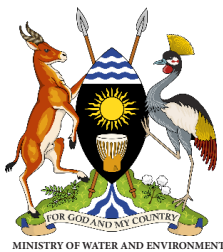


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UGANDA
W&E
WEEK

THE WATER FRONT

Newsletter



(L-R) Ms. Sophie Kutegeka, the Country Director of IUCN, Dr. Florence Grace Adongo, the Director of the Directorate of Water Resources Management at the Ministry of Water and Environment, Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, the Commissioner, Water Resources planning and Regulation Department and Ms. Spera Atuhairwe, the Country Director of Lifewater in discussion after the first session on Monday

Valuing water & environment resources for development

The 2nd day of the UWEWK opened with a dialogue on the sub-theme, 'Valuing water and environment security for socio-economic transformation of Uganda'. The keynote speaker Mr. Oliver Greenfield from the Green Economic Coalition shared the UK's past use and mismanagement of its natural resources which has costed the country a total of 30 billion pounds in the last 20 years to clean up. He shared that the UK Gov-

ernment is now paying farmers to plant trees, restore wetlands and keep the rivers flowing and healthy. He highlighted that nature is the invisible hand that supports development and in the case of Uganda, NDPIII is largely dependent on the availability of water. He shared that the UK's Central Bank has started testing the UK's economy to carbon price so that the government can understand whether its assumptions of economic growth and value are correct in a carbon constrained

world. He challenged the Ugandan Government to test the National Development Plan to its dependency on the availability of water to know what happens to each of sector in the event that the rivers run dry or if they flood. Mr. Oliver highlighted the need for wealth accounting which necessitates a set target for growth of all social, economic and natural capital including setting a natural capital committee to take nature into the heart of economy planning.

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Valuing water & environment resources for development

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He said that it is critical that the sector development plans are clear on their dependency on nature and water and to also consider natural capital infrastructure as infrastructure investment. He said there is need to have a national dialogue on the NDP in order to improve it and bring it into life. The keynote speaker highlighted that the health of Uganda's rivers and lakes is of importance both for national development as well as the neighbouring nations who depend on these water resources. He noted that 60% of Uganda's water resources depend on the global system and 40% depend on the country system such as the tree cover, wetlands and therefore challenged the country to harness and optimise the 40%.

Mr. Oliver challenged the country to adopt a green economy development path. He informed the audience that UK had developed a green economy tracker which is a score card tool to assess how well each sector is adhering to the green economic development principles. He recommended Uganda to also develop and adapt this tracker to our local conditions. He also recommended Uganda to integrate natural capital issues within the national planning process.

The keynote presentation was followed by a panel discussion. Panelists included Mr. Ronald Kaggwa, the Manager – Production, Trade and Tourism Planning at the National Planning Authority, Dr. Florence Adongo, the Director – DWRM, Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha, the Executive Director – ACODE, Mr. Corne-



Dr. Florence Adongo, Director, DWRM and Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner, Water Resources Planning and Regulation Department in discussion after the morning session

lius Kazoora, a Consultant at Sustainable Development Centre and Mr. Dean Muruven, the Global Freshwater Practice Lead at WWF International. The session moderator was Ms. Sophie Kutegeka, the Country Director – IUCN.

Mr. Cornelius Kazoora noted that if water, environment and Climate Change are considered as program areas, there will be more appreciation of the water and environment's sector including its benefits to the other sectors. He said that this will facilitate imposing costs to pollution and climate change. He also called for giving incentives to district local governments that prioritize environmental conservation.

Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha highlighted that there is need to ensure both institutional and national coordination towards effective implementation of NDPIII. He concurred with the other panelists that the sector does not receive the attention it deserves when it comes to development.

“We need to undertake the value coordination of water as a resource so that it is not taken for granted. When water is lost and there is lack, people get shocked,” he said. He called for the need for Uganda as a country to invest in knowing the stock of water it has and value it. He says that if this is not done, then managing and planning for it will be lost. He called for the need to link research and development. He also encouraged ministries to work with think-tanks, universities and create strong public-private partnerships to realise their mandates.

Mr. Dean Muruven noted the need to bring people central to the discussion at the front-lines of these discussions. He cautioned against thinking that nature-based solutions will solve all the problems in the world. He shared that through their work, WWF was driving the nature-based solutions agenda through the Ministries of Finance in the countries they work in including Zambia,

Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda etc. Mr. Ronald Kaggwa, the Manager, Production, Trade and Tourism Planning at National Planning Authority (NPA) highlighted the relevancy of the water and environment sector to the realization of the targets of NDPIII.

“Vision 2040 aspires to transform Uganda into a modern economy through NDPIII.

Water, natural resources, environment and land are some of the growth opportunities identified and are being actualized in NDPIII,” he said.

He said that industrialization cannot be achieved without water, environment, land and natural resources because the raw materials are anchored in this program including agri-business, tourism, water for production and job creation to achieve poverty reduction from 21.4% to 18%. “Agro industrialisation is Uganda’s flagship project and the natural capital is a key driver and therefore underscored the importance of the water and environment resources in achieving the NDPIII targets.

Furthermore, the Water and environment sector plays a big role in job creation especially for the youth and women; to this end NDPIII aims at creating at least 500 jobs a year and this would contribute to fulfilling one of the macroeconomic target in poverty reduction from 21.4% to 18.4% by the end of NDPIII”, Mr. Kaggwa.

“Price stability depends on harvest made as a country which determines the price of food. Our economic stability is linked to the quality, productivity and diversity of our natural capital. Our food and energy security is linked to natural capital and resources for the present and

future generations,” he said.

Dr. Florence Adongo, the Director – DWRM appreciated the program-based approach through which NDPIII is implemented and the legal frameworks that recognize the importance and relevancy of the sector to development namely the 1999 water policy and the constitution of Uganda.

She however noted that as a country, there has not been an opportunity to integrate water and environment resources in the process of planning water needs for the different sectors. She said this thus makes it difficult to have a water and environment budget for the NDP to systematically allocate and manage the risks associated to bad water and environment resources management.

She called for the need to reduce on pollution and invest in restoration of forests and increase investments in forecast systems because environment shocks have become very frequent, unpredictable and highly destructive. She called for holistic planning for the water and environment resources including ensuring that there is proper implementation of both institutional and legal frameworks that appreciate the relevancy of the sector to Uganda’s development. she said there is need to document lessons and case studies to raise awareness on the relevance of the sector to Uganda’s development.

According to Dr. Florence Adongo, the survival of water resources is dependent on environment, and the environment is also dependent on the water resources.

She suggested that the government should increase investment in water resources, services and

infrastructure as well as risk management and she cited an example, “For example in Uganda, we are facing the issue of water storage. The government needs to invest in storage of water to use during times of shortage.” She also suggested that there is need for the government to invest in forecasting so as to predict what is going to happen and advise accordingly.

She added that putting value and appreciation for water resources is among the biggest failures in Uganda and therefore there is need to lobby for budget increment. Dr. Adongo also noted that 50% of Uganda’s forest covers have been degraded yet they have an effect on the water cycle. There is need to conduct a study to influence the budget allocation to the sector. Dr Florence highlighted the need to assess the water and environment needs for each of the 18 NDPIII programs.

Also, assess the water and environment risk considering that Uganda experiences a cycle of flooding followed by drought. Therefore this calls for increased investment in the water and environment resources in order to harness them for sustainable use. The investment could include construction of water storage facilities to store the excess water, early warning system and forecasting on order to predict the changes in weather patterns and plan appropriately.

She also called for the need to review the governance because there is a lot of fragmented planning scattered among various institution. She decried limited funding to the sector which is just 3% of the national budget and yet the sector plays a crucial role in fulfilling the NDPIII ambitions.

PARALLEL SESSIONS



Panellists showing off the gift bags received from Dr. Roswitha Kremser, Head of Office- Coordination Office for Development Cooperation, Austrian Embassy

Field Visit: Delivering services beyond humanitarian response

The Austria Development Agency (ADA) organized a parallel session during the 2nd day of UWEWK under the title, “Virtual Field Visit: WASH in the Refugee Context – Delivering services beyond humanitarian response. During the session, a video documentary was aired showing the impacts made through the European Union Trust Fund (EU-TF) WASH project which aims at providing sustainable water and improve environmental conditions for refugees and host communities by setting durable solutions to the water and sanitation needs. The project is implemented by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment’s Water and Sanitation Development Facility-North located in Lira. Implementation of the project began on December 1st, 2016 and ended November 2020 with

total budget of 4,900,000euros. The project covered eight refugee settlements and their host communities in the five districts of Adjumani, Madi-Okollo, Yumbe, Terego and Kiryandongo. Dr. Roswitha Kremser, Head of Office- Coordination Office for Development Cooperation, Austrian Embassy, Kampala made the opening remarks and wished everyone a happy commemoration of International Water Day. She mentioned that supporting the global target of improving access to safe water supply towards the attainment of the SDG 6 target remains a top priority to the Austrian Development Corporation. She invited participants to critically address key question areas such as how to increase safe water supply and sanitation coverage, how to protect natural resources and how to improve sector

coordination and statistics. Eng. Richard Matua, the Assistant Commissioner, Urban Water and Sewerage Department presented the milestones achieved through the project. The session also included a panel discussion which included panelists from AFD, GIZ, Northern Umbrella Water and Sanitation, NWSC, UNHCR, World Bank and WSDF who shared what they were contributing to within the project and the milestones achieved. The session moderator was Dr. Najib Lukooya Bateganya, the Water and Sanitation Portfolio Advisor, at ADA. Eng. Catherine Angwech Angwai, the manager WSDF - North said the water ministry, has come up with affordable tariffs to ensure sustainability of water facilities, i.e sh100 for ten 20-litre jerrycans.

Climate Smart Aquaculture

Africa needs to double effort to match the global fish demand. This was revealed during a parallel session on Day Two of the UWEWK2021 at the Ministry of Water and Environment offices in Luzira.

“Africa contributes 13.3% to the Global fish capture, East Africa contributes 2.5% to global aquaculture.

For instance, we need 30.3% from East Africa, 18.5% Uganda in particular to match the market demand,” Gladys Bwanika a Lecturer at the Makerere University Department of Zoology and Entomology and Fisheries Sciences.

Dr. Ronald Semyalo from Makerere University highlighted that the fish species commonly grown in East Africa are; Tilapia, cat and these are grown in Ponds, tanks, cages mostly on small scale.

He further noted that Uganda currently needs 1m tonnes from fisheries and aquaculture.

Drake Ssempijja, a Lecturer at the Makerere University Department of Zoology and Entomology and Fisheries Sciences listed climate change as a major reason for the dwindling fish and aquatic production in the country.

He called upon farmers to adopt temperature tolerant fish species to favourably compete in fish production.

On sustainability, Ssempijja encouraged farmers to embrace Aquaponix –the growth of plants and fish at the same time. This strategy works in a way that the waste from aquaculture is used up by the plants in form nitrogen and phosphorus and vice versa.



Dr. Ronald Semyalo from Makerere University making a presentation



Drake Ssempijja, Lecturer in the Makerere University Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences making his presentation during the session



Dr. Ronald Semyalo from Makerere University (left) with Mr. Joseph Eritu, Commissioner water and Environment Sector Liaison

Policy, practice and paper presentations

A total of 12 policy, practice and scientific paper presentations were made by different sector stakeholders during the parallel session held on March 22nd, 2021 from 2pm – 5pm under the title, ‘Valuing water and environment resources for socio-economic transformation’. Mr. Pule Johnson from Ministry of Water and Environment presented an assessment of groundwater vulnerability in Kampala city and possible management of the natural resources. Among the recommendations made, he called for closer inspection and routine water quality monitoring especially the waste water discharges from factories upstream the water sources and improving drainage and general sanitation around the water sources. Presenters from the Directorate of Water Resources Management, Ministry of Water and Environment namely; Annette Nantongo, Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Louis Mugisha, Richard Musota, Maximo Twinomuhangi and Nelson Waiswa presented experiences from EURECCCA project that aims at enhancing resilience of communities to climate change through Catchment Based Integrated Management approach. A number of recommendations were made including the need to scale up the best practices from the project to various catchments in the country and the need to enhance community resilience and ecosystems to climate change. Presenters; Daniel W. Smith, Stephen Atwii Ongom, Emmanuel Ojara Sunday, Igor Markov and Jenna Davis made a presentation titled, ‘Effective demand for more



Demarcating the Awoja wetland

reliable hand pumps in rural Uganda, ‘Their presentation answered two research questions namely; How much are water committees in rural Uganda willing and able to pay (‘effective demand’) for increased hand pump reliability provided by a professional maintenance service, both initially and over time? And How does effective demand compare with the operational expenses of professional service? Three

key conclusions were made namely; professional service delivered fast repairs and satisfied customers, low demand at prices that cover OpEx that declines over time and low incentives among stakeholders for hand pump maintenance.

Three authors; A. Samanya, Justine Namaalwa and R.K Kambugu from Makerere University presented the dynamics of wood value chains for smallholder tree farmers in Mubende district.

Other presentations

- Assessing the spatiotemporal variations in water quality along R.Sironko on Mt. Elgon.
- Effect of land cover type on water yield in selected catchments in the Kyoga Water Management Zone.
- Climate-Smart Watersheds: A framework for hydrosocial resilience to climate change in fragile catchments
- Adaptive Planning and Management: experiences from the WASH First Programme in Uganda by SIMAVI.
- Community Led Wetland Restoration. Lessons from restoration of Papayo Wetland, in Pallisa by IUCN
- Refugee participation in the conservation of wetlands in Uganda: Kyaka II refugee settlement by JESE
- Fruits of embracing IWRM framework: a case of Kyoga Water Management Zone (KWMZ) by MWE
- Potential application effects of “humate” agro-input on release of nitrates, ammonia and phosphorous in a production environment.

SIDE EVENT



Ms. Iyango Lucy, Assistant Commissioner for Wetlands (left) and Mr. Daniel Omodo McMondo (right), the Programme Analyst Energy and Environment, UNDP



Mr. Collins Oloya, Director for Environment Affairs, Ministry of Water and Environment

‘Harnessing Resilient Ecosystems and Communities for Water and Environment Security’ Programme

This was a side event organised by UNDP. It was attended by 31 participants virtually and 24 participants were in the auditorium. The session moderator was Dr. Joshua Zaake, the Executive Director of Environmental Alert. The side event presented a platform for sharing knowledge on the significance of wetland restoration based experiences under the Green Climate Fund – Wetlands Project. Government of Uganda designed a wetland restoration project under the presidential initiative implemented by Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal husbandry and Fisheries (MAAIF) AND Uganda National Development Program. The Building resilient communities, wetlands ecosystems and associated catchment projects has

demonstrated that the sustainable use of wetlands lays a strong foundation for ensuring water and environment security. A video was played showing outcomes from the project. Ms. Lucy Lyango, the Commissioner, Wetlands Department at Ministry of Water and Environment said the project is implemented in 12 districts in Eastern Uganda and 24 districts in Western Uganda and it focuses on restoration of degraded wetlands, supporting target communities to reduce the risks of climate change on agricultural-based-livelihoods, providing weather and climate information and empowering communities in risk reduction and preparedness to climate-related disasters. The project that started in 2017 is planned to end in 2025 with a total of 800,000 target primary beneficiaries in and around wetlands and 3,946,366

secondary beneficiaries with land area of 13,000sqkms. The total budget under the Green Climate Change is US\$ 44,262,000. Mr. Daniel McMondo, the Programme Analyst at UNDP highlighted the need for integration to ensure that no one is left behind. Mr. Vincent Barugahare, Principal Wetland Officer at Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and Mr. Godfrey Mujuni, the Data Manager at UNMA shared lessons learnt from the project. Ms. Sophie Kutegeka, the Country Director remarked that Limoto can be used as a demonstration centre for the project interventions. Mr. Collins Oloya, the Director, Directorate of Environmental Affairs noted that the project aimed at ensuring environment security through provision of alternative livelihoods to communities.

Sponsors and Partners



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