

*‘Good Lessons, Best Practices And  
Emerging Issues In The Implementation  
Of National Commitments Under The  
Rio Conventions;  
A Case Of **MUBENDE DISTRICT**  
**Local Government***

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# Decentralisation, Mubende District And Rio Conventions

- ▶ Mubende District Local Government is one of the 134 districts of Uganda that came about by the decentralizing of power. The formal process of decentralization reform took effect in 1993 when government enacted a revised law facilitating financial and administrative decentralization which was also followed shortly by another Act which provided for Human Resources decentralization.
- ▶ Local Government in Uganda is based on the local Council system with the Districts as the primary unit. Under the District are Lower Local Governments. These include 9 Sub-counties, 1 Town Council and 1 Municipality. The Mubende District Vision is: 'Sustainable good governance and equitable social economic development of the Mubende community'.
- ▶ The District is at the front line and as a key duty bearer at the local level, based on its mandates and national obligations, such as implementing Rio Conventions that include:
  - ▶ *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);*
  - ▶ *United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and*
  - ▶ *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); among others.*

## **District Location And Size**

Mubende District is in the central cattle Corridor region of Uganda. The District headquarters is 157 Kms West of Kampala.

The total area of Mubende District is 2,711 sq. Km. In 2014, the population density was at 154 persons per sq. km.

# Mubende High Population Growth

- Comparing the 2002 to the 1991 population census results, the population in growth rate was at 3.6% when the national average was 3.3%. With the 1991 year as the base year, the total fertility rate was 7.5 which was higher than the National figure of 6.9. The population growth rate for the district after 2014 census was at 4.06% when the national average was 3.6%. Uganda is the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest growing population in the World. Mubende is doing well in Uganda.
- The age structure of Mubende Population is typical of a rural area in a developing county; 57% of the population is below the age of 18 years. It is mainly a peasant agricultural and patriarchal society, heavily dependent on land for survival. The peasantry is an extremely environment degrading population but extremely vulnerable, any changes in the Climate for the worse, can be catastrophic.

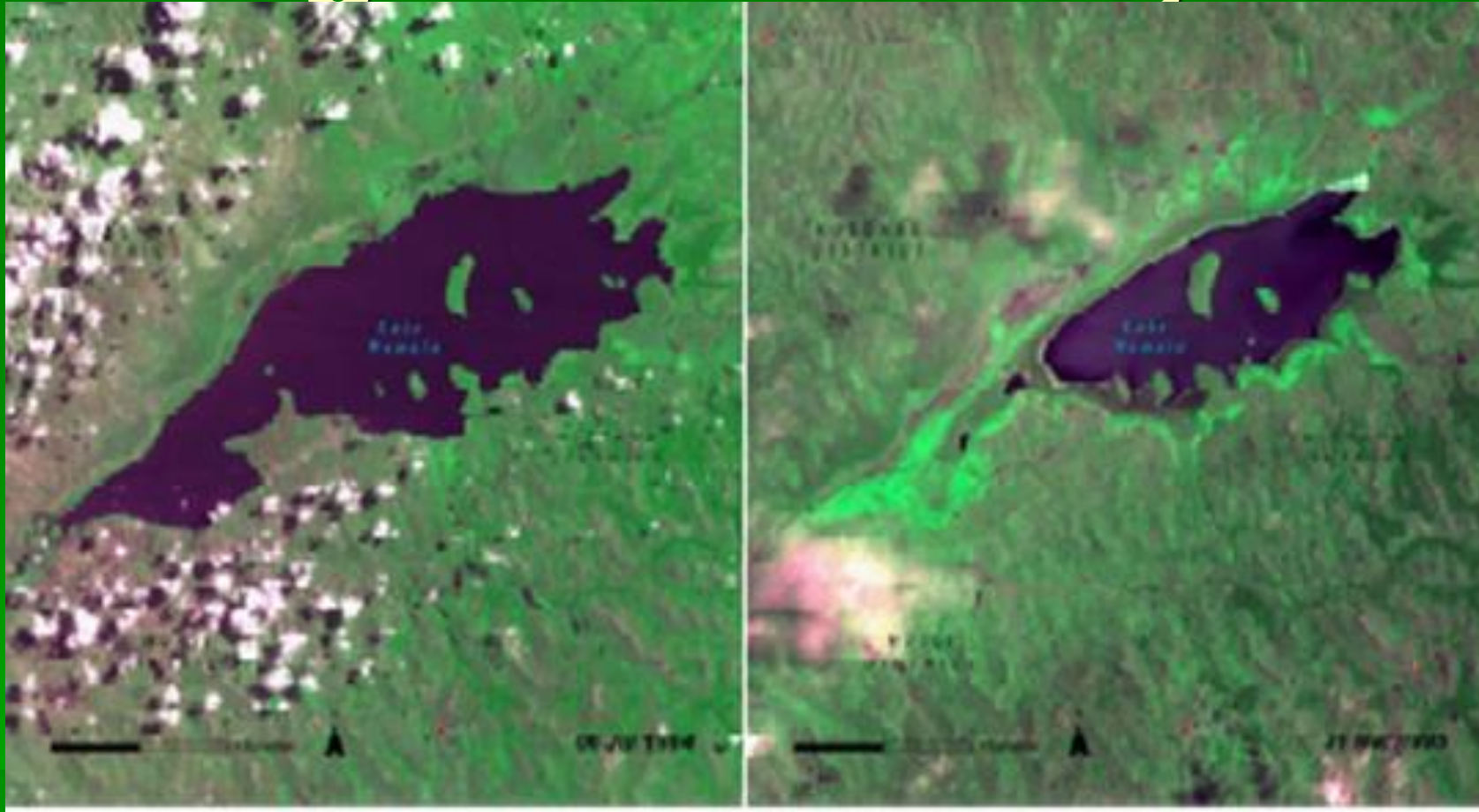
# THE HIGH RATE OF DEFORESTATION

- Satellite Picture analysis of 1990 and 2005 showed that Mayuge District had lost all its forest cover. Mayuge was followed by Wakiso which had a deforestation rate of 86.7%, **Mubende (79.0 %)**, Mityana (59.6%) and Kibaale (48.9%) respectively. The leading cause of deforestation here was attributed to increased demand for agricultural land (MAIZE growing), charcoal production and fuel wood demands for the rapid population growth. As Mubende became a leading maize grower, forest cover suffered.





# Shrinking Water bodies; Lake Wamala



**Lake Wamala had shrunk in size to almost 50% from 1984 to 1995. The lake had an area of 164 km<sup>2</sup> in 1990 and by 2000 the area had reduced to 87 km<sup>2</sup>. Lake Wamala produced an average of 4,000 - 6,000 tonnes of fish annually from 1960s through 1970s. Total fish catches decreased from a maximum of 7,100 tonnes in 1967 to less than 500 tonnes by 1990s . NEMA- UGANDA ATLAS OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT- 2008.**

# OTHER NOTICEABLE CLIMATIC CHANGES

## ❑ FALLING WATER TABLES

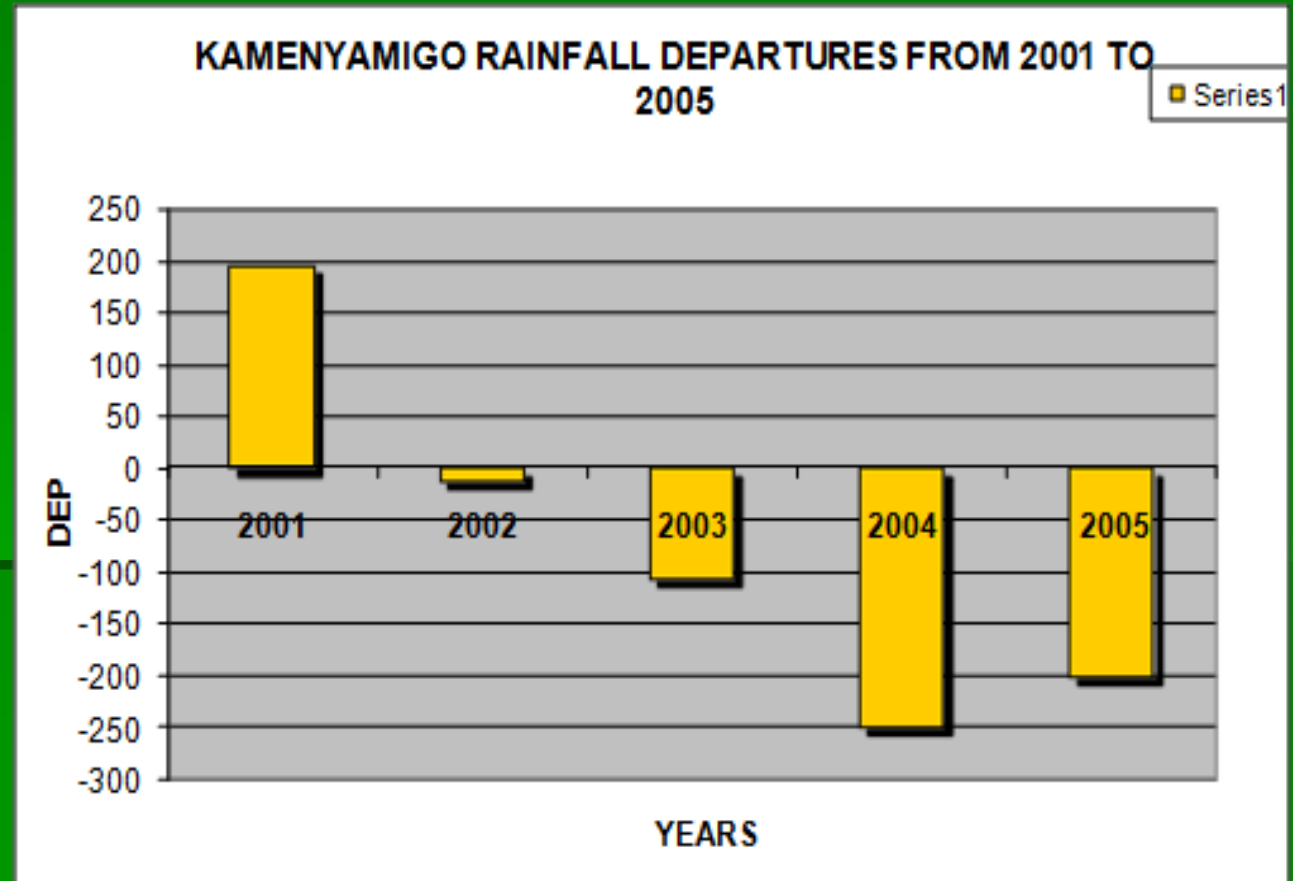
District needs surveys, continued to reveal more drying up water sources. Also, some Permanent wetlands were becoming seasonal wetlands. Water source protection technologies evolved in choice from; spring wells, then shallow wells, then deep boreholes, to more valley tanks. The level of awareness on this water source catastrophe issue was almost 100% in all rural areas by 2005.

## ❑ INCREASING DROUGHTS

Increased crop failures in the First season of March to June were on the increase. Farmers were starting to skip the season altogether. Increased incidences of drought especially in the cattle corridor s/counties were being experienced by 2005. Several areas in Kigando S/county would spend years without getting any rain.

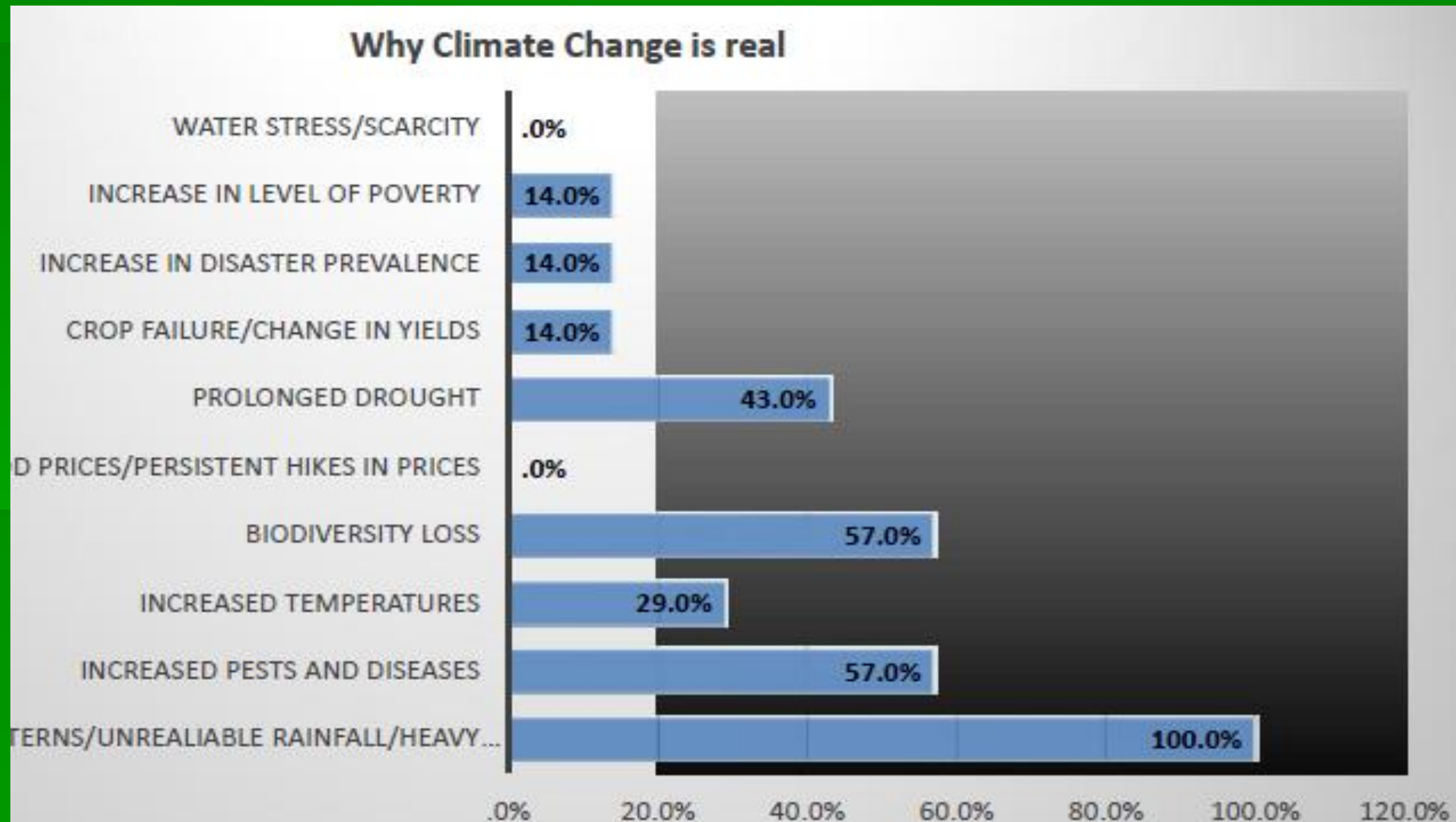
# Worrying revelations from Rainfall Monitoring Stations

Data received (Purchased) from the Department of Meteorology from Kamenyamigo and Ntusi meteorological stations, (Mubende is in the same meteorological zone), revealed that there was a lot of negative departure from the Long-term Mean of rainfall amounts in the climatic zone from 2002-2005.

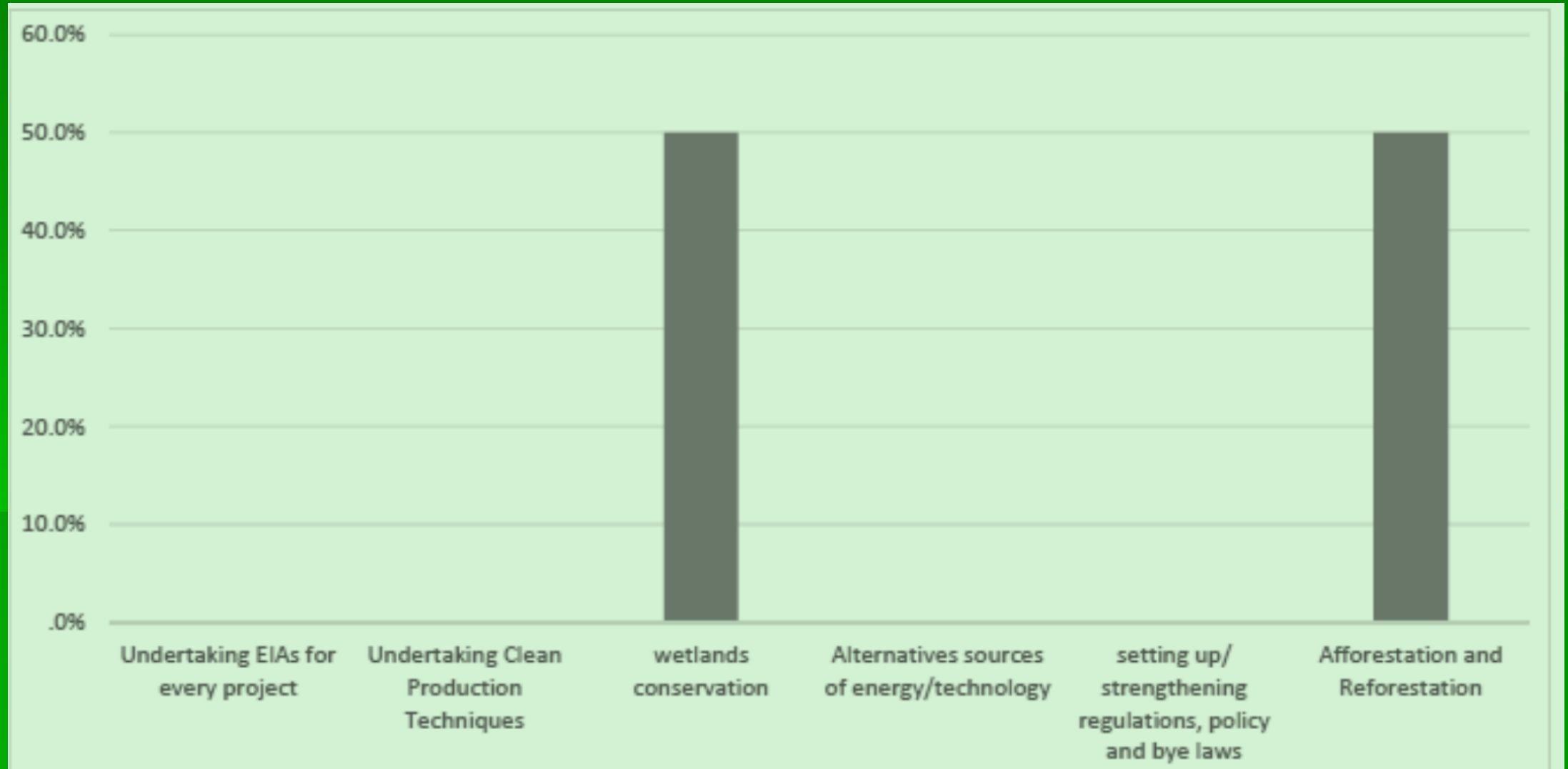




# FINDINGS OF THE GCCA PROJECT NEEDS ASSESSMENT ,2014; FURTHER SHOWED THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE HERE. THE STUDY WAS CARRIED OUT IN 20 DISTRICTS ALONG THE DROUGHT/ CATTLE CORRIDOR, MUBENDE INCLUSSIVE



# MUBENDE MITIGATION ACTIONS OF CHOICE









# Good Lessons

**1.0** The Department started with Data collection. To make a case. Some information was bought and for other information was gathered at an own cost.

**1.1** Good information guides the crafting of Council Policies. Brings on board Political leaders. The sector lobbied successfully for the establishment of a **Mubende Tree Funding 2008-2009**. The Fund established by a Motion of Council put aside 10% of flexibility grant and other sources devotedly to planting trees. For 2009/10, UGX 10,800,000/=, was earmarked for the Fund. This Policy, together with the 30% Policy, where 30% of all revenue collected from Natural Resources was returned to the Natural Resources department, were the first boost of to the bag.

**1.2** Staff promotion and recruitments were also achieved to halt the degradation. Now at 110%.

**1.3.1** This gloomy figures attracted more partners to the District. The Lake Victoria Environment Management Project 2 was one. **LVEMP II** life of project district grant of shs 421,648,052 was received during the period 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2014 - 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017. It was used to demarcate wetland boundaries with trees, promote alternative livelihoods in wetland degrading communities and re afforestate the Mubende Local Forest Reserve.

**1.3.2** The UNDP MEMD GEF Funded Green Charcoal Project availed about 2.5 Million Tree seedlings to Mubende farmers, introduced Improved Charcoal Kilns and supported Agriculture groups with Conservation Agriculture grants. It supported District Forestry operations with atleast 60 Million every year 2014-2018.

- ❑ **1.4** Mubende District was part of The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) - Uganda. Agriculture Adaptation to Climate Change is a Government of Uganda Programme that has been implemented by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) with funding from the European Union and the Irish government the Royal Kingdom of Belgium. (*June 2012-June 2016*).



# Key GCCA Phase 1 tagged many Actors in Mubende District

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## **1.4.1. Ministry of Water and Environment**

These put up 3 water tanks of 10,000m<sup>3</sup> in Katongole Kigando, Nansimbi-Kinoni Kiganda and Lukaya in Kitenga.

## **1.4.2. MAAIF**

These constructed a water for production facility in Lugala- Kitenga that has 6000m<sup>3</sup> valley tank and 4 Acre Drip system.

## **1.4.3. MUZARDI**

Have availed improved seed of Maize, Irish and sweet Potatoes and beans to FFS farmers.

**1.4.4. C-Care** This CSO established and managed 56 FFS in Kitenga and Kigando

**1.4.5. SPGS** –helped establish biofuel woodlots

**1.4.6. NaLiRRI**- established improved pasture multiplication systems in FFS, water harvesting tanks 30,000 to 35,000 litres equipped with treadle pumps for smallholder livestock and supplementary irrigated vegetable production.——

**1.4.7. Climate Change Department** – Conducted surveys, disseminated Subject information and conducted a few Training workshops

**1.4.8. Makerere University** – Aailed GIS equipment Developed a Knowledge management system updatable online <http://igopage.com/mubendekms/>

**1.4.9. JB International** –helped farmers to grow and sell oyster mushrooms.

**1.4.10. JEEP** – Tree nurseries, Energy saving stoves and tree growing promotions.

**1.4.11. Environment Alert:** Capacity Building of District & S/c CC TaskForce

**1.4.12. Mubende DLG** coordinated, supervised and monitored the Project actors and stakeholders. Secure assets gathered on the Projects.

# Four Huge GCCA infrastructure Projects Completed





## 1.5 GCCA PLUS and the PROJECT LLGs

- In SEPTEMBER 2016, DNRO was part of the Uganda team that Travelled to the EU Offices IN BRUSSELS – BELGIUM to renegotiate for GCCA Plus and share experiences at the Global learning Event. The negotiations were successful, the Farmer Field School FSS approach endeared the Country's proposals to Donors. GCCA+ project runs Dec 2018 Nov 2023. The Project decentralizes the action to Local governments, Farmer Field Schools & CBOs.

- **1.6 The Newest Project; “ *Adapting climate change in the Lake Victoria basin*”.** This is funded by Adaption fund implemented by the East African Lake Victoria basin commission through the Ministry of Water and Environment, Directorate of Water Resource Management and the Ministry of East African affair. It targets river Katonga catchment. Over 110 community members (29 community groups, and District Extension Workers) in Mubende and Masaka District were trained in developing Community Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans, supported by ACC-LVB.



## 2.0 Prioritizing Inter-district Forums

- Care International in Uganda through its Project; *Combatting illegal Trade in Timber and Charcoal through Stakeholder Cooperation.*” Started in 2013, evolved into the FOREST project, has supported Inter district forum having Mubende, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo Districts. CARE, in partnership with the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and the Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE) set into operation a functional local chain of custody for timber and charcoal.
- Harmonizing policy, Community Informers and duty bearers of the Charcoal and Timber Value chains. The Project has helped staff share competencies and national and international exposure. Inter-district forums craft into place Subject Matter Technical Working groups that balance out less endowed district staff. The Forums synchronize regional policy responses and assist in advocacy as interface with national duty bearers is cheaper and effective.
- Memberships to Networks, Technical Working Groups and coalitions is very good at sharing resources, managing knowledge, advocacy and building capacity.

## **3.0 Climate Change task force**

- Since Climate Change is a cross cutting issue, Districts need to energise the Climate Change Task forces. These will mainstream Climate Change into Plans and have a District Plan of Action. This Task force manages Climate Change Knowledge better than an Individual. Mubende has one and that is why several achievements have been made.

## **4.0 FUNDRAISING/RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGIES**

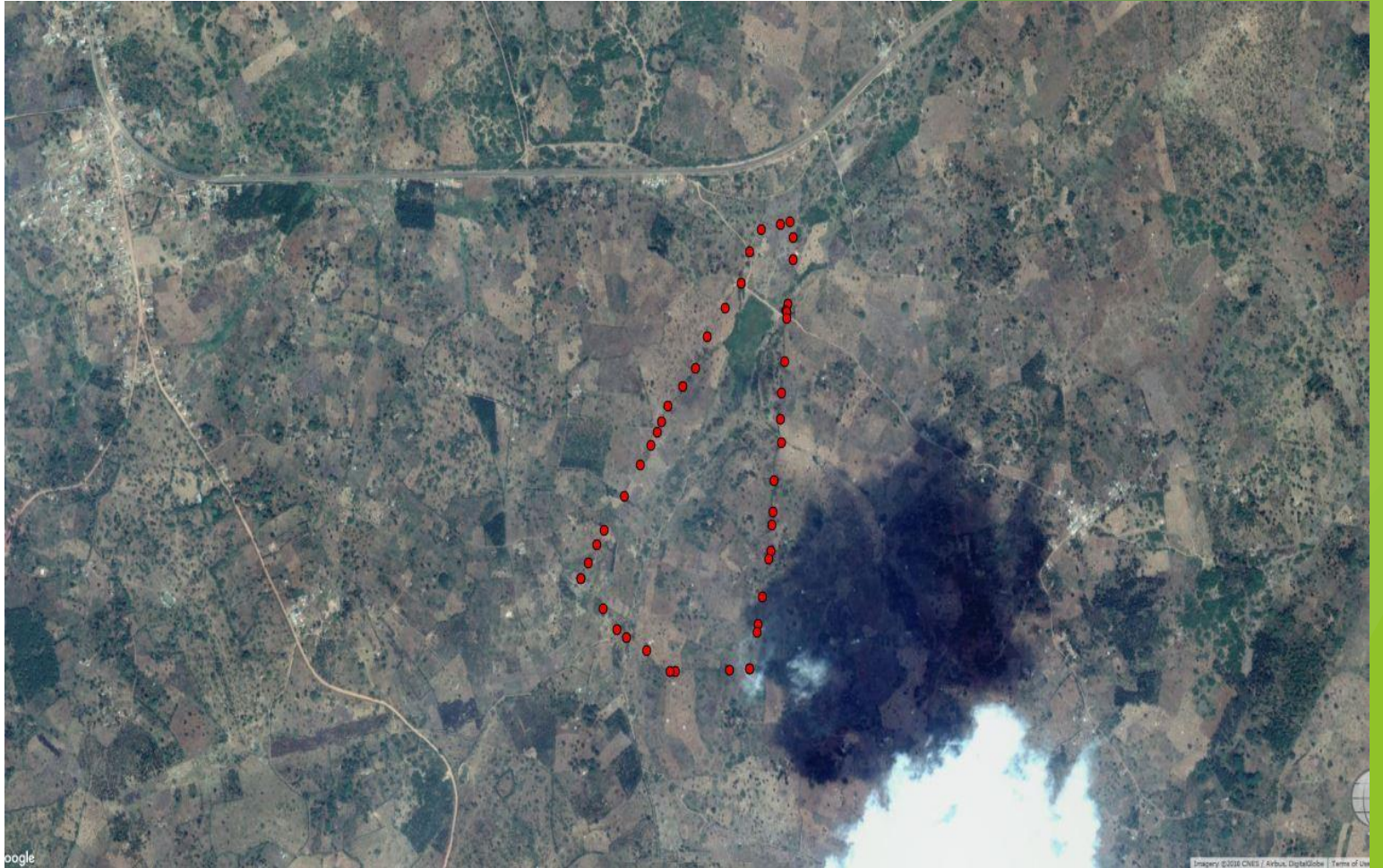
Outside the External and donor funding sources, The department has maintained 0.65% of the district Budget salaries included. Forums and Data has a positive effect on Fundraising. We receive atleast 10.4M of PAF wetlands because of regular quality reporting to the Ministry.



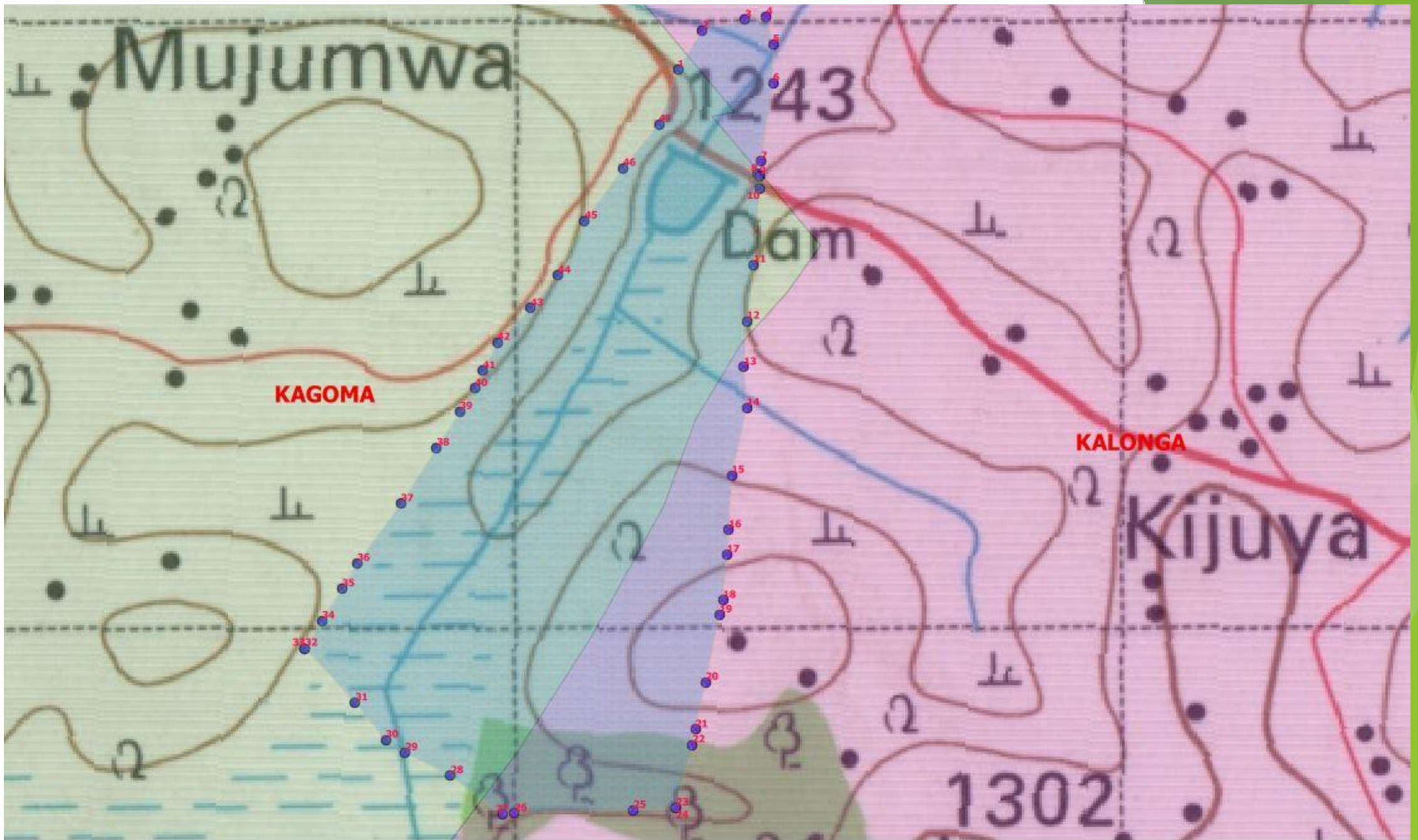
# 4.0 Best practices

## 4.1 MAP/SURVEY COMPETENCIES

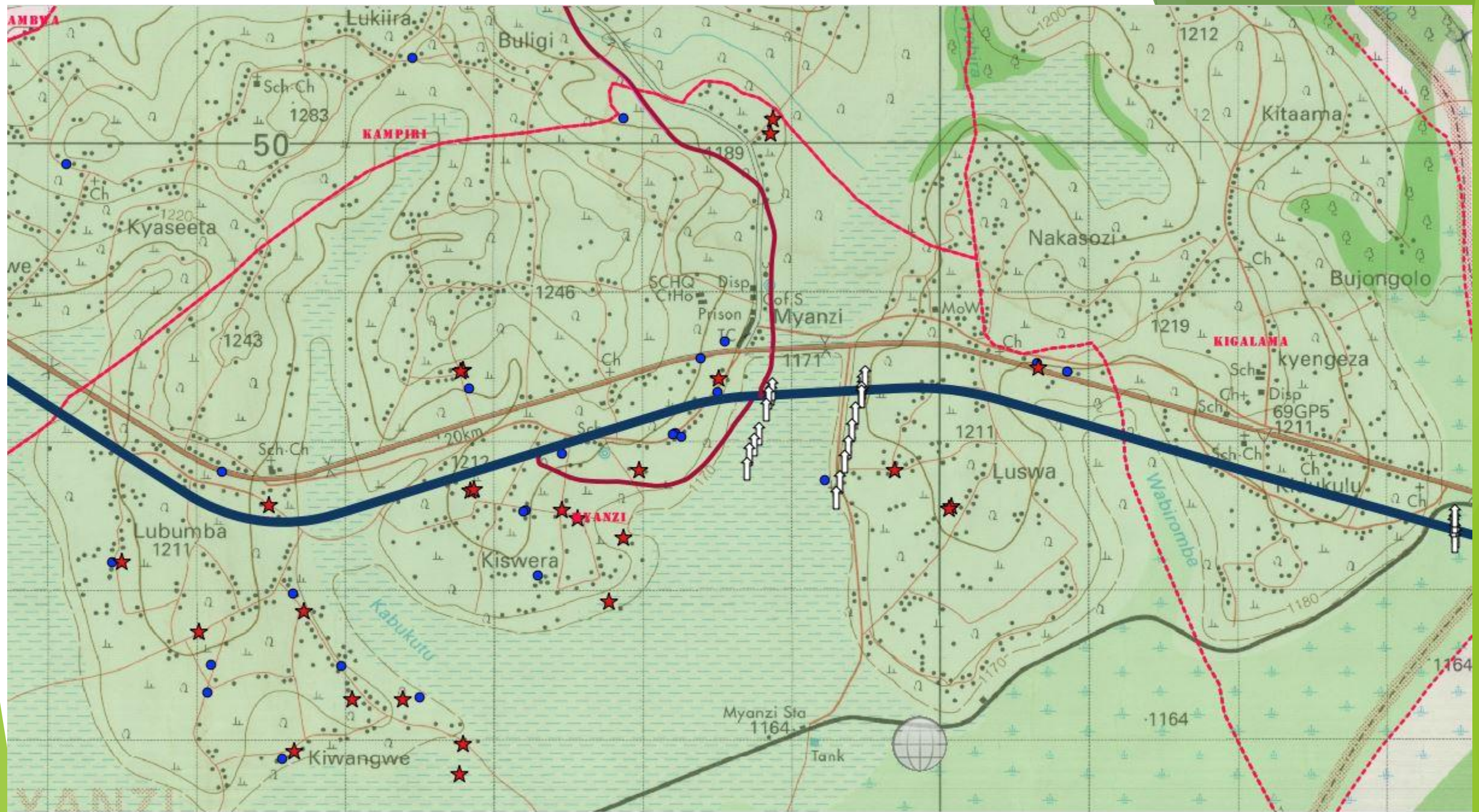
- ▶ There is no way you will monitor and share monitoring reports without building competencies in GPS and GIS Monitoring and Reporting and Mapping.
- ▶ Decision makers are impressed increasingly by our ability to associate spatial data with other data. The Office has built capacity in that area.
- ▶ *Right is Kasensero Dam. Red spots are pillars. Next Slide shows the same DAM pillars overlain with Topo maps*











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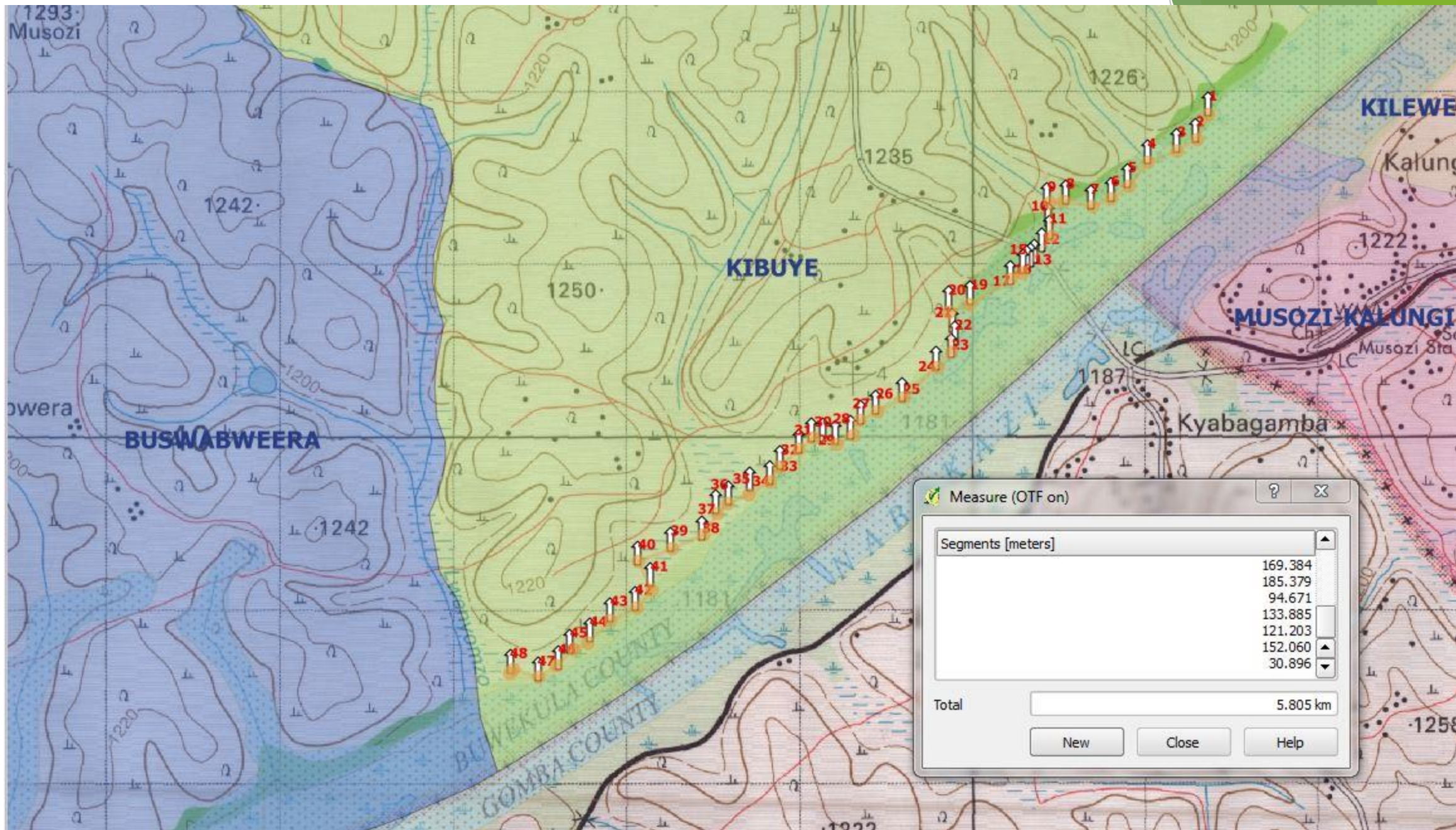


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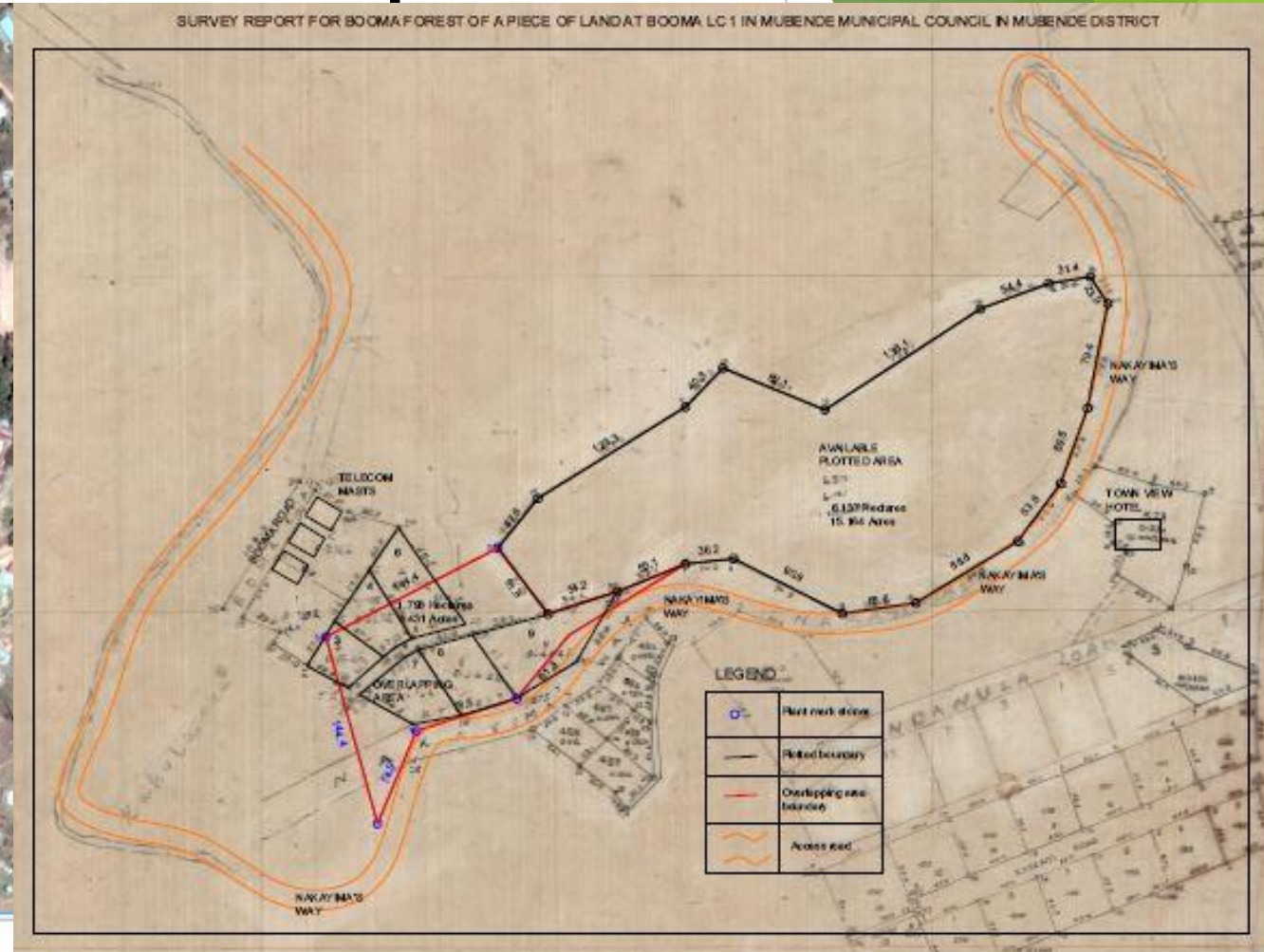


## 4.2 Mobile Phone GPS and GIS Monitoring tools

### Easy to use to uncover forest/wetland clearances And Map Degradation Hotspots



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## 4.3 promoting Climate Adaptation practices

- ▶ 4.3.1 Drought Resilient and high yielding plant, animal and pasture varieties...
- ▶ 4.3.2 Conservation Agriculture practices
- ▶ Improved pesticide management of nuisances such as for termites.
- ▶ Value addition promotions
- ▶ Community group Village saving and Loans associations.
- ▶ Effective and Efficient Irrigation
- ▶ Promoting Demonstration enterprises includes you.
- ▶ Alternative livelihoods, bee keepings (venom wax), Fish farming...
- ▶ Energy saving stoves and Kilns and resource efficient technologies



# 5.0 *Emerging Issues*

## ► 5.1 GOLD RUSHES

- Since January 2013, Mubende became famous as a gold rush district with close to 10 gold rush sites. Close to 60,000 gold seekers came by wrecking the landscape. The environment degradations, mercuric waste, and cyanide also became a serious threat to eco systems and Biological Diversity.



## ► 5.2 EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OLD PIPELINE

- The East African Crude Oil Pipeline project EACOP is a 1,445Km crude oil Export pipeline through Uganda to Tanga.
- Mubende is one of the Crude Oil pipeline Districts in Uganda. Sub-counties of Butoloogo Madudu and Kitenga. The ESIA reveals huge Biodiversity disturbances



## ► 5.3 GENDER AND LAND ISSUES

- MEN in our traditional patriarchal societies are either in position to work hard and purchase own bibanja or inherit the same from their parents. Thus they dominate the land registration lists and membership in most of the current **Communal Land Associations** CLAs and the top positions on managing committees in various CLAs.
- WOMEN in African traditional society rarely own personal land as they rarely work on their own and do not inherit as they cannot traditionally be heirs to their parents. Thus women spend most of their lives tilling their husbands' bibanja, and husbands come in to harvest, sell the yields, buy a precious meal at home and sometimes a new set of clothes for the wife in appreciation for her hard work.
- Tree Planting, land based mitigations and adaptations therefore, are most likely an un accessible option to women and youth as their access and use of land is greatly restricted. Fortunately GCCA+ and Many Climate Change interventions are becoming gender responsive.



## 5.4 LAND REGISTRATION & Women/Youth

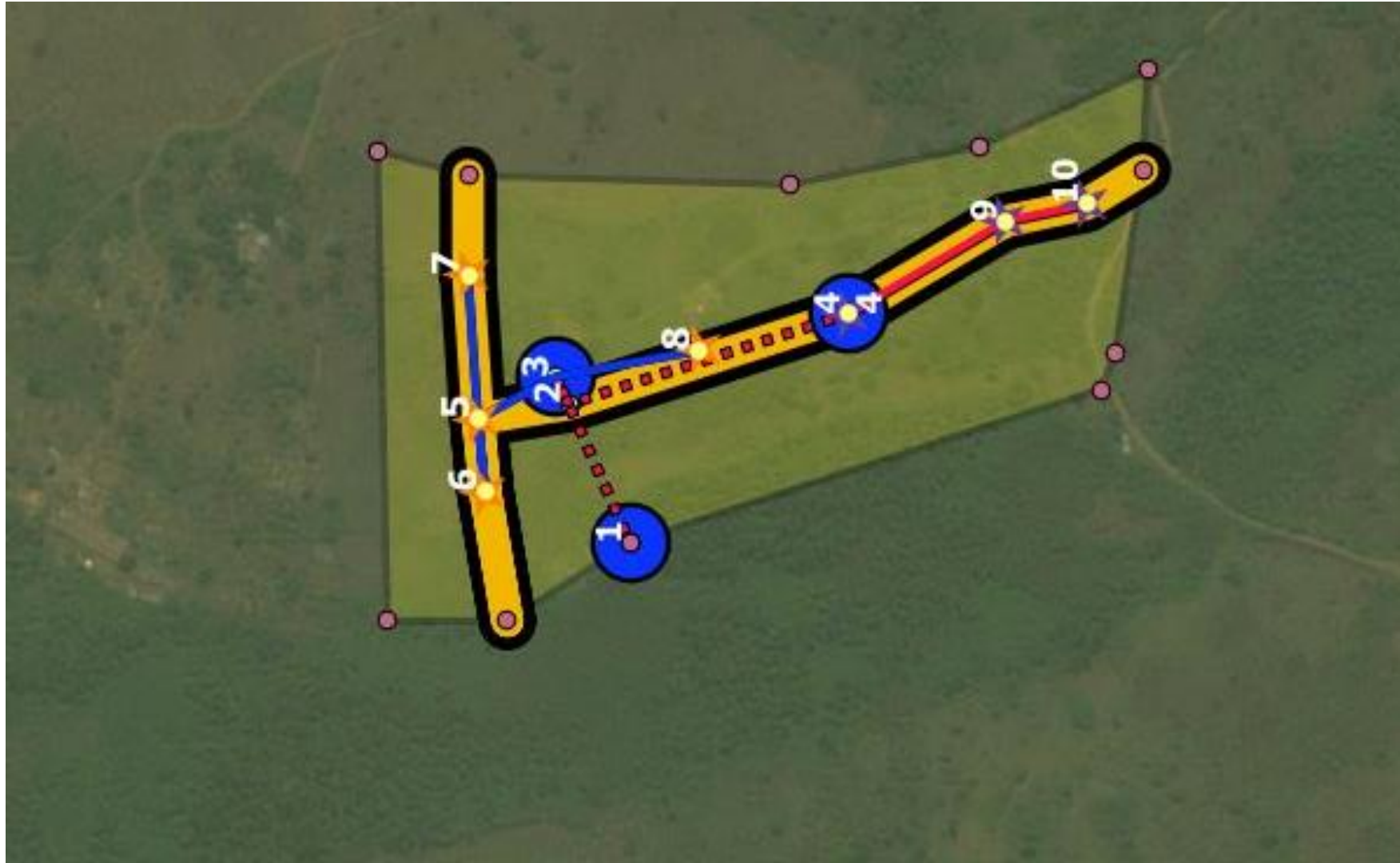
- ▶ The Establishment of Ministerial Land Offices and digitizing Land cadastres has centralised drawing office and has reduced District Councils jurisdiction over Land registration. The cartographer and Registrar of Titles have been made redundant. However it has emerged, titling of wetlands will be reduced as several map layers can be manipulated in a digital manner and sieving is wetlands and water-bodies is possible.
- ▶ To secure land rights for production, for women and youth, Farmer Field Schools graduating into Communal Land Associations, now registered and Cooperatives, have been promoted. It is emerging that the poor can now own group land dedicated for income generation activities.

## 5.5 Farm planning - Using Phone Apps





# The Google earth overlay of the Simple Farm Plan





**Thank you for listening ...**