

# THE BIOLOGY SOCIETY OF UGANDA (BioSU)



## CONCEPT NOTE AND DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE INCEPTION MEETING

- DATE AND TIME:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 09:00am-12:00noon
- VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:** Please register in advance by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/3MEZjel>
- PHYSICAL PARTICIPATION:** Makerere University Main Campus, Yusuf Lule Central teaching facility (CTF) Auditorium.
- MODERATOR:** **Ms. Hajjara Ddembe**, Assist. Commissioner, MoES.

**THEME:** *“Towards transforming the landscape of life sciences in Uganda”*

Time	Item	Responsible
08:30-09:30am	Participants Arrival and Registration	Secretariat
09:30-09:35am	Anthems	Moderator
09:35-09:40am	Prayer	<b>Dr. Mary Buttibwa</b>
09:40-09:55am	The Living World at Glance: Overview by the Convenor.	<b>Prof. Arthur Tugume</b> , Dean, School of Biosciences, Makerere University
09:55-10:05am	Remarks by Principal, College of Natural Sciences.	<b>Prof. Tumps Ireeta</b> , Principal, College of Natural Sciences, Makerere University
10:05-10:15am	Welcome by Chief Guest and Opening of Inception meeting.	<b>Prof. Umar Kakumba</b> , DVC(AA), Makerere University
10:15-10:30am	Biology and Biological systems in the Driving of National Development agenda.	<b>Dr. Barbra M. Zawedde</b> , Director of Research, Mukono ZARDI.
10:30-10:45am	Things that matter early: Early childhood training on matters of Bioscience education.	<b>Mr. Peter Watiti &amp; Mr. Richard Wadribo</b> , P5-7 Science Teachers, Bekam Educational Services Ltd.
10:45-11:00am	Studying Biology: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century.	<b>Dr. Andrew Kiggundu</b> , Principal Research Scientist, NARO
11:00-11:15am	The Biology Society of Uganda: Aspirations and Draft Constitution.	<b>Dr. Godwin Anywar</b> , Lecturer and Innovator, Dept. of Plant Sciences, Microbiology and Biotechnology, Mak
11:15-12:00am	Discussions, Q&A and Way Forward	Moderator
12:00noon	Closure, Group Photo, Departure	Moderator

**Note:** Please register on the link in advance. Once registered, the participant will receive an automatic link to the meeting that will allow you to join the meeting virtually on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## CONCEPT NOTE ON THE FORMATION OF THE BIOLOGY SOCIETY OF UGANDA (BioSU)

Makerere University through the School of Biosciences, College of Natural Sciences (CONAS) is championing an effort to create an inclusive society that will bring biologists in Uganda together.

The formation and establishment of “**The Biology Society of Uganda (BioSU)**” has been motivated by the existing national and global professional societies against which we have benchmarked. For example, in Uganda, there exists already the Association of Biology Educators, Association of Professional Science Teachers of Uganda, etc., whose efforts vary depending on needs, scope and objectives. In addition, numerous other professional associations exist that are tailored to specific specializations, needs and niches (e.g., Uganda Veterinary Association, Uganda Medical Association, Association of Surgeons of Uganda, Uganda Pig Breeders Association, National Association of Professional Environmentalists, etc).

The formation of BioSU is founded on Uganda’s aspirations for a strong bio-economy to spur national development under National Development Program III (NDPIII). Cognizant of the importance of Biology applications that account for over 60% of Uganda’s science, technology and innovations (STI) ecosystem, we envisage that bringing together Biology professionals will augment and consolidate their contribution to national development. BioSU comes in handy as a non-profit supplementary contribution to enhance the government’s effort of increasing the enrolment of students of Biology, with deliberate intentions of inclusive participation from Primary to Tertiary levels of education. BioSU will, among other things, contribute to the promotion of Biology as a subject among learners, right from primary schools, with an aim of achieving increased enrolment and improvements in academic grades at O’ and A’ levels, and ultimately at the tertiary levels of education in Uganda.

Specifically, the objectives of the Biology Society of Uganda (BioSU) are to:

1. Establish a functional and dynamic platform that will promote communication among biologists engaged in knowledge generation, testing, teaching and the end users at all levels.
2. Promote biological research and its application in the teaching and/or solving challenges of national development at all levels.
3. Foster lively interest of learners in Biology at early stages of education in Uganda.
4. Host and publish a biannual Biology Newsletter (or any other publication deemed essential) on biology aspects of interest in Uganda.
5. Promote the writing of biological science articles, books, papers, and magazines.
6. Provide guidance on matters of national importance that demand expert knowledge in Biology or its applications.

To this effect, an inception meeting has been called on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 09:00am-12:00noon (EAT)**. All interested participants are encouraged register in advance by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/3MEZjel> . The Chief Guest will be **Prof. Umar Kakumba, the Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic Affairs (DVC-AA), Makerere University**.

**IMPORTANT:** Although the College of Natural Sciences (CONAS) at Makerere University is leading this effort, the aim is to establish “**The Biology Society of Uganda (BioSU)**” with aspirations, vision, composition and operations that are of a national character. Therefore, we welcome professionals at all levels, organizations and companies that directly or indirectly depend on biological applications to be part of this maiden meeting. Please note that we invite institutions and individuals to facilitate their participation in this meeting.

The aim of the inception meeting is to discuss the modalities of advancing the aspirations and objectives of BioSU. Participants are expected to be primary and secondary school teachers and students of Biology (or science for primary), school head teachers, students and tutors at different levels of post-secondary education, relevant professional science associations, scientists, academia, representatives of government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), whose mandates are hinged on Biology or its applications.