



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 which 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. The Lake Victoria basin however is experiencing rapid population growth with unplanned urban settlements and unsuitable agricultural practices, which are the biggest drivers for a deterioration in water quality and degradation of precious wetlands in the area. One water-intensive sector present in the area is the floriculture sector - 13 out of 15 commercial flower farms in the country are located in Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (GKMA) 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 to people, of which 80% are women. The expansion of the industry, coupled with rapid population increase around GKMA, has increased the pressure on water and wetland resources, posing social and environmental risks to the flower farms. 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 involved actors.



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.

A STEWARDSHIP APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE UGANDAN FLOWER INDUSTRY

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

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

The partners are the Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Nature Uganda (a conservation NGO) and the Uganda Flower Exporters Association (UFEA) that coordinates and mobilises the 13 commercial flower farms in Greater Kampala.

PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES AND IMPACTS

Together, the partners aim at:

- Improving the commercial flower farms' compliance to national water and environmental regulations alongside international standards
- Strengthening occupational safety, health and environmental management practices by the flower farms and surrounding communities to foster better working conditions and safeguard jobs
- Reducing waste generated from both farms and communities around the wetland systems in the area, thereby protecting the wetlands from degradation and pollution
- Promoting the sustainable use of water and wetland resources around commercial flower farms

Expected outcomes of the partnership are:

- At least three measures aimed at improving compliance to water and environment laws established
- At least one mechanism to reduce waste generated from commercial flower farms established
- Up to 8.000 jobs safeguarded or created by the commercial flower farms around GKMA
- Up to EUR 30 million leveraged or safeguarded commercial flower farm investments in GKMA



Water reservoir of a commercial flower farm.



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

ABOUT NATURES

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NatuReS has already created or safeguarded 40.000 jobs and investments worth EUR 178 million through 14 currently active partnerships. It is a continuation of the International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP), active from 2013-2019, and builds on its achievements. IWaSP reached more than 2.7 million people with more than 180 partners in 38 partnerships and leveraged private sector investments accounting to EUR 15 million.

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