



## UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK-2023

### Call for Abstracts

This is a call for submission of abstracts to the UWEWK2023 conference which will be implemented under the theme: “water and environment for climate-resilient development.”

#### Background

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in collaboration with key partners has so far held five annual Uganda Water and Environment Weeks (UWEWks) since March 2018. These events have attracted high-level political and technical participation from key stakeholders both nationally and internationally. The water and environment professionals, private sector and academic communities have used this opportunity to present papers, exchange knowledge and build relationships.

Based on the success of the previous UWEWks, the MWE will hold the sixth UWEWK which will run from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

The UWEWK 2023 is intrinsically linked to NPDIII, Uganda Vision 2040, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It envisions integrating climate resilience into growth and development policies, requiring a concerted, long-term approach and overall inclusion into national planning and budgeting processes. The event is further focuses on a community-based adaptation approach that is closely associated with rural and other vulnerable people striving to improve their livelihood against the imminent and long-term threat of climate change.

In line with the overall theme, UWEWK2023 will have four sub-themes as follows:

#### Sub-theme 1: Policy, Legal and institutional frameworks for climate-resilient development

The effects of climate change such as lake levels, river flow regimes, droughts and floods threaten to slow down or, in some cases, reverse recent gains in economic and social development of Uganda. Integrating water and environment security and climate resilience into development activities is key to achieving long-term sustainability

This sub-theme therefore seeks to broaden the understanding of the interrelationships and dependence of the Policy, Legal and

Institutional Frameworks to cushion Uganda’s water and environment resources against climate change impacts as it continues with her social-economic growth and development. This understanding that climate resilient development is a continuum that cuts across and integrates various instruments and framework should form the foundation of Uganda’s social-economic development. This eventually enhances water and environment security for climate resilient development

#### Sub-theme 2: Climate resilient communities, ecosystems and infrastructure

Climate change has pushed millions of people to migrate when they reach the limits to adaptation, further intensifying intrastate and interstate competition for food, water, resources, and livelihood opportunities. Massive human climate-induced migration has a “spill over” effect within the country and across national borders and within the states leading to heightened geopolitical tension and other global security concerns. Climate change is increasingly seen as a threat multiplier, especially to fragility and vulnerable communities often face the gravest climate-related challenges, including growing water and food insecurities.

This sub-theme will focus and broadened the understanding of the interrelationships between communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure. It will, , highlight the importance of nature-based solutions which have emerged globally as one of the sustainable and cost-effective ways to ‘fix’ the broken urban water cycle; create a balance between green and grey infrastructure; and ultimately, integrate communities, nature and heritage. It will also explore the benefits of community-led interventions with some interventions being indigenous i.e., in nature-built with the knowledge and strength within the community and its resources while others require external support in terms of knowledge and other resources.

#### Sub-theme 3: Capacity and partnerships for climate-resilient development,

The effect of climate change on key sectors hampers efforts to reduce poverty and to improve people’s livelihood, household incomes and access to sustainable water, sanitation, hygiene, environment conservation and protection, housing and urban development and disaster management services, among others. Yet these sectors/institutions are faced with challenges of capacity to plan and implement climate resilient developments. These challenges call for interventions that target

capacity building and intra/inter sectoral partnerships, including community involvement at all stages, to accelerate achievement of the objectives of NDPIII and SDGs by 2030.

This sub-theme will focus on profiling Uganda’s climate change stressors, underpin wider efforts to end poverty, improve health and advance sustainable development through building capacity of institutions (public and private), people and communities for climate resilient development. Identifying interventions and laying strategies to train and raise awareness as tool to ensure availability and sustainable management of these resources is essential for achieving SDGs. The role water and environment resources in strengthening the social, economic, and environmental resilient systems in the light of rapid and unpredictable changes will also be explored. How to bridge the data and information gap such as community data (Community Information System), governance, administration, mind-set change, and knowledge is needed for a systematic review of partnerships and capacity building policy options and other gaps.

#### Sub-theme 4: Innovative financing mechanisms

This sub-theme will dialogue and bring forward the innovative financing approaches and strategies blended with traditional finance sources (combining different funding sources) alongside specialist climate finance. It will further explore Investments for water and environment security and climate resilient development and financing away from the recurrent expenditure that comes mainly from user charges and government budgets such as subsidies and taxes, public goods, insurance policies, commercial loans, and equity among others. It will also focus on innovative solutions for more efficient and productive development and management of water, environment, and natural resources to inform and guide planning and prioritization of the country’s strategies and plans to enhance climate resilience of water and environment infrastructure developments

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Deadline for Abstract Submission:** 03<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2023

**Write-shop:** 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

**Deadline for Full Papers:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**UWEWK:** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

#### Contacts us:

Website: [www.uwewk.mwe.go.ug](http://www.uwewk.mwe.go.ug), [www.mwe.go.ug](http://www.mwe.go.ug)

Email: [wri.uga@gmail.com](mailto:wri.uga@gmail.com), [uwewk@mwe.go.ug](mailto:uwewk@mwe.go.ug)

Phone: +256 772 521413 / +256 772468772

Follow us on: Twitter @min\_waterUg#UWEWK22

Full papers and poster presentations will be submitted upon successful review and acceptance of abstracts. Abstracts (not exceeding 300 words) that are in line with the theme and sub-themes of the conference should be sent to [uwewk@mwe.go.ug](mailto:uwewk@mwe.go.ug) and copied to [wri.uga@gmail.com](mailto:wri.uga@gmail.com) not later than 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.