



The WATERFRONT Newsletter

March 13, 2023 / issue 2

The second day of the UWEWK 2023 commenced with a keynote speech where Economists and environmentalists called for innovative climate change financing mechanisms.

In his keynote address during the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK), the Manager Production Trade and Tourism Planning at the National Planning Authority, Ronald Kaggwa, said there is need of an enabling legal, policy and institutional framework that can support innovative financing.

He stressed that given the centrality of climate change, environment and natural resources, the government should call upon the Ministry of Water and Environment (MW&E) to give direction to the innovative financing that is needed.

“As we look towards innovative financing, we are waiting for guidance from the Ministry. Guidance in terms of enabling policy, enabling frameworks, guidance in terms of capacity building,” he noted.

He said there is need to ensure that the finances are directed to climate responsive growth, and climate resilience growth.

“We need models that involve the private sector to be part of the financing systems.



The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi hands over a plaque to Birungi Musimenta on behalf of Ronald Kaggwa, the Manager Production, trade and tourism planning

Experts Call for Innovative Climate Change Financing Mechanisms



Panelists, Ms. Margaret Athieno Mwebesa, Commissioner for Climate Change, Ministry of Water and Environment, Honourable Biyika Lawrence Songa, chairperson, Parliamentary Climate Change, Dr. Juan Carlos Sanchez, Seni

We need public private partnership in water, environment and natural resources. We need microfinance, we need green bonds, and we need technology transfers. All these are critical as we look forward to innovative financing,” he noted.

Mr. Kaggwa stressed that there is need to improve climate local resources, by directing resources to where multiple effects are high.

“We need to mobilize public and private funding in order to catalyze investment in climate resilient economic growth,” he added.

He emphasized that there is need to create an enabling environment for innovative financing.

“The new Climate Change Policy is enabling, the Environment Policy is enabling, the Water Act is also enabling and I am sure the revision of the Forestry Policy also brings to core this element of innovative financing. The Public Finance Management Act is also enabling,” he noted. However, he stressed that there is now need for a **LEGAL FRAMEWORK** to implement the different policies.

“We are also happy that we now have a Climate Change Finance Unit (CCFU) in the Ministry of Finance. We look forward to using CCFU to mobilize finances from within the country and outside,” he said.

Relatedly, called for partnerships at national, regional and global levels with financial institutions, and insurance companies among others to minimize risks.

Additionally, stressed that there is need to build capacity in the development of green bonds, green instruments, monitoring instruments, physical instruments and how they are linked to natural resources.

During a panel discussion on climate change financing, the Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change, Hon. Lawrence Biyika Songa, noted that, the fact Uganda’s economy is clearly climate dependent, there is need for innovative ways to generate financing to address issues of climate change.

“It is critical we must understand the linkages between climate change and the economy of Uganda. Much of our agriculture is rain based. If there is no rain, there is no agriculture. We even do not have technologies that can help us get water for production,” he said.



Participants during the keynote session on Monday



Dr. Juan Carlos Sanchez calls for adaptation & mitigation mechanisms

He said there is need to generate proposals for funding to generate resources to address the problem.

Dr. Juan Carlos Sanchez, a Senior Researcher at the International Water Management Institute, said their need to come up with more adaptation and mitigation options. He stressed that there is need to take stalk of the natural capital that might be relevant.

“Natural capital can be one of the pillars to move forward as one of the strategies that have worked well in my country Costa Rica where I come from, where green eco-tourism has been one of the pillars of the country for climate action,” he noted



Ms, Magaret Othieno Mwebesa, the Commissioner of Climate Change in the MW&E, said several laws and policies have been put in place all aimed at ensuring the climate change is addressed adequately in the country.

They include the National Climate Change Policy 2015, National Climate Change Act 2021, and Green Growth Development Strategy.

She said through the Climate Change Act, the MW&E together with the Ministry of Finance are supposed to mobilize resources for action.

“As we all know our domestic resources are quite limiting. It is our responsibility as government to ensure climate change action measures are well funded,” she added.

Othieno noted that during the budget call circular, all Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and local governments,

are also directed to streamline climate actions among others into their budget planning and action.

However, she noted that there is still need to come up with innovative financing for climate change actions.

Mr. Simon Peter Weredwong, highlighted the need to embrace indigenous knowledge of local communities to come up with a comprehensive approach towards climate change resilience.

“As we review the policy, we need to look at small holder farmers and those local people down there on how to integrate this action at their level,” he said.

The Project Manager, Stockholm International Water Institute, Mr. Hakan Tropp, there is need develop an economy that is sensitive to climate change.

He stressed that water is a public and private good, which calls a strong private sector and partnerships to address the gaps.

Parallel Sessions on Paper Presentations

Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework For Climate Resilient Development: Environmentalists Call for Revision Of The Water Policy And Guidelines

There is an urgent need to revise the current water policy and guidelines in an effort to improve coordination of institutions involved in protection of water resources in the country according to experts.

This was revealed by Mr. David Kataratambi as he presented on Evaluating Uganda's National Water Policy in Light of Climate-Resilient Development during the morning sessions at the Ministry of Water and Environment on Monday.

Mr. David said that the revision of the policy would facilitate for adaptation and mitigation strategies to combat droughts, floods and other calamities.

The Uganda Policy has been in use since 1999 but is challenged by the diminishing quantity and quality of low access to water.

Currently, Uganda faces land and environment degradation, poor waste management & water use practices, increasing water demand and climate change. These, the policy cannot fully address.

Mr. Kataratambi called for a concerted effort of various institutions as a solution to the policy and guideline problems.

"The Water Policy Should be urgently revised or updated in Light of Climate-Resilient Development. This will also improve institutional arrangements and governance."

Ms. Atesa Abigail while emphasizing the importance of Evaluating Uganda's National Water policy in light of Climate-Resilient Development, attributed the increasing scare to water resources to increased water demand in the catchment areas.

The researcher added that the act is worsened by the population lack of knowledge to use water efficiently.

He called for amendment of the existing water regulation statutory instruments such as the Water resources regulations.

In another study comparing lessons and experiences in Frameworks of Catchment Management Guidelines in Uganda and Rwanda experts called for involvement of local communities in the planning and implementation processes for the region's efficient, effective and sustainable water resources planning and management.

Mr. Matila Tom Micah, Mr. Musinguzi Patrick, Ms. Sanyu Aidah and Ms. Menya Mutesi Joanna in their review recommended the translation of the catchment management guidelines into common local languages. This would enable grassroots inclusion in adopting to policies and guidelines.



Participants during the Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Climate - Resilient Development presentations

Applied Training on WaterTime- a Modular Asset-Focused Setup and Business Approach to Sustainable Rural Piped Water Supply



Participants during one of the presentations of the sub-theme UWEWK2023

The training was organized and conducted by PRACTICA (Judith de Bruijne), Agency for Rural Sustainable Development and SIMAVI. The objective was to increase reliable access to basic water supply for people in underserved areas.

She- Judith de Bruijne, shared the value add of WaterTime including among others, being a sustainable solution where people pay for water and these fees are used to maintain and repair the water systems, having a higher cost recovering model because of the formalization of payment using an build-in prepayment solution, increases the service quality by decreased downtime and offering water closer to beneficiaries home, having a modular setup and is therefore more affordable than other piped water solutions for small communities.

Among the accomplishments so far, she mentioned that the project had been piloted in Northern Uganda by WASH Alliance Int, PRACTICA with AFSRT and Simavi, relatedly, two water systems in Wol & Omot had been installed.

Building Resilience Through Improving Water Quality and Service Levels in Uganda Using a New Handpipe Configuration *New Plastic Pipe Pumps to Save Water Sources*

In a move to safeguard water quality, the Ministry of Water and Environment in partnership with Water Aid Uganda has successfully implemented a pilot scheme to install new plastic hand pump pipes in selected communities across Masindi.

The new system is a sustainable, low-cost, and easy to maintain. Many families have been temporarily installed on the new technology. Worse still, the rusting pipes would often develop holes, causing the entire pump to break. Communities were trapped in a cycle of costly, difficult repairs, needing large amounts of labour and expensive tools each time.

The argument is that the traditional borehole technology was challenged with poor water quality caused by galvanized iron riser pipes. Also to note, that the corroded pipes and deposits made their way

into the water causing it to turn colour: brown and black which made it harbour a frustrating smell and changed the water taste.

Ms. Lillian Nabasiye, the WASH Technical Director at WaterAid Uganda reported that water quality loss in boreholes left residents of Masindi district with no choice but to depend on unreliable water.

The efforts by both the Ministry and WaterAid are geared towards setting out to transform access to water across Masindi. The new hand pump riser pipe configuration is replacing the old-style metal pipes with a new riser system made of UPVC plastic. This will reduce the risk of water sources being contaminated by rust.



Ms. Lillian Nabasiye, explaining the loss of borehole-water quality during the UWEWK2023



James Cleto Mumbere making a presentation on WASH scorecard

During parallel sessions held under the framework of UWEWK 2023, the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator for UWASNET delivered a presentation titled “WASH Scorecard an Effective Tool in Monitoring, Tracking and Reporting on NDP III Indicators and Governance”.

The objective of the session was to increase awareness of WASH service delivery issues by Government, Private sector and service providers to respond and deliver affordable, equitable and quality WASH services to the poor and excluded groups in the country.

He mentioned that, while administering the WASH scorecard, a participatory approach was used. Over 200 government officials and 80 CSO representatives were trained in the administration of the WASH Scorecard across the 14 districts,

30 Sub Counties/ town councils, 85 Parishes and 187 villages across different regions of: Central, Mid-Eastern, North and West-Nile.

Data was collected from respondents using a mixed approach which enabled obtaining both a score and explanation for the score given for each of the indicators to cover both quantitative and qualitative

data for the score card process. It covered 252 water points, 80 schools and 27 health care facilities.

Relatedly, he mentioned that administering the scorecard increased the knowledge of service users towards their rights and the different standards of WASH.



James Cleto Mumbere interacting with participants after his presentation



Mrs. Gwendolyn Kyobulungi delivering a presentation on the role of WRI

The session moderated by Juan Carlos Sanchez Ramirez, a senior researcher with Water Governance and Policy highlighted issues under the topic ***'Towards A New Research Agenda for water Governance in Uganda.'***

The Key note speaker, Dr. Alan Nico a Director with Water Management Institute highlighted key points of how International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is working towards improving on transboundary water Governance through environment protection and growth.

He Commended the water governance research agenda in Uganda. "I am impressed with the systems in the catchment planning processes. I wish the governance agencies would improve on the system catchment planning process. One of the session Panelist, Mrs. Gwendolyn Kyoburungi, the Water Resources Institute Coordinator informed the participants on what the institute does and how it is actively involved in the coordination and preparation of the water week.

She said the institute supports students and the entire public including the elderly in all aspects through applied trainings, research, dialogues and outreaches

Prof. Nicholas Kiggundu, a Lecturer at Makerere University raised concerns on environment degradation, stressing that Kampala maintenance and cleaning habits were missing.

Mr. Hankan Tropp, a programme Director with GO-Water pointed out concerns of working on governance issues related to improved water security. He also connected water crises to governance crises.

Mrs. Lorna Kobusingye, country Project coordinator at Wetland International, pointed out that water governance needs to work hand in hand with empowering the community.



Mr. Hakan Tropp. Project Manager, Stockholm International Water Institute

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