The Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with key Partners will hold the third Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2020 from 23rd to 27th March 2020 organized under the theme; “water and environment resources for inclusive-growth, employment and wealth creation,” the event will be guided by three sub themes:

Water and Environment Security for Inclusive-growth

Water and environment resources support life and social economic activities. Water is central to agriculture, the mainstay of Uganda’s economy, from which about 85% of the population derives their incomes and livelihoods. Provision of adequate water for agriculture will spur transformation of the economy through increased productivity for both livestock and crops. Water is also required as an indispensable input in agro-industrialization. It must, therefore, be available in adequate quantities and corresponding quality at the right time and right place in order to contribute to the achievement of the development goal of increased household incomes and improved quality of life of the population.

Environment and natural resources are under increasing pressure despite their importance in ensuring water and environment security and social and economic growth. For example, the forest cover has declined from 24% of Uganda’s total land area in 1990 to 9% in 2018, a reduction of 57% in just 25 years. Similarly, the national wetlands coverage as a percentage of the total land area declined from 15.6% in 1994 to 8.4% in 2016. It is estimated that Uganda loses 846 km² of its wetlands annually. This is mainly attributed to biomass for fuel cooking/combustion (about 90% of Ugandans use fire wood and charcoal for cooking) with other auxiliary drivers such as expansion of agricultural land, sporadic urbanization and industrialization and inadequate incentives for private plantation forests, excessive water abstraction, income poverty, poor intra and inter sector coordination with regards to continued issuance of land titles in wetlands, sand mining and industrialization with some of the demarcated business/industrial parks located in wetlands. Other challenges include encroachment, illegal harvesting and titling. This sub-theme will therefore explore the impacts of degradation of environment and natural resources on achievement of NDPIII targets and what needs to be done to ensure environmental security for inclusive growth.

Water and Environment for Employment and Wealth Creation

The focus of NDPIII on resource-led industrialization through value addition in agriculture, minerals, petroleum and manufacturing presents major opportunities for employment, wealth creation and socio-economic transformation. However, employment, wealth creation and socio-economic transformation among vulnerable communities will depend on availability and sustainable management of key natural resources in the catchments. This sub-theme will also discuss how societies should govern their water and environment resources for employment and wealth creation and improving people’s livelihood. Accessibility to safe and clean water is, for many people, a matter of daily survival, or can help to break the vicious circle of poverty. Improving natural resources governance is therefore essential to alleviating global poverty.

The contribution of water, environment and natural resources to employment and wealth creation has already been recognized by the country although a lot more still needs to be done to exploit this potential. For example, Uganda’s forests supply 88% of all its energy needs, provide 61% of Uganda’s tourism income and provides jobs for about 1 million people. Over the last five years, private commercial plantations have been promoted together with tree planting campaigns and distribution of about 62 million seedlings out of 88 million produced. About 3,500 ha of degraded natural forests have been restored and 60,000 ha were allocated to private developers for commercial tree plantation development, out of which 5,400 ha of new plantations have been established. However, the restoration of forests and tree cover by natural regeneration or by plantation or by agroforestry has not kept pace with the annual loss of forest cover and loss of individual trees. This trend is likely to affect employment and wealth creation of especially the youth in Uganda. The same situation can be said of wetlands and other natural resources.
This sub-theme will also give focus to innovative solutions for more efficient and productive development and management of water, environment and natural resources; case studies of integrated water development and management schemes that account for the water demand and supply as well as land and the environment. It will also address the new approaches to achieving Water-Food-Energy nexus as well as approaches for addressing environmental degradation and water scarcity and through non-conventional water and environment resources management approaches. Thus, ensuring sound management and sustainable utilization of water, environment and natural resources, and mitigation of impact of climate variability and climate change will be key for employment and wealth creation and general economic growth. The sub-theme will therefore explore opportunities for increasing incomes and employment through sustainable use and value addition to water, forests and other natural resources.

**Climate change and achievement of NDP III goals**

Uganda is experiencing changes in the climatic conditions and this has been exacerbated by anthropogenic activities related to degradation of natural resources. This is having devastating impacts on the society and undermining Uganda’s social and economic growth. The changes in climatic conditions have caused floods, droughts and landslides in various parts of the country resulting in destruction of infrastructure, crops and settlement structures and general destruction of peoples’ livelihoods. The key impacts have been on agriculture (crop failures due to drought and destruction by flooding), energy (especially hydropower generation), transport (destruction of roads and bridges), water supply (affecting quantity and quality), livestock production (affecting pasture production, water supply and many other negative impacts).

If the NDP III focus of investing in critical national infrastructure projects to lower production costs, enhance international competitiveness and facilitate the sustainable exploitation of developmental opportunities in agriculture, tourism, minerals, and oil/gas is to be realized there will need to address impacts of climate change. There is therefore a need to enhance the resilience of the various sectors of the economy and the communities to climate related shocks through implementing appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The event includes the following activities:

1. Publicity campaigns in print, electronic and social media;
2. Walking for Water, Environment and climate change –From 10th to 20th March 2020 starting from Mabira forest to Rwizi catchment in Mbarara
3. Clean up exercises or restoration activities organized by regional de-concentrated structures of the MWE and their partners in various locations to deal with key pressing issues in those regions
4. Commemoration of the three Important International Sector Days - Monday 23rd March 2020
6. Applied Training Sessions: Thursday 26th March 2020
7. Field Visits to selected areas within Entebbe, Kampala and surrounding districts Friday 27th March 2020

Contact us on:

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Mobile: +256 772 468772, +256 789587005
Website: www.mwe.go.ug; Twitter: @min_waterUg #UWEWK; Facebook: facebook.com/Ministry of Water and Environment

**PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FORM**

UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK (UWEWK) 2020

23-27 March 2020, at the Water Resources Institute, Entebbe, Uganda

Please book your participation by filling in this form in CAPITAL LETTERS and return it to: uwewk@mwe.go.ug and copied to wri.uga@gmail.com

**Section A: Contact Details**

☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Prof.
If you need any specific facilities or requirements, do not hesitate to inform the secretariat at uwewk@mwe.go.ug / wri.uga@gmail.com

**Section B: Participation**

Please indicate how you would like to participate in the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2020 *(Please tick where appropriate):*

- Participant
- Exhibitor
- Convener
- Presenter
- Sponsor
- Co/Convener

**Section C: Field Visits**

*(Please indicate the filed visit you would like to join on Friday March 27, 2020)*

1. Water use efficiency in Agriculture and fisheries
2. Innovations in waste water treatment using cleaner production strategies
3. Role of Youth in Sustainable Forest Management, Mpanga Forest, Mpigi District
4. Effective Management of Piped Water supply Systems using the Umbrella Authority Model

**Section D: Applied Training**

*(Please indicate which session(s) you would like to attend on Thursday March 26, 2020)*

1. Effective Monitoring and Reporting of SDG 6
2. Effective Communication and documentation of Water and Environment
3. Water Source Planning and Protection
4. Solar Pumping and Micro Irrigation Technologies
5. Wetland Related Businesses
6. Forestry Entrepreneurship Development
7. Innovations in School WASH Promotion: A case of using games

**Section E: Registration Fees and Payments**

*Take advantage of the early bird registration with payment; that ends on January 31st 2020 and benefit from the discounted rates.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Academia, sector professionals, individuals, organisations</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Foreign participants</th>
<th>Exhibitors (includes 1 participant, extras pay individual rates)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discounted Registration</td>
<td>UGX 200,000</td>
<td>UGX 100,000</td>
<td>USD 150$</td>
<td>UGX 500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Registration</td>
<td>UGX 250,000</td>
<td>UGX</td>
<td>USD 200$</td>
<td>UGX 500,000</td>
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The registration fee includes workshop material, coffee breaks and lunch. Conveners & Sponsors (Please contact the Secretariat for details)

Bank Account details: (Please make payments to)

Account Name: UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK (UWEWK)
Account number: 00190088000061
Name of Bank: Bank of Uganda
Swift Code: UGBA UG KA
Mode of payment: Electronic Transfer Only

OR
Account Name: UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK - UWEWK
Account number: 01503616838089
Name of Bank: DFCU
Branch: Entebbe
Mode of payment: Electronic Transfer, over the counter, cheques, TTs

Who is paying: Self ☐ Organization: ☐ Others/ state ________________________________

Please send confirmation of payment to the Secretariat on: uwewk@mwe.go.ug; and wri.uga@gmail.com

Thank you for completing and returning this form.
For further details, contact us on: Email: uwewk@mwe.go.ug; wri.uga@gmail.com
Mobile: +256 772 468772, +256 789587005