



**National Stakeholder
Consultations on Water:
Supporting the Post-2015
Development Agenda**

Uganda

22 March 2013



**Global Water
Partnership**
Eastern Africa

 **The Post 2015 Water Thematic Consultation**

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON WATER IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Kampala

Introduction

The Uganda National Consultation on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place on the 22nd March 2013, in Kampala, Uganda. The meeting organized by the Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment and facilitated by GWP Eastern Africa, brought together representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academic institutions, to discuss Uganda's priorities on water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The consultations aimed at bringing together a broad range of stakeholders to review progress on the MDGs and discuss options for a new sustainable development framework.

The day began with high-level opening remarks by Honorable Betty Bigombe, Minister of State for Water (Photo below) who thanked the Global Water Partnership for joining efforts with the Ministry of Water and Environment to organize this workshop. She informed the participants that Uganda faces a lot of challenges related to water resources and these have been a constraint to sustainable socio-economic development. She therefore requested participants to put their knowledge and experiences together to help contribute to the ongoing debates so that water issues and priorities for Uganda are given serious consideration in the post 2015 development agenda.



The afternoon session was also graced by Honorable Maria Mutagamba, Former Minister of Water and Environment, Member of UN Secretary General Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, and now Minister of Tourism and Wildlife (see photo below): She indicated to the participants and informed that the main challenge that needs to be addressed is sensitization of policy makers, local leaders , Community based Organizations (CBO's) and other key stakeholders about the role and importance of water in socio-economic development. She highlighted the strong need for the communities to take responsibility of managing the water they depend on for their daily lives. She stressed the need to harvest and store rain water so that it does not become a burden but a source of development.

After the opening remarks, the workshop continued with three presentations on the objectives of the national consultation as part of the global processes, Africa level review of MDGs, and overview of water resources challenges and priorities for Uganda. These presentations were followed by Three Working Group sessions based on agreed guiding question. The Three Thematic Working Groups were: Water supply, sanitation, and hygiene; Water resources management; and Wastewater and water quality management. The workshop also identified key monitoring and reporting issues and indicators for Uganda. The outcomes of the national consultation are summarized in the next sections.

1. Background information from the presentations:

Importance of water in national development, and challenges of managing water resources in Uganda

Water is essential in the development agenda of Uganda. Water is key element in sustainable socio-economic development such as in agriculture/food security, energy, health, education, environment and industry. Proper water resource management is the basis for water security and sustainable development. It also plays great role in enhancing climate resilience. However, Uganda has several challenges in sustainably managing its water resources summarized as follows:

- **Water availability:**-wide differences in natural water distribution within the country
- **Water for food:**-the majority of the population rely on agriculture for livelihood. Agriculture is generally rain-fed and the country continues to struggle with food insecurity. Population growth is also a challenge
- **WASH services :-** 36% of Ugandan's do not have access to safe drinking water. National sanitation coverage is 68%, and more than 80% of diseases are water related or water borne (eg. malaria, cholera).These diseases are mainly responsible for the number of deaths for children under the age of five.
- **Water and Energy:-** Uganda has developed only a small percentage of hydro-power capacity. There is a growing gap for electrification.
- **Trans boundary cooperation:-** 98% of Uganda's water resources are trans boundary
- **Water for environmental services:-** maintaining the integrity of natural ecosystems and maintaining quality of water. Also addressing issues of land degradation.
- **Climate change and water:-** managing and securing water in a changing climate, and managing extreme events such as floods and droughts.

Based on the presentation the emerging water issues in Uganda were identified as:

- Scarcity amidst apparently abundant rainfall
- Deteriorating water quality
- Increasing pressure on land – the imperative to increase agricultural production to support high population growth. Export oriented growth-developing commercial agriculture
- Low access to electricity (12%) and hence dependence on fuel wood and charcoal
- Universal access to safe water
- Expanding industry, mines, oil and gas, and growing towns that will need reliable water supplies
- Increasing flood risks
- increased water resource access and use conflicts
- Slow growth in irrigated agriculture
- Inadequate integrated approaches for sustainable water resources management
- Inadequate stakeholder participation and ownership

In addressing the above challenges, Uganda adopted Integrated Water Resources Management as an appropriate approach for sustainable management of water resources since Rio 92, and is progressing with sound water resources management and development through undertaking water sector reforms.

However, implementation of IWRM has previously faced the following challenges:

- Inadequate IWRM& Planning framework due to:
 - inadequate coordination
 - sectoral planning approaches
 - limited participation of users and stakeholders
 - water resources management being a central government function without decentralization
 - inadequate mechanisms to resolve water conflicts
 - economic, social, and environmental values of water not yet determined thus affecting effective water allocation
 - failure to expand water and poverty focus beyond drinking water and sanitation
- Poor catchment management practices
- Inadequate funding for IWRM
- Limited awareness of importance of WRM, including low public awareness about the role of water resources in poverty reduction
- Inadequate enforcement of legislation
 - Despite the above challenges, significant progress has been made in creating an enabling institutional, policy and legal framework. Water policies and laws are undergoing review, new institutional structures at central and regional levels have been created, catchment based IWRM planning (strategic water resources planning) has been prioritized, and stakeholder participation is growing

2. Outcomes of the Uganda National Consultation

The meeting focused on identifying priorities that Uganda should focus on in the post 2015 development agenda. These priorities were identified under the categories of WASH, Water resources management, and Waste water and water quality management as follows.

2.1. Key water resources management priorities

Priorities identified for water resources management in a future sustainable growth and development agenda in Uganda include

- establishing good water governance framework that enhances planning, cooperation, participation and monitoring
- Employ holistic approach to implementation of IWRM following water catchments. This enables preparation of integrated catchment management plans, promotion of

stakeholder participation, equity and inclusion. This approach will enable equitable, sustainable and optimal utilisation of water resources and help to preserve water resources for future generations given the competing demands

- Promoting collection and storage of water through rainwater harvesting and construction of dams to mitigate impacts of climate change and promotion of agriculture
- Invest in hydropower generation
- Securing water for all sectors and uses and adapting to climate variability and change through integrated planning that ensure multi-stakeholder participation.
- Managing water related hazards such as floods and droughts
- Sensitizing and raising awareness of all stakeholders about the role and importance of water resources in socio-economic development. Also recognize roles of stakeholders such as government, development partners, communities, research and academic institutions, non-government organizations, media, women, youth groups, etc.
- Fostering trans boundary and regional cooperation

2.2 Key WASH priorities

The priorities identified in the WASH sub-sector include:

- *Refocus/revise* financing approach to water, sanitation and hygiene-move away from donor dependency eg. promote micro-credit
- promote appropriate technologies that are affordable and easy to operate and maintain, and use locally available materials and knowledge systems
- more investment on the software aspect of WASH services such as for promoting sanitation facilities, hygiene education, managing water schemes, including operation and maintenance
- equal emphasis on policy development and implementation
- improve research and documentation-improve data collection, analysis and dissemination
- Improve operation and maintenance, reduce non-functionality rate of schemes
- Change implementation strategy and approach through learning from best practices
- Establish proper linkage between WASH and water resources management to ensure their sustainability. Improve conservation techniques like rain water harvesting. Promote water demand management practices. Also promote cross sector linkages, including multiple water use investments
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder participation in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of WASH projects
- Encourage the private sector to play key role in providing sustainable services and solutions through providing conducive environment for private sector(good governance, capacity building and financing)

2.3. Key waste water and water quality management priorities.

The priorities for wastewater and water quality management include:

- raise the level of awareness and understanding of the scale and urgency of the problem of waste water and water quality management in light of demographic changes. Create creative forums to raise the level of understanding amongst key decision makers
- maintaining existing waste water treatment facilities, and increasing investments in new wastewater systems
- explore appropriate and cost effective technologies for treating waste water
- Need for a policy shift towards improved waste water management including providing incentives for people to connect to sewer systems
- Waiving of taxes on Waste Water Treatment facilities
- Link water resources development by various sectors to waste water management and water quality management
- Promote integrated and coordinate approach to drainage, solid waste management, storm water management and sanitation
- Promote reuse and recycling of wastewater to minimize the amount of effluent. Raise understanding that wastewater needs to be considered as a resource
- Encourage non-state actors to contribute to better wastewater management and water quality through promoting public-private sector partnership

3. Suggested areas for future sustainable development targets for water

Uganda's future sustainable development targets should include the following:

- **Water Resources Management**
 - Water security for domestic use, livelihood maintenance and preservation of ecosystems by 2030.
 - Increase, by 2030, water storage capacity by x%.
 - Increase overall per capita water availability and use efficiency by x% by 2030,
 - Enhance, by 2030, water related disaster risk management capability
- **WASH**
 - Universal access for WASH services by 2030.
 - WASH Services are socially, financially and environmentally sustainable
- **Wastewater and Water quality management**
 - urban centers and industries have functioning wastewater treatment facilities by 2030.

- By 2030, water quality is assured and safeguarded for all use.
- Wastewaters are treated to a minimum standard quality before disposal to water courses and aquifers.
- Uganda adopts appropriate measures to collect and manage storm water

4. Water Resources Management monitoring and reporting issues

Key elements of water resources monitoring and reporting in Uganda revolves around answering the following questions:

1. Water availability or situation of scarcity?
2. How intense is our water use? Is it sustainable?
3. How effective is our water use?
 - Social performance: Are we reaching the MDG target?;
 - Economic performance: are we producing enough value per m³ distributed, used or stored?;
 - Environmental performance: How environmentally sustainable are our uses?
4. Do we have adequate systems for monitoring and reporting? Do we have monitoring stations? Who should do the monitoring and reporting (including local people)

Proposed Indicators:

1. Water resources management

- Total actual renewable water resources (TARWR) per person
- Use by abstraction from TARWR by main sector
- Change in water productivity in main sectors (agriculture, hydropower, industry)
- Storage capacity per person
- Number of water partnerships and agreements established
- Number of multiple water use projects implemented

2. WASH

- Percentage of population using improved drinking water sources
- Percentage of population using improved sanitation facilities
- Change in the non-functionality rate of WASH schemes
- Extent of private sector involvement in WASH services

3. Wastewater and Water quality management

- Waste water treatment connection rates
- Changes in water reuse and recycling by users

Annex List of participants and other basic information

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ABBREVIATIONS

1. MWE: Ministry of water and environment
2. ATC: Appropriate Technology Center
3. NWSC: National Water and Sewage Corporation
4. MEMD: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
5. MUK: Makelele University
6. UMA: Uganda Manufacturers Association
7. UNATCOM: Uganda National Commission for UNESCO
8. UWASNET: Uganda water and sanitation NGO Network