



MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK (UWEWK) 2019 CONCEPT NOTE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) is a weeklong event that is organized annually by Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), spearheaded by Water Resources Institute (WRI). Since its initiation in 2018, the event seeks to contribute towards the attainment of Sustainable Socio-economic Transformation in collaboration with various partners and stakeholders. It provides an interface for sector actors and other stakeholders for knowledge exchange and improvement of Uganda's water and environment resources. This year the focus of UWEWK 2019 is on the centrality of water and environment in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

1.1 BACKGROUND

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.

Based on the success of the first UWEWK, the MWE through the Water Resources Institute (WRI) will hold the second UWEWK at the Water Resource Institute in Entebbe from Monday 18 – Friday 22, March 2019. The event will conclude with the annual commemoration of three important International Environmental Days: World Forest Day (March 21st), World Water Day (March 22nd) and World Meteorological Day (March 23rd).

The UWEWK 2019 is intrinsically linked to: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); achievement of economic goals such as reaching middle income status by 2020; and to 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. As Uganda seeks to industrialize and meet national development goals, development and management of water and environment resources will be critical to ensuring steady growth of the manufacturing, agricultural and service sectors.

Overall theme UWEWK 2019

The overall theme of UWEWK 2019 is *Water and Environment a strategic driver in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 2030*.

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. 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. Consequently, these affect the quality of life, national

economies, and sustainable progress. Therefore, sustainable management and use of water and environment resources is vital in creating social economic transformation.

Under the major theme, the following sub-themes are proposed to elaborate on water and environment issues and challenges.

- **Water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus:** This theme will focus on the inseparable link among security of water, energy, food and ecosystems which underpins sustainable economies and human well-being. It will explore means of addressing concerns about the availability, distribution, access and sustainability of water, food and energy and the resultant stress on natural resources due to increased climate variability and change and as more people migrate to cities and join the middle class. Special attention will be given to key cross-sectoral issues of policymaking, conflicts and conflict management, interdependencies (water, food- energy and ecosystems) in shared basins, water security and scarcity and nexus financing.
- **Water, environment and Society:** This theme will focus 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. Focus will be given to the role of faith-based organisations, cultural institutions, the private sector, children and youth, community based organizations etc. It will look into issues of inclusive Water supply, Sanitation and hygiene services, politics and governance of water and ecosystems, sustainable urbanization, irrigation, industry water and environment innovations, water and environment businesses, waste water management.
- **Green growth:** The theme will aim at exploring opportunities for achieving green growth through sustainable development and management of water and environment resources. It will focus on the key principles of a green economy such as equity, environment sustainability, resource efficiency, pollution prevention technologies and best practices, climate change adaptation and mitigation and inclusiveness. Special focus will be given to Green cities, Sustainable energy, Green jobs and employment as well as sustainable production.
- **Blue economy and SDGs:** The theme will introduce 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. The theme will also discover how sustainable development furthers social progress growth and challenges faced as we move towards a sustainable economy, and how to work together to overcome them. The theme will also address issue of transboundary water cooperation and its role in achieving a blue economy and SDGs.
- **Financing Sustainable Development:** Goals (SDGs): This theme will focus on innovative funding opportunities and investment vehicles that can support national efforts to achieve the SDGs related to water and environment. It will also discuss the current and potential roles of the private sector in delivery of water and environment services.

A wide range of water and environment stakeholders are expected to attend the event, including policy makers, technical specialists, academics, public and private sector institutions, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and consumers. It is envisaged that public awareness on water and environment resources for sustainable growth will be increased.

The Uganda Water and Environment Week provides an open and dynamic platform for key stakeholders and participants to enhance their capacity; form intelligent, viable and sustainable partnerships; and review water sector implementation; thereby advancing the cause for national water, environment, sanitation, livelihood improvement and poverty reduction agenda. It will further provide an opportunity for participants to exchange views and experiences; dialogue and network; foster new thinking; and benchmark on best practices in the water sector and develop solutions to the most pressing water related challenges facing us today. Critically, it will provide an opportunity to strengthen partnerships to increase water sector financing.

2.0 RATIONALE FOR THE UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2019

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.

Effective water and environmental management are therefore critical to achieving Uganda's short-and-long term development goals. The study by Industrial Economics (2016) on economic value of water resources and environment in Uganda indicates that 48 percent of the agricultural sector and 34 percent of the manufacturing sector respectively depend on water resources. The study further observed that without proper investment in water management and distribution, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could suffer significantly; and insufficient investment in water management will have much more dramatic effects on the specific water dependent activities in the agricultural, manufacturing and service sector.

Uganda's surface and ground water resources serve a population of approximately 40 million people that grows at an average rate of 3.4 percent, the 4th highest in Sub-Saharan Africa. Based on the projected population growth, the total renewable water resource of the country per capita is expected to drop to 1,072m² per year by 2030, on the brink of the regime of water scarcity – especially in arid and semi-arid regions.

However, with ever increasing pressure on water and the environment due to rapid population growth and increased demand, the water and environment resources availability risks deteriorating and creates a vast challenge to the social and economic development of Uganda. Coping with water and environment related challenges calls for advanced technological development and innovation, not least for wastewater treatment, cleaner production and reuse and resource recovery technologies, as well as changes in production and consumption patterns, set in a proper policy and governance framework.

3.0 OVERALL GOAL

The overall goal of UWEWK 2019 is improved understanding of the centrality of water and environment resources in attainment of SDGs by 2030.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of UWEWK 2019 shall be to:

- a. 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
- b. Introduce the Blue Economy concept which is the economic benefit and value we realize from the Earth's freshwater environment
- c. Exploring opportunities for achieving green growth through sustainable development and management of water and environment resources
- d. 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.
- e. Deliberate on the role of robust and effective water and environment governance in equitable societies;
- f. Provide a forum for improving the integrity of ecosystems for improved water quality, quantity and wastewater management.
- g. Focus on innovative funding opportunities and investment vehicles that can support national efforts to achieve the SDGs related to water and environment.

5.0 EXPECTED OUTPUT

At the end of UWEWK 2019, it is expected that:

- a. Public knowledge on role of water and environment resources in attainment of SDGs will be improved
- b. Recent innovations, technologies and developments in the water and environment sector showcased;
- c. Institutional governance, business opportunities and trends in the water and environment sector explored;
- d. Platforms for exchange of ideas for long term partnerships and networks established;
- e. Potential partners to increase sector financing identified.

6.0 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The proposed activities for the UWEWK 2019 are as follows:

Decentralised UWEWK 2019 activities to be carried out in water management zones. These are considered a relevant approach to broaden the scope and impact of the UWEWK. These could include radio or TV talk shows on Water and Environment issues, serving the need to protect water resources in rural and urban areas.

A 20-30 minutes television documentary production for the Ugandan public on water resources and environment, with broad use of images from on-site locations in the country as critical element, to serve as a national reference point for the UWEWK 2019. The production will highlight challenges and the big picture, environmental easy-wins; action people can take themselves, as well as MWE, actions from other players including the private sector.

Activities will be categorized into (a) pre-event, (b) main event, and (c) post-event activities. This sequencing is planned to help generate the publicity and visibility for the UWEWK 2019. The pre-event activities will last for two days and cascade into the actual event, which will last for four days.

An overall publicity campaign about the water and environment week will start three months prior to the event.

Pre-event Activities

The UWEWK 2019 pre-event activities will include:

- a. Planning and organising the UWEWK 2019
- b. Publicity campaigns, including use of both print and electronic media, social media platforms and promotional materials prior to the event;
- c. Awareness raising using a mobile van across Ministry of Water and Environment de-concentrated units and ending with final campaign in Kampala headed by Centre –MWE
- d. Clean up in Entebbe municipality

Event Activities

The UWEWK 2019 events will be:

- a. Exhibitions and side events staged by public and private sector institutions, academia, development partners, civil society organizations/non-governmental organizations and others;
- b. Keynote speeches delivered by leading sector professional and policy makers;
- c. Paper and posters presented by different scholars and practitioners;
- d. Parallel sessions on thematic areas and topics held for different categories of participants;
- e. High level panel discussions to discuss policy issues and implications for water and environment resources management and their role in achieving SDGs by 2030;
- f. Applied training sessions on relevant key topics in line with the sub-themes;
- g. Commemoration of International days: World Forest Day, World Water Day and World Meteorological Day.
- h. Outstanding personalities and contributors to the water and environment sector awarded;
- i. Daily brief or newsletter about the event developed and circulated to update participants;
- j. A media hub established for accreditation of the press, coordination of the press conferences and provision of updates about the event;
- k. Guests and participants entertained through school performances, including poetry, songs and other forms of entertainment.
- l. One day field visits to selected sites within and around Entebbe and Kampala to provide practical demonstration to participants in line with the sub-themes of the week

Post Event Activities

The post event activities would include preparation of evaluation reports, publication of the proceedings of UWEWK 2019, summary of the outcomes of UWEWK 2019 presented during Sector working groups and establishment of long-term thematic working groups.

7.0 TARGET GROUPS

The celebration to mark the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2019 will be open to the public, sector line ministries, political leaders at different levels, donors, academia, civil society organisations, the media, public and private sector institutions.

High-level government officials including H.E the Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Cabinet Ministers, the Members of Parliament as well as members of the diplomatic corps and all agencies directly or indirectly dealing with water sanitation and environment resources will be specifically targeted.

Organizations will be invited to exhibit some of the latest innovations, technologies, processes, products and initiatives in the water and environment sector. Additionally, a number of schools within Entebbe, Kampala and neighbouring districts will participate in a number of activities, including quiz, drama, skits, poems and essay competitions.

8.0 COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Ministry of Water and Environment through the Water Resources Institute will lead the organization of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2019. For effective coordination and management, the WRI will work closely with partners, including Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), as well as private sector institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET), Environmental Alert, Water for People (WFP), Energy without Borders Foundation (EWBF) and IRC International Water, and International Water and Sanitation Centre.

9.0 PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed sources of funding for the Uganda Water Week 2019 are the Government of Uganda (GoU), Strategic Partners and registration and exhibition fees. The estimated budget for the UWEWK 2019 is estimated to be about **UGX 747,315,000**. This will cover pre-event activities, conference, field trips, school engagements, commemoration of three international days: World Forest Day 21st March, World Water Day of 22nd March and World Meteorological Day 23rd March 2019, entertainment, printing and publications, publicity and communication, and overall conference preparation.

10.0 PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

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

11.0 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Potential individuals, institutions and partners that would like to participate in the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2019 will do so by Expression of Interest (EOI) through physical or online registration.

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