



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

SPEECH OF THE CHIEF GUEST

AT THE

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATIONS
IN LUWERO DISTRICT**

ON JUNE 5, 2022

Theme: "Our Earth, Conserve for Life"



Hon. Hon Members of Parliament
District Leaders RDC, LCV, CAO and all leaders
Members of the Diplomatic Corp
All Development Partners
The Chairman and members of the NEMA Board,
The Executive Director and Staff of NEMA,
Religious Leaders, Civil Society and Private sector
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at the World Environment Day Celebrations today the 5th of June, 2022. I equally join the hosts and organizers to welcome you all to Luwero District and particularly to this venue, to host the 2022 World Environment Day (WED) celebrations.

This year's national theme for the World Environment Day Celebrations is: **'Our Earth, Conserve for Life'**. This has been derived from the global theme: **"Only One Earth"**

Last year we celebrated WED 'scientifically' under very tight conditions brought about by the Covid-19 lockdown. Today,

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we have moved a step forward and we are celebrating WED 2022 in Luwero District in a semi-scientific way. This does not mean that Covid-19 is no more – the situation still demands us to continue observing the SOPs.

Recently we celebrated the International Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2022 with the theme: “**Building a shared future for all life**”. Biodiversity, as most you are aware, provides ecosystem services that sustains all life on earth including human life.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Uganda’s human population is rapidly increasingly putting great pressure on the already fragile ecosystems with insatiable demands adversely impacting water bodies, wetlands, forests, rangelands, hilly and mountainous areas, destructive use of species especially trees in the landscape among other things.

unstainable human activities are degrading the earth, putting our lives and national development programmes at



risk including being vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. We need to protect and conserve the earth.

I therefore cannot agree more with our theme, today: **Our Earth, Conserve for Life**. It is in line with the shared responsibility and I encourage us to take it up and act accordingly. What is critical to note is that protecting, caring and conserving the environment is a duty of all Ugandans.

Government has put in place measures to enable all citizens to actively participate in caring and conserving the environment. These includes an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework; and the development of the Ten Year Action Plan for Restoration of Environment and Natural Resources 2021-2031.

My Ministry together with NEMA, NFA, UNMA and NWSC has embarked on restoring degraded ecosystems and protecting fragile ecosystems like forests, wetlands, rangelands, hilly and mountainous as well as protection of endangered species outside protected areas.



Restoration of degraded ecosystems is not only for purposes of enhancing functionality of these ecosystems, but is also a strong pre-requisite for Uganda's sustainable growth and development, creation of green jobs and livelihood improvement.

There is need integrate conservation in the farming systems including soil and water conservation practices; sustainable land management, use of appropriate technology and infrastructure to cope with emerging catastrophes like the recent floods and landslides in Kasese and in Bududa districts.

The NRM Government is committed to protecting the environment, and with the full support and engagement by citizens in their different communities, all challenges shall be overcome. Success in this endeavour is not a one sector, one institution affair. All of us have to work together.

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Ladies and Gentlemen, the environment must be protected and sustainably used for it to continue meeting our needs and delivering services to all humanity.

We, therefore, call on all Ugandans to become environmentally literate stewards and always duty-bound to sustainably use the environment and the biological resources therein; and building a shared future for all life.

For a better and sustainable life, let us conserve, conserve, and keep conserving our earth. Our Earth is worth conserving.

The global community, under the able leadership of Uganda and Canada, is developing a post 2020 global biodiversity framework that will provide a basis for increasing investment in biodiversity conservation; and to galvanize global action to reduce biodiversity loss.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to end by thanking the Luwero District Local Government, and particularly the

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urban authorities, the WED Organising Committee, NEMA for the overall coordination for the preparations of this successful occasion, and thank all of you for coming to participate in this year's WED celebrations

Let us join hands and take action for a better earth as per today's theme: **'Our Earth, Conserve for Life'**.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

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