

ISSUE 02 MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020



UGANDA
W&E
WEEK



THE WATER FRONT

Newsletter



Ms. Jane Nabunya Mulumba, the Country Director – IRC Uganda, Mr. Collins Oloya the Director, Directorate of Environmental Affairs and Mr. Ronald Kaggwa, Manager at National Planning Authority during the panel discussion on Water and Environment security for inclusive growth

Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2020

The UWEWK will run from Sept 13th – 18th, 2020. Theme: 'Water and Environment Resources for Inclusive Growth, Employment and Wealth Creation.'

Sub-theme:

- Water and Environment Security for Inclusive Growth
- Water and Environment for Employment and Wealth Creation
- Climate Change and achievements of NDPIII goals

Water and Environment security for inclusive growth

Water and Environment security for inclusive growth is one of the three sub-themes at the 3rd edition of the Uganda Water and Environment Week. The week-long event is organized by the Ministry of Water and Environment and partners.

The sub-theme explores the impact of degradation of water, environment and natural resources on achievement of the targets under the 3rd National Development Plan.

On September 14, 2020, the morning plenary session at the UWEWK focused on the sub-theme

and included a keynote address made by Mr. Ronald Kaggwa the Manager at National Planning Authority. Panelists included Dr. Charles Orach who represented the Country Representative for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Mr. Mathias Katamba, the Managing Director of DFCU, Ms. Jane Nabunya Mulumba, the Country Director of IRC Uganda, Mr. Collins Oloya, the Director of Directorate of Environmental Affairs at Ministry of Water and Environment and Mr. David Duli, the Country Director of World Wide Fund for Nature.

Our lives depend on water - Kaggwa

MR. Kaggwa defined the concept water and environmental security as a multi-dimensional crosscutting concept.

He said it involves sustainable and equitable access to adequate, quality water and environmental resources, reduced pollution, preservation and continued productivity of ecosystems, elimination water and environmental scarcities.

This leads to reduced water and environmental poverty and contributing to sustainable lives (in all its forms) improved livelihoods, production (agricultural, industrial production, mining, tourism (eco-based tourism).

He defined the concept of Inclusive growth as a model of economic growth that focuses on people (people centred growth), that expands, sustains and distributes economic opportunities to people without leaving anybody behind.

It also hinged on reduced **s o c i a l** **m a r g i n a l i z a t i o n** and bringing everybody in the growth mainstream as well as a pro-poor economic growth model, that promotes gender parity, reduces the rural and urban divide and increases opportunity to all.



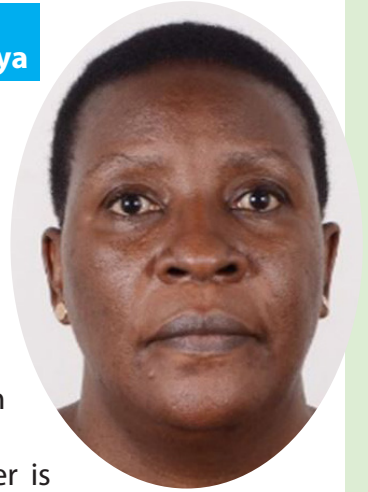
He pointed out that Water **a n d** environmental contributes to almost all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and more so SDG-8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. He said Water and environment security are the foundation of all other securities. e.g. food security, energy security and the overall national security.

Dr. Charles Orach, Deputy Country Representative – FAO

As a UN agency, focus is on SDG therefore infrastructure development is important because it contributes to poverty deduction, addresses income inequality, food security, eco-system services and tourism. The sector should try to minimize, avoid or manage water related hazards.

Consider women in planning - Nabunnya

Ms. Jane Nabunnya Mulumba, Country Director – IRC Uganda says women and vulnerable groups should be given access to water.



Nabunnya said water is a basic human right which everybody is entitled to.

Participation of youth, women and persons with disability is a way of responding to human rights. Women should be provided space in allocation of water as they are the main users, she added that even technologies should be provided to both women and vulnerable groups, they shouldn't only contribute to changes not only consuming the product," she said.

"As a services water and sanitation is a right for everyone these should not be taken for granted. We all know that we have a human right to water and sanitation access clean water sanitation and hygiene are essential," Nabunnya noted.

She added, "When we look at water as a service, all Ugandans have a right to access availability, accessibility and acceptability. She said that if the services are available, are they of good quality, available and reliable.

If you wake up in the morning, can you have access to water, is it affordable can all Ugandans afford without thinking that their rights are being infringing upon. With water services, we are assured of peace and stability presentation of diseases if you have both services health related diseases will be solved.

The UN can support initiatives on technological transfer, support increased direct investments, promote infrastructure initiatives that reduce carbon emission foot prints and provide optimal use of natural resources. There is need to focus on value for money for tax payers and governance.

Oloya calls for green growth

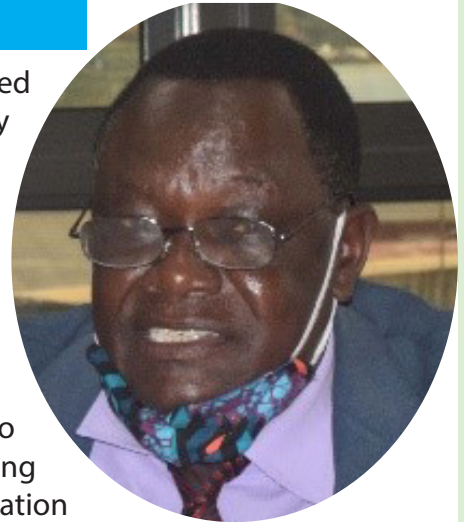
The Director, Directorate of Environment Affairs, MWE Dr. Collins Oloya said: "As water and environment are the engines and enabling infrastructures that determine the sustainability of all the sectors in Uganda, there is a need to undertake a holistic planning approach.

This would emphasize on the cause-effects-response analysis to identify the effects of other sector interventions on water and environment integrity," Oloya explained. Oloya further noted that the Directorate Environmental Affairs in the Ministry of Water and Environment and its side agencies has adopted mainstreaming and integrating Water and Environment into the development agendas.

"All sectors are required to plan and budget for interventions to address their negative impacts on water and environment. They will implement and report on the level of compliance,"

Oloya also revealed that the Ministry of Water and Environment has established functional MWE sector working groups to mobilize stakeholders to ensure planning and implementation of water and environment objectives.

However, Mr. Oloya expressed concern over the increased level of water and environment degradation as a challenge to the Ministry's efforts and thus called for adoption of green growth development.



David Duli -Country Director, WWF Uganda

Governance is critical in addressing declining trends in forest, environment and water resources. One of the governance issues is institutional coordination e.g. provision of concessions on mineral extractives in fragile eco systems. Policies need to be harmonized to ensure that we do not undermine efforts that are being spearheaded by the different stakeholders.

Data sets that are unreliable need to be addressed in order to support learning and modelling various scenarios . Allocation of budgets to the sector at national and district levels is critical. Staff capacities at national and local level is critical.



(Second right) Dr. Callist Tindimugaya makes a point during the break session

Training on Sustainable Development Goal 6

The Ministry of Water and Environment conducted a training on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 during the UWEWK 2020. This is one of the six practical trainings organized as part of the UWEWK 2020. The session included presentations from Ministry of Water and Environment. Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, the Commissioner, Water Resources Planning and Regulation at Ministry of Water and Environment gave a background on the SDGs as a global guide to sustainable development.

In his presentation, Dr. Callist mentioned that well as the MDGs targeted the less developed

countries, the SDG targets all countries in the world irrespective of whether they are under-developed or developed.

"Having a dedicated goal on Water provides a unique opportunity to address the challenges faced holistically without working in silos but following the water cycle," said Dr. Callist. He highlighted how SDG 6 is related to the other 16 goals and mentioned how the Water and Environment sector was working in partnership with other Government agencies to ensure successful implementation of SDG 6 in Uganda without leaving anyone behind.

He mentioned that the collaboration and partnership with other agencies was key in ensuring that there is creation and utilization of the available resources, build stronger institutions that are well capacitated and can contribute to the successful implementation of SDG 6.

He mentioned that the MDGs did not take into account water resources management, but through the SDGs, Integrated Water Resources Management is implemented on the ground. He stressed the need to improve and strengthen governance of water and environment resources to ensure that the resources are available to all in adequate quantities and quality. He mentioned that waste management impacts on the ecosystem and thus needs to be addressed.

Mr. Ceaser Kimbugwe from WaterAid inquired how the sector was handling the voluntary national reporting on SDG6. Dr. Callist shared that since the adoption of the SDG agenda, Uganda as a country was one of the 6 countries selected globally to pilot the monitoring of SDG 6 targets and indicators by UN Water.

Dr. Callist said a number of countries are learning from Uganda and as a result, the Water Resources Institute was developing a training manual for SDG 6.

He said the manuals will be made available to

sector stakeholders upon completion. Other presenters included Rose Mirta Birungi who made a presentation on adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation in Uganda and gave a brief on each indicator.

Milestones for Uganda as a country

- Uganda was the sitting Chair of the UN as the world made transition from MDGs to SDGs,
- Uganda was the first country to localize the 2030 agenda.
- Uganda was among the six countries to pilot the monitoring of SDG 6 indicators.

Other panelists

Mr. Joseph Eritu, Assistant Commissioner, Sector Capacity Development at Ministry of Water and Environment and Ms. Caroline Nakalyango talked about data collection and analysis on SDG 6.6.1. The indicator mentioned aims to collect and provide data on the spatial extent of water-related ecosystems and the quantity and quality of water within them to inform decision makers on how to protect and restore them.

Ms. Trinh Kyomugisha talked about the progress on SDG target 6.2, which looks at achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations by 2030.

Parallel sessions under the Water and Environment security for inclusive growth sub-theme

The status of groundwater resources management for sustainable socio-economic development in by Dr. Callist Tindimugaya

Groundwater use for industrial activities such as mineral water bottling, processing and cleaning is on the increase especially in Urban areas.

Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner, Water Resources Planning and Regulation, Ministry of Water and Environment, highlighted that the increase is due to the need for sustainable water supplies.

“Water supply authorities struggle to meet increasing demand for industrial water, and the relatively high cost of water by utilities also pushes them to seek ground water,” he said.

He noted that groundwater development for

livestock and irrigation is also projected to increase due to increase in occurrence and intensity of droughts requiring improvement of food production.

He, however, stressed that the increasing groundwater use needs to be well managed if sustainable groundwater development for socio-economic development is to be realized.

This was during a parallel session on Water and Environment security for inclusive growth during day 2 of the UWEWK 2020 held over Zoom.

He said it is critical to institute groundwater management strategies involving groundwater resources assessment, monitoring and regulation. He also stated that there is need to assess, map and quantify groundwater resources and should be done in purposely established wells to control activities that might compromise groundwater

availability and quality.

The Ministry of Water and Environment regulates abstraction through issuance of 5-year abstraction permits, with a number of conditions including water level and abstraction monitoring by permit holders.

The Ministry of Water and Environment also regulates drilling contractors and groundwater consultants who are issued annual Drilling Permits. Hydrogeologists and Groundwater Consulting Companies on the hand other register, and are issued registration certificates.

Transforming Lives of Rural Communities in Kakumiro District through Provision of Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services

This presentation as made by David Azoora, the Area Program Manager, Lifewater International Kakumiro District. Lifewater is an NGO operating within the Water and Sanitation subsector.

The initiatives aim at improving sanitation and hygiene at households level and ensuring that target villages are open defecation free. To achieve this, Lifewater uses a six Lifewater International criteria of Healthy home.

These are, community WASH facilitators, Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), Improved latrine with dignity, drinking safe water, Proper handwashing devise and drying rack.

As part of its interventions, Lifewater has rehabilitated nine (09) boreholes, drilled 17 new boreholes and three (03) production wells.

Reliability of rural water: a fundamental for inclusive growth by Whave

If breakdowns are prolonged, water supply is not inclusive. Whave, a local social enterprise, conducted a survey that found out that 76% of rural sources have prolonged breakdowns or poor yield.

The survey also found out that 76% of rural families with hand-pumps, revert to unsafe sources for periods longer than a month.

The presenter from Whave said that the problem is 84% non-inclusion in water service delivery and the solution to this problem is ensuring professionalized maintenance by Area Service Providers (ASP).

The presenter highlighted that this approach is

accountable for and guarantees reliable service delivery.

HPMA local mechanics are performance-paid by the ASP. Their work is logged by community leaders, public, private partnership performance reviews are chaired by MWE regional regulators every quarter to track functionality and service fee compliance

Through this approach, sustainable financing has been achieved through service fees, over 400 service agreements were made and more than 100,000 people served.

- Since 2014 over 98% functionality consistently.
- Fee discounts decreased in successive years
- Maintenance fee payment compliance is over 80%
- As scale reaches 4000 point-sources per ASP (1 million people in 3-4 district cluster), breakeven economics at 50/= / jerry-can or 4k/hh/month

Improving dam surveillance and monitoring in countries with non-existent legal and regulatory dam safety frameworks: a case of Isimba hydropower plant (Uganda)

This presentation was made by Godfrey Rwakafunjo, a Civil Engineer with UGCEL. He stated that dam surveillance and monitoring is a core of Operation & Maintenance. Dam surveillance and monitoring is important because it facilitates identification of key physical change and early detection of anomalies. It also conducts and analyses the trends, improvement or repair measures, balances automation and human interaction and data storage for referencing.

"Improving dam surveillance and monitoring is therefore, the best strategy for risk attenuation," he said.

"Countries with non-existing laws and regulations can sustainably operate hydropower plants safely while mitigating the possible risks of losing revenue and affecting downstream communities by implementing; Customized best practices from countries with strong regulations," he mentioned.

Mr. Rwakafujo also advised dam owners to invest resources in training & capacity building of staff. He said staff should be involved in establishing Dam Safety Management Systems.

He cautioned countries with smaller number of dams, to prioritise development and enactment of legal and regulatory dam safety frameworks.



MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

Sponsors & Partners



EUROPEAN UNION



german cooperation

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by:



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME
Joint solutions for resilient economic growth



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

This newsletter has been produced with support from the Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme (CUSP) which is implemented by GIZ with funds from the European Union and the German government. The contents of this publication can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union or the German government and GIZ.

Newsletter printed with support from UWASNET

The editorial team included Ms. Lucy Parwot, Ms. Juliet Waiswa, Ms. Viola Nabatanzi, Ms. Saudha Nakandha, Mr. Andante Okanya, Ms. Rehema Aanyu and Mr. Nelson Naturinda.

The Ministry of Water and Environment support team included Mr. Matthew Kariisa, Mr. Francis Kizito, Ms. Stacey Natukunda and Ms. Grace Katuramu.