



## Uganda Water and Environment Week 2018

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in collaboration with key partners will hold its 1<sup>st</sup> ever Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) to coincide with the annual commemoration of the World: *World Water Day 2018; International Day of Forests, 2018; and Meteorology Day, 2018*. MWE has planned a week long events from 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 to commemorate these celebrated days. The theme for the **UWEWK 2018** is, “**Water and Environment a catalyst for achieving Middle Income Status. 2020.**”

The Government of Uganda is a party to the United Nations and these days are celebrated with the United Nation’s Convention framework. As a Party to the United Nations, Uganda is expected to implement the decisions and aspirations of the United Nations as described in these International celebrated days. The focus and aspirations of each celebrated day are described in the International theme for each day as presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1.** Celebrated International Days 2018.

International Day	Celebrated	2018 International Theme	Date	Information
a) International Day of Forests		Forest and Sustainable Cities.	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	<a href="http://bit.ly/2l0l3rz">http://bit.ly/2l0l3rz</a>
b) World Metrological Day		Understanding Clouds means Understanding Climate.	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2018	<a href="http://bit.ly/2HAWgzc">http://bit.ly/2HAWgzc</a>
c) World Water Day		Nature for Water will show the potential of nature-based solutions for water and how they can be considered for water management policy and practice.	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	<a href="http://bit.ly/2pdOyU2">http://bit.ly/2pdOyU2</a>

### The specific objectives for the UWEWK are enlisted as follows:

- i) *To increase public awareness on water and environment resources for growth and development;*
- ii) *To celebrate twenty five (25) years of adoption of Integrated Water Resources Management in Uganda;*
- iii) *To launch the Water Resources Institute in Entebbe;*
- iv) *To showcase recent innovations, technologies and developments in the Water and Environment sector for efficient Water and Environment services delivery;*
- v) *To explore business opportunities and trends in the Water and Environment sector;*
- vi) *To provide a forum for exchange of ideas for long term business partnerships in the water and environment sector; and*
- vii) *To identify potential partners to increase Water and Environment sector financing.*

As stipulated in the Uganda Constitution and several other relevant policies and laws on the Environment and natural Resources sub-sector, CSOs are mandated and obliged to add value to Government of

*Uganda's (GoU) policy & programs formulation and implementation through their lobbying and advocacy role. Furthermore, through creating targeted awareness and capacity building, but also independent monitoring and evaluation of Government programs. In the process, they share experiences and lessons but also suggest alternative policy and practice recommendations for consideration by the GoU.*

The planned engagements by MWE within the framework of the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) provide an opportunity for Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organisations network (ENR-CSOs) in Uganda to deliver on their role and mandate towards contributing and influencing of the decision making and outputs from the week-long UWEWK engagements. Therefore from that point of view, Environmental Alert (see **Box 1** for details about Environmental Alert), and ENR-CSO network will participate in the UWEWK through rolling out the following interventions:

- a) Active participation in the UWEWK week long engagements organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment at the **Directorate of Water Resources Management Complex in Entebbe**. For instance, Best practices, lessons and recommendations for sustainable environment and natural resources management will be shared with stakeholders at the exhibition stall for Environmental Alert and ENR-CSO Network. Further information about the planned events is available through this website: <http://www.mwe.go.ug/events/uganda-water-and-environment-week-uwewk-2018>
- b) Share experiences and lessons through a technical Paper on, *Integration of Market Approaches to hygiene and Sanitation; A case of Slum Communities in Makindye and Lubaga divisions, Kampala Capital City Authority.* for presentation and discussion during the opening session of the UWEWK scheduled on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018;
- c) Issue based articles with policy and practice recommendations for wider dissemination through publication in the popular local media for increased awareness.

**Environmental Alert** presents the **key messages** based on the themes for the **International Day of Forests; World Metrological Day and World Water Day** (as described in **Table 1**) for consideration and reflection by **all stakeholders and the general public** during the UWEWK 2018 and thereafter for translation into practical actions at different scales:

- i) Several Urban Forests and Green belts have been destroyed and or degraded. Despite this, Urban Forests and Green belts play an important role of carbon storage, temperature, air and flood regulation among others. Therefore, Urban forests and green belts in the city and urban areas should be conserved for sustainable urbanization, national economic growth and development;
- ii) Clouds have an important role in whether forecasting and warnings. Thus, they help in driving of the water cycle and entire climate system. There is need to better understand how clouds affect the climate and how a changing climate will affect clouds (WMO, 2018);
- iii) Nature based solutions for water management should be explored and supported for sustainable water access and utilization to steer Uganda into the middle income status.

### **Box 1. About Environmental Alert**

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in **1988 and this year (2018) marks 30 years** of contribution to improved livelihoods and development in Uganda through several interventions in sustainable agriculture, environment and natural resources management. EA is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

EA is a **1<sup>st</sup> prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.**

EA is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a Member of The IUCN National Committee for Uganda.

EA envisions, *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

**EA's mission is to, 'Contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resources management'**

#### **Program and institutional Components:**

1. Environment and Natural resources management;
2. Food security and Nutrition;
3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
4. Finance and Administration;
5. Resource mobilization and Investment.

#### **Scale of Implementation:**

EA operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently EA's operations are in 20 districts across the country. EA undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements

#### **EA is a Secretariat for following networks:**

- a) The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network) - <http://enr-cso.org/>;
- b) Uganda Forestry Working Group - <http://ufwg.entalert.org/>;
- c) The Standards Development Group (for promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Uganda); and
- d) Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management (PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network) - <http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>.

**Further information about Environmental Alert** is available at: <http://entalert.org/>

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