

New Catchment Management Plans implemented to improve livelihoods

Relating to water, a catchment is simply defined as a zone, part of land or an area of land in the vicinity of a lake, river or other body of water.

So, communities that live around such areas or catchments have an advantage of enjoying a better quality of life if the catchment is protected.

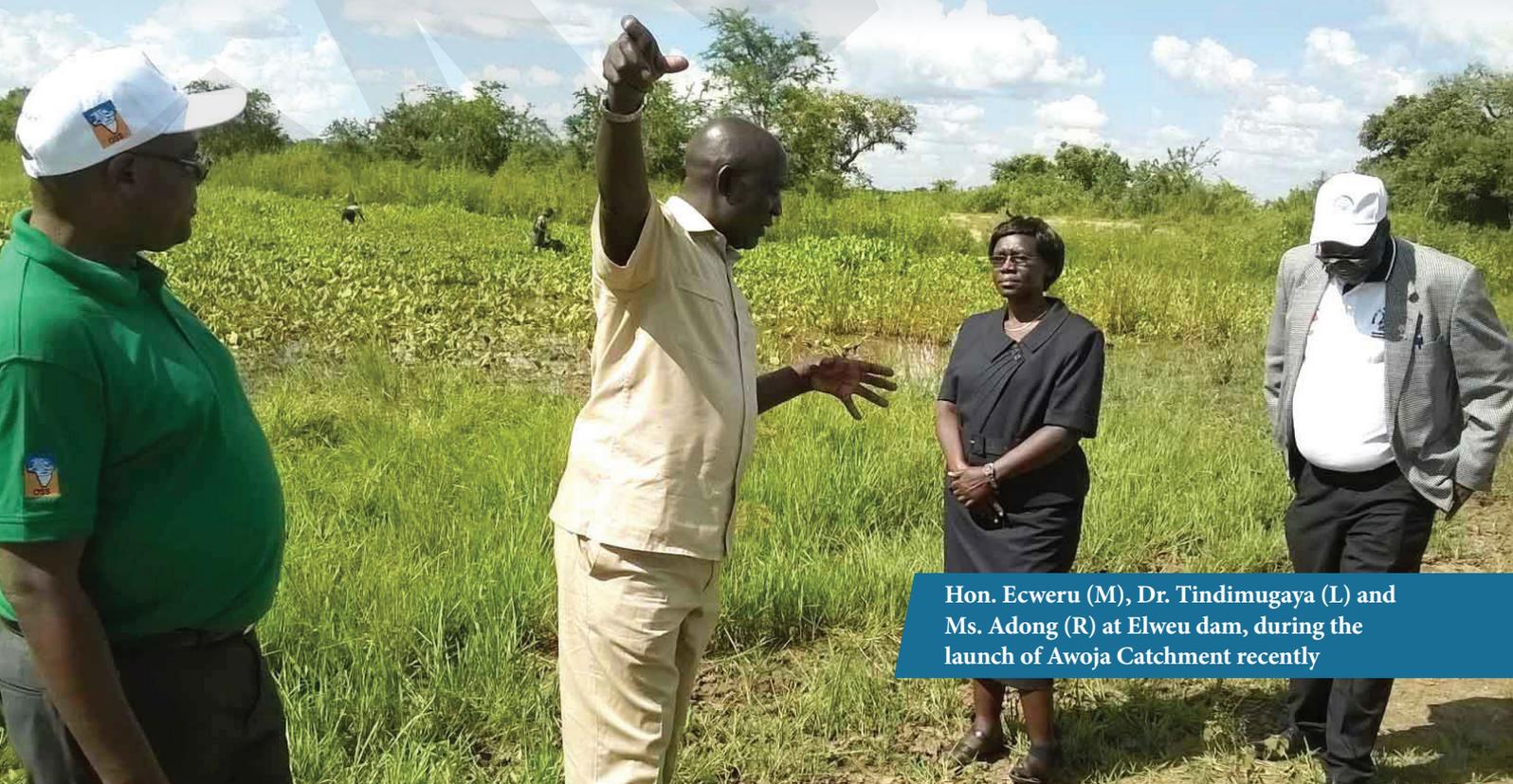
A protected water catchment delivers water that can be treated to be consumed and the same catchment supports livelihoods such as agriculture, farming, recreational angling and water sports.

Local bionetwork or ecosystem that involves plants, animals, fish and insects that depend on having healthy water can thrive and flourish when catchments are protected.

Although it is human beings that enjoy more benefits of protected catchments, it is rather surprising to find that we are the same people that encroach, destroy and send catchments into extinction.

At national level and technical level, the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Directorate of Water Resources Management, has been creating water resource planning, development and management of water catchments within catchment boundaries, as opposed to administrative boundaries.

These actions, however, can not be implemented successfully without cooperating with all stakeholders who include beneficiaries, local leaders, religious leaders, politicians, cultural leaders, academicians, among others.



Hon. Ecweru (M), Dr. Tindimugaya (L) and Ms. Adong (R) at Elweu dam, during the launch of Awoja Catchment recently



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Each catchment is being transformed into a Catchment Management Organization (CMO) consisting of Stakeholder forum, Catchment Management Committee (CMC), Catchment Management Technical Committee, and Catchment Management Organization Secretariat.

The Commissioner for Water Resources Management, Dr. Callist Tindimugaya says that the CMO is a level where stakeholder driven integrated water resources management and development is being implemented.

“Recently, we instituted CMOs and 9 sub-catchments in the catchments of Maziba, Aswa and Awoja, which makes a total number of 17 CMOs formally established and operational in the country,” says Dr. Tindimugaya.

He adds, in addition, catchment management structures at catchment, sub-catchment and micro catchment have also been created and established.

“Nine (9) sub-catchment management committees each chaired by Local Council 3 Chairpersons have been created in Awoja, Aswa and Maziba catchments. Similarly, 7 micro catchment management committees have been created in Sipi sub-catchment in Awoja catchment and in Albert Nile around Refugee settlements,”

Dr. Tindimugaya further states that the Directorate of Water Resources Management continues to prepare and implement Catchment Management Plans for various catchments in the country to guide planning, development and management of water related resources in Uganda.

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The Commissioner augments that the developed Catchment Management Plans contain priority investment and management measures needed to be implemented to protect and restore the catchment while improving people’s livelihoods in the various catchments.

According to Dr. Tindimugaya, implementation of some of the priority measures in the CMPs is ongoing through either collaboration between various stakeholders and the Water Management Zones or by stakeholders alone.

“The zones have continued to implement some interventions in 11 catchments namely; Maziba, Rwizi, Mpanga, Semliki, Aswa, Awoja, Ruhenzamyenda, Katonga, Lokok, Lokere and Mpologoma,”

These Catchment Management Plans are already being implemented through projects that were developed by the Ministry of Water and Environment, Non-Governmental Organizations or through district local governments which have mainstreamed priority investments into their District Plans.

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