

The

WATERFRONT

Newsletter

Sunday, March 16, 2025 | Issue 1



Inside the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2025:

Shaping the Future of Water and Environment Sustainability

The Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2025 is a distinguished forum designed for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaboration among various stakeholders in the water and environmental sectors.

Organized by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) through the Water Resources Institute (WRI), this event brings together policymakers, researchers, development partners, and practitioners to identify solutions that bolster resilience, enhance livelihoods, and promote sustainable economic development.

Under the theme; “**Water and Environment Resources for Enhanced Resilience and Improved Incomes and Livelihoods**,” UWEWK 2025 emphasizes the vital importance of water and environmental sustainability in combating climate change and facilitating national development.

Through high-level discussions, technical sessions, and knowledge exchange, participants will address emerging challenges and opportunities related to transboundary water management, climate adaptation, and resource conservation.

Building on insights gained from previous national, regional, and global forums, such as Africa Water Week, the World Water Forum, and COP29, this year’s event aims to convert scientific research into practical policies while fostering multi-sectoral collaboration.

Stakeholders are dedicated to developing innovative strategies that improve water security, enhance environmental governance, and ensure sustainable resource management.

As Uganda progresses towards realizing Vision 2040 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UWEWK 2025 lays the groundwork for transformative initiatives that will shape policy frameworks and guide investment priorities.

This newsletter will be offering essential updates, expert insights, and the most important highlights from the week-long event, ensuring that the knowledge acquired fosters enduring improvements in the water and environmental sectors.

Walk for Water and Environment:

A 317-kilometer trek from Buliisa to Kampala

In preparation for the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2025 (UWEWK2025), an impressive 317 km walk was initiated as a pre-event activity, covering several districts from Buliisa to Kampala. This initiative aimed to enhance awareness regarding sustainable management of water and environment resources while promoting community involvement and discussions on critical environmental issues. The initiative began in Buliisa District, officially launched at the District Headquarters in the presence of significant stakeholders, including representatives from TOTAL Energies, local district leadership, the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), and community members.

TOTAL Energies underscored the pressing need for climate action, recognizing the severe weather challenges faced by the area. Stakeholders raised issues such as the decline of water sources, inconsistent power supply hindering water distribution, and the damage to water supply infrastructure



The beginning of the walk



Hon. Silas Aogon, Chairperson Uganda Parliamentary forum on WASH flags off Walkers

caused by flooding. Suggested measures included the expansion of solar-powered water systems, improvements to sewage treatment facilities, and educating communities on the advantages of piped water compared to lake water. The group then embarked on a 50 km journey to Biiso, engaging in community discussions throughout the route. In Butiaba Town Council, conversations focused on the consequences of increasing water levels in Lake Albert, which have led to ongoing flooding, displacing residents, and harming water infrastructure. The lack of sufficient toilet facilities which they say has heightened sanitation concerns, while economic challenges were also attributed to the inconsistent water supply. Stakeholders suggested expanding piped water services to lessen dependence on unsafe lake water, building more sanitation facilities, and installing waste disposal bins in areas with high foot traffic. In Biiso Town Council, the walk prompted vigorous discussions regarding severe water shortages, especially

during the dry season. During the discussions, the local community here claimed that during dry spells the price of water escalates to UG Shs2,200 for a 20-liter jerrycan, rendering clean water inaccessible for many residents. They noted that the displacement caused by flooding has further strained the town's resources, while the lack of water has adversely affected school attendance and hygiene standards. Stakeholders proposed enhancing partnerships to improve access to clean water, suggesting collaborations with TOTAL Energies and World Vision, as well as supporting tree-planting initiatives to promote environmental conservation. Continuing their journey, the Walkers' Team reached Nyabyeya Forestry College, where they engaged in signing a commemorative mural located at the main library to honor the occasion. A guided tour of Uganda's largest tree nursery highlighted the institution's dedication to forestry, biodiversity, and environmental preservation.

The College Principal Richard Kisakye emphasized their commitment to advancing research aimed at tackling water and environmental issues. In a show of support, the college contributed 5,000 indigenous trees to the team for planting and distribution along their route. The next destination was Kabango Town Council, where the Walkers' Team received a warm welcome at Kabango Primary School from prominent local leaders, including Mayor Mr. Balyebuga Sapline and Town Clerk Mr. Kigenyi Frank David. Also in attendance were the LC1 chairperson, Masindi District Environment Officer Mrs. Nabukenya Olivia, representatives from the Albertine Water Management Zone under the Ministry of Water and Environment, and officials from Kinyara Sugar Factory, led by CEO Mr. Raui Romalingam and Agricultural Manager Mr. Senthui Kumar. The event garnered significant media attention from outlets such as UBC, Bukedde TV, NBS, and New Vision, among others.

At Kinyara Sugar Works Limited, the team inspected a range of environmental initiatives implemented by the company in collaboration with the local community. These initiatives encompassed afforestation projects extending 72 km along road reserves, the established water treatment facility serving the community, and a support program for farmers that includes land surveying, bush clearing, fire prevention, and cane harvesting.

The team was informed that the factory has bolstered climate resilience through a bio-production unit aimed at minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, the restoration of significant wetlands such as Bulyango, Kihura, Kasubi, and Musoma, and the enforcement of policies that prevent development in designated forest reserves. Importantly, Kinyara Sugar Works also mandates that 30% of each farmer's land be allocated for food production, thereby enhancing both environmental sustainability and food security.

A particularly significant achievement of Kinyara Sugar Works has been its involvement in the restoration of the River Kafu, which has resulted in improved water levels and enhanced water quality. The initiatives highlighted during the visit emphasized the central theme of Uganda Water and Environment Week, showcasing environmental best practices that can be adopted in other regions.

Inspired by these interactions, the team proceeded on their journey to Masindi District, further promoting awareness and advocacy for sustainable water and environmental management.

Nakasongola district

The walkers began their day by participating in a church service at the Pentecostal Assemblies of God, where they engaged in ceremonial tree planting



Walkers demonstrate tree planting initiative in Albertine region

alongside the congregation before being sent off to their next location.

The event was graced by the presence of Mayor Tonny Mukiibi of Migeera Town Council, along with representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE). In his address, Mukiibi emphasized the significance of tree planting for the community, lamenting that instead of nurturing these vital resources, they are often cut down, which exacerbates environmental degradation. Speaker of the Migeera Town Council, Francis Tebandeke Kiweewa, commended both the walkers and the MWE for the impactful legacy they are creating through their journey and the important message they are promoting regarding water and environmental conservation.

A call for reliable, affordable power supply to suppress wood fuel

In Luwero, the walkers were welcomed by His Grace Mukasa Lawrence, the Bishop of Luweero Kasana Diocese, who highlighted the importance of a dependable and cost-effective power supply as an alternative energy source for cooking. He noted that this could effectively encourage the community to stop the practice of deforestation for wood fuel.

The day's events commenced with a clean-up initiative in Luweero Town Council, led by Mayor Mr. Buwembo Chris Johns. Participants included officials from the Luweero Town Council and students from various schools such as Kasana Primary School, Luweero Boys Primary School, and Luweero Girls Primary School, among others.

The community urged the town council to establish this

clean-up as a continuous initiative rather than a one-time event.

Bishop Mukasa expressed his gratitude to the MWE, WAU, and other partners for their contributions to environmental conservation. However, he raised concerns over the high cost of power and unreliable power supply. "The problem of inconsistent power supply and daily use of generators has made the cost of living very costly," he added.



Chairperson, Parliamentary WASH Forum - Hon Silas Aogon receiving a petition from the walkers

He implored the government to ensure a reliable and affordable power supply nationwide, presenting it as an alternative energy source for cooking. He said this approach would effectively encourage the public to stop the practice of deforestation for wood fuel.

"The other alternative is Gas. Gas is also very expensive. The option of subsidization would be the way to go," Bishop Mukasa added. The bishop also called upon the Walkers team to 'Walk the Talk,' emphasizing that awareness initiatives must be accompanied by tangible actions. He advocated for a united effort to educate the public about the impending threats posed by climate change in the future.

Mr. Geoffrey Ayeni, the lead walker, informed the audience about the diverse climate conditions along the walking route and the various challenges encountered, such as areas experiencing water scarcity. He also called for extensive tree-planting initiatives across all regions.

Ayeni and the team later carried out ceremonial tree planting before they were flagged off to the next generation. They emphasized the importance of environmental conservation, the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices, the cessation of deforestation, and the need for community awareness as effective solutions.

The walkers set off from Kawanda, trekking through

key areas including Kawempe, Bwaise, Mulago, and Wandegaya before reaching the Parliament of Uganda, where they delivered a petition highlighting WASH challenges observed along their route. Along the way, they visited Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC), the main broadcaster for UWEWK 2025, before being officially flagged off to Parliament. At Parliament, the petition was received by Hon. Cyrus Aogon, Chairperson of the Parliamentary WASH Committee, who committed to presenting it to the Speaker for debate. The delegation included Members of Parliament, representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), NWSC, youth from Buganda Kingdom, young water professionals, media, and security officials.

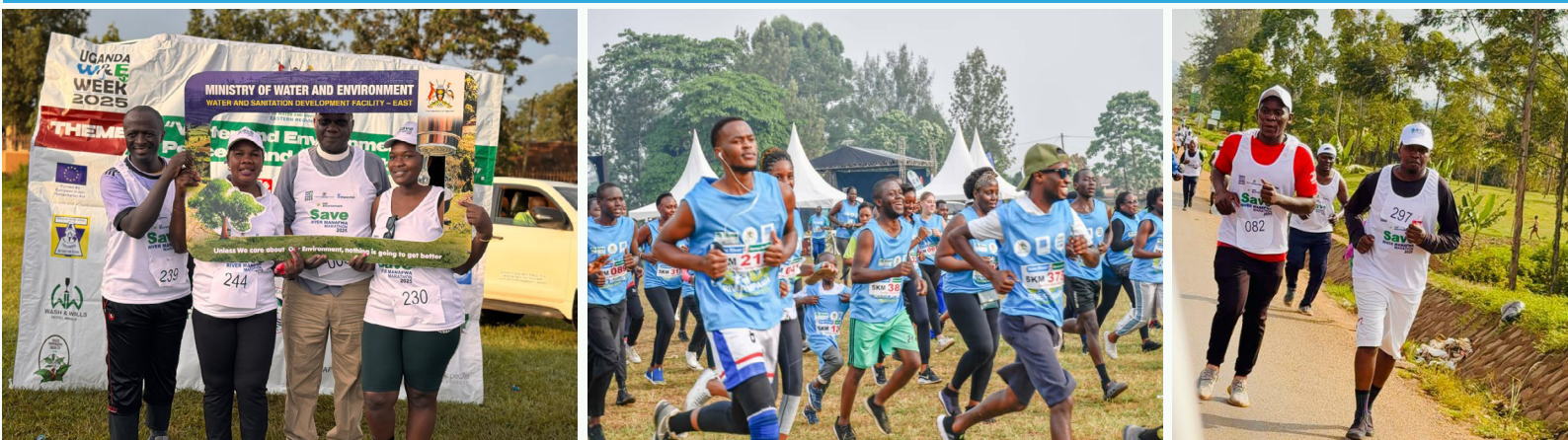
Following this, the walkers proceeded to Makerere University Business School (MUBS), where they were welcomed by university leadership, including the Principal, Mr. Moses Muhwezi. The final leg of the journey saw a grand procession, joined by a brass band, the local community, and schools, culminating at MWE headquarters in Luzira. There, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Alfred Okot Okidi, congratulated the walkers and received a symbolic water pot carried from Luwero by young water professionals, reinforcing the call for universal access to clean water.

Relatedly, to augment the walk, Parliament of Uganda, received the walkers to discuss pressing water, sanitation, and environmental challenges. Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Acting Director of DWRM, highlighted the significance of the 317km Walk for Water, Environment, and Climate Change as a precursor to UWEWK, emphasizing the need for continued engagement. The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on WASH commended the walkers for their commitment to environmental conservation and called for strengthened policies, legislation, and accountability.

Contributions from the youth representative and the Chairperson of Young Water Professionals underscored innovative waste recycling and water accessibility efforts. Chief Walker Ayeni presented key observations from the walk, including deforestation, water scarcity, pollution, and weak law enforcement, urging Parliament to take decisive action. The session concluded with a set of recommendations, including improved waste management, stronger climate finance, policy updates, increased conservation budgets, and nationwide tree-planting initiatives. Stakeholders were urged to collaborate in safeguarding Uganda's natural resources for future generations.

A glance into UWEWK 2025

Regional Activities:



Save Mpanga & Manafwa Rivers: *A Marathon for Environmental Preservation*

River Manafwa, a vital component of the Mt. Elgon freshwater ecosystem, is currently facing significant challenges that hinder its flow, including siltation, pollution, and extensive degradation. The particular concern is the river’s role in feeding into River Mpologoma, which has also suffered considerable harm. The practice of sand mining along the riverbanks, primarily undertaken by local youth as a source of income, has further intensified these issues.

In light of this environmental crisis, the Ministry of Water and Environment is initiating a marathon as part of the preparatory activities for the 8th Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK). Scheduled for March 16, 2025, this event aims to raise awareness and galvanize efforts to protect River Manafwa, a crucial waterway in the Bugisu Sub-region that has faced significant degradation over the years.

Similarly, such efforts have been undertaken to save Mpanga River, another critical water source in Uganda. The Save Mpanga River Run is organized as a public awareness campaign to highlight the urgent need for conservation interventions. This initiative mobilized stakeholders from government agencies, civil society, and local communities to engage in activities such as tree planting, advocacy, and sustainable land management practices.

Information gathered also revealed that local agricultural practices have contributed to the decline of River Manafwa, as farmers cultivate crops along its

banks and divert water for irrigation purposes. The ongoing deterioration of River Manafwa underscores the urgent need for action to safeguard essential water resources.

During a statement at the Ministry’s regional offices in Mbale city, Eng. Maximo Twinomuhangi, Team Leader of the Kyoga Water Management Zone, emphasized the necessity of preserving rivers and wetlands to maintain the health of ecosystems throughout Uganda. He remarked, “Water and the environment are essential natural resources for humanity and the future of our planet. Although water is our most abundant natural resource, it is both limited and irreplaceable. This is why we have organized a marathon as part of our Water Week pre-activities to aid in the preservation of River Manafwa, which is currently experiencing severe degradation.”

The former Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Simon Peter Wamoto Nabende, who also holds the position of Minister of Climate Change within the Bamasaba Cultural Institution, underscored that environmental degradation is a significant factor contributing to climate-related disasters, including landslides and floods.

He advocated for extensive restoration initiatives, such as tree planting along riverbanks, as a sustainable approach to reduce these environmental threats. “We experience deep sorrow when we witness our community members losing their lives to landslides.

Consequently, we will collaborate to raise awareness about the dangers of environmental degradation and promote strategies for mitigating climate change,” he stated. He stressed that the marathon serves as a rallying point for communities, stakeholders, and the public to unite in the protection of River Manafwa, with the overarching aim of promoting environmental sustainability and addressing the escalating effects of

climate change. The success of past initiatives, such as the Save Mpanga River Run, underscores the impact of collective action in restoring and preserving Uganda’s vital water sources. The Ministry and its partners hope to replicate and build upon these efforts to ensure that River Manafwa and other threatened rivers across the country receive the protection they urgently need.



Stakeholders engage in clean exercise for Mbale Central Market

The Ministry of Water and Environment, in collaboration with stakeholders, conducted a series of pre-UWEWK25 activities in the Eastern Region. These included open-day exhibitions and a clean-up exercise at Mbale Central Market, among other initiatives aimed at promoting environmental sustainability.



Open-day exhibitions in Mbale

Rwenzori regional Water and Environment Week 2025

A Efforts Geared Towards Environment Conservation

Albertine Regional Water and Environment Week (ARWEWK) 2025, organized by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and key regional partners, focused on the theme “*Water for Environment for Climate Action*.” The event aimed to raise awareness about environmental conservation, climate action, and sustainable water management in the Albertine region. Pre-event preparations involved multiple media engagements through radio and television talk shows to sensitize communities on climate change and water conservation. The activities officially began on March 1st with a cleaning campaign in Fort Portal City, promoting

proper waste management and environmental conservation. This was followed by the launch of the wetland demarcation initiative along the Nyakimya wetland to protect fragile ecosystems from encroachment.

Infrastructure support and livelihood improvement efforts were also a major focus, with the distribution of beehives to farmers in Kamwenge, the installation of a hydrological monitoring station in the Mpanga catchment, and the provision of water and sanitation facilities to schools and health centers in Kabarole District. Schools and communities were actively engaged through corporate WASH games, climate

resilience panel discussions, clean-up exercises, and environmental conservation debates. The week concluded with the launch of a hydrometeorological station in Kazo District to enhance climate monitoring. Throughout the event, stakeholders emphasized the need for stronger policy implementation, community participation, and sustainable conservation practices to address climate change. The ARWEWK 2025 successfully brought together government officials, civil society organizations, development partners, and local communities to reinforce commitments towards water resource protection and climate resilience in Uganda.



Northern Regional Water and Environment Week (NUWEWK 2025) in Gulu City

Road Drive around Gulu City and a Radio Talk Show on Rupiny Radio

The Northern Regional Water and Environment Week (NUWEWK 2025) commenced on March 10, 2025, in Gulu City under the theme “Water and Environment Innovations, Knowledge, and Capacity for Empowering a New Generation.” The week-long event aimed to raise awareness, foster innovation, and strengthen stakeholder collaboration in environmental conservation and water resource management.

The opening day featured a citywide road drive to mobilize stakeholders and inform the public about the planned activities. A radio talk show on Rupiny Radio provided a platform for representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), Aid Environment, Amref, and CEED to highlight the significance of the event and the ongoing interventions in the region. Discussions emphasized the roles of key partners in environmental conservation and the implementation of full-scale source protection measures in Oytino Micro Catchment.

On March 11, 2025, tree-planting awareness campaigns were conducted in five selected primary schools in

Gulu City. These sessions, facilitated by the National Forestry Authority (NFA), introduced innovative tree-planting techniques that ensure survival even during dry seasons. A familiarization visit to hotspot areas within the Oytino Micro Catchment was also carried out by MWE, NWSC, Aid Environment, CEED, and Acholi Private Sector Development. This visit included a transect walk along restored areas under the World Bank-funded Full Scale Source Protection Project, aimed at improving water supply quality and community livelihoods. The day concluded with an inception meeting for the Integrated Water Management and Development Project (IWMDP), attended by the Gulu City Mayor, MWE officials, and technical officers. A radio talk show later in the evening updated the public on ongoing activities and mobilized participation for the following days.

March 12, 2025, was dedicated to engaging students in debates, public speaking, and poetry competitions at Gulu University. Participants included students from Gulu, Lira, and Muni universities, as well as various secondary and primary schools. Debate topics focused on pressing environmental issues, including



Students showcasing through Music, Dance & Drama and environmental conservation debates

water conservation, climate change, and plastic waste management. Lira University emerged as the top institution in the university category, while Sacred Heart Secondary School won in the secondary school category. Primary school students showcased poems aligned with the event's theme, demonstrating their commitment to environmental awareness.

On March 14, 2025, the week's activities culminated in a city-wide cleanup campaign, flagged off by the Gulu City Mayor. Key stakeholders, including DFCU Bank, Care Uganda, CEED, and Takataka Plastics, actively participated in the initiative, which targeted major streets and marketplaces. Following the cleanup, stakeholders convened at Kaunda Grounds for an exhibition featuring innovative solutions in water and environmental sustainability. Exhibitors such as African Clean Energy, Akvo International, and Takataka Plastics showcased products and technologies, including irrigation equipment and recycled plastic innovations.

The event concluded with a public dialogue where partners, including World Vision, Save the Children, CEED Concordia, and Acholi Private Sector Development, outlined their contributions to water and environmental management in Northern Uganda. The Commissioner from MWE reiterated the importance of the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) as a platform for bridging the gap between government agencies and partners. Stakeholders were called upon to strengthen collaboration and innovation in achieving sustainable water resource management.

With the successful conclusion of NUWEWK 2025 in Gulu, the regional team is now set to join the national celebrations, further advancing efforts toward a more sustainable future.



School pupils undertake tree-planting awareness in Gulu City

The Karamoja Water and Environment Week (KRWEWK) 2025



A radio talk show on Ateker FM share information regarding UWEWK 2025

The Karamoja Water and Environment Week (KRWEWK) 2025, held from March 10th to 15th in Moroto and Amudat Districts, was part of the broader Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) 2025, an annual initiative led by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) through the Water Resources Institute (WRI). This event served as a platform for advocacy, knowledge exchange, and multi-stakeholder engagement to advance sustainable water and environmental management. With the theme “Water and Environment for Peace and a Sustainable Future,” KRWEWK 2025 emphasized the crucial role of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in fostering peace and regional development.

Various stakeholders, including government bodies, civil society organizations, development partners, and the private sector, actively participated in discussions and practical interventions aimed at addressing pressing environmental and water-related challenges in the region.

KRWEWK 2025 featured a series of impactful activities designed to promote awareness, collaboration, and infrastructure development. Notable initiatives included the cleaning of Moroto Main Market and Loro Trading Center, spearheaded by the Uganda Red Cross Society and partners, to improve sanitation and hygiene.

Additionally, the MWE Karamoja Regional Office, in collaboration with key stakeholders, conducted a joint

technical inspection of the ongoing construction of the regional office block, a UGX 6 billion project expected to house multiple decentralized ministry units. A radio talk show on Ateker FM provided a platform for raising awareness on UWEWK and the ministry's interventions, while a sanitation walk in Amudat District marked the declaration of Nakalilimon and Katileria villages as Open Defecation Free (ODF), underscoring the region's progress in promoting hygiene and environmental health.

Infrastructure development remained a key focus of KRWEWK 2025, with the inspection of solar-powered piped water supply and irrigation systems across multiple districts in Karamoja. Led by the MWE Karamoja Regional Office, in collaboration with district leadership and Nexus Green Limited, these inspections covered projects in Abim, Moroto, Kotido, Amudat, Nakapiripirit, and Kaabong Districts. These initiatives, funded by the Government of Uganda and the UK Export Fund, aim to enhance access to clean water for domestic use, livestock, and agriculture, thereby contributing to improved livelihoods and food security.

Upon completion, the projects will be handed over to relevant authorities for sustainable operation and maintenance. KRWEWK 2025 successfully reinforced the region's commitment to sustainable water and environmental resource management, aligning with national and international development goals, including Vision 2040 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Shaping Future Leaders:

Youth Debates on Water and Environmental Sustainability:



Winners in a group photo.

The Victoria Water Management Zone (VWMZ) and the Albert Water Management Zone (AWMZ), in partnership with essential stakeholders, coordinated regional Youth Debates and Public Speaking Competitions designed to promote critical dialogue on water and environmental sustainability. These events took place at Bishop Stuart University (BSU) in Mbarara in the Western part of the country, and the Rural Water and Sanitation Regional Center 5 in Fort Portal, attracting students from a range of high schools and universities.

High schools included: Ntare School, Revival Girls School, Mbarara High School, Maryhill High School, Western College, Nyamitanga Secondary School,

Mpanga Secondary School, Nyakasura School, Bukuku Community Secondary School, St. Leo's College – Kyegobe, and St. Maria Goretti Girls' Secondary School. The universities represented were Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Bishop Stuart University (BSU), Nyamitanga College of Business Studies, Kakoba College of Computer and Vocational Studies, Rwenzori International University (RIU), Uganda Pentecostal University (UPU), Mountains of the Moon University (MMU), Fins Medical University (FIU), Uganda Technical College – Kichwamba, and Liberty College.

A total of 52 students participated, demonstrating their public speaking and debating

abilities on significant water and environmental topics. The competitions featured outstanding performances, with awards conferred upon the leading participants.

Harley Tugume from Mbarara High School and Pearl Nsimire from Maryhill High School were honored as the Best Male and Female Debaters in the high school division respectively.

Arnold Musiime from Ntare School and Derrick Amanyana from BSU were acknowledged as the Best Public Speakers in their respective categories.

In Fort Portal, Innocent Mugabe from Nyakasura Secondary School and Enoch Kagoro from Mountains of the Moon University received accolades as the best debaters in their categories, while Patricia

Uwabababwa from St. Maria Goretti Girls' Secondary School and Robert Mugabe from Uganda Pentecostal University earned the titles of Best Public Speakers. On an institutional level, Bishop Stuart University and Ntare School were recognized as the top institutions in their categories in Mbarara, while Uganda Pentecostal University and Mpanga Secondary School excelled in Fort Portal. These institutions secured their positions in the final round of the National Youth Debates for UWEWK 2025.

The events featured notable attendees, including delegates from the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Team Leaders of VWMZ and AWMZ, the Manager of the Rural Water and Sanitation Regional Center 5, the 2025/2026 Miss Climate Change Awareness Uganda, representatives from various universities, and officials from organizations such as Join for Water, Youth Go Green, and the Water Resources Institute (WRI).

Speakers highlighted the critical role of youth participation in environmental conservation and

urged them to persist in their advocacy for sustainable water management practices.

In a demonstration of dedication to environmental sustainability, the competitions commenced with a ceremonial tree-planting event at Bishop Stuart University. This initiative underscored the event's overarching goal, serving not only as an intellectual forum for youth but also as a rallying cry for proactive measures in environmental preservation.



Ceremonial tree planting



representing the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment. The runners-up were Jerusha Prudence (First Runner-Up) and Sharon Natukunda (Second Runner-Up). Special titles for 2025-26 went to Kyarikunda Bridget (Miss Climate – Green Innovation), Auma Olivia (Miss Climate – Water Conservation), and Ademun Karen Helmy (Miss Climate, Community Impact). Regional representatives included Kirungi Christine (Western Uganda), Stella Aber (Northern Uganda), Maria Namu Maurine (Central Uganda), and Namulondo Henrytah (Eastern Uganda).

ATEI's commitment extended beyond the pageant, driving climate action through initiatives such as Pet A Tree (a tree-planting drive), Wildlife Concerts (engaging youth in conservation through music), the Ekkula Sustainable Tourism Awards (recognizing sustainable tourism efforts), the Climate Awareness Marathon (promoting environmental consciousness through sports), and the Green Schools Project (integrating climate education into school curricula).

Additionally, ATEI supported indigenous communities, including reformed cattle rustlers in Karamoja. More than just a pageant, this inaugural event marked the beginning of a transformative movement for women-led climate action in Uganda.

Empowering Change:

A New Era in Climate Action and Women's Leadership

On International Women's Day, Africa Tourism and Environment Initiatives (ATEI) made history by crowning Uganda's first-ever Miss Climate Change Awareness Uganda. The event, themed "Accelerating Women's Involvement in Climate Action for Resilience, Livelihoods, and a Sustainable World," served as a dynamic launch for Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK). Blending fashion and pageantry, the initiative highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on women while showcasing their vital role in driving sustainable solutions. Over the past decade, Uganda experienced temperature rises of up to 2°C above average and a 30% increase in extreme weather events, underscoring the urgency of climate action.

Bismac Moses Amumpaire, Team Lead at ATEI, described the event as a milestone in youth engagement, celebrating the resilience, innovation, and leadership of young women in advancing SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Sandra Namirembe was crowned Miss Climate Change Awareness Uganda by Ms. Irene Chekwot, Principal Climate Change Officer





Owek. Patrick Luwaga Mugumbule, Speaker of the Great Buganda Lukiiko, delivering a keynote speech during the event

Buganda Kingdom Champions Water Conservation in Grand Water Day Celebration:

Buganda Kingdom commemorated Water Day on March 14, 2025, at Ssisa, Busiro County Grounds, in a vibrant celebration attended by 400 participants. The event, chaired by Mrs. Teddy Nabakooza and moderated by Mr. Everesto Mugambwa, showcased exhibitions, cultural performances, and discussions under the theme, “Water and Environment for Innovation, Knowledge, and Capacity Empowering a New Generation.” This theme underscored the importance of water conservation and environmental sustainability.

Lady Tremayne Stanton Kennedy, Climate and Nature

Lead at the British High Commission, praised Buganda Kingdom’s commitment to protecting water bodies like Lake Victoria and the River Nile. She emphasized sustainable environmental practices and highlighted her choice of traditional bark cloth attire as an example of eco-friendly living. Hon. Mariam Nkalubo Mayanja, Buganda Kingdom’s Minister for Water, addressed the urgent need to protect water resources, advocating for the planting of indigenous trees such as Mutuba and Jabula over eucalyptus. She emphasized the economic value of recycling plastics, stating, “An empty plastic bottle is money.” She also introduced the slogan “Nalubaala ne Kirya abe wo and Kyusa enfuba

yo,” promoting sustainable habits that reduce carbon emissions and improve public health.

Owek. Patrick Luwaga Mugumbule, Speaker of the Great Buganda Lukiiko, delivered a keynote speech stressing the vital role of clean water in sustaining life and development. Reflecting on historical conservation efforts, he mentioned that Kabaka Mwanga’s reign saw the construction of Buganda’s only man-made lake in Ndeeba. He underscored the importance of wetlands and lakes such as Lubigi, Nakayiba, and Semujuzi in sustaining livelihoods, while also warning against environmental degradation caused by deforestation, industrial expansion, and poor waste disposal. He called for sustainable development practices that ensure water resources remain protected for future generations.

Key recommendations from the event included promoting responsible waste disposal, advocating for the use of biodegradable alternatives like reusable shopping bags (bikapu), and shifting public perception on environmental conservation through initiatives like the ‘lotterians’ campaign, “Kijenana Powa.” Participants were encouraged to work closely with government

agencies such as the National Water and Sewerage Corporation and NGOs to expand access to clean water. Additionally, they were invited to participate in the Kabaka Birthday Run on April 6, 2025, where each participant is expected to plant 70 trees as a commitment to environmental conservation.



Delegates from Buganda kingdom demonstrate tree planting as a way of conserving the environment.



MWE Engages Communities in Clean-up Exercise

Kirombe Market
At Kirombe Market, the Ministry of Water and Environment team was headed by the Undersecretary. The exercise was launched by Mr. Godfrey Luyombya, the Speaker of the Nakawa Division, as the chief cleaner.

MWE personnel, members of the Bugolobi Market community, students from various schools in Luzira, and the local government leaders from Nakawa Division. The initiative successfully resulted in the cleaning of the marketplace, with solid waste being collected and loaded onto a waste truck for proper disposal.

NWSC and MWE donate tools for clean-up exercise
The National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), provided a range of tools for the initiative, including rakes, sacks, a public address system, spades, wheelbarrows, brooms, and personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks. The tools were handed over by the MWE and the local government leadership of the Nakawa Division to the leaders of both Bugolobi and Kirombe Markets. This clean-up exercise was also used to raise awareness about the proper disposal of waste to safeguard and preserve the environment.

During the initiative, community members were informed about the significance of waste separation and the protection of wetlands, forests, and the sustainable use of water and environmental sources. Outcomes of the exercise.

A total of at least 300 volunteers participated in the clean-up exercise, which covered an estimated area of 5kms, extending beyond the market boundaries. Over 10 tons of solid waste were collected and loaded onto a waste truck which was provided by the area Member of Parliament.

The waste was then transported to the designated disposal site by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

The visibility of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), Nakawa Local Government leadership, and schools in the vicinity of the market areas was notably high. Campaigns aimed at raising awareness and promoting understanding towards the protection and sustainable use of water and environmental resources, alongside the implementation of proper hygiene and sanitation practices, towards minimizing pollution risks and enhancing health and living standards were key.



MWE launches clean up exercise in Luzira

In preparation for the UWEWK 2025, the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) launched a clean-up initiative on March 14, 2025, in Bugolobi and Kirombe Markets, in Nakawa Division, Kampala. UWEWK running from Monday (March 17, 2025), to Friday (March 21, 2025) is organized in partnership with the Water Resources Institute (WRI) and other key stakeholders under the theme “Water and Environment Resources for Enhanced Resilience and Improved Incomes and Livelihoods.”

The cleaning exercise was aimed at raising awareness and promote sensitization in collaboration with partners such as the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), Kampala Capital City Council (KCCA), Lakeside College, Luzira Secondary Schools, Bright Angles Junior School, and the local community. The initiative emphasized the efficient and sustainable

management of resources, proper sanitation and hygiene practices, pollution control efforts, sustainable solid waste management, and the maintenance of environmental cleanliness. It is also aimed to promote equitable and sustainable utilization of resources to improve income and livelihoods, strengthen resilience to climate change and environmental deterioration, and promote partnerships and cross-sectoral collaboration in the governance, management, and development of water and environmental resources.

The clean-up exercise was officially launched by Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, the Director of the Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM), alongside the Undersecretary Catherine Nassuna, at the ministry headquarters.

Approximately 200 participants took part in the initiative, which included local residents, staff from the Ministry of Water and Environment, students from Luzira Secondary School and Bright Angles Junior School, among others, as well as leaders from the Nakawa Division Local Government. The market was thoroughly cleaned, and solid waste was gathered and separated differently in different polyethylene bags before it was loaded onto the waste truck for proper disposal.

Bugolobi Market
At Bugolobi Market, the clean-up initiative was spearheaded by Mr. Waiswa Nelson, the Principal Socialist, alongside Mr. Paul Mugambe, the Mayor of Nakawa Division, who served as the chief cleaner. A total of approximately 100 participants took part in this effort, including staff from Lakeside College,

The WATERFRONT

Newsletter

Sunday, March 16, 2025 | Issue 1

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This newsletter has been produced with support from the Ministry of Water and Environment and Uganda Water and Sanitation Network (UWASNET)