



UGANDA
W&E
WEEK

THE WATERFRONT NEWSLETTER

Monday, March 23, 2026

Issue I



Walkers pay a courtesy visit to Tororo Cement

UWEWK 2026: Shaping Uganda's Water and Environment Future:

Uganda sets to host the Ninth Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2026) from 23–27 March 2026, bringing together policymakers, researchers, development partners, civil society, private sector actors, and communities to discuss the future of water and environmental sustainability.

Organized annually by the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Water Resources Institute, UWEWK has grown since its launch in 2018 into Uganda's leading platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and partnership building on water, climate, and environmental issues.

The 2026 edition will be held under the theme “**Water and Environment for an Inclusive and Prosperous Uganda**,” highlighting the critical role that sustainable water and environmental management plays in supporting Uganda's economic ambitions, particularly the **Tenfold Growth Strategy** aimed at expanding the economy to USD 500 billion by 2040.

Why It Matters

Water and environmental resources are central to Uganda's development, supporting sectors such as agriculture, energy, tourism, and industry. However, increasing pressure from climate change, population growth, and environmental degradation continues to threaten these resources.

UWEWK provides an important national platform for stakeholders to examine these challenges, strengthen collaboration, and identify practical solutions that can accelerate sustainable development and climate resilience.





Children as change makers leading the way in Environmental conservation

What to Watch out for at UWEWK 2026

The Ninth Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2026, organized by the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Water Resources Institute, will take place from 23rd to 27th March 2026. The event will convene policymakers, scientists, civil society, industry players, and other stakeholders for plenary discussions, technical workshops, innovation demonstrations, and side events. Participants will explore pressing challenges in water, environment, and climate change, promoting solutions such as climate-smart infrastructure, Nature-Based Solutions, efficient water management, and improved policies.

UWEWK 2026 will highlight the role of water and environment in achieving Uganda's Tenfold Growth Strategy, aiming to expand the economy from \$50 billion to \$500 billion by 2040 by supporting agro-industry, tourism, mineral-based industries, oil and gas, and science, technology, ICT, and innovation. Aligned with Africa Agenda 2063, the week emphasizes science, technology, and innovation as key drivers for sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient growth

560KM Walk for Water and Environment Builds National Momentum for UWEWK 2026



The 560-kilometre Walk for Water and Environment from Moroto to Kampala galvanized communities across Eastern to Central Uganda, driving awareness and action on sustainable Water management, Environmental conservation, and Climate resilience ahead of the Ninth Uganda Water and Environment Week (**UWEWK 2026**).

The walk was officially flagged off at Boma Grounds in Moroto District by the Deputy Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Tuko Justin, who reaffirmed government's commitment to protecting water resources and addressing environmental challenges affecting vulnerable communities.

Eng. Maxiimo Twinomuhangi, Team Leader of the Kyoga Water Management Zone, underscored the significance of the initiative, noting that the walk serves as a strategic pre-event platform to highlight pressing national water and environmental concerns while fostering community dialogue and collective action.

As the walkers moved through the region, communities actively engaged in identifying context-specific challenges and solutions. In Katakwi District, residents pointed to rocky underground formations hindering borehole drilling, limited access to piped water, and recurring floods



Uganda Walkers Association arrive at Parliament to deliver a petition about the water and environment challenges gathered across the 560KM walk

originating from the Karamoja sub-region. Proposed interventions included expanding piped water systems and investing in valley dams, with local leaders welcoming ongoing government efforts. The engagements were marked by ceremonial tree planting, reinforcing commitments to environmental restoration.

In Soroti City, attention turned to the protection of critical ecosystems, including Lake Kyoga, wetlands, and forest reserves. Innovative approaches such as the Tiny Forest project were showcased as practical solutions for rapid ecosystem restoration. In neighbouring Ngora District, the delegation visited the Soroti Solar Power Plant, highlighting the role of renewable energy in supporting sustainable development



Walkers demonstrate tree planting as a way to conserve the Environment

through community-focused initiatives such as borehole construction, tree planting, and social investments. The Tididiek Asianut Women's Group further demonstrated grassroots innovation by producing over 2,000 energy-saving cookstoves, significantly reducing reliance on firewood and contributing to climate resilience.

Faith-based institutions also played a pivotal role in mobilization efforts. Rev. Fr. Deogratias Oryangatum of St. Paul's Catholic Parish in Kumi called on communities to embrace tree planting and actively participate in environmental conservation efforts, reinforcing the moral imperative of stewardship.

Traversing districts including Moroto, Napak, Katakwi, Soroti, Kumi, Bukedea, Mbale, Tororo, Bugiri, Iganga, Jinja, Buikwe, Mukono, and finally Kampala, the walk provided a platform to document critical water and environmental challenges affecting communities. Key issues identified included the degradation of water sources due to



pollution, siltation, and encroachment; widespread deforestation driven by charcoal production and land clearing; wetland encroachment; declining water tables and increasing water scarcity; poor waste management; and escalating climate change impacts such as floods, prolonged droughts, and crop failures.

Upon reaching Kampala, the Walkers Association of Uganda presented a formal petition to Parliament, calling for urgent and coordinated national action. The petition outlined key recommendations, including strengthening the protection of water catchments, restoring forests and wetlands, investing in climate-resilient water infrastructure, improving waste management systems, enhancing climate adaptation measures, increasing sector funding, and promoting sustainable livelihood alternatives.

The walkers further urged Parliament to recognize the urgency of the water and

environmental crisis, strengthen oversight of environmental governance institutions, and safeguard the rights of present and future generations to a clean and healthy environment.

Throughout the journey, ceremonial tree planting symbolized a shared commitment to environmental stewardship, while continuous engagements strengthened collaboration among communities, local governments, development partners, and the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Key Message:

"The Walk for Water and Environment is not just a journey from Moroto to Kampala. It is a national call to action for communities to protect our water sources and environment for future generations." Eng. Maxiimo Twinomuhangi



Walkers engage Kyambogo University in Water and Environment dialogue

Strategic Partnerships Signed to Accelerate Realization of Water and Environment Security During the High-level Breakfast Meeting for the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2026:



In the spirit to build momentum towards the Ninth Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK 2026), the Ministry of Water and Environment convened a high-level Strategic Partners' Breakfast Meeting where several institutions formally committed to strengthening collaboration to accelerate the realization of Water, Sanitation, and Environmental security in Uganda.

The meeting, held at Skyz Hotel in Naguru, brought together key stakeholders including Water For People Uganda, the Uganda Bankers Association, and ZOA Uganda, who signed respective bilateral and tripartite Memoranda of Understanding with the Ministry of Water and Environment, signaling a renewed commitment to support the country's water and environment agenda.



The partnerships were aimed at fostering stronger collaboration among government, private sector actors, civil society, and development partners to address persistent challenges in the water and sanitation sector while leveraging the upcoming UWEWK 2026 as a platform to mobilize solutions and partnerships.

Speaking during the meeting, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Water and Environment, Dr. Alfred Okot

Okidi, emphasized that the partnerships represent a clear intention to collaboratively support government efforts through tangible actions such as technical engagement, resource mobilization, knowledge sharing, innovation, advocacy, and strategic visibility in the delivery of water and environment services.

During the engagement, stakeholders acknowledged the progress Uganda has

made in expanding access to safe water services

. Key message

“Currently, about 72 percent of the population has access to safe water, reflecting significant investments in water infrastructure across both rural and urban communities”.

Stakeholders also highlighted the growing financing gap within the sector. While the annual budget allocation for the Water and Environment Sector stands at approximately UGX 1.2 trillion, the estimated financing requirement is about **UGX 5 trillion annually and is projected to increase to nearly UGX 10 trillion per year by 2030.**

Representatives of partner organizations underscored the importance of the newly signed agreements in strengthening collaboration and expanding impact across communities.

Brenda Achiro, Country Director of Water for People Uganda, noted that the bilateral agreement with the Ministry reflects the organization’s continued commitment to complement government efforts in expanding safe water services. She emphasized that strong partnerships and strengthened government systems are essential for sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene services across the country.

Remarking, Jasper Okello, Climate Resilience and Livelihood Advisor at ZOA Uganda, said the partnership presents an important opportunity to work with government and development partners to address water and sanitation challenges affecting vulnerable

communities, particularly women, youth, and children. She noted that such collaboration will enable stakeholders at catchment level to jointly identify priority issues and design appropriate solutions.

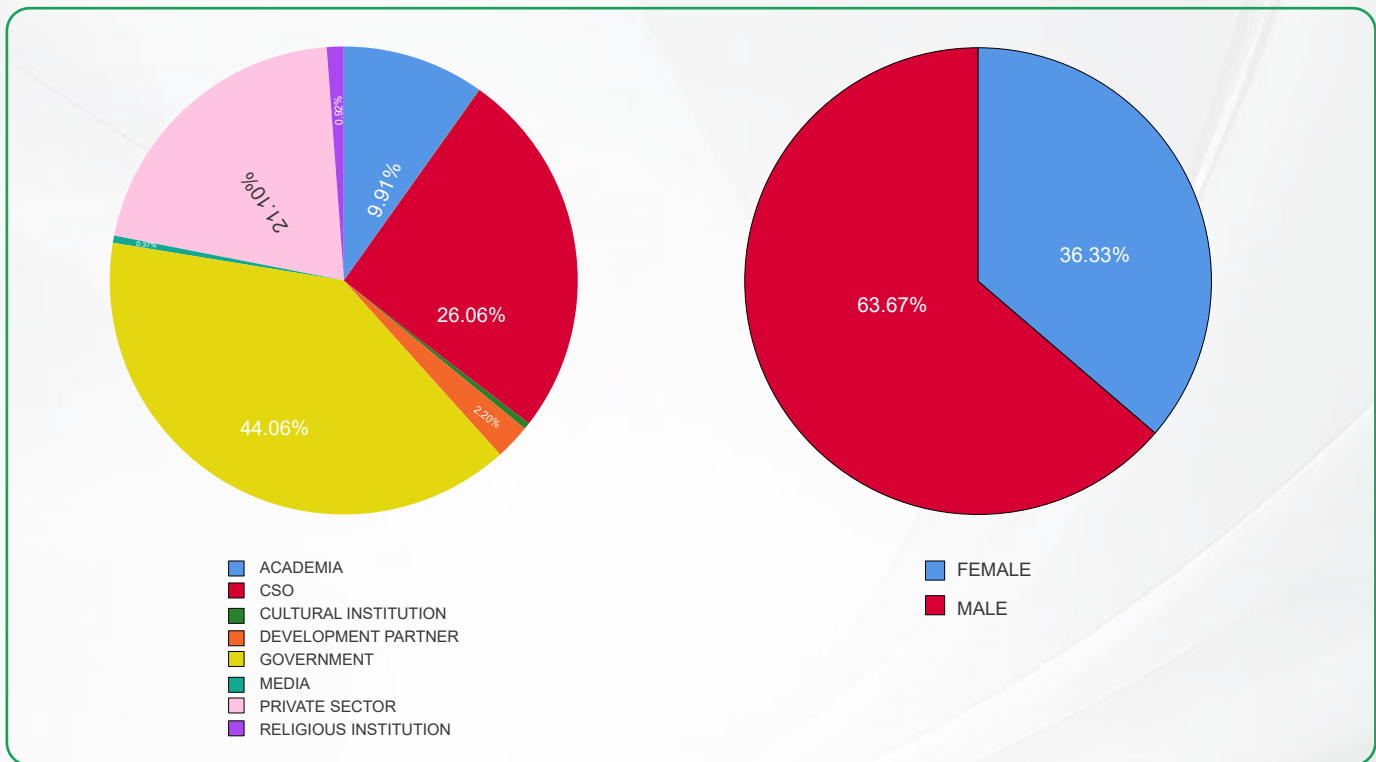
Relatedly, Wilbrord Humphrey Owor, Executive Director of the Uganda Bankers Association, highlighted the critical role of the financial sector in advancing sustainability and mobilizing resources for water and environmental programs. He noted that financial institutions are increasingly recognizing that sustainable communities are essential for long-term economic stability and business growth.

Participants emphasized that water and environmental challenges are complex and cannot be addressed by a single actor alone. They stressed the need for integrated and collaborative approaches that bring together government, private sector, civil society, media, academia, and development partners.

The partnerships signed during the breakfast meeting were therefore seen as an important step in strengthening cooperation ahead of UWEWK 2026. Through the agreements, the partners committed to supporting the sector through technical engagement, resource mobilization, knowledge sharing, innovation, advocacy, and strategic visibility.

They called upon other stakeholders including the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, development partners, and the media to join the growing coalition and actively contribute to shaping the outcomes of Uganda Water and Environment Week 2026.

Insights from the **UWEWK 2026** Webinar Series:



In a strategic effort to prepare stakeholders for the Ninth Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK 2026), the Ministry of Water and Environment, through the Water Resources Institute, convened a series of high-level webinars to advance dialogue on sustainable water and environmental management.

The sessions elaborated on the overarching theme “**Water and Environment for an Inclusive and Prosperous Uganda**” highlighting the sector’s role in driving national development and supporting Uganda’s Tenfold Growth Strategy. Presenters emphasized sustainable resource use across agriculture, tourism, and industrial development, while addressing critical financing gaps and the importance of human capital development.

Investment in science, technology, innovation, and capacity building was underscored as vital for strengthening governance, research, policy formulation, and community engagement. Discussions also explored financing avenues through international mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.

Environmental sustainability and climate resilience were central, with emphasis on catchment management, water harvesting, community-based adaptation, and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and remote sensing. The webinars laid a solid foundation for informed, collaborative engagement during UWEWK 2026.

Regional Momentum Builds Ahead of Uganda Water and Environment Week 2026:

Under the framework of the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2026, the Ministry of Water and Environment, through her regional structures undertook a couple of activities ahead of the UWEWK 2026. Albertine Regional Office, convened a series of engagements across the Albertine region as part of the Albertine Regional Water and Environment Week (ARWEWK) 2026. These activities form part of the nationwide build-up to UWEWK 2026, showcasing practical solutions, partnerships, and community-driven initiatives that advance sustainable water and environmental management in Uganda.

A key highlight of the engagements was the **launch of bamboo planting for riverbank stabilization along River Mitano in Rukungiri District**, an intervention aimed at restoring degraded riverbanks and protecting water resources within the Matanda–Enengo catchment. The launch was followed by field visits to various intervention sites in Kanungu and Rukungiri Districts where communities are implementing soil and water conservation measures, tree growing initiatives, wetland and river buffer protection, and alternative livelihood activities under the Irrigation for Climate Resilience Project (ICRP).

While making his remarks, Eng. Albert Orijabo, Assistant Commissioner in the Directorate of Water Resources Management, commended the strong

collaboration between the Ministry, district leadership, implementing partners, and communities in advancing catchment restoration efforts. He encouraged communities to continue learning from technical experts to ensure the sustainability of these interventions beyond the lifespan of the project.

The engagements also included site **visits to intervention areas within the Enengo micro-catchment in Rukungiri District**, where teams observed aquaculture enterprises, soil and water conservation structures, and apiary activities established to support community livelihoods. Local leaders emphasized the





MWE representatives engaging stakeholders through an informative exhibition.

importance of innovation among beneficiary groups and encouraged them to build on the support provided by government and development partners.

ARWEWK also provided an opportunity for regional knowledge exchange through a **learning visit by a delegation from the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)**. The delegation, representing several Southern African countries, visited the Albert Water Management Zone offices in Fort Portal to exchange experiences on water resources management, sanitation systems, catchment management planning, and groundwater monitoring. The delegates also toured the regional water quality laboratory supported by the African Development Bank.

As part of the learning visit, the delegation undertook a **field visit to Mahyoro Fish Landing Site in Kitagwenda District**, where they observed ongoing improvements in fisheries infrastructure and sanitation facilities including fish handling and smoking facilities. District leaders noted that improvements in sanitation and hygiene have contributed to increased economic activity and improved standards at the landing site.

Another important milestone during the week was the **launch of an afforestation and watershed demonstration hub in Nyantungo Subcounty in Kyenjojo District**, an initiative aimed at strengthening watershed management and water conservation efforts within the Mpanga Catchment. The launch brought together community members, district leadership, and technical teams to promote sustainable land use and environmental restoration.

Efforts to improve sanitation and hygiene were also highlighted through a **school sanitation and hygiene certification exercise** conducted in partnership with IRC, Water for People and the Kabarole District Local Government. Several schools were assessed on sanitation infrastructure, handwashing facilities, and hygiene practices and achieved a three-star rating, reflecting the impact of ongoing investments in water and sanitation facilities that support healthier learning environments.

Stakeholders also convened a **Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Hydrometeorological Stakeholder Consultative Meeting** under the TICAD Project implemented in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The meeting reviewed progress made in strengthening climate monitoring systems and discussed strategies for expanding the initiative, including the installation of additional automated weather stations in participating districts.

Environmental restoration efforts were further reinforced through the **launch of the Nyasimbi-Kakibi Wetland Demarcation exercise in Busoro Town Council in Kabarole District**, where six kilometres of wetland were demarcated using concrete pillars reinforced with indigenous tree markers. Community members were encouraged to adopt alternative livelihood options such as beekeeping, fish farming, and craft making to reduce pressure on wetlands.

Similarly, the Ministry through the Albert Water Management Zone carried out the **commissioning of the Nyakahama Wetland demarcation in Rukunyu Sub County in Kamwenge District**, bringing together district leaders and community members to reaffirm their commitment to protecting wetlands and promoting sustainable water resource management.

Other activities across the regional centers included among others, exhibition in Eastern Uganda, cooperative games, tree planting all in the spirit of sending a message to conserve and better manage the Water and Environment resources.

Enhancing Water Supply and Wetland Protection during ARWEWK 2026 in Kabarole



MWE and partners commission Water supply system



MWE and partners launch Nyansimbi Kakibi Wetland demarcation

The Albertine Regional Water and Environment Week (ARWEWK) 2026 activities in Kabarole District highlighted the critical link between improved water access and ecosystem protection, with key interventions focusing on both infrastructure development and wetland conservation.

On Wednesday, 17th March 2026, a new water supply system was commissioned in Butebe, marking a major step toward improving access to safe and clean water for communities in Fort Portal City. Funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and implemented by Join for Water in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Initiative (NRDI) and National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), the system is expected to serve approximately 6,000 people across Butebe, Rwenkuba, and Kiguma wards.

Speaking at the commissioning, the Country Coordinator of Join for Water, Mr. Ndungo Isaiah, raised concern over increasing pressure on wetlands, noting that their degradation is contributing to flooding and contamination of water sources. He highlighted the absence of clear wetland boundaries and pointed to ongoing efforts to address this through a Wetlands Action Plan being developed with Fort Portal City and the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Complementing these efforts, the region saw the launch of the Nyansimbi-Kakibi wetland demarcation in Busoro Town Council on 13th March 2026. The initiative, implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with IRC-Uganda and Kabarole District Local Government, resulted in the demarcation of 6 kilometers of wetland using concrete pillars reinforced with indigenous tree markers to establish clear and sustainable boundaries.

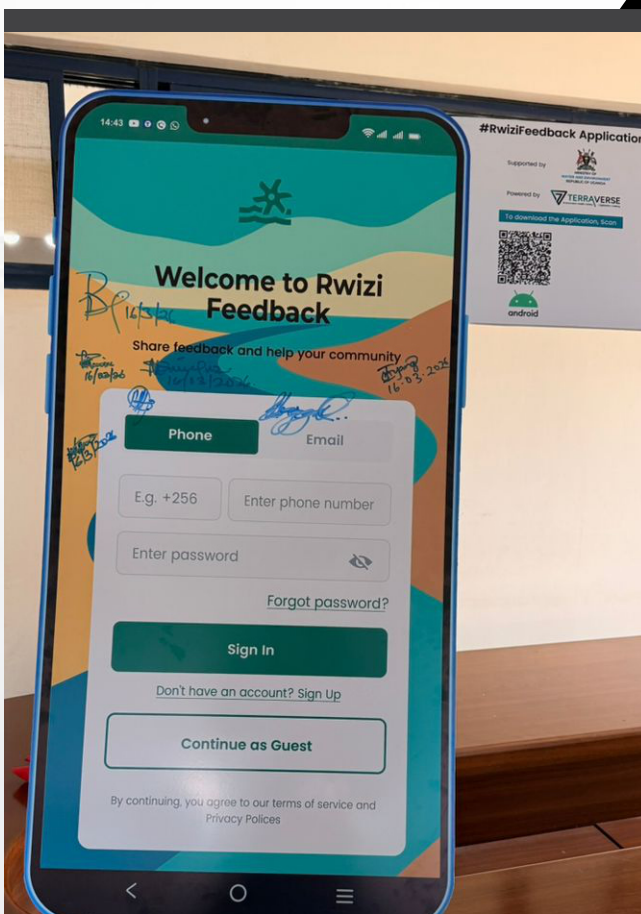
Stakeholders emphasized the need to restore encroached wetlands while promoting alternative livelihoods such as beekeeping, fish farming, and craft making to reduce dependence on unsustainable practices.

Representing the Ministry of Water and Environment, Eng. Hillary underscored the importance of reliable water supply in achieving Uganda's socio-economic transformation. He warned that rapid population growth is outpacing water supply capacity and reiterated the government's commitment to universal access to safe water by 2030. He further called for climate-resilient infrastructure and discouraged the use of shallow wells due to contamination risks.

The Resident City Commissioner reaffirmed government commitment to equitable access to clean water, emphasizing efficiency and accountability in project implementation. She commended partners for their collaboration and stressed the urgency of delivering results to communities.

Concerns over wetland encroachment were echoed by leaders, including the Assistant RCC, who warned against continued degradation of wetlands, noting its direct impact on water security. Communities were urged to take an active role in protecting both water infrastructure and natural ecosystems.

Digital Innovation Strengthens Community Action:



Rwizi feedback app launched

In a move to enhance community-driven water protection, the Ministry of Water and Environment, in partnership with Terraverse Solutions Ltd, launched the Rwizi Feedback App in the South Western Region.

The app will enable communities, stakeholders, and institutions to report environmental concerns such as pollution and encroachment, share feedback, and contribute ideas to support sustainable management of the River Rwizi catchment. By providing a simple, real-time feedback channel, the platform will strengthen citizen engagement and support timely response from authorities.

This innovation will complement wetland protection and water supply interventions by reinforcing the role of communities in safeguarding critical water resources.

Regional Debates Ignite Youth-Led Action for Water and Environmental Sustainability:



The city of Lira came alive with intellectual energy as the Northern Uganda Water and Environment Week (NUWEWK) hosted a vibrant inter-school and university debate session at UTC Lira. The event brought together officials from the Ministry of Water and Environment, representatives from MWE-North, the National Youth Council, youth committees, and academic institutions, all converging to amplify youth engagement in water and environmental conservation.

The debates attracted participation across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, each showcasing a unique dimension of creativity and critical thinking. Primary school learners delivered powerful environmental messages through poems and visual presentations, while secondary school participants from institutions such as Comboni College and Lira Town College demonstrated confidence and analytical depth in tackling pressing environmental issues. At the tertiary level, universities including Gulu University, Lira University, Muni University, and Uganda Martyrs University engaged in intense and solution-oriented exchanges, reflecting a growing sophistication in youth-led discourse.

After a series of competitive rounds, St. Catherine Secondary School emerged as champions in the secondary category, while Gulu University secured top honors at the university level. The recognition of winners through certificates and prizes highlighted the importance of nurturing youth voices as key contributors to environmental sustainability. The session concluded with inspiring remarks from the Guild Representative of UTC Lira, the NUWEWK Chairperson, and the Team Leader, all reinforcing the central role of young people in shaping the future of the sector.

Relatedly, the momentum of youth engagement extended to the

Region, where National Youth Debates were convened within the Kyoga Water Management Zone. Anchored on the theme “**Water and Environment for an Inclusive and Prosperous Uganda,**” the debates focused on harnessing the power and capacity of women, youth, and children in delivering water and environment services.

The event opened with reflections from the Team Leader of the Kyoga Water Management Zone, who underscored the importance of youth-driven platforms in shaping informed and practical solutions. The Regional Coordinator of Youth Go Green further called for the expansion of debate initiatives across districts and encouraged young people to invest in climate-smart ventures such as tree planting.

Participation spanned a wide range of institutions, with secondary schools such as

Mbale Secondary School and Nkoma Secondary School demonstrating strong advocacy and public speaking skills, while tertiary institutions including IUIU, UCU, MUBS, and Busitema University engaged in policy debates and innovation pitches. The competition saw IUIU–Mbale emerge as the best tertiary debate team, while Mbale Secondary School took top honors at the secondary level.

In public speaking, Mbale School of Hygiene and Nkoma Secondary School stood out in the tertiary and secondary categories respectively.

Stakeholders emphasized the broader significance of the debates, with the CEO of Youth Go Green describing them as a critical platform for generating ideas capable of influencing national policy, while a representative from Oxfam encouraged youth to translate their potential into tangible contributions to service delivery.

In South Western region under **ARWEWK**, debates focused on the role of water and environment in achieving Uganda's Tenfold Growth Strategy, the importance of science and innovation, climate resilience, and the participation of women and youth in environmental governance. Uganda Martyrs University emerged as the winner in the university category, while Nyakasura School won in the secondary school category.

while in the central region Kyambogo University and Bishop Cipriano Kihangire scooped top position for University and secondary school categories respectively.

Crowning Climate Champions: Regional Auditions Set Stage for National Finale ahead of the **UWEWK 2026:**



Mr. Bismac Amumpaire of Africa Tourism and Environment Initiatives (ATEI) briefing the attendees about the miss climate change program

The search for Uganda's next generation of climate ambassadors has gathered momentum, with regional auditions for Miss Climate Change Awareness Uganda successfully concluded across the country. The initiative, spearheaded by Africa Tourism and Environment Initiatives in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment, is a key youth engagement activity feeding into the

Ninth Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2026.

Spanning five regions, Albertine, Southwestern, Northern, Eastern, and Central, the auditions attracted a dynamic pool of young women who demonstrated confidence, creativity, and a strong grasp of climate challenges and community-driven solutions.

The journey commenced in the Albertine Region on March 5 under the Albert Water Management Zone, setting the pace for a nationwide search that underscored the importance of youth leadership in environmental stewardship. This momentum carried through the Southwestern and Northern regions, where participants showcased their climate advocacy ideas with clarity and purpose.

Albertine Region winners were:

Kenyana Cathy Tusiime (Winner), Kanyunyuzi Recheal (1st Runner-Up), and Kirungi Christine (2nd Runner-Up).

In the **Southwestern Region**, the top contestants were:

Kirabo Patience Joyce (Winner), Asimwe Nangongi Mary (1st Runner-Up), and Ahumuza Mukama Faith (2nd Runner-Up).

The **Northern Region** auditions, held in Lira, produced:

Queen Martha Akori (Winner), Queen Adongo Linda of Kwania District (1st Runner-Up), and Queen Akello Brenda of Kole District (2nd Runner-Up).

Relatedly, the Eastern and Central region auditions, held on 13th and 14th March respectively, brought the regional phase to a close with equally strong representation.

The **Eastern Region winners** were:

Angella Mutesi (Namutumba) – Winner, Asege Violet Mary (Soroti) – 1st Runner-Up, and Chebt Gloria (Kapchorwa) – 2nd Runner-Up.

From the **Central Region**, the winners were:

Mirembe Winnie (Winner), Namatovu Brenda Fancy (1st Runner-Up), and Cheruto Edith (2nd Runner-Up).

In total, fifteen finalists, the top three from each region will now advance to the national stage. Ahead of the grand finale, they will undergo an intensive bootcamp covering communication, climate advocacy, personal branding, etiquette, and leadership development.

Organizers emphasized that the initiative is not merely a competition, but a strategic platform to nurture a new generation of climate champions capable of driving awareness, influencing behavior change, and promoting sustainable practices within their communities.

Key Message

The national crowning ceremony, expected to be a highlight of UWEWK 2026, will celebrate these emerging leaders and reinforce the critical role of youth in shaping Uganda's climate resilience and environmental sustainability agenda.

Uganda crowns Miss Climate Change 2026:/2027



Miss Kirabo Patience (middle) crowned Miss climate change 2026/27

Africa Tourism and Environment Initiatives (ATEI), in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment, has successfully organized the Miss Climate Change Awareness Uganda 2026/27 pageant, culminating in the crowning of Kirabo Patience Joyce from the Southwestern Region as the national climate ambassador.

The event was held as part of the pre-activities leading to the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2026, underscoring the growing importance of youth-led initiatives in advancing environmental sustainability in Uganda.

Kirabo Patience Joyce emerged winner after impressing judges with her strong understanding of climate challenges, confidence, and practical solutions. She will serve as Miss Climate Change Awareness Uganda 2026/27, championing climate action initiatives across the country.

She was followed by Akiro Martha from the Northern Region as the 1st Runner-Up, and Mirembe Winnie from the Central Region as the 2nd Runner-Up.

Speaking at the crowning ceremony, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment, Dr. Alfred Okot Okidi, reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting youth-driven climate initiatives. He pledged continued collaboration with ATEI and emphasized the need to concretize the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry and ATEI.

Dr. Okidi further highlighted that the Ministry will work closely with the newly crowned Queen to advance shared environmental objectives and support her role as a national climate ambassador.

In a significant development, the Permanent Secretary announced that the reigning Queen and her fellow winners will be supported to represent Uganda at both national and international platforms, including the Conference of the Parties (COP). This support aims to amplify youth voices in global climate discussions and provide exposure to international advocacy opportunities.

The 2026/27 edition marks a major milestone for the initiative, having evolved into a fully national competition with structured regional participation across Eastern, Southwestern, Albertine, Central, and Northern Uganda. The competition attracted a diverse group of young women demonstrating passion, innovation, and commitment to climate advocacy.

ATEI Team Lead, Bismac Amumpaire Moses, described the initiative as a growing movement shaping a new generation of climate leaders and noted plans to expand inclusivity in future editions



MWE officials pose for a photo upon crowning of miss climate change 2026/27

National Ministry of Water and Environment” clean-up exercise



Ministry of Water and Environment rallies communities for a clean up exercise in Luzira

A large-scale clean-up and awareness campaign took place in **Luzira, Port Bell Landing Site, and Kitintale Market on Friday, 19th March 2026**, as part of the pre-event activities for the **Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK 2026)**. The exercise brought together officials from the **Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)**, local government leaders, students, community members, and development partners to tackle sanitation and environmental challenges in key locations.

The day began at the **MWE headquarters**, where participants received remarks on the purpose of the exercise and its link to Uganda's sustainability goals from Dr. Callist Tindimugaya. Groups then moved to designated sites to carry out clean-up activities throughout the morning, focusing on **proper sanitation, sustainable**

waste management, and environmental protection.

Students, local leaders, cultural and religious institutions, and residents actively participated, collecting substantial volumes of waste and improving the cleanliness of several kilometers of targeted areas. The exercise also raised awareness on **sustainable water and environmental resource use** and the importance of building resilience against climate change.

The activity was coordinated by MWE in partnership with the **NWSC, KCCA**, and Nakawa and Central Division leadership. Similarly, MWE decentralized structures mobilized communities for several clean exercises in a bid to educate them about the importance of sustaining the environment and water resources through proper solid waste management.

UWEWK 2026; Swimming Gala Advances Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Efforts



Swimmers showcasing the different strokes



Redcross society of Uganda demonstrates life saving skills during a swimming gala organized under the framework of UWEWK 2026



Commissioner International & Transboundary Water Affairs Department; Eng. Sowedi Sewagudde(4th L-R) and Commissioner Water Resources Planning and Regulation Department; Dr. Callist Tindimugaya(4TH R-L) launched the preparations of the Swimming Gala.

Today, the Commissioner of Water Resources Planning and Regulation Department, Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, representing the Minister of State for Sports, Hon. Peter Ogwang, officially opened the National Inter-Club Swimming Gala at Greenhill Swimming Academy, Kibuli, a pre-event activity for the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2026.

The Gala aimed to promote water safety, drowning prevention, and climate adaptation awareness. The Ministry of Water and Environment emphasized that drowning is not only a water-safety concern but also a climate-resilience issue, given the increasing frequency of floods, storm surges over lakes, and unsafe water-use practices.

The event served as a key awareness and advocacy platform, conveying messages on safe water use, flood preparedness, and responsible interaction with water bodies to thousands of youth, schools, and the public. The Gala brought together swimming clubs, schools, lifesaving associations, and the private sector, championing the national agenda of "Zero Drowning in Uganda."

The Ministry coordinated the event in collaboration with the Meteorological Services Department, Red Cross, Marine Police, Uganda Swimming Federation, Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda Aquatics, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Reach A Hand Uganda, Design Without Borders, and the Life Saving Association of Uganda



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