The initiative called *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food* (TEEBAgriFood) aims at equipping decision-makers with the tools and information to recognise the value that ecosystems provide to food systems

TEEBAGRIFOOD

UGANDA

Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA) for Wetland Restoration in Kampala, Uganda

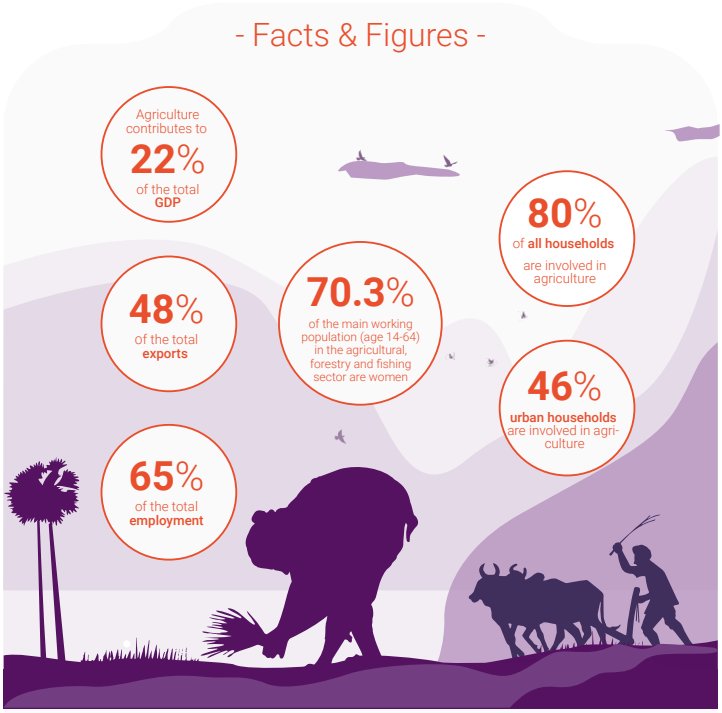
Context & Focus

Agriculture is the main source of livelihoods, employment, and food security for Uganda's fast growing, urban population. Smallholder livestock and crop production in urban and peri-urban areas compete spatially with conservation areas, such as the Mabamba Bay Wetland System, that provide critical ecosystem services. The TEEBAgriFood initiative will assess the impact of urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) and policy interventions on services such as water purification, carbon sequestration, food provisioning and recreation.

Picture by: **Leonard Akwany**
"Boat riders in the Mabamba Bay Wetland System marsh channels and papyrus vegetation"

Location

Mabamba Bay is located 35km from Kampala, in the Wakiso and Mpigi districts. The landscape supports diverse ecosystem services and biological diversity, including globally-threatened birds such as the iconic Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*).



Mabamba Bay Wetland System:

- The site is a designated Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention, of which 22,375.4 hectares of contiguous wetlands are protected.
- Mabamba Bay is regularly home to an average of 190,000 migratory and resident waterbirds per year.

Picture by: **Petr Simon**
"The shoebill walking through the wetlands, Uganda"

Methods

The TEEBAgriFood initiative in Uganda will involve the mapping of ecosystem services data, stakeholders mapping and analysis, the assessment of policy choice scenarios for the supply and value of ecosystem services in the study area, and the application of models including the Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Trade-offs (InVEST) software suite. Using the data generated, the policy implications of the scenarios analysis for social and human capital will be discussed with national and local governments, as to support the economic case for sustainable approaches to UPA. Furthermore, policy recommendations will be developed to bridge the national and regional policy agendas, involving engagement between the TEEBAgriFood research team and key political partners.

The below scenarios will assess the direct and indirect drivers of change:

1. **Business-as-Usual (BAU) Scenario**
2. **Grey Scenario:**
   a. Lack of development, planning, and land use controls and compliance.
   b. Increased agricultural expansion, unsustainable resource extraction, and infrastructure development.
3. **Green Scenario:**
   a. Protection of the wetland system and prevention of destructive activities.
   b. Based on the green growth aspirations in Uganda's environmental and agricultural sector.

The TEEBAgriFood initiative will contribute to the objectives of the UN Decade on Restoration and the UN Food Systems Summit, and collaborate with parallel projects led by the UNEP Economy Division tackling sustainable urban food systems and diet transformations in Kampala, Uganda.

Project Duration: **July 2021 – December 2021**

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