



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Press Statement:

RE: Uganda celebrates World Environment Day under theme Restoring Nature for Sustainable development

June 5, 2021, Today Uganda joins the rest of the world to celebrate World Environment Day (WED). WED is the United Nations principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment. This year, international celebrations are being held in Pakistan under the theme, Ecosystem Restoration. Uganda's theme, however, is **Restoring Nature for Sustainable Development**. Uganda's National celebrations shall be in Masindi at Nyabyeya Forestry College.

The national theme Restoring Nature for Sustainable Development implores all citizens to be mindful of our natural resources and take deliberate steps towards restoration of degraded ecosystems. It seeks to raise awareness about the value of natural ecosystems through emphasising that these systems are the backbone of our economy, they sustain us socially and also constitute the life supports system for human life and biodiversity. Indeed, in Uganda and beyond, human beings cannot be separated from nature.

This year's national theme builds from last year's *Nature is Speaking Listen*; that called upon everyone to take action for the environment. This year NEMA wishes to specifically highlight the benefits of healthy ecosystems alongside sustainable development. We also wish to raise concern about threats of deteriorating biodiversity and biodiversity habitats. This is an opportunity not only to highlight local and global environmental concerns that threaten our existence but an occasion to demonstrate local and global strategies designed to mitigate current and impending environmental threats.

The year 2021 is also unique because the United Nations General Assembly declared 2021–2030 the **"UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration"** with an appeal to recognize the need to advocate for global restoration of degraded ecosystems to combat Climate Change, enhance food security and protect biodiversity on the planet.

This year a number of activities have been organised to commemorate WED including several tree planting exercises in and around Masindi District, Clean-up of Kabango Town Council and surrounding areas and visits to Key restoration projects being undertaken together with partners. There are talkshows on selected radio and TV stations and a number Information Education and Communications materials have been produced and made available for download on the NEMA website as well.

NEMA therefore invites the general public to be a part of the biggest celebration for the cause of environment and natural resources, by sharing these messages in order to keep the conversation on environment alive.

For more information, please contact:

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