



## COMMERCIAL FLOWER FARMS INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Strengthening collaboration in the Ugandan flower industry for sustainable use of natural resources

Wetlands in Uganda form a unique ecosystem which not only supports diverse animal and plant life, but also has the power to contain, store and purify large quantities of water. Around Greater Kampala, wetlands are mostly located on the shores of Lake Victoria. However, the Lake Victoria basin is experiencing rapid population growth, unplanned urban settlements and unsuitable agricultural practices. These are the biggest drivers for a deterioration in water quality and the degradation of precious wetlands in the area. One water-intensive and dependent sector present in the area is the floriculture sector - 13 out of 15 commercial flower farms in Uganda are in and around the Lake Victoria basin.

### REDUCING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN THE UGANDAN FLOWER INDUSTRY

The flower industry in Uganda provides employment opportunities, foreign exchange and domestic revenue to the economy. According to the Uganda Flower Exporters Association, the industry's investments in GKMA are estimated at USD 100 million, providing about 10,000 jobs, of which 80% are taken up by women. However, increased pressures on water and wetland resources pose operational, regulatory, and reputational risks to the flower farms. Moreover, it results in public health and environmental risks for the surrounding communities. To safeguard the commercial flower farms' investments, the jobs they provide to the people, and to maintain the ecological functions of the water and wetland ecosystems, it is essential to strengthen collaboration and coordination between all concerned stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sector.



Demarcation stone marking the boundary of a wetland. Urban settlement has taken place within the wetland, threatening the ecosystem.



**Natural resources stewardship** means that all users of natural resources take responsibility for their impacts on the shared resources they all rely on. By forming partnerships, public sector, private companies and civil society work together on eye-level to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.

### STEWARDSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN UGANDA'S FLOWER INDUSTRY

The Commercial Flower Farms Integrated Catchment Management Partnership aims at strengthening collaboration between the public, private sector, and civil society in the flower industry for a sustainable use of natural resources.

<b>Duration</b>	August 2021 - ongoing
<b>Partners</b>	<p>Government institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)</li> <li>National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)</li> </ul> <p>Private sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uganda Flower Exporters Association (UFEA)</li> <li>Commercial Flower Farms</li> </ul> <p>Civil Society Organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature Uganda</li> </ul>
<b>Objective</b>	To strengthen collaboration between the public, private sector, and non-state actors in the flower industry for sustainable use of natural resources in GKMA.
<b>Partner Contributions (financial and in-kind)</b>	Staff time and field logistics

## IMPACTS

- 1.341 jobs at commercial flower farms & and EUR 15.5 million of investments safeguarded through trainings, sensitizations, and enhanced regulatory compliance to environmental regulations of flower farms through the creation of farm compliance committees
- Increased collaboration between environmental regulators and flower farms, enabling improved compliance to national environmental regulations and reduced conflict between the flower farms and the regulators
- Increased exchange among flower farms in Uganda on best practises with regards to health and safety, environmental management, and solid waste management, leading to improved compliance to national regulations, a safer workplace, and improved solid waste management at the farms
- Increased cooperation between flower farms, local government and a local community around the conservation of the Semajimbi wetland and proper solid waste management. This safeguards the wetland which acts as the main water source for the farm and livelihoods for the community around it, reduces conflicts and reduces solid waste ending up polluting the environment.
- Increased knowledge in Occupational Health Safety (OSH) through OSH trainings conducted.
- Enhanced sustainable solid waste management in the farms through the development of solid waste management guidelines for the farms



Commercial flower farm focal persons during an exchange visit inspecting an artificial wetland for the treatment of wastewater at a flower farm.

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Partners of the Commercial Flower Farm Integrated Catchment Management Partnership during a meeting at the Water Resources Institute in Entebbe.

*“Through the partnership, we have been fully engaged with the community around Semajimbi wetland. We are having meetings now at village level to ensure conservation of the wetland and also sensitisations on proper waste management around the wetland.”*

*Victor Embati, Quality Assurance Manager, Dummen Orange Fiduga Limited, one of the farms under the partnership*



Workers at one of the flower farms

## ABOUT NATURES

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NatuReS is active in Ethiopia, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia. It has so far contributed to creating or safeguarding more than 72.000 jobs and investments worth more than EUR 232 million through 14 currently supported partnerships.

