

“The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.” – Pope John Paul II

NEWSLETTER



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Dear Friend,

We are glad to share with you the fourth issue of Atacama Consulting Electronic Newsletter (e-Newsletter). In this issue, we inform you about our new office location, current state of Uganda's biodiversity, and touch on matters to do with the megatrends that are shaping the 21st Century.

For queries and/or comments, contact us via our email address: admin@atacama.co.ug

You can also access our website at: www.atacama.co.ug to get an insight into any developments at Atacama Consulting.

Emmanuel Kenneth Mwawula
(Editor)



ATACAMA CONSULTING'S NEW OFFICE LOCATION

As of 5th June 2017, Atacama Consulting moved from Plot 23 Gloucester Avenue, Kyambogo – Kampala to Plot 22B, Lower Naguru East Road, Naguru – Kampala. Our postal address (P. O. Box 12130, Kampala), office phone number (+256-751-090-752) and email address (admin@atacama.co.ug) did not change. If you have any questions about the new location, please call us and we'll be happy to help. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you and for your tireless contributions towards Atacama Consulting. We look forward to seeing you at our new offices.

CURRENT STATE OF UGANDA'S BIODIVERSITY



On the 3rd of August 2017, the National Biodiversity Data Bank - Makerere University and Nature Uganda among other agencies released the '*State of Uganda's Biodiversity 2017 Report*' at the Uganda Museum. At the report launch, it was highlighted that Uganda's biodiversity is steadily recovering from the losses that were registered between 1975 and 1995, when Uganda lost about half of its overall biodiversity due to political upheavals and weak environmental laws and regulations. According to the report, Protected Areas particularly National Parks are doing well, large mammal species are increasing within National Parks, Marabou Storks nesting in Kampala are now the largest known breeding colony in the world, and data from pastoral and agricultural areas suggest that small mammal species are flourishing in the countryside.

On the other hand, degradation of forest and wetland resources and inadequate funding for biodiversity related ecological research outside Protected Areas were cited as major threats to Uganda's biodiversity.

As Atacama Consulting, we are of the view that gaps in funding and information flow can be bridged through a multi-sectoral approach involving both public and private sectors. For instance, Environmental Practitioners are often exposed to numerous ecological areas outside Protected Areas during Environmental Assessments and Audits in which, key species exist. As such, information gathered during assessments and audits can be used to support the state of biodiversity. Also, a multi-sectoral approach is key to fulfilling the second strategic objective of the *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025* that aims at facilitating and building capacity for research, monitoring, information management and exchange on biodiversity.

<http://www.natureuganda.org/downloads/presentations/BD%202017%20Indicators%20Report.pdf>



21st Century Megatrends at a Glance

The 21st century is being shaped by megatrends of globalisation, demographic shifts, urbanisation, modernisation, industrialisation and internet proliferation. However, how do these megatrends manifest on the environmental face?

These megatrends have had far-reaching effects on our consumption patterns as they have led to increased access to technologies, improved communication and transportation systems, innovations and advances in the field of science, and prosperity among others. With the current consumption patterns and population growth rate (*UN predicted that the world population will be 8 billion in 2025 – that's an extra 5 billion people on the planet in less than a lifetime since the global population was 3 billion in 1960*), demand for goods and services has escalated (*According to Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) Statistics - 3.5 billion passengers were carried by the world's airlines in 2015*) which, in turn interfere with the environment through pollution and landscape intrusion (natural vegetation, mountains, and surface water bodies) to pave way for infrastructure development.

While we may delight in these megatrends, they are slowly but steadily contributing to the deterioration of the environment. Reversing these megatrends is impossible, however, we can attain sustainable consumption by becoming more conscious and conscientious in our consumption patterns, exploring renewable energy sources, and developing effective and efficient mechanisms with internet proliferation at the heart of it all. Also, we are of the view that environmental assessments and audits prior to developing and during operation of megatrends' related projects can lend support to building a century that is environmentally-sustainable.

DID YOU KNOW



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. IAPS 2017 symposium (Climate proof urban development in changing environment)

Place: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,

Date: 27 – 29 September 2017

<https://iaps2017.com/wrdprs/>

2. Conference of Parties (COP) 23

Place: Bonn, Germany

Date: 6 - 7 November, 2017

<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/cop-23-bonn/>

