



# A dialogue on sub theme III of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2026 “Ensuring Environmentally Sustainable and Climate Resilient Economies and Communities



A view of participants during a keynote presentation on Building Climate-Resilient Economies: Uganda's call to action on water and environment

The conversation around sustainable development, climate resilience, and water security took center stage this morning at the auditorium of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), as Stakeholders explored practical pathways for building environmentally resilient economies and communities.

The session, titled “Ensuring Environmentally Sustainable and Climate Resilient Economies and Communities”, brought together over 100 participants onsite, alongside an equally engaged online audience.

Mr. Andrew Masaba, Assistant Commissioner MWE

and session moderator, opened proceedings with a video that framed the discussion. The video illustrated how the wellbeing of communities in Uganda is intimately tied to rivers, forests, soil, and biodiversity, all of which are increasingly threatened by changing climate patterns.

It served as both a wake-up call and a shared starting point, stressing the urgency of integrating climate resilience into national policies, financial frameworks, and local governance, while emphasizing the centrality of communities in crafting sustainable solutions.

## Keynote address

A keynote address was delivered by Ms. Kate Harawa, Director of Influence and Scale at Water for People-Malawi, who delivered a compelling mix of financial, technical, and moral imperatives.

She stressed that traditional reliance on government allocations and overseas development assistance (ODA) is no longer sufficient, citing OECD data and specific cases such as reductions in USAID and UK government funding.

“We really need to diversify our investment options,” she stressed, arguing that Uganda must actively mobilize domestic and private capital to secure water, environment, and climate resilience.

She urged companies to move beyond viewing Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions as philanthropy or corporate social responsibility.

“If you don't invest in climate change mitigation, in WASH, in environment protection, your industries, your companies will definitely die,” she warned, linking business survival directly to environment stewardship.

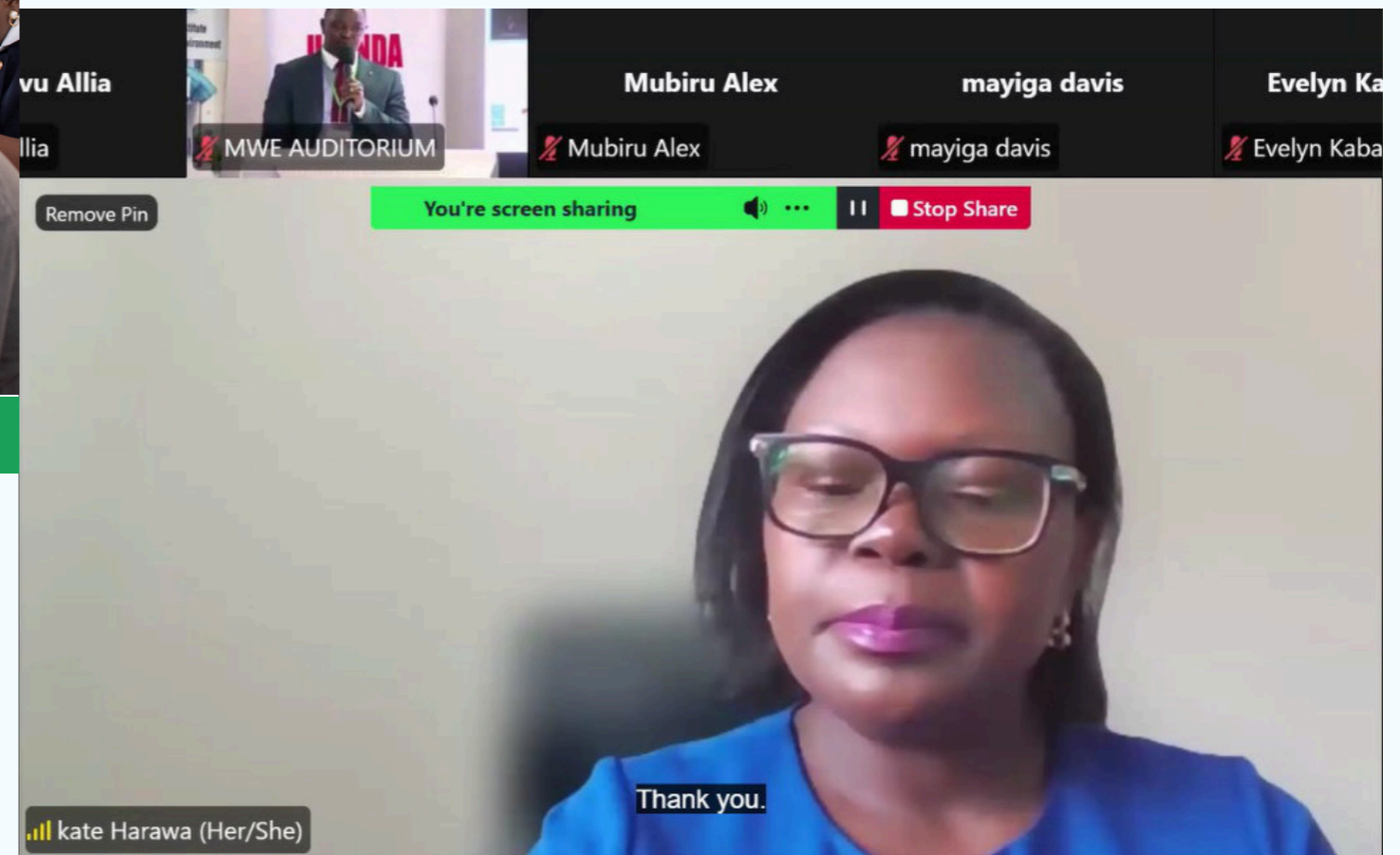
she demonstrated that structured, long-term corporate engagement, not ad hoc donations, is already driving measurable outcomes worldwide, from catchment-based projects to sustainable infrastructure.

Ms. Harawa also underscored the importance of cross-sector collaboration, emphasizing that government, Civil Society, utilities, and private actors must “hold hands” to confront climate change collectively.

Beyond the financial argument, she delivered a moral appeal, recounting a personal story about her daughter to illustrate the intergenerational stakes of environmental action.

“Don't be that person that destroys the young girl's future, the little boy's future,” she implored, urging takeholders to act with foresight and responsibility.

Her recommendations were precise and actionable: diversify finance beyond aid, engage corporates as long-term investors, leverage existing global alliances, and integrate climate resilience and WASH into core business and development strategies.



Ms. Kate Harawa, Director of Influence and Scale at Water for People-Malawi, Delivering a Keynote Presentation On Ensuring Environmentally Sustainable Climate Resilient Economies and Communities

She also highlighted the need for capacity building, encouraging WASH practitioners to expand their expertise in climate science, finance, and risk management.

She noted that climate change is no longer a distant threat, “it is here, and delay is not an option”.

The keynote sparked reflection on both the economic and ethical dimensions of climate action, as participants were also left with a renewed sense of urgency, a blueprint for diversifying investment, and a call to collective responsibility across sectors.

It ended with the resonant reminder that the decisions made today will define the environmental, economic, and social realities of tomorrow.

## Panel discussion



Mr. Zeynu Ummer: Director of the UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa joins a panel session

The keynote address culminated into a high-level dialogue session, which brought together policymakers, development partners, financial sector leaders among others, to confront a pressing question which was paused to them: “what must be done to build environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities?”

Chaired by Mr. Andrew Masaba, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Policy MWE, and moderated by Mr. Richard Musota, the two-hour panel drew approximately 100 in-person participants, with

additional attendees joining online.

Mr. Ummer Zeynu, Director of the UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa, set the tone by identifying what he described as “systemic bottlenecks” hindering progress.

He pointed to fragmented governance structures, weak translation of scientific knowledge into policy action, and a shortage of investment-ready projects.

Equally concerning, he noted, are gaps in decentralized capacity and financing models

that fail to align with resilience goals.

Mr. Zeynu urged a shift toward integrated water resilience programming, stronger institutional coordination, and innovative financing approaches, including blended finance and enhanced project preparation systems.

From a diplomatic and climate policy perspective, Ms. Stanton Kennedy Tremayne, Climate and Nature Lead, British High Commission/Chair ECC DPG, emphasized the importance of long-term thinking.



Ms. Stanton Kennedy Tremayne receives her token of appreciation from the-MWE PS Dr. Alfred Okot Okidi

Drawing on a relatable analogy, she likened sustainable investment to choosing a “healthy chicken,” underscoring the value of quality and longevity over short-term gains.

She advocated for data-driven environmental standards and highlighted the critical role of private sector partnerships in ensuring reliable access to clean water, an essential pillar for both business continuity and broader economic resilience.

On his part, Dr. Akankwasah Barriega, Executive Director of National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), challenged participants to rethink humanity’s relationship with nature.

He argued that resilience cannot be achieved without fundamentally reorienting economic models toward sustainability.

His remarks focused on practical interventions such as waste management, recycling, and energy diversification, alongside the need to climate-proof infrastructure.

He stressed that optimal resource use must become central to development planning.

Expanding the regional lens, Dr. Eng. Nester Niyonzima, Executive Director the Nile Basin Initiative, highlighted the importance of cooperative water resource management.

He called for increased investment in hydrological monitoring systems to improve real-time data collection and forecasting capabilities across countries sharing the Nile Basin.

Such investments, he said, are essential for supporting climate adaptation and ensuring equitable water use for agriculture, households, and industry.

Returning to the theme of economic transformation, Dr. Barirega also made a strong case for transitioning from a “business-as-usual” model to a circular economy.

He outlined strategies such as reducing waste, reusing materials, and promoting repair and refurbishment over replacement.

He argued that simple practices, including waste segregation and converting organic waste into compost or biochar, could significantly reduce environmental pressure while creating new economic

opportunities.

Across the discussion, panelists converged on the need for policy alignment and technological innovation.

The use of predictive analytics, artificial intelligence, and remote sensing for early warning systems was highlighted as a critical area for investment.

At the same time, speakers emphasized the importance of community-based approaches, including leveraging indigenous knowledge alongside scientific data.

They made it clear that clear that Uganda’s path to resilience lies not in isolated interventions but in integrated, locally driven strategies. Participants underscored the urgency of shifting from linear to sustainable economic models, strengthening decentralized systems, and fostering partnerships that value both technology and traditional knowledge.

The dialogue reinforced that natural resource management is not just an environmental concern, but a cornerstone of climate-smart agriculture, economic stability, and long-term national resilience.

# Water Resources Institute Holds Her 5th Cycle of Mentorship Program; over 250 Have Graduated Since Inception:



Dr. Teopista, the PS MWE and Lady Justice Stella Join Graduants at the 5th Cohort Graduation Ceremony

The graduation commenced with welcoming remarks from Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, who set the tone by appreciating the partners and participants who have sustained the mentorship programme since its inception including Water Aid Uganda, Girls for Girls, He highlighted the programme as a strategic investment in building a competent and resilient water and environment workforce, emphasizing its growing relevance within the public service.

This was followed by an overview of the programme delivered by Ms. Gwendolyn Kyoburungi, who traced the journey of the initiative over the past five years. She outlined its objectives, structure, and achievements, noting how the programme has evolved into a transformative platform that equips young professionals with practical skills, confidence, and leadership capabilities. She particularly underscored its role in supporting women and youth to navigate workplace challenges and seize professional opportunities.

Dr. Joyce Magala Mpalanyi, Country Director from Water Aid Uganda reflected on the mentorship

journey. She commended the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Water Resources Institute for their collaboration with WaterAid Uganda, and acknowledged the steadfast support of Dr. Alfred Okot Okidi. Drawing from her own career, she emphasized that mentorship is a continuous journey shaped by both structured programmes and life experiences, and paid tribute to mentors such as Eng. Sam Motono who played a pivotal role in her growth. She further highlighted the importance of mentorship in empowering young professionals, especially women, to rise into leadership positions.

Speaking during the 5th mentorship graduation ceremony, the Guest Speaker, Lady Justice Stella Alibaatesa of the Court of Appeal, emphasized that mentorship is a continuous journey shaped by everyday experiences, not a one-time event. She noted that learning comes from both positive and challenging situations, and encouraged mentees to remain open to growth in all circumstances.

She highlighted the importance of structured mentorship programmes in building confidence and practical skills among young professionals,

particularly in a public service where such opportunities remain limited. She also pointed out that mentorship is critical in supporting women to navigate persistent cultural and societal barriers to leadership.

She urged mentees to focus on self-mastery by defining their vision, understanding their purpose, and continuously building their skills to enhance their professional value. She further stressed the importance of trust, communication, ethical leadership, and the ability to work effectively with others.

Reflecting from her own experience, she reaffirmed that mentorship played a key role in her career journey and encouraged mentees to apply the lessons learned, noting that their confidence and clarity already reflect the impact of the programme.

In his remarks, Dr. Alfred Okot Okidi, the Permanent Secretary, MWE reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to strengthening mentorship as a critical tool for capacity building within the sector. He emphasized the need to scale up the programme and integrate such models across

government institutions to address the skills gap among young professionals.

Officiating at the graduation of the fifth cohort of the Water Resources Institute Mentorship Programme, the Guest of Honour, Deputy Head of Civil Service and Deputy Secretary to Cabinet, Office of the President; Dr. Theopista Mary Wenene underscored the critical role mentorship plays in shaping a competent and confident public service workforce. She began by emphasizing that mentorship programmes are essential in equipping young professionals with both the confidence and practical skills needed to navigate workplace demands, noting that such structured initiatives remain limited across the public service.

Positioning the Water Resources Institute Mentorship Programme as a pioneering effort, she commended it as one of the first structured mentorship models within government institutions. She applauded all stakeholders who have contributed to its growth since inception, highlighting its resilience and innovation, particularly as it was developed during the COVID-19 period and has continued to thrive to date.

Reflecting on this milestone, she acknowledged that the programme has now reached its fifth cycle, with mentees successfully completing all sessions and meeting the expectations set by mentors and organisers. She congratulated the graduates on their dedication and achievement, while also expressing appreciation to the mentors whose commitment has ensured the programme's success and continuity in fostering professionalism within the public service.

Looking ahead, she encouraged the mentees to apply the knowledge and experiences gained to contribute meaningfully to Uganda's water and environment sector, both locally and globally. She expressed confidence in their potential to excel, noting that exposure to experienced professionals and the willingness to seize opportunities are key drivers of success. She further called for continued peer learning and mentorship as a way to accelerate growth among young professionals.

Building on the programme's success, the Guest of Honour advocated for its expansion, urging greater inclusion of professionals across the sector. She called upon other government institutions to learn from this model and adopt similar initiatives, proposing that the experiences and lessons from the programme be formally shared among Permanent Secretaries to strengthen capacity across the public service.



Dr. Theopista Mary Wenene making her remarks during the 5th Mentorship Graduation ceremony

She also recognized the contribution of WaterAid Uganda for its consistent support to the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Water Resources Institute since 2019, and appealed for continued and increased investment in the programme. Furthermore, she encouraged other partners and stakeholders to emulate this support to enable the programme to scale and reach more young professionals.

A panel discussion moderated by Mr. Allan Musoke, a management expert followed, providing practical insights from both mentees and mentors. Contributions from Margaret Karuhanga, Matthew, and Harriet Kyomuhendo highlighted the programme's transformative impact. Mentees shared how the experience strengthened their confidence, professionalism, and teamwork, while mentors reflected on the value of guiding the next generation and fostering a culture of continuous learning.

The ceremony culminated in the awarding of mentors and mentees, recognizing their dedication, commitment, and achievements throughout the programme.



Lady Justice Alibaastesa handing over a gift to Mentee during the 5th Graduation Ceremony

## Understanding the Pathogen Flows Associated with Sanitation in Urban Communities and Health Facilities

The session chaired and moderated by Ms. Judith Nanyondo from the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), brought together over 35 participants, fostering a vibrant dialogue on hygiene, infection prevention, and community health resilience.

Several experts explored pathogen flows linked to sanitation in urban communities and healthcare facilities across Uganda.

Opening the session, Mr. Habib Yakubu from the PROMISE Consortium, presented a compelling video highlighting the urgency of understanding pathogen transmission in densely populated urban areas.

His presentation set the stage for a series of data-driven discussions on sanitation gaps and intervention strategies.

Dr. Kenneth Kobba, also from Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), focused on hand and surface



Experts exploring pathogen flows linked to sanitation in urban communities

hygiene in post-natal and surgical wards in the Masaka Region.

His findings revealed low compliance among healthcare workers and significant infrastructural gaps, underscoring the challenges of maintaining hygiene in high-risk wards. Complementing this, Dr. Wafula Solomon from the School of Public Health, Makerere University, shared evidence of microbial colonization on surfaces and in water samples from health facilities in Greater Kampala.

His research highlighted alarming antimicrobial resistance patterns, signaling the need for targeted infection prevention strategies.

Exploring the human factor in infection control, Dr. Fred Twinomugisha examined patient involvement in promoting hand hygiene among healthcare workers in Mukono and Kagadi Districts.

His work demonstrated the potential of engaging patients as active partners, creating shared responsibility for infection prevention. Broadening the conversation, Mr. Ato Kwamena Senayah from TREND, Ghana, emphasized food safety and hygiene as integral elements of WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and public health priorities, connecting community practices with broader health outcomes.

Rounding off the session, Prof. Musa Manga from Makerere University synthesized evidence linking contamination in healthcare facilities with wider community environments in Kampala. All the presentations highlighted the critical intersections of water, sanitation, hygiene, and health, calling for data-driven, cross-sectoral action.

Key takeaways underscored the importance of combining infrastructure with consistent training, accountability, and a culture of safety. Environmental

contamination emerged as a major vector for healthcare-associated infections, while patient engagement proved essential for improving compliance.

The session also emphasized sustainable, low-cost interventions and systematic data collection as foundations for climate-resilient, healthy communities.

Recommendations from the session called for targeted investments in hand hygiene infrastructure, routine antimicrobial resistance surveillance, functional infection prevention committees, and support from development partners for training and research.

Across all sectors, presenters agreed that collective responsibility, from households to health systems, is vital for building resilient communities.

## Applied training;

WASH Budget Analysis to Equip Sector Stakeholders With Practical Skills in Tracking, Analysing and Optimising WASH Financing.

A focused conversation on Uganda's budget process and the role of citizen engagement unfolded during a session on "Understanding Budget Analysis and Advocacy," bringing together both in-person and virtual participants for an interactive exchange led by key civil society voices.

Chaired and moderated by Moses Asimwe, the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Manager with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the session opened with a call for deeper public awareness around how government budgets are designed and implemented.

He welcomed attendees and set the tone for what would become a detailed exploration of fiscal policy, accountability, and advocacy.



Christiana Namubiru- Programme Associate, Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) addressing participants during the session



Some of the participants attending the session

The focus quickly turned to Christina Namubiru, Programme Associate at the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), who guided participants through the fundamentals of Uganda's budget framework.

She traced CSBAG's origins back to 2004, explaining that the organization was founded to scrutinize how government allocates and utilizes public resources.

Her presentation underscored the importance of understanding not just the numbers, but the broader intentions and impacts of fiscal decisions.

Namubiru broke down key budget concepts, including surplus, deficit, and balanced budgets, noting that Uganda typically operates on a deficit budget cycle beginning in July each year.

She emphasized that financial audit reports remain a critical source of data for monitoring and evaluation, offering citizens and organizations alike an entry point for holding institutions accountable.

Throughout her presentation, Namubiru highlighted CSBAG's collaborative approach, encouraging participants to engage with the organization and its partners, including the Ministry of Local Government, to strengthen advocacy efforts.

Her message reinforced the idea that budget accountability is not the responsibility of a single entity, but a shared civic duty.

The discussion segment reflected a high level of engagement, with participants exploring why governments budget in the first place.

Other contributions from the participants, pointed to the need for structured resource allocation,

particularly in infrastructure sectors such as roads, healthcare, and education.

Others stressed the importance of analyzing revenue streams and expenditure patterns in line with Uganda's broader development agenda, particularly the push toward full monetization of the economy through commercial agriculture and industrialization.

The session also highlighted the broader implications of budget planning.

Namubiru emphasized the government's role in ensuring economic stability, environmental sustainability, and the promotion of regenerative agriculture.

These priorities, she noted, align closely with the goals outlined in the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV), which frames the country's medium-term development strategy.

Transparency and public participation also emerged as recurring themes, with calls for stronger mechanisms to incorporate citizen input into budgeting processes.

Participants echoed the need for inclusive engagement, recognizing that meaningful feedback can significantly influence policy outcomes.

The session concluded on a note of commitment, as attendees pledged to strengthen collaboration with CSBAG and other stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance's budget committee.

## Applied Training: Youth Budget Advocacy Bootcamp for Climate for Climate Resilient WASH and Public Health in HCF



Some of the Youths Attending the Applied Training: Youth Budget Advocacy Bootcamp Session

A dynamic session on Applied Training: Youth Budget Advocacy as part of the ongoing Bootcamp for Climate Resilient initiatives was held featuring several experts in various sectors. It was attended by over 50 participants including online.

It provided a platform for interactive learning on budget processes, public finance management, and advocacy strategies for youth engagement in climate-resilient development.

The session was chaired by Mr. Hamimu Masudi, Director of Policy and Advocacy at WaterAid Uganda, who also served as the moderator.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Masudi emphasized the importance of equipping young leaders with practical knowledge of budgetary frameworks to enhance accountability and evidence-based advocacy at both local and national levels.

He highlighted that understanding public finance management (PFM) is critical for informed participation in decision-making processes that directly affect community resilience and service delivery.

The training featured insights from Mr. Mugobora Ronald, Public Finance Management Expert at Isonomic Consults Ltd, who led a detailed presentation on Uganda's PFM policies and legal frameworks.

He highlighted key areas including revenue

generation, expenditure estimation, foreign aid dependence, and value-for-money considerations.

He elaborated on the concepts of virement, which allows reallocation of funds within approved budgets, and supplementary budgets, providing additional resources to cover unforeseen deficits, referencing Section 7(a-c) of the PFMA 2015 and the Budget Framework Paper.

During discussions, participants underscored the need for ongoing guidance through the annual Budget Call Circulars to ensure consistent application of PFM principles.

Concluding the session, Madam Peninah Naturinda, also a Public Finance Management Expert at Isonomic Consults Ltd, clarified the interchangeable use of fiscal and financial years, cautioning participants to avoid confusion in planning and reporting.

She summarized key takeaways, including understanding Uganda's PFM landscape, integrating WASH planning into national and local budgeting, interpreting sector grants and primary healthcare funding, and applying youth-led advocacy for district-level impact.

The session successfully equipped participants with both theoretical insights and practical tools to strengthen youth engagement in budget advocacy and climate-resilient initiatives.

## Serious Gaming to Support Sanitation Planning and Resource Recovery from Sanitation Systems

In this session, participants gathered for an engaging and forward-thinking session chaired by Prof. Charles Niwagaba Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Makerere University.

Setting the tone, Prof. Nuwagaba welcomed both in-person and online attendees and framed the session as an opportunity to explore innovative approaches to sanitation planning through gaming.

He briefly traced the origins of the initiative, noting that the project began in 2017 and evolved over four years into a practical tool designed to transform how stakeholders engage with sanitation challenges.

With anticipation building, he invited Dr. Jennifer McConville, Associate Professor, and Environment Engineering, to lead the main presentation.

She opened with a compelling reflection on the complexity of sanitation systems, emphasizing that challenges



Participants trying out the game during the sideline session

such as inadequate services, water pollution, eutrophication, and climate change are deeply interconnected.

She drew particular attention to nutrient cycles, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, as critical links between sanitation, environmental sustainability, and food security.

Dr. McConville said to address these issues requires approaches that go beyond conventional technical solutions.

Central to her presentation was the concept of "serious gaming" as a transformative tool for planning and collaboration.

She described how gaming introduces an interactive and participatory dimension that traditional reports and discussions often lack.

By simulating real-life scenarios, the approach places participants in decision-making roles, encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

She noted that this immersive format not only increases engagement but also enables

participants to step outside their usual professional boundaries and consider alternative perspectives.

A key strength of the approach, she explained, lies in its ability to foster trust and collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

By bringing together policymakers, technical experts, community representatives, and private sector actors within a neutral and dynamic environment, the game facilitates dialogue and mutual understanding.

She also highlighted how complex sanitation systems can be visualized and simplified through gameplay, making them more accessible and easier to navigate.

Dr. McConville underscored that the sanitation game was developed through a rigorous and inclusive process involving research, stakeholder consultations in Uganda and Sweden, and iterative design.

In her closing remarks, she affirmed that serious gaming represents a powerful and innovative pathway for improving sanitation planning.

She called for its wider adoption and integration into formal decision-making processes, noting its potential to strengthen collaboration, enhance resource efficiency, and support the transition toward sustainable, circular sanitation systems.

## Peat for People Incubation Programme Launched to Promote Sustainable Peatland Management:



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment addresses the audience, holding the newly developed low-cost Greenhouse Gas Measurement Chamber

The "Peat for People" project was officially launched during a high-level session attended by the Deputy Head of German Cooperation and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Dr. Alfred Okot Okidi. The initiative, implemented with the Michael Suku Foundation and other partners, aimed to strengthen technical and financial capacities for sustainable peatland management in Uganda and Rwanda. The session focused on Paludiculture, the cultivation of wetlands as a climate-smart solution capable of transforming degraded peatlands into productive landscapes while preserving their ecological functions.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Alfred

Okot Okidi, Permanent Secretary of MWE, highlighted the national importance of peatlands for carbon storage and Uganda's climate commitments. He showcased a locally developed low-cost greenhouse gas (GHG) measurement chamber by Mr. Asaddu Sebyoto, Senior Environment Officer at MWE, which reduced monitoring costs from tens of thousands of dollars to just \$600. Dr. Okidi emphasized that such innovations empower local institutions and make scientific monitoring more accessible, aligning with the government's push for localized solutions.

In his presentation, Mr. Simon Baer, Peat for People Uganda Coordinator, outlined the project's vision and structure,

emphasizing its focus on building technical capacity and financial empowerment for sustainable wetland management. He explained that the initiative sought to enable communities to maintain wetlands as productive ecosystems rather than draining them. He introduced the business incubation programme, aimed at identifying and scaling viable Paludiculture enterprises, and highlighted collaborations with communities, innovators, and financial institutions to develop bankable models around wetland resources such as papyrus.

Mr. Yan Peters, Managing Director of Michael Suku Foundation, presented on the potential of Paludiculture to create sustainable livelihoods.

He highlighted innovative uses of papyrus, including eco-friendly bricks, cooking bags, construction materials, and bioenergy, while preserving carbon storage and biodiversity.

### Panel Discussion and Contributions

During the interactive discussion, Mr. Ureja Gilbert highlighted the potential to scale the low-cost GHG measurement chambers and confirmed the Ministry's commitment to partnering with universities to expand research and monitoring capacity. Ms.

Jacinta Nekesa Nangabo emphasized the importance of including women in project design, recommending flexible training times, accessible locations, and leadership quotas to ensure women are not just participants but decision-makers. Other panelists discussed practical approaches for connecting innovators to markets, ensuring youth and women benefit equitably, and developing financing mechanisms like payments for ecosystem services and carbon credits to sustain the projects.

## Technical & Scientific Paper Presentation; Leveraging the Power and Capacity of Women, Youth and Children in Delivery of Water and Environment Services Technical Presentations.



Timothy Purvis, Gillings School of Global Public Health Making a Presentation During the Session

Day four of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2026 anchored conversations around technical presentations of scientific papers. This session was chaired by Ms. Stacey Atukunda, a Senior Water Officer, Ministry of Water and Environment. This presentation explores strategic approaches to harnessing the skills, leadership, and creativity of women, youth, and children to strengthen water and environment systems,

enhance resilience, and promote inclusive development outcomes. The session emphasized that Water and environmental services are fundamental pillars of sustainable development, public health, and economic growth.

### Influence of psychosocial work environment on job satisfaction among forestry extension employees in Uganda.

Presenter; Ambrose Ahimbisibwe, Student from Makerere University.

Mr. Ahimbisibwe's presentation focused on assessing the influence of psychosocial work environment factors as perceived by forestry extension personnel, on their job satisfaction. He demonstrated the 4D's that describe Uganda's work environment, methods like analytical cross sectional Mixed



Ms. Flavia Byekwaso: Boku University, Austria Presenting During the Session

methods Design and results/ findings. He advocated for achievement of forest restoration right from community level implementation.

### Impact of heavy metals on Antibiotic Resistance of Escherichia coli from slum Wastewater at Bwaise II, Kazo and Makerere III.

Presenter; Mr. Isaac Byarugaba, Student Makerere University, Uganda.

Mr. Byarugaba explored on impact evaluation of heavy metals on antibiotic resistance patterns of E. Coli isolated from wastewater to support policies on proper wastewater management in Uganda whilst determining the levels of heavy metals in wastewater. He advocated for further enhancement of studies involving large sample size and seasonal variations and

treatment of wastewater prior to use in crop and animal farming.

### Anthropogenic and natural factors impacting microbiological and physicochemical surface water quality along an urban tropical wetland at Lubigi wetland in Kampala City.

Presenter; Mrs. Flavia Byekwaso, Student, Boku University, Austria.

Ms. Byekwaso presented the strategies to assess the pollution status and spatial changes in the concentrations and loadings of microbiological and physicochemical surface water whilst evaluating the impact of stormwater discharge and wastewater effluent on the surface water quality of Lubigi wetland. She advocated for adoption of effective pollution control strategies and mass sensitization of residents in the catchment area about seasonal

dominance of bacteria and pathogens.

### Mapping Research Collaboration in the Nile Basin: A Preliminary analysis

Presenter; Ms. Sarah Bebb, University College London (UCL)

Mrs. Sarah aimed to map and analyse academic research collaboration networks across key external partners, using co-authorship as a proxy indicator. The preliminary results emerged Uganda as second strongest collaborator by volume and centrality implying scientific collaboration in the Nile Basin grew steadily between 2011-2025 whereas Egypt moved to periphery of network. She said that scientific collaboration networks in the Nile Basin already exist however, she added that strengthening intra-basin research collaborations should be more reinforced.

**Integrated assessment of climate vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities across water and waste services at Kagooge and Wobulenzi.**

Presenter; Ms. Boller Marisa, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag), Switzerland.

Ms. Marisa benchmarked strategies on identifying climate change vulnerabilities to WASH and SWM infrastructure, including flood hot spots under different waste accumulation and precipitation scenarios as well as identifying mitigation measures and existing adaptive capacities. She adopted a pproaches like climate modelling, drainage and flood mapping, surveys and integration and her results included majorly flood hot spots. She emphasized strengthening of local institutions and policies, improving waste management

systems, community awareness and prioritizing sediment control and regular desalting of critical drains et al.

**More presentations made included;**

Determinants of access to improved drinking water sources and toilet facilities among households in Uganda; From School greening to light level Ecosystem governance; Anchoring Stewardship in Northern Uganda; Solid Waste Management; Impact of extreme run off events on the water quality and catchment stability of Lake Bunyonyi; Social value of the welfare benefits and potential demand for improved fecal sludge management in urban settlements in Uganda; Assessing the insecurities of water

## Driving Uganda’s Growth Through Data: An Update on electronic Digital Transformation and Data-Driven Decision-Making using WEMIS:



Mr. Wilfred Okello Presenting WAMIS Model

The session highlighted the nationwide rollout of the Water and Environment Management Information System (WEMIS) and its modules, showcasing how digital data collection and analysis are transforming planning, monitoring, and reporting in the water, environment, and forestry sectors.

Eng. Joseph Oriono Eyatu, Commissioner of RWSSD, traced WEMIS’s evolution from manual records to a fully digital platform, noting that it now eliminates paper-based reporting in most districts and reduces annual paper consumption by 5.6 million pages. He highlighted the system’s efficiency in resource allocation, local government assessments, and forestry permit tracking. Presentations from Mr. Gabriel Kato (EMIS), Mr. Okello Wilfred (WAMIS), and Mr. Mugisha Adam (FOMIS) demonstrated how the modules capture real-time data, enable analytics for decision-making, and improve public access to key sector information.

Mrs. Loyce Asimwe detailed WEMIS’s modular architecture, data validation processes, and structured workflows from sub-county collectors to ministry-level validation. She noted challenges including missing facility data, slow adoption of some modules, and limited local government budgets, while outlining plans for capacity building,

nationwide data updates, integration with institutions like the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, and sustainable system maintenance. Mr. Solanki, Director of MFI, emphasized the importance of digital platforms in strengthening data accuracy and timely decision making, commending the Ministry’s leadership and development partners for supporting the rollout.

The Q&A session clarified registration procedures, data access, fees, and nationwide data requests. Key takeaways underscored WEMIS as the Ministry’s primary integrated information platform, highlighted the need for improved user onboarding, and stressed continued stakeholder engagement to enhance adoption and confidence. The session concluded with a call for full utilization of WEMIS as a transformative tool for sustainable water, forestry, and environmental management

## Enhancing Awareness and Uptake of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) Services through Strategic Promotion of the FSM Call Centre

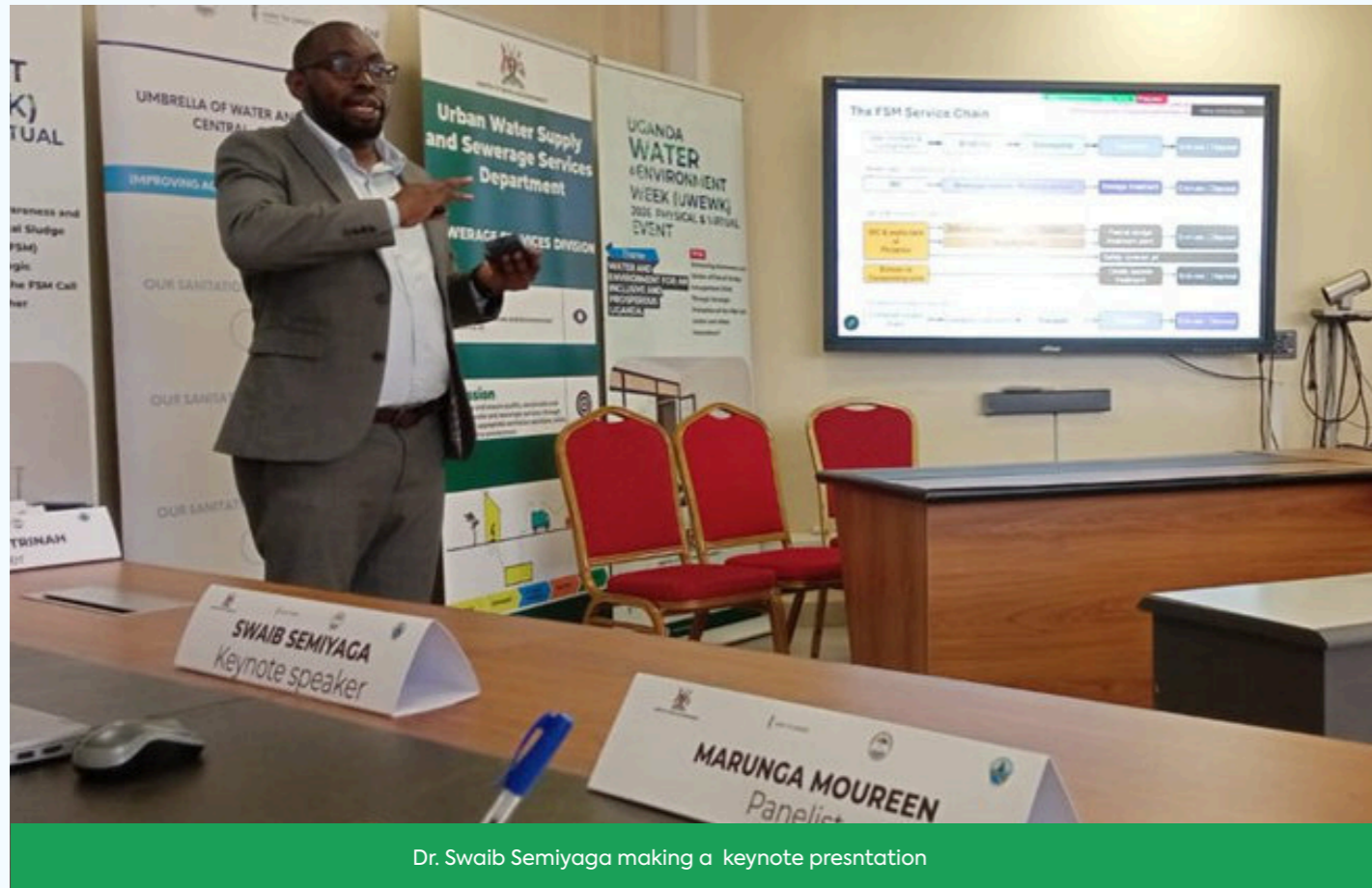
The session, chaired by Eng. Allan Mugabi, Principal Engineer at the Ministry of Water and Environment, highlighted Uganda’s ongoing challenges in achieving universal sanitation coverage, with less than 50% coverage in urban areas and below 10% in rural regions. Eng. Allan Mugabi, Principal engineer, Ministry of Water and Environment underscored the need for a paradigm shift in waste management, emphasizing the importance of innovations such as the Faecal Sludge Management call center, leasing frameworks, digital tracking systems, and incentive mechanisms to enhance service delivery, transparency, and overall sustainability. He called on participants to collaborate in building trust, raising awareness, and accelerating the integration of inclusive, innovative sanitation solutions.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Swaib Semiyaga, Senior Lecturer at Makerere University, presented on innovations in sanitation management, focusing on the four pillars that support Faecal Sludge Management (FSM); data and digital transformation, regulation and policy frameworks, technological innovations, and capacity development. He stressed the interdependence of these pillars, noting that technological solutions require supportive policies and regulations to scale effectively. Dr. Semiyaga highlighted data driven governance, financial sustainability, and marketing innovations as critical to strengthening FSM service chains while acknowledging challenges such as fragmented mandates, slow policy uptake, and funding insecurity.

Eng. Resty Nyesigire- Umbrella

Authority from the Ministry of Water and Environment provided an overview of government progress, including addressing poor infrastructure, piloting subsidies in northern Uganda, and testing leasing models for cesspool trucks to increase private sector participation. She shared strategies for expanding sewer networks, establishing call centers to connect households with service providers, and developing treatment plants and standalone water systems. Additionally, the Ministry has initiated capacity-building efforts, including training entrepreneurs, developing a sanitation design manual, and piloting biogas production for resource recovery.

Other presenters explored operational and financial aspects of FSM service delivery. Tugume Mark, Senior Sociologist,



Dr. Swaib Semiyaga making a keynote presentation

Umbrella Central emphasized community engagement, compliance, and digital tracking as key to improving services. Eng. Martín Nyanzi-Market system coordinator

Water for People, highlighted innovative finance, results-based financing, and the pilot of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) in Kampala to strengthen private-sector participation and ensure accountability. Panelists, including Eng. Bujure Moses, Utility Manager, Umbrella central, Marunga Moureen, Program Officer Sanitation, KCCA and Mr. Henry Kayondo from Private Sector Foundation, discussed environmentally sustainable waste processing, demand generation, and the integration of public institutions, private operators, and community teams to optimize urban sanitation services.

## Advancing Multi-Stakeholder Coordination for Effective IWRM Implementation in Uganda

Uganda's journey toward Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is no longer about proving commitment, it is about proving functionality.

With the country now scoring 64 percent on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.5, the foundations are firmly in place.

The question dominating current conversations is whether these structures are working together as a cohesive, durable system.

This was the focus during a sideline session at the 9th Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK)

high-level panel convened during the 9th Uganda Water and Environment Week.

The session was convened by the Ministry of Water and Environment alongside Welthungerhilfe, with support from BMZ SSF and partners including Join for Water, UWASNET, and Climate Action Network Uganda.

Setting the stage, Eng. Albert Orijabo Assistant Commissioner Compliance and Enforcement MWE, framed Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) not as a static framework, but as a continuous, cross-sector way of working. Built on pillars such as an enabling policy environment,

inclusive institutions, effective management tools, and sustainable financing, the approach has guided Uganda's progress.

Across the board, participants pointed to a persistent gap noting that coordination is still largely project-driven

They also argued that collaboration often fades once funding cycles end, leaving systems weak and fragmented.

Insights from the Lokere and Lokok catchments showed what works when structures hold. Interventions such as catchment committees, by-laws, climate-smart agriculture, and policy dialogues were highlighted as key approaches delivering results.

They argued that the difference lies in how these are anchored, within community systems and aligned to national catchment plans.

Beyond technical systems, the discussion highlighted the importance of legitimacy at community level.

Cultural institutions, including Buganda Kingdom, were recognized as critical in translating policies into locally accepted practices.

Their role in mobilizing communities and protecting natural resources is often underestimated.

Financing also emerged as a major constraint, stressing that weak investment frameworks and limited domestic financing continue to slow progress.

There was growing consensus on the need for blended financing models and stronger engagement with financial institutions, including integrating environmental and social governance into investment decisions.

Data and accountability were also flagged, emphasizing that weak monitoring systems limit effective decision-making, reinforcing the need for stronger platforms that link evidence to policy and practice.

From a policy perspective, the message was direct, participants noted that Uganda does not need more frameworks, but rather to operationalize and finance existing ones, revive coordination platforms, and ensure consistent engagement beyond events.



A Photo Showing Participants of the High Level Panel Discussion on IWRM Action Plan and Stakeholders Coordination.

# THE WATERFRONT

# NEWSLETTER

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