

UGANDA WETLANDS

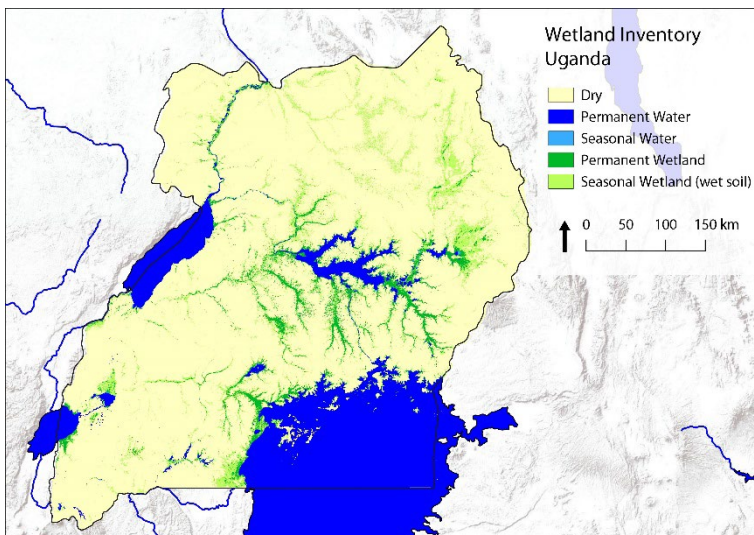
SPOTLIGHT

“Wetlands are [...] both the lungs and kidneys of our environment and their health is therefore crucial to our very existence. [...] The impact of [...] degradation has been detrimental and even catastrophic in many areas of the country.”

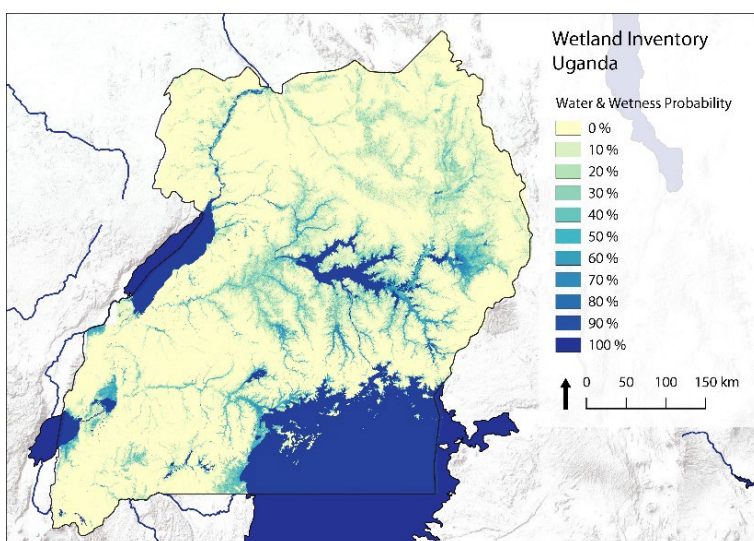
| Yoweri K. Museveni, President to the Republic of Uganda [1] |

WETLAND INVENTORY PRODUCTS

Wetland Inventory



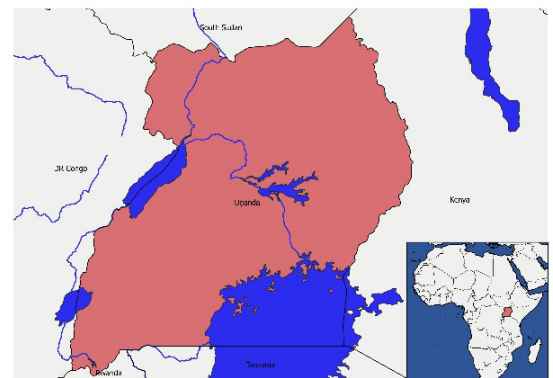
Water & Wetness Presence Index



Description: The upper map shows the distribution of temporary and permanent wet and water areas in Uganda. The lower map indicates how much time in a year the respective area is covered by water or wet soil.

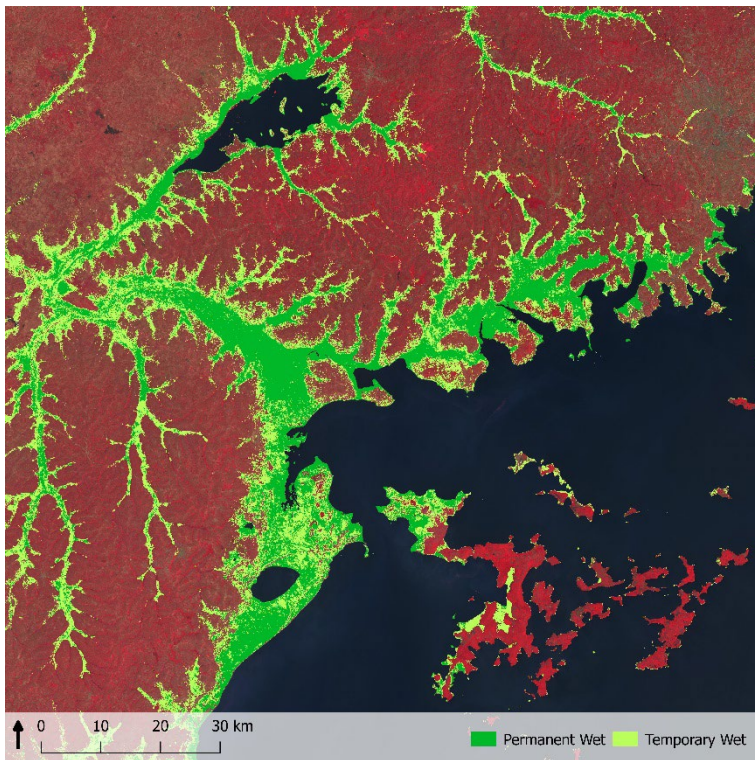
FAST FACTS

- Uganda is a country in East Africa with an area of 241,040 km². 35 million people live in the country which is surrounded by Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan.
- Although it is a landlocked country, water plays an important role in Uganda. Nearly the entire country is part of the Nile basin, which flows from Lake Victoria northwards. Beside Lake Victoria in the south, Africa's largest lake, other large lakes are Lake Kyoga in the centre, Lake Albert and Lake Edward on the border to DR Congo.
- Roughly 10% of the country's area is covered by wetlands of different types: 7.7% seasonal inundated wetlands, 3.4% permanent inundated wetlands and 0.1% swamp forest [1].
- Many of the wetlands are put under high pressures from drainage. Wetlands are reclaimed to provide land for the local communities to increase agricultural production.
- Wetland degradation and the establishing of monoculture farming causes higher soil erosion, pollution due to agro-chemicals and waste disposal, and a reduced functionality of the wetlands to regulate flooding and remove pollutants before they enter the lakes.



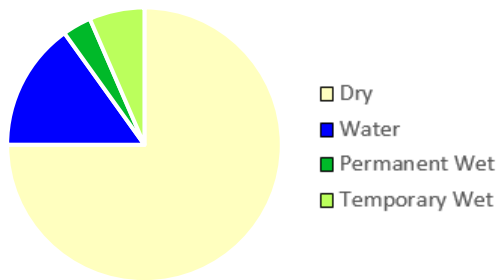
Overview map of Uganda, a country in East-Central Africa.

Detail showing wetlands in the coastal region

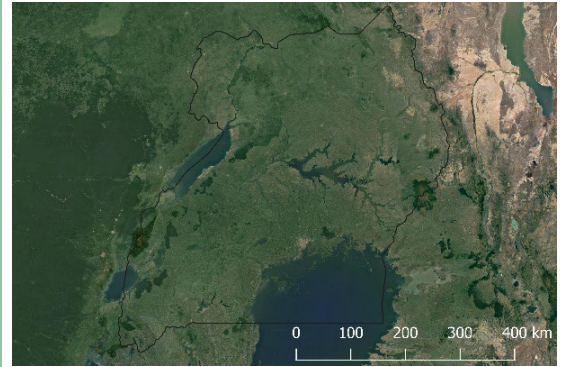


Description: Many wetlands lie along the shore of Lake Victoria. Seen is the region from the north shore of Lake Victoria to Lake Wamala, 40 km away, with a Sentinel-2 false color image as background information. Many of these wetlands are covered by water-based vegetation, like papyrus. Wetlands form along narrow water streams, where the ground water level is high and regular floods occur. Seasonal wetlands are primarily located around the permanently wet ones.

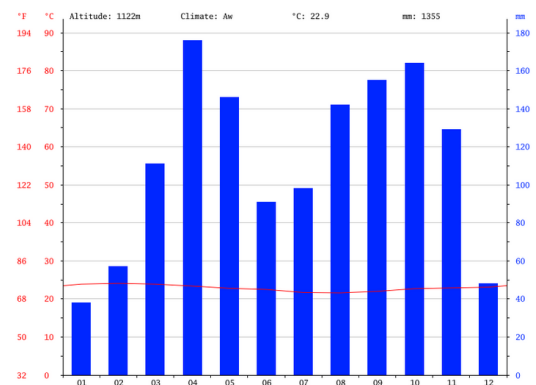
Area statistics of water and wetlands in Uganda



Description: The chart shows the spatial distribution of water bodies and wetlands in Uganda, according to the Wetland Inventory product from the previous page. Three quarter of the whole area of Uganda (241,040 km²) is dry land (forest, agriculture, populated areas and other). 15% of the area is covered by water, most of this share is represented by the large lakes. Over 3% of the area are wetlands, and additional 6.5% are temporarily wet soils.



Satellite image of Uganda. In the southeast of Uganda lies the Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa. On the western border, Lake Albert and Lake Edward are visible.



Climate diagram of Lake Kyoga in the center of the country [2]. Most of Uganda lies in the climate zone "Tropical savanna". This means that the monthly average temperatures are high throughout the year. The monthly rainfall shows some variations, with two drier seasons. Climate change causes the north-east part to become more arid, while the rest of the country changes to a monsoon climate with just one rain season.

References

[1] Uganda Wetlands Atlas (2016), Ministry of Water and Environment, Government of Uganda [http://www.mwe.go.ug/sites/default/files/library/Uganda%20Wetlands%20Atlas%20Volume%20II_Popular%20Version.pdf]

[2] https://en.climate-data.org/africa/uganda/western-region/masindi-55265/

All satellite derived products shown here have been derived from Sentinel-1 CSAR (radar) and Sentinel-2 MSI (optical) imagery complemented with Landsat 5, 7, and 8 optical imagery for the historical analyses. The product development and processing has been performed within the ESA project GlobWetland-Africa.

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