



Eastern and Southern Africa  
Small Scale Farmers' Forum  
**ESAFF - UGANDA**



*Amplifying Small-scale  
Farmers' Voices*

## SMALL-SCALE FARMER'S POSITION FOR COP 16



**COP16**  
**COLOMBIA**  
Paz con la Naturaleza

# UNITED NATIONS BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

**COP 16 / CP-MOP 11 / NP-MOP 5**  
**CALI, COLOMBIA**  
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## Introduction

Uganda is home to an incredible array of animal and plant species, making it one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet. Much of the country's economy, such as agriculture, fishing, livestock industries, and tourism depend on maintaining a balance between sustainable use and conserving this biodiversity.

Uganda faces significant biodiversity challenges, including habitat loss due to deforestation, agricultural expansion, and urbanization. Climate change alters ecosystems, forcing species to migrate and disrupt habitats. Pollution from industrial agriculture and industry harms water bodies, and wetland degradation further reduces biodiversity. Weak policy enforcement, limited public awareness, and human-wildlife conflict hinder conservation efforts.

Collaborative community-based approaches, strengthened law enforcement, restoration programs, and public education are essential to addressing these challenges and safeguarding Uganda's biodiversity for future generations.



# ESAFF Uganda's Position for COP 16

Some parts of this position is adopted La Via Campesina's position for the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

**1. Strongly recognize the role of small-scale farmers and Indigenous communities:**

ESAFF Uganda emphasizes the importance of small-scale farmers in preserving biodiversity and promoting agroecology. Small-scale farmers' traditional practices are crucial for sustainable food systems and environmental resilience.

**2. Hold Industrial Agriculture Accountable:** ESAFF Uganda criticizes the negative impacts of industrial agriculture, including monocultures and the heavy use of agrochemicals. In Uganda, such practices threaten biodiversity and small-scale farmers by driving land degradation and reducing soil fertility. Industrial agriculture leads to land grabs for commercial agriculture.

**3. Challenge the introduction of genetically modified foods (GMOs):** There are plans to introduce genetically modified crops, which could jeopardize food sovereignty in our food systems. GMOs will further contribute to the loss of biodiversity.

**4. Rejecting false solutions and greenwashing:** ESAFF Uganda opposes solutions like carbon credits and biodiversity offsets promoted by corporations, which don't address the root causes of biodiversity loss. In Uganda, there's a risk that international conservation and climate programs could serve corporate interests while marginalizing smallholder farmers.

**5. Call for Climate Justice:** ESAFF Uganda calls for fair compensation for communities affected by biodiversity loss and climate change—echoing the experiences of Ugandan farmers dealing with droughts, floods, and other climate-related challenges. ESAFF Uganda demands the greater involvement of local communities, especially women and youth, in policy decisions.

**6. Domesticate the UNDROP:** ESAFF Uganda advocates for the integration of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) into biodiversity policies. This aligns with efforts to protect small-scale farmers' access to land, seeds, and water, ensuring their autonomy over natural resources.

## Conclusion

ESAFF Uganda calls for a shift from corporate-driven conservation approaches to agroecological solutions rooted in traditional knowledge and community participation. This aligns with the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, climate resilience, and local empowerment.

There is a need for Uganda to embrace participatory governance models in environmental policies, ensuring small-scale farmers have a voice in decision-making.

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*To learn more about ESAFF Uganda, please visit:*



**www.esaffuganda.org**