



## **AGREED MINUTES**

**FOR THE 10<sup>TH</sup> JOINT TECHNICAL REVIEW**

**OF THE**

**WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR**

**10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018**  
**Hotel Brovad, Masaka**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Joint Technical Review (JTR) for Uganda's Water and Environment sector is a forum for mid-term assessment and follow-up on implementation of the agreed undertakings of the Joint Sector Review (JSR). It is held approximately six months after the JSR. The 2018 JTR was attended by political leaders at the national and local government levels, representatives of central government Ministries/Departments/Agencies (MDAs), Local Governments, sector Development Partners (DPs), Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The formal meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> JTR for the Water and Environment sector was held from 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Hotel Brovad in Masaka. A total of 179 persons attended the review of these 43 were females and 146 were males. They included Honourable Members of Parliament, District level politicians, representatives from **central government ministries** from the Ministry of Water & Environment (MWE), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development (MFPED); **sector semi-autonomous agencies**; National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National Forestry Authority (NFA), Nyabyeya Forest college, Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA), Sector Advisors and selected **District Local Governments**; Masaka (the host district), Kyotera, Buwama, Butambala, Gombe, Kalangala, Kalungu, Lwengo, Lyantonde, Mubende, Rakai and, Sembabule Districts, **de-concentrated (regionally based) structures** of the MWE including Technical Support Unit (TSU) Team Leaders for TSUs 2, 3, 7, 9 &10, the Managers Water and Sanitation Development Facility (WSDF) Central and East, sector **Development Partners** including the French Development Agency (AFD), African Development Bank (AfDB), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), Denmark, Germany (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Humanitarian Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and selected **Non-Government Organisations** (NGOs), including Uganda Water and sanitation NGO network (UWASNET), Environment Alert/ ENR CSO network, SNV, Water for People, Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), Community Initiative for Development (CIDI), ACCORD, World Vision, the private sector/consultants and media houses.

The theme for the 10<sup>th</sup> JTR was ***“Exploring Financing Opportunities for Investment in the Water and Environment Sector”***.

The overall aim of the 2018 JTR was to ***“Assess the progress made with regards to implementation of the key actions and/or undertakings which were agreed during the 2017 JSR and also to recommend actions arising from the field visits.”***

The specific objectives were to:

1. Review progress in implementation of the 2017 JSR key actions and /or undertakings.
2. Identify good practices from the field visits, and/or recommend actions for improving the sector's performance, especially with delivery of services under the sector.
3. Share any emerging policy and/or strategic issues/ challenges affecting the sector's performance (since last year's JSR) and make appropriate recommendations.

This document sets out the agreed minutes of the 2018 JTR.

## 2 PROCESS OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> JOINT TECHNICAL REVIEW (JTR)

### 2.1 Overview

The review commenced with field visits on the first day consisting of four different groups to the following areas:

- (i) Kalungu - Buwama Group; Covering (a) Conventional Pumped Water supply System and a Fecal Sludge treatment plant constructed by MWE with funding from AfDB, Management of the water supply scheme and the fecal sludge management site by NWSC, (b) Zhong Yi Paddy rice growing on 2000 hectares and a processing plant, (c) Birinzi Demonstration – Namakwaland irrigation farm on a 60 hectares piece of land owned by South Africans.
- (ii) Masaka Group; Covering (a) Nkoni piped water supply managed by Central Umbrella Utility, (b) Masaka water supply and sewerage managed by NWSC, (c) Briquettes making by a Women group, (d) Gwamba community forest and (e) Novelty leather tannery.
- (iii) Lwengo District; Covering the topics on (a) Solar-powered micro-scale irrigation funded by GoU in Kyasonko –Kyoja Swamp, (b) Kiwangala Mini Piped Solar Water System.
- (iv) Rakai -Kyotera Group; covering the Sango bay plains, (a) River Kagera catchment /landscape, (b) Illegal pastoralism in the Central forest reserve (c) Water supply and (d) Faecal Sludge treatment plant at Kasaali.

Each field visit group presented a summary report of their findings focusing on good practices, challenges and policy recommendations as identified during the visit, during the plenary session on the second day of the review. The field experiences are summarised under section 4;

This was followed by the official opening of the Review, after which progress was reported on 8 of the 13 undertakings of the JSR 2017. The regional perspective on sector issues was provided by Masaka District Local Government in the afternoon of the second day and in addition the experience of the Technical Support Units (TSUs) as well as updates on the Danida evaluation. The third day commenced with progress reporting of the other 5 undertakings, followed by four presentations on policy and institutional issues, and ended with the formal closing session of the Review. During the closing ceremony, the updated Gender strategy for the Water and Sanitation sub sector was launched.

### 2.2 Official Opening of the 10<sup>th</sup> JTR

The opening ceremony for the formal meeting of the JTR was chaired by the Permanent Secretary (PS), MWE Mr Alfred Okot Okidi. He welcomed the participants to the 10<sup>th</sup> JTR and from the field visits which preceded the plenary discussions. He noted that the experiences shared will enable the sector improve service delivery under the sector and was therefore looking forward to the recommendations from the deliberations.

In line with the theme for 2018 JTR, he informed the meeting that the current challenge which requires immediate action is to bridge the sector's financing gap amidst the heavy investment

requirements to cope up with the increasing population. The Water and Environment Sector holds a strategic position in the country's development ladder and hence needs to mobilize the necessary resources required to bridge the financing gap in order to meet the National Development agenda.

He informed the Review that the sector organized and hosted the first ever Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2018 from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 at the Directorate of Water Resources Management Complex in Entebbe under the theme "*Water and Environment - a catalyst for achieving Middle Income Status 2020*". The key issues highlighted were that increased investment in the Water and Environment sector in Uganda is vital if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Vision 2040 goals, and the National Development Plan (NDP-II) targets. He also noted that it is time for the sector to come up with resource mobilization strategies to augment the efforts of Government.

The Permanent Secretary also informed participants that the Water Resources Institute (WRI) was launched during the UWEWK by the Right Honorable Prime Minister of Uganda, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda. The WRI will address the current and future water and environment resources related issues affecting the country through conducting applied scientific research, training of sector personnel, and facilitate policy dialogue and knowledge dissemination/outreach. The WRI is a big milestone and is expected to contribute to sustainable economic development of the country towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Vision 2040.

The PS noted some progress in implementation of the undertakings; however urged the respective stakeholders to ensure that all the undertakings are substantially completed or achieved by the time of the JSR in September this year.

He commended the political leadership of the Ministry for their guidance, the sector Development Partners DP for the technical and financial support, the line ministries, sector semi-autonomous agencies, the private sector, the NGOs, the local government leaders and the media for their partnership to improve service delivery, and for attending the JTR. He also thanked Masaka District Local Government (DLG) for hosting the JTR participants.

In his opening remarks, the Chairperson for Masaka DLG, Mr Jude Mbabali welcomed all participants to Masaka. He pointed out that access to safe water and sanitation is a human right and thus thanked the MWE for supporting District Local Governments in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) service provision. He stressed the critical importance of the environment in ensuring availability and sustainability of our water resources for the present and future generations. He encouraged the MWE to follow up and implement the recommendations of the JTR.

In his opening remarks, the Lead Development Partner representative for the Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) sub sector, Mr Onesmus Muhwezi, UNDP appreciated the organisation of the JTR particularly the joint field visits which provided an opportunity for common understanding of the issues affecting the sector. He also commended the sector for holding the inaugural UWEWK, and for pursuing the wetlands management agenda up to the highest level of government; including access to the Green Climate Funds (GCFs) for wetlands restoration. In addition, he commended that the sector for championing refugee response as part of its on-going planning and development.

Regarding the issue of limited funding for the ENR sub sector, he informed the meeting that most of the DP support to the ENR sub sector is off budget and therefore he encouraged the sector to capture all contributions (both on & off budget) in sector reporting. He reiterated the importance of following a holistic approach in the implementation of integrated catchment management plans as well as carrying out environmental impact assessment plans for investment projects in order to optimise the resources and reinforce the synergies that exist between the two subsectors. Furthermore, operationalizing the agreed 3% water source protection arrangements will go a long way in bridging the gap between investments in infrastructure and catchment management.

With regards to the status of the ENR undertakings, the DPs noted the progress made, but hastened to add that more work needs to be done in the next 6 months before the JSR. In line with the theme of the JTR, the DPs encouraged the MWE to harness the available staff capacities to mainstream environment protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in their work. Additionally the line agencies should play their respective roles in permit issuance, compliance monitoring and enforcement in a bid to restore public trust and confidence as was evidenced from the field visits where the necessary permits were not available at site.

The Lead Development Partner representative for the Water and Sanitation Sub-Sector, Ms Joyce Magala, ADC, highlighted the importance of increasing investments in the water and environment sector by 9% by 2040 in order to realize the potential increase in per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as described in the economic study which was carried out earlier by the MWE. Furthermore, she pointed out that the National Vision 2040 can only be achieved if sufficient water of good quality is available for the present and future population. She commended the MWE for development of the Sector Strategic Investment Plan (SSIP), which indicates that in order to meet the sector SDG targets; there will be need for a 9-fold increase in the current annual sector funding. To this end the DPs are committed to support the sector to meet its targets. However the sector DPs urged the GoU to maintain the existing water and sanitation services. She reminded the review that although the GoU contribution/financial allocation to the sector under the national budget has continuously increased in absolute terms, in real terms the total budget allocation for water and environment has stagnated and is too low to meet the demands of a rapidly growing population.

She informed the meeting that globally DPs' funding priorities are gradually shifting towards refugees' emergency support. In addition, the funding modalities are changing from budget support and joint financing mechanisms to direct project funding. On the other hand, the provision of concessional loans for financing investment projects under the sector increases, which calls for more prudence and cost effectiveness. These changes have implications on the sector arrangements including support to the de-concentrated structures such as the Technical Support Units (TSUs) which hitherto were supported through the joint funding modalities.

She consequently appealed to all sector DPs, that whatever their preferred funding modalities, they should ensure harmonisation and alignment of their support as well as recognise the importance of overall sector coordination, capacity development and support to cross cutting issues such as environment and CC mainstreaming. A good opportunity for coordinated investments incorporating environment concerns and climate change mitigation actions is through implementation of catchment management plans under the national framework of catchment based water resources management. Some DPs have supported the development of and, more recently, the start of implementation of such plans. DPs urge GoU to enforce the contribution of up to 3% of the cost of water infrastructure to pay for water source protection and environment management. The importance of ensuring good environment management, adherence to sector guidelines and standards in implementation sector activities in the refugee hosting communities is critical for the sustainability of investments.

The on-going Joint Water and Environment Sector Support Programme (JWESSP) is coming to an end in June this Financial Year and a new follow-up 5 year JWESSP-II is currently under preparation. The target start date for the new program is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018; it is expected that the JWESSP-II will still follow a programmatic approach and contribute to overall sector coordination and monitoring as well as capacity development. The new program will be the main programmes to implement the SSIP. The programme will also support environment & CC mainstreaming.

The DPs commended GoU efforts to improve sanitation interventions through town sanitation planning and Faecal Sludge Management (FSM), in an environment of increasing urbanization. This will provide a systematic approach to urban sanitation and environment protection. Furthermore, there is a gradual shift from provision of point sources to piped water schemes. The implication of this strategy is that the two sub sectors rural and urban need to join efforts in providing the required services, as well as maintaining them. The DPs strongly recommend that the sector's Utility Performance Monitoring and Information Management System (UPMIS), currently used for all town water supplies under the Umbrella Authorities should be rolled out to the towns water supply schemes operated by NWSC.

Among other initiatives, the DPs have supported the sector to establish de-concentrated WSDFs, as well as the Umbrella Organisations (UOs) - of the Water Supply and Sanitation Boards of Small Towns and RGCs to better support Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of piped schemes. Ms. Magala was happy to note that the UOs were gazetted a few months ago and now are managing over 200 schemes as Umbrella Authorities (UAs) side by side with NWSC. It should be noted that the UAs cannot be successful and sustainable if they are handed over the smallest, remotest and oldest water supply systems without any financial support and limited human and physical capacities.

Furthermore, the regulation of water utilities remains critical for the water sector and the population as a whole. The DPs are looking forward to quarterly standardised reporting by the Water Utility Regulation department in order to monitor the performance of the towns managed by NWSC and Umbrella Authorities.

Capacity Development is crucial for sustaining the various sector developments, to this end DPs have supported the development of costed capacity development plans and therefore urged the sector to implement the plans in a systematic way to ensure that the middle and low level sector personal are equipped with appropriate technical, leadership and management skills in order to ensure continuity.

The review was thereafter formally opened by the P.S. on behalf of Hon. Sam Cheptoris the Minister of Water and Environment who was not able to attend due to other urgent state duties. He welcomed the various participants in their respective capacities to the 10<sup>th</sup> JTR, and thanked the sector DPs for the financial support as well as their physical presence. He reiterated the JTR as an important forum as an overall sector coordination and consultative process with the sector stakeholders.

He reiterated the vital role the water and environment sector plays in economic development. He urged all the sector stakeholders to think outside the box and explore new avenues for mobilizing additional resources to fund the sector. Opportunities for nature based solutions such as green water & sanitation infrastructure should be harnessed. He commended the MWE staff and sector stakeholders for organising a very successful Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) which culminated into the launching of the Water Resources Institute (WRI).

He pledged to provide appropriate support to the technocrats in order to ensure enforcement of relevant laws and policies as part of the MWE mandate to reverse environmental degradation. He also pointed out that the GoU has put priority and emphasis on water for irrigation as one of the main means for transformation to middle income status by 2020.

The MWE will ensure adequate technical staff representation of all the sub sectors at the regional deconcentrated levels especially ENR staff (including forestry, wetlands and NEMA) in order to ensure that sector services are closer to the districts/communities, i.e. to ease enforcement of compliance/ permit conditions. He however hastened to add that enforcement should be carried out in a humane way and after sensitization. The National Forestry Authority (NFA) and Forestry Support Services Dept (FSSD) of MWE should spearhead mobilisation of communities in carrying out CC adaptation and mitigation activities such as tree planting and participating in other catchment based activities. The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) needs to disseminate weather information to the communities in time in order to provide appropriate guidance to the farmers and communities in general.

He highlighted the need to fast track the finalisation of the on-going review of sector Policies, laws and guidelines in order to have a strong basis for enforcement; otherwise there will not be an adequate legal basis for enforcing some of the required actions. He thereafter declared the 10<sup>th</sup> JTR officially opened.



### **3 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE JOINT SECTOR REVIEW (JSR) 2017 UNDERTAKINGS**

Progress on the 13 undertakings was reported, below is the summary of the current status of each of the undertakings as reported during the plenary session.

#### **3.1 Environment and Natural Resources**

**Undertaking 1: Continue with the implementation of the ongoing undertaking of mainstreaming ENR and Climate Change into agriculture, infrastructure, lands, energy and water sectors in order to achieve reduced contributions to degradation by these 5 sectors by the end of FY 2017/18.**

Commenced implementation of the undertaking, however due to the multi sectoral nature of the undertaking (5 sectors), this undertaking may not be achieved by end of this FY (2017/2018).

**Undertaking 2: Commence implementation of new Sector Performance Measurement Framework in the ENR Sub-Sector by the end of FY 2017/18.**

The undertaking is on track with baseline data established for most undertakings. It builds on the work done recently to revise performance measurement framework. The sector performance report for 2017/18FY will be compiled based on the revised sector performance indicators.

**Undertaking 3: Integrate climate change adaptation and source protection measures in the water and environment sector work plan and budget for implementation in the financial year 2018/19.**

The undertaking is on track – covering both on and off budget activities. So far the following activities have been undertaken; i) MWE Planning guidelines for 2018/2019 encouraging all directorates and departments to set aside 3% of the budgets for ENR, Climate change and source protection measures; ii) Trained MDAs on the National Climate Change Indicators and the CCD Performance Measurement Framework to be integrated to the Programme Based Budgeting Tool and the OPM monitoring tool, iii) Currently there is an on- going exercise on elaborating SPCR five investment priorities (a) Climate resilient agriculture (b) Rural community resilience, (c) Urban Resilience and Infrastructure (d) Hydro-meteorological services (e) Institutional capacity for climate change coordination.

In addition a project aimed at enhancing resilience of communities to climate change through catchment based integrated management of water and related resources in Uganda is currently under implementation in 3 catchments of Awoja, Maziba and Aswa – funding channeled through DWRM. Furthermore, there is a wetland ecosystems project whose objective is enhancing the ability of subsistence farmers in south western and eastern Uganda to deal with climate impacts. Supported with a grant of \$24.1 M from the GCF.

Furthermore, the following off budget projects are under implementation within the framework of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) –spearheaded by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development MEMD). They include, a) Green Schools- Providing sustainable energy solutions to boarding schools in mainly off grid rural areas with solar energy, efficient cook stoves and biogas technologies (18,000 P/S, 3,000 SS and 50 Tertiary Schools to be

supported up to 2030). Currently in Development phase, b) Integrated Waste Management and biogas in Uganda targeting direct greenhouse gas reduction of 88,315t CO<sub>2</sub> eq/yr.

### **3.2 Water Resources Management**

**Undertaking 4: Operationalize the proposed coordination, implementation and funding mechanism for catchment based IWRM in at least eight catchment in the four zones by the end of FY2017/18.**

The undertaking is in advanced stages, proposed coordination, implementation and funding mechanisms for catchment based IWRM are operational in 9 catchments.

**Undertaking 5: Finalize and pilot the national framework for drinking water quality management and regulation in the four WMZ by the end of financial year 2017/18.**

The undertaking is on track. The national framework has been finalized – and comprises 2 Framework documents, 1 guideline, 5 annexes and 34 recommendations. The piloting aspect is still outstanding due to limited resources.

### **3.3 Water Supply and Sanitation**

**Undertaking 6: Establish data management systems for water production facilities to enhance utilization and sustainability by the end of FY 2017/18.**

The undertaking is in advanced stages – the data-base has been developed data collection (manual) and entry is being done. Further work will include use of mobile phone technology (mobile apps).

**Undertaking 7: Demonstrate performance improvement in water schemes directly managed by umbrella organizations by the end of FY 2017/18.**

The undertaking is on track; so far the following milestones have been reached;

i) 2 gazettes were done in July & December 2017 with a total of 224 piped schemes, ii) there is continuity of supply: from October to date 92% average, iii) Water quality: 97% of samples taken comply to the national water quality standards, iv) Non-Revenue Water decreased from 46% to 36%, v) Water sales increased 48% (129 -191m/m) since October 2017 basing on the first gazette, vi) New connections: 1000+ installed, vii) collection efficiency is 82% on average, viii) financial viability: to date 70% of the systems break even.

**Undertaking 8: Finalize and commence implementation of the one source per village /cell strategy (Central, NWSC, District Local Government) by the end of FY 2018/19.**

The undertaking is on track. So far the following milestones have been reached; i) The Uganda Water Atlas 2017 was finalized, printed and can be accessed online via the MWE web site, [www.mwe.go.ug](http://www.mwe.go.ug), ii) District Water and Sanitation Development Plans (DPs) were completed for all the 122 districts; iii) <sup>1</sup>SCAP100 is under implementation by NWSC.

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<sup>1</sup> NWSC serviced areas under the Service Coverage Accelerated Programme (SCAP100) where communities within 100metres radius are connected to the NWSC pipe line.

It should be noted that with the current sector funding, the NDPII sector targets will be achieved in 24 years i.e. the investment requirements are much higher than the available funding;

**Undertaking 9: Reinstate a budget line for software activities under the district water and sanitation conditional grant by the end of FY 2018/19**

The preparatory activities of the undertaking are on track and will be achieved by the June 2017/2018. Have implemented the following activities; i) A draft concept paper/ proposal to guide negotiations with MoFPED has been developed and final consultations ongoing, ii) Two Steering Committee meetings have been held to discuss the concept note and to develop an action plan, iii) Consultations with DLGs, Line Ministries and DPs ongoing. It was noted that it is too late to integrate the budget line in FY 2018/2019.

**Undertaking 10: Set up a project preparation and financing taskforce under each of the departments under MWE/DWD by the end of FY 2017/18.**

The undertaking is on track. The taskforce comprised of representatives from the respective departments was formed and has already commenced preparation of proposals.

**Undertaking 11: Develop water and sanitation planning, implementation and O&M framework for refugees and host communities by the end of FY 2017/18.**

The undertaking is on track. There are two major outputs namely; i) Water supply and sanitation and ii) Operation and Maintenance.

For better coordination of refugee activities, a WASH platform has been formed, and is chaired by UNHCR, with MWE and UNICEF as Co-chairs. The platform brings together all CSO's working in the refugee and host communities. There are monthly status meetings held under the WASH platform. Matters discussed combine water supply, sanitation, hygiene and environment and catchment management (lately).

### **3.4 Policy and Institutional Issues**

**Undertaking 12: Finalize the accreditation requirements for the Ministry of Water and Environment as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) for access to financing from the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by the end of FY 2017/18. Secondly the MWE has to develop/ adapt a number of documents to fulfill the conditions for accessing the funds.**

The team has commenced implementation of the undertaking. So far a number of the required documentation for fulfilling the accreditation have been prepared and submitted to the GCF & AF Secretariats respectively. However the undertaking might not be achieved within the FY because progress on finalization of the required documents partly relies on timely feedback from the AF & GCF secretariat.

**Undertaking 13: Commence implementation of new Sector Performance Measurement Framework in the Water and Sanitation Sub-sector by the end of FY 2017/18.**

The undertaking is on track (with progress similar to undertaking No. 2 above for ENR). It builds on the work done recently on SSIP assignment.

## 4 ISSUES, DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The major issues from the JTR field visits, presentations, and discussions are outlined below.

### 4.1 Forest and wetlands conservation, restoration and management

Gwamba community forest in Masaka is a unique forest managed by the District Local Government. Due to the strong political commitment to promote good environment practices, the sub-county and Masaka District Local government councils have made a resolution to gazette the community forest. This is because it is threatened by encroachers, illegal logging and charcoal burning and the degraded neighboring wetland. The gazette is an opportunity to upgrade it from community to a district forest. In addition there are small scale mining activities that cumulatively result into big environmental impact and therefore should not be left to the local government to enforce.

Marabigambo, Tero East & West and Namala Central Forest Reserve (CFR) in Kyotera district is located in Sango bay. It serves as a catchment for NWSC for Mutukula Town Council. It is characterized by the following issues/ challenges: i) Its' boundaries are not demarcated, ii) by high erosion/siltation, iii) wetlands encroachment/degradation, iv) aquatic biodiversity degradation, and v) illegal timber trade & cattle grazing.

#### Recommendations:

There is need for policy guidance in the management of Water supply systems in gazzeted areas for NWSC and the Water Authorities e.g. Self-supply within the NWSC serviced areas is permitted yet previously it was not permitted. The Sector needs to secure land titles for all the components of the water systems in order to reduce/minimize encroachment. FSSD, NFA, URA, LG & others should step up enforcement of forestry law, enforcement and governance at Mutukula & Minzilo boarder points to address illegal timber trade and the illegal sand mining in Lwera. Central government should support the local government to enforce the permit conditions, laws etc. such as the ban on sand mining. Government should make an effort to increase funding to the Districts especially for ENR activities among others. MWE/FSSD should fast track gazetting Gwamba as a community forest.

### 4.2 Conventional piped Water Supply systems

Three different piped water supply systems were visited by three different groups:-

(a) **Buwama –Kayabwe water supply system** was constructed by the MWE with funding from AfDB. The water is pumped from Lake Victoria. It was handed over to NWSC for management. It has 5 Reserve tanks (total of 750 m<sup>3</sup>), an intake at the lake, a treatment facility, Water quality laboratory and a backwash tank. At the handover the system had 400 household connections, 20 Public Stand Posts (PSTs). After hand over in March 2017, NWSC has since added 400 household connections. An extension to Gombe- Kyabadaza is underway, with an estimated 1200 connections.

As a result of the interventions, water coverage stands at around 60% . Collection efficiency is almost 100% during the dry spell because there are no alternative sources of water. The total

monthly collection is about UGX 30million, however the operational costs are higher than the collection thus the Water supply system is not breaking even.

**(b) Masaka municipal water supply scheme** was implemented by GoU and managed by NWSC. Collection efficiency stands at almost 100%. On average revenue collection is around UGX 720 million per month. Two thirds of the operational costs is expended for power (electricity) consumption and treatment costs. Some of the good practices which NWSC is implementing are; stakeholder engagement including schools, a tree planting campaign targeting 2 million trees in FY2018/2019.

NWSC has challenges linked to lack of catchment/source protection due to encroachment and consequently there is huge contamination of the water at the intake due to erosion from neighboring areas. In addition there is water theft thereby increasing the NRW to 18%.

**(c) Nkoni piped water system** is managed by the Central Umbrella Utility of Water and Sanitation (CUWS). It is operating efficiently at optimum capacity. After hand over to CUWS, the household connections have increased from 200 to 548 connections in addition the scheme has kiosks and public Stand Posts (PSPs). Total revenue has increased from UGX 2mY 2017/2018 to UGX 15m per month. The improvement in the performance of the Umbrella Authority is attributed to competent and dedicated staff deployed at the facility/UO with clear performance targets. Another innovation is the cashless payment system for bill payment which limits financial leakages.

The challenges faced by CUWS are mainly due to a degraded catchment area which may threaten system sustainability. Secondly the initial land agreement during the construction phase had waived payment for water by the land owner(s) as compensation for the land offered. This arrangement has been abused by other water users who do not pay on the pretext that they are part of the land owners. As a result CUWS lacks funds for expansion of the water supply system to cover nearby Small Towns(STs) and Rural Growth Centers (RGCs)

### **4.3 Rural water provision – Kiwangala mini piped solar powered borehole**

**Kiwangala mini piped solar powered borehole** is located in Kisekka sub-county –Lwengo district. It was funded by GoU to the tune of UGX 150 million with a capacity of 2 Cubic Metres per hour, 10 Cubic Metres Storage Tank and an eco-san latrine. It serves 600 people plus Kiwangala village Health Centre (III).

In terms of O&M, the system is run by a Water & Sanitation Committee (WSC) comprised of 4 members and a Pump Operator. The beneficiaries pay UGX 100 per 20 liter container. On average the total collections is only approx. UGX 400,000 per month, which means only part of the community buys the water from this system<sup>2</sup>. This revenue is expended as follows (40% Operator, 15% Security, 20% Committee, 25% O & M). At the time of the field visit, there was only UGX 1.1 million on the bank account.

**Observations/ lessons:** It takes sustained community engagement for new approaches to take root. Secondly, communities' appreciation of the project has led to unity as well as improved willingness to pay for water...

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<sup>2</sup> 400,000 UGX at 100 UGX per 20 litres, assuming 20 litres consumption pppd, means that 400 people are served, while the system is for 600 people plus a health center.

#### 4.4 Water for Production

**Kyasonko Kyoja Solar-powered micro-scale irrigation** in Lwengo district was funded by GoU to the tune of UGX 418M with a reservoir capacity of 20 Cubic Metres on a 5 M tower, and pumping 60,000 litres per day. For sustainability, and to ensure optimal use of the water, a management model referred to as Farmer Field School (FFS) has been established with 45 members - half are women, of these 5 elected members take care of the management aspects.

**Buwama paddy rice** growing farm is owned by a Chinese company called Zhong Yi. It sits on about 2000 hectares. Water is drawn from the Lake Victoria & river Katonga and is pumped through open canals to irrigate the rice. The rice farm employs slightly over 700 workers. Harvesting of the rice is done using combine harvesters and the cleaning and bagging of the rice is also mechanized. The rice husks are processed into pig feeds. The rice is sold locally in Uganda. The farm has a number of challenges like inadequate health and safety measures for the workers, poor hygiene at the factory, lack of sanitation facilities at the farm for the workers, No EIA certificate on site, there were leakages and discharge of untreated waste water onsite, plus inadequate management of the oil spills.

Institutionally there is lack of coordination of activities at the district level. The rice company does not want to be monitored especially by the local district personnel. No facilities have permits (Abstraction, waste water discharge) and there is poor management of Agro-chemicals used with a potential for flow back into the lake/river.

**Birinzi demonstration farm - Namakwaland** sits on about 60 hectares of land. Water is pumped from lake Birinzi and is use to irrigate Maize, Beans, Irish Potatoes and Water Melon using a mechanized sprinkler system. The farm has potential to produce crops three times a year and thus is a good case for using water for agricultural production.

**Novelty Leather Tannery** offers employment to 300 men and women. The inputs for the tannery are purchased locally (hides and skin). The team was informed that the firm has undertaken an EIA and they are trying to fulfill the wastewater discharge/permit conditions, e.g. they carry out effluent treatment before it is discharged into the environment.

#### Recommendations

- (i) The District Local Government Structure needs to be aligned to the central (National) level structure in terms of roles and responsibility for water and environment activities.
- (ii) There is need to urgently screen all large water users for the relevant permits and to monitor fulfilment of the respective permit conditions.
- (iii) In order to save time community mobilisation for land acquisition should be done before project commences in order to save time.

#### 4.5 Fecal Sludge (FS) Management

There is a **Feecal Sludge Treatment facility at Buwama Town Council** which was implemented by the MWE with funding from AfDB which is hardly being used, and an incomplete Feecal sludge treatment facility at Kasaali (funded by EU). Currently there is inadequate market for FS treatment plant. In addition there is lack of sanitation facilities at Kasensero landing site.

## **Recommendations**

Fecal sludge management has to address the whole chain starting from community sensitization, marketing, containment at the household level/school level, collection, transporting, discharge, treatment and disposal. To avoid wastage of the available financial resources, construction of the fecal sludge treatment plant should also be phased as the market for its services builds up.

### **4.6 Other Innovations**

Abakyala Tukole Amanda is an innovation, which has mobilized a group of women to make briquettes from agricultural waste and charcoal dust as a source of energy. It provides employment to 20 women as an alternative source of livelihood and waste management.

#### **Observation/lessons**

Turning waste to wealth is possible - with a lot of waste around us, many groups can use simple technologies as an alternative source of livelihood.

#### **Recommendation**

Support more initiatives for alternative energy sources e.g. briquettes and promote Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

### **4.7 Regional perspectives**

#### **4.7.1 Presentation by the DWO Masaka on behalf of TSU7 districts**

The District Water Officer (DWO) Masaka made a presentation on behalf of the 12 DLGs within the TSU7 region. He highlighted the following issues: i) Water and sanitation coverage in these districts range from 90.3% & 87% respectively (for Masaka District) to 38% & 52% in other districts. The variances are mainly due to the fact that 4 of the districts are water stressed and are within the cattle corridor. This challenge is exacerbated by climate variability, which has resulted into lowering of the water table yet most water facilities in the District are based on groundwater abstraction. He therefore appealed for more support to the water stressed districts for Water for production investments because the District Conditional Grant for water and sanitation is too small to implement WfP facilities such as valley tanks etc.

**Challenges:** i) There is lack of clarity on the roles and responsibility for Water for Production between the District Water Office, and the Production Department at District level. This should be clarified to enable smooth planning and implementation, ii) Saline water in some parts of the Districts has led to communities abandoning some of the facilities especially boreholes with handpumps, iii) There is a lack of will to pay for piped water where some extensions have been done, iv) Lack of transport for the District Water Office staff, and yet most of the activities are field based, v) The Sanitation grant is reducing every financial year yet access to safe sanitation is still a big challenge, vi) Water user committees are reluctant to collect user fees & and if they do, they use the money for their personal activities making repairs a challenge and vii) Up-coming trading centers/RGCs that are unplanned present a great challenge for provision of sanitation facilities. There is widespread use of un-lined pit latrines, which is not sustainable in such communities as the available land keeps on reducing.

**Recommendations:** i) The Districts requested for the reinstatement of the software budget line under the District Water and Sanitation Development Conditional Grant, since funds provided by the GoU under the non-wage recurrent grant are not enough to cater for all the software activities, ii) The Districts also request the MFPED to always release 80% of non-wage recurrent grant during first quarter of the financial year which is meant for implementation of community mobilization and other software activities. This will ensure timely implementation of software activities instead of implementing the software activities at the same time as the hardware; iii) Kalungu District requested the MWE to release the balance of funds required under LVEMP-II to complete the remaining work on two valley tanks, iv) There is need for more funding to cater for the construction of the more expensive Water Supply Technologies such as Mini-Solar powered Water Supply Systems, and Valley Tanks/Dams; more especially, in the Semi-arid sub-counties and v)The sanitation grant should also be increased to ensure more coverage in the Districts from the current 2 parishes per District every financial year to at least 5 parishes.

#### **4.7.2 Presentation by the Natural Resources Officer –Masaka (Central region)**

A presentation was made by the District Natural Resources Officer for Masaka on behalf of the DLGs in the central region. She highlighted good practices in ENR such as community forest management, promotion of energy saving stoves, eco- tourism etc.

#### **Challenges:**

i) The ENR department at the district level is currently understaffed amidst the growing demands for forestry products and other natural resources services – for example, out of the staff 12 established positions, currently the staffing levels in the 9 districts range between 6 for Masaka and - 3 for Kalungu, Lwengo and Rakai districts, ii) Increasing encroachment on wetlands and natural forests, iii) Changing weather patterns (longer dry spells), iv) Loss of soil fertility especially in up-land cultivation areas, v) Lack of natural resources conservation incentives like carbon credit fund (some individuals have expressed interest to conserve natural forest on private land), vi) Inadequate capacity building, vii) Pollution from factories especially leather tanneries, viii) Un-regulated Sand mining especially in Lukaya and Bukakata, ix) Untimely release of meteorological/hydrological information necessary for planning and agriculture; x) Poor handling of cases on environment due to inadequate knowledge by the court/judicial staff..

#### **Recommendations;**

- i)** Explore the possibility of establishing Payment of Ecosystem Services (PES) as an alternative source of funding ENR restoration & protection activities,
- ii)** The Ministry of Energy and Minerals Development (MEMD) should prepare and disseminate guidelines for Sand mining,
- iii)** Promote and facilitate inter District collaboration in handling trans-boundary ENR management issues,
- iv)** Issuance of operational and extraction permits by the Centre should be shared with the respective local governments for monitoring and supervision.



#### **4.8 Technical Support to District Local Governments**

TSUs were established to facilitate the building of LGs capacities to handle water and sanitation programmes under the decentralization policy in line with MWE role of supervision and monitoring. There are currently 10 TSUs with offices in Arua, Lira, Soroti, Moroto, Mbale, Jinja, Wakiso, Masaka, Mbarara and Fort Portal. A presentation on technical support to district local governments by the TSU was made with the following highlights;. i) Intra-district equity in provision of water and sanitation services has improved ii) Improvement in timely submission and quality of reports and work plans, iii) Timely procurement for goods, services and works contracts (resulting into absorption at an average of 95% over the last three FYs), iv) Verification of water and sanitation facilities was done in all districts, v) Improved sector coordination through District Water & Sanitation Coordination Committee (DWSCC) meetings, Advocacy meetings, Extension Workers Meetings, v) All districts water office trained in development of Development Plans vi) Supported formation and training of Water User Committees (WSCs), vii) Improved Visibility of MWE at the DLGs, and viii) TSUs have mobilized other organizations like e.g Rotary, GOAL, etc to finance and implement WASH activities.

**Challenges:** i) The creation of new districts has made it difficult to build sufficient district planning and implementation capacity for sector activities, ii) Inadequate staffing and high staff turnover in the districts, and iii) Aging and poor mechanical condition of transport equipment (50%).

#### **Recommendations:**

- i) The MWE should continue with capacity development and mentoring of district staff,
- ii) Prioritize mobilizing resources for TSU funding to ensure continuity,
- iii) MWE should plan to replace old DWO transport equipment
- iv) MWE should explore the possibility of making TSU Team Leaders as sub-accounting officers in order to ease and streamline TSUs' operations just like for the WSDFs and WMZs..

#### **4.9 The Water and Environment Strategic Sector Investment Plan-SSIP (2018-2030)**

The first Water and Environment Sector Strategic Investment Plan (SSIP) for the period 2018-2030 has been developed in 4 volumes namely;

- **Volume 1: Funding to reach targets with implications of too little funding**
- **Volume 2: Sector strategies for prioritizing investment of limited funds**
- **Volume 3: Subsector strategies prioritizing investment of limited funds**
- **Volume 4: Sector Investment Model with user guidelines and appendices**

The SSIP will guide future resource mobilization and prioritization of investments under the sector in order to optimize sector inputs and outputs for maximum benefits/indicator targets.

#### **4.10 The importance of the Meteorological Services**

The Executive Director, Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA), made a presentation on the importance of Meteorology services and highlighted the mandate of UNMA

is: To promote, monitor weather and climate and to provide weather forecasts and advice to Government and other stakeholders for development planning purposes with the following core functions; Monitoring weather and climate; providing meteorological, hydrological and related services in support of relevant national needs in the following areas: i) Protection of life and property, ii) Safeguarding the environment, iii) Contributing to sustainable development, iv) Promoting long-term observation and collection of meteorological, hydrological and Climatological data, v) Meeting international commitments and obligations and vi) Contributing to international cooperation.

The UNMA strategic plan is based on the NDPII and the Uganda Vision 2040 with the following strategic objectives; i) To improve the quantity and quality of meteorological services for all stakeholders, ii) To promote greater awareness of the benefits of using meteorological services, information and products, iii) To build a skilled and motivated workforce through good human resource practices, iv) To improve the accuracy and reliability of forecasts and advisory services through the development of climate prediction and short-term weather forecasting capability.

#### **4.11 Forestry status in Uganda**

Mr John Diisi from NFA made a presentation on status of Uganda's forestry. He stated that according to the National Vision 2040, the target is to restore the national forestry cover from 15% to 24% by 2040 (the NDP II target is to restore the national forestry cover to 20% by 2020).

Forestry plays a vital role in the water cycle and rain fed agriculture which right now is a backbone of Uganda's economy. In addition, over 95% of people in Uganda depend on biomass energy and about 500,000m<sup>3</sup> of wood is used as timber. On-going restoration efforts include:

i) Management of Central Forest Reserves, ii) Establishment of new tree Plantations, iii) Supply of Tree Seeds, iv) Supply of forest and non-forest products and services such as licenses issued for various activities in CFRs, promotion of ecotourism, and v) Enforcement of forestry laws and governance.

#### **4.12 Enhancing sustainability of Rural Water Supply Services**

The presentation on the Infrastructure Operation and Maintenance (IOM) Division of Rural Water & Sanitation Department (RWSD)/MWE was made by the O&M Coordinator, Ms Edrida Musinguzi. The IOM division was established in 2015 with 3 objectives; i) To address O&M challenges for rural water and sanitation facilities, ii) To develop and implement strategies for increasing functionality of rural water facilities and iii) To improve sustainability of WATSAN facilities.

The following achievements have been registered to-date: ii) Finalized preparation of TORs for review and update of the Rural Water supply O&M framework, ii) Scaled up & strengthened Hand Pump Mechanics (HPMs) in all the districts - there is waiver from PPDA for districts to engage them directly. iii) Supported districts to rehabilitate hand pumps beyond community capacity, iv) Rolling out Asset Analysis through TSUs, v) Ensuring districts recruit/ second the required staff through TSUs, vi) Disseminated extension workers handbooks (on community management & Technology) to districts through TSUs.

## Challenges/ Sustainability concerns

i) There are a number of unmetered piped water connections in the rural areas, ii) inadequate budget allocation for software activities under district water and sanitation conditional grant, iii) Aged piped water systems which need to be replaced, iv) Continuity of TSUs after June 2018 when the on-going support under the JWESSP ends, vi) Varying tariffs & mode of payments, v) Unprotected water source catchments, vi) poor safe water chain, vii) existence of alternative sources (usually point water facilities) in the gazetted area, ix) over 5,570 non-functional boreholes.

## O&M initiatives;

There have been a number of O&M initiatives promoted by MWE and NGOs namely; <sup>3</sup>

### 4.13.2 Preventive maintenance of Rural Water Points: A case study of the IWAS project

SNV with funding from ADA implemented the Improving Water Supply Sustainability (IWAS) project. The project aimed at contributing to improved functionality and sustainability of rural water supplies through operationalising and strengthening the O&M system at district and sub county levels. It focused on addressing the following key O&M challenges:

- i) **Lack of funds for O&M:** (Due to poor security of funds, misuse of funds kept with treasurer, lack of accountability, inability to fund major repairs, conflicting messages to users with regards to O&M contributions- lack of funds for O&M),
- ii) **Weak Sub-county and Community Institutions to support O&M:** (Weak institutional oversight at sub-county, Weak/poorly constituted WSC, WSCs often not trained),
- iii) **Weak Institutional Monitoring Support:** (Poor domestication of O&M policies, Lack of regular O&M monitoring at District & Sub-county, Inadequate knowledge on roles/policies on O&M),
- iv) **Weak Private sector:** (Weak HPMA, unregulated HPMA, overcharging by HPMA, Poor access to spare parts, theft of spares from boreholes)

## Lessons learnt/success factors

- i) Alignment of the O&M interventions with existing structures: DLG, Sub county Local Governments, TSU/UO, Hand Pump Mechanics/Associations (HPMA/As), Village Health Team (VHT) structure, Water Boards,

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<sup>3</sup> O&M initiatives namely: i) installation of Pre-paid meters on solar powered piped water systems; by Water Mission in Namayingo & Buyende, & Simavi in Kabarole, ii) Metered hand pumps: by Water for People in Kamwenge, iii) Creation of service centres for O&M: JICA pilot in central Uganda – Mubende, iv) Service company approach; v) WHAVE solutions in Kamuli and Kumi, vi) Professionalizing the management of the borehole, communities paying a single fee; by International Lifeline Fund in Apac.

- ii) Professionalization of O&M relationships through agreements/MoUs and clarity of roles and policies,
- iii) Introduction of preventive maintenance instead of “*wait until it breaks down*”,
- iv) Integration of learning at different levels (regional, district and sub-county),
- v) Presence and commitment of MWE decentralised structures i.e. TSU and UO,
- vi) Generation of strong support from district and sub-county political and technical leaders: Formulation of local supportive policies and increased budgetary support for O&M,
- vii) Community representation taking lead in Sub County Water Supply and Sanitation Boards (SWSSB) management: confidence of users to pay O&M fees.

#### 4.13 Water supply in refugee settlements in Northern Uganda - case study

A study to pilot-test, co-develop and advocate for new innovative solutions and business models to global humanitarian challenges related to water- and opportunities in camp and non-camp settings was carried out in Adjumani and Bidibidi in 2016 under an overall framework of a strategic partnership between the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Grundfos and Danish Technical University (DTU) with a focus on Life Cycle Costing (LCC).

Below are the findings from the study:

1) **Willingness to pay:** i) Ready access to water, i.e. shorter queues and ease of drawing water and service for O&M are key motivations for communities to pay water - Communities suggested 1,000-3,000 UGX/month (1,000ltrs),

2) **Affordability,** i) lower tariff because of higher efficiency in revenue/sales collection through dispensing of water (through ATMs with metered/real time data collection), ii) O&M costs are met from water sales (the study looks at a range of 0.124 USD or 3,000 UGX per m<sup>3</sup>, iii) reliability or availability of water all the round the clock (24/7),

3) **Social Impact,** i) Reduced security risks associated with carrying hard cash for women/children to access water, ii) Increased time for other social, economic and development activities due to shorter collection time for water, iii) Reduced tension between host communities and refugees over water point access. The host and refugee have ownership of ATM cards which harmonizes the issue of access to water from common points, iv) The system is adjustable to various scenarios, e.g. it is possible to set limits for which if the tokens are exhausted, payment can still be made.

4) **Environmental Impact,** i) The dispensing of water through ATMs reduces aquifer exploitation since the system dispenses the exact quantity of water paid for thereby minimizing wastage ii) As the systems are motorized, they reduce drilling of many boreholes which could lead to over-exploitation of the groundwater.

The project though needs to apply for a ground water abstraction permit and also consider implementing source protection in line with the sector guidelines;

#### Conclusion

Water trucking is the most expensive and least environmental friendly solution. The larger the water system, the cheaper the water. The “break-even” year between solar versus diesel

(7 hours) is between 3 and 5 years. Solar (for hours) pumping is the cheapest followed by hybrid (using both solar and diesel power). O&M costs can likely be fully covered through the water tariff within the life span of the project. In addition - solar energy has zero carbon footprint on the environment.

## Recommendations

- i) The sector should focus on the use of new and innovative business models such as Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Leasing, small water service providers, and social entrepreneurs and
- ii) Explore new ways of funding such as Micro-loans and the possibility of DPs to act as Guarantors for the micro-loans.

## 5 CLOSURE OF THE JTR

The Lead Development Partner Representative for the **ENR Natural Resources sub-sector Mr Onesimus Muhwezi of UNDP** appreciated the organization of the JTR and effective participation by the various stakeholders. He however requested the sector to explore ways of increasing the participation of women in the next joint sector review. He noted that the field visits and related discussion/feedback provided very informative lessons and experiences on the sector's performance.

According to him, the key issues which the sector needs to address include the following, i) Financing **implementation of catchment management plans** is critical for achieving water and environmental goals. Operationalization of the water source protection funding has remained on paper for almost 10 years and action is required, ii) **Compliance to regulatory requirements** remains a big challenge. For example, all facilities visited did not have water abstraction permits and no EIA certificates on site. It was noted that limited access to information on approved facilities by local governments and communities constrains citizenry support to compliance and enforcement on regulated facilities, iii) **On operationalising 3% investment** and income allocation from water schemes to source protection In the long term the sector could establish a national ecosystem services fund to finance water source protection interventions, iv) **Develop an integrated water and environment** plan/programme for refugee settlements and host communities, v) Establish mechanism for **public access to information** on permits and licenses to secure citizenry and local government support in compliance and enforcement, vi) Continue to **improve coordination efforts** within the sector and other sectors that impact or are impacted by Water and environment including participation in the JSR. We need to actively engage OPM on climate information and early warning, MAAIF and water for production and climate smart agriculture and Ministry of Energy on water and biomass for energy and vii) Make deliberate effort to **address gender inequality and women empowerment** in line with the decision of UNFCCC COP23 on gender and viii) As a sector there was need to identify mechanisms for rewarding local governments like Masaka that champion good environmental practices e.g. facilitated to apply for a small grant from UNDP.

The Lead Development Partner Representative for **Water and Sanitation Ms. Joyce Magala of ADA** also appreciated the organisation of the JTR and the deliberations made as well as strive for Value for Money (VfM) in light of the dwindling resources.

Therefore, the sector needs to prioritise high impact solutions and hence the need for coordination, collaboration and joint planning amongst departments and sub sectors becomes a necessity in order to utilise the limited resources. She also commended the MWE for the plan to deploy the ENR staff at the MWE regional de-concentrated level. The next step should be harmonising the MWE staffing structure at the regional level with a view to make the structure sustainable.

Furthermore, catchment management plans should be explored as a framework for mainstreaming CC, ENR and source protection within the sector and other sectors.

In terms of sector performance, the DPs urged the commencement of use of the new indicators in the preparation of the Sector Performance report 2018; she noted that the formulation of the SSIP had set the stage in this regard. She expressed concern about unsatisfactory progress made in the implementation of the related undertakings 2 & 13.

During the JTR, the importance of irrigation was highlighted as one of the means for improved agricultural production, in this regard she urged the Ministry to urgently share the approved national Irrigation Policy.

She highlighted the regulation challenges facing the sector, ranging from water quality issues, NEMA's enforcement role at the region, the potential role conflict by Umbrella Authority as an implementer at the same time supporting the piped schemes etc. These challenges point to the need for a strong regulatory function.

Finally the DPs are concerned about the formulation of undertakings which are operational in nature and that every sub sector automatically formulates an undertaking. The DPs recommend that fewer strategic undertakings and cross cutting undertakings should be formulated during the next joint sector review in September/October 2018 which are SMART and achievable within 12 months.

The **Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Mary Kitutu** in her closing speech noted that this review was organized in a format which enhanced detailed discussions This clearly indicates the level at which the sector values involvement of its major stakeholders to pave a way forward for the enhanced performance of the Water and Environment sector.

She mentioned that the ministry has not adequately enforced the relevant laws and regulations to curtail degradation of our forests and wetlands. This explains the rampant environment degradation with impunity. She pointed out that environmental management is also one of the decentralized activities under the Local Government Act. By implication Local Governments should be more proactive and therefore, she appealed to the district leaders to be more vigilant in enforcement of the environmental laws and regulations.

There is still weak collaborative and coordinated monitoring by the central regulatory agencies. There was a tendency to work in isolation when natural resources management requires a very high level of coordination and cooperation.

She expressed her gratitude to the sector DPs, CSOs, and the Private Sector and the continued support to the sector. Finally, she thanked Masaka District Local Government for the warm welcome and the management of Hotel Brovad for hosting the JTR. She then declared the Joint Technical Review 2018 closed at 1:45 pm.

## 6 COMMITMENTS

All parties agreed to expedite implementation of the 2017 JSR undertakings, so that they are completed within the earlier agreed timeframe(s), and to follow up of all the issues raised and recommendations made during the JTR.



Mr Paul Mafabi  
For: Permanent Secretary  
**Ministry of Water and Environment**

On behalf of the  
**Government of Uganda**

Signed:



Kampala, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018



Ms Joyce Magala,  
Programme Advisor

**Austrian Development Agency**

On behalf of the  
**Development Partners,  
Water and Sanitation**

Signed:



Kampala, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018



Mr Onesmus Muhwezi,  
Team Leader

**United Nations  
Development Programme**

On behalf of the  
**Development Partners,  
Environment and Natural  
Resources**

Signed:



Kampala, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018