

President Museveni calls for conservation of Wetlands, Riverbanks and Lakeshores



President Yoweri Museveni addresses a mammoth crowd during the World Environment Day(WED) National Celebrations held on 5th June 2017 at Kibubura Integrated Primary School Grounds, Ibanda District.

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By Bob Nuwagira

President Yoweri Museveni has called upon communities living around rivers and lakes to leave protection zones of 100 metres and 200 metres respectively. He said this will protect the integrity of these fragile ecosystems, keep the water clean and protect against silting. The President made these remarks while addressing mammoth crowds at this year's World Environment Day (WED) National Celebrations at Kibubura Integrated

Primary School Grounds, Ibanda District, the 29th celebrations to be conducted under the NRM Government.

In a colourful ceremony hosted by Ibanda District, President Yoweri Museveni called upon all communities living around fragile ecosystems to observe the 100 metres of river bank catchment and the 200 metres lakeshores protection zones. Citing examples in

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Together We Can

What an eventful World Environment Day (WED) 2017 commemorations.

This was the biggest demonstration of stakeholder collaboration for the stewardship of our environment. 90,000 Tree seedlings from a community supported nursery bed were planted in Manafwa District in an activity spearheaded by State Minister for Environment, Hon. Dr. Goretti Kitutu. Great contributions from Eaton Towers, CNOOC Uganda, Total E&P, National Forestry Authority (NFA), National Water & Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and others have seen the number of seedlings planted and distributed up to 300,000 so far.

The Environment Run 2017 in Ibanda in which thousands attended whose contributions supported the restoration of degraded woodlots in the district was a massive success. Local leaders mobilized by Ibanda Woman Member of Parliament, Hon. Jovlet Kaliisa contributed massively to public education activities in Ibanda district and the western region ahead of WED.

Media institutions, development partners, Civil Society Organisation and Government agencies contributed lots of resources to make the most memorable WED celebrations. This is the kind of collaboration that best defines the collective responsibility to environmental stewardship. Small individual actions that once galvanized could bring exponential results. Together we can.

#EveryActionCounts

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President Museveni calls for conservation of Wetlands, River Banks and Lakeshores

From page 1



President Museveni plants a tree at Kibubura Integrated playgrounds on WED 2017

Kabale, Ntungamo and Bushenyi in western Uganda, President Museveni suggested that the current dry spells affecting communities in those districts were as a result of massive encroachment on the wetlands.

“Wetlands, forests and water bodies contribute 40% of the rains we receive in the country and contribute to the micro climatic conditions of an area,” he explained, advising that, “We must protect these catchments.”

Museveni who has embarked on a country-wide education campaign said that communities can sustainably use these catchments to support livelihood activities pointing out the use of the different wetlands grasses such as sedges and papyrus for mulching gardens. He added that Government was planning to roll out mini irrigation schemes country wide to address the longer dry spells, which would draw water from such catchments when protected.

On tree planting, the President also called for the planting of trees on hilly and mountainous areas to protect them from soil erosion and reduce on the incidences of landslides.

World Environment Day, celebrated every year on 5th June is the United Nations’ principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. This year’s activities included the environment run, a national tree

planting campaign where more than 250,000 trees were planted countrywide, a cleanup of Ibanda Town, exhibitions of environmentally friendly technologies and materials, as well as an awards giving ceremony.

In her remarks, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Designated Official and UNDP Resident Representative in Uganda, Ms. Rosa Malango, pledged UN’s continued support to Uganda’s quest of becoming a green economy and called upon all Ugandans to become champions for environmental conservation.

“We are here today to remember the importance of the environment for our survival as a people, for the wellbeing for our families, our communities, Uganda as a nation and for planet earth,” Ms. Malango said. She also congratulated Uganda for ratifying several United Nations conventions on environment particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This, she said, affirms Uganda’s commitment to environmental sustainability.

The French Ambassador to Uganda, Ms. Stephanie Rivoal, who represented the

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President Museveni on Drought in Kanungu: "We are reaping what we sowed!"

By Bob Nuwagira

President Yoweri Museveni has accused the people of Kanungu for the indiscriminate encroachment on wetlands and forest reserves which he said had triggered the worst drought to hit the district in the recent past.

Speaking at a public rally at Rushoroza Seed School in Kihhi Sub-county in Kanungu District in July, the President in a strongly worded address quoted the Bible saying "what one sows is what one will reap," and said of the increasing drought and hunger situation in Kanungu district that, "we are reaping what we sowed."

He castigated the local communities for "disobeying God" by turning wetlands into gardens. "It is God who planted these wetlands with noble intentions but you just come and say God did not know what He was doing. You now put potatoes where God had put marshes. But God designed that potatoes will be planted on hillsides and valleys so that wetlands become water reservoirs like we have granaries for grain storage, wetlands are for water storage," he said. "But now you are destroying these water reservoirs saying God did not know what He was doing."

The President said this shortly after his impromptu tour of Kameme village, which is worst hit by drought and famine where he gave out relief food to locals and

launched an irrigation initiative in the area to help farmers avoid reliance on rain fed agriculture.

Museveni also stated that the NRM Government had originally chosen a soft approach to woo encroachers in wetlands to take self-compliance steps but said people were not appreciating the message. Quoting a case in Kabale, the President said that he encouraged a one farmer whom he identified as Mzee Barisigara, who was carrying out farming in a wetland, to vacate and he (Mzee Barisigara) obliged. This, he said was NRM's way of handling cases of encroachment but was concerned was being abused.

"I have been appealing to the people to leave wetlands and they refused. Now God has given us a punishment – prolonged drought."

He added, "Scientists say that 40% of the rainfall we receive comes from the wetlands and swamps, lakes and forests of Uganda. 60% of the rainfall is made by the large oceans like the pacific or Indian Oceans. Now to destroy our swamps means we are depriving ourselves 40% of our potential to create rainfall. Therefore, we are the losers we in the valleys because the little rain that is available only remains in the hills and mountains."

On irrigation, the President ordered the State House Comptroller, Ms. Lucy Nakyobe to work with the District



Bob Nuwagira

Chairperson Ms. Josephine Katsya and establish a solar powered irrigation scheme on River Kahengye to support farmers avert unpredictable weather patterns. The President also provided drought resistant, quick maturing and high yielding seeds to the district to boost food security. These include sorghum, millet, three types of maize, cassava and Irish potatoes, and asked local farmers to quickly adopt them.

President Museveni likened those who would not heed to advice to the analogy of a foolish man who when he feels hungry, will eat the seeds reserved for planting and when rains come, he will have no seeds to plant but just to smile at the garden. He also proverbially warned those unwilling to take advice that "when a wild animal refuses to heed the warnings of a hunter, it becomes roasted meat."

President Museveni in January asked all those who had encroached on wetlands to vacate voluntarily and pave way for irrigation schemes countrywide.

Additional reporting by

<http://www.statehouse.go.ug>

From page 2

President Museveni

European Mission in Uganda, spoke passionately about collective action to save the planet from unsustainable exploitation as she put it simply, "to protect the environment is to protect ourselves."

This year's event was attended by several ministers including, the Water & Environment Minister, Hon Sam Cheptoris and his deputies, Hon Dr. Goretti Kitutu, the State Minister for

Environment and Hon. Ronald Kibuule, the Minister of State for Water. Others included, Hon John Byabagambi, the Minister for the Karamoja Region, who doubles as the area Member of Parliament; the Minister of State for Lands, Hon. Persis Namuganza, the Minister of State for Local Government, Hon. Namuyangu Jeniffer; and, the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu, who is the former water and environment docket minister.

MPs on the Climate Change Committee, Religious and other regional leaders, the civil society, the private sector, local politicians, schools and residents attended the event ceremonies. World Environment Day 2017 in Uganda were celebrated under the local theme "Connect to nature, Appreciate biodiversity."

The Writer is the Senior Information Education & Communications Officer, NEMA

Lake Kakeyeera System restoration process begins

By Herbert Nabaasa

A team from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Kiruhura District Local Government (DLG) inspected Lake Kakeyeera System to ascertain the level of degradation and required interventions. The inspection helped to contextualise the problem and appropriately plan for the method of restoration. It also helped to identify the type and nature of degradation, the degraders involved (through inventory) and compliance requirements.

The inspections revealed that Kakeyeera System is degraded by two groups of people, that is, the landlords/ranchers whose land surrounds the lake and the temporary occupants. The landlords are few individuals owning square miles around the lake and had leased their land to cultivators who eventually cultivated both on private land and also degraded the shoreline/protection zone. The restoration approach thus required dealing with both the landlords and the temporary occupants.

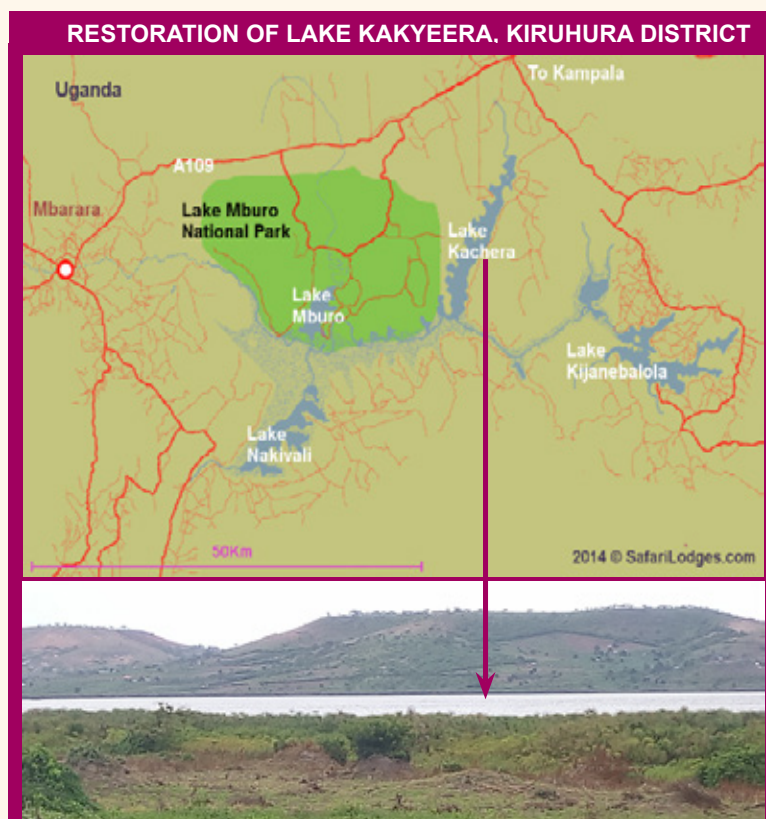
There was massive encroachment and degradation of Lake Kakeyeera system through cultivation of several types of crops and over grazing leaving the shoreline bare. It was observed that cultivation was done within the mandatory 100metres buffer zone which has resulted into siltation of the lake. Several farmers graze their cattle around the lake and there are no organised watering points for animals. Animals access water directly from the lake causing degradation and siltation of the lake. As a result of several degradation activities, the areas were affected by prolonged drought which affected food production leading to food insecurity.

Restoration of the Kakeyeera system was undertaken using the "community approach". Community members cultivating within the 100 meter protection zone were identified and sensitized to restore the buffer zones using a live fence (Tree seedlings). A stretch of 50 metres was planted with trees to act as a protection and another 50 metres between the areas planted with trees and the lake was left free to allow for fast natural regeneration and recovery. 20,000 tree seedlings comprised of *gravellier* species were used to restore about 30 acres of degraded land. Encroachers signed compliance agreements to restore the shoreline through planting trees to act as a live fence. A committee



Herbert Nabaasa

of 17 people was formed to spearhead the restoration exercise as indicated below. The identified community members were those currently occupying and encroaching on the shoreline. The tree species used was *gravellier* being a fast growing tree which also has the ability to fix nitrogen in the soil and help in the fast recovery and re-generation of the degraded shoreline.



Status of the Lake Kakeyeera before restoration.



The Restoration Committee members formed to oversee the restoration exercise

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Greater Kampala Region takes greater share of the April – June 2017 Approved Development Projects

By Margaret Aanyu

At 41%, the greater Kampala region still dominates the number of projects approvals for the reporting period, April to June 2017. Kampala had the largest share with 33 projects, Wakiso with 23 projects and Mukono with 10 projects, of the total 158 projects approved in the reporting period. This trend which has been also been depicted in previous quarters and past years comes with many implications on these three Districts.

This will continue to exert increasing pressure on the natural resources, among others, land-take, land use

changes, construction materials, creation of settlements. There will also be pressure for social services and public utilities such as water and electricity supply, sewerage systems, as well as intermittent migration of labour.

At 31%, infrastructure projects including roads, real estates and others are identifiably the major activities in the country, followed by fuel stations at 19%, Mining and quarrying at 15% and manufacturing/processing at 13%. The rest are shared by other investment and welfare activities including, information technology, waste management infrastructures

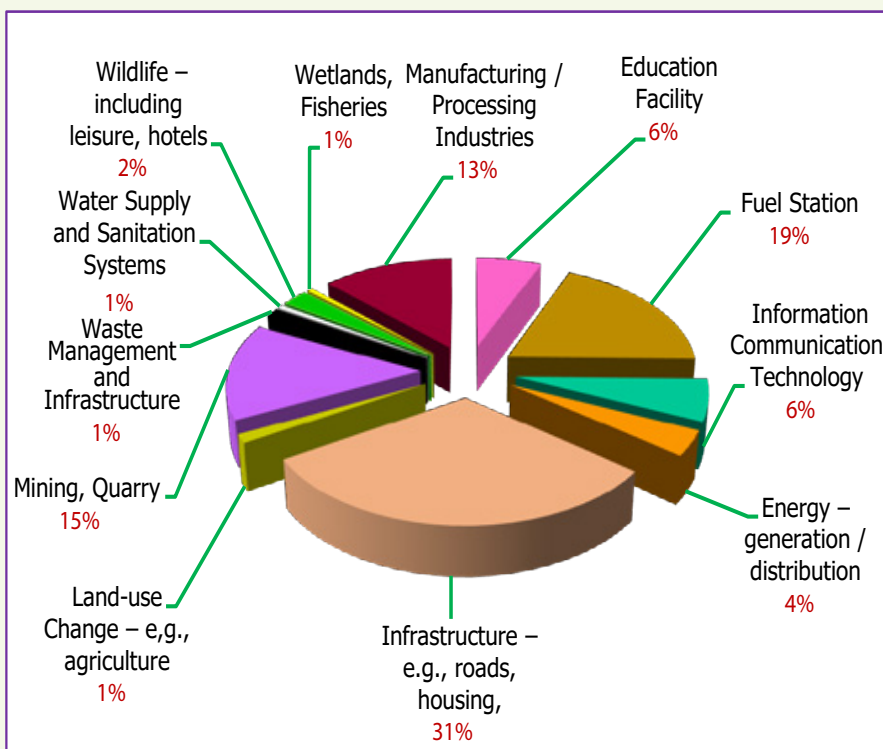


Margaret Aanyu

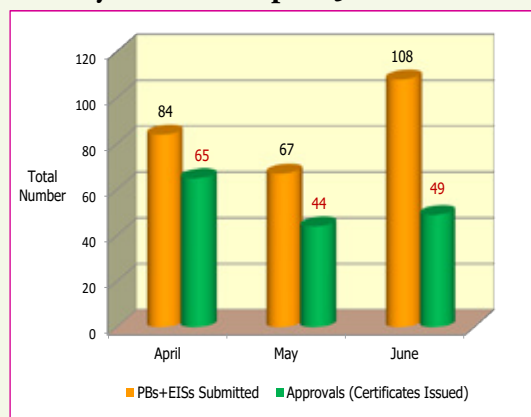
and land use change activities such as agriculture.

A total of 435 scoping reports, project briefs (PBs) & Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) were submitted within the Quarter. The charts here give us more detailed information.

Projects Approved in April–June, 2017, by Percentage and Category of Project



Total number of PBs+EISs Submitted versus Approvals (Certificates) issued, by Month in April–June, 2017



The Writer is the Environmental Impact Assessments Manager, NEMA

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Private and Public Sector Institutions, Individuals Awarded for Environment Stewardship

By Persis Basemera

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has recognized the outstanding contributions of individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, and the private sector to advancing environmental sustainability, protecting and enhancing the natural environment in Uganda.

The prestigious National Environment Awards which were handed out as one of the events to mark this year's World Environment Day (WED) had seven categories including the Private Sector, the Lead Agency and Public Sector, Civil Society Organisations, Schools, Individuals, Model village/women groups/model community, and Best Exhibitors, categories respectively. World Environment Day National celebrations that was officiated by HE President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as Chief Guest, were held on 5th June 2017 at Ibanda Kibubura Integrated Primary School, Ibanda District.

For their contribution in restoration of woodlots across the country, The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) was awarded the Public Sector Award together with Ibanda District Local Government, the hosts for this year's WED celebrations. Buikwe District based, Hoopee Tannery won the Private Sector Award, for their exceptional compliance to environmental standards including the operating one of the standardized effluent treatment plant, which has reduced the incidences of odor nuisance in the surrounding communities.

Pioneering in this year's award was the 'Meritorious Individual Category' in which individuals who had played exceptional roles to promote stewardship of the environment in their communities

were recognized and awarded. Notable in this category was the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Soroti, Mr. Filbert Ocailap who had been instrumental in wetland conservation in the district. He was involved in education and enforcement activities, an initiative that saw the Rt. Rev. George William Erwau, Bishop Soroti Diocese, to abandon agricultural activities in Odukurin wetland and join the crusade for wetland conservation, a contribution that was recognized with an award.

Also awarded was Jeconious Musingwire, the long serving Mbarara District Natural Resources Officer and NEMA's Focal Personnel for the western region. His contribution for more than three decades in natural resources management and stewardship highlighted by the Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, who presided over the awards ceremony.

Below is the list of awardees under selected categories.

Private Sector Organisations

- 1) Pearl Dairies Ltd
- 2) Hoopoe Trading Company Ltd

Lead Agencies and Public Sector Organisations

- 1) Rural Electrification Agency (REA)
- 2) Ibanda District Local Government

Civil Society Organisations

- 1) Promoters of Efficient Technologies on Sustainable Development (PETSD)
- 2) Koyinawo Waste Management Services Ltd

Schools

- 1) Ibanda Kibubura Integrated Primary School
- 2) Kibubura Girls S.S.S
- 3) Mbarara Junior School
- 4) Runengo Primary School



Persis Basemera

Individuals

- 1) Mr. Jeconious Musingwire, District Natural Resources Officer, Mbarara District Local Government
- 2) Dr. John B. Kabera
- 3) The Rt. Rev. Steven Namanya, Bishop of North Ankole Diocese
- 4) The Rt. Rev. George William Erwau, Bishop of Soroti Diocese
- 5) Mr. Filbert Ocailap, Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Soroti
- 6) Mr. Egungyu George Michael, Chairman LC V, Soroti District
- 7) Captain Santos Okot Lapolo, Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Gulu District
- 8) Rtd. Lt. Dick Lubanga Maka

Model Village/Women Groups/ Model Community

- 1) (KYEMPAPU) Kirinda Youth Environmental Protection & Poverty Alleviation Uganda (Kirinda, Kitanda Sub-county - Bukomansimbi)

Exhibitors

- 1) **Best Exhibitor:** Conservation Effort for Community Development (CECOD)
- 2) **Second Best Exhibitor:** Ibanda Women's Guild (IWG)

The Writer is the Senior Environmental Education Officer, NEMA



President Museveni hands over the Private Sector Award to an official from Pearl Dairies Ltd.



Hon. Cheptoris Sam, Minister of Water and Environment, hands over a plaque to Mr. Jeconious Musingwire as Dr. Tom Okurut, NEMA's ED looks on

Being Miss Earth 2016 was Overwhelming

By Priscilla Achieng

My name is Priscilla Achieng from Tororo District.

The past year has been incredible. I felt blessed to be crowned Miss Earth Uganda 2016 along with Miss Earth Air, Water and Fire Uganda out of 16 delegates from different districts in the Country.

Being Miss Earth Uganda is exciting. It's a great opportunity to devote yourself as an ambassador for the

protection and conservation of our environment although it requires enormous devotion, effort and a sense of responsibility to strive and stand for this great cause. This isn't much about being a beauty queen wearing a crown on your head, it's about the Earth, Mother Earth and caring for its surroundings.

I together with the Elemental Queens, Miss Earth Uganda organization and the Partners (National Forestry Authority, National Environment Management Authority, Chimpanzee Trust, Youth Go Green, Rotaract Earth initiative and many others) have strived to leave a legacy of beauty and responsibility with a cause by engaging in numerous activities which I know will leave a lasting impact on our environment.

We planted trees (over 100,000 in Hoima, Nakasongola and others in over 100 primary and secondary schools within the country), carried out solid waste management campaigns, graced the World Environment Day celebrations activities in Ibanda District, and Earth Day celebrations activities in Kamwenge District. We carried out numerous Community clean ups, Media sensitization campaigns and many other activities and all these are a small token given the environmental challenges, but a highly symbolic gesture of our commitment to protect and preserve Mother Earth.



Priscilla Achieng gives remarks during WED 2017 celebrations in Ibanda

I had the privilege and great responsibility of representing Uganda in the 2016 Miss Earth in Manila Philippines. I proudly wish to share with you, that just like the 2015 incumbent Queen, I scooped a gold medal in showcasing the best National costume that entails the elements and aspects of 5Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink & Respect) to address issues of climate change. I also had exposure to experience what other 90+ countries are doing to address environmental problems and women empowerment.

It has been a great opportunity for me to enrich my spirit, my capacity to understand others, to deepen my roots in the Earth and look after my wholeness wellbeing. As a heroine fighting climate change it was a privilege to work to make Ugandans proud.

I call upon responsible stake holders and proud citizens of Uganda to support the Miss Earth Uganda initiative in all its endeavors.

I wish to express my gratitude to my Family, Friends, my Mentors, Miss Earth Uganda and all its Partners, my Elemental Queens and every Ugandan who is passionate about Mother Earth and God above all for who I am today.

I am a Woman of the Earth and wish best felicitations for Miss Earth Uganda 2017.

The Writer reigned as Miss Earth Uganda 2016/2017

I Planted Trees from Kampala to Ibanda



L-R: Tendo, Ivy and Marie - The Little Hands Go Green Ambassadors at a Green Event Recently

My name is Paula Maria Cruz.

I am a P7 candidate at Agha Khan Primary school and one of Uganda's Little Hands Go Green Ambassadors.

I have done it all and seen it all and am proud to have twice been a part of the WED caravan celebrations in 2016 on the Northern route to Gulu and 2017 on the Western route to Ibanda District.

It is amazing to celebrate World Environment Day by spreading green love all along the Kampala – Ibanda route. Last year (2016) for example as we headed to Gulu we planted trees in Luwero with *boda boda* cyclists and others at Corner Kamdin and Kafu Bridge. We also planted with priests at Lacor Seminary in Gulu and had fun cleaning Gulu town ahead of WED.

In 2017 we planted in Mpigi, at the Equator, danced a green dance at Lukaya, and planted a tree at St. Hellens Girls School in Mbarara where the Ibanda Woman Member of Parliament, Hon. Jovlet Kaliisa is an Old Girl and she cried when she planted the tree. It was really touching.

I even went to Manafwa in Eastern Uganda where we planted 90,000 trees with Hon. Dr. Mary Kitutu, The State minister for Environment.

The joy of planting fruit trees and being a part of NEMA has and will continue to be an exciting experience for me. Also interacting with other children from different parts of Uganda has been one of my best experiences.

I am grateful to Little Hands Go Green for this opportunity and to NEMA for always supporting us.

The Writer is a Little Hands Go Green Ambassador

NEMA BITS



On June 5th, Uganda joined the international community to commemorate **World Environment Day** under the theme **“Connect to Nature, Appreciate Biodiversity”**. The celebrations which took place at Kibubura Integrated Primary School Grounds in Ibanda District were attended by thousands of people from across the country and graced by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguuta Museveni. Other diplomatic missions such as the United Nations and the European Union too attended the celebrations. Here, some of the highlights of the event.



President Museveni plants a tree at Kibubura Integrated Primary School Grounds on WED.



President Yoweri Museveni chats with Mbarara District Natural Resources Officer, Jeconious Musingwire



Hon. Cheptoris Sam, Minister of Water and Environment inspects exhibitions



Hon. Cheptoris Sam, Minister of Water and Environment



A cross-section of dignitaries who graced the occasion



Ms Rosa Malango, UNDP Country Representative, makes her remarks



The French Ambassador to Uganda, Ms Stephanie Rivoal makes her remarks as Miss Jovlet Kaliisa Ibanda Woman MP looks on



Little Hands (Right) with a child



Hon. Eng. Byabagambi, Minister for Karamoja, and Ibanda South MP, and Dr. Tom Okurut wave to guests



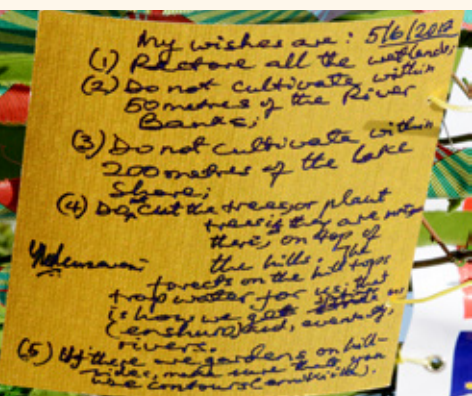
Ms Rosa Malango, UNDP Country Representative, inspects Exhibitions



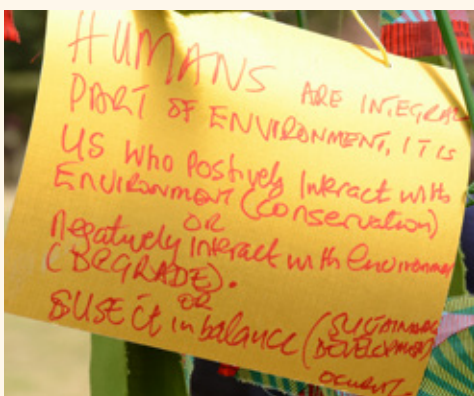
The French Ambassador to Uganda, Ms Stephanie Rivoal inspects Exhibitions



Mr Paul Musingwire, Minister of Water and Environment



President Yoweri Museveni's wishes for the 2017 WED on the Enviro-Tree



Dr. Tom Okurut's note on the Enviro-Tree on WED



A note by a student of Ibanda Kibubura Integrated Primary School



Eskom Uganda's representative, Dr. Daniel B.

World Environment Day "Connect to Nature, Appreciate Biodiversity"



Mr. Sam Cheptoris, hands over an award Mr Jeconious Okurumbe as Dr Tom Okurut, NEMA ED looks on



Hon. Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu State Minister for Environment makes her remarks during WED 2017



Go Green Ambassadors Maria (Left) and Ivy (Right) Hon. Dr. Kitutu during WED Celebrations



L-R: Hon. Persis Namuganza, State Minister for Lands, shares a light moment with Mr. Waiswa Ayazika, NEMA's Director EMC and Dr. Tom Okurut, NEMA's ED



Mr. Sam Cheptoris, Director, Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Water and Environment visits the NEMA stall



Local Leaders from Ibanda and the neighboring Districts attended WED



CEO Thomas Gangi hands over a cheque to Dr. Tom Okurut to support tree planting as Mr. Waiswa Ayazika NEMA's Director DSPE looks on



Kibibura Girls students make a presentation during WED

They Said It...

I invite everyone of us to help conserve the environment by becoming a champion today.

Ms. Rosa Malango
UNDP Resident Representative
/ UN Resident Coordinator



I call upon all women and men here in Uganda, in France, in Europe, in the world to resist and fight together for our world, for nature, for our planet. It has given us so much, it is time to give back.

HE Stephanie Rivoal,
French Ambassador to Uganda



We should not cut down a forest to construct a building, neither should we encroach on a wetland to build a shopping mall. Our environment is far much better than these buildings.

Hon. Sam Cheptoris
Minister of Water & Environment



I ask all the Ugandans today to plant a tree. If we did, we would add more than 30 million trees to the environment.

Hon. Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu
State Minister for Environment



Human activities are the greatest threat to the integrity of biodiversity. We need to start acting and behaving in a sustainably.

Dr. Tom.O.Okurut
Executive Director, NEMA



Nature can live without us, but we cannot live without nature. We need to hand over a clean and healthy environment to the future generation. Everyone should play their part.

Priscilla Achieng,
Miss Earth Uganda 2016/2017



Kidepo Project Spearheads Survival of the Marginalised

By Richard Kamya

The Ik people, estimated about 11,000 are a marginalized ethnic group located in Timu and Morungole Forest Reserves in Kaabong District.

In a 2011 Population Survey, their number was estimated at 11,217 in total. They were displaced from Kidepo Valley in the 1960s as Government was establishing a National Park. Aware of their small numbers, they chose to avoid violent clashes with the Karimojong by taking to the hills which they considered safer. They ended up in the present Timu and Morungole Forest Reserves. They are said to have originally been hunters and gatherers; customs that convinced Kaabong leaders, to believe this group was environmentally friendly and found no reason for their proposed eviction from the Forest Reserves.

They exhibit traditional conservation strategies using beliefs that have helped in conservation of specific flora. Among these are tree species such as *Barati* (local name), a broad-leaved member of the *ficus* family which the Ik believe harbours powers for rain formation and should therefore be conserved. They originally reared some animals however, due to persistent raids from neighbouring tribes, they are concentrating on cultivating crops such as maize, sorghum, finger millet and cabbage as well as bee keeping.



Typical Ik community settlements in Kaabong District; Internet Photo

According to Nyeko Patrick, the National Forestry Authority (NFA) Sector Manager in charge of Kaabong, this group has continued to encroach on the remaining forest as they clear vegetation for cultivation despite caution from NFA.

Several debates have raged on concerning the continued stay of the Ik in the two forests. Politicians, Civil Society Organisations, technocrats and other stakeholders have weighed in on the matter with some in support and others against eviction of this group from the forest. For instances, Kamion Sub County Local Council recently passed a resolution that seeks to protect this minority community in a swap deal that would leave this part of the forest to the Ik and NFA is compensated with an equivalent chunk of land elsewhere for forest expansion.

When contacted, the NFA Range Manager for Karamoja Okot Micheal, clarified that declassification or swapping of forest reserves is not a simple case since

many reserves were gazetted based on the ecological roles they played in those locations. In addition, some species can only thrive in particular locations and not others (endemism). There is therefore fear that such ecosystem services may be lost if this particular part of the forest is degazetted. The position of the Ik in the contested area remains untenable with the continued position of NFA that wants a complete eviction of these people in accordance to the Forestry Act.

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) with funds from Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP Country Office is implementing the Kidepo Critical Landscape (KCL) Project in Six Districts including Kaabong where the Ik people are found. The first component of the project aims at Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Kidepo Critical Landscape Protected Area Cluster. Using NFA as a Responsible Partner (RP) on the project, the Ik community entered into a Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) process with the forestry body.

The process has so far gone through the initiation, application, resource mapping and negotiation stages. At the end of



Ik Village; Internet picture

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CSO'S call to Climate Action

By Miriam Talwisa

This year's World Environment Day Celebration was a historical platform for environmentalists under their umbrella body-Climate Action Network-Uganda to caution Ugandans against the shocks of climate change.

Climate champions highlighted the leadership of H.E the President of Uganda Y.K Museveni for prioritizing the ongoing global and local initiatives to address environmental degradation and climate change including the Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2 and 13.

Civil Society Organizations however, were concerned that despite the efforts by various actors, Uganda still faces environmental challenges that continue to undermine its capacity to deal with the impacts of climate change. The sporadic, almost chronic, drought and famine that has continued to ravage parts of Uganda is attributed to a natural phenomenon that could be prevented through concerted efforts of all stakeholders.

We pointed out number of "concerns" that Government would need to address in order to realize efforts of environmental conservation.

Rapid population growth although presents an opportunity for a bigger market, hence economic growth, presents a unique threat to development and quality of lives of many Ugandans. At a rate of 3.2% growth per annum, evidenced by widespread encroachment on delicate ecosystems leads to loss of about 6,000 hectares of forest cover per month (WWF Uganda, 2017).

Additionally Uganda's Wetland mapping exercise in 2008 indicated reduction of cover from 15% in 1994 to less than 10.8% due to pressure from industrial development, settlements, agriculture, clay and sand mining.

Conflicting policy framework linked to environmental protection efforts has hampered effective enforcement and implementation leading to environmental agencies to grapple with balancing between political interests and what their mandates are under the various legal regimes (Kaveera ban enforcement illustrates the dilemma and Ugandans still ask "What happened to the KAVEERA BAN").

Other concerns are environmental compliance by investors, environmental sector being largely donor supported, yet it's a pillar of our economic future. Until now the allocations have remained dismal and much of the subsector budget is outside the Joint Budget Support. The sector support framework does not seem therefore to drive us to achievement of National Development Plan 11 targets and Vision 2040

Proposals for robust strategy, laws and policies streamlining, environment monitoring mechanism and national platform of environmental actors were the CSO's call to Action.

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Kidepo Project Spearheads Survival of the Marginalised

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the process a CFM Agreement will be signed between the Forest community and NFA. In this agreement, user as well as ownership rights of the community and NFA to the forest are well defined. The agreement further defines where the rights of each user group end and provides for punitive measures in case of breach of agreement. For the Ik, the agreement not only gives them access to forest resources but also cements their status as the Forest Community with ownership rights in Timu and Morungole Forest Reserves.

In addition, the project has supported NFA to develop Management Plans for the Eight Forest Reserves in Kaabong. Among other things, this Management Plan will promote conservation and sustainable management of the reserves so that they perform their ecological functions and services while mindful of the economic benefits to the forest communities.

During the process, some individuals from the Ik community were selected to be part of the Planning team together with technocrats from NFA, NEMA and

District in addition CSOs, local politicians and opinion leaders. A draft Management Plan has been produced and the final plan is expected soon. When this Plan is finally operationalized, the status of the Ik in Timu and Morungole Forest Reserves will be cemented as they will be recognized as the forest community with Kidepo Project playing the foster role.

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We can handle waste in our local setting

By Luwazo Joseph

Waste is regarded as any material nearing the end of its useful life. In our day to day life, waste takes several dimensions, household waste, waste from waste management facilities, waste emanating from human or animal health facilities, construction and demolition wastes and that resulting from packaging. The other dimensions include waste from oil, liquid fuels, agriculture and other food preparation processes, animal tissue and wood processing.

Waste be it solid, liquid or gaseous can be of harmful, for example leading to infections, produces odor or piles could attract flies and rodents.

There are several ways how we can reduce or even overcome evils of

waste in our homes, workplaces or community centers. Perceiving waste as a baggage, lamenting over and yearning for help from those in authority may not be workable as you can get rid of it or realize that it's of high value for as long as it is carefully, technically and legally handled.

Currently waste is commercially attractive to many entrepreneurs and the business community in general. This is witnessed from numerous mushrooming companies with the aim of tapping the 'Smelly Gold' dealing in waste collection, handling/treatment and transportation services.

It is every one's responsibility to have positive measures and attitude towards managing what we consider waste in our reach.

For example, we can adopt sorting to ease the handling and transportation, reuse as for organic and plastics, pretreatment to do away with nasty odour, collecting waste from centrally gazetted points, pitting what can decompose to avoid scenery and this is very ideal for carcass and related



Luwazo Joseph

materials that are capable of decomposing (organic pollutants).

It is important to acquire waste incinerators for schools, medical waste and sewage sludge. Poor waste management practices have intense and long term effects which are socially economically and environmentally demeaning.

I commend the business community for investing in waste management for this has helped us get rid of what we do not need, as they make returns on investment.

Though local authorities are doing a lot, the onus is on you and I who generate waste and fail to have it properly directed.

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Communities can engage in designing waste sorting mechanisms



Waste bins like these ones above can be arranged and labeled neatly in a way that makes sorting waste easy to the community



Innovations of this kind are common in urban setting and have done a lot in controlling littering of waste

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Aflatoxins the Silent and Unknown Killer Diseases to many

By Kabishanga E.R. Shaka

Aflatoxins are highly toxic chemical poisons produced mainly by the fungus *Aspergillus flavus* in certain food crops. The fungal toxins suppress the immune system, impede growth and development and cause liver disease and death. Women, children and the poor are particularly vulnerable. Between 2004 and 2006, nearly 200 Kenyans died after consuming maize contaminated with high levels of Aflatoxins and in 2010 over 2 million bags of maize in the Eastern and Central provinces were found to be highly contaminated and were not tradeable. Women, children and the poor are the most vulnerable to prolonged exposure.

Aflatoxins or contaminated products in Uganda

Aflatoxins are highly toxic chemical poisons produced mainly by the fungus in maize, groundnuts and yam chips; they also affect other high value crops such as oilseeds and edible nuts. The cancer-causing fungal chemicals impede growth and development, cause liver disease and also act as an immune-suppressant so that affected individuals become susceptible to a wide range of diseases. Livestock are also at risk and poultry are particularly susceptible. Cattle are not so susceptible but, if they are fed on contaminated feed, the toxin "Aflatoxin M₁" toxin passes into the milk.



Kabishanga E.R. Shaka

addressing inequalities at all levels during programs and projects. Gender analysis identifies women and men priorities, opportunities and constraints across scale and guides the design of interventions to see policies sufficiently integrate gender. Interventions address men, women and youth priorities especially implementation of adoption options.

Women make important contributions to the agricultural and rural economies of all regions of the world. However, the exact contribution both in terms of magnitude and of its nature is evidenced on the roles of women in agriculture and in rural labour markets. It also looks at demographic trends in rural areas with regard to the gender composition of rural populations. Women make up 60-80 percent of the agricultural labour force.

As seen above, women play a significant role in the agricultural labour force and in agricultural activities, although to a varying degree. Consequently their contribution to agricultural output is undoubtedly extremely significant, although difficult to quantify with any accuracy. It has often been claimed that women produce 60-80 per cent of food. However, assigning contributions to agricultural outputs by gender is problematic because in most agricultural households both men and women are involved in crop production. It can be attempted to allocate output by gender by assuming that specific crops are grown by women and others by men and then aggregating the value of women's and men's crops to determine the share grown by women.



President Museveni addressing PACA participants at Entebbe 2016 (Internet Photo)

During a meeting of the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) of the African Union Commission held on 12th October 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda. H.E President Yoweri Museveni while officially opening the 2nd PACA echoed the sentiments of many when he among others called on the stakeholders to be more proactive and find solutions to the challenges posed by Aflatoxin. He called upon partners to join hands in the fight against the vexing Aflatoxin challenge. The expected results is leadership and commitment as well developing clear strategy and ambitious yet realistic targeting garnering further support for capacity building and implementation support.

In the case of Uganda, high levels of Aflatoxin—a highly toxic, carcinogenic poison produced by a few species of *Aspergillus*—are found in food grains including maize, cassava, sorghum, yam, rice, groundnut and

cashews. Most smallholder farmers are women and unable to prevent Aflatoxin contamination during the production and storage of their crops.

Moreover, these women and men often lack cost-effective ways to test for these poisons. As a result, many may be chronically exposed to Aflatoxins in their diets, putting their health and lives at severe risk. Gender responsiveness means that we



Contaminate maize corn and groundnuts with moulds leading to Aflatoxins (internet photos)

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Lake Kakyera System restoration

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Compliance enforcement and eviction was done using a win-win approach which was found prudent to focus on in order to create desirable community collaboration and impact. This was arrived at after the majority of degraders expressed willingness to voluntarily leave the protection zone and only cultivate on the private land where standing partnership with the landlords existed. This was welcomed as an avenue to create strong partnership with the degraders to restore the affected areas and also create ownership for sustainability as well as avoid litigation costs.

A team comprised of district technical staff, district police and local leadership was constituted to continue with the monitoring and surveillance to ensure no re-encroachment takes place. NEMA will regularly undertake monitoring and inspection to provide technical backstopping to the district monitoring team.

The community approach to protection and restoration of Lake Kakyera and its catchment was well received and appreciated by the degraders. If this trend is upheld, there will be minimal or no forceful compliance enforcement. This will create ownership and sustain the interventions.



Community members/degraders participate in measuring off the 100 metres protection zone



Communities receive and arrange tree seedlings for planting

In conclusion, the community approach to protection and restoration of Lake Kakyera and its catchment was well received and appreciated by the degraders. If this trend is upheld, there will be minimal or no forceful compliance enforcement.

This will create ownership and sustain the interventions. Continuous engagement with the degraders and local leadership is necessary to sustain the interventions.

The Writer is a Senior District Support Officer at NEMA

Aflatoxins the Silent and Unknown Killer Diseases

From page 13

Gender analyses take a close look at women's relationships with men and how these relations define women's roles, rights (access to and control of resources; other productive resources like land and family property), and division of labour, interests and needs. This distinction in roles and responsibilities may give rise to gender inequalities that systematically favour men over women (Bravo-Baumann 2000), gender-related concepts and definitions. Participation of men and women in agricultural research and development leads to better decision outcomes, performance, creativity and innovation.

Aflatoxins also impact international trade. Globally, about US\$1.2 billion in commerce is lost annually due to Aflatoxin contamination, with African economies losing US\$450 million each year due to lost trade. Aflatoxins are also non-tariff barriers to international trade since agricultural products that have more than the permissible levels of contamination (four parts per billion in the EU) are banned. Exported goods have to comply with the food safety and quality requirements of importing countries, and quality plays an important role in increasing trade volumes and assuring the competitiveness of African food products. With agricultural development a global priority, local procurement and robust market access efforts are being scaled up in Sub-Saharan Africa, though little is known on Uganda and its food standards and

permissible levels. However, food quality and safety issues resulting from Aflatoxin contamination have presented a significant obstacle to programmes designed to improve nutrition and agricultural production while linking small farmers to markets.

Most farmers in Uganda do not test their soils and products against Aflatoxins and mostly the food and feed produced locally wanting levels of Aflatoxins for tested. Agronomists have urged that contaminated soils with mycotoxins produce contaminated crops, being contaminated with mycotoxins.

The Ministry of Trade in Uganda indicates that the country loss of US. Dollars 37.56 million and makes our agriculture products less competitive on the market. Aflatoxins contaminate almost a quarter of global food and feeds for animal and poultry. Dry weather affects near crop maturity because of high moisture during harvest, poor drying and storage of crops.

Our geographical position is in the tropics, climate and weather present very conducive conditions for Aflatoxins to thrive and infest susceptible food crops. Unfortunately, the affected crops are some of the upcoming commercially traded commodities upon which the population could use to improve their lives in real monetary terms.....

Infection by Aflatoxin-producing fungi can occur at any stage, from pre-harvest to storage and detection methods commonly used in developed countries are too expensive, complex and time-consuming for most African farmers to implement. The use of Aflatoxin-tolerant cultivars, management of insect pests and use of moisture- and insect-proof storage can help to control Aflatoxins, but biocontrol can be practical and effective

method of reducing Aflatoxin in the field.

Mycotoxins are produced by moulds that are ubiquitous in nature. They contaminate as much as one quarter of the world's harvests. More than 400 mycotoxins have been identified and they have a range of adverse effects on human and animal health. Aflatoxins are one of the better-studied mycotoxins. Ingestion

The Ministry of Trade in Uganda indicate that the country loss of US. Dollars 37.56 million and makes our agriculture products less competitive on the market. Aflatoxins contaminate almost a quarter of global food and feeds for animal and poultry. Dry weather affects near crop maturity because of high moisture during harvest, poor drying and storage of crops.

of large amounts of Aflatoxin can cause death. There is also a causal association between chronic ingestion of Aflatoxins and liver cancer. There are further associations between Aflatoxin ingestion and stunting and immunosuppression in children. Aflatoxins are common in maize, groundnuts and sorghum. If poultry and livestock cows eat Aflatoxin-contaminated feed, around 3–7 per cent of Aflatoxins are passed into the milk. Pigs and poultry are especially vulnerable to Aflatoxins and consumption of Aflatoxin-contaminated feed is associated with lower productivity in livestock.

.....to be continued in the next issue

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Aflatoxins also impact international trade. Globally, about US\$1.2 billion in commerce is lost annually due to Aflatoxin contamination, with African economies losing US\$450 million each year due to lost trade.

Supermarkets Recognized for Compliance to Kaveera Ban

By Bob Nuwagira

As the battle to eradicate the importation, manufacture, use and sale of plastic carrier bags (locally known as *kaveera*) continues, The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has recognized retail shopping stores and other supermarkets for their compliance to the ban.

The awards which were given out during World Environment Day celebrations in Ibanda, saw Quality Supermarket and Capital Shoppers in Kampala among the first to receive the first ever recognition for their compliance in offering shoppers alternatives instead of the banned *kaveera*. Others include Shoes Retail Store, Bata Shop in Masaka, Jakana Foods Kawempe, Nakumatt Supermarket in Mbarara, Titis Supermarket in Kasese, and Golf Course Supermarket in Mbarara, among others. Mr. Byaruhanga Isaac from Fort Portal was the only individual to be recognized for making alternative carrier bags which are biodegradable.

Fred Onyai, the Internal Monitoring & Evaluation Manager, NEMA, said the awards were to recognize

and decorate institutions that had cultivated a culture of self-compliance and corporate responsibility to the lives of the citizens and the wider environmental needs.

The ban which came after the enactment of The Finance Act, 2009 and The Finance (Permitted Plastic Bags and other Plastics for Exceptional Use) Regulations, 2010, had been effective following massive public education programs by NEMA and other stakeholders and had led to a 70% compliance recorded in major supermarkets and retail stores country wide. The enforcement exercise was halted by the Prime Minister after protests by several polythene bag manufacturers and the Uganda Manufacturers Association.

In April 2015, Uchumi Supermarket was the first retail store to voluntarily surrender about one ton of plastic carrier bags to NEMA.

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