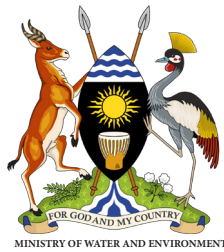


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UGANDA
W&E
WEEK

THE WATER FRONT

Newsletter

NatuReS launched during UWEWK 2021

The European Union, Germany Government through GIZ and Ministry of Water launched the National Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS). Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment represented the government of Uganda. NatuReS is a continuation of the seven-year International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP). The NatuReS programme enables public-private-civil society partnerships to sustainably manage

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Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment signing on the art piece during the launch of the Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuRes) by GIZ



Mr. Charles Macbeth Forbes,
Country Director, GIZ



Mr. Jean-Baptiste Fauvel, Program
Manager, European Union
Delegation to Uganda



Mr. Matthew Parr, NatuReS
Country Coordinator

NatuReS launched during UWEWK 2021



Mr. Parr, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Okidi, Mr. Fauvel, Mr. Oloya and Dr. Tindimugaya after the launch of NatuReS programme

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the natural resources they need for improved livelihoods and continued economic development. The programme is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union (EU) and FCDO.

The Partners supporting NatuReS are; Ministry of Water and Environment, National Environment Management Authority, Kampala Capital City Authority, Gulu City Council, National Planning Authority, National Water and Sewerage Corporation in association with Uganda Manufacturers Association, Uganda Water and Juice Manufacturers Association, Private Sector Companies and Civil Society Organizations among others. The objectives of NatuReS are;



Mr. Byansi Jude from KCCA and Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi at the launch

- To create partnerships among private companies, Governmental Organisations and civil society to improve natural resources management
 - To embed lessons learned, share experience and give technical advice in natural resources stewardship
 - To create and secure jobs and safeguard investments for sustainable economic development.
- During the launch, Mr. Mathew Parr, the Country Coordinator Uganda GIZ Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS) said that the program

would create more employment opportunities.

“The program will embed lessons, enable sharing experiences, and give technical advice on natural resource stewardship. It will create or safeguard 20,000 jobs and secure investments of EUR 50 million by improving the management of natural resources.”

He called for a stewardship approach of stakeholder to solve resource shortages and destruction of ecosystems increase social and economic risks.

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Mr. Jean-Baptiste Fauvel, Program Manager EU Delegation to Uganda traced EU's support to Uganda government and pledged support. "For years, we are consistent with support to the energy projects, natural chemical management, city planning, Small Medium Enterprises with access to finance."

Mr. James Macbeth Forbes, the GIZ Country Director Uganda, promised GIZ commitment to support to the Environment and Water sector and encouraged stakeholders to remain good stewards. He advised that if anyone must use plastics then they need to be ready to recycle it because this the only way to ensure environment sustainability.

Mr. Afred Okot Okidi, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water and Environment said that NatuReS is a multi-donor program that stakeholders' involvement in the sustainability of the Water and Environment Sector.

Mr. Collins Oloya - Director, Directorate of Environment Affairs, MWE, said the program will provide for increased waste collection while providing study sites for students and green job creation

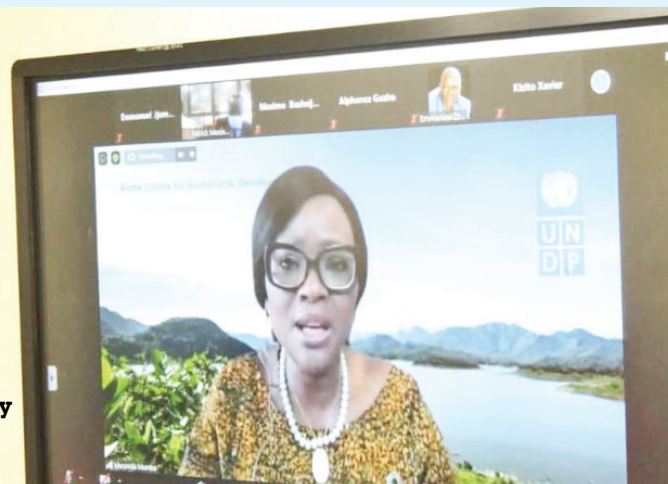
Mr. Jude Byansi, the Manager Water and Sanitation at Kampala Capital City Authority noted that the program comes as an alternative to traditional style of dealing with polluters.

"We shall be able to collect 100% waste. The intending polluters would become business people dealing in green business," Byansi said.

Ms. Patience Nsereko, Principal Environment Inspector at National Environment Management Authority suggested for countrywide awareness on sustainable waste management to enable behavioral change.

Mr. Morgan Bonna from UWJMA lauded the development partners for initiating the program and called for behavioral change and sensitization.

Dr. Musonda making the keynote presentation on Wednesday March 24th, 2021



Managing Water and Environmental Shocks

We have all experienced an environmental shock at one stage in our lives. This is perhaps one of the reasons that motivated over 100+ participants to join the session virtually via Zoom and 20+ at Ministry of Water and Environment. Dr. Musonda Mumba, the Director, UNDP Rome Centre for Sustainable Development led the dialogue session with a keynote address that highlighted the critical need to strengthen systems and leadership that curb deforestation and environmental degradation. "Deforestation and clearing of forests has brought diseases much closer to us because we have destroyed the homes of the animals, birds and primates. We have to be accountable for what we have done," she said. She noted that 2020 has been declared as the UN decade of ecosystem restoration

and that everyone has a role to play in conserving and restoring the environment. She highlighted that pandemics will become the new normal.

Six high profile panelists informed the dialogue session and these included Mr. Collins Oloya, the Director – Directorate of Environment Affairs at Ministry of Water and Environment, Dr. Joshua Zaake, the Executive Director – Environmental Alert, Mr. Alfonse Guzhu representing Global Ecosystems Management at IUCN, Ms. Rose Nakabugo, the Assistant Commissioner, Disaster Management at the Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda, Dr. Charles Wana Etyem a Chartered Engineer and Dr. Emmanuel Zziwa working with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). "Uganda is close to my heart," Dr Musonda said. She noted that it is so

Managing Water and Environmental Shocks



Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Dr. Patrick Musinguzi, Dr. Joshua Zaake, Dr. Charles Wana and Dr. Florence Adongo in discussion after the dialogue session

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because she has done numerous studies on wetlands in Uganda. She regretted that the ice sheets on Mountain Rwenzori in South western Uganda have been receding.

She further warned that it is crucial to take care of the wetlands because they are the lungs of the earth. She further pointed out that cultivation cannot go on without the wetland system.

She also noted that among the merits of wetlands is purification. She also warned that when climate changes for worse, social economic survival is affected and emphasised that eco-systems are critical for survival.

Dr. Musonda also noted that during city planning, the role of nature should be recognised. She quoted a saying in Zambia that goes, “Water has memory.” Consequently, the society should avoid participating in unbecoming activities.

The session moderator, Dr. Patrick Musinguzi, Makerere University lecturer, highlighted the need for conserving the traditional and conventional knowledge. “Kingdoms front the role of nature to culture and

promote some aspects of this.

There is need to understand the impact of climate change on SDG 6 implementation,” he noted.

Mr. Collins Oloya, the Director, Directorate of Environmental Affairs at Ministry of Water and Environment highlighted the need to develop and plan regulatory and legal frameworks that curb practices that promote unsustainable water and environment use and management like encroachment on wetlands and uncontrolled waste disposal.

“There is also need for a design awareness strategy program to reach out to all stake holders on environment shocks, and as well create legal mechanisms and framework to improve on coordination,” he said.

Dr. Charles Wana Etyem noted that people take water and the environment for granted because they use and enjoy it every day. Uganda experiences episodes of environmental shocks which is why we have the disaster preparedness and we know that the Office of the Prime Minister coordinates disaster relief in the country. He noted that indiscipline, high population growth, poverty, unsustainable

agricultural practices and lack of knowledge contribute to environmental degradation thereby leading to water and environment shocks.

“If the society does not understand the importance of managing water, there will be fire fighting all the time!”

He further said that the water and environment sector need to do planning for environmental shocks and that there is need to streamline process in all government ministries planning and heavy investment in water and environment resources.

“There is also need to document historical events to know what worked then, to enable best practices now,” said Dr. Wana.

Dr Joshua Zaake, the Executive Director of Environment Alert opined that the shocks currently taking place are an indication that something is wrong. He said although the government and partners are doing something about the shocks, their actions are inadequate compared to impacts.

He called for investment in early warning systems and increment of sector budget allocations. He also added that technology presents opportunity to mitigate these problems.

Rose Nakabugo, the Acting Commissioner for Disaster Preparedness in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), regretted that last year, 500,000 people were displaced in close to 70 districts. She noted that poor management of the eco-system has led to shocks such as floods, landslides among others. She said Government should work together with different partners to minimize the effects of the environment shocks, as well have an early warning system. She said that shocks

have led to loss of livelihoods, for example, people surviving on fishing. There is also need to equip the communities with alternative skills to enable them survive in shock times. There is also need to measure the economic loss to be able to measure how much the society has been affected by the shocks. Nakabugo warned that environment shocks affect water quality and energy for example power outages and have an implication on the economy. “Let us plan well and do what we are supposed to do so that when the rain comes its not a curse but a blessing,” she advised.

Alphonse Guzhu who represented Dr Radhika Murti, the Director of Global Ecosystems Management in IUCN, said the key question to tackle is, “Are we valuing these resources as much as we should?” He recommended that nature based solutions should be developed. He also called for community participation and inclusive governance to mitigate the shocks, and that there is need for climate proof planning and budgeting, and as well extension of the forest coverage. He also added that the polluter pay principle should be operationalised, whereby its obligatory for the polluter to pay a tax.

Dr Emmanuel Zziwa from the Food and Agricultural Organisation stated that no single sector can deliver everything alone, there is need to work together.

He further pointed out that stake holders’ engagement is needed in designing and helping communities in mitigating environment shocks.

“Agriculture in Uganda is

mostly at small scale and want these farmers to commercialize in order to get more yields and income. We do not make environmental sustainability their goal,” he noted. He noted that even though innovative and environmentally sustainable technologies are introduced to this farmer, he will not take it up because it does not contribute to increased yields and income.

Dr. Zaake noted that there is need to promote diversification and integrated approaches to production based on land capacity, quality and standards. He shared the projects that Environmental Alert are implementing in urban centers that create opportunities for turning waste into wealth.

Ms. Nakabugo shared success stories focusing on managing shocks under the UNDP funded project titled, ‘strengthening community resilience to climate change and disaster risks’ implemented by seven sector that are coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) including Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Lands and Urban Development, etc. She highlighted the need for better coordination of all key partners and investment in early warning systems.

Dr Zziwa added that laws should be enforced and increased investment directed warnings, so as to minimize effects of hazard to human life. “We need to start acting before hazards happen,” he said.

He also noted that for farmers to take on sustainable farming, in cases where technology is needed, the farmers should be assisted to acquire the technology because the initial investment is usually high.



Dr. Charles Wana Etyem



Mr. Collins Oloya



Dr. Patrick Musinguzi



Dr. Emmanuel Zziwa



Dr. Joshua Zaake



The Commissioner Water Resources Planning and Regulations Department, Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, received refreshment sponsorship from Coca Cola Uganda

Coca Cola supports UWEWK 2021

The Uganda Water and Environment Week 2021 has commemorated the World Meteorological Day that is celebrated on 23rd March annually. This year's theme is "The Ocean, Our Climate and Weather."

One of the key highlights

during today's Uganda Water and Environment Week activities ; the Commissioner Water Resources Planning and Regulations Department Dr. Callist Tindimugaya received refreshment sponsorship from Coca Cola Uganda in support of the Uganda Water and

Environment Week activities. This was handed over to him by the Segment Marketing Executive of Coca Cola Uganda Mr. Dan Ndyabasa. Coca Cola Uganda is among the Organisations supporting and sponsoring the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2021.

The need for Climate Change financing

The Executive Director, CSBAG represented by Mr. Patrick Rubangakene, the Budget Policy Specialist (CSBAG) said the focus of the event was to identify what needs to be done to improve climate change financing.

Mr. Siraje Magala, the Extractives Coordinator at OXFAM, said Climate Change is no longer an environmental issue but rather a global development and economic phenomena concern that we have to deal with. The presentation highlighted a number of recommendations as regards to climate change actions and this included:

- The need to earmark petroleum revenue to finance climate change interventions
- Make it compulsory for sectors to have a Certificate of Compliance (CoC) to Climate Change before receiving money from Government.
- The need to develop desirable climate finance accountability
- MoFPED to expedite finance budget tagging processes and update the national planning guidelines at sector levels.
- Strengthen CSO funding to influence state decisions and enhance budget transparency, accountability and effectively amplify citizens' voice on cli-

mate change matters. Mr. Bob Natifu, Acting Commissioner Climate Change Department, MWE responded to the presentation stating that the department is focusing on improving individual livelihood and wellbeing which is adaptation and mitigation. Capacities are to be strengthened by the presence of legal framework it's ensuring the climate change bill is passed by the 10th parliament. Ms. Elliot Orizaarwa, Chairperson CSBAG Board closed the session. She said there is need for all of us to be committed and take part in this global concern.

Harnessing the potential of youth in transforming the sector

A career talk was organized as one of the activities during the UWEWK purposely to give young professionals an opportunity to share challenges /barriers, their contribution towards improvement in the sector and learn about potential career opportunities in water and environment sector. This was themed “Harnessing the possibilities of youth for the transformation of the water, sanitation and environment sector”. The Career talk was conducted online as well as a few participants present at National Water and Sewerage Corporation International Resource Centre (IREC). The session was moderated by Fiona Kayitesi and Brownie Ebal. The President of the Young Water Professionals Chapter, John Fisher Sekabira welcomed the Keynote speaker Sylvia Tumuhairwe, the Patron Young Water Professionals Chapter. She said she is very proud that the youth have continuously participated in this very important event UWEWK by organizing the side event to also give their contributions. She said that the theme is very rich and calls us to bring in our different capacities, commitments and efforts and transform the water and sanitation sector, saying it is a big task, but she knows the youth are up to the task and should be able to make our own impact and mark.



Participants during one of the sessions

Policy, practice and scientific paper presentations

A total of 16 policy, practice and scientific paper presentations, were made by different sector stakeholders during the parallel session held on March 24th, 2021 from 2pm – 5pm under the title, ‘Managing water and environmental shocks’. The session started with a presentation by National Water and Sewerage Corporation’s Derrick Arthur Ddumba, titled ‘Strategies for managing water crises-case study in National Water and Sewerage Corporation. He noted that there are several cases of water crisis in Kampala, Gulu and Mbale, Gulu due to the drought, Mbale due to the recent floods, and in Kampala due to several reasons like rapid urbanisation, bursts/leakages under construction works and others. “Despite the negative impacts that we have seen, there is limited attention that is being given on how

to identify and manage this crisis,” he said. The main objective is to use crisis report to analyse the current and historical potential sources of water supply and treatment crisis. “Under the methods, I used crisis reporting and alert systems to better understand the extent of the crises that are happening and suggest mitigation strategies and management and prevention. The crisis reporting and alert systems include the call center, social media, supervisory control and data acquisition, surveying and block mapping,” Ddumba explained. All those systems can be used as early warning systems to these crises that happen. The study selected Kampala, Entebbe and Gulu. Gulu experiences extreme dry systems, while Kampala and Entebbe have the highest demands for safe and clean water.

Participants' experiences at UWEWK



Solomon Kyeyune, Water Resources Institute, Entebbe

In terms of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2021, my key highlight is to see the program that we have been working to set up come to life especially having discussions that are very fruitful and having participants staying and participating effectively in every discussion that is taking

place. You might see it is an ambitious program but it has gone well so far. the other highlight is the way the overall theme brought together by the Keynote Speaker, where he was able to bring together the economics, the engineering and the environment into one form of conclusion that somehow all of these aspects have to work together for us to realize the security we are talking about.



Gerald Tenywa, journalist

To me this is a big platform for many actors in the Water and Environment sector. There is opportunity to share knowledge. I have also got contacts for future engagement.



Pamela Nyamutoka Katooro, Country Manager IIRR

UWEWK through the MWE is providing a Forum and great opportunities for engaging stakeholders in the water and Environment sector for mitigating water and environment shocks through-IWRM- Climate Change Adaption and Disaster Risk Reduction in Uganda.



Spera Atuhaire, Country Director, Lifewater International

The water and environment week presents an opportunity to discuss key issues affecting the sector. As Lifewater International, we take pride in sharing some innovative solutions to improving sustainable services. We have picked lessons to improve WASH programming.

Lillian Bainemirembe, Hydrogeologist.

I have learnt a lot from the dialogues in particular applied trainings for example on how to handle water and environment shocks for us to realize the security we are talking about.



Lynette Owomuhangi, Research Assistant Water for People.

It has been a great experience. The discussions have been very informative especially on the role of youth innovations.





Participants attending a session on Wednesday

Addressing Climate Change impacts on sustainable water and environment resources management

As part of the UWEWK, UWASNET organized a learning and sharing regional meeting on Climate Change under the theme, ‘Addressing Climate Change impacts and their causes towards sustainable water and environment resources management and use; case studies from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda’.

The meeting aimed at facilitating deliberations on Climate Change and inform CSOs’ participation in the Africa Climate Change Week planned for September 2021. It attracted 50+ participants. Key partners namely Ministry of Water and Environment’s Climate Change Department, CIDI, KEWASNET, GWPEA and the Zambia NGO WASH Forum shared case studies on Climate Change mitigation and adaptation.

Mrs. Yunia Musaaazi, the Executive Director of UWASNET was the session moderator and steered the discussions to ensure that the meeting objectives were met. Mr. Gerald Kairu, the Global Water Partnership Eastern Af-

rica (GWPEA) made the keynote addressed which highlighted the different country’s progress and risks related to climate change. He highlighted three major areas of intervention for sustainable impacts on climate change programmes namely;

- Promoting partnerships that ensure access climate finance
- Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM tool box)
- Providing knowledge tools for a sustainable natural resources management
- Promoting transboundary cooperation and gender transformation approaches
- Implementation of presidential directives e.g. in Uganda -not to degrade wetlands

Mr. Muyovwe Mumba from Zambia NGO WASH Forum shared that the country is challenged with inequalities in access to clean water. “These fresh waters are at risk from changes in land use, over abstraction of ground water, diversion of rivers and lakes and increased pollution,” he said.

Mr. Vincent Ouma from KEWASNET said that Climate Change risks affect women and girls at the livelihood levels and households are rampantly affected by floods. There agricultural sector is affected by drought which was difficulty for local people,” he said.

Mr. Martin Ojok from the Climate Change Department, Ministry of Water and Environment shared the different climate change policies that provide institutional and legal frameworks for climate change mitigation and adaption in Uganda.

Ms. Helena Kasujja from CIDI shared interventions implemented in the urban in partnership with Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA). In his remarks, Mr. Peder Thorning from the Danish People’s Aid called for the need to fast track supportive policies and regulatory frameworks that protect the environment from degradation. He called for the need for public and private investments in climate smart research, data and technologies.

Picture highlights from different sessions at the UWEWK



Participants in the session



Dr. Callist Tindimugaya (centre) discussing with officials after the session



Yunia Musaazi, the Executive Director of UWASNET during a session



Participants in the morning session



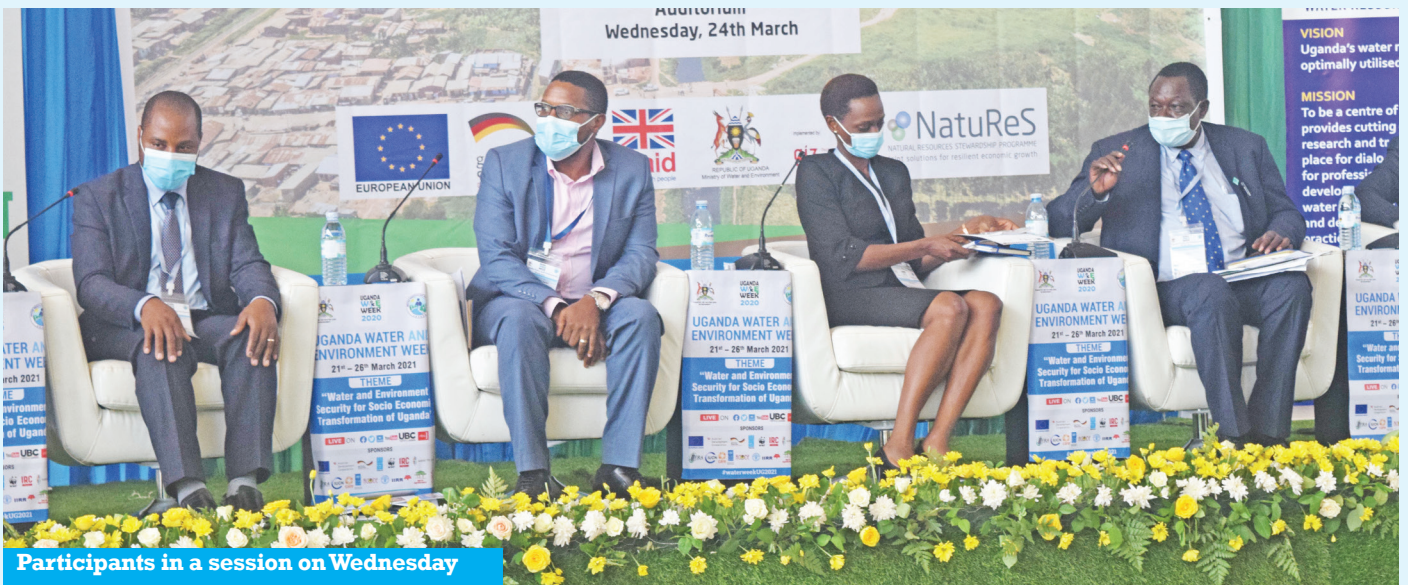
Participants during a session



Mr. John Mpande and Fiona Kayitesi at the Career Talk for Young Professionals



Participants at one of the sessions



Participants in a session on Wednesday



Dr. Tindimugaya signing on the artwork



Participants during a session

Sponsors and Partners



FORT PORTAL- HEWASA.



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