to payment of part of harvest.	Varies countrywide

8.0 Land Degradation:

Land degradation, principally caused by soil erosion itself as a result of different ownership types, utilization and management systems, and is on the increase. Slade and Weitz (1991) estimated that soil erosion accounted for 4-10% of the Gross National Income (GNI) and represented as much as 85% of the total annual cost of the environmental degradation. Yaron, Moyini and others (2003) suggested that the economic cost of soil erosion was about 11% of GDP (Gross domestic product) which meant that the total annual cost of environmental degradation in 2002 was about 13% of GDP. Drawing on more recent (2002) IFPRI soil nutrient loss studies and the 2002 Census Data the authors calculated the value of soil nutrient loss to be about \$625 million per annum!

Capitalized at a time preference rate of 12% (the social cost of capital for public projects the cost of soil erosion translates into a debt of \$200 million/year.

Unfortunately this debt is invisible and recorded in official system of national accounts. But the burden is equivalent to per capita soil erosion debt of about **US\$210**. Who is to pay this debt?? Is it present or future generations??

When the loss of soil nutrients is taken into account, it becomes obvious that Uganda's annual net savings is negative. This means current practices and the country's development is not sustainable. The formation of physical and human capital is too slow to offset the loss of natural capital. Practical steps need to be taken; therefore, to reduce soil degradation is it not to undermine human development? And the strategy for doing

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so needs to be clearly defined in the plan for modernization of agriculture (PMA), the framework of transforming subsistence agriculture into commercial farming.

In general, where population density is high, so is the proportion of land affected by erosion. However, even in some of the districts with low population densities such as Kotido, the severity of soil erosion is high due to the fragile nature of the rangeland eco system exacerbated by over-grazing. The rangelands are typically found in what is referred to as *cattle corridor* that covers 16 of 56 districts (or about 47% of Uganda). This area holds close to 28% of Uganda's rural population, with average density of 65 persons per square kilometer.

Land is a key resource of production and the main capital available to the majority of people (MoFPED, 2003). Land supports agriculture on which the country depends. Access to land is thus the basis for rural livelihoods (MoFPED, 2003) and human development.

During the second Uganda participatory Poverty Assessment Project (UPPAP 2), it became evident that access to land was increasingly becoming a problem for poor people (MoFPED, 2003). Findings from the assessment showed that households were not accumulating land; rather, this assessment was diminishing (MoFPED, 2003). Households owning most land in 2002 found themselves owning the same acreage as in 1993 having recovered from a dip in 1996. The middle and poorest households on the other hand saw their land ownership decreasing significantly (MoFPED, 2003).

9.0 The Root Causes of Land Scarcity:

- Large families' particularly polygamous families
- Distress sales by poor people
- Insurgency in the north
- Inadequate land use planning
- Commercial farming
- Rural - urban migration (MoFPED, 2003).

Government policy regarding land is to provide security for tenure for all, particularly the poor and create an enabling environment for participation of all stakeholders in effective planning, management and use of Uganda's land resources (MoFPED, 2003).

However, several challenges remain, such as;

- Unequal gender relations for example constrain the ability of the poor to raise their incomes and undermine efforts to stimulate new export-oriented production (Eilor and Giovarelli, 2003; MoFPED, 2003).

- Another challenge is that the legal changes under the land Act aimed at strengthening land rights of married women, dependent children and orphans (by requiring consent to transactions on family land) have little effect on ground. There is thus need to 'revisit with caution' the issue of co-ownership of family land (MoFPED, 2003).

10.0 Consequences of Natural Calamities:

Lake Victoria Crisis Today;

Lake Victoria, Africa's largest freshwater lake, has since 2002 been declining in water at a very high rate. Recent research by the Directorate of Water Development [DWD] reveals that when the abnormal fall in levels was first noticed in July 2002, the lake had lost 192 centimeters, and between then and March 2006, it started making a nosedive, causing panic amongst government officials and the entire population. In October 2005, the lake had hit a record low of 1133.66 meters above sea level.

The report says that the main cause of this fall is the reduced rainfall over the lake mainly due to climate change leading in shifts in seasons and prolonged droughts and an increase in discharge of water at the Nalubaale and Kiira Hydro-electric power Dams in Jinja.

Report from DWD says, "*If there is no El Nino, don't expect levels to come back*", adding that the rains we are having now, are below standard and very soon we will be back in the dry season.

However the last time we had El Nino rains, in 1997 and 1998, they flooded towns, homes and gardens, causing a lot of destruction. During that period, the deadly disease cholera was also rampant. "*We must pray for this not to happen again*".

Natural Calamities Hits Northeastern Region;

Natural Calamities have hardest hit almost all regions of Uganda; however the Northeastern has been the most affected region. This area is mainly composed of pastoralists known as the Karamajongs; these are one of the most prominent cattle keepers in Uganda. Natural Calamities have caused several cattle related conflicts, a common phenomenon of the Karamoja cluster is the near rampant cases of cattle-related conflicts.

Cattle thefts (stealing of two or more livestock without the consent of elders or the community as was traditionally practiced i.e. cattle raiding) are perhaps the main type and or manifestation of conflict in the Karamoja sites.

Traditionally, the Karamoja communities raided other communities mainly to replenish their lost herds especially after severe droughts, diseases or other calamities that wiped out a significant number of livestock in the community. Elders often sanctioned the practice. It was also more of a game than an act of criminality for the other party

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By: **MUGABI Simon Levin - Uganda**

(community) could be notified of an impending clash. However, a new phenomenon that has puzzled elders has cropped up in the name of cattle thefts; itself sheer acts of criminality that has nothing to do with cattle raiding, albeit always hiding it as such.

Another phenomenon that has emerged is the intra-community cattle thefts. Traditionally, it was a taboo and unheard of, for a Karamojong' to steal from another Karamojong'.

Another major manifestation of cattle related conflicts in Karamoja is the conflict over control and access of scarce grazing and water resources. Since most of the region is arid are characterized by scarcity of pasture and water resources due to climate changes, neighboring communities have more often than not clashed over the few resources available, at times degenerating into deadly inter-clan/community conflicts with the unprecedented toll in human and property loss. For instance, most of the water points in this region Sudan and Kenya. Hence most of the cattle-related conflicts are confined to these cross-border areas where different but conflicting communities border each other.

11.0 Causes of Conflicts:

Causes of conflicts in Karamoja are numerous, and mainly center on the competition over scarce natural resources, a characteristic of the East African drylands. The following are the leading causes of conflicts;

11.1 Scarce Natural Resources

The respondents noted that competition over access and control of scarce natural resources particularly pasture and water is perhaps the leading cause of conflicts in the karamoja sites, especially inter and intra-community conflicts. The region is largely arid and semi-arid; this renders nomadic pastoralism as the only viable economic and livelihood option. Struggle over access to the limited grazing resources has been a nightmare that Karamoja communities are forced to endure.

Traditionally, the Karamoja communities were few in number including their livestock, however the population of Karamoja (people and herds) has since more than tripled, and further exerting pressure on the fragile semi-arid ecosystem in the region. This has also been worsened by the fact that most of the available grazing and water resources are found in mountainous and border areas, where the likelihood of communities coming into contact with each other are high. The end result has been inter-community conflicts over these resources and degradation of rangelands, as livestock tend to concentrate on areas presumed safe.

11.2 Weather Vagaries

Weather vagaries and climatic stress chief among them prolonged drought have forced communities to migrate with their herds into places with grazing resources. More often than not, these dry-season grazing areas are located in border areas or inside territories of other communities. When livestock from different communities head for the same grazing areas, then likelihood of conflicts abounds.

The Karamoja people have been faced by drought for several years since 1984 almost in succession. To cope with the severe droughts, they have to move with their cattle to Kaabong in Jie land, Uganda, where they have been attacked several times, and in which they have lost many lives and property.

In Karamoja the respondents said that large numbers of herds had been lost through famine and prolonged droughts that have characterized the region for a while. This has rendered the Karamojong' people poor and destitute, often turning to cattle rustling and thefts as the only available mechanism for restoring their herds and livelihoods.

11.3 Cultural Practices:

A number of cultural practices among the Karamojong' communities have been known to cause and exacerbate conflicts. Culturally, it is a duty of a man to raid other communities in order to replenish lost herds (after droughts, diseases) and as such meet the community's needs. Almost 90% of the respondents said that they raided, inherited or received (as bride price) their present herds. A mere 10% said they bought their herds.

Among these communities, pride price is very exorbitant (to the tune of a 100 cattle and 200 shoats) for a very beautiful woman! Ladies and gentlemen, this is enough to buy a reconditioned Range Rover, Lexus, Mercedes Benz SE class and BMW! But the irony of this misplaced wealth is that people in these regions have been made to believe that they are so poor that they cannot do without relief food and handouts. Pastoralists' districts that embrace such cultural practices are also amongst the poorest in the region, scoring poorly in all economic growth indices. To raise such exorbitant bride prices, men (especially those from poor families) are forced to engage in cattle thefts and rustling, which is common in Karamoja.

The respondents also singled out cultural practices such as special body tattooing that show that someone has killed several people and as such is considered a great warrior. The more marks you have the more popular and respected you are in the community, and the more girls are likely to marry you. Those without such body tattoos are ridiculed in the community, prompting them to set for a raiding cum killing expedition in order to allay the fears that they are useless men in the society and to restore their glory.

Amongst the Karamojong' communities, sisters of those warriors who have killed are also inscribed with special body tattooing to show that they come from fierce and courageous families. To join that prestigious league, sisters pressurize their brothers to raid and kill in order for them to be marked with these body tattoos. These cultural practices have really contributed to escalation of conflicts in the region and hence hindering human development.

Girls and women normally sing war songs to praise successful warriors and ridicule those who have not raided a single cow or goat. Girls will dance with brave warriors during traditional dancing festive (akidong'o) and shun the cowards. The respondents said that in a typical Karamoja setting, it is difficult to get a girl to marry if you have not demonstrated your manhood through raiding and or defending the community from enemies.

Amid traditional Karamojong' communities, your wife can even deny you sexual intercourse for not engaging in cattle raids. She can refer to you as another women companion and therefore cannot picture what a woman requires from a fellow woman (in terms of sexual satisfaction)! Real men are out fighting for cattle and only women are at home tendering for the kids.

12 Government Response to Natural Calamities:

Uganda has in place a National Disaster Preparedness Policy and Institutional Framework approved by Cabinet in 1999 and revised in 2003. (Visit www.opm.go.ug) In addition Uganda has in place a National Policy on Internal Displacement of Persons and is currently writing a National Policy on Conflict Resolution and Peace Building (copies are herewith attached)

A draft legislation referred to as a "National Disaster Management bill" is under development. At the same time a strategic plan for implementation of the national disaster policy is being drafted.

The Department of Disaster Management and Refugees in the Office of the Prime Minister is responsible for multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction. The department is headed by the 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees who is supported by a Minister of State and a team of Technical Experts lead by a Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners. The department is also the secretariat for an Inter-Ministerial Policy Committee (IMPC), which gives coordinated policy direction in disaster management. With support from ISDR, a National Platform of disaster focal points from relevant Ministries such as Environment, Water and Lands, Health and Education was put in place to plan and implement in coordinated approach mitigation and response initiatives.

The national platform, locally referred to as the “Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee” is an initiative whose members are Sectoral Disaster Focal Point Officers assigned to mainstream disaster risk issues into sectoral work plans and budgets. The Sectoral Focal Point Officers chair the sectoral disaster risk working group forums e.g. we have in place the Health Sector Working Group, the Water Sector Working Group, the Education Sector Working Group, the Food Security Working Group and the Sanitation Working Group. Each of these sectors has in place sectoral plans with clear disaster risk features.

The Government of Uganda has recognized the importance of disaster risk reduction and made it its third topmost priority in the Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework locally referred to as the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). The third pillar of the PEAP is entitled “Security, Conflict Resolution and Disaster Management”. The PEAP is the National Development Policy Framework and Medium Term Planning Tool that guides formulation of Government policy and implementation of Government programmes in 4 lines with the MGDs etc

The Ministry of Works, Housing and Telecommunications in partnership with Uganda Seismic Safety Association (USSA) designed building codes that have been revised several times since 1969. Every Urban and Local Government Authority in the Country enforces it. The Western parts of Uganda experience destructive earthquakes at interval of 5 to 10 years.

One of the budget lines in the National Budget caters for the Department of Disaster Management and Refugees through the Office of the Prime Minister

The involvement of institutions outside Government is still very low. Disaster risk reduction is a new phenomenon. Apart from some few members of the mass media whom the Government has trained in disaster risk reduction, the other institutions need training.

13. Recommendations:

- The three East African States need to come up with efforts to reverse the factors contributing to the climate change which leads to prolonged drought in order to stop the water decline.
- East African States have to put in place a comprehensive study to establish the real cause of the crisis, taking into account issues of climate change, lake basin ecosystem degradation, social-economic factors and other issues such as political stability in the regions.
- Information collection and analysis should be deliberately transparent and any findings made should be disseminated in a timely manner to all stakeholders for

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By: **MUGABI Simon Levin - Uganda**

purposes of mitigating actions against factors and activities that may lead to the same calamities in future.

Uganda being one of the poorest and landlocked countries in the world, despite of significant economic progress. The country continues to be plagued by man-made and natural disasters, the existence of the long last civil wars in the northern region by the Lord Resistance Army [LRA] and other previous civil wars in the western region, cattle related conflicts among the prominent cattle keepers the Karamojongs. Climate change and variability which has caused shifts in seasons, prolonged dry seasons, droughts, famine, diseases such as malaria, last but not least the long existing HIV/AIDS epidemic. Uganda's human development has been at a large extent hindered.

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