

# Kyoga Water Management Zone Unleashes Plans to Restore Catchments

Degradation of water resources in the catchments of Eastern Uganda is one of the biggest challenges leading to Climate Change in the region.

This is always attributed to human activities mostly through encroaching on the river banks, wetlands and mountains, for crop cultivation.

In some areas, it has masterminded floods and landslides which have claimed lives of innocent Ugandans.

Kyoga Water Management Zone (KWMZ), is one of the four deconcentrated structures of the Directorate of Water Resources Management, under the Ministry of Water and Environment.

It was introduced in 2011 following policy reforms that deal with the management of water resources at catchment level, where catchment-based water resources management involves the stake holders on the ground.

Situated in the Eastern part of Uganda, the KWMZ covers an area of about 58,000 square kilometers covering about 56 districts.

They include, Bugiri, Buyende, Iganga, Jinja, Kaliro, Kamuli, Luuka, Mayuge, Namayingo and Namutumba in Busoga, Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak in Karamoja, Budaka, Butebo, Busia, Butaleja, Kibuku, Pallisa, Tororo in Bukedi, Bududa, Bukwo, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa,



Mr. Maximo Twinomuhangi, Team Leader,  
Kyoga Water Management Zone



## There is a management plan for Awoja, Mpologoma, lokoko- lokel and Victoria Nile Lumbuye making five Catchment Management Plans

Kween, Manafwa, Mbale, Sironko, Namisindwa in Elgon, Amuria, Bukedea, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Kumi, Ngora, Serere, Soroti in Teso, Alebtong, Amolatar, Apac, Dokolo, Kole, Lira in Lango and Wakiso, Buikwe Kayunga, Luwero, Mukono and Nakasongola in the Central.

Mr. Twinomuhangi says KWMZ deals with the monitoring of the water resources surface and ground water quality, and regulation of the use of the water resources.

“Any information we get concerning monitoring and assessment is used to do catchment management plan which is a stake holder’s driven process.

In the catchment management plans, we bring out all stakeholders of the catchments on the same planning table and we mention the issues affecting and design interventions which can be used to address these issues, “he says.

“So far in KWMZ, we have prepared five catchment management plans out of the 11 catchments in the zone.

We have a management plan for Awoja, Mpologoma, lokoko- lokel and Victoria Nile Lumbuye making five catchment management plans.

“When you have plans, you don’t eat them, but if you don’t implement them then they are as useless as not planning,” he adds.

He further explains that, as KWMZ, we are doing full scale implementation with the Development Partners through formulation of some projects.

“In Awoja, we have had World Bank supported projects like the CP Integrated Development and Management which had three components. One on water supply, irrigation and a component on catchment management measures.

Currently, we are implementing a four-year EURECCA project which is enhancing the resilience of communities to climate change through integrated management of water and related resources in Uganda,” he adds.

He stresses that the project is being implemented in three catchments of the country that is Aswa, Awoja and Maziba.

“In Awoja, it is mainly in three sub-catchments namely; Kerimu Paboki, Opeta Bisina and Lake Kocobo; mainly focusing on issues of landslides in hilly Mount Elgon areas and floods in the downstream parts of Teso.

A number of activities range from soil and water conservation, wetland restoration, river bank restoration, tree planting in addition to providing alternative sources of livelihoods to communities that are being rehabilitated,” he emphasises.

In others catchments, Mr. Twinomuhangi said that there are other similar projects like one in Karamoja under the EU.

“This is also looking at the resilience of communities to climate change through rehabilitation of valley tanks to address the issues of floods in Karamoja.

We have some river bank protection intervention and measures in Mpologoma catchment, and we are yet to formulate similar interventions in other catchments like in Victorian Nile Lumbuye where we have catchment management plans.

“This is for the achievement of water of the right quality and quantity meeting all social economic needs of the people in the catchment like; needs for food, water, power and many other social economic needs that depend on water,” Mr. Twinomuhangi concludes.

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