

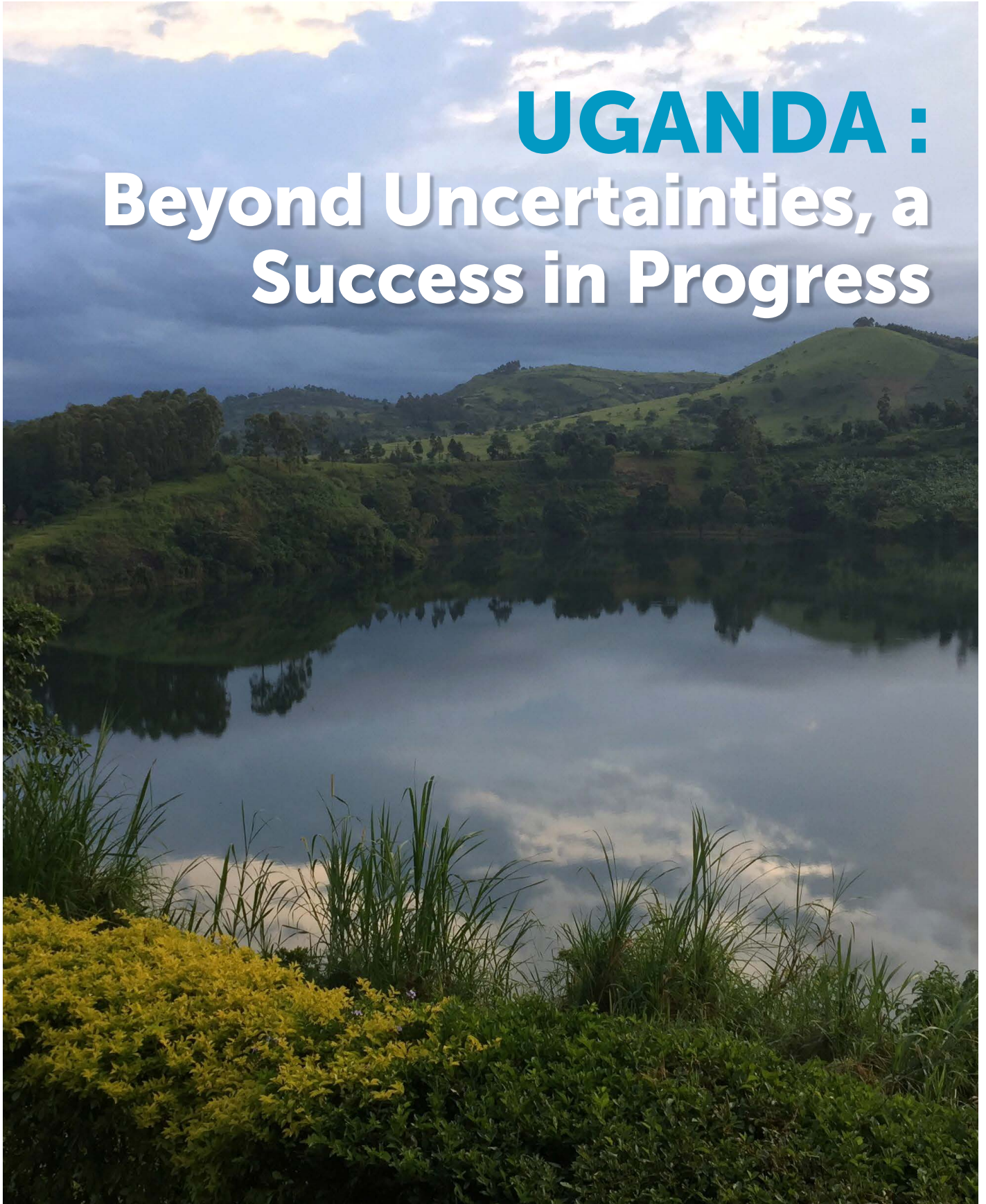
EMERGING NATIONS



N°58
May
2025

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MAGAZINE www.nations-emergentes.org

UGANDA : Beyond Uncertainties, a Success in Progress





Kibale National Park

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Uganda : Beyond Uncertainties, a Success in Progress

Uganda today stands at a crossroads, compelled to make choices that will shape its future. Strategically located at the intersection of the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region, and Central Africa, the country holds a significant geopolitical position. It shares its western border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, where recurrent conflicts in the Kivu region—often linked to Rwandan interference—directly impact Uganda's security. These conflicts drive displaced populations to seek refuge in Uganda, placing pressure on the country's resources and potentially hindering its economic development goals.

To the north, Uganda is facing the repercussions of the civil war that has been ravaging Sudan since 2023. Millions of people have fled to Uganda, which has become a host country for the Sudanese. This massive influx of foreigners is creating a demographic imbalance and discontent among the population.

Uganda is also a landlocked country in East Africa. It has to pass either through the port of Mombasa for its trade or through Dar-es-Salams. This makes it vulnerable, as it means it is dependent on its neighbours. In other words, Uganda is faced with an unstable

regional environment in which it has no control over the interacting forces, which risk exacerbating regional uncertainty.

Despite this tumultuous regional environment, Uganda has managed to hold its own. Under President Museveni, Uganda has succeeded in creating a state governed by the rule of law, with democratic institutions and a stable environment. The country wants to play the role of mediator in Africa's Great Lakes region to find a solution to regional conflicts. For example, during the Rwandan crisis in 1994, Uganda intervened to bring down Mobutu in Congo Kinshasa in 1997. The country has since become a key player in the region. According to Richard Banégas, Museveni has raised his country's profile and turned it into a military power capable of influencing the strategic reshaping of the continent, "to the point of changing the political centre of gravity in part of Central Africa".⁽¹⁾ Furthermore, by seeking to play a role in the future of the Great Lakes, Uganda is above all seeking to "give shape to its desire to project itself towards the Atlantic Ocean, in particular through the port of Matadi, which it will access via the Congo Kinshasa river network"⁽²⁾. In other words, this choice allows Uganda to reduce its dependence on Mombasa.

Uganda also has strong economic potential, with fertile land, rich biodiversity and burgeoning oil reserves. Tourism and infrastructure, especially roads, offer major opportunities for businesses. The country is keen to attract investors by offering tax

breaks, free land and high returns that more than compensate for the risks involved.

However, Uganda's stability depends on the succession of President Museveni, who has ruled the country since 1986. He has never officially named his successor. This political uncertainty is fuelling tensions within the ruling party, the National Resistance Movement (NRM), and encouraging struggles for influence between the political and military elites. As for Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the president's son, he has announced that he will not stand in the 2026 presidential election and that he will support his father in case he decides to run for another term.⁽³⁾ The former AFD Director Jean-Michel Severino remarked that Africa "is used to adversity. That is its strength. It never moves in a straight line, but it moves forward". This quote reflects Uganda's march towards emergence despite the winds and tides. The future will depend on its ability to pursue an inclusive economic policy to ensure that its success is not only underway, but also sustainable. 🌍

Douraya Asgaraly

⁽¹⁾ BANEGAS (Richard), « Les aléas d'une stratégie d'extraversion », in *L'Ouganda, une puissance régionale ?*, Politique africaine, n°75, octobre 1999.

⁽²⁾ CHAUPRADE (Aymeric) & THUAL (François), *Dictionnaire de géopolitique*, édition Ellipses, 1998

⁽³⁾ *Bilan économique du Monde – 2025*

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EMERGING NATIONS

N°58 | May 2025

Association de loi 1901 | W931002897

ISSN : 2429-7461

Email: contact@nations-emergentes.org

web: www.nations-emergentes.org

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Source of Nile - Uganda embassy

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