



WETLAND RESTORATION IN UGANDA; **SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES**

**Presentation at the Public Talk 6th
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Presentation outline

- 1. Vision for wetlands in Uganda**
- 2. Definition of a wetland**
- 3. Types of wetlands and distribution**
- 4. Status and trends**
- 5. Causes of degradation**
- 6. Consequences**
- 7. New strategies and Policy direction**
- 8. Challenges**
- 9. Moving forward**

THE VISION

**Uganda's wetlands provide sustainable
benefits to
the population of Uganda as a whole
mankind in general
and the environment**

Wetlands - what are they?



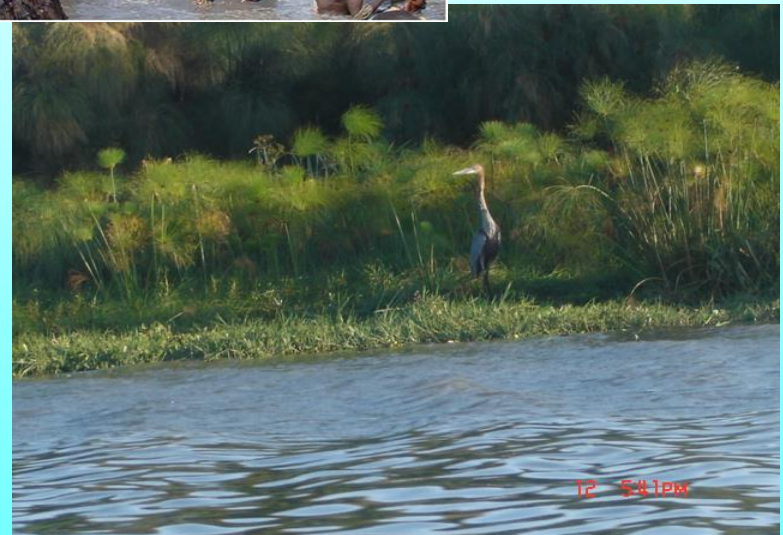
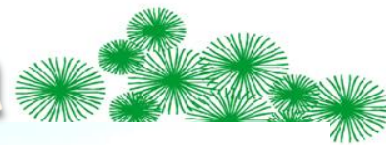
A wetland is a shallow seasonally or permanently water logged or flooded area, which normally supports hydrophytic vegetation (After Denny, 1995).

WATER IS THE MAIN STAY OF A WETLAND



Distinguishing features: Water seasonality/permanency, soil type, aquatic plants & animals (Uganda bases its definition on these characteristics)

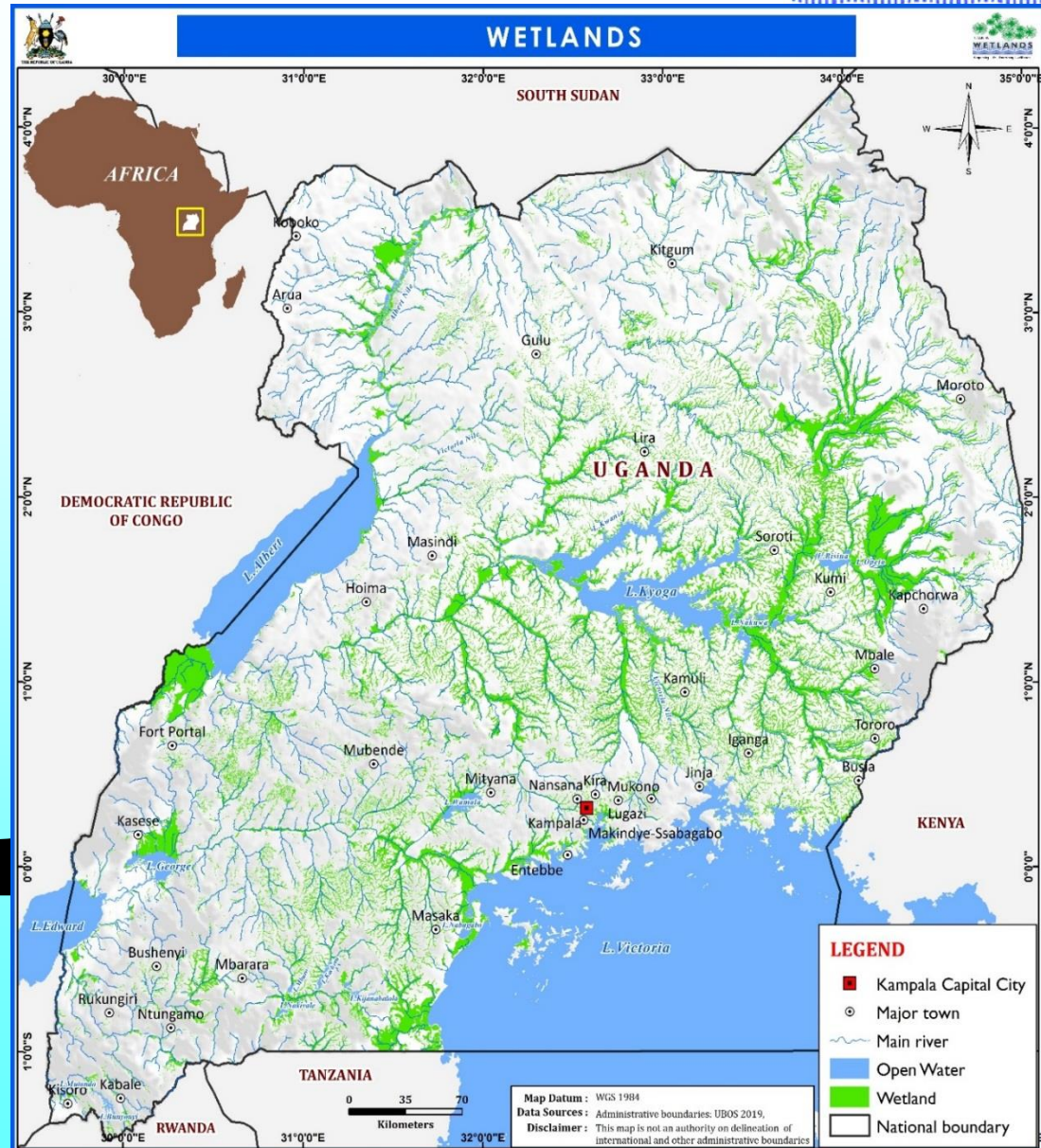
Wetland types in Uganda



**Permanent or Seasonal
grass swamps, flood plains, swamp forests,
mountain bogs, lake shores**

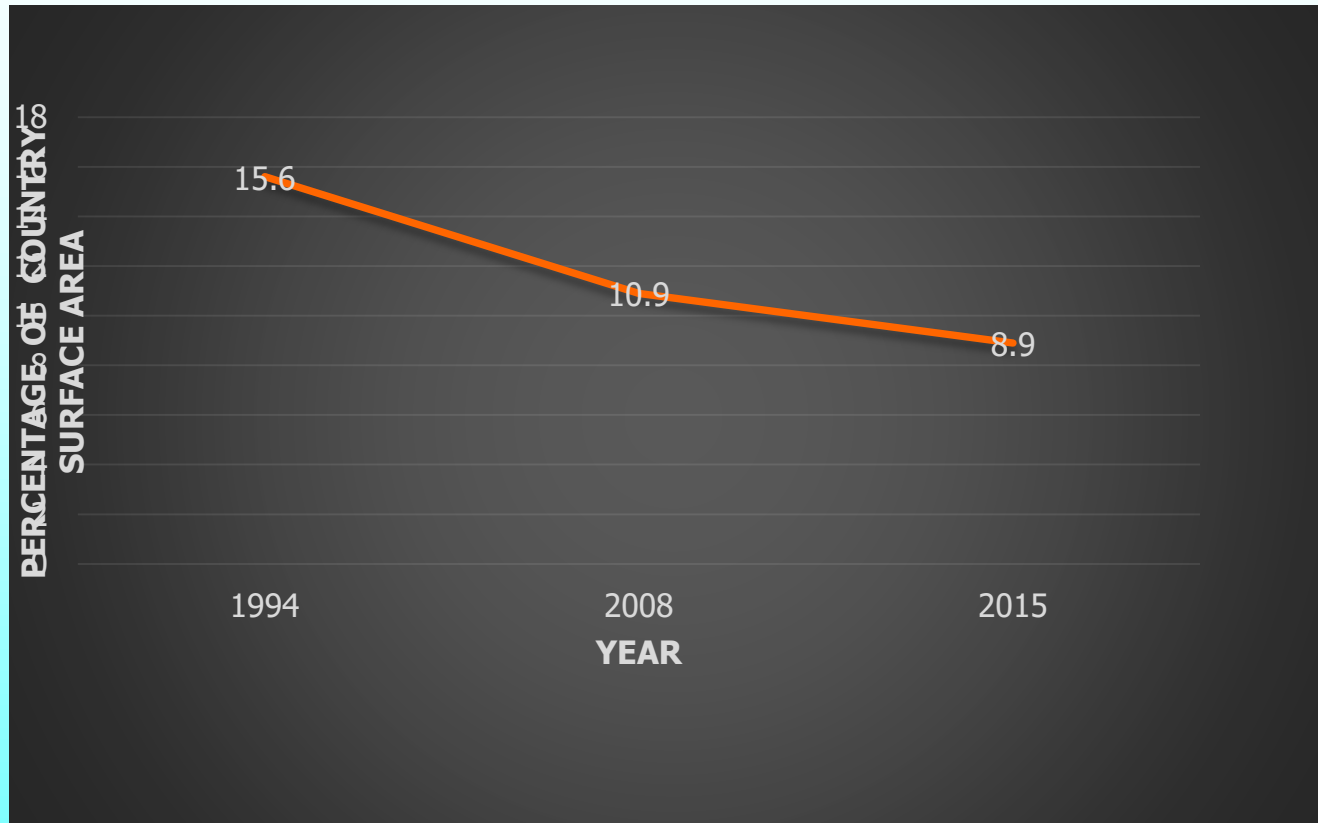
**Wetlands in
Uganda cover
Approx. 10-13%**

**Wetlands are
widely distributed**

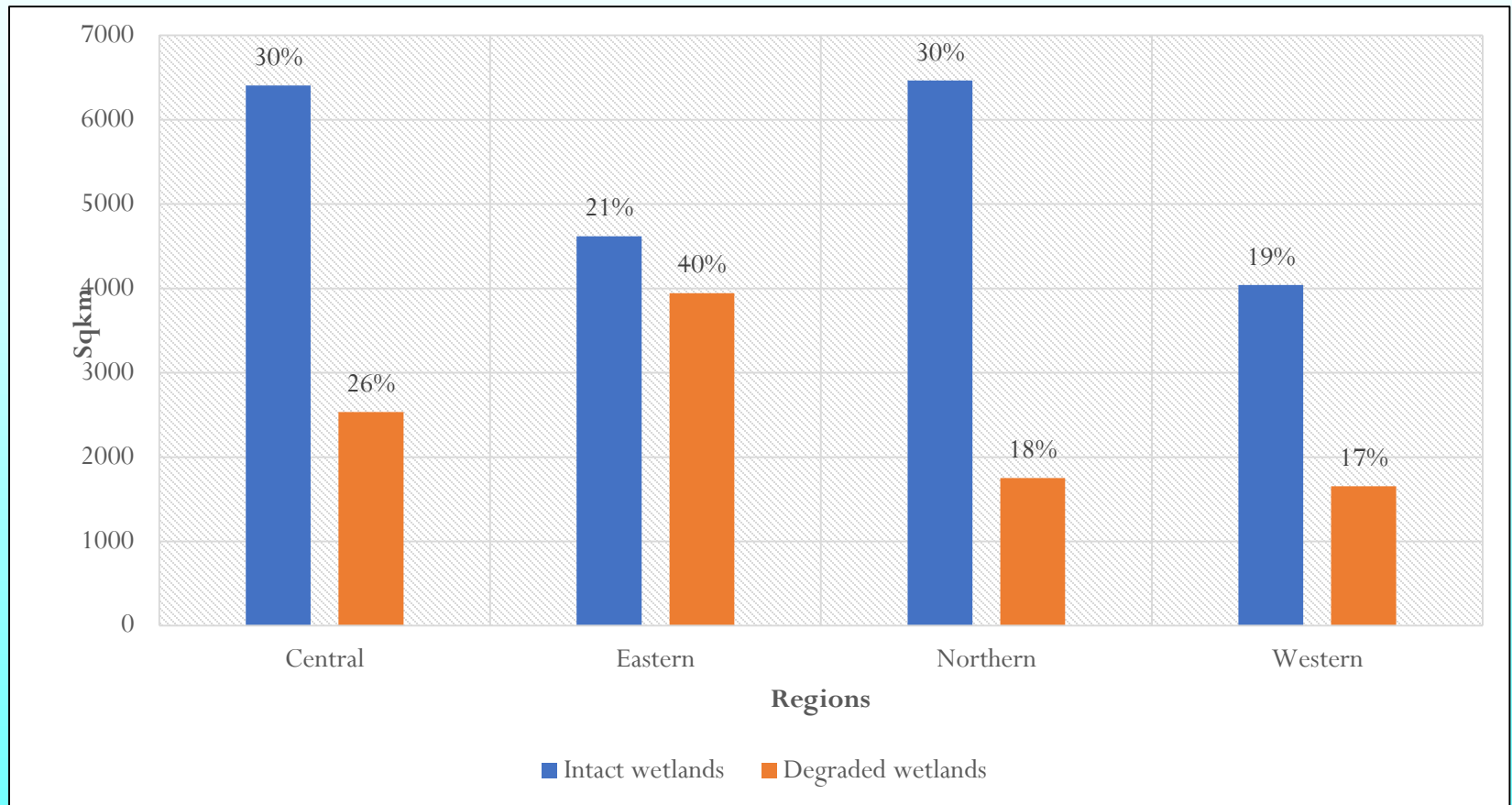


Current status

National Wetland Coverage and Trends between 1994 and 2015



Drainage Basin Wetland Coverage by Water Regime



Why this reduction? History



Before the colonial period land ownership was governed by customs of a particular tribes in regions where there were centralized organizations such as Buganda and other monarchs, land was owned communally and on clan basis.

wetlands were among those resources shared by communities for collection of water, building materials like clay, papyrus which was used for construction, making fishing baskets, and also communal agriculture was carried out.

After independence in 1962, crown land was changed to public land, however all other features regarding wetlands and waste land remained intact because laws of the crown did not speculate the partition of wetlands by that time

During Amini's regime, there were reforms of the land tenure system intended from the colonial period as a result all land in Uganda was declared public since there was no control of natural resources.

Why this reduction? History



In Amin's error only decrees were used to safe guard the environment and its beauty

When the NRM Government came into power in 1986, months after, the government took decisive means to halt the destruction of wetlands which was an increasing character. In October 1986 government issued administrative guidelines to stop degradation if wetlands resources i.e. ban on large scale wetland degradation was imposed until such time when a more elaborate scientifically proven and socially harmonious policy was put in place.

This led to the birth of the 1995 wetlands policy

**KEY POLICY STRATEGIES – NO DRAINAGE OF
WETLANDS AND WISE USE**

In the late 1990s to current ?



Consequencies



CURRENT STRATEGIES NEW POLICY DIRECTION/ACHIEVEMENTS



- ✓ Restoration of the degraded area and protection of the intact wetlands



CURRENT STRATEGIES NEW POLICY DIRECTION

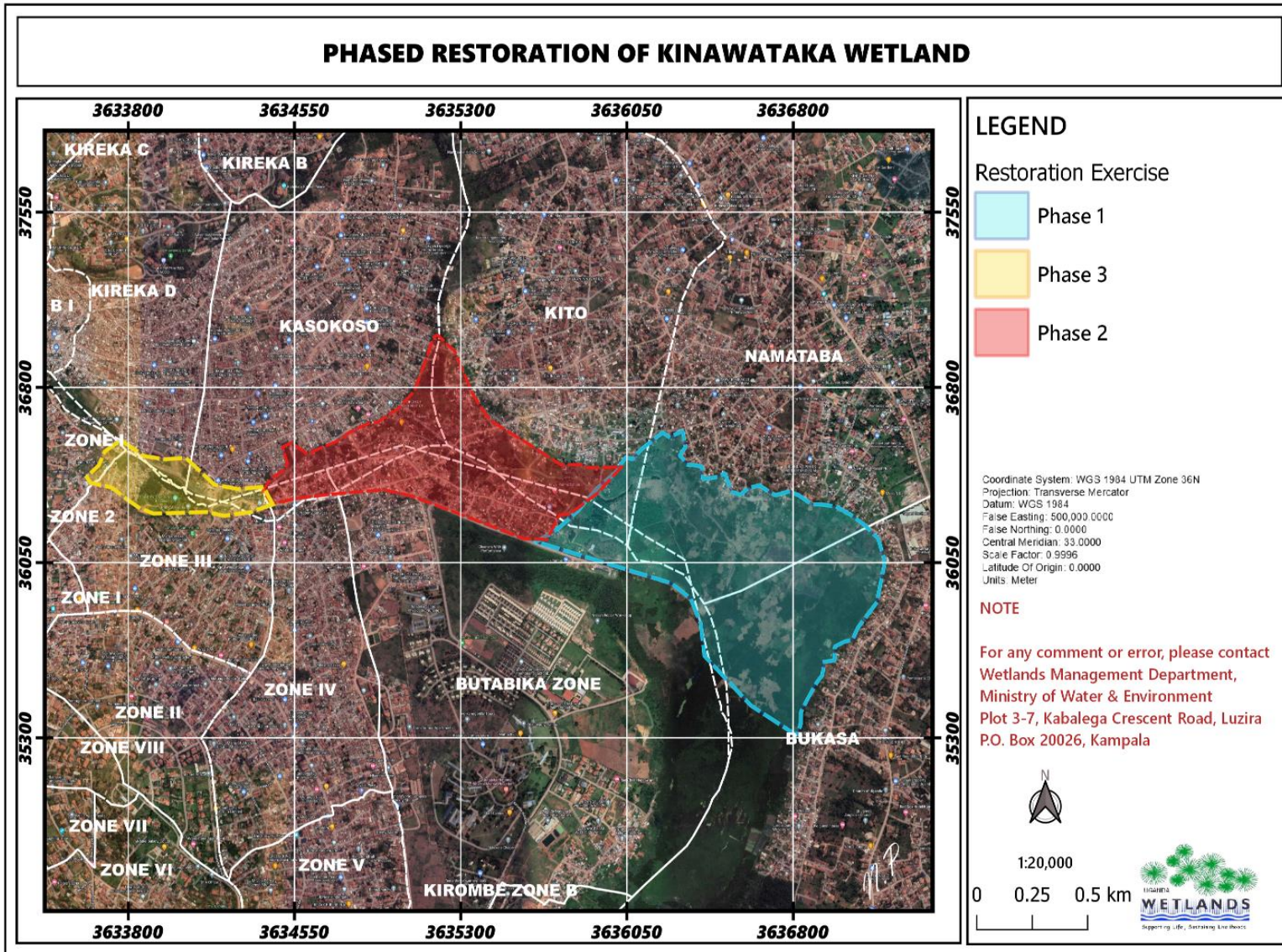
- ✓ Restoration of the degraded area and protection of the intact wetlands



CURRENT STRATEGIES NEW POLICY DIRECTION



✓ Cancellation of titles



CURRENT STRATEGIES NEW POLICY DIRECTION



✓ Awareness



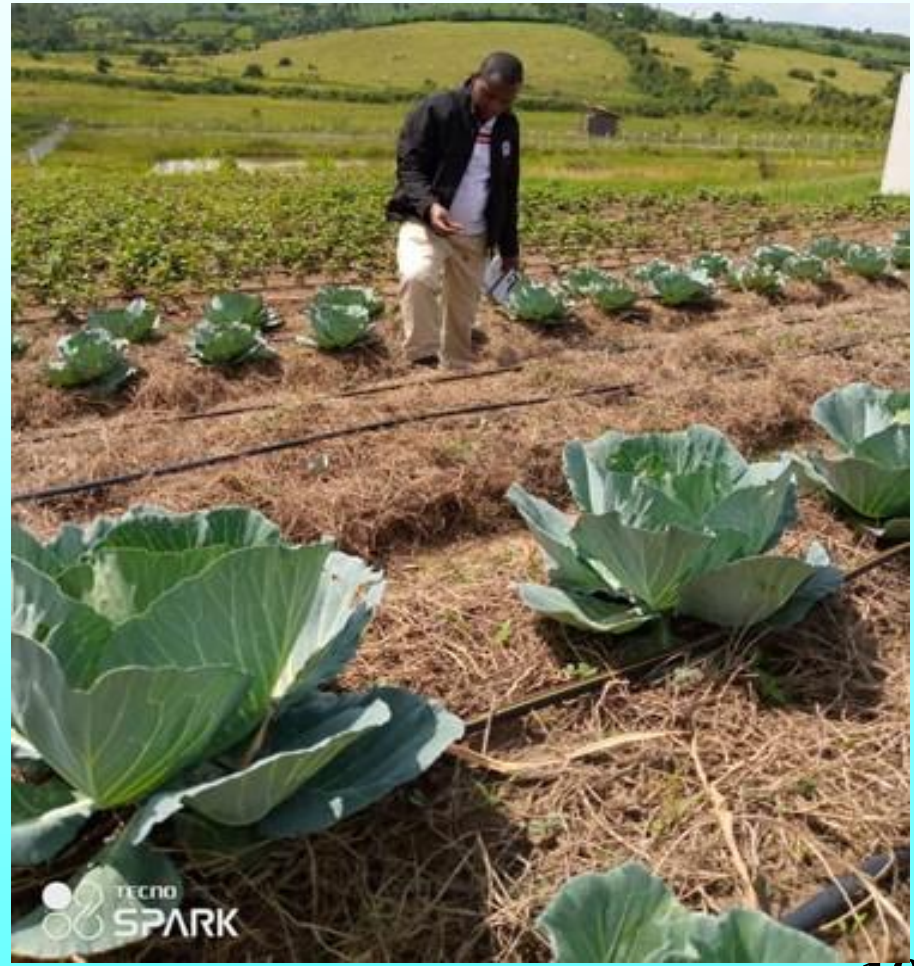
CURRENT STRATEGIES NEW POLICY DIRECTION

- ✓ Provision of alternative livelihoods –Wetland based enterprises
- ✓ E.g. Apiary, fish farming, crafts and ecotourism



CURRENT STRATEGIES NEW POLICY DIRECTION

✓ Provision of alternative livelihoods –On farm alternatives



CHALLENGES



- **Ownership-ambiguous needs clarity between Govt and land owners**
- **Knowledge base- still narrow needs further enhancement through scientific research**
- **District capacity-weak capacity > needs strengthening through targeted training and logistical support**
- **Community management-lacks capacity with a lot of conflicts needs training and monitoring**
- **Protection of vital-critical wetlands- expensive and requires political back up**
- **Financing- inadequate requires Govt, district and international prioritization**

MOVING FORWARD



Continued and sustained political will and commitment

Change people's attitudes

Professionalize wetland management

Long term knowledge base

Long term and Sustained funding

THANKS TO OUR KEY PARTNERS



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Nature Uganda

IUCN

**Environmental Alert
And others**



**Work in
Progress
THANK
YOU**

