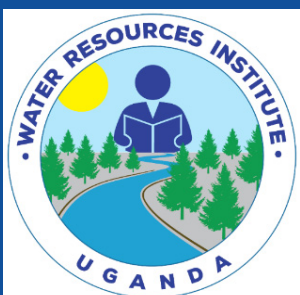




UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK



FINAL REPORT March 2019





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in collaboration with key partners held the second Uganda Water and Environment in March 2019. The focus was to demonstrate the centrality of water and environment in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. This was held under the theme “Water and Environment a strategic driver in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 2030”. It aimed at improving understanding of the centrality of water and environment resources in attainment of SDGs by 2030 by: highlighting how water and environment contribute to society and how society can enhance its stewardship role and contribute effectively to achievement of SDGs related to water and environment; introducing the Blue Economy concept which is the economic benefit and value we realize from the Earth’s freshwater environment; exploring opportunities for achieving green growth through sustainable development and management of water and environment resources; focusing on the inseparable link among security of water, energy, food and ecosystems which is critical to underpin sustainable economies and human well-being; deliberating on the role of robust and effective water and environment governance in equitable societies; providing a forum for improving the integrity of ecosystems for improved water quality, quantity and wastewater management; and exploring innovative funding opportunities and investment vehicles that can support national efforts to achieve the SDGs related to water and environment.

A national outlook on issue of water and environment was built through pre-event activities that were spear headed by the regional structures of MWE across the country and the walk for Zoka forest by the Uganda walkers’ association. In addition, over 140 abstracts were received from various individuals at both national, regional and international levels. These were grouped into the conference themes and presented in six parallel sessions over a period of three days. After the main conference open days were held that allowed the general public to access the venue and also participate in the event. Based on the deliberations there is consensus that prioritization of Water and Environment in Uganda’s development discourse needs to be increased and as such it was recommended to:

- Fast track Implementation of the Presidential Directive “all Central Forest Reserves, Wetlands, Riverbanks and lake shores should be protected”. By restoring the country’s forests landscapes, wetlands, riverbanks and improve these ecosystems with secondary benefits of improving livelihoods.
- Develop measures that ensure equitable and sustainable use of water and environment resources as means to avert the risk of society degenerating into chaos especially the youth who form the bulk of the population
- Change Uganda’s balance sheet to include valuing Uganda’s natural resources. This requires expanding the parameters used in measuring Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to include natural capital accounting.
- Invest in research and development for business, science, technology and innovation to tap into the vast potential in natural resources and adapt to the changing environment
- Respond to the changing financing landscape where there is a reduction in grants and an increase in loans
- Prepare and tap into the green financing mechanisms by establishing regulations and institutional modalities that enhance Uganda’s competitiveness

Similar future UWEWK organization should take into consideration the lessons learnt from the experiences of this water week arrangements



BACKGROUND TO UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK



1.1 INTRODUCTION

Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) is a weeklong event organized annually by Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), spearheaded by the Water Resources Institute (WRI). Initiated in 2018, by Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in collaboration with key partners. It provides an interface for sector actors and other stakeholders for knowledge exchange and improvement of Uganda's water and environment resources and seeks to contribute towards the attainment of sustainable socio-economic transformation in Uganda.

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in collaboration with key partners held the first ever UWEWK in March 2018. The event attracted high-level political participation including the Vice President and the Prime Minister, and enabled stakeholders to deliberate on pertinent sector issues. In addition, the private sector and academic communities presented information, exchanged knowledge and built relationships. The focus of UWEWK 2019 was demonstrating the centrality on water and environment in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The main theme being: **“Water and Environment a strategic driver in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 2030”**

The theme was linked to: Sustainable Development Goals directly and indirectly especially, SDGs 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 15, achievement of economic goals such as reaching middle income status by 2020, and towards Uganda's National Development Plan II (NDP II), which focuses on achieving structural transformation through increased industrial activity, with emphasis on manufacturing, including value addition in agro-processing. Therefore, development and management of water and environment resources will be critical to ensuring steady growth of the manufacturing, agricultural and services sectors.

1.2 OVERALL GOAL

Improved understanding of the centrality of water and environment resources in

attainment of SDGs by 2030.

1.2.1 Objectives of UWEWK 2019

- I. Highlight how water and environment contribute to society and how society can enhance its stewardship role and contribute effectively to achievement of SDGs related to water and environment
- II. Introduce the Blue Economy concept which is the economic benefit and value we realize from the Earth's freshwater environment
- III. Exploring opportunities for achieving green growth through sustainable development and management of water and environment resources
- IV. Focus on the inseparable link among security of water, energy, food and ecosystems which is critical to underpin sustainable economies and human well-being and hence achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.
- V. Deliberate on the role of robust and effective water and environment governance in equitable societies;
- VI. Provide a forum for improving the integrity of ecosystems for improved water quality, quantity and wastewater management.

VII. Focus on innovative funding opportunities and investment vehicles that can support national efforts to achieve the SDGs related to water and environment.

1.3 RATIONALE OF UWEWK

Uganda's fresh water and environment resources are vital for sustaining life, promoting development and maintaining integrity of ecosystems. Living in a healthy environment with access to clean and safe water, improved sanitation facilities and practices are pre-requisites to a healthy population and therefore have a direct impact on the quality of life and productivity of the population. Besides domestic water supply, water is critical for livestock, water supply, industrial water supply, hydropower generation, agriculture, marine transport, fisheries, waste discharge, tourism, and environmental conservation.

However, poor water and environment management contributes to diseases, malnutrition, reduced economic growth, and water insecurity that causes social instability, conflicts and environmental disaster. An in-depth understanding of how water resources work and are vulnerable to environment change is essential for informed decision-making.

The increasing pressures on water and environment resources coupled with challenges of climate variability and climate change, compromise the natural resource base and absorptive capacity of ecosystems. Water and environment resources are strategic natural resources crucial for sustenance of life, agricultural production and industrialization, provides vital input for production, key to socio-economic transformation of society. Consequently, these affect the quality of life, national economies, and sustainable progress.

Therefore, effective water and environmental

management are critical to achieving Uganda's short- and long-term development goals and sustainable management and use of water and environment resources is vital in creating social economic transformation as Uganda seeks to industrialize and meet national development goals.

1.4 VENUE AND HOST

The event was hosted by the Water Resources Institute (WRI) which made it possible for more people to attend and allowed for more flexibility and networking opportunities. The WRI is part of the ministry of water and environment and was established to be a center of excellence in cutting edge applied research, applied training, outreach and dialogues. It's a suitable venue for UWEWK 2019. It is located at the shores of Lake Victoria, with excellent access to public transport, accommodation options and restaurants. Initially it was the office for the directorate of water resources management and is now a central clearing house for the sector.



2.0 ORGANIZATION

2.1 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with key Partners organized and held the second Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) from 18th to 22nd March 2019. The overall organization of the event was spear headed by a National Organization Committee (NOC) chaired by the Permanent Secretary and supported by the Director Water Resources Management Directorate and Director Water Development Directorate (DWD). The NOC had seven sub committees that included the secretariat; technical committee; security and transport; events and exhibitions; communication and publicity; finance and resource mobilization; and Regional events. These sub committees were further subdivided into sub groups based on the needs.

2.2 RESOURCES MOBILIZATION AND FINANCING UWEWK 2019

The overarching principle in organizing the event was that the event is developed to be a self-financing activity tapping from various sources of funds. In line with this, the event was sponsored by several organizations. Sponsorship was solicited based on a sponsorship criterion. This criterion specified the benefits that accrue to the sponsors based on the category of sponsorship they chose. Five possible sponsor options were provided that included platinum sponsors, gold sponsors, silver sponsors, bronze and ivory (Appendix III). Another source of funding was payment for participation and or Exhibition. The potential participants paid participation fees to cater for mainly their meals and stay at the venue. In addition, session co-conveners worked with MWE to plan, finance and implement sessions. This contribution is described below

Table 1: Session co- convenors

SESSION	CO-CONVENER	NUMBER OF PAPERS
Water and environment a strategic driver for attainment of SDGs 2030	UNEP DHI	1
Water environment and society	The World bank	60
Financing SDGs	WaterAid Uganda	20
water food energy ecosystems nexus	the food rights alliance	45
Green growth	Acode	21
Blue economy		11

Besides the co-conveners, side-events' organizers also contributed resources for organizing the event. In implementing various activities for the water week, several partners, supported pre-event and event activities. The tree walker's association, Care, ICRAF and IUCN

supported the walk to Zoka, several regional partners supported regional prevent activities in five out of the six regional structures of MWE. During the event, agencies that offered trainings and field visits also contributed resources for organizing these events.

3 PRE-EVENTS ACTIVITIES

During UWEWK 2019, several pre-event activities were organized to engage and mobilize Ugandans to participate in unlocking the strategic role of Water and environment resources in achieving the sustainable development agenda of 2030. The various pre-event activities of UWEWK 2019 are presented below.

3.1 PREVENT ACTIVITIES

3.1.1 Papers and Abstracts

Paper presenters responded to the call for papers and abstracts. Over 157 abstracts were received from various individuals at both national, regional and international levels. The technical committee reviewed and accepted all the papers which were grouped into the conference themes and presented in six parallel sessions over a period of three days. Based on the abstract review feedback, some of the paper presenters were trained on writing abstracts and making presentations. This was through write shop. This was organized and facilitated by the water and society project that is led by Makerere University in Uganda. This provide useful in enabling non-traditional writers to take time and improve on writing and presentation skills.

3.1.2 Walk for Zoka

The “Walk for Zoka” was organized by the Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD) of MWE in collaboration and with support from National Forestry Authority (NFA), International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), CARE International and International Centre for Agroforestry Research (ICRAF), and Uganda Walkers Association among others. The objective of the walk was to promote forest conservation and raise awareness about the importance of tree growing as an alternative source of forest products.

The walkers were flagged off on 4th/ March/2019 from MWE headquarters in Luzira by the Cabinet Minister for Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris in

presence of the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Okot Alfred, Commissioner Forestry, Ms. Adata Margaret, Executive Director (NFA), Mr. Tom Okello, Commissioner, Department of Water Resources Management (DWRM), Dr. Callist Tindimugaya. The activity ended on 18th March 2019. The walkers traversed seven districts of Luwero, Naksongola, Kiryandongo, Oyam, Gulu, Amuru and finally Adjumani.

Zoka Central Forest Reserve is the largest tropical forest in Northern Uganda located in Adjumani and is duo managed by National Forestry Authority and Uganda Wildlife Authority. The forest is a component of the largest East Moyo Wildlife and biodiversity Reserve where 90% of the communities in the district and neighbors depend entirely on this forest for their livelihood. It covers 1,259 hectares of land and lies in the southern part of Adjumani, Itirikwa and Ukusijoni sub-counties. It is the only natural forest found along the swath of the Albertine region. This area is home to 75 per cent of the world’s insects and birds’ species.

Like any natural forest in Uganda, Zoka forest is undergoing a lot of illegal logging and it is feared that the indigenous species of trees such as the threatened *Azelia* species will be wiped out in a few years to come. Illegal logging in this forest or any other forest in Uganda has been worsened by the increased population of the local people and the constant influx of refugees from neighbouring countries. It is against this background that a 460km walk was organized by MWE under the theme “Walk for Zoka”

Zoka Forest Activities

On 18th.03.2019, the members of the public, NFA, District local government staff, CARE International, DRC, MWE assembled the RDC's office in Adjumani. Ceremonial tree planting was done by the Commissioner Forestry, Ms. Margaret Adata, the RDC Mr. Taban Data Peter, and the Walkers, Mr. Tom Rukundo. The team that constituted of the RDC, NFA, CARE, MWE, DRC, Adjumani district officials, some students among others then set off from Adjumani for Zoka for the field excursion. The first field stop was at Zoka forest where the guests did a forest walk, identified the formerly degraded and encroached areas which were recovering, the degraded savannah woodland which borders with Zoka forest, the diverse tree species within Zoka. The Sector Manager of NFA, Mr. Oguzu Byron welcomed the entire team to the forest and gave a brief about the forest, its history and why this forest is important to NFA. The team

then drove to Zoka Primary School where commemoration of the International Day of Forests in Adjumani was planned to be held

Achievements

- 460km distance was covered on foot by Walkers Association of Uganda and 1300 trees were planted along the path.
- 13 schools were reached during this campaign and participated in tree planting and hand washing activities and 1000 pupils have known and practised proper hand washing
- Thousands of people participated in the campaign and were reached through social media, television, newspapers and physically.
- Thousands of people got the messages of how to get free seedlings and can utilise the opportunity to carry out tree planting on their land.



Walkers beginning to Walk from MWE headquarters, Luzira

3.1.3 Regional activities

Prior to the official opening of the UWEWK 2019, the regional structures of MWE worked with partners in the region to organize regional activities to sensitize the population about the role of Water and environment in sustainable development. This took place between 11th – 15th March 2019. The regional activities were held in Karamoja, Eastern (Mbale), Northern (Lira), Western in the Rwenzori - (Fort portal), and South Western (Mbarara).

3.1.3.1 Mobile caravan

Mobilization of communities using a mobile caravan was carried out in all the, it was used to communicate key messages and benefits the messages to the communities highlighted Water and environment resources as strategic natural resources crucial for sustenance of life, agricultural production and industrialization, provides vital input for production, key to socio-economic transformation of society. Thus, the protection or usage of these resources is cardinal to attaining of sustainable development goals. During the regional events the concept of

UWEWK was introduced to the public, explained the structures of MWE, mandates of MWE regarding water related issues, and invited the public to participate in various activities. These included

- Mobilization and sensitization through radio talk shows, running spot messages, and use of the mobile caravan.
- Clean up exercises in markets
- Engaging cultural, religious and celebrity in clean up exercise
- Exhibition to display the various products and services provided in the water, sanitation and environment and natural resources sectors
- Marching with band through the towns
- Mobilizing schools and engaging them in various activities.
- Held community Dialogues on Water and Environment related issues in the region
- Tree Planting



The team march through town to Akibua stadium for a Baraza

3.1.4 Entebbe Clean up Exercise

The ministry of Water and environment in collaboration with WaterAid and Entebbe municipality, organized a cleanup exercise on the 16th March 2019. The cleanup focused in Rugujo and Kitioro markets in the Entebbe. During this process the community was mobilized and about 10 schools participated in the clean exercise. This was also used to share and sensitize the communities as well. The key takeaway from the speeches included the following:

Commissioner, Water Resources Planning and Regulation explained that the 2019 UWEWK is celebrated under the theme: Water and Environment strategic driver in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. It will be open to the public, sector line ministries, political leaders at different levels, donors, academia, civil society organizations, the media public and private sectors. He told the residents that they need to maintain surface and ground resources, if Uganda is to attain SDGs 6. He assured the community that the government, through National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), is trying hard to bring affordable safe water closer to the people and revealed that plans are under way to increase the number of public stand pipes at different locations in the community.

The Mayor of Entebbe called for the protection of water resources. His message focused on the need to protect the wetlands and swamps and plant more trees. Mitigate the dumping of

plastic waste especially the plastic bottles and polythene bags commonly known as kavera which is affecting our environment,” Kayanja said. He encouraged the communities to safely manage household wastewater by installing soak pits at their premises. Kayanja told them to separate bio-degradable garbage from non-degradable garbage like plastics, and broken glasses. Bio-degradable garbage can be used for manure. He said that there is an ongoing campaign in Entebbe in which all residents are urged required to have a bathroom, toilets and dish stands. He decried the practice of selling water at exorbitant prices, yet the sellers get the water cheaply from NWSC. “Most residents in Entebbe have piped water but those who do not have purchase a jerry can at sh500 from water stands.

The Country Director WaterAid Uganda, hailed community involvement in the UWEWK activities and said that was crucial to the attainment of SDG targets. “11 years from now we shall have a proper environment if the communities especially the young children and other stakeholder get involved.”

Sebwana Charles Kisiriza Chief Busiro county, Buganda Kingdom started this campaign known as Bulungi Bwansi in order to protect our environment. Eron Vello Bubyee, chief of Mutuba Etaano, Busiro Sub county, said, “This is a good move especially for us in Buganda Kingdom, we are moving at the same pace with government, we need more sensitization on protecting the environment.”



The Main Event



4.1 CONFERENCE (PLENARY, PARALLEL SESSIONS AND DIALOGUES)

During the Water week a three days conference was held. It involved an opening session which was presided over by the minister of water and environment, key note by girl child who is an environment ambassador and key note address on the main theme of the conference. Over 1000 people attended the conference and participated six dialogues, parallel sessions, side events and attended applied training sessions



4.1.1 Opening Session

i. Sector actors and other stakeholders were welcomed to the Water Resources Institute (WRI) and asked to use the opportunity that UWEWK2019 provides in allowing for exchange knowledge and experiences, meeting and dialogue, networking and fostering new thinking. UWEWK2019 borrows a lot from lessons learnt from UWEWK2018 and other global events like the International Water Week held in Stockholm.

ii. The WRI was launched in 2018 by the Prime Minister. Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda and it has since hosted various capacity building trainings for the water and environmentsector. One of its flagship activities has been to host the first ever UWEWK2018. WRI shares venue with some departments of the Directorate of Water Resources Management, the Nile Basin Initiative, Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project and Global Water Partnership.

iii. WRI is also as a place to benchmark best practices within the sector while appreciating and developing solutions (as seen through the exhibitions) to the most pressing water and environment related challenges facing the country. The results of which feed into Agenda 2030, VISION 2040, the Paris Agreement and other documents like the National Development Plan

iv. The participants were reminded of some clear and present challenges for Uganda which included: rapid population growth (about 1 million persons per year), encroachment on marginal lands, the loss of 34% of renewable surface water, the loss of 8.4 % of wetlands and 9% of forests cover in Uganda. Uganda's available water per capita is approximately 1200 m³ per person per year and this is quickly moving closer to the critical tipping point of is 1000 m³ per person per year.

4.1.2 Water and Environment - a strategic driver in attainment of SDGs 2030

The theme for UWEWK2019 was- “Water and Environment a strategic driver in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 2030,” was seen to be relevant to the SDGs #6, #13 and #15; although highly related all the other SDGs with their respective 169 targets. Uganda was used to test some of the SDGs whose results formed the baseline for other countries.

4.1.2.1 Key note Message

i. Studies continue to show that climate change is clearly an imminent threat to Uganda and this shall cause more but highly varied rainfall. While there continues to be threats such as that on L. Victoria where there is high nutrient loading of the lake causing an algae bloom that doesn't make it easy for fish to breathe or eat; this is due to excess nutrients from agriculture and sewers loading into the lake.

ii. At a regional and global level, there has been a decline of nearly 40% wetlands in Africa while a 1/3 of the world's population is heading towards zero food and this is expected to worsen under climate change considerations and bad environmental practice. Equally worth noting is that 40% of the world's fresh water is used for agriculture and this demand is expected to increase as agriculture production/output is expected to double by 2030.

iii. The children added their voices to drum up attention to the challenges

especially the cry against plastics and drying up of swamps for building of industry. Their proposed solutions were: a call for reflections on the Paris Agreement that urges the world to keep global temperatures at below 2 degrees Celsius, urged developed nations to increase resources for mitigation and adaptation, and urging the Uganda Minister to make laws that anybody who cuts down a tree buys double the seedlings.

iv. Representative of local governments emphasized the traditional and culture value of natural systems such as lakes, rivers and forests; for example, in the central region of Uganda on how it is used to demarcate boundaries such as villages, counties etc. They pointed out that previously, environmental damage was blamed on the illiterates but now this has significantly moved to the rich, knowledgeable and powerful individuals in society; any attempts for them to protect the environment is considered opposition to Central Government and therefore such efforts are “politically poisoned”.





4.1.2.2 Panel discussions feedback and Actions

- The challenge in attaining the Agenda 2030 target shall be the delicate balance of development needs and the availability natural resources while the key challenges were recognized to be limited capacity and resources; but also, a change of mindset.

- With regards to SDGs, most counties were seen to be off target while Uganda is on track but rather at a slow pace and this needed to be hastened, align budget to SDGs, continued alignment of NDP to the SDGs, encouraging the balance between economic growth and green growth (or ecosystem needs) with sustainability and coordinating the key sectors to keep track of indicators.

- The subsequent UWEWK events need to be more regionalized where some activities are held at the regions/ districts or persons from districts are intentional brought to the UWEWK so that they can participate proactively such as in exhibitions or borrow from exhibitions.

- There is need to invest in science, technology and innovation with a strong emphasis on smart policies and the need for more research and development to improve products

and operations; the proceeds from such should then be re-invested back into operations,

- Whereas the private sector is appreciated more for creation of jobs and pay taxes, it can be a vehicle for the attainment of SDGs; its role in environmental protection should be highlighted for example participation on restoration of river Rwizi or they should also be encouraged to improve on operational efficiency, recycling of waste water so that the environment is protected.

- Employment must be created away from the environment or land; otherwise the pressure from young people for survival has led them to become big agents of environmental destruction in acts such as sand mining, making of bricks, etc.

- Reduce over reliance on international players for solutions and quickly find home grown and internal solutions to solve Uganda's problem. This may also involve becoming active participants in partnerships or working with others to mobilize resources.

- A private members bill in parliament was suggested to have laws put in place to encourage rainfall harvesting from household to community level.

4.1.3 Water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus

This theme focused on the inseparable link among security of water, energy, food and ecosystems which underpins sustainable economies and human well-being.

4.1.3.1 Key note Message

- i. The sustainable management and use of water requires a multi-sectoral approach and involvement of all stakeholders and communities (including the youth and farmers) in planning, financing, implementation and monitoring. This is well exemplified by Uganda through the use of catchment resources management.
- ii. Conduct an analysis on Uganda's water resources to determine the amount of water required to achieve its National objectives especially now that the country is deteriorating into water insecurity due to widespread pollution, degradation of the catchment areas, reclamation of wetlands, rainfall variability and climate change, and the high and fast-growing demand for water for different uses.
- iii. Expediting the development of the National Irrigation Master Plan to provide clear guidance and approaches for national irrigation development and consider of sustainable water resource use in Uganda and future impacts of climate change.
- iv. Strengthening coordination between Ministry of Water & Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries on Implementation of the National Irrigation Policy
- v. Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) through construction of or adoption of valley tanks, farm ponds etc. has helped in collection/catchments of water for domestic use especially in semi-arid areas, increasing the production after supplementary irrigation and production is sustained even during dry season.
- vi. There is a need to build people's capacity by improving people's skills and knowledge on RWH; this may also include sensitization against vandalism and user management fees, maintaining good water quality and fencing of the RWH.
- vii. From the water resources reform study which was undertaken to establish how effective the framework has been on water resources, it has been seen that the nexus approach of management creates an integrated and sustainable system.
- viii. This has since resulted into helping people access safe and clean water, improved livelihoods through water & soil conservation, improved agricultural output through irrigation and improved nurseries, rehabilitated degraded river banks, roads infrastructure have constructed and involvement of stakeholders.
- ix. Wind energy development for water abstraction systems has since been established in Karamoja sub-region with promising results which has seen power provided to pump water for irrigation while promoting sustainability and environmental quality. This should thus be extended to the rest of the semi-arid areas that face water stress such as the Teso sub-region
- x. The promotion of trees on farms has been carried out to enhance farmer's choices for ecosystem benefits such as biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. The results are that an optional manual and an app called Africa tree finder were developed to understand what drives farmer's preferences and also help farmer's access knowledge **about** trees.

4.1.3.2 Panel discussions feedback and Actions

- i. There is the need to create working groups from different sectors to tackle and move the important issues of the day forward. This shall help reduce working in silos or emphasis of people working under “mandates”.
- ii. There is need to profile and establish innovations centers like KIRA motors project, banana initiative that is leading to the manufacture of flour, biscuits and juice/

wine. This could be science and technology parks, engineering centers, exhibitions areas etc. with need safeguard innovations through intellectual property.

- iii. There is need to encourage change of behavior and mindsets towards greater awareness of what can be done at individual and community level to eventually have a greater effect. For example, soaking of beans before cooking helps reduce cooking time by nearly 4 hours or use of improved cook stoves helps reduce on energy loses.



4.1.4 Water, Sanitation, Environment and Society

This theme focused on how water and environment contribute to society and how society can enhance its stewardship role and contribute effectively to achievement of SDGs related to water and environment.

4.1.4.1 Key note Message

- i. The solutions as related to the sub-theme can be found in the 3i(s) of Information (e.g. access, use etc), Institutions and investments. An example given is that information may be analyzed to provide learning trends and re-imagine knowledge.
- ii. Well adopted water-efficient techniques and practices have shown the reduction of water consumption by Century Bottling Company Ltd, increasing the efficiency of the bottle washing machine and reduction of grey. The results are such that the water indicator has changed from 3.06L of water for a liter of beverage produced is now averagely 2.2L of water/L of beverage produced. The volume growth was >7% in 2017 and this demand has reduced by 17% leading to an annual saving of >15% due to reduction in the overall cost of the water bill.
- iii. There is an increased negative economic impact of cyano-bacteria blooms on the ecosystem and the NWSC water supply system due to wastewater from large urban areas and therefore a call for adoption of WHO guidelines for drinking and bathing water, dissemination of public information for better use of raw water for sanitary aspects and improved wastewater treatment and sustainable land use management within the catchment.
- iv. The presence of heavy and trace metals which include iron and mercury beyond the recommended WHO (2012) guideline limits (which may cause cancer) values have been found within the Albertine Graben and this has been influenced by gas flaring during oil development while others resulting from dissolution of ferrous borehole and hand pump components
- v. The most feasible technology option for harnessing the groundwater resource in Kyoga Basin is the deep well technology since the main aquifer is located at the interface between the regolith and the bedrock. This should greatly inform the design of boreholes and thus reduce costs.
- vi. Society especially the host communities and water management team play a great role in improving landslide protection because they encourage better farming and housing methods, discouraging cultivation on steep slopes, encourage planting of deep-rooted indigenous trees and discouraging their cutting. They become agents for early warning and sensitize other members about post-landslide management strategies as they constitute disaster management committees at sub-county and village level.
- vii. There is a clear need to promote alternative livelihoods for fisheries communities to allow for natural resource regeneration; and also, due consideration for gender issues such as focus on women since they are the bread winners but also allow the groups to own the project which should be politicized. These activities could be cakes baking, bar soap and liquid soap making, etc
- viii. Trans-boundary water governance and cooperation within the IGAD region can be strengthened by providing capacity

building on sharing and negotiation skills, building trust for collective work, encouraging interdependence whereas the challenges are lack of funding and the right attitude to sharing benefits, limited capacities and lack of legal and institutional frameworks.

ix. There are clear environmental implications for developing countries on the use of wood fuel for safe water as water needs to be boiled to minimize water-borne diseases while the use of fuel wood for boiling water can have distraction on the environment hence the need for efficient energy sources.

x. The water resource institute was seen with the potential role of building capacity in both orientation and holistic programs although it can very much assist the MWE in reporting progress, doing applied research, engaging water experts on policy issues, demand driven trainings and review of environment policy.

xi. For WASH interventions to have an effect, there need for the correct messaging was seen as very important such as washing hands with soap before breastfeeding and preparing food because there is the wrong perception for example teething caused diarrhea. Otherwise, non-improved sources should be banned since people prefer to go to the cheaper, unsafe option while baselines are necessary for intervention.

xii. Community participation in water source protection activities for piped water supply systems is challenged because community fear of losing land, income loss in buffer zone, presence of eucalyptus trees in buffer zone and no funds for monitoring at district level but some of this may be overcome by selection of good tree species, assurance of land ownership, continuous capacity building, community involvement from inception and sustainability plans should come from community.

xiii. There is need to urgently develop and

enforce a National O&M framework for rural water infrastructure and also on drinking water quality regulation which will phase out phase out rural water supply technologies that are prone to contamination especially 'protected springs' and 'shallow wells.'

xiv. RUWASA is one of the biggest programmes on water and sanitation to be implemented in rural Uganda and it has had significant contributions like improving sanitation levels up to 40% and water supply up to 70%, improving capacity of Technical units at the district, upgrading of institutional capacities on WRM and developing key policies on water and sanitation.

4.1.4.2 Panel discussions feedback and Actions

i. Access to water is a basic human right and non-negotiable meaning that commercialization of it is seen as a limiting to access and allocation at household and community level. This therefore calls for more sensitization and awareness of the population to appreciate that water is not inherited and therefore not a free good.

ii. The private sector needs to see themselves in broader terms as part of the environment and not just as a means to production and consumption leading to unnecessary competition between investments and environmental protection which can be greatly improved through sustainable development.

iii. It was recognized that there is strong limitation of capacity at local government where sometimes there is only one officer in charge of environment, forestry, wetlands etc. which limits their ability to manage natural resources but also enforce compliance. This is further compounded by corruption, the fear for losing jobs, poor land tenure systems and lack of political will from senior positions.

iv. It was further recognized that there is plenty of data but no honesty in that data and sometimes information is shared in silos for example academia sharing amongst themselves. This needs to change to a point where information cascades to community, research to industry etc. leading to influence of the right legislation, research and development etc.

v. The religious groups like churches and mosques could become education centers for water and environment since they have large and listening audience; there was also a call for one day dedicated as a public holiday creates awareness on water and environment issues. This should be as additions to the already existing national days (8th March-women's day, 21st March-World environment day, 1st May-Labor Day and 12th May-youth day).



4.1.5 Green growth

The theme aimed at exploring opportunities for achieving green growth through sustainable development and management of water and environment resources.

4.1.5.1 Key note Message

i. Catchment management approach is being promoted by the MWE for effective planning and monitoring of water catchment areas. However, the catchment area has a range of resources including forests, water, farmlands. For this approach to succeed, it calls for engagement of a wide range of stakeholders including resource users, politicians, and district technical officers.

ii. The government should put in place incentives to encourage Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to adopt green production and technologies. It has been shown that small enterprises find it easy to adopt green production technologies much more than large enterprises.

iii. Green infrastructure enhances the availability of water during the long dry periods for domestic and animal uses. Unlike other neighboring areas, locations with green infrastructure were found to have pastures available even during the long dry spells.

iv. The REDD+ project has developed a REDD+ strategy which has been the basis for developing the Forest Investment Plan (FIP) for the country.

v. It is important to have creative and innovative approaches of communication to ensure effective engagement and participation of the indigenous forest dependent communities. These communities are located in areas that are difficult to access and yet there is need for their participation to ensure conservation of the cultures-which have a strong link to the forest ecosystem.

vi. The Uganda National Forest Stewardship Standard was approved and launched; it has the opportunities for advancing responsible Forest Management in Uganda because nearly 80% of the timber is illegal logged.

vii. A Civil Society Organisations and networks on renewable energy policy group has been formed. The moment it has mobilized key stakeholders to develop a roadmap and has an MOU with the Ministry although the visible challenge is that well-coordinated.

viii. An assessment of the potential impacts of Oil and Gas development and associated activities on water resources in the Albertine Graben show that the operations will require lots of water in the early years with the mode of abstraction leading to flooding and danger to the lake as abstraction may be done on surface water.

ix. Work for a coordinated data and information gathering and sharing on the forest sector that will inform policy makers and decision makers. This shall need to be coordinated through the sectoral institutions for all stakeholders to generate and regularly deposit their data to aid tracking the achievements on the various commitments.

x. Forests and trees should be linked to the broader ecosystem services such as watershed management, biodiversity conservation and benefits to people so that they can appreciate trees on their farms which will contribute to achievement of the national and global targets. A strategy is also needed to be developed on how

communities can systematically integrate trees on their farms as a mechanism for broader restoration efforts in the landscape.

xi. Promote and sustainably manage urban forests and trees to attain resilience or cities and towns; herein forest owners may be incentivized to improve natural forest cover on privately owned land.

Furthermore, forest product development may be improved through value addition.

xii. Ensure those who commit forest crimes are given sanctions commensurate to the crime for example Government should cancel illegal land titles in forest reserves.



4.1.6 Blue economy and SDGs

The theme introduced the Blue Economy concept, which is the economic benefit, and value we realize from the Earth's freshwater environment. Sustainable Blue Economy provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations, restores, protects and maintains the diversity, productivity and resilience of aquatic ecosystems, and is based on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows.

4.1.6.1 Key note Message

i. A policy opportunity exists where it should be argued that without the biosphere, there cannot be society and without society, there cannot be an economy. This therefore provides a strong case for wealth of a nation to not only be measured in terms of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) but also environment; hence the need for financial or economic reforms.

ii. 60% of the planet is degraded and 70% of global risks are caused by environment losses and poverty which makes inequality to get worse; therefore, the use of the environment needs to be costed (but not in terms of commercialization) so that nature is valued more within the green economy.

iii. Operationalization of Catchment Based Water Resources Management in Karamoja has seen stakeholders are more organized than before, source protection of 3 newly constructed valley tanks, formation and training of water user committees, sensitizing the communities on source protection and protection of valley dams.

iv. There is growing environmental concerns of the River Nile and implications for Uganda's environment management aspirations since the basins has a very high population, huge quantities of artificial fertilizers in use, construction of major dams, evapotranspiration etc. hence a need for better cooperation, joint/shared projects and need to strengthen regulation, enforcement and compliance to standards and systems particularly with regard to factories and industries.

v. Experiences of in management urban river protection zone like River Rwizi in Mbarara Municipality is that buffer zones have already been parceled with title lands

in the protection zone, the 100m protection zone highly contested and resisted, high profile institutions like universities, hospital and hotels are among the river polluters. Although small, some interventions already do have results like restoration has already started and appreciation of the need for buffer zone especially during water stress periods.

4.1.6.2 Panel discussions feedback and Actions

i. The MWE should study the economic contribution of the environment to the economy and thereafter issue environment levy where investment is returned back to the environment. This may also involve providing money directly to the local governments for environmental protection.

ii. Blue economy is limited by lack of appreciation and investments for environment, for example, Uganda needs to develop its maritime activities on its lakes and rivers so that revenue generated can be channeled back to the environment.

iii. There is general appreciation that policy and laws do exist but there is limitation in implementation. This therefore calls for an alignment between the broader vision and resource allocation.

vi. Although it has been recognized that some MDAs cannot defend their budgets before Parliament, it is important that the sector mobilizes MPs to get numbers on their side so that more is looked into about democratization of the financing and budgeting process because people feel that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is too powerful than Parliament on budget issues which make certain sectors lose out during budget allocation



vi. Although it has been recognized that some MDAs cannot defend their budgets before Parliament, it is important that the sector mobilizes MPs to get numbers on their side so that more is looked into about democratization of the financing and budgeting process because people feel that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is too powerful than Parliament on budget issues which make certain sectors lose out during budget allocation especially the Water and Environment sector.

4.1.7 Financing Sustainable Development Goals

This theme focused on innovative funding opportunities and investment vehicles that can support national efforts to achieve the SDGs related to water and environment

4.1.7.1 Key Message

- Private financing for forests should be sort /targeted and this could be through lower interest rates, provide more information on forests (cost-benefit, investments periods) information regarding damage and economic gain is not clear. Other forms of funding may be done through social networks like the Rotary foundation for WATSAN and other development projects.
- Catchment management funds needs to be established so that private sector is attracted to water resources management, and this can be done through PES funding or propagating Corporate Social Responsibility. That said, a target of 3% of development project budget should be used to support catchment management.
- The forest stakeholders are cognizant of the role of trees and forests in attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and therefore research in forestry should be invested upon or government and private sector need to provide finances to support the national forestry research agenda with focus on addressing contemporary challenges in forest management
- Recognize the value of forests and natural resources broadly in National Accounting system and support forest law enforcement which can be strengthen through the forestry extension service or improving the financing and structure of the District Forest Services.
- Operationalization of the Tree Fund as provided for in the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003 to increase tree cover among small land owners should be done. This would mean to fast-track the process of passing the Uganda Forestry Association Bill 2010 to regulate the forestry profession





EXHIBITIONS AND SIDE EVENTS

4.2.1 Exhibitions

Several exhibitors (84) participated in the week-long event. This included private sector companies, Development partners and government agencies. Information and technologies regarding innovations in water supply, ground water development and management, water quality management, environment enterprises and electricity generation, catchment management and solar systems was shared in the exhibitions.



4.2.2 Side Events

Several organizations also used the UWEWK event to organize side events these included,

Event	Focus
WASH Financing Alternatives Dialogue	The Adequacy of WASH Financing! here are the Gaps?" organized by Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) in partnership with WaterAid Uganda
Partnering with the private sector in managing water and environmental resources	Experiences of the IWASP program in Uganda organized by IWASP GIZ UGANDA in partnership with IUCN, MWE DWRM, KCCA, UMA
Utilization of the iRain tool for hydroclimatic applications in Uganda	Open source water resource monitoring tool organized by Makerere University
Effectiveness of local WASH systems analyses on service improvement	A case of Kabarole District 2018 Organized by IRC-International Water and Sanitation Centre in partnership with Kabarole District WASH Task team
Addressing inequalities in society is a priority to attain SDG6 Commitments	Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network organized by UWASNET
Promoting access to sustainable WASH in the Agago sub-catchment	The experience of the WASH Alliance International Consortium
Young Water and Environment professionals	CAREER TALK Organized by MWE, GIZ, Youth Go Green

CAREER TALK

The "Career Talk" aimed at connecting young experts with potential employers by which made UWEWK very interesting and gave young professionals an opportunity to learn about potential career opportunities in the water and environment sector as well as sharing challenges/barriers in developing their careers in the sector.

Through a moderated panel discussion with time for questions and answers, the panelists were representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the private sector (Entrepreneur), Engineers Without Borders USA and GIZ.

Being the first event of its kind, the Career Talk was further used to identify need to plan for more activities for young sector experts (students, graduates and junior

experts). The main areas identified were:

1. More talks are needed! The participants generally stressed the need for more similar engagements. These should include more stakeholders and allow more time for interaction and preparation for recruitment processes and employment.
2. Link practice to academia! Partnerships and collaborations between potential employers and academic institutions needed to adopt curriculum and training / internship content to what's needed on the job.
3. Communicate opportunities and trends! Communication about opportunities and trends in the sector to be improved.
4. How to become an entrepreneur? More information and capacity to become an entrepreneur is needed, this includes technical but also managerial and financing aspects.
5. Best place to work? Employers have a responsibility to make their processes transparent and their opportunities meaningful.

4.3 APPLIED TRAINING

Applied training to continue to provide professional development support for participants were carried out. These training were designed to orient and equip participants with contemporary skills to that are needed to address the current trends in the sector. These are indicated in the table below:

Training	Organizer
Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG) Monitoring	Water Resources Institute
Forest-based investments for poverty reduction and environmental sustainability	Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD) and Makerere University
Wetland Related Businesses	Wetlands Department
Effective Communication and Documentation of Water and Environment	International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) & Uganda Water and Sanitation Network (UWASNET)
Water Source Planning and Protection	Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM)
Water Quality Assessment (Demonstration)	Mulago Diagnostics / Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM-WQD)
Micro Irrigation and Solar Technologies (Demonstration)	Water for Production
Innovations in School WASH Promotion: A case of using games	Water for People and Kamwenge DLG/ MOES
Ground water monitoring using CTD Divers / Data Logger Technology	Water for People and Kamwenge DLG
Faecal Sludge Management	GIZ

4.4 OPEN DAYS

The last two days of the event Thursday and Friday were open days these were free for the public to access the venue and participate in several activities. Some participants (210) attended the field visits on Thursday. These included the following:

FIELD VISIT SITE	ORGANISER
Sustainable Forest Management through restoration	National Forestry Authority (NFA) and Forest Sector Support Department FSSD
Faecal Sludge Briquette Production	Water for People & National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC)
Role of Youth in Sustainable Forest Management	Youth Go Green
Weather Forecasting at the New Radar	Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA)
Innovations in waste water treatment using cleaner production strategies	Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM) and Cleaner Production Centre
Effective Management of Piped Water supply Systems using the Umbrella Authority Model	Urban Water and Sewerage Department
Small scale irrigation scheme	Water for Production

4.4.2 National Forestry Stakeholders' Dialogue

In commemoration of the International Day of Forests (IDF) held on 21st March 2019, the School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences, Makerere University in partnership with the Forest Sector Support Department and other stakeholders convened a National Forestry Stakeholders Dialogue that was attended by over 200 participants. The overarching purpose of the dialogue was to provide a platform where stakeholders could engage, explore and generate strategies to address the historical and contemporary threats to forests in Uganda and explore mechanisms of increasing the contribution of forests in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGD's).

National Forestry Stakeholders' Dialogue: Call to Action

The deliberation of the national forestry stakeholders dialogue culminated into a call to actions as follows

- a) Invest in research in forestry with a focus on basic research that Uganda was well-known as a global leader. The government and private sector need to provide finances to support the national forestry research agenda with focus on addressing contemporary challenges in forest management.
- b) Recognize the value of forests and natural resources broadly in National Accounting system and support forest law enforcement.
- c) Work for a coordinated data and information gathering and sharing on the forest sector that will inform policy makers and decision makers. This shall need to be coordinated through the sectoral institutions for all stakeholders to generate and regularly deposit their data to aid tracking the achievements on the various commitments.
- d) Strengthen the forestry extension service through improving the structure of the District Forest Services
- e) Link forests and trees to the broader ecosystem services such as watershed management, biodiversity conservation and benefits to people so that they can appreciate trees on their farms which will contribute to achievement of the national and global targets. A strategy needs to be developed on how communities can systematically integrate trees on their farms as a mechanism for broader restoration efforts in the landscape.
- f) Operationalize the Tree Fund as provided in the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003 to increase tree cover among small land owners.
- g) Fast-track the process of passing the Uganda Forestry Association Bill 2010 to regulate the forestry profession
- h) Promote and sustainably manage urban forests and trees to attain resilience or cities and towns
- i) Incentivize owners of private natural forests to improve forest cover on privately owned land
- j) Improve forest product development through value addition
- k) Ensure those who commit forest crimes are given sanctions commensurate to the crime
- l) Government cancels illegal land titles in all forest reserves.

4.4.3 Commemoration of the World Forest, World Water and Meteorological -Days,

Key Outcomes

- i. The Minister of State for Environment-Hon. Kitutu. K. Mary Goretti relayed a Presidential Directive issued at the Kyankwanzi National Leadership retreat from H.E. President Yoweri Museveni that, “all central forest reserves, wetlands, riverbanks and lake shores should be protected”.
- ii. The Water and Environment sector was seen as pivotal in guaranteeing regional peace and security due to issues related to the trans-boundary nature of water resources and also internal security where societal demands of water and environment resources are critical for livelihood. If this key role is stifled, there is a high risk of society degenerating into chaos especially the youth who form the bulk of the population.
- iii. Behavior change is seen as vital in ensuring citizen participation in the sustainable management of water and environment resources. For example, the issue of governance where office bearers are expected to implement various instruments (policy, legislation, strategy, plans etc.) already in place and secondly, individual responsibility where the single person becomes aware and acts upon irresponsible waste disposal and also involvement in recycling and reduction of resource usage etc.
- iv. Well-articulated and targeted messages should be disseminated to various segments of society but also continued engagement by different government entities accounting for their actions towards water and environment resources.
- v. Valuing Uganda’s natural resource by expanding the parameters used in valuing the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to include natural capital accounting where by Uganda’s natural assets are also added onto the balance sheet.
- vi. Restoration of natural resources should be concerted and deliberate to restore the country’s forests landscapes, wetlands, riverbanks and improve these ecosystems with secondary benefits of improving water resources.
- vii. Although Uganda’s performance on SDGs was recognized as highly impressive, it was also noted that there is unbalanced performance between the different SDGs. It was therefore recommended that there should be improved monitoring and tracking of SDGs.
- viii. Uganda should invest in research and development for: business, science, technology and innovation so as to tap into the vast potential in natural resources and adapt to the changing environment. For example, explore the full potential of Ugandan lakes and rivers for marine transport, tourism etc.
- ix. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development needs to respond to the changing financing landscape where there is a reduction in grants but then an increase in loans. The opportunity is that the volume of loans shall increase but there is need to set proper mechanisms that address repayments and interest rates related with these mechanisms.
- x. The country needs to prepare and tap into the green financing mechanisms by establishing regulations and institutional modalities to be competitive enough in accessing these financing options.
- xi. There is need to lower the water tariffs

4.4.3 Commemoration of the World Forest, World Water and Meteorological-Days,

on water source protection that eventually lowers their cost of production. This is because the improved water quality resulting from protecting the catchment shall eventually reduce costs of cleaning the water.

xii. The nexus thinking needs to be applied in the prioritization of development interventions and resource allocation; this is where elements that constitute the Water-food-

energy-ecosystem are seen as interlinked rather than individual hence a holistic approach.

xiii. Members of Parliament should take responsibility in ensuring that budgetary allocations are in alignment with national development priorities especially their dependency on natural assets



5 ACHIEVEMENTS LESSONS AND WAY FORWARD

5.1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS

Several achievements and lessons learnt include: Preparation of the event – great effort was made to ensure adequate preparation leading to a successful second water week. The National Organizing Committee (NOC) was supported by several sub-committees which were able to work with minimal resources to conceptualize and deliver a successful event.

Involvement of stakeholders: the preparation involved several stakeholders which provided wider insight into preparing a successful event. The youth brought on board ideas and strategies for engaging the youth, NGOs with interest in the subthemes of the week were able to co-convene the sessions leading to better identification of key note speakers, presenters and panelists. The tree walkers also added value to the event. Therefore, early preparation needs to be done to enable engagement of stakeholders and finding potential partners.

Community mobilization and involvement: Commendable efforts were geared towards the mobilization of communities through use of broadcasting, print and social media platforms. The regional prevent activities were also a useful tool for the mobilization and sensitization of population on the event. Community voices were captured and collaboration with the tree walkers' association brought to attention issues related to sustainable forest management.

Leadership of MWE: the ministry of water and environment led the preparation and organization of the Water Week. This was important into tapping into its networks and partnerships which led to improved fundraising for the event. Several organizations that were approached by

MWE contributed resources to the event. Attracting sponsors: several sponsors were able to support the event and development of a sponsorship criteria with sponsor benefit eased the process of attracting sponsors for the event.

Managing paper presentations: the deadline for abstract submission was extended several times and many abstracts were submitted at the last minute which made it difficult to review and provide adequate support to the paper presenters. Over 140 abstracts were received which were difficult to present in two and half days. A write shop was organized which enable presenters to improve abstracts and presentations.

Congested program: the program for the week was congested it did not give sufficient time to paper presenters and the dialogues also consumed a sizeable amount of time. This was exacerbated by the poor time management. Events started late especially during the conference.

Participation and attendance: The event attracted and sustained high-level participation including politicians, development partners, technocrats, academicians, private sector, civil Society organizations, media, and students. Overall, the event attracted over 600 participants. However, registration was affected by accreditation which did not provide all the required registration materials on time. Several delegates got their names mixed up and some did not get name tags on arrival. The registration could be improved by undertaking early online registration and dis allowing onsite registration.

Conference organization and management

– The conference arrangement involved plenary sessions, six dialogues on the main theme and sub themes and six parallel sessions where papers were presented and discussed in-line with the sub-themes. The dialogues attracted very articulate and a good selection of relevant and varied keynote speakers, panelists and moderators which allowed different viewpoints and open discussions.

The parallel sessions attracted many presenters who had a lot to share within limited time. The time that was allocated for each presentation and discussion needs to be adjusted to allow in-depth discussions of the issues and adequate time for the delegates to participate actively in other sessions. This could be achieved by adjusting future programmes limiting the number of papers per session.

Committees and sub committees:- the responsibility to organize UWEWK 2019 was placed on several sub committees. To be successful these committees had to allocate a significant amount of time. Most importantly having a functional secretariat was critical in terms of following up the committees and sub committees to deliver on their commitments. To reduce on constraint organizing the event has on time of the different people, it was realized that an events manager is identified and contracted to lead the organization of the water week. This shall reduce on the extra workload the preparation process places on the people involved in the organization of the week.

It is noted that the critical preparations and organization processes started early like call for abstracts, papers, exhibitors and participants including the bank account for the event. However, there were difficulties in using the bank of Uganda account as such the commercial bank account was opened late into

the preparations. The account is now available. We propose to use this for the registration.

Participants paid for registration and cost was UGX 200,000 for professionals and UGX 100,000 for students, International participants paid USD 150 and exhibitors paid UGX 500,000. This cost was enough to cover the cost for participation except for student whose cost needed to be subsidized.

The list of organizers' in terms of committees and sub committees is attached as appendix I on this document.

The Host – The water resources institute as the host for the event provided space and facilities that made it easy to organize the event. The presence of ministry and other staff supported by partners especially WaterAid provided the needed human resources to form the secretariat to coordinate and service the organization of the water week. Going forward the secretariat at the WRI needs to be strengthened with adequate resources to facilitate the various preparatory processes.

Applied training: Ten applied training sessions were successfully held. These were fully organized and facilitated by key partners in collaboration with the ministry departments. These incorporated more practical onsite demonstration at the WRI like drilling and water quality profiling. The model used was very cost effective. However, some potential training institutions preferred that the training be offered as part of the package paid for by participants rather than asking them to pay for the cost of the training.

Field Visits: Eight field visits were successfully organized. They exposed participants to several practical approaches

to addressing water and environmental resources related issues affecting the sector. Information about field visits need to be available at the same time of registration so that better planning and preparations are carried out.

Closing session: the week was crowned with the commemoration of the WWD, WFD and WMD, this allowed the participants to congregate again and receive feedback from the week. Although the various activities that were held were to feed into the final day closure, development of information materials that would crown the day was not adequate. An opportunity was lost to show case the overview of the week in various formats. There is need to include a closing session information products development to give a clear and concise update to those attending the final sessions and also to keep in touch with products to feed into the news cycle for the next week.

Documentation – Coordinators / chairs and rapporteurs were designated with a role to ensure that the sessions were adequately moderated and that key processes, discussion points, lessons, any contradictions and recommendations were well captured. However, some session chairs and moderators and rapporteurs did not show up. Communicating early and seeking confirmation with these proposed persons should be done.

The Daily Newsletter continued to be useful

and appreciated for providing an overview on the daily events. It was also a source of newspaper articles especially observer used this content to communicate the event. This should be upheld for successive events.

International days celebrations: Planning for these days should be synchronized with the water week and a committee that has both the capacity and means needs to be put in place to ensure that these celebrations are meaningful and fulfil the intended purpose for the days.

Taking forward the outcomes of the UWEWK- It is clear the organization and management of the water week was successful, and the Permanent secretary for MWE committed to use the outcomes of the week to engage the ministry departments and agencies to use these products to address the issues.

Role of Champion: the support and commitment provided by the permanent secretary is critical in the success of this event. This made it possible to rally support at the various levels in the ministry departments and agencies. Therefore, having a champion who is influential is critical in taking the UWEWK agenda forward. Continuous power mapping needs to be done to identify the supporters and challengers and investing in winning over the opposers of this kind of event is important to gain better buy-in and improve planning and organization.



5.2 WAY FORWARD

5.2.1 Recommendations

Based on the theme and the five sub-themes of: Water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus; Water, environment and Society; Green growth; Blue economy and SDGs; and Financing Sustainable Development Goals, the following recommendations were made:

1. Implement the Presidential Directive issued at Kyankwanzi “all Central Forest Reserves, Wetlands, Riverbanks and lake shores should be protected”. Restoration of natural resources should be concerted and deliberate to restore the country’s forests landscapes, wetlands, riverbanks and improve these ecosystems with secondary benefits of improving water resources.
2. The Water and Environment sector is pivotal in guaranteeing regional peace and security due to issues related to the trans-boundary nature of water resources and also internal security where societal demands of water and environment resources are critical for livelihood. Therefore, measures that ensure equitable and sustainable use of water and environment resources should be used to avert the risk of society degenerating into chaos especially the youth who form the bulk of the population.
3. Behaviour change should lead to ensuring citizen participation in the sustainable management of water and environment resources. For example, the issue of governance where office bearers are expected to implement various instruments (policy, legislation, strategy, plans etc.) already in place and secondly, individual responsibility where the single person becomes aware and acts upon irresponsible waste disposal and also involvement in recycling and reduction of resource usage etc.
4. Well-articulated and targeted messages

should be disseminated to various segments of society but also continued engagement by different government entities accounting for their actions towards water and environment resources needs to be enhanced.

5. There is need to change Uganda’s balance sheet to include valuing Uganda’s natural resources. This requires expanding the parameters used in measuring Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to include natural capital accounting where by Uganda’s natural assets are also added onto the balance sheet.
6. Although Uganda’s performance on SDGs was recognized as highly impressive, it was also noted that there is unbalanced performance between the different SDGs. Therefore there should be improved monitoring and tracking.
7. Uganda should invest in research and development for business, science, technology and innovation to tap into the vast potential in natural resources and adapt to the changing environment. For example, explore the full potential of Ugandan lakes and rivers for marine transport, tourism etc.
8. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development needs to respond to the changing financing landscape where there is a reduction in grants and an increase in loans. The opportunity is that the volume of loans shall increase but there is need to set proper mechanisms that address repayments and interest rates related with these mechanisms.
9. Uganda needs to prepare and tap into the green financing mechanisms by establishing regulations and institutional modalities that enhance its competitiveness enough in accessing these financing options.
10. There is need to lower the water tariffs especially at National Water and Sewerage Corporation and encourage

utilities to focus on water source protection that eventually lowers their cost of production because of improved water quality resulting from protecting the catchment.

11. The nexus thinking needs to be applied in the prioritization of development interventions and resource allocation.

12. Members of Parliament should take responsibility in ensuring that budgetary allocations are in alignment with national development priorities especially in light of their dependency on natural assets base.

13. Take stock of the state of water resources, top and underground, blue and green in the country. Make this information readily available and publicly known to all stakeholders as a measure of strategic

planning by the various actors/sectors whose core transformation efforts is dependent on water and environment resources.

14. Ideological and strategic conversation on the nexus between water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus should be fostered with urgent attention. A task force to foster planning and strategic direction of this nexus requires to be established.

15. Further and strengthen inter-institutional collaboration between MWE and MAAIF to improve delivery of water for production services, attract strategic investments and leverage on optimum use of resources(human,financialandtechnical).This should begin with expediting the development of the national irrigation master plan.



5.2.2 Organization of future events

Organizing a successful water and environment week is a resource intensive activity that requires enough time, right human resource capacity and finances. Considering that the week has occurred twice and has attracted both national and international delegates, the space for making mistakes has narrowed. The next water and environment week should depict better organized and well-conceived event. This shall be achieved after taking care to put into consideration the lessons learnt. Below are specific recommendations to help shape a well-organized, coordinated and excellent water week.

The Event is a circular not a linear Activity: the secretariat and the national organization committee need to refocus and have a circular perspective rather than linear view of the event. In other words the end of one event is close of previous cycles and ushers in a new cycle of event. It is this change in focus which will enable NOC and its sub-committee to close the learning loop. This requires:

- **Planning should be done early.** There several prior processes that need to be carried out prior to the official launch of the Water week. The secretariat should as early as May begin to develop a concept for the next water week indicating a clear timeline for key processes. This allows enough time to communicate the purpose of the week to potential partners, call for papers and abstracts and have them reviewed in time as well as assembling the necessary logistics.
- **Set up a permanent secretariat** for the water week: the secretariat needs to be set up as a permanent structure to steer and follow up both the early preparations and post the event activities. This secretariat should be lean with well-defined responsibilities.
- **Digitize processes:** the advancements

in technology provide an opportunity to digitize most of the processes like registration, submission of paper and abstracts, sharing information. An online digital platform for the water week needs to be developed which is compatible for both stationary and mobile appliances. Strengthen integration and coordination among ministry departments and agencies: being able to gain intra sectoral buy in especially between the department and agencies within WME shall enable UWEWK to a sector event.

This requires integrated ownership and commitment at the different levels. The success of this year's event is partly because UWEWK tapped into various departments networks and partnerships and this can be expanded further through increased ownership of the event.

Build the Event to self-finance: Several process along the organization of the water require a substantial amount of cost, several resource mobilization avenues exist that can help to finance the event without depending on ministry resources. To realize this requires:

- the ministry to be in the lead, account for resources and build partnerships and collaborations within and across sectors and actors.
- Building on the experience of this year, continue to identify and engage, potential sponsors, exhibitors, co-conveners and design activities that meet the needs of potential participants for example training, field visits and publish papers in a journal.
- Map out understand the market potential for UWEWK and using this information identify potential partners and build long-term relations. .

activities. However, there is need for further facilities adaptation especially

- Establishing adequate sanitation facilities,
- Furnishing training rooms,
- Improving power supply, communication and internet connectivity;
- Building conference facilities and amenities.

These when accomplished are likely to have a multiplier effect of lowering costs and also increase the potential of generating income.

Utilize the Website: There is need to make the website more active and engaging to enable better interaction with the participants. Also develop content for the website that is suitable for the website rather than pasting documents. Use active language on the

website as a way to engage with the visitors and provide a more user engagement approach.

Use the post event period to disseminate information the outcome of the water week and other information products should packages into information materials. These can be shared through email, social media and website. But can also be used to as display materials during the various sector events.

Media clipping: A lot of media content was generated during UWEWK processes, however, there was not systematic plan to review and clip this content including audio, video and print materials. A media clip book should be developed for UWEWK each year as way to enable sponsors to appreciate the contribution they are making.



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