

Worksheet C

Climate Change Impact Stories: Uganda



Background

Uganda is in East Africa. The population is 31 million. There are mountains on the east and west of the country. One fifth of the land surface is rivers and lakes. In the south is Lake Victoria, the second largest lake in the world. The capital city is called Kampala (with 0.7 million people).

Very few people live in towns. Nine out of ten people live in *rural* areas (countryside). *Agriculture* (growing food) is the most important *livelihood* (way to live) in Uganda. Over 80 percent of people carry out *subsistence* farming (growing food to feed themselves), as well as growing crops to sell.

Some people grow crops and others keep cattle (*pastoralism*). Over 40 percent of deaths among children in Uganda are because of *malnutrition* (not eating enough). Many of these are because of repeated droughts.

The Climate in Uganda:

Uganda's has a *tropical* climate, so it has two rainy seasons and two dry seasons:

- Dry season (December to February)
- Long rainy season (March to June)
- Dry season (June to August)
- Short rainy season (October to December).

In the north of Uganda the climate becomes drier. The rain in this area is *unpredictable* (you don't know when it will come) there are sometimes severe *droughts* (lack of rain).

Map of Uganda

(map from wikicommons)



What people are saying about climate change in Uganda

The average temperature has risen by 1 degree centigrade since 1960. Records show the wetter areas in around Lake Victoria and in the east are becoming wetter. However, the western, northern and north-eastern regions which usually suffer from droughts are now having droughts more often.

It seems the rainy seasons are changing and becoming harder to predict when they will start and stop. Farmers say when there is rain it is heavier and more violent. The *growing season* (when crops can be grown) for crops is getting shorter and less predictable.

It is predicted (*people think that*) there may be a heavier rainy season later in the year with the rest of the year being hotter and drier than at the moment. This would make floods and droughts more common.