

## UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENT WEEK (UWEWK) 2022

### CONCEPT NOTE FOR HYBRID (PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL) EVENT

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) is event week-long annual event that is organized by Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) through Water Resources Institute (WRI). The Institute aspires to be a Centre of Excellence that provides cutting edge applied research and training; delivers continuous professional skills development across all levels in water and environment resources management and development, and serves as a neutral place for dialogue and outreach. Since inception in 2018, the UWEWK events seek to contribute towards attainment of sustainable socio-economic transformation and achieving Ugandan National Development Plan and vision 2040. UWEWK has become a WRI flagship program and provides interface between sector stakeholders for knowledge exchange, dialogue, and learning for improvement of Uganda's water and environment resources. The event integrates physical and virtual activities that take place both prior and during the week, to engage and exchange information on water and environment management and development in general and across various sectors of the economy.

UWEWK 2022 is the 5<sup>th</sup> UWEWK organised by MWE through the Water Resources Institute (WRI), starting **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022**. The week-long event will involve annual commemoration of three important International Days: World Forest Day (March 21<sup>st</sup>), World Water Day (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) and World Meteorological Day (March 23<sup>rd</sup>) on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. The UWEWK 2022 is intrinsically linked to: NPDIII and SDGs which focus on enhancing value addition in key growth opportunities; ensuring availability of adequate and reliable quality fresh water resources for all uses, reducing human and economic loss from natural hazards and disasters, increasing incomes and employment through sustainable use and value addition to water, environment and other natural resources.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK 2022) will explore:

- Promoting peace and stability through Water and Environment resources management and development
- Building resilience to risks and shocks caused by COVID-19, climate change and environmental degradation
- Financing Water, Environment and Climate Change.
- Partnership and intersectional collaboration in governance, management and development of water and environment resources.

The past four (4) annual UWEWK events were organised by Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in collaboration with key partners, as follows: March 2018; March 2019, September 2020, and March 2021. These events have attracted high-level political participation including the Vice President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, and other stakeholders both nationally and internationally. In addition, the sector professionals, private sector and academic communities presented papers, exchanged knowledge and built relationships.

## UWEWK 2022 thematic framework

The overall theme of UWEWK 2022 is “Water and environment for peace and socio-economic transformation of Uganda”

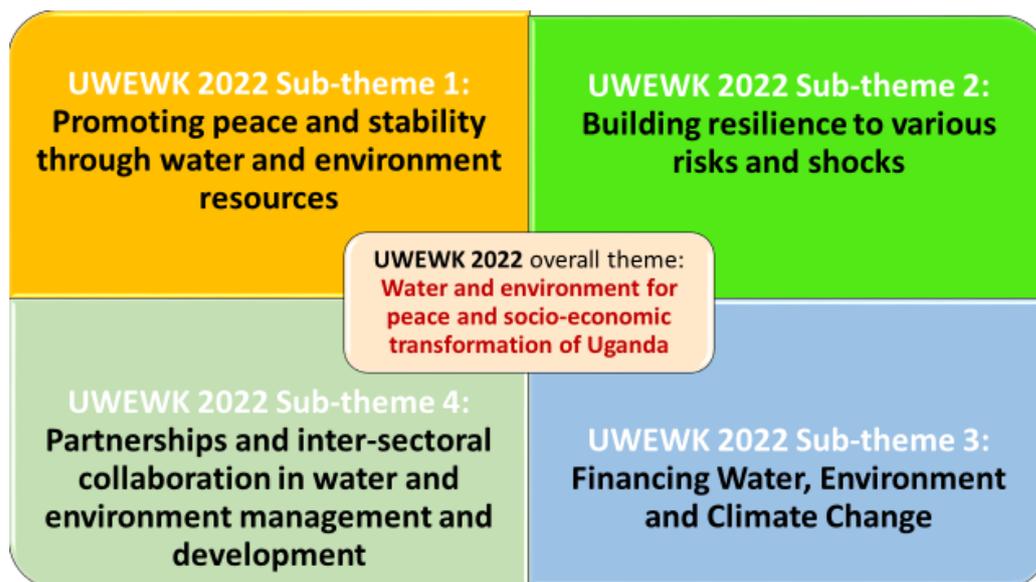
Under the major theme, the following sub-themes are proposed to elaborate on water and environment for peace and transformation Uganda’s socio-economy to middle income status:

**Sub-theme1:** Promoting peace and stability through water and environment resources

**Sub-theme2:** Building resilience to various risks and shocks

**Sub-theme3:** Financing Water, Environment and Climate Change

**Sub-theme4:** Partnerships and inter-sectoral collaboration in water and environment management and development



Details of the sub-themes are as follows:

### a) **Promoting peace and stability through Water and Environment resources management and development**

Today’s threats to human security and peace will be tomorrow’s global security risks. In an era of rapidly growing environmental and climatic hazards, there is a need for new approaches to livelihood security that integrates climate action, conflict prevention, dialogue, facilitation, and peacebuilding. Climate change is increasingly seen as a threat multiplier, especially since the regions already affected by fragility and conflict often face the gravest climate-related challenges, including growing water insecurity. In the absence of effective governance, this can potentially lead to escalating conflict situations. The growing natural and demographic pressures on water and environment resources demand a strong cross-sectoral collaboration. There is also increasing pressure on water and environment resources from rapidly growing populations, rising demand, expanding industries, and unsustainable land use. All these factors can trigger water scarcity, hunger, conflict and insecurity. At the same time, crises can also create opportunities for change, cooperation, and the inclusion of broader stakeholder groups. The growing pressure on water and environment resources is a challenge that should be at the crux of the climate and security debate. However, the traditional approach to security often fails to assess and address threats linked to natural resources and human development. There is a strong need for experts from different fields to work together to find solutions for climate-smart security.

Transboundary water cooperation and water diplomacy offer two promising avenues for peace and conflict resolution. Transboundary water cooperation; Since more than half the global population lives

in transboundary river basins, cooperation over shared water resources is another key component to strengthen economies, as well as ecosystems. Cooperation should take place across political, sectoral, and societal boundaries, between or within countries. Across these different kinds of borders, stakeholders can engage in technical, scientific, and political cooperation. The level of partnership can range from uncoordinated dialogues across boundaries to formalized framework agreements and the development of joint institutions for knowledge sharing and management of the shared natural resource. This sub-theme seeks to raise awareness of the complex inter-linkages between threats to both the natural world and human security. It will explore the relationship between water, environment and peace, especially in fragile contexts. The subtheme will further explore linkages between water, environment, climate change and foreign policy. It will also focus on benefits of cooperation over shared water resources, the role of improved water and environment management in fragile contexts and how water diplomacy can be a powerful tool for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The role of security agencies, cultural and religious institutions, media among other in fostering water and environment in promoting peace and risk reduction and conflict resolution.

#### **b) Building resilience to various risks and shocks**

The provision of water and environment services has been affected by various risks and shocks such as COVID pandemic, climate change and environmental degradation. Ensuring that these services remain functional and deliver socio-economic benefits is a priority for Uganda. As the magnitude and complexity of the threats to water and environment resources posed by COVID -19, climate change and environmental degradation become increasingly well-understood and documented, there is increasing emphasis on more adaptive management. However, relatively little attention has been placed on building resilience to these threats so that they don't continue to impact of provision of water and environment services and their management, despite their importance to human health and socio-economic development of the country. Climate change will, and already does, impact on people's rights to water and sanitation by causing floods and droughts, changes in precipitation and temperature extremes that result in water scarcity, contamination of drinking water and exacerbation of the spread of disease. Climate change represents the most significant challenge of the twenty-first century and poses risks to water and environment services. Concerns for water supply include damage to infrastructure from flooding, loss of water sources due to declining rainfall and increasing demand, and changes in the water quality of water sources and within distribution chain of water, poor sanitary completion, poor operation and maintenance, and disruption of essential power systems.

Resilience is the ability of a system to absorb shocks and to maintain its functionality, structure, identity and feedbacks, while coping and adapting to change, variability and extreme events. Key actions to reduce climate risks and shocks include the integration of measures of climate resilience into various water and environment development and management plans. Overall, greater attention is required to understand, plan for, and adapt to climate change in water and environment sector. As with many other climate change adaptations, the likely benefits from no-regrets solutions are likely to outweigh the costs of investment. This sub-theme will focus on understanding the impacts and consequences of COVID pandemic, climate change and environmental degradation on provision of water and environment services. Focus will be on innovations and tools for addressing shocks at global, national and district levels related to resilience of water and environment sector risks and shocks related to COVID 19, climate change and environmental degradation.

Specifically, the sub-theme will highlight the importance of water and environment as essential to ecosystem-based adaptation, green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to building resilience. Policy options to deal with shocks and build resilience of the people, ecosystem and the economy will be discussed. Public-private partnership opportunities will be explored in building resilience of water and environment systems. The sub-theme will also explore overall current approaches for mitigation and adaptation to climate change through interventions for water and environment management and opportunities provided through COP 26 Commitments. The expected output will be to build a case for

visibility and awareness of neglected water and environment resources, towards sustainability amidst various risks and shocks including COVID-19.

### **c) Financing Water, Environment and Climate Change**

Uganda's economy is dependent on its stock of environment and natural resources, requiring significant investments in water development and natural resources management if the country is to achieve its goals focusing on attainment of a middle income status. Concerns about limited and dwindling financing for water, environment and climate change is increasingly receiving attention in the advent of heightened efforts to timely achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework. Since the start of COVID pandemic, initial signals have indicated that the funding gap is widening. The good news is that innovative opportunities exist to enhance funding for the sector and harness co-benefits for climate and disaster resilience alongside pandemic containment and recovery packages. To exploit the financing opportunities, decision-making especially on financing water, environment and climate change needs to be more risk-informed and incorporate risks from multiple threats. Hence a clear policy framework for sustainable and viable long-term financing of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, Environment and Climate Change programs is needed. Aspects such as financing sources and payment modalities (e.g. the polluter pays principle, the user pays principle, cost-recovery or water pays for water) and specification of the different economic and financing instruments need to be elaborated and popularised.

Private sector business development and utilisation models have played an important role in sustainable financing of water and environment resources management. The private-sector oriented models have been instrumental in generating employment, jobs and creating wealth in addition to ensuring effective management of water and environment resources. Nonetheless, there is still need to focus on water governance, developing effective and efficient models for employment and wealth creation, as well explore other resource utilisation modalities such as business incubation models, green economy structures, resource nexus models, improved household income and livelihood frameworks that can foster sustainable utilisation of water and environment resources. The tenet is that if the resources are managed and developed in a holistic and integral manner, they can create jobs and employment opportunities for the country. The four key drivers to Water and Environment employment and wealth creation are; ensuring technology innovation and functional management of water for wealth creation, water and environment accounting for sustainable livelihood improvement, inclusive access to water as a driver of job, employment and wealth creation, and harnessing employment and wealth creation around water and other environmental resources. These require development of public-private partnership incubation models that focus on youth and women to realize employment and wealth creation in the country.

This sub-theme will focus on financing opportunities for water, environment and climate change in Uganda and the role of water and environment business incubation for job, employment and wealth creation in Uganda. Financing water and environment responses and interventions will require developing bankable water and environment investments, while creating jobs-such as green jobs, wealth especially for the youth and women, while ensuring sustainability of the resources. Focusing of financing will explore opportunities for innovative solutions to more efficient and productive development and management of water, environment and natural resources to enhance creation of employment opportunities. Governance models for sustainable financing will explore the role of water and environment in implementation of Parish Development Model, through supporting economic growth through community-level initiatives such as; crop production and productivity, hydropower generation and industrialization, tourism development, health, food security, and infrastructure development.

### **d) Partnerships and inter-sectorial collaboration in water and environment management and development**

A partnership is an agreement to do something together that will benefit all involved, bringing results that could not be achieved by a single partner operating alone, and reducing duplication of efforts. A successful partnership enhances the impact and effectiveness of action through combined and more efficient use of resources, promotes innovation, and is distinguished by a strong commitment from each partner. Hundreds of partnerships have been formed worldwide during the past two decades. Some of them lasted only a short period; others have been operating a long time. Some concentrate on narrow local targets while others ambitiously try to coordinate broad policy areas in large regions where millions of people live and work. It is good to remember that a good number of partnerships have been created as part of a central government strategy to support the delivery of programmes at both national and local levels. A partnership is often based on a formal commitment that has been established by a number of partners signing a contract. Bound by this contract such as Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreements among others. The partners will share a strategy and implement their coordinated working programme for a period determined by the partnership. Thus the partnership should be able to bring together different actors in collaborative action as well as in collaborative efforts to effect change.

Currently, the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Uganda has formed various partnership and intersectional collaboration with various sections of the stakeholders such as Development Partners, CSOs, NGOs, Cultural Institutions, Religious Institutions, Academic Institutions, Private Sector and sister MDAs to implement and deliver on its mandate. This has been done through signing of MoUs, partnership agreements, formation of sector/ programme working groups, catchment management organizations, transboundary commissions (LVBC) and Initiatives (NBI) among others. In Collaboration with other organizations/institutions it bring with them potential benefits such as the following:

- **Synergy;** Working together collaboratively that has resulted in greater accomplishments as compared to working on its own separately.
- **Sharing resources (financial and technical);** collaborating with other institutions/organizations, there will always be things and resources that they can share. One company may be an expert in one field and can help the other company learn about it.
- **Overcoming obstacles.** When an organization encounters problems that hinder it from achieving its goals, the other organization may be able to help out. Besides, partnerships, coalitions and networks are more powerful than organizations that operate on their own.
- **Increased community awareness.** By getting involved and by being a part of bigger organizations and groups, your organization's message is better relayed to the community.
- **Access to constituents and funding.** Partnering with other organizations can give you the benefit of more grant opportunities as well as make a bridge for more exposure.

This sub-theme will explore the role of partnership and intersectional collaboration in management and development of water and environment for sustainable development. It will explore how collaborative partnerships can improve financial resource base for water and environment sector and culturally aligned as priority area in Ugandan budgeting system. The sub-theme will also present case studies on building equitable and sustainable partnerships, success stories of collaborative intersectional partnerships among others. It will also discuss and evaluate various forms of partnerships such as investment partnerships; planning, monitoring and implementation partnerships; policy and regulatory partnerships; evidence generation partnerships; coordination partnerships and assess how they can be strengthened to create and sustain synergies and collective action.

## **PARTICIPANTS OF UWEWK2022**

A wide range of stakeholders are expected to attend the event, including policy makers, technical specialists, academics, public and private sector institutions, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and consumers. It is envisaged that public awareness on valuing water and environmental for transforming Ugandan's economy and improved livelihood through water security, public health, peace and sustainable urban growth will be increased. It is estimated that 1000 participants will attend the UWEWK2021 both online and physically.

## **2.0 OVERALL GOAL**

The overall goal of UWEWK 2022 is improved understanding of the role of water and environment resources in peace and socio-economic transformation of Ugandan population to a middle-income status.

## **2.1 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of UWEWK 2022 shall be to:

- a. Highlight the role of water and environment resources management and development in promoting peace and stability
- b. Identify approaches for building resilience to risks and shocks related to COVID-19, climate change and environmental degradation
- c. Explore opportunities for enhancing financing of water, environment and climate change programmes.
- d. Deliberate on role of partnership and intersectional collaboration in governance, management and development of water and environment resources.

## **5.0 EXPECTED OUTPUT**

At the end of UWEWK 2022, it is expected that:

- a. Opportunities for promoting peace and stability through water and environment resources management and development identified and discussed
- b. Approaches for building resilience to risks and shocks caused by covid-19, climate change and environmental degradation identified
- c. Financing opportunities for Water, Environment and Climate Change identified and explored.
- d. The role of partnership and intersectional collaboration in governance, management and development of water and environment resources explored.
- e. Platforms for advocacy, exchange of ideas/information and learning for long term partnerships and networks established

## 6.0 HYBRID (PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL) UWEWK 2022

Considering that it might not be possible to hold a full face-to-face UWEWK 2022 event due to the prevailing COVID 19 situation, and noting the need to reach as many stakeholders as possible within and outside Uganda, it is proposed that the UWEWK2022 events be held as hybrid (virtual and physical) as follows:

**A three hour live televised event that includes a formal opening ceremony, key note address and dialogue:** The opening ceremony will be held in the Auditorium of the Ministry of Water and Environment and will involve a few speeches that will be delivered within 30 minutes by high level officials from MWE, other partners and a guest of honour. A few people are expected to attend the opening ceremony physically while observing Standard Operating Procedures issued by Ministry of Health. The opening ceremony will be followed by a key note presentation that will be punctuated with a video and a dialogue. It is proposed that this first event be held in the afternoon of **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 from 2:00 to 5:00pm** and be telecast on selected televisions. The key note presentation and a dialogue will focus on the overall theme for the UWEWK 2022 **“Water and environment for peace and socio-economic transformation of Uganda”** The key note address will explore the following issues:

- How to promoting peace and stability through water and environment resources management and development
- Building resilience to risks and shocks caused by COVID-19, climate change and environmental degradation
- Opportunities for enhancing financing for water, environment and climate change.
- Role of partnership and intersectional collaboration in governance, management and development of water and environment resources.

**Five Thematic dialogues aligned to each of the sub-themes of UWEWK2022** (a) Promoting peace and stability through water and environment resources management and development, (b) Building resilience to various risks and shocks, (c) Financing Water, Environment and Climate Change, (d) Partnerships and inter-sectoral collaboration in water and environment management and development.

These dialogues will be held as a hybrid (physical and virtual) to allow as many participants as possible to attend and also to accommodate some speakers and panellists that may not be able to attend physically. The dialogues will be held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The dialogues will be preceded by a key note presentation on each of the sub-themes of UWEWK 2022.

**UWEWK wrap and Closing ceremony** - This session will be held on **Friday March 25, 2022 on selected televisions from 2 to 4pm**. The session will summarise key issues that came out of the 6 dialogues, the key messages as well as plans for implementing the recommended actions. The session will formally close UWEWK 2022 and launch preparations for UWEWK2023.

**Parallels sessions on each of the sub-themes of UWEWK 2022.** The parallel sessions where the different paper presenters will be given an opportunity to present either physically or online through zoom. These sessions will run over a 4-day period from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Each session will last 2 hours per day and will cover 6-10 paper presentations including discussions. It is planned to have 2 parallel sessions per day and this will result in 80 paper presentations delivered over the 4-day period. Similarly, arrangements will be made for short course trainings and side events. The side events will be organized and scheduled depending on the interests of convenors. Parallel sessions, short course trainings and side events on the same subject areas will be scheduled to run in

the morning and afternoon so as to provide participants an opportunity to attend both events if they so wish.

## **6.1 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

The proposed activities for the UWEWK 2022 will be categorized into (a) pre-event, (b) main event, and (c) post-event activities. This sequencing is planned to help generate the publicity and visibility for the UWEWK 2022. The pre-event activities will last for ten days and cascade into the actual event, which will last for six days. An overall publicity campaign about the Water and Environment Week will start three months prior to the event.

### **PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES**

The UWEWK 2022 pre-event activities will include:

- a. Planning and organising the UWEWK 2022
- b. Publicity campaigns, including use of both print and electronic media, social media platforms and promotional materials prior to the event;
- c. Decentralised UWEWK 2022 activities to be carried out in the 6 de-concentrated regional structures of MWE. These are considered a relevant approach to broaden the scope and impact of the UWEWK. These could include radio or TV talk shows on Water and Environment issues, awareness campaign and clean up exercises or restoration activities will be organized by regional de-concentrated structures of the MWE in various locations to deal with key pressing issues in those regions.
- d. Walking for water, environment, climate change – *A 450km walk will begin from Kampala to Lira District via Jinja, Mbale, Soroti, and Dokolo and through various hotspots along the journey.*
- e. Recording of video clips of field visits to selected sites in line with the theme and sub themes showcasing the role water and environment resources in peace and socio-economic transformation of Ugandan population to a middle class status will be undertaken.

### **EVENT ACTIVITIES**

The UWEWK 2022 events will be hybrid (physical and virtual) and include the following:

- a. Commemoration of International days: World Forest Day, World Water Day and World Meteorological Day;
- b. The official opening of the UWEWK2022 on the Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 will be televised live on selected National television stations with keynote address proceeded by dialogue on the overall theme
- c. Six keynote addresses one on the theme and five on each sub-theme will be delivered by leading professionals and policy makers and each will be followed by dialogue;
- d. Paper and posters presented by different scholars and practitioners in relation to overall theme and its sub-themes;
- e. Parallel sessions on thematic areas and topical issues will be held for the different categories of participants; all these will be within the framework of the UWEWK 2022;
- f. Applied training sessions on relevant key topics in line with to overall theme and its sub-themes;

- g. Virtual exhibition; interested institutions/organisations will provide documentation and videos that will be uploaded on the UWEWK website before the event and during the event. This will provide a platform for learning and information sharing before the event, during the event and after the event.
- h. A 5 – 10 minutes’ documentary production will be played during the opening and closing ceremonies of UWEWK2022, for the Ugandan public on water and environment resources, with broad use of images from on-site locations in the country as critical element, to serve as a national reference point for the UWEWK 2022. The production will highlight challenges and the big picture, environmental easy-wins; action people themselves, as well as, actions from other players including the private sector.

### POST EVENT ACTIVITIES

The post event activities will include preparation of UWEWK2022 report, book of abstracts, publication of the proceedings of UWEWK 2022 and summary of the outcomes of UWEWK 2022.

### 7.0 THE HYBRID PROCESS

The dialogues and parallel sessions shall be moderated by seasoned professionals with extensive experience and knowledge in managing divergent discussions and creation of consensus. Various key note speakers and panellists will be identified and selected from the following categories of stakeholders:

- National Economic policy experts
- National and International Water and Environment Experts
- Investment Experts
- Academia
- Politicians
- Media

Parallel sessions, short course trainings and the side events will be organized collaboratively with relevant stakeholders and partners working in those specific areas.

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- Virtual field trips- 30- minute video clips of the 5 field trips in line with the theme and sub themes showcasing the role water and environment resources in peace and socio-economic transformation of Ugandan population will be allocated time and run as parallel sessions.
- Recorded 2-minute video clips profiling the company/institution/organization activities and in line with theme and sub-themes of UWEWK2022 from sponsors, partners and stakeholders (exhibitors) will be run during breaks between sessions on zoom.
- A water and environment week (UWEWK) daily water front to document what transpired during each day of the hybrid event as a way of keeping the memory of the event alive will be published and shared widely with the participants.

### 8.0 TIME ALLOCATION

Each dialogue session will be preceded a key note address that will be punctuated by short video to help viewers to appreciate the actions happening on the ground. Each panellist will be allocated **time** to provide his or her perspectives on the theme and to clarify and respond to any concerns from the viewers/listeners..

It is proposed that each parallel session, short course training, virtual field visits and the side event will last 3 hours be including discussions

## **10.0 TARGET GROUPS**

The Uganda Water and Environment Week 2022 will be open to the public, sector/programme line ministries and agencies, political leaders at various levels, donors, academia, civil society organisations, the media, public and private sector institutions.

High-level government officials; Cabinet Ministers, the Members of Parliament as well as members of the diplomatic corps and all agencies directly or indirectly dealing with water and environment resources will be specifically targeted.

Organizations will be invited to exhibit virtually some of the latest innovations, technologies, processes, products and initiatives in the water and environment sector.

## **11.0 COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT**

The Ministry of Water and Environment through the Water Resources Institute will lead the organization of the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2022. For effective coordination and management, the WRI will work closely with partners (national and international), including Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), Development Partners, academic institutions, UN agencies, as well as private sector institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs, International Water and Sanitation Centres among others.

## **12.0 PROPOSED BUDGET**

The proposed sources of funding for the Uganda Water Week 2022 are the Government of Uganda (GoU), Strategic Partners, registration and exhibition fees. The estimated budget for the UWEWK 2022 is **UGX 600,000,000**. This will cover pre-event activities, conference, field trips, community engagements, commemoration of three international days: World Forest Day 21<sup>st</sup> March, World Water Day of 22<sup>nd</sup> March and World Meteorological Day 23<sup>rd</sup> March on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022, entertainment, printing and publications, publicity and communication, and overall conference preparation.

## **13.0 PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**

Partners will be sought and considered as co-conveners, key-sponsors and sponsors, depending on their contribution to the event. As sponsors, partners will enjoy preferential treatment in terms of appearance on publicity materials, mentions in the media and during conferences, which will help to increase their visibility and contribution to the water and environment sector in Uganda.

## **14.0 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Potential individuals, institutions and partners that would like to participate in the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2022 will do so by Expression of Interest (EOI) through physical or online registration. Details of the various deadlines will be indicated in the call for abstracts, papers and invitation for registration.

Contact us;

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