

CONCEPT NOTE FOR

THE 7TH UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK (UWEWK) 2024

1.0 BACKGROUND

Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) is a weeklong event that is organized annually by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) through the Water Resources Institute (WRI). Since its inception in 2018, the event seeks to contribute towards the attainment of sustainable socio-economic transformation and achieving Ugandan National Development Plan and vision 2040. It provides an interface between sector actors and other stakeholders for knowledge exchange, advocacy, influencing, dialoguing, and learning for the improvement of Uganda's water and environmental resources.

This event has evolved and grown to become the flagship program for advocacy, information sharing, and learning within the water and environment spectrum. The format of the event provides an opportunity to engage and exchange information on water and environment management and development in general and across various sectors of the economy. The event is positioned to deliver value internally and externally by promoting a multi-sectoral and integrated approach that links all sectors to water and environment.

2.0 UWEWK2024

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in collaboration with key partners has so far held six annual UWEWKs (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023). These events have attracted high-level political participation including the Vice President, the Prime Minister, Ministers, members of parliament of the Republic of Uganda, Local Governments, Cultural and Religious Institutions, and other stakeholders both nationally and internationally. In addition, it offers a platform for the sector professionals, private sector, CSOs and academic communities to present papers, exchange knowledge, and build partnerships, collaborations and networks. MWE through the Water Resources Institute (WRI) will hold the seventh Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK2024) from **Monday 18th March to Friday 22th March 2024**. The event will also involve commemoration of annual three sector International Days: International Forest Day (March 21st), World Water Day (March 22nd) and World Meteorological Day (March 23rd).

UWEWK2024 will give special focus to the outcomes and recommendations of UWEWK2023, and those related key water, environment and climate change related events held since UWEWK2023. It will explore their implications to Uganda and discuss the status of their operationalization or domestication and what needs to be done to ensure that they are fully operationalized. The key water, environment and climate change related events that will be considered include among others the 2023 UN Water Conference and Uganda's commitments to the Water Action Agenda, 2023 SDG Summit,

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2023 World Biodiversity Summit, Nile Basin Development Forum, African Sanitation Conference (AfricaSan7, Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP28) held in Dubai.

3.0 OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM UWEWK2023 AND VARIOUS WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED EVENTS

During 2023 several conferences and events related to water, environment and climate change were held. These include among others the 6th Uganda Water and Environment Week 2023, UN Water Conference and Uganda's commitments to the Water Action Agenda, SDG Summit, World Biodiversity Summit, 7th Nile Basin Development Forum, African Sanitation Conference (AfricaSan7, UNFCCC-Conference of Parties (COP28) etc. Some of the key outcomes recommendations, messages and commitments from these conferences/events are relevant to the Water and Environment sector in Uganda and have been the basis of formulation of the overall theme and subthemes for UWEWK2024. The key events are summarized below:

a) UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2023

The sixth Uganda Water and Environment Week 2023 (UWEWK2023) held in March 2023 at the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) headquarters, Luzira-Kampala under the overall "*Water and Environment for Climate-Resilient Development,*" come up with key messages and recommendations under the various subthemes as follows:

(i) Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Climate-Resilient Development

- The natural environment contributes to management and regulation of water availability and water quality, strengthening the 'resilience of watersheds' and complementing investments in physical infrastructure and institutional and regulatory arrangements for water access, use and disaster preparedness.
- Priority should be given to science for a water secure world in a changing environment by investing in scientific research and innovation and water education,
- Bridge the data knowledge gap, integrated water resources management and water governance based on science for mitigation adaptation and resilience.
- Religious institutions need to be engaged and strengthened to play their role in protection, conservation and management of water and environment resources.
- The best strategy towards climate resilient development is community engagement. Cultural institutions should commit more to working with government in conserving the environment and have necessary structures and mechanisms for engaging the people
- Customers and water users should be helped to understand policies for better regulations of water and environment resources

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(ii) Climate Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Infrastructure

- More opportunities for partnerships and collaborations to protect, manage and sustainably develop our water and environment resources exist. Additionally, partnerships are of paramount importance when it comes to building climate resilience. There is need to have access indigenous knowledge in building climate resilient development and infrastructure through setting up information sharing centres in the various communities to facilitate this.
- More human resources and more technical trainings to address issues of climate change, water and environment was emphasized.
- Climate proofing of infrastructure and having sustainable green investment, monitoring and instruments against climate change should be given priority by government and other stakeholders.
- Uganda should develop facilitative standards to support transitioning to Nature Based Solutions by borrowing global standards for designing new and assessing existing Nature Based Solutions
- Prioritize Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as tools that allow users to access powerful cloud computing resources to query, access and process satellite data quickly and efficiently for creating advanced analysis needs.

(iii) Capacity and Partnerships for Climate-Resilient Development

- More attention should be given to sustainable management and reuse of wastewater and sanitation as in the next 20 years, there will be a golden age for wastewater and sanitation where many countries will have opportunities to leapfrog like energy savings up to 50%, backed-in circular water principles among others.
- Limited access to safe water and sanitation remains key challenge threatening our local communities. Water is a system of systems that we can view from different heights. Therefore, there is need for a systems perspective of a water cycle.
- Sectors should not maintain “silos” but open with “windows and doors” for coordination and cooperation within and among sectors. Therefore, it recommended that government sectors should sectorial engagement while retaining their mandates
- In achieving the above there is need to develop a framework for assessing the benefits and cost of vertical and horizontal coordination and partnerships with clear indicators at various levels. The need to allocate money to coordination and capacity building cannot therefore be over emphasized

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(iv) Innovative financing mechanisms

- 30% of Uganda’s budget goes to debt financing and therefore constrains capacity and ability to fight climate change.

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- Borrowing for Uganda is no longer an option and therefore a need to put in place policies, legal and institutional frame work that can enable innovative financing.
- Many innovative financing options exist but awareness of their existence is low and capacity to access them limited.
- There is need to explore citizen led financing for proven and bankable nature based projects building on principles of co-management and co ownership.
- Building capacity and strengthening the country ability to access and utilize available climate financing mechanisms for example carbon credit, green bonds and funds therefore remains a priority.
- Improvement of utilization and governance of existing and new funds is part of the innovations to prioritize.
- In addition, there is a need to explore more the use of environmental instruments for resource mobilizations in addition to making investments and borrowers bankable.¹

b) UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE, MARCH 2023

The UN Water conference was held for the first time since 1977 in New York from March 22 to 24, 2023 with the aim to accelerate progress on water-related goals and targets worldwide, including those set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). The UN Water Conference held as “Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’, 2018–2028”. The Conference provided a unique opportunity to make commitments and accelerate action towards achieving internationally agreed water-related goals and targets. Through the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, the global community committed to advance the water agenda by energizing existing programmes and projects and Inspiring water action to achieve the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 6. The Water Action Decade (2018-2028) outlines an ambition to advance progress across sectors. The key actions include i) Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for all, ii) Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems, iii) Promoting sustainable water management practices iv) Increasing investment in water infrastructure and services, v) Strengthening transboundary water cooperation, vi) Enhancing water governance and regulatory frameworks, and vii) addressing water pollution and reducing water waste

The UN 2023 Water Conference focused on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives, the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects, as well as on the furtherance of cooperation and partnerships at all levels. The Conference saw the adoption of the Water Action

¹ For more details on the outcomes, key messages and recommendations from the UWEWK2023 see the full report on www.uwewk.mwe.go.ug

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Agenda, representing voluntary commitments of nations and stakeholders to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets connected to water. The UN 2023 Water conference was held under 5 thematic areas namely Water for health; Water for Sustainable development; Water for climate resilient and environment; Water for Cooperation and Water Action Decade under which the interactive dialogue were held in parallel with the plenary meetings and side events.

Participating in the UN 2023 Water Conference reinforced Uganda's aspirations of accelerating access to water, strengthening water resources management and ensuring water equity as enshrined in the Uganda Vision 2040, The Third National Development Plan (NDP III) and Natural Resources Programme Implementation Action Plan (PIAPs), and the Updated Nationally Determined Contributions. In line with the requirements of the conference, Uganda submitted 6 voluntary commitments as follows:

1. Accelerate inclusive access to safely managed water and sanitation services in both rural and urban areas in order to reach out to the underserved population;
2. Ensure availability of adequate and good quality water for domestic use and for productive purposes through transformational initiatives with a focus on marginalized groups so that no one is left behind;
3. Accede to the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes as a means of promoting transboundary water cooperation;
4. Scale up partnerships and collaboration through ongoing initiatives under the National Development Plan 3 such as the Program-based approach to planning and implementation; the catchment-based planning, development and management of water and related resources; the annual Uganda Water and Environment Week, and other water related programs;
5. Implement the updated Nationally Determined Contributions with special focus on ensuring resilient water supply systems for domestic and productive uses, promoting sustainable water harvesting and storage, increasing sanitation and waste water treatment infrastructure and services, scaling up integrated water resources management approaches and water use efficiency, and protection of ecosystems.
6. Scale up Uganda's response to conflict and climate change induced migration and displacement through improved water services and water security.²

² A full Uganda Report with summary of outcomes and recommendations from the UN2023 Water Conference can be accessed on website www.mwe.go.ug

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As a way forward with respect to the outcomes and recommendations of the conference and voluntary commitments by Uganda the following is or needs to be done:

1. An Action plan and work plan for operationalization of all commitments and recommendations needs to be developed for the short term and long term to enable regular reports on the progress to be prepared and shared within the Uganda and at UN level.
2. A mechanism to follow up the pledges and commitments that were made by various development partners that are relevant and of interest to Uganda should be developed and implemented.
3. The commitments and recommendations for Uganda should be quantified and costed in order to solicit for funds for their implementation.

c) 2023 SDG SUMMIT, SEPTEMBER 2023

The 2023 SDG Summit marked the halfway point between the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by the UN in 2015 and the target year of 2030 for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The Summit provided an important opportunity for countries to highlight progress and challenges, and propose key actions for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while addressing gaps between the global north and global south. Throughout the Summit, several key issue areas emerged as discussed below.

The first, and most common, was the call for reform of the international financial architecture. The conference emphasized the importance of improving developing countries' access to finance, with an SDG stimulus of at least 500 billion U.S. dollars required per year. Participants called for an effective debt-relief mechanism and a change to the business model of multilateral development banks to “massively leverage private finance at affordable rates to benefit developing countries.”

Beyond GDP. Many participants called for the implementation of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) that would allow for the inclusion of more than just income-based criteria in assessing countries' eligibility for financing, making financing more accessible to developing nations, especially those most vulnerable to environmental, economic, and social crises.

Private capital. The importance of unlocking private capital (using a portion of its public budget to de-risk private investments) was echoed given insufficient public funding and pledged 300 billion euros in developing economies in the next five years in renewable energy, stronger health systems, quality education, green transport and digital infrastructure.

Secondly, many identified food security as one of the most pressing issues globally.

Thirdly, climate change was highlighted throughout the Summit as a critical global challenge. Various participants emphasized the harms of climate change, stating that the increased severity and frequency of natural disasters exert a disproportionate toll on vulnerable countries that are already

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under debt distress. Many others called upon wealthy nations to fulfil their promises to developing nations as set by The Paris Agreement.

Fourthly, expanding social protection and improving education were identified as priorities, reaffirming the importance of “leaving no one behind.”

Gender equality. The equality, empowerment, and proportionate representation of women and girls were mentioned as priorities not just in their own right, but also as essential to achieving international cooperation, climate action, and equitable finance policy.

Multilateralism. Finally, need to strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation was stressed.

d) 2023 WORLD BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT, September 2023

The World Biodiversity Summit’s was held in September 2023 with the overall objective of building strong cross-sector coalitions to facilitate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Paris Agreement, identifying the strong synergies between climate and biodiversity goals to advance ahead of COP28 and COP16 (2024 UN Biodiversity Conference). It focussed on advancing Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. The 2023 Summit program was designed to transform visions into solutions-oriented partnerships and to convert biodiversity protection goals into concrete action for living in harmony with nature. The main discussion areas of WBS2023 were:

- Helping businesses, financial institutions and policymakers to successfully implement the GBF by assisting them in understanding their roles and responsibilities.
- Creating and promoting new coalitions focused on achieving a nature-positive, regenerative economy while limiting global warming to 1.5°C and meeting GBF targets.
- Identifying nature markets to close the nature finance gap, such as supporting Nature-based Solutions that have the potential to counter climate change and biodiversity loss.

The conference noted that achieving positive climate and environmental outcomes entails responsibility redistribution across the food systems value chain. It noted that farmers worldwide should recognize the significance of mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services in agriculture. Collaborate with governments, the private sector and NGOs “to build a more sustainable, resilient, fair and equitable future for the people and the planet needs to be strengthened.”

e) SEVENTH NILE BASIN DEVELOPMENT FORUM, OCTOBER 2023, UGANDA

The Nile Basin Development Forum held in Kampala, Uganda in October 2023 was the seventh in its series, held every three years at rotational basis within the Nile Basin Countries. The NBDF aims at bringing together a broad spectrum of Nile Basin stakeholders from within and beyond the Nile Basin to build common understanding among stakeholders policymakers, scientists, practitioners, and the public at large on the status of the common water and natural resources base, the shared complex

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challenges and, ultimately, to exchange perspectives on the solutions for addressing the water security challenges facing the Nile Basin countries. The NBDF was held under the overall theme “Deepening Nile Cooperation: Accelerating the Achievement of SDGs in a Changing Climate” . The discussions and dialogues during NBDF7 focused on the five sub-themes as follows: i) Water, energy, food nexus ii) Ecosystem sustainability iii) Climate change adaptation and mitigation, iv) Financing and investment and v) Transboundary water governance. The objective of the 7th NBDF was to enhance processes by which transboundary water cooperation can translate into tangible mutual benefits for Nile riparian countries and contribute to NBI’s shared vision, which is to promote socio-economic benefits for the people and countries of the Nile Basin, and this while maintaining the integrity of ecosystems. Some of the key messages and recommendations for the Nile Basin region/riparian countries are:

Water Resources Management and Development

1. Increase efforts to develop hydropower and promote regional power interconnection and power trade to improve regional energy security, and power industries thereby promoting job creation and catalyzing economic growth and at the same time relieving pressure on the environment which in turn with sustain Nile flows.
2. Urgent need to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, including development of multi-purpose storage reservoirs to smooth out the projected variability in extreme flows in the Nile.
3. The Nile riparian countries need to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to regional trade in agriculture products to support efforts to attain regional food security.
4. Generating knowledge and information products, and promoting their use in decision making on the preparation of investment programs and the management and development of the Nile waters resources.
5. The Nile riparian countries need to embark on a stepwise approach to coordinate the operation of water infrastructure.
6. Increased efforts are needed to mobilize innovative financial resources to implement the infrastructure development programs needed to alleviate poverty and reverse environmental degradation in the Nile Basin.
7. The water sector needs to better articulate its importance in economic terms to be able to attract more financing in the national budgeting processes.

Transboundary Water governance

8. Countries that have not yet ratified the CFA should do so to allow the CFA to come into force, and allow for the establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission that will focus on deepening cooperation and expanding programs for the development and protection of the Nile water resources.

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9. A spirit of brotherhood and cooperation, and duty to use the common Nile water resources responsibly while respecting the rights of other riparian to benefit from the same resources needs to be nurtured among the NBI Member States.
10. . Greater effort is needed to increase cross-sectoral collaboration.
11. Greater engagement is required between water and environment professionals, on the one hand, and politicians and policy makers, on the other hand, to ensure political support for water resources and environmental management and development programs.
12. There is need for continuing education to attain and maintain high levels of competency in water diplomacy, negotiation and communication skills among the staff of the riparian countries to be able to deal effectively with the complex issues and situations concerning the sustainable management and development of the transboundary Nile water resources.
13. The NBI Member States need to deepen partnership with non-state actors as they are a critical mechanism for reaching out to, and mobilizing grassroots communities to participate in transboundary water management programs and environmental protection.

The Forum concluded with a call on all peoples of the Nile Basin to join the effort to protect the water and environment of the Nile river basin, and redouble efforts to prepare and implement water resources development programs that will support the attainment of the Shared Vision Objective, which is, “*to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from the shared Nile Basin water resources*”³.

f) AFRICASAN7 CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 2023

The AfricaSan 7 Conference, a flagship event for sanitation and hygiene in Africa, was held in November 2023 with a series of impactful sessions and declarations to foster accelerated actions for inclusive, sustainable, and resilient sanitation and hygiene services delivery across the continent. The significance of collective efforts in addressing sanitation and hygiene challenges was emphasized as well as the role of partnerships and cooperation in achieving the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) goals.

The Swakopmund Declaration on “*Accelerated Actions for Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Sanitation and Hygiene Services Delivery in Africa*” was issued highlighting key priority actions needed to advance the sanitation and hygiene agenda in Africa as follows:

- a) To revitalise the pursuit of the targets of the Ngor declaration through promoting “Accelerated Actions for Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Sanitation and Hygiene Services Delivery in Africa”.
- b) To release the development potential of the sanitation economy to benefit business and society in Africa. Of particular urgency, is the need to address the sanitation failures associated with floods and/

³ Full report on the 7th Nile Basin Development Forum on www.nilebasin.org

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or droughts subsequently causing disease burden constraining productivity of the labour force and degrading the environment in most of the Member States. The African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPGs) provide the framework for promoting the sanitation economy.

- c) To promote Assuring sustainable water availability and safe sanitation systems to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 as the theme of the African Union for 2026 when the post-2025 Africa Water Vision comes into effect.
- d) To act with urgency on our declarations and political commitments in the implementation that will contribute to the following outcomes:
 - i. Governance and sanitation enabling environment
 - ii. Partnerships for action
 - iii. Innovative financing and resource mobilization services.
 - iv. Inclusion, hygiene and behaviour change
 - v. Research, knowledge creation, capacity development, and learning

The meeting participants reaffirmed their commitment to the mission of achieving inclusive, sustainable, and resilient sanitation and hygiene services delivery in Africa

g) UNFCCC, CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP28), DECEMBER 2023

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference, also known as the ‘Conference of the Parties (COP)’, brings together world leaders, ministers and negotiators to agree on how to address climate change. The negotiating parties include governments that have signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement. The COPs are also attended by thousands of representatives from civil society, the private sector, international organizations and the media. Since COP21 in 2015, the COPs have revolved around how to implement the Paris Agreement, which has three main goals: keep global average temperature rise to ‘well below’ 2°C and pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; adapt to climate change and build resilience; and align finance flows with ‘a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development’. COP28 was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 30 November to 12 December 2023. The COP 28 Agenda focussed on: Loss and Damage, Climate Finance and Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) that inclined to the cross-cutting themes of: i) Technology and Innovation ii) Inclusion iii) Frontline Communities and iv) Finance. Each day's programming had a theme that incorporates the four cross-cutting themes that underpin effective, interconnected delivery. The COP28 advocated for acceleration for the equitable phasing out of fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050 or sooner, building climate-resilient societies and investment in climate solutions. The four pillars of the COP28 Presidency's Action Agenda were fast tracking the energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people, lives, and livelihoods, and underpinning everything with full inclusivity. The key outcomes of COP 28 are as follows:

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(i) Mitigation

- Areas for negotiation under mitigation this year included the global stocktake, work program on just transition pathways, and enhanced transparency framework

The Global Stock take (CMA Agenda Item 8, SBI Agenda Item 8 and SBSTA Agenda Item 5)

The Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement (PA) is a process for taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement with the aim to assess the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and its long-term goals. Parties have been negotiating with a view to determine how countries respond to the gaps in mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation in terms of finance, technology and capacity building.

- Developed countries have been unwilling to take the lead in meeting the commitments in the convention and Paris Agreement. There is a push from NGOs and some developed countries to have language around phase out or phase down of fossil fuel.
- Uganda's position is the emphasis that the GST provides opportunities for enhancing climate action, in conformity to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and special circumstances. Developed countries must take the lead in mitigation and providing means of implementation for developing countries.
- Indeed, developed countries should lead including reduction or phasing out their own coal and oil and gas consumptions and opening new sources of the same.
- Just transition pathways. There is now a draft decision text that still has brackets, meaning some areas have not yet been fully agreed to by all Parties. The text provides for a work programme which encompasses pathways that include energy, socio-economic, workforce and other dimensions, all of which must be based on nationally defined development priorities and include social protection so as to mitigate potential impacts associated with the transition.
- Government of Uganda recognizes and welcomes orderly and phased energy transition that minimizes negative consequences on workers, communities, ecosystems and promotes Sustainable Development.
- The Kyoto Protocol is not yet dead. There are proposals for a final deadline of 2025; which may also be extended – but these are under the Presidency.

National energy transition plans

- Many African countries including Uganda have developed national energy transition plans with a mixed energy portfolio that includes the use of natural gas as a transitional fuel while seeking to increase energy produced from renewable energy;
- The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes the multiple possible strategies to transform the energy system to reach net zero CO₂ emissions and to limit likely warming to 2°C or below;
- The pathway that any country or region might follow will depend on a wide variety of factors, including, resource endowments, trade and integration with other countries and regions, carbon

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sequestration potential, public acceptability of various technologies, the nature of domestic industries, the degree of urbanization, and the relationship with other societal priorities such as energy access, energy security, air pollution, and economic competitiveness;

- Accordingly, African countries will pursue Sustainable development pathways (SDPs), aimed at attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the short term and the goals of sustainable development in the long term
- Africa is in support of limiting warming to 1.5°C, however this should be based on differentiated pathways where African countries close the supply gap, rather than developed countries continuing to issue exploration licenses to avoid stranded assets as the African supply will be towards the global demand;
- The economic impact of stranded assets could amount to trillions of dollars. Fossil fuel assets are most vulnerable over the coming decade; oil and gas assets are more vulnerable toward mid-century.
- Fast tracking a just and orderly energy transition

(ii) **Climate Finance**

- The Loss and damage Fund was operationalized. The World Bank is expected to host the fund as the Financial Intermediary Fund. It has to accept some terms first.
- Climate finance is pivotal for enhanced climate action in developing countries, including Uganda. There have been announcements of up to \$726 Million into the Loss and Damage Fund. A lot more is needed to reach \$400bn that is needed.
- Pledges to the Green Climate Fund of \$12.8Bn
- Contributions of \$295Million to the Adaptation Fund
- Multilateral Development Banks announced \$180 billion in additional climate finance.
- COP28 should ensure simplified equitable access to climate finance.
- No decision on the definition on climate finance

(iii) **Adaptation**

- Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement recognize that Adaptation is a global challenge faced by all with local, sub national, national, regional and international dimensions. Adaptation response is a priority for Uganda.
- Recognizing the need to significantly scale up adaptation finance beyond the doubling to meet urgent and evolving needs.

Glasgow-Sharm el Sheikh Work program on the Global Goal on Adaptation.

- The Global Goal on Adaptation Framework is viewed as a replacement of the Cancun Framework which brought into existence the National Adaptation Plans and the Adaptation Committee. It has however been criticized that it had minimal impact on the grassroots. A replacement should be robust to respond to the Paris Agreement.

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Negotiation status

- Africa cannot accept a GGA framework without means of implementation from developed countries for developing countries, especially on the targets;
- Uganda and rest of Africa supported the inclusion of targets, indicators, metrics in the framing of the Global Goal on Adaptation framework. A two-year work programme on indicators for measuring progress has been captured in the text.
- Negotiations on the Global Goal on Adaptation remained sticky and not concluded

(iv) Loss and damage

- It was decided that the consortium of UNOPs + UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) will host the network.
- COP28 delivered historic negotiated outcomes to operationalize Loss and Damage, securing \$792 million of early pledges, providing a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and institutionalizing the role of the Youth Climate Champion to mainstream youth inclusion at future COPs

(v) Technology Development and Transfer

- Technology is crucial to support the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, the Long term strategies and the global temperature goal. Climate technology development and transfer is recognised as one of the means of implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Uganda's expectations from COP28

- A continuation of the discussion on the linkage between technology mechanism and financial mechanism of the convention.
- Support to the National Designated Entities to do their work of mobilising technology needs and deliver on their annual roles and responsibilities.
- A dedicated budget on technology development and transfer in the 8th GEF replenishment.

(vi) Food systems (agriculture)

- Article 9-10 of the Convention initiated the Sharm el- Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.
- The areas of negotiation included the establishment of a coordination group and the development of an online portal to share information on projects, initiatives and policies for climate action relating to agriculture and food security.

State of the negotiations

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- The negotiations failed without a text to send to the COP Presidency for consideration.
- The COP28 UAE declaration on Agriculture, Food and climate has received 142 endorsements from countries.
- Negotiations failed - moved to SB in June next year in Bonn.

(vii) **Gender**

- There was positive progress with a draft text which was previously considered not possible.
- The Global Goal on Adaptation text has included health issues, which is positive news.

(viii) **Capacity Building**

- Capacity building is one of the means of implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The Paris Committee on Capacity Building has a work-plan in place until 2024 which needs support for implementation.

State of negotiations

- It was agreed Developed World will continue to support capacity building in implementation of NDCs.
- The Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) program of work will continue.
- PCCB Work-plan will be supported through financing and other resources.
- Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) requires capacity building and that's the main outcome

(ix) **Major commitments from COP28 include:**

- An unprecedented reference to transitioning away from all fossil fuels to enable the world to reach net zero by 2050
- A significant step forward in the expectations for the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by encouraging “economy-wide emission reduction targets.”
- Building momentum behind the financial architecture reform agenda, recognizing the role of credit rating agencies for the first time, and calling for a scale up of concessional and grant finance.
- A new, specific target to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030.
- Recognizing the need to significantly scale up adaptation finance beyond the doubling to meet urgent and evolving needs.
- COP28 delivered historic negotiated outcomes to operationalize Loss and Damage, securing \$792 million of early pledges, providing a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and institutionalizing the role of the Youth Climate Champion to mainstream youth inclusion at future COPs.
- Fast tracking a just and orderly energy transition

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- Fixing climate finance to make it more available, affordable, and accessible; focusing on people, nature, lives and livelihoods; and fostering full inclusivity in climate action. Under the total Action Agenda at COP28, over \$85 billion in funding has been mobilized and 11 pledges and declarations have been launched and received historic support.
- The launch of ALTERRA, the UAE’s \$30 billion catalytic private finance vehicle, which seeks to mobilize a total of \$250 billion for global climate action.
- The ‘COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food, & Climate,’ embedding sustainable agriculture and food systems in the response to climate change. It received endorsements from 158 countries.
- The ‘COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health,’ to accelerate the development of climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable health systems. It was endorsed by 144 countries.
- The Global Decarbonization Accelerator (GDA) – a series of landmark energy initiatives across the public and private sectors to speed up the energy transition

4.0 UWEWK2024 GOAL, OBJECTIVES, THEME AND SUBTHEMES

4.1 Overall goal of UWEWK2024

The overall goal of UWEWK2024 is to rethink existing approaches and solutions to addressing water, environment, and climate change challenges in Uganda building on outcomes and recommendations of the various global, regional and national water, environment and climate change related events.

4.2 Specific Objectives of the UWEWK2024

The specific objectives of UWEWK2024 to:

- a. Review the status of implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of UWEWK2023, and those of key global, regional and national water, environment and climate change related events
- b. Identify innovative approaches and solutions to addressing water, environment, and climate change challenges in Uganda building on outcomes and recommendations of the various global, regional and national water, environment and climate change related events
- c. Deliberate on the contribution of water, sanitation and environment services in economic development, sustainable climate action, and effective public health preparedness.
- d. Explore options and mechanisms for mobilizing the required financing to achieve various SDGs, beyond SDG6, given the difficulty of aligning investment planning across sectors

In order to effectively realize the above objectives, the following issues will be explored:

- Implications of the outcomes and recommendations of key global, regional and national water, environment and climate change events to Uganda

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- Building an inclusive and open collaborative process between public, private and societal actors and acknowledge the multiple values of actors in achieving water and environment security.
- Role of innovation and technology in dealing with water, environment and climate change challenges
- Role of Natural-Based Solutions for improving resilience to climate change, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of water and environment resources,
- Options for accelerating water and environment business incubation and entrepreneurship.
- Approaches for ensuring resilient built environment and infrastructure focusing on urban areas, where population growth, economic activity, environmental degradation, climate change impacts, and unemployment are more evident.
- Approaches and means of accelerating adaptation and resilience to climate change to prevent loss and damage of lives, livelihood, ecosystems and infrastructure, conflicts, and mobility
- Water-environment-energy- food nexus for sustainable economic development

4.3 Overall theme for UWEWK2024

The overall theme of UWEWK 2024 is *“Rethinking collective action and innovative solutions to water, environment, and climate change crisis in Uganda”*

4.4. UWEWK2024 Subthemes

Four sub-themes are proposed to address water, environment and climate change issues and challenges and outcomes and recommendations of key global water and environment related events namely:

- a) *Sub-theme 1: Sustainable access and utilization of water and environmental resources for economic development,*

Water and environment resources are very important to human survival. These resources are indispensable in our lives, and as the economy continues to rise, the demand of water and environment resources continues to grow. For example, the various needs for water namely Water for People (Water supply and wastewater treatment and disposal), Water for Food (Irrigation, livestock watering, post-harvest processing), Water for Nature (Quality, quantity and distribution for healthy ecosystems), and Water for Other Uses (Energy, oil and gas, navigation, fisheries, drainage and flood management, industry) are increasing at a very high rate. Environment maintains the quantity and quality of water resources implying that the management and development of water and environment resources needs to be done an integrated and holistic manner. It is noted that 15% of Uganda is open water, , 8.9% of Uganda is covered by wetlands, while 12.4% of Uganda is covered by forests. These resources are also shared with other countries and hence are transboundary. They are therefore under increasing pressure from within and outside the country due to high population growth rates, economic development, poor agricultural practices, climate change etc. There is therefore a need to ensure that these resources are sustainably access and utilized to support socio-economic development of the country amidst the increasing in country and transboundary challenges.

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This sub-theme will address water and environment security as one of the most pressing issues globally, in the region and also in Uganda. I will explore opportunities for accelerating inclusive access to safely managed water and sanitation services in both rural and urban areas, the need to ensure availability of adequate and good quality water for domestic use and for productive purposes; promotion of transboundary water cooperation, scaling up integrated water resources management approaches, protection of the environment and all related ecosystems.

The sub theme will further explore the role of sustainable utilization of water and environment resources to boost Uganda's economy with improved livelihood and protection of communities. It will also highlight the relationships between the water-environment-energy-food nexus approaches with economic and environmental objectives to accomplish the objectives of optimal and sustainable management across all sectors.

b) Sub-theme 2: Nature-based solutions to solve water, environment and climate change crisis.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as an approach tackles water, environment and climate change challenges with socio-economic and environmental co-benefits. NbS seek to promote the maintenance, enhancement and restoration of ecosystems as a means to simultaneously addressing a variety of social, economic and environmental challenges globally and across the region in sustainable manner. Nature-based solutions (NBS) for water and environment resources management involve the planned and deliberate use of ecosystem services to improve water quantity, quality and to increase resilience to climate change.

While the efficacy and desirability of NbS could be approached from different societal, ecological, and perhaps other perspectives, the focus of this sub theme will be on their economic attributes. The sub-theme will assess progress made in promoting nature-based solution in Uganda and globally to enhance water harvesting and storage, integrated water resources management approaches, and protection of ecosystems. It will also identify innovative approaches and solutions for scaling up nature based solutions for ensuring resilient water supply systems, livelihood improvements, job creation and accelerating water and environment business incubation and entrepreneurship. It will assess the need for research and innovations to develop and strengthen climate adaptation strategies; development of several specific approaches that can close the implementation gap for water, sanitation, hygiene, environment and climate change. The sub theme will assist in broadening the understanding importance of nature-based solutions which have emerged globally as one of the sustainable and cost-effective ways to 'fix' the broken ecosystem and ultimately integrate communities, nature and heritage.

Sub-theme 3: Resilient built environment and infrastructure in urban settings

Over half of the world's population live in urban areas nowadays, and this has increased the vulnerability of these areas with high complexity of problems. Although many urban areas that have survived for centuries showed resilience against many challenges such as natural disasters and

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conflicts, enhancing the resilience of cities and towns should become a priority as many other new global challenges have emerged, particularly climate change.

Understanding resilience is necessary to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development as it explicitly acknowledges resilience a range of the SDG targets. In the context of the built environment, many researchers have investigated how resilience can be used as a tool for development in urban planning.

This sub-theme aims to establish a better understanding of how to contextualise resilience in the built environment and infrastructure through accelerating inclusive access to safely managed water and sanitation and hygiene services; increasing sanitation, waste water treatment infrastructure and services; improved water services and water security. It will further assess opportunities for incorporating robust urban climate actions in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as enhancement of cooperation between local and national governments on planning, financing and implementation. The sub-theme will further explore opportunities for sustainable climate resilient developments, mitigation and adaptation in cities and urban centres. It will further explore adaptation and mitigation initiatives, technologies, planning and regulations to bridge climate resilient infrastructure development.

c) Sub-theme 4: Protection of lives, livelihoods, and property to support community resilience and stability

Despite the clear case for greater investment/financing in protection of lives, livelihoods and infrastructures to natural disasters and climate changes challenges, a wide range of gaps and obstacles hinders progress.

Adaptation to and resilience against the impacts of climate change are urgent and growing priorities around the world as levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continue to increase. Impacts such as water level rise and changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall, floods and landslides are a threat to lives and livelihoods around the world. These impacts undermine economic development and efforts to eliminate poverty and raise living standards. Investing in climate change adaptation and resilience can be an extremely cost-effective way of protecting communities, livelihoods and businesses, and promoting economic development and growth

This sub-theme will review the status of implementation of the updated Nationally Determined Contributions with respect to water, sanitation and environment. It will assess progress made and the required needs in ensuring resilient water supply systems for domestic and productive uses, promoting sustainable water harvesting and storage, increasing sanitation and waste water treatment infrastructure and services, scaling up integrated water resources management approaches and water use efficiency, and protection of ecosystems. It will also review the relevance of the outcomes of the various water, environment and climate change related events, identify innovative approaches and

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solutions therein, and assess the role of innovation and technology in addressing water, environment, and climate change challenges.

The sub-theme will explore opportunities for scaling up Uganda's response to conflict and climate change induced migration and displacement and identify approaches and means of accelerating adaptation and resilience to climate change to prevent loss and damage of lives, livelihood, ecosystems and infrastructure, conflicts, and mobility. The sub theme will stimulate discussions regarding options and mechanisms for mobilizing the required financing to achieve various SDGs. It will further explore opportunities and challenges in scaling-up investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation to increase the resilience of communities, ecosystems and infrastructures.

4.5 Expected Outputs

At the end of UWEWK 2024, it is expected that the participants will be able to:

1. Know the status of implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of UWEWK2023, and those of key global, regional and national water, environment and climate change related events
2. Identify innovative approaches and solutions to addressing water, environment, and climate change challenges in Uganda building on outcomes and recommendations of the various global, regional and national water, environment and climate change related events
3. Know the contribution of water, sanitation and environment services in economic development, sustainable climate action, and effective public health preparedness.
4. Identify options and mechanisms for mobilizing the required financing to achieve various SDGs, beyond SDG6, given the difficulty of aligning investment planning across sectors.

5.0 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND APPROACH

The holistic approach in delivering of the UWEWK2024 is anticipated to create a linkage between previous UWEWKs, and other water, environment and climate change related events such as UN Water Conference 2023, 2023 SDG Summit, 2023 World Biodiversity Summit, Nile Basin Development Forum, AfricaSan7, and COP28. The approach will also amplify the publicity and visibility for the UWEWK through the pre-event activities planned to be implemented between two to three weeks that will cascade into the main event, which will last for five days. It is planned that the overall publicity campaign about the Water and Environment Week will start at least two months prior to the event. The proposed activities for the UWEWK2024 are categorized into (a) pre-event, (b) main event, and (c) post-event activities.

5.1 Pre-event Activities

The UWEWK 2024 pre-event activities will include but not be limited to;

- Planning and organising the UWEWK 2024;
- Publicity campaigns, including use of both print and electronic media, radio and TV talk shows, social media platforms and promotional materials prior to the event;

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- Decentralised UWEWK2024 activities in line with regional sub-themes will be carried out in the 6 de-concentrated regional structures of MWE and will include among others: Radio talk shows, Dialogues and panel discussions, Paper presentations, Regional Hackathon, regional Youth Debates, Marathon, Football matches, awareness campaigns, clean up exercises, restorations and others;
- Walking for water, environment and climate change
- A write-shop to support presenters to prepare and improve their presentations writing skills.
- Community involvement activities such as tree planting, clean up exercises and environmental conservation to raise awareness among the communities and stakeholders in environs of MWE Headquarters, Luzira and Water Resources Institute in Entebbe will be held at national level.

5.2 Methodology and approach to the UWEWK2024 in MWE de-concentrated structure

The UWEWK2024 in de-concentrated structures will be held as hybrid (virtual and physical) to ensure wider reach out to stakeholders at national, regional and international level. The UWEWK regional activities will be held 2 to 3 weeks prior to the main event under specified cross-cutting subthemes that feed into the overall theme of the UWEWK2024. The sub-themes are: a) *Technology and innovations in addressing water, hygiene, sanitation, environment and climate change crisis*, b) *Private sector involvement in provision of water, hygiene, sanitation and environment services*, c) *Youth and women led innovations and entrepreneurships to address unemployment, capacity building, education etc.* Each of the 2 regional de-concentrated structures will focus on at least one of the subthemes as part of their regional activities and discussions. The proposed subtheme distribution for the regional UWEWK2024 are as follows:

- Technology and innovations in addressing water, environment and climate change crisis - **Karamoja and Fort Portal**
- Private sector involvement in provision of water and environment services - **Wakiso and Mbarara**
- Youth and women led innovations and entrepreneurships (representation, engagement, and resource allocation) to address unemployment, capacity building, education etc.- **Lira and Mbale**

5.3 Main Event Activities

The UWEWK 2024 main event will also be held as hybrid (physical and virtual) at the Ministry of Water and Environment auditorium and will include among others the following: Official opening and closing of UWEWK2024, Commemoration of International days, discussion of outcomes and recommendations of UWEWK 2023 and those for global and regional water, environment and climate change related events, Paper and posters presentations, Parallel sessions (side events, applied trainings, national youth debate, career talk, hackathon for the finalist etc.), exhibition, awards and so many other activities.

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The official opening and closing ceremonies will be televised live on selected national television on **Monday 18th March 2024 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and Friday March 22, 2024 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM** respectively. The opening will have a keynote presentation and a dialogue focusing on the theme while the closing ceremony will have a dialogue focusing on the outcomes of the event.

Four thematic dialogues each focusing on the sub theme of the event will run during the event. These will also include among other a key note presentation by a seasoned expert and also a panel discussion from experts on the topic

Parallel sessions will be organized collaboratively with relevant stakeholders and partners working in those specific areas and will be held from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd March 2024. The parallel sessions will include paper presentations, applied trainings, field visits and side events.

5.4 Post Event Activities

The post event activities will include among others:

- Preparation of the summary of the outcomes of UWEWK 2024 and UWEWK2024 full report
- Compiling and publication UWEWK journal
- Implementation of the recommendations and outcomes of UWEWK 2024,
- Continuous communication and dissemination of information about the UWEWK past, present and the future events through various communication channels and audiences
Planning and preparations of UWEWK2025

6.0 COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Ministry of Water and Environment through the Water Resources Institute will lead the organization of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2024. For effective coordination and management, the WRI will work closely with partners (national and international), including Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), Development Partners, academic institutions, UN agencies, as well as private sector institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs, International Water and Sanitation Centres among others.

A National Organising Committee and Sub Committees involving varied stakeholders will be established to support the coordination and management of UWEWK2024

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7.0 PROPOSED BUDGET

The estimated budget for the UWEWK 2024 is **UGX 1,000,000,000**. This will cover pre-event activities, conference, field trips, community engagements, commemoration of three international days, entertainment, printing and publications, publicity and communication, and overall conference preparation. The proposed sources of funding for the Uganda Water Week 2024 are the Government of Uganda (GoU), Strategic Partners, side event fees and exhibition fees.

8.0 PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Partners will be sought and considered as co-conveners and or sponsors, depending on their contribution to the event. As sponsors, partners will enjoy preferential treatment in terms of appearance on publicity materials, and mentions in the media and during conferences, which will help to increase their visibility and contribution to the water and environment sector in Uganda.

9.0 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Individuals, institutions and organizations that would like to participate in the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2024 will need to do so by Expression of Interest (EOI) through physical or online registration. Details of the various deadlines will be indicated in the call for abstracts, papers and invitation for registration.

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