



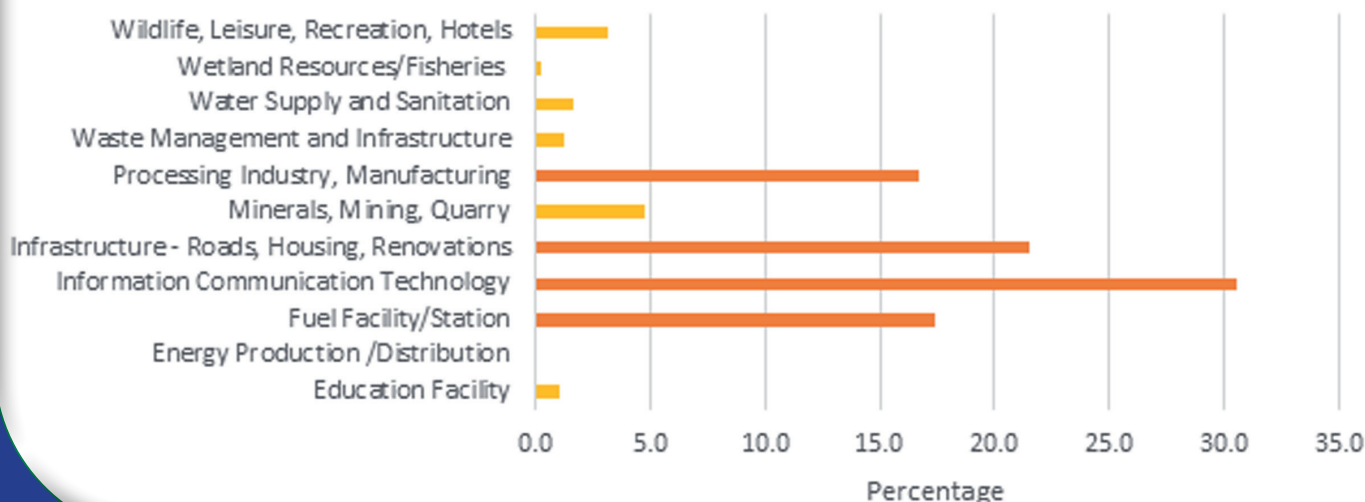
# NEMA NEWSLETTER

National Environment Management Authority



## Half Year performance highlights put NEMA on promising track

Sector projects approved between July and December 2021 by NEMA in FY 2021/22



The figure above shows the sector projects approved between July and December 2021 by NEMA in FY 2021/22. (NEMA data)

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By Monitoring and Evaluation Office

The performance highlight of National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) show physical short term outputs, and outcomes from implementation of the programme on Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management between July 2021 and December 2021.

NEMA's mandate is guided by the FY2020/21 - FY2024/25 Strategic Plan which is aligned to National Development Plan (NDPIII) and the Sustainable Development Goal. Six key result areas focus on enhancing environment regulations, laws and standards, governance, partnership and coordination, augment environmental literacy and corporate images; and improve planning, research, innovation and development through strengthening its institutional systems and capacity by 2025.

### Budget matters

NEMA had received UGX7.640 billion which accounted for 43% of the approved Annual Budget of UGX17.88 billion and spent UGX6.261 billion

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## Editorial



**William Lubuulwa**  
Senior Information, Education  
and Communications Officer

### NEMA makes giant steps to better Uganda's environment

The last time we met in this newsletter, Covid-19 was raging on and had put all developed and developing countries on their knees. Although the challenge is still with us today, it seems to have started to bow to the innovative wrath of the world's great scientists

In that edition we reported that National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) had received a new executive director (ED) in the name of Dr. Barirega Akankwasah.

As you read this, Dr. Akankwasah's journey as NEMA's ED is on course and a lot has already been achieved under his guidance; and by the next edition, he will have accomplished much more.

In this magazine we share the Half Year performance highlights that put NEMA on promising track. We hope that Dr. Akankwasah's tangible scores in the early days of his stewardship continue to come through despite the budgetary challenges.

The leadership is already strengthening the environmental justice systems, improving efficiency of the Authority and improving service delivery through restructuring and enhancing citizen participation.

We also cover the efforts of an indigenous organization, Bukomansimbi-based Kyempapu which is committed to community development, environmental management, and poverty alleviation in Greater Masaka. This time, they have skilled women, teachers and small scale farmers in

Bukomansimbi, Masaka, Lwengo and Iganga districts in establishing and sustainably managing banana plantations, making manure and proper nutrition and hygiene, among others, with a goal of sustainable environment management.

The newsletter also captures the Kitagwenda experience which teaches us that a multi-stakeholder approach works in the fight against the degradation of the environment. In Kitagwenda they have brought on board and worked closely with many non-governmental organizations and promoters of establishments to conserve critical ecosystems in the district and are now posting good results.

Fast forward. On June 5, this year the international community will celebrate the World Environment Day (WED) under the theme: Only One Earth, with the global event hosted by Sweden.

Unlike the last two WED celebrations in which, because of the Covid-19 restrictions, a few individuals took part; one at the NEMA offices, and the other in Masindi, this time we plan to hold it in Luwero District – bigger and, hopefully, better. The national theme will be: **Our Earth, Conserve to Live!**

In the newsletter, there is much more.

With every successive edition, we make great efforts in improving content, not only in quality, design and outlook but also in diversity. This edition is a refreshing read!

We continue to be grateful to all our partners and the various publics who always move along with us in whatever we do.

We hope that you continue to find this newsletter an informative source of news and facts about the sustainable use of our environment, even amidst many daily challenges.

Enjoy the pages.

Nice reading.

## NEMA, UNRA move to collaborate in sustainable service delivery



By Levi Tukundane

National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) have committed to jointly propel road construction in consideration of better service delivery and sustainable development.

In a virtual meeting conducted recently the two government entities aimed at enhancing their working relationship in a bid to serve Ugandans better.

NEMA has in the recent months been unhappy about unauthorized activities undertaken by UNRA in protected areas such as wetlands and forests.

### UNRA's voice

Speaking in the meeting, the executive director (ED) UNRA Ms. Allen Kagina confessed to the actions but stressed strongly that this situation comes about because they sometimes operate on tight schedules bringing about failure to coordinate well with NEMA.

Ms. Kagina applauded NEMA for the work well done in environmental protection. She highlighted the existence of a cordial relationship with NEMA which is facilitated by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two parties in as far as enhancing sustainable development is concerned.

"There has always been regular communication between us and NEMA. We have been invoking NEMA for guidance in our work for smooth running of the business," she said.

She further pledged compliance by

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# Countdown to WED 2022 begins

By William Lubuulwa



Uganda will on June 5, 2022 join the rest of the world to commemorate the World Environment Day (WED) 2022 under the theme 'Only One Earth'. The national celebration will be held under the theme: **"Our Earth, Conserve for life"**. Luwero District is expected to host the event.

WED was declared 50 years ago by the United Nations General Assembly during the Conference on Human Environment. On that day, each Member State is supposed to reflect on efforts put in place at national level with regard to protection of the environment. It is also a day for each Member State to reaffirm her commitment to sustainable environmental management.

## NEMA takes lead

WED is managed by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and, in Uganda, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on behalf of Government of Uganda, is mandated to commemorate this day.

WED is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years it has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach that is widely commemorated by stakeholders in about 150 countries. It also serves as the 'people's day' for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet.

The WED 2022 will be commemorated globally under the theme **'Only One Earth'**. The theme is a campaign that calls for transformative changes to individual country policies and

choices to enable cleaner, greener, and sustainable living in harmony with nature.

## Arrangements

Despite the relaxation, the commemoration of the day will take into account the Covid-19 global pandemic. As a result, activities will be safely held under the Ministry of Health guidelines. Today, a lot has already been done in preparation for this day. We hope, if God wills, we shall live to celebrate this day. H.E the President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni is expected to grace the occasion.

The Environment Week will be launched with a press briefing which will be held at NEMA headquarters on the 1st of June 2022. The Week, with a number of activities, aims at creating more awareness about WED. The Week will also provide an opportunity to further advance the message on achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals including climate action and life on land with this year's theme in mind.

Other activities will include an environment run/mini marathon, exhibitions, restoration of ecosystems, clean-up exercises, public dialogue and TV and radio talk shows. Organisers also intend to have newspaper supplements published on June 5, 2022.

Production of information, education and communication materials such as the newsletter, posters, factsheets, and banners, among others, is being worked on.

## Awards

NEMA, on behalf of government, also plans to recognize efforts of individual persons and institutions that have made great contributions in the conservation and management of Uganda's environment. A public call for nominations has been issued and nominees will be awarded on June 1, 2022.

*Mr. Lubuulwa is the Senior Information, Education and Communications Officer, NEMA.*

# NEMA successfully holds inception workshop for ABS project

By Tony Achidria



National Environment Management Authority recently held the inception workshop for the GoU/GEF/UNEP project on 'Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in Uganda'.

The ABS project, as it is abbreviated, was initiated with a goal to conserve Uganda's genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and access and share the benefits arising out of their utilization in an equitable and sustainable way.

In a speech read for him by the Authority's natural resources manager for biodiversity and rangelands Mr. Francis Ogwal, NEMA executive director Dr. Barirega Akankwasah said: "Uganda's rich biodiversity provides the country with the opportunity to harness these resources for human wellbeing including wealth creation, national development, achievement of sustainable development goals as well as livelihood improvement of indigenous peoples and local communities."

He added: "As you will learn from this inception workshop, the Nagoya Protocol on ABS provides legal certainty on how Parties to the CBD and Nagoya Protocol on ABS can benefit from the utilization of genetic resources that are within their jurisdiction. Without the necessary institutional capacity, Uganda may not fully benefit from access to, and utilization of its genetic resources as

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UNRA on conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) with guidance from NEMA.

On top of conducting credible ESIA's, the two parties are supposed to conduct joint quarterly monitoring operations as part of the terms of Memorandum of Understanding between the them.

In 2019, NEMA legal team championed the reversal of the law that was enabling UNRA environmental practitioners to possess a license to be able to conduct ESIA's upon certification by NEMA in their operations but as of present, the certificate must be issued by NEMA before any construction commences.

#### NEMA's take

NEMA ED Dr. Barirega Akankwasah underpinned the need to reverse this law and revealed that it was part of the issues the Authority was planning to review soon.

Dr. Akankwasah spoke about the need for continued collaboration with between the two agencies, especially in ensuring joint inspections for improved service delivery.

On sustainable development, Dr. Akankwasah hailed UNRA for the efforts being made to maintain conservation of the environment.

"It is a gesture of sustainable development at the Entebbe Express Highway. There is an uninterrupted wetland beneath the road," he said.

He, however, challenged UNRA to integrate more modern and innovative designs in the construction designs, giving an example of the inclusion of animal crossing bridges, in addition to zebra crossing signs and humps that are existent in developed economies such as Canada, USA and Europe.

He reiterated the unending efforts by NEMA to enhance collaboration with UNRA for further development of roads while conserving the environment sustainably.

#### UNRA pledge

UNRA pledged continued proper planning for material resources, tree planting along the roads in the coming years, getting certificates from NEMA before construction works, as well as streamlining restoration plans.

*Mr. Tukundane is an intern in the Communications office at NEMA.*

## Community, local leaders map and demarcate wetlands in Lira City

*By Leonard Otika*

Political leaders and the local community have finalized the mapping and demarcation of wetlands in Lira City.

The development was one of the achievements of the meeting held at the Lira City Hall recently. The meeting ruled that a compliance and vacation notice to the affected community be issued, with specific instructions for them to comply in one week's time.

Speaking at the meeting, the LCI, Town College Cell, Mr. Edga Basalirwa urged the community not to resist the development so as to promote unity, harmonious living and a good environment in the city. He asked the Environment office and other concerned stakeholders to allow the affected people time to find where to relocate to.

The city environment officer, Lira Mr. Leonard Otika said that the main task of the day was to identify the landlords and how many houses were

going to be affected. He added that thereafter houses would be marked and wetland boundaries would be demarcated.

In the exercise, Lira City emphasized a participatory approach by involving the community to be part of the solution.

Mr. Otika said the meeting and those that happened before were part of sensitization on laws, policies and regulations regarding wetlands protection and conservation.



*The environment officer, Mr. Leonard Otika (standing in a reflector jacket) addresses some of the community members that gathered at Te-kulu Town College Cell recently. (Courtesy Photo)*

#### NEMA voice

ASP Mubarak Musingo, the NEMA environment Police liaison officer was happy that people attended the community engagement meeting. He, however, said that wetland encroachment and destruction were rampant in the area and should be stopped as soon as possible.

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Some of the members during assessment on site in the wetland area before the meeting. (Courtesy Photo)

ASP Muyingo asked the affected community to start preparing to leave the wetland as they wait for the decision made by authorities. He said the good thing was that the community was not resisting any advice given as they acknowledged that they have been living in wetlands.



Engagement of community members during the marking and mapping exercise of the wetland area. (Courtesy Photo)

Mr. Otika is the City Environment Officer, Lira.



provided for by the Protocol on ABS. It is for this reason that government prioritized the project."

### Threats to resources

Uganda faces a wide range of issues that threaten its biological and genetic resources. These threats are fueled by population growth, competing land-use from urbanization and infrastructure development, localized overharvesting of timber, fuel wood and non-wood forest products, human-wildlife conflicts, and climate change.

The country currently does not have a fully functional regulatory and institutional framework for ABS that is adequately aligned to the Nagoya Protocol, and the institutional and personnel capacity to implement the Protocol is only basic and requires strengthening.

Moreover, there is very low awareness of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol, hampering access to the genetic resources through Prior Informed Consent and Mutually Agreed Terms; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of them.

### Aims of the project

Running for an initial period of four years, the ABS project is aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to conduct

an effective awareness campaign on ABS in Uganda. It will focus on four components: (a) Strengthened National Regulatory and Institutional Framework for ABS, (b) Capacity building for the implementation of the National ABS, (c) Strengthening ABS Management at the Local government and Community Level, and (d) Information, Education and Awareness on ABS.

This project is fully participatory and will constitute multi-sectoral workshops, consultations with government authorities and indigenous local communities.

Field project sites will be set up to enable capacity building and empowerment of local communities to implement the full extent of the Nagoya Protocol through Prior Informed Consent, Mutually Agreed Terms and Collaborative Forest Management.

The field project implementation sites will be among the Batwa of south-western Uganda and the Karamojong from the north eastern part of the country. Other field implementation sites will be located in the central forest reserves of Mt. Moroto, Mt. Napak, Semuliki, Echuya, and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Mr. Achidia is the Senior Public Relations Officer at NEMA.

# Dr. Barirega Akankwasah: Tangible scores in early days of his NEMA stewardship



By Tony Achidria

**W**hen Dr. Barirega Akankwasah was appointed the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Executive Director (ED), he, on September 1, 2021, started with the immediate task of reviving the environment sector through halting degradation of environment, strengthening of environmental justice systems (enforcement and prosecution), improving efficiency of the Authority and improving service delivery through restructuring and enhancing citizen participation.

In the first half year of the ED's tenure, a lot has been achieved notwithstanding the challenges facing the Authority. For instance, the restructuring process to improve efficiency at NEMA is going on smoothly under the guidance of the NEMA Board.

## Day 2 bombshell

On Day 2 of Dr. Akankwasah's reign, NEMA indefinitely suspended the receipt, processing and issuance of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) certificates and permits in

wetlands. The decision was undertaken to reduce pressure on the resource and to build institutional capacity to regulate developments in wetlands.

## New conditions for certificates

New conditions for all ESIA certificates have been introduced, a breach of which may cause certificate cancellation or legal action. These conditions include:

- ☐ All linear infrastructure in wildlife conservation areas must provide for animal crossing bridges
- ☐ All single use polythene bags (kaveera) are prohibited at all project sites
- ☐ The right to recall a certificate if there is a change in standards, government policy or prevailing conditions in the environment
- ☐ Need to display the NEMA certificate for all sites to enhance transparency

Additionally, the following have been introduced:

- ☐ Submissions pre-assessment verification before we issue reference numbers. This has reduced clogging of system and has improved efficiency.
- ☐ Reduced the number of days within which a reference number can be secured from more than seven (7) to a maximum of two (2)
- ☐ Status of submissions (ESIA, ToRs, PB, Audit ) can now be found on the NEMA website: [www.nema.go.ug](http://www.nema.go.ug)
- ☐ We have partnered with the Association of

Certified Environment Practitioners to clear backlog and facilitate green development, green jobs, tourism and so on

## EPF on course

Regarding enforcement, the process to operationalize the Environmental Protection Force (EPF) as stipulated in the National Environment Act has commenced. The Force will have operations, investigations and intelligence arm. Key enforcement activities that have happened in the last few months are:

- ☐ An Environment Restoration Order was issued to protect Kimbejja wetland
- ☐ NEMA stopped wetland degradation along Munyonyo Road including Kyetinda
- ☐ NEMA stopped the construction in a wetland around Bunamwaya. Encroachment of wetlands in this area has been one of the major drivers of flooding along Entebbe Road and the surrounding areas
- ☐ NEMA stopped illegal mining of Pozollana in Kabarole District
- ☐ In Quarter 1, five suspects were remanded as the prosecution process continued
- ☐ NEMA has stopped sand mining in Kalungu for all sites without ESIA
- ☐ NEMA has also engaged with Uganda National Bureau of Standards to enforce the ban on single use plastics (Kaveera) below 30 microns
- ☐ We have strengthening our partnership with Lead Agencies including National Physical Planning Board, UNBS, PAU, MLHUD, DWRM,

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## Persistent challenges

The biggest constraints at NEMA are related to gross understaffing and chronic underfunding made worse by the removal of the National Environment Fund. Equipment, too, is inadequate. The challenges have further been exacerbated by limited capacity of lead agencies to manage segments of environment under their jurisdictions.

## Innovations

As an immediate response to address some of the binding constraints and challenges the Authority is facing, the following have been planned as part of the strategy to turn around NEMA.

- ❑ Automation of systems especially ESIA and licensing systems
- ❑ Strengthening NEMA regional offices
- ❑ Evicting of encroachers and cancellation of titles in sensitive ecological systems
- ❑ Technology-based environment monitoring and knowledge management
- ❑ Enhanced stakeholder coordination (MDAs, urban authorities, LGs and MD)
- ❑ Lobbying for a dedicated environment division at the High Court
- ❑ Greening the parish development model- environment extension and area needs based nursery bed

Despite the challenges, NEMA continues to work within the available means to ensure that the environment and the country's natural resources are safeguarded.

*Mr. Achidria is the Senior Public Relations Officer at NEMA.*

## Environmental planning: Green strategy for sustaining Uganda's new cities



By Anita Ainomugisha

Uganda today is faced with several environmental challenges including climate change, improper physical planning, wetland degradation, poor waste management practices and land degradation, among others.

### Environmental planning explained

Environmental planning is the process of facilitating decision making to carry out land development with the consideration given to the natural environment, social, political, economic and governance factors, and provides a holistic framework to achieve sustainable outcomes. This calls for effective management of urban areas and improvement in planning that includes the parameters of the natural environment such as air quality, quality of drinking water, the presence or absence of green areas, noise to mention but a few.

In environmental planning, emphasis is put on environmental issues, environmental assessment, environmental policy and matters concerning land use, policy framework, and design. Environmental planning does not just give priority to the environment, but also deals with the associated issues/problems.

These are often because of interaction with the natural and built environment.

### Creation of new cities

Parliament of Uganda moved a motion to create 15 new cities in Uganda effective July 1, 2020. This would be effected in a period of four years. The cities include Jinja, Mbarara, Fort Portal, Masaka, Mbale, Arua, Gulu, Hoima, Lira, Soroti, Entebbe, Moroto, Nakasongola, Kabale and Wakiso.

Creating these cities is just the first step but making them environmentally sustainable requires the operationalization and implementation of the available environmental laws and regulations, forward planning and formulation of policies to ensure that their formation is able to meet the country's current environmental standards. A city in itself has a structured system of governance, delegated powers to oversee local legislation, management of resources, and also the green ecology. Earlier cities were not built with sustainability in mind, a gap that we now have to fill with the creation of the new ones.

### Examples elsewhere

Vienna, Austria is one of the world's greenest cities today because of its outstanding air quality, walkability, access to recycling and composting programmes. Among other top green cities in the world is Amsterdam, Netherlands where biking is popular and the government has issued a directive to ban all gas and diesel-powered cars by 2030.

### Need for sustainability

As the international community

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celebrates World Environment Day 2022, Uganda will join it with the national theme: **'Our Earth, Conserve to Live'**. The theme implores us to take good care of our environment, including sustaining our cities. How do we make our cities sustainable?

There is no single environmental solution that can be applied to all cities because their issues, needs and opportunities are unique. However, a key issue that needs to be tackled across the board is where cities obtain their energy, and how they use it. This, therefore, means that the main ways the new cities can be sustained is by:

- ❑ Obtaining energy from cleaner sources (reduction in use of fossil fuel)
- ❑ Reducing the amount of energy and resources used through improving the efficiency of systems, such as transport
- ❑ Changing people's mindset
- ❑ Effecting the use of the waste management hierarchy (prevent, reuse, recycle, recover and disposal)

Given the several challenges faced by cities; shortage of housing, traffic congestion, waste management, large proportion of slum population, among others, the focus on making these new cities more sustainable should be key.

### More options

Other things that can be done to make the new cities green include:

- ❑ Use of Strategic Environment Assessment, which evaluates the environmental implications of a proposed policy, plan or programme, and appropriately address them at the earliest stage of decision making alongside economic and social considerations;
- ❑ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) should be undertaken for all projects that are listed in the Fourth and Fifth Schedules on the National Environment Act No.5 of 2019 prior to their implementation;
- ❑ Projects for which ESIA has been undertaken and approved by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) should be monitored closely by city environment offices to carry out timely environmental audits so as to check their compliance with the conditions of approval;
- ❑ Routine monitoring by NEMA to emphasize

quality checks of complaint or noncompliant developments; and,

- ❑ Adequate funding of the environment and natural resources departments in the new cities to enable the officers do their work perform



*Recent pictures of Mbale and Fort Portal towns respectively. Such cities need proper environmental planning for sustainability. (NEMA photo)*

NEMA is committed to sustainable development, and requires decision makers at all levels to make sound economic, social and environmental decisions during environmental planning. Decision makers in the new cities should look at carbon emissions, forest cover and conservation, greenhouse gas emissions, ozone depletion, use of renewable energy as additional issues in environmental planning.

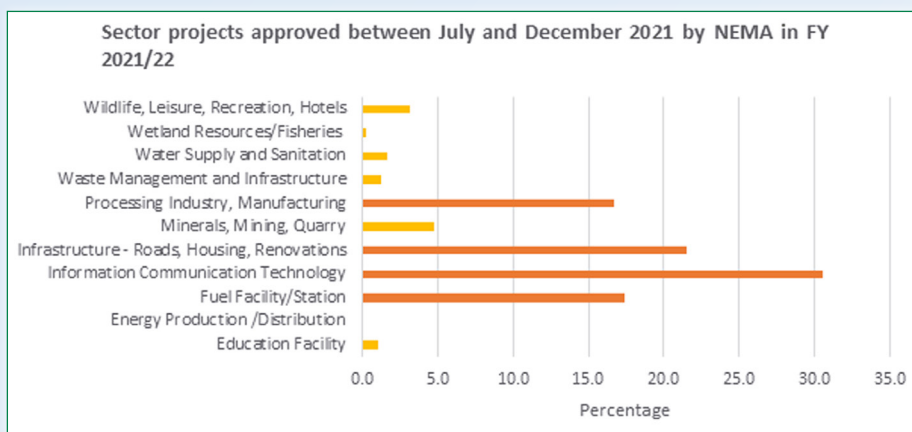
Ms. Anita Ainomugisha is the Environmental Audit and Assessment Officer at NEMA.



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by half year, constituting an absorption rate of 81.95% of the total releases received. It is worth noting that, non-wage budget for FY2021/22 was cut by 41.2% as a cabinet directive for re-allocation to other sectors to cater for the Covid-19 pandemic. The Non-Tax Revenue collections between July and December 2021 was UGX 2,372,496,499. These funds were collected through the Uganda Revenue Authority portal and remitted to the consolidated fund. A 16% fall in revenue could be attributable to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic that slowed down business operations in the country.

The Authority drafted environmental laws and guidelines such as; the National Regulations and Standards on Air Quality which are being reviewed for later approval and gazettment; Guidelines for Payment of Ecosystem Services; and completed the development of Biodiversity offsets. NEMA continued to support sector performance through reviewing the project briefs, environment impact studies and Environment Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and by December 2021, 315 certificates were approved. Approvals for leading sectors stood as follows: Information Communication Technology at 30.5 per cent, Infrastructure at 21.5 per cent, fuel stations at 17.4 per cent and processing at 16.7 per cent. These four sectors have been continuously leading in submissions and approved projects for over 80% ESIA certificates issued for the last five years. This indicates the support NEMA is providing towards the objectives and goals of the NDPIII and the Vision 2040.



The figure above shows the sector projects approved between July and December 2021 by NEMA in FY 2021/22. (NEMA data)

### Non-compliance exposed

Inspections undertaken exposed key areas of non-compliance particularly noted in the industry sector which include; failure to establish appropriate treatment infrastructure and hence low compliance with the standards for effluent discharges, inadequate or no provisions for proper solid waste management, emissions to air particularly from boilers, and handling of bagasse and boiler ash and noise generation beyond the set standards, particularly from machinery.

### Oil and Gas gains

Support to the oil and gas sector has led to publications and dissemination of the Albertine Graben Environmental Monitoring Plan (AGEMP, 2021) that can be found at <http://www.nema.go.ug>. Statistics on road kilometre distances for roads in the Albertine Graben were prepared and a road kill app was developed to collect data on the number of wild animals killed on roads in protected areas. This was one way of operationalizing the AGEMP to establish trends on wild animals killed on roads and to track the impacts of oil and gas activities on the environment.

### Restorations done

Approximately 100ha of degraded land was restored through community engagement of River Muzizi and Rwizi catchments for voluntary compliance, removal of illegal structures and demarcation of the buffer zones using live fence. While a total of three acres of land in River Rwizi buffer zone of 100 metres has been restored in partnership with Makerere University, Bishop Stuart University, Ankole Diocese and NEMA. This is to allow natural re-vegetation on the degraded riverbank.



### Work with local governments

The focus on integrating environmental sustainability in the policies, plans, programmes and budgets of Ministries, Agencies and Local Governments

# Waste management in urban centres of Uganda

By Judith Naluyima

Poor waste management is one of the biggest global environmental health challenges. Uganda alike is one of the countries with cities which are growing and struggling with the challenge of waste management. Many growing cities in Uganda and Kampala in particular spend the biggest portion of annual budgets on waste management.

The inhabitants in Kampala informal settlements and other growing cities in the different regions resort to open burning of accumulated waste, littering the streets, dumping of garbage in the wetlands, roadside and open places. The open and redundant places, unfinished buildings and dilapidated structures in informal settlements are places used for illegal dumping of waste. The practice of illegal dumping has led to clogging of storm water drains, and increased the breeding of disease vectors.

Uncontrolled illegal dumping has costed Uganda economy in terms of health care where the young and old people end up with sanitation-related illnesses due to poor hygiene conditions. Unprotected spring wells, lake and rivers alike have been polluted with waste. The National Water and Sewerage Cooperation –NWSC spends an average of 900 million shillings per month on chemicals to treat water making it approximately Shillings 10.8 billion annually expenses on water treatment chemicals. <https://ugandaradionetwork.net/story/high-costs-of-water-blamed-on-pollution>.

Treatment of water for domestic consumption has become costly due to pollution. The tourism sector has also been affected indirectly, because the litter and illegal dumps make the city and newly developed towns unsightly for the would be visitors. The legal structures, infrastructure and community engagements have been put in place to ensure proper waste collection, transportation and final disposal. However, the challenge is still grave, because payments for waste collection has been defied by the inhabitants who think that taxes should be used hence the persistent dump spots along the roadsides, bushes and swamps. The existing garbage skips placed in some areas are dilapidated causing odour to the nearby residents. Sorting of waste at source (Household level) still remains a nightmare, but some areas have waste pickers who only pick materials such as scrap, and used plastics for their own interests. The children are used as conduits of poor waste management, by allowing to throw garbage along the roadsides and outside overflowing garbage skips in some areas during the wee hours.

The resources available for waste collection are dwindling in Kampala and District Local Government, but the inhabitants in the different localities do not realize the need to change behaviours. In the major cities of Uganda, the district local governments have tried to enforce proper waste management through establishment of waste collection companies which are licensed by the National Environment Management Authority and certified by a specific District Local Governments.

On the contrary, the licensed companies have also failed to work up to the expectations due to unscheduled garbage collection services, non-uniform fees charges on waste collection services and inaccessible areas with narrow and rugged roads which make them hard to reach especially

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during the heavy down pours.

Overtime, environmental literacy programmes have been extended across different religious groups, education institutions, District local government, age groups, cultures, genders and regions to bring about behavioural changes among the citizenry, but many times the educated do not have the time to attend such public awareness engagements. Carrot and stick approach has been employed to enable behavior change and in case of non – compliance, but culprits have persistently failed to act responsibly punitive measures have been used. The Local Governments, Municipalities and Town councils are hereby urged to ‘think outside the box’ put in place diverse mechanisms and tap the population from various angles.

*Ms. Naluyima is the Senior Environment Education Officer at NEMA.*

## NEMA Mandate

*The National Environment Act, No.5 of 2019 stipulates that NEMA is the principal agency in Uganda responsible for the management of the environment by regulating, monitoring, supervising and coordinating all activities relating to the environment.*

## KYEMPAPU skills women, teachers in sustainable use of local resources



**By William Lubuulwa**

A local non-government organization, Kirinda Youth Environmental Protection and Poverty Alleviation Programme Uganda (KYEMPAPU), has skilled women, teachers and small scale farmers in Bukomansimbi District in establishing and sustainably managing banana plantations, making manure and proper nutrition and hygiene, among others, with a goal of sustainable environment management. Participants came from Bukomansimbi, Masaka, Lwengo and Iganga districts.

Established in 2010, Kyempapu is a grassroots non-profit organisation that is committed to community development, environmental management, and poverty alleviation in Kirinda, Kitanda sub-county in Bukomansimbi District and Greater Masaka.

The six-day residential training which took place at Kyempapu Community Centre in Bukomansimbi, ran on the theme: ‘**Let Food Be Your Medicine**’. Aligning the training on the proper use of the environment, the trainers handled various modules that included:

- ☐ Establishing and managing organic banana plantations
- ☐ Having an organic kitchen and home
- ☐ Making liquid manure for improved soil fertility, productivity and food security
- ☐ Preparation of natural medicines from garden grown or locally available medicinal plants, herbal teas, soaps, oils and ointments
- ☐ Use of natural medicines for treatment of a wide range of health problems such as malaria, diarrhea, wounds, skin problems and HIV/AIDS.
- ☐ Proper nutrition and hygiene for better environment conservation

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led to 25 local governments (LGs) and 39 Environment and Natural Resources Committees supervised, mentored and trained respectively on decentralized environment and natural resources management. Their responsibilities as local governments, which, among others, include mainstreaming and integration of environmental values and concerns in the local governments' development plans and budgets will promote ecological sustainability, and integration of environment and natural resources in local governments' development plans and budgets.

### Public dialogues

Public dialogues undertaken in Eastern and Western region on the integration of environment education into teaching and learning in schools as well as on the establishment of a network of Community Environment Education and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) champions; provided for opportunities to embed the sustainability of the greening initiatives. This will support the identification of champions to implement the ESD activities among the communities in the sub regions for example Kabale University has been implementing ESD strategy that embeds environment management practices into their academic and non-academic programs.

### NSOER on course

In addition to harnessing environment towards sustainable management of cities to ensure communities are resilient, the

Authority is preparing the 14th National State of the Environment Report (NSOER) 2020. Field reconnaissance in the new cities, stakeholder consultations, aimed at identifying environmental hot and "hope" spots for spatial data collection and mapping to provide primary data for the NSOER have been undertaken.

### Media engaged

Media field trips for awareness raising on environment management where undertaken while ongoing accountability to the public through routine publicizing of activities by disseminating of weekly press statements was accomplished for activities/events such as: September Air Quality Report, operation against illegal sand mining in Lwera Lake Victoria Basin, arrests and prosecution of wetland encroachers in Munyonyo, Kyanja, Naalya, ESIA trends over the last 10 years and Climate Change Week, among others. In addition, continued support, partnerships and promoting of brand identity and corporate image like coordinated implementation of Taasa Obutonde Media campaign in partnership with Next Media, Uganda Breweries, Vivo Energy and Stanbic Bank; raised awareness about activities of the institution and promotion of good reputation with regard to smooth transition and good practices that align with good governance are currently ongoing. Media advocacy continued to be applied during Independence Day and end of year 2021, where key messages on environment management and sustainable development

were broadcasted. The joint press conference in collaboration with Uganda National Bureau of Statistics provided the status of enforcement on the ban of plastic bags below 30 microns, which targeted individual behavioural change to promote behaviour that will lead to improved individual and social well-being and support the total ban of use of plastics in Uganda.

The effect of increased media coverage and better media approach as a result of media advocacy, a press conference on the occasion of the first 100 days of the new Executive Director was conducted to showcase the new-fangled strategic direction that NEMA has taken in service delivery, highlighting challenges, and future plans for the institution. Finally, the symposium with members of Parliament was undertaken to increase awareness about status, policies and challenges in environment and orient them on aspects of the Environment and Natural Resources sub sector. This policy change approach was to set the agenda for policy support with an ultimate outcome of mobilising public and decision maker support for emerging policy changes in biodiversity conservation and management, climate change and land degradation.

*Article written by Monitoring and Evaluation staff from the office of the Executive Director, NEMA.*



The training, facilitated by Ms. Sandra Steiner, was funded by Wissen Statt Waffen and Kreigskinder Drifting Germany. Other trainers included Ms. Rehema Namyalo and Ms. Evelyn Nakamatte both from Vumbula Masaka National Training Team.

Ms. Steiner encouraged the participants to return home and put into practice what they have learnt.



*Ms. Sandra Steiner (facing camera) with some of the participants prepare materials for organic manure at Kyempapapu Community Centre – Bukomansimbi during the training in February 2022. (Courtesy Photo)*

Speaking at the closure of the training, Ms. Sylvia Namukasa, the founder and executive director (ED), Kyempapapu asked the participants to walk the talk and be the change they want to be. She said: “A health mind lives in a health body so you should always mind about proper nutrition through natural foods.”



*Some of the participants pose for a photo on one of the days of the training. The ED Kyempapapu, Ms. Sylvia Namukasa (standing second from left) is holding Artemisia a cure for malaria. (Courtesy Photo)*

Ms. Namukasa further underscored the importance of the participants practicing what they learn in these type of trainings. “We cannot achieve SDG 13 which is about climate action if we do not practice what we preach. Our wish is that local communities, including schools, realise their potential in using local resources sustainably so that they achieve better health and social economic wellbeing. Our environment, if handled well, is the best food and medicine we can ever have,” she emphasised.

*Mr. Lubulwa is the Senior Information, Education and Communications Officer, NEMA.*



# Carrot or Stick? Which way to protect Uganda's fragile ecosystems? Lessons from Kitagwenda

By Anthony Kalyegira

Prior to the 19th century most Europeans and Americans viewed nature solely as a resource for food, clothing and shelter. Earlier attempts at nature preservation centred upon the efforts of wealthy landowners who conserved trees for timber and wildlife for game hunting.

Whoever conceived the idea of gazettement parks in the 19th century must have been perceived as 'insane' then. One would have asked himself or herself why it was important at the time, when populations were still low, resources were in abundance and I believe there was no numerous research studies about the importance of wildlife and the need to gazette places as wildlife conservation/protection areas. After a century the value of gazettement and jealously protecting these wildlife resources has become a fashion that is glorified by many including politicians, tourism promoters and conservation enthusiasts alike.



*Members of Mpanga Conservation Committee during their surveillance and enforcement around the lower stream of River Mpanga and its gorge in Kitagwenda District in November 2021. (Photos by Anthony Kalyegira)*

Uganda is host to 53.9% about 400 individuals of the world's remaining population of mountain gorillas, 11% the words recorded species of birds, about 50% of fracas bird species richness, 7.8% (345 species) of the global mammal diversity, 19% (86 species) of African amphibian species richness and 14% (142) of Africa's reptile species richness - natural wealth worth protecting jealously.

## Continued loss despite laws

Although Uganda has been developing very elaborate legal and policy framework to guide and promote wise use and management of its natural resources, we continue losing these natural endowments at an alarming rate to deforestation, encroachment for agriculture due to ignorance and citizen apathy, weak laws and inadequate enforcement capacity, cognizant of role played natural ecosystems in the lives of many citizens of the country and the general economy of Uganda,

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## Fewer developers seek NEMA approval in October-December quarter



By William Lubuulwa

The total number of Environment Impact Assessment-related documents submitted to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) for approval in the October - December, 2021 Quarter has dropped compared to the previous quarters.

According to the October-December, 2021 provisional Progress Report released recently by the NEMA Environment Assessment Manager, Ms. Margaret Aanyu, the number of Project Briefs (PBs)/Environment Impact Statements (EISs) submitted by prospective developers during the Quarter 2, FY 2021/22 stood at 180 compared to 355 submitted during the July-September, 2021 Quarter.

## Drop explained

"This significant drop in number of submissions of EIA reports (PBs+EISs) is partly attributed, among other factors, to suspension of submission of EIA reports for proposed fuel handling facilities," Ms. Aanyu said.

This provisional report focuses on only documents submitted to this Authority for consideration and the total number of Certificates of Approval issued to developers. It, however, excludes information on baseline verifications and post-EIA inspections undertaken, and projects rejected during the Quarter.

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Document	Total Number	Total PBs and EISs Submissions
Scoping Reports/TOR	213	-
Project Briefs	61	180
Environmental Impact Statements	119	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>-</b>

Total Number of Scoping Reports/TOR, PBs and EISs submitted to NEMA during October–December, 2021 Quarter.

Overall, there has been a significant reduction in the number of EIA-related documents submitted to NEMA in the affected Quarter compared to the previous quarters.

### Projects approved

In the October–December, 2021 Quarter NEMA approved a far less number of projects compared to what it approved in the previous quarter. During October–December, 2021 Quarter, a total of 170 certificates of approval were issued, compared to 383 certificates that were issued to developers during the July–September, 2021 Quarter.

The break-down of total number of certificates issued per month is as: October 63; November 51; and December 56.

### Categories approved, no oil/gas

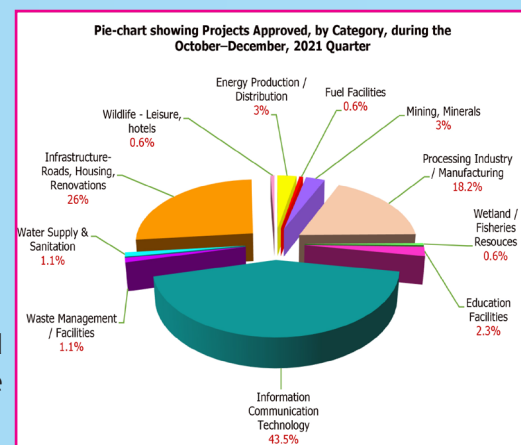
In this Quarter of October–December, 2021, the three leading categories of projects approved, accounting for 87.7% of the total projects approved are:

- Information Communication Technology totaling 74 (43.5%), compared to 72 ICT related projects approved in the previous Quarter;
- Infrastructure totalling 26 (26%), compared to 59 infrastructural projects approved during the previous Quarter; and,
- Processing Industry/Manufacturing totaling 31 (18.2%), compared to 49 industries approved during the previous Quarter.

For the first time ever, only one of approval was issued for fuel filling stations. Previous years have witnessed fuel facilities among the first four highest ranking projects approved each quarter. For instance, fuel filling stations ranked highest in the July–September, 2021 approvals, accounting for 83.8% of projects approved in the afore-mentioned quarter, and followed by ICT (72%), Infrastructure (59%), and Industries (49%).

During this period, there were no approvals of categories of projects under oil/gas, pest control, and land-use change (farming, etc).

ICT facilities continue to contribute to improved electronic/internet connectivity, communication, e-commerce/business transactions, among other benefits. Although the other three categories of projects will contribute considerably to expansion of the country's tax base, they are potential sources and may contribute greatly to pollution of the environment through emission of noxious gases, discharge of effluent/waste-water into the environment, among others.



### Host districts

The 170 projects approved in the Quarter will be located in 79 (seventy-nine) out of the 135 districts across the country. One likely contributing factor to a reduction in coverage of districts is the suspension of reviews and approval in past months, of fuel-related facilities.

The largest proportion of the projects totalling 42 are going to be located in Kampala City with the largest number of projects under the infrastructure category (mostly apartments, commercial buildings, offices, warehouses), followed by Wakiso District (20 projects) with a large number being ICT (Telecom Base Stations) totalling nine, and Mukono District (13 projects) with highest number of projects as industries totalling six. Overall, Mukono District has continued to host more industries than any other district in the country.

*Mr. Lubulwa is the Senior Information, Education and Communications Officer at NEMA.*

conservation of fragile ecosystems has become a matter of life and death. Government should take this more seriously.

As an environmental practitioner I have witnessed many educated, rich and powerful individuals encroach and destroy fragile ecosystems with impunity in the pretext of 'not knowing the functioning and laws governing the utilization of such ecosystems'.

### Positive interventions

In Kitagwenda District, we have used a collaborative multi-stakeholder approach to combat the rampant levels of encroachment and destruction. Several awareness creation interventions have been done through holding community meetings and radio programmes.



Ms. Catherine Karungi (left) an environment officer and Mr. Gaston Rukiramahe, the wildlife officer during an environment awareness talk show at Rukundu Radio in Kitagwenda on October 7th 2021. (Courtesy Photo)

We have also involved the police in compliance and enforcement for ecosystems where there has been continuous destruction despite the warnings issued through Environment Improvement Notices.



The District Police Commander Kitagwenda, ASP Ronald Nsabamukiza inspects a degraded wetland below the district headquarters in October last year. (Photo by Anthony Kalyegira).

We have brought on board and worked closely many non-governmental organizations which include Joint Effort to Save the Environment and Join for Water. The new owners of the Mpanga Hydropower dam have also joined efforts to conserve critical ecosystems in the district and are investing huge sums of money.

### Multi-stakeholder approach works

As a strategy Kitagwenda District works through multi-stakeholder approach which incorporates all sub-county authorities for instance we came up with the Mpanga Conservation Committee which comprises of sub-county chiefs, Gombolola internal security officers (GISOs), farmer representatives and parish chiefs to take part in recovery and restoration of the River Mpanga and its gorge. So far results are very encouraging as the encroachers have reduced from 111 to 14 who have been forwarded for punitive action/prosecution in the courts of law.



Members of the Mpanga Conservation Committee during an impromptu visit to the Mpanga Gorge in October 2021. (Photo by Anthony Kalyegira)

The district has also worked closely with the Ministry of Water and Environment and the National Environment Management Authority to conduct recovery and restoration of degraded areas such as wetlands.





Mr. Jackson Mukiibi, an environment officer from the Ministry of Water and Environment during the restoration of Kikoyo Wetland in September last year. (Photo by Anthony Kalyegira)

### Lessons learnt

Through the interventions in the district the following lessons have been learnt:

- ❑ The current population explosion that is increasingly becoming poor is a threat to conservation efforts
- ❑ A multi-stakeholder collaborative approach makes conservation efforts more efficient and effective
- ❑ Most communities adjacent to ecosystems want tangible benefits from natural resources and hardly embrace their extrinsic values
- ❑ Most communities only wait for compliance enforcement and rarely adhere to environmental laws no matter how many times they are emphasized

### The fear

If the current trend of destruction continues unabated Uganda is headed for disaster and our great grandchildren shall never forgive us. They will think we never tried to conserve these fragile and very important ecosystems. There is need to gazette and protect wetland and forest ecosystems the same way national parks are being protected, otherwise history will judge us harshly.

Mr. Kalyegira is the Senior Environment Officer, Kitagwenda District.

## Only One Earth



Let us give our coming generations a healthier and happier environment to have a beautiful life... Best wishes on World Environment Day.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Keep your world clean and green.  
Save trees, Save the environment!!  
Clean city, Green city!! Happy world environment day!

2022



# “Let’s nurture the nature so that we can have a better future.”

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