



Outcomes and recommendations Uganda Water & Environment Week 2025

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Water and Environment Resources for Enhanced Resilience and Improved Incomes and Livelihoods

Uganda Water and Environment Week 2025 17 – 21 March 2025



UWEEK 2025 Themes



❑ Sub-themes:

1. Water and environment for a peaceful and sustainable future
2. Water and environment for climate action
3. Equitable and sustainable use of water and environment resources for improved incomes and livelihoods
4. Water and environment innovations, knowledge and capacity for empowering a new generation



Outcomes and recommendations

Regional mini-UWEWK2025

28th February – 15th March 2025



Outcomes from the regional mini-UWEWK

- ❑ Increased interest from the general community to learn about MWE activities and services and how they can benefit from these services
- ❑ Increased awareness about the dangers of degrading the water and environment resources however little is known about the steps required to participate and jointly restore the degraded hotspots.



Outcomes from the regional mini-UWEWK

- ❑ Increased stakeholders interest in the regional UWEWK celebration
- ❑ Partnership and collaboration continues to grow
- ❑ Capacity empowerment of all stakeholders underpinned by the need for integrated approach in management of water and environment issues
- ❑ Promotion of right to a healthy environment
- ❑ Demonstration of faecal waste management and water supply facilities etc.



Outcomes from the regional mini-UWEWK

- ☐ An increase in support and participation of partners from the Civil Society, Non-Government Organizations and Private sector.
- ☐ Increased enthusiasm from the youth to engage in water and environment activities.
- ☐ Increased media publicity on the issues of the sector.



Recommendations from Regional Mini-UWEWK2025

- ☐ A lot needs to be done on the designs and water source protection of the valley tanks and dams in the region
- ☐ Harmonize sanitation week organized by MoH and UWEWK, the two functions have similar activities and the same funders, most partners plan for sanitation week giving water week less priority
- ☐ Undertake vigorous mobilization of partners to participate and support the mini UWEWK
- ☐ Engagement of youth at all levels in the Mini UWEWK 2025



Recommendations from Regional Mini-UW&E WK2025



- ❑ More strict regulations on carbon emission on industries and Increase investment in renewable energy
- ❑ MWE should consider having an regular dialogues to discuss solutions to the water and environment problems
- ❑ **Policy Enforcement:** Political leaders must lead in enforcing water and environmental policies.
- ❑ **Protected Zones:** Demarcate and enforce conservation of these areas and support alternative income activities for riparian communities



Recommendations from Regional Mini-UWEEK2025

- ❑ **Stronger Partnerships:** Boost collaboration with the private sector, NGOs, and international funders.
- ❑ **Research & Innovation:** Increase funding for research to address water, environment and climate change challenges.
- ❑ **Capacity Building:** Train professionals and communities in modern water and sanitation technologies.
- ❑ **Stakeholder Engagement:** Strengthen collaboration to protect water resources.



Buganda Water Day



- ❑ Highlighted the critical role of water in human development, agriculture, and public health
- ❑ Encourage young innovators to develop creative technologies and strategies for efficient water use, conservation, and recycling.
- ❑ Foster a culture of environmental responsibility by engaging youth in leadership roles and eco-initiatives within the kingdom etc.

The owekitibwa urged the public to promote protecting the environment, for instance by the use of reusable items and natural products such as bikapu instead of plastic bags.



Outcomes and recommendations

**National
UWEWK2025**

17th to 21st March 2025



Recommendations from Meet & greet the Water & Environment sector Elders

- ❑ Opportunity to address the assembly, sharing their experiences and offering valuable recommendations for the water and environment sector
- ❑ Justification for engaging retired Professionals

Recommendations

- ❑ Expand the database and be able to include more of the retired professionals in the database.
- ❑ Actively promote the program in order to attract more of the retired professionals to participate



- ❑ Innovative Financing for Water and Environment
 - ❑ Traditional government and donor funding alone cannot meet the growing demand for water and environmental management initiatives.
 - ❑ Public-private partnerships (PPPs) provide long-term financial sustainability, bringing together government support, private sector efficiency, and community ownership.
 - ❑ Innovative financing models, including climate funds, blended finance approaches, and green bonds, are underutilized but can provide essential funding.



❑ Climate Change

- ❑ **Impact & Urgency:** Rapid climate change is disrupting natural water cycles, leading to more frequent floods and prolonged droughts. This poses significant risks to water availability, quality, and sanitation systems.
- ❑ **Vulnerability:** Vulnerable ecosystems and communities face immediate threats from unpredictable weather patterns.

❑ Economic Vulnerability and Livelihoods

- ❑ **Dependency:** Economies—especially those reliant on agriculture and exports—are directly challenged by climate-induced changes. For instance, nations like Uganda could see dramatic reductions in coffee exports and disruptions in food supply chains.



- ❑ The economic ripple-effects extend beyond local communities, affecting national and global trade networks. These linkages require action on multiple fronts.

Transboundary and Shared Risks

- ❑ **Interconnected Challenges:** Climate risks do not respect political borders. Shared water and environment resources and transboundary rivers create a landscape where cooperation is essential to mitigate the impacts and manage disputes.
- ❑ **Shared Responsibility:** Collaborative regional strategies are imperative, translating complex geopolitical challenges into real-world impacts.



- Sustainable Resource Management and Environmental Justice
 - **Equitable Access:** While water and environmental resources are critical for development, mismanagement and inequitable distribution threaten long-term sustainability.
 - **Stewardship and systemic change,** ensuring all communities enjoy secure access to natural resources.
- Strategic Partnerships for Sustainability
 - **Coordinated effort:** Addressing water and environmental challenges requires coordinated efforts among government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and private sector actors.



❑ Youth Engagement and Innovation

- ❑ **Future-Centric:** Empowering young innovators and integrating their fresh perspectives into water and environment management is crucial.
- ❑ Limited **access to training and mentorship programs** hinders youth involvement in the sector.

❑ Water and Environment for Climate Action

- ❑ **Nature-based solutions:** such as wetland restoration and afforestation, can help manage climate risks while enhancing biodiversity.
- ❑ **Inequality:** Water scarcity and environmental variability disproportionately affects rural communities, women, and marginalized groups.



- Research and policy

- ☐ **Policy Gap:** Often there is a gap between scientific research and policy implementation, leading to ineffective or delayed responses to water and environmental challenges.
- ☐ **Data Access:** Open data initiatives can improve transparency, accountability, and adaptive management of water and environment resources.

- Technology

- ☐ **New technologies:** Leverage digital solutions and new technologies like AI for effective and efficient management of water and environment resources
- ☐ **Appropriate technology:** Focus on affordable and appropriate technologies for local contexts



• Capacity Development

- **Competency:** Training should focus on competence-based and vocational training rather than just theoretical knowledge
- **Behaviour change:** Integrate attitude development and professional qualifications into education programs on water and environment
- **Collaborations:** Strengthen collaboration between universities and industry to foster practical training



Recommendations and status of implementation



☐ **Adaptation and Resilience**

- ☐ **Develop Adaptation Plans:** Create comprehensive national strategies for managing environment and water-related climate risks, including both urban and rural perspectives.
- ☐ **Infrastructure Investments:** Upgrade water and sanitation systems with resilience in mind, incorporating green infrastructure like wetland restoration and urban flood mitigation.

☐ **Economic Diversification and Strategic Sourcing**

- ☐ **Diversify Exports:** Reduce over reliance on vulnerable sectors such as coffee by exploring alternative agricultural products and services.
- ☐ **Secure Food Supply:** Source commodities (like wheat) from diversified regions to mitigate the likely impact of global supply chain disruptions due to climate change.



☐ Partnerships and Innovative Financing

- ☐ **Foster Collaboration:** Engage private sector players and international financial institutions to drive investments in renewable energy and climate-smart technologies.
- ☐ **Innovative Financing:** Implement blended finance models and green bonds to support projects that build resilience in water, sanitation and environment systems

☐ Public Awareness and Education

- ☐ **Outreach:** Launch nationwide awareness campaigns on climate change impacts and conservation of water and environment resources.
- ☐ **School curriculum:** Integrate water and environmental education into school curriculums to inspire the next generation.



- Regional and International Collaboration
 - **Strengthen Transboundary Cooperation:** Build on existing frameworks (such as the Nile Basin Initiative) to coordinate water and environment management policies and share best practices.
 - **Align with Global Frameworks:** Integrate national policies with international agreements to ensure consistency and access to funding.
- Youth Empowerment
 - **Youth Innovation Hubs:** Create programs that support the next generation of leaders with vocational training, mentorship, and funding opportunities.



☐ Community Action

- ☐ **Community engagement:** Implement community-based water and environment management models that empower local populations to take ownership of these resources.
- ☐ **Enforcement:** Strengthen policies and enforcement mechanisms for catchment protection, groundwater conservation, and pollution control.

☐ Technology

- ☐ **Local capacity:** Promote homegrown innovative solutions and technologies
- ☐ **Adopt local solutions:** Scale up promising innovations from students and young professionals



- Information and data
 - **Digital transformation:** Promote digital platforms and real-time data monitoring systems for informed decision-making and policy adjustments.
 - **Forecasting:** Strengthen early warning systems and disaster preparedness programs to enhance community resilience to climate shocks.
 - **Knowledge sharing:** Develop national and regional frameworks for knowledge exchange and technology transfer to enhance local capacity in climate-smart water and environment solutions.



Status of implementation



- ❑ **Adaptation and Resilience :** National Adaptation Plan for WASH developed
- ❑ **Economic Diversification and Strategic Sourcing:** Investment plan –Water Policy developed
- ❑ **Partnerships and Innovative Financing:** Engaging with the Uganda Banker's Association to support WASH investments (MoU). 5 more MoU between MWE and partners endorsed
- ❑ **Public Awareness and Education:** Monthly radio and TV talk shows on issues on water, environment, climate change and related topical issues

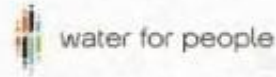


Status of implementation



- ❑ **Information and data:** MWE –WEiS digital portal is operational, In collaboration with IWMI- use of digital innovation tools; multisource satellite data to map floods, monitoring etc.
- ❑ **Community Action:** Engaging and training of communities and stakeholders in CbIWRM – covered 4 training in 2 regional
- ❑ **Knowledge sharing:** 7 webinars, WRI e-information hub, media engagement, radio and TV talk shows among others
- ❑ **Youth Empowerment:** debates, hackathon, training, internship, mentorship, dialogues etc.

PARTNERS



Thank You