



## **WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR**

**THE 8<sup>th</sup> JOINT GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA – DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS SECTOR REVIEW 2016**

### **AGREED MINUTES**

**27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**  
**SPEKE RESORT MUNYONYO, KAMPALA**

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## 1 Introduction

The Joint Sector Review (JSR) is a forum for performance assessment, setting of priority actions/undertakings and provision of policy guidance to the water and environment sector. The review is guided by an annual Sector Performance Report, and a pre-determined theme originating from emerging sector policy and/or strategic issues. The review allows a broad spectrum of stakeholders to get an insight into, discuss, and influence sector developments. The JSR draws conclusions and makes recommendations on the overall key issues in the sector. Any binding decisions during the JSRs, such as key actions or undertakings for the forth-coming twelve months or beyond, are subject to formal endorsement by the Water & Environment Sector Working Group.

The JSR critically examines the achievement of annual targets for the key sector performance indicators, agreed actions and attainment of undertakings for the previous year(s), and also formulates new undertakings to be implemented during the following year(s).

The timing of the JSR is linked to the commencement of preparations for the next national budget cycle and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

## 2 Process of the review

The 8<sup>th</sup> JSR for the water and environment sector took place from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala. The theme for the review was ***“Ensuring Integrity in the Water and Environment Resources Driving Towards Sustainable Development Goals”***.

The 2016 JSR had the following specific objectives:

1. To assess progress and performance of the sector in relation to the agreed key sector performance indicators and the 2015 JSR undertakings.
2. To provide policy and strategic guidance to the Water and Environment Sector institutions and stakeholders.
3. To develop key actions and undertakings for the forth-coming twelve-month period or beyond.

The overall sector performance for 2015/16FY was presented in the Water and Environment Sector Performance Report, 2016 which was distributed to all participants in the review.

Participants in this year’s review included:

1. Staff of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) with its deconcentrated units including the Water Supply Development Facilities (WSDFs), Technical Support Units (TSUs) and Water Management Zones (WMZs), Umbrella Organisations (UO), sector semi-autonomous agencies, i.e. the National Water & Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) and National Forest Authority (NFA), the Appropriate Technology Centre (ATC Mukono) and Nyabyeya Forestry College (Masindi);
2. Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA), namely the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), the Ministry of Health (MoH), and Uganda Prisons Service (UPS);
3. Members of catchment management committees;
4. Nile Basin Initiative (NBI);
5. Officials from selected Local Governments (Arua, Buhweju, Busia, Gulu, Iganga, Jinja, Kabarole, Kamuli, Kasese, Kayunga, Kibaale, Maracha, Masaka, Mukono, Rakai, Sembabule and Wakiso Districts), represented by their elected and appointed officials, namely: District Chairpersons

(LC5), Vice Chairpersons, Chief Administrative Officers (CAO), District Health Officers (DHO), District Information Officers (DIO), District Intelligence Security Officers (DISO), District Water Officers (DWO), District Environment Officers (DEO), Senior Forest officers (SFO) and Town Engineers;

6. Bilateral Development Partners (Austrian Embassy (ADA), Danish Embassy (Danida), Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, French Embassy, French Development Agency (AFD), Germany (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and German Embassy), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID);
7. Multilateral Development Partners i.e. the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union (EU) Delegation, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF and the World Bank;
8. Civil Society Organisations including: Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society (ENR-CSO) Network and Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET), Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), Alliance of African Mayors' Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL), Central Archdiocesan Province Caritas Association (CAPCA), Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement (EMLI), Environmental Alert, Friends of Environment for Development (FED), Hoima Environmental Project (HEP), International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), International Lifeline Fund (ILF), IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, IsraAID, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), NETWAS Uganda, Protos, Volunteer Efforts for Development Concern (VEDCO), Water Aid, Water for People, and Youth Empower Action;
9. Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA);
10. The private sector, represented by individual contractors and consultants namely Century Bottling Company, DFCU Bank, chairman of a water board and individual consultants;
11. Academia (Makerere University); and
12. Radio, television and print media.

A total of **265** people participated in the 2016 Joint Sector Review.

The review commenced with an opening ceremony in plenary on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016, and thereafter summary presentations were made on the sector performance during 2015/16 financial year. On the second day, parallel break-out sessions were held in 7 Thematic Working Groups (i.e. Sector Capacity Development, Water Development, Environment & Natural Resources, Sector Governance, Integrated Water Resources Management, Sanitation, and Weather, Climate, & Climate Change). In the break-out sessions, short presentations were held to present and discuss the progress of implementation of the undertakings for the previous joint sector review, and also to trigger discussions on emerging key sector issues and potential undertakings to be implemented during the next 12 months. Participants then re-convened in a plenary session to present and discuss the outcome from the break-out sessions with recommendations of new Undertakings for the following year. On the third day, a number of presentations were made. These included results from field monitoring of sector activities by the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU) of the Ministry of Finance, and other on-going initiatives in the sector

Other activities on the programme included a formal launch by the Hon. Minister for Water & Environment of the Second Edition of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Handbook for Extension Workers (Volumes I and II), as well as of the Environment and Natural Resources Sub-Sector Gender

Mainstreaming Strategy (2016-2021). There was a cocktail for all participants in the evening of the second day (i.e. Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016).

### 3 Opening ceremony

The JSR 2016 formal opening ceremony was chaired by Mr David O. O. Obong, the Permanent Secretary of MWE who welcomed all participants to the review, specifically the new minister of water and environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, the new Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Dr, Kitutu Mary Goretti, and the Minister of State for Water, Hon. Ronald Kibuule.

The Permanent mentioned that this is the first review since adoption of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the re-election of the current National Resistance Movement (NRM) government in March 2016. He informed the participants that a number of strategic guidelines were issued by H.E. The President to all government ministries, departments and agencies to guide the national and sector planning/budgeting and development process during the period 2015-2020 to enable Uganda achieve a middle income status by the year 2020. In addition for the water and environment sector, we need to embrace **Green Growth**, which is economic growth that uses natural resources in a sustainable manner. Other notable developments since last year's JSR included a government (Cabinet level) annual performance review which was held in September 2016 in Kampala. On the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Sam Kutesa signed Uganda's instrument of ratification, of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. To combat the effects of climate change and variability, Uganda's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) provide priority areas to address, so that we deliver on the Paris Agreement with support from our DPs. He also warned the current rate of provision of new water supply infrastructure is not catching up with the rapid population growth and aging existing water infrastructure (which is approaching the end of its design life) which threatens achievement of the National Development Plan (NDP-II) target of 79% access to safe water by the year 2020.

He furthermore informed the audience that the construction of the ministry's new office block is 80% complete, was and also significant progress has been made in office construction works for the sector's deconcentrated structures in Wakiso, Mbarara, Lira and Mbale.

The World Bank representative, as the out-going chair of the Water and Sanitation Development Partners (DPs) Group made opening remarks on behalf of the Country Manager, Ms. Christina E. Malmberg Calvo, who was unable to attend the review due to other engagements. He mentioned that the recent Poverty Assessment Report for Uganda, which was launched last week, notes improvements in water and sanitation conditions in the country which have contributed to reduction in infant mortality rates, but also highlights the significant disparities across the country with North and East Uganda having less services than the rest of the country. It is therefore critical that the development agenda aims to **reduce such inequalities in service delivery**, consistent with the sustainable development goal No. 6 which calls for universal and equitable access. He also applauded the ministry for the advanced process of updating the Water Act, revision of the Water Policy and preparation of the draft **Bill for an autonomous regulator**. An autonomous regulator can improve the sector's performance in general as well as provide a better predictable environment to attract investments. All the above are fundamental and consistent with the theme for this year's Joint Sector Review.

In addition to the above, he also pointed out that one of the key findings of the recently completed study on the '**contribution of the water resources development and environmental management to the economy**' is that without proper investments in environmental and water management, the projected economic growth and development may not be realised. Effective productivity requires a

healthy population, and an increased effectiveness of education for children who are healthy, and the increased attendance at schools with good improved hygiene and sanitation facilities.

Opening remarks were then made by Mr. Pierre Andriamampianina, the Head of Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France, in Uganda, as outgoing Lead Development Partner Representative for the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) sub-sector. In his speech, he mentioned that the past year of leading the ENR Development Partners Group has been a great opportunity in terms of supporting the process leading to the Paris Agreement which is undoubtedly a turning point in the management of natural resources and environment. He proceeded to say during the week before the review, the objectives and challenges of the recently established Service Delivery Monitoring Unit under the Office of the Prime Minister were presented to the Development Partners. ENR - DPs would like to reiterate two Agreed Actions: (i) that “all Government Sectors should prioritize and focus on actions which will yield the largest impact with minimum resources”; and (ii) that **“all land titles that were issued in wetlands, forest reserves and other protected ecosystems should be cancelled”**. This is important against the backdrop of a continued serious degradation and encroachment on wetlands which has long-term negative implications for the ecosystems and for social and economic development.

This was followed by opening remarks from the Minister of State for Water, Mr. Ronald Kibuule, who spoke on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Water and Environment. He mentioned that the country’s challenge is that the water and environment sector is allocated only about 3% of the national budget, yet water and sanitation provision is a key requirement for Uganda’s transformation to a middle-income status. Other challenges are degradation of our environment, pollution of water resources, encroachment of wetlands, deforestation and the negative effects of climate change and variability. In the water sector, maintenance of water and sanitation facilities is important should therefore also be accorded due attention. He congratulated the National Water & Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) for having expanded the management of piped water services to now a total of 170 towns/areas. Capacity building plans for the sector are being developed, and these should also address the maintenance issues.

The Honourable Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, then made opening remarks, on behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda. First of all he stressed that Uganda’s current rapid population growth rate is a serious problem which is hampering national development, which we need to address. He reiterated that Uganda needs significant investments in water infrastructure, in environmental management and increased capacity in water and other natural resources management and development, as well as mitigation of the impacts of climate change. He stressed the need to encourage and promote private tree planting, as well as afforestation in the Central Forestry Reserves, and the conservation and protection of lake shores and river banks to avoid pollution.

He informed district and urban authorities that Uganda needs forests even more in towns than elsewhere, and pointed out that as of now, the urban forests have not been degazetted as yet. This matter is still before Government (Cabinet and Parliament) and therefore the status quo should remain.

He mentioned that a Cabinet Retreat was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016, during which H.E. the President issued the *“Hakuna Mchezo”* Strategic Guidelines, for the period 2016-2020, in order to propel Uganda to a middle income country by 2020. Part of these directives include increased coverage of water supply to rural and urban population as well as water for production. The Presidential Directive is that there should be a water source in every village. There should also be massive tree planting, and wetland restoration. Climate change activities should be mainstreamed in all sectors.

He thanked the Development Partners, Civil Society and Local Governments for their continued support, after which he declared the 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Sector Review of the Water and Environment officially opened.

## 4 Sector performance

### Introduction

Day one was composed of only plenary sessions, focusing on performance over the previous financial year (2015/16). Performance was presented for the various sub-sectors by the directors of the three directorates of the Ministry of Water and Environment (Directorates of Water Development, Environmental Affairs and Water Resources Management), by the executive or managing directors of the various sector agencies (NWSC, NEMA, NFA and UNMA) and the two umbrella organisations for NGOs operating in the water and sanitation sector (UWASNET), and environment and natural resources sub-sector (ENR-CSOs). Various moments during the day, feedback was requested from the participants, and discussions were held on pertinent issues.

A presentation was made on financial performance of the Sector with a focus on the financial results as presented in the Sector Performance Report 2016. In the FY2015/16, the total financing to the Sector was UGX bn 905.12, of which UGX bn 560.95 was on-budget (appropriated by Parliament), while UGX bn 344.17 was off-budget. The off-budget financing includes UGX bn 285.04 as internally generated revenue by National Water & Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) from water sales, and UGX bn 59.13 mobilised by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) both in the Water and Environment Sub-sectors.

In total, 62% of the total sector allocation was in the form of on-budget support, while 38% was off-budget support. In terms of releases of the allocated budget, the performance by GoU was 92%, while only 45% of the overall Development Partner (DP) budget was actually released. This was mainly due to delays in implementation of some key projects under the ministry and NWSC, and also due to suspension of releases by Germany/KFW and Austria/EU to the Water and Sanitation Development Facilities (WSDFs) South-West, North and East. The suspension of releases by the DPs was as a result of some fiduciary malpractices in the utilization of funds under the WSDF-East. Implementation of the agreed roadmap to improve financial management led to resumption of funding in July 2016. The new improved financial management internal controls introduced in WSDF-North and -East will be maintained and rolled out in all de-concentrated structures of the MWE to minimize fiduciary risks.

The technical performance was then described per sub-sector; all details can be found in the Sector Performance Report 2016.

### Piloting of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicators

The Commissioner for Water Resources Regulation, Dr. Callist Tindimugaya made a presentation on the current status of development of the SDG indicators, based on the universally adopted SDGs, including also the current monitoring efforts, like UN Water's GEMStat and UNICEF/WHO's Joint Monitoring programme. According to the SDGs, under Goal No. 6, the target is to have safe water for all in people's dwelling by 2030, whereas waste water goals seem less somewhat less ambitious. The principle of the SDGs is to leave no one behind, which means there is need for data disaggregation by income, gender, age, race, disability etc. While the SDGs' goals and targets were adopted by all the UN Member States, the intermediate/annual national targets needs to be defined by each country, "guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national

circumstances.” The Global monitoring indicators have been finalized and are to be complemented by regional and national indicators, which still need to be defined.

As part of the GEMI (Global Expanded water Monitoring Initiative) Process, a total of 6 countries were selected, including Senegal and Uganda in Africa. Piloting in Uganda started in June 2016 for SDG 6, targets 6.1 to 6.6. So far, the piloting team has agreed on the monitoring indicators we can get data for, the methodologies we can use in collecting data, the Task Teams’ members, and data sources with overall coordination by the MWE. Progress with data collection is going well, the Uganda SDG6 piloting report will be submitted to UN Water by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016. After that a process of implementing recommended actions arising out of the piloting, funds mobilisation and data collection will take place. Baseline data collection reporting on SDG6 is anticipated to start in 2018.

Other sectors need to be involved in order to achieve the targets forSDG6. Also we need to work very closely with Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in line with their capacity for provision of national statistics and data.

### **Water Resources Management**

The Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulation in the Ministry of Water and Environment Status, Mr. Callist Tindimugaya made a presentation on the status **Catchment-based Integrated Water Resources Management** (CbiIWRM) which is being implemented in Uganda. Catchment based IWRM is taking root but still needs support of various stakeholders.

Substantial amount of funding is needed to implement catchment based IWRM. Innovative funding sources, options and mechanisms are being explored. Priority is being given to implementation of already prepared Catchment Management Plans (CMPs), so as to protect water resources through catchment restoration for sustainable socio-economic development of Uganda.

To address current and emerging water resources related issues in the country, establishment of a **Water Resources Institute** for Uganda was one of the recommendations made in 2005 under the reform study. The purpose of the Water Resources Institute would ideally be a semi-autonomous Institute to offer integrated capacity building courses for the water sector staff in the country, and it would also conduct basic and applied research, implement outreach activities related to research and human resources development, and promote policy dialogue on water related issues. The Institute could collaborate with other Institutes in Uganda. Funding to the tune of US\$ 24 million for the first six years is needed; these funds could be secured through Government and through donations and grants. The Institute is also expected to generate from research, education, and outreach activities.

The Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has expressed willingness to provide seed funding to kick start the process of establishment of the water institute, for purchase of office and training facilities, start of policy dialogue, initiation of applied collaborative research, development of action plan and resource mobilization strategy. Under the Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (LVEMP-II), over 50 computers and online GIS facilities are being procured, while a Water Resources Modelling Unit is being set up with on-going capacity building under various initiatives.

Preparations for setting up the institution are expected to be completed by December 2016, and with the available resources in MWE/DWRM, the immediate focus will be on training of recently registered hydrogeologists and drilling contractors and stakeholders involved in catchment management planning and implementation and water source protection

The National LVEMP Secretariat Head, Mr. Sowed Sewagudde made a presentation on the on-going implementation of **Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP)** in the Leather Industries of Uganda (LIU) which is being supported under LVEMP- II. Before the intervention, the factory was non-compliant with the National Legal Framework for water and wastewater partially as a result of a non- complete treatment plant, and experienced several shutdowns by NEMA. A number of investments and activities were done to maintain the environmental values (fragile ecosystem), minimise waste, optimise use of water, energy, chemicals, labour force, and control of odour. The return on investment has now improved, resulting in a reduction in water consumption by 80%, a reduction in water consumption of over 600m<sup>3</sup> to 140 m<sup>3</sup> per day, and a reduction in wastewater generation by 80%. From the effluent, 20.4% is generated as chromium effluent and is carefully collected separately in a chrome recovery and recycling plant.

The audience learnt that the **East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE)** was launched at Makerere University, Kampala in June 2016. The centre is expected to act as a regional think-tank and focal point for sustainable energy activities and issues, as well as strengthen ongoing national activities on policy and capacity development, knowledge management and awareness raising, and investment and business promotion in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The LVEMP II has been supporting a number of schools within Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) by sensitising the school children to promote good practices in forestry, protection of the environment and in water resources management. School clubs have been formed together with support from KCCA and Makerere University. During the event, a group of school children made a performance on Lake Victoria as a source of life and livelihood, and the pollution threatening Lake Victoria's vital role for Uganda.

### **Water supply**

The audience learnt that major investments of **NWSC** and its development partners are currently in infrastructure development. Non-revenue water is the organisation's biggest challenge. Last year the NWSC focused on increasing connections more than on water mains extensions. The organisation is also working towards implementation of the rural water tariff of 50 UGX per 20 litres jerry can. The profit before depreciation has increased substantially over the last year as compared to the previous five years, which indicates that the accelerated take-over by NWSC of management of small towns' water supplies is not hampering its activities.

NWSC aligns its activities to government's strategic directives, which includes the provision of water and sanitation services for 22 industrial and business parks, and the presidential directive of targeting one water source per village in their Areas of operation. NWSC's **Village Model** was shared with the audience. This model targets 100% water service coverage for all the villages under the gazetted areas for NWSC. NWSC has requested government to provide an additional investment subsidy of UGX 30 billion per annum up to June 2020, and has pledged to contribute the other annual UGX 30 billion per annum to all the unserved villages in the areas to be provided by NWSC, either through piped water supply or motorised point water sources in a total of 10,000 villages by 2020; the total estimated cost is UGX 180 billion.

There are still 60 town boards that do not have a piped supply, and it was recommended to prioritise them during the budgeting process for FY 2017/18.

In a bid to increase coverage of safe water supplies, high-yielding boreholes are now being selected as source for **solar-powered piped water supplies in rural areas**. Construction activities for 35 mini-schemes are ongoing in 35 districts.

The **Utility Performance Monitoring Information System (UPMIS)**, which is presently in advanced stages of development, is an information system which aims at capturing performance data for all piped water supply systems in Uganda. The UPMIS is mainly for three purposes: (i) provide information for O&M support by Umbrella Organisations (ii) utility performance monitoring by MWE's Regulation Department, and (iii) annual sector performance monitoring & reporting. So far, the software development has been substantially completed, internal testing was done, existing monthly performance and water quality data were imported, baseline data collection is in an advanced stage with data entry ongoing, and the first user trainings completed. A live presentation of the web-based UPMIS was made during the review. During discussions, it was recommended that the water supply data for towns managed by NWSC should also be linked to the UPMIS. MWE resolved that a **key action** would be for NWSC to ensure that this is implemented during FY2016/17.

### Faecal sludge management

The audience learnt that major challenges of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) in Uganda's urban areas are that sanitation in urban areas is mostly on-site, while the faecal sludge service chain is not properly managed, in terms of inadequate disposal facilities, often located at long distances, few (5-10%) emptiable latrine facilities, high emptying charges and lack of information about existing emptying services. In addition, there are only about 90 cesspool emptying trucks in the country, of which 82% are based in Kampala. Finally, there is lack of coordination amongst the key stakeholders, and there is lack of regulation.

According to the Ministry of Education and Sport's policy, schools need to construct lined VIP toilets, which would form over 50% of current potential demand for FSM services. The main challenge of faecal sludge management in schools is that the schools do not budget for it, yet it is 1-2% of their budget. The emptying services could also in principle be provided by the Umbrella Organisations.

A faecal sludge clustering concept has been developed, whereby 50 potential clusters were identified. Of these clusters, 13 faecal sludge treatment facilities are in existence, 2 have been recently been completed and 4 are under construction. Various guiding documents have been developed, including: (i) Development of faecal sludge emptying system for lined pit latrines in schools /institutions, (ii) Operations manual for cesspool emptying service providers, (iii) Generic sanitation bye-laws for small towns, and (iv) Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for implementing the demand aggregation faecal sludge management (FSM) model in Uganda. So far, MoUs have been signed in two pilot clusters (Mbale and Iganga).

### Environment & Natural Resources

Over the last 25 years, **Uganda has lost 63% of its forest cover**. In addition, there are 300 land titles in Central Forest Reserves (illegally issued by Uganda Land Commission and District Land Boards), while only 10% of forest boundaries are demarcated. It was stressed that demarcation of the forests is the right way forward, whereas replanting may not be required as nature will restore its forests when they are not tampered with. In the district forest reserves, most deforestation is taking place as a result of understaffing of the district forestry services. Government was therefore urged to recruit more technical staff at district level. The sector is otherwise losing the battle, as **forest loss is 33 times higher than the level of reforestation, and wetland loss is 70 times higher than levels of restoration**.

The participants were informed that **charcoal can be produced more sustainably** by more efficient production through minimising the wastage of biomass. The Green Charcoal Project, implemented through the Ministry of Energy, is currently piloting such improved charcoal production from forest plantations. Charcoal production should be from private forest land and should be regulated

through licensing the charcoal producers. Another option is to put a surcharge on each sack of charcoal to invest in production and planting of tree seedlings, as practiced in Tanzania.

It was noted that the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is presently carrying out only 21% of required monitoring of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) mitigation measures, which is insufficient. It was suggested to de-concentrate or decentralise some key activities of NEMA so as to make them more effective. More strategic partnerships involving NEMA, which currently is under-staffed with only 65 employees, with other agencies would be an option.

The status of air quality in the country was also briefly discussed. A study in Kampala found that the mean particulate matter concentration is 5.3 times the World Health Organization (WHO) cut-off limits, while the nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone concentrations are below WHO cut-off limits. Draft air quality standards have been developed, and will come into play when the National Environment Bill is adopted.

### Weather, Climate and Climate Change

Presentations were held by the Commissioner of the Climate Change Department, Mr. Chebet Maikut on climate change activities in the country in the financial year under review, and by the Executive Director, Mr. Festus Luboyera of Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA). The audience learnt that the country needs to link weather and climate information to development to guide the country to middle income status.

The support that weather and climate information provides to achievement of middle-income status is not sufficiently recognised or delivered. **Key actions** that were agreed, are to fast-track the Climate Change Bill in order to domesticate the Paris Agreement, increase investment in tools and infrastructure for meteorology, and expand dissemination of weather and climate information to all stakeholders through different channels including CSO networks.

### Water & environment monitoring field findings for 2015/16 by BMAU/MFPED

Ms. Alice Ninsiima of the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit of the Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development presented the findings of the Unit's field monitoring of sector activities for FY2015/16.

The overall performance of monitored projects was fair. Physical progress of Water Supply Development Facilities in the North, East and South West was poor; this was due to suspension of release of donor funds to the WSDFs as mentioned earlier. Approximately 16% of the district local governments did not do water quality testing, and water tested was of low quality in places, especially with regard to E coli.

The key sector issues, as identified by the Unit, are not new, but reoccurring. First of all, there is a budget release shortfall affecting implementation of planned outputs. Secondly, poor planning and reporting was noticed: some project plans were too ambitious.

Land acquisition remains a challenge, including also late approvals of the Land Valuer. Land should be secured first through signing MoUs with land owners or purchasing land before commissioning projects. Staffing levels are overall too low, while the staffing structures were approved but resources not made available for salaries. As a **key action**, the ministry was advised to compile the present staffing gaps in the district Water Offices and make a case with the Ministry of Public Service and MoFPED to increase the wage allocation to the affected districts. Other challenges include low groundwater potential in certain areas hampering groundwater development, as well as poor quality pump and pipe materials on the local market. that the MWE is working on a strategy to ensure all

riser pipes in boreholes to become either made from plastic or stainless steel to mitigate corrosion in aggressive groundwater environments.

As a **key action**, the ministry was advised to carry out a study to determine the reasons for underperformance of specific local governments, so as to carry out targeted capacity building. The BMAU was also requested to monitor ENR projects, not only projects in the water sub-sector.

## 5 Response to Sector Performance

### Response by Water and Sanitation CSOs

Comments on the FY2015/16 sector performance were made by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), represented by the Uganda Water & Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET).

The Executive Director of UWASNET, Ms. Doreen Wandera suggested to halt the transfer of more towns to NWSC for now and instead concentrate on improving the functionality and extension of the existing water and sanitation infrastructure, and Non-Revenue Water challenges. She requested NWSC to consider a special tariff structure for public primary schools in urban areas as part of its pro-poor interventions. She recommended that reporting systems of **Umbrella Organizations** and the water utilities be harmonised for real time data collection, reliability and improved coordination.

She also advocated to institutionalise the **Follow-up Mandona approach** to accelerate Open Defecation Free (ODF) status after initial triggering with Community-Led Total Sanitation, which is an action-oriented approach involving a series of facilitated sessions with the entire community to reinforce behaviour change. She recommended the sector to partner with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Sports to strengthen monitoring of hygiene practices rather than just confirming the presence of hand-washing facilities.

CSOs furthermore advocated for the establishment of a **National Water Services Fund** by to finance the provision of water services for the least served.

### Response by Water & Sanitation Development Partners (WSS-DPs)

Mr. Sam Mutono (World Bank), on behalf of the Development Partners supporting the water and sanitation sub-sector, started by appreciating the work done in compilation of the Sector Performance Report 2016, the on-going Information & Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives in the sector (i.e. the water atlas update, Water Information System (WIS), Uganda Performance Monitoring & Information System (UPMIS)) and the efficiency in release and absorption of local government conditional grants during 2015/16FY, the improved water resources regulation and the good performance of NWSC based on the key indicators in its performance contract. However, with regard to NWSC's performance, he also suggested that a review of the performance targets to make them more ambitious is required, and also wondered why there are so few sewerage indicators in the performance contract.

He noted that for the second year in a row, the finalisation of the development of the national **irrigation policy** had failed as a result of poor cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the Ministry of Water & Environment (MWE), and suggested that the key personnel for this activity from both ministries could if possible be changed to move this process ahead..

He also advocated that the performance of the seven key subgroups of the Water and Environment Working Group be reflected in future sector performance reports, as well as the funding deficit to

achieve the NDP II targets. Also the **contribution by MAAIF** in terms actual utilization of water for irrigation and increase in crop yields would need to be in the sector performance report.

He applauded the 100% release of the water and sanitation grant to the local governments but reiterated that the total amount is too low and has stagnated at about UGX 65 billion over the previous 3 financial year period. Mr. Mutono also mentioned that the **performance of the Technical Support Units (TSUs)** needs to be evaluated and quantified. He stated that Development Partners welcomed the establishment of a web-based Utility Performance Monitoring & Information System for the piped urban water schemes, but stressed that it is also important to address why most towns and operators are presently not submitting reports, and that capacity building will be vital in view of the fact that the earlier introduced billing software faced implementation problems.

In terms of catchment management planning, the sector DPs wondered whether targets had been set for numbers of plans to be developed as well as monitoring the implementation of investments in the identified interventions. Relevant stakeholders should be engaged early in preparing for investments, e.g. MAAIF for irrigating projects. In that respect, Development Partners saw a need for the national task force on Catchment-based Integrated Water Resource Management to be more active and effective.

#### **Response by Environment and Natural Resources CSOs**

The CSO Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement (EMLI), on behalf the ENR-CSO Network, congratulated the ministry with securing Cabinet approval for the procedures for cancellation of land titles which were illegally issued in wetlands after 1995, signature & ratification the Paris Agreement on climate change, review of the National Environment Management Policy and the National Environment Act, production of the National Wetlands Atlas for Uganda, and implementation of the ban on plastic carrier bags (kaveera).

He noted however that forest cover loss stands at an alarming rate of 200,000 hectares per annum; while as country we have a marked loss of 30% of the wetland. On behalf of the ENR-CSOs, he pledged support towards implementation of the ENR undertakings through strengthening mobilization and advocacy, provide empirical evidence through research to support the case for ENR management, promotion of innovations for the wise use of the environment and natural resources, promotion of environmental platforms and debates on topical ENR and related development issues, and documentation and sharing of lessons learnt and best practices.

#### **Response by Environment & Natural Resources Development Partners (ENR – DPs)**

Mr. Pierre Andriamampianina, French Embassy, representing the Development Partner supporting the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) sub-sector, aired first of all the strong need to improve reliable data collection under the ENR sub-sector. He also pointed out that the rate of degradation of forests and wetlands in the country is worrying. Furthermore, the budget allocation to the ENR sub-sector does not match with the sector activities and targets; there is a therefore a strong need to increase resource allocation to the sub-sector given its importance to national development.

## **6 Status of Undertakings for FY 2015/16**

A total of 11 undertakings were adopted during last year's water and environment Joint Sector Review which was held in October 2015. Thematic groups and subgroups were formed to implement the undertakings; they prepared action plans with indicators/outputs to monitor progress of

implementation of each undertaking, which were subsequently approved by the Water and Environment Sector Working Group (WESWG). Progress made on implementation of the 11 undertakings shows that only three undertakings were achieved (i.e. No. 6, 7, and 9), one undertaking covering also FY2016/17 is on track (No.1), four undertakings were partially achieved (No. 2, 4, 5 and 11) mostly as a result of insufficient financial resources for their implementation, whereas three have largely not progressed at all (3, 8 and 10).

The progress of implementation for the undertakings is summarised below:-

**Undertaking 1 – Address the drivers of environmental degradation by mainstreaming ENR considerations across government sectors by focusing mainstreaming actions on the high profile/high impact sectors of agriculture, infrastructure, lands, energy and water in order to achieve reduced contributions to degradation by these sectors by the end of FY 2017/2018:** This undertaking, which spans a 3-year period (FY15/16-17/18), is on track. Challenges include limited information on environment mainstreaming to effectively track performance, the multi-sectoral nature of the undertaking, and the large number of stakeholders and institutions to be involved.

**Undertaking 2: Complete demarcation of 6 new wetlands and commence the opening up of boundaries of 3 local forest reserves/finalise and implement the management framework of these ecosystems by the end of FY 2015/16:** This undertaking, partially carried over from last financial year, was only partially achieved. All 6 wetland boundaries were demarcated with pillars, but there was no funding for boundary opening and preparation of the management plans for the three Local Forests. Remaining activities for this undertaking will be part of the ongoing activities of the ministry.

**Undertaking 3: Operationalize the Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the Albertine Rift Graben by the end of FY 2015/16:** This undertaking was not achieved. A draft plan is expected to be presented in November 2016.

**Undertaking 4: Coordination, implementation and funding mechanisms for catchment-based IWRM developed based on experiences from on-going work in the 4 WMZs by the end of FY15/16:** The undertaking was largely achieved. Remaining steps include production of a brochure and documentary and dissemination of the information widely to stakeholders, implementation of recommendations regarding coordination, d funding mechanisms, and development of a resource mobilization strategy.

**Undertaking 5: Develop a national drinking water quality framework taking into account the World Health Organization (WHO) drinking water guidelines, national water quality management strategy, and the Uganda Standard (2008) on drinking (potable) water.** The undertaking is at 30% achievement level, whereby the consultant to do the work was procured, and an inception meeting held.

**Undertaking 6: Develop a detailed action plan to improve the sustainability of small towns and rural piped water schemes, establish the baseline and start monitoring improvements by FY2015/16:** This undertaking was achieved. Piloting was done in two towns of an “*Improved Scheme Operator Model*” that is tailored for small schemes; the pilot is being rolled out to other regions. Promotion of local revenue generation and investment was done. Advisory audits as well as credit and saving schemes being offered by Umbrellas were promoted in the 6 Umbrella Organizations; water meters were distributed to promote commercialised operations. The concept for a “*Revolving Facility*” was developed to receive local savings and combine these with subsidies to finance investments in major repairs, renewal of system components, metering, scheme extensions and source protection measures; this is done in all the Umbrella Organizations. Clustering at district level

was developed and piloted in Karamoja; the experience was described and shared among all UOs. A draft “*Scheme Operators Handbook*” was developed and is available to define standard operating procedures and preventive maintenance duties for better sustainability. A web-based monitoring system (UPMIS) has been developed to keep track of the sustainability status (functionality, financial, managerial and asset status) for all piped water systems; baseline data collection done in 400 water supply schemes are to be accomplished by September 2016.

**Undertaking 7: Pursue dialogue with the Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development (MoFPED) on revision of conditional grants and their allocation formulas in order to seek that considerations behind the previously revised District Water and Sanitation Development Conditional Grant allocation formula are reflected:** This undertaking was achieved, with some MWE suggestions incorporated in the allocation formula that is being implemented in FY2016/17. A next step will be to review the allocation formula parameters based on the performance during 2016/17FY.

**Undertaking 8: Finalize the national irrigation policy to guide planning, implementation and monitoring of irrigation development and use in the country (by the end of FY2015/16):** This undertaking was not implemented. Following multiple requests, FAO is willing to assist on condition that one ministry is fully designated to coordinate other government agencies and stakeholders to finalize the policy.

**Undertaking 9: By the end of FY2015/16, design, document and disseminate a concept on development of well fields and multi village water supply systems to address the needs of water stressed areas in collaboration with sector players:** This undertaking was achieved. Identification and mapping of water stressed areas was completed. The identification/survey for large diameter wells was done, and the wells drilled in Bukanga County in Isingiro district. A total of 5 high yielding wells have been developed. Pilot areas for the design of the multi-village water supply systems were selected, and 70 borehole sites were selected for upgrading to solar powered mini-piped water schemes. A complete design of the multi-village water supply system was carried out for Nakaseke, Ntoroko, Kasese, and Bukedea. The design process for Lamwo and Kitgum is ongoing. Finally, 30 designs for solar powered mini-piped water schemes were completed.

**Undertaking 10: Review Sector Performance monitoring framework – to incorporate the water quality monitoring, good governance, human right to water, climate change, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the National Development Plan (NDP II):** This undertaking was not achieved. The consultant was contracted and submitted a first draft report by end September 2016.

**Undertaking 11: Develop, by the end of FY2015/16, a costed strategic plan for implementation of the Sector Capacity Development Strategy for the period 2013/14 – 2017/18 aimed at improvement of the capacity of all water and environment sector institutions starting with MWE, NWSC and UNMA by the end of FY 2015/16, and mobilize funds for similar activities for NEMA, NFA and including district local governments:** This undertaking was partially achieved. There is need to match donor financing for capacity development with Government of Uganda funding for long term sustainability. Next Steps are to develop capacity development Plans for the 3 departments under DWRM, and mobilisation of funds for NEMA, NFA and LGs.

## 7 Emerging Sector Issues

### Issues affecting the whole sector

For a number of years, the sector has been coping with an **insufficient budget** to achieve the national (NDP II) as well as international sector targets. To minimise the negative impact of insufficient funding, the sector is focusing on cost-efficiency and improvement of operation and maintenance of existing facilities. During 2015/16FY, a study was carried out to determine the contribution of water and environmental resources to Uganda's economy. A **key action** for the sector is now to use this report to dialogue with government and sector development partners' level to increase financing to the sector as one of the key areas to achieve middle income status. The sector was urged to disseminate this report to the media and Parliament and on the need for sustainable (green) growth.

Also, **integrated project planning and implementation** should involve other line ministries and stakeholders; examples of activities where joint planning and implementation would lead to increased cost-efficiency are water for production facilities implemented by both the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries, and mainstreaming of climate change and environment protection activities. In that regard, the sector was urged to integrate catchment management, wetland management and forest development plans where feasible. In areas where catchment management plans are in place, project planning should be based on the catchment management plan(s).

The review of the **sector performance monitoring framework** is ongoing. **Key actions** identified to further improve the outputs were (i) to build on the outputs of UN Water's SDG 6 pilot monitoring in Uganda, (ii) to enhance the indicators for water for production to monitor water use for irrigation and cattle rather than storage only, (iii) to measure the period water supplies are non-functional as a factor to determine access as advocated for in the sustainable development goals, (iv) to provide an indicator for progress with catchment management planning, and (v) to establish more realistic targets (for ENR) in line with the budget allocations.

Sector performance and regulation go hand in hand; in this regard, it was recommended to review the targets for the key performance indicators for NWSC to make them more ambitious, and to improve the monitoring of NWSC by expanding sanitation and sewerage indicators.

### Governance

The review recommended to pilot and finalise the governance indicators, i.e. prioritise them to a manageable number reflecting the key governance elements. In addition, the governance indicators should also cover the ENR sub-sector

### Water Development

Data in the Sector Performance Report 2016 indicated that the **drinking water quality at the household level** is low in terms of bacteriological water quality, and may actually be on the decline, although trend monitoring is not possible in view of the different sample populations and sample sizes over the last years. Community education and sensitization on sanitation and hygiene is required, knowing that safe water chain is a key factor to maintain safe water from the source up to storage and use at the household level. A **key action** identified is the strategy needed for community sensitization on sanitation and hygienic practices including hand washing, and source protection, as a means of protecting the water source from faecal pollution.

A discussion was held on the need for ensuring **return on investment in water for production facilities** rather than only focusing on an increase in storage capacity that may actually not be used. One way of measuring returns would be through measuring the increase in the area of land under irrigation and increase in crop yields, and also by establishing the current demand for storage in the country, and the proportion of the current investments to national demand/NDP II targets.

The Water for Production Department was also informed to consider groundwater as source of water for production purposes for small schemes in productive groundwater areas.

Another topic of discussion was the **presidential directive of water supply in every village**. Local governments need resources to implement this directive. This directive can only be effectively implemented if the unserved villages both in rural and urban areas are established, and a strategy is developed to reach those villages.

The umbrella organisations have an important role to play in terms of operation and maintenance of those schemes that are not managed by NWSC, yet their funding is insufficient and they also need strengthening in view of their potential future role of managing piped water schemes as regional utilities, and the fact that they may also have a role to play in rural water supply maintenance.

Finally, a **key action** remains on the agenda to find resources for funding the implementation of new water and sanitation schemes beyond FY2016/17, when current donor funding ends in 2018.

### **Sector Capacity Development**

Various emerging issues were discussed that have an impact on required capacity building. One of the challenges is that a big part of the senior staff in the ministry will be retiring in the next 5 years, resulting in a capacity gap which requires **succession planning and training** of a new generation. A second challenge forms the currently ongoing **reorganisation in the urban sub-sector** partially as a result of increased urbanisation, with the new Regulation Department, the regional regulation units, and ultimately the planned independent utility regulatory authority. The reorganisation also includes the changing role of the Umbrella Organisations, now taken up in the institutional structure of the sector, towards utility management, as well as the formation of catchment management committees. Finally, the accelerated implementation of catchment-based IWRM necessitates the training of the newly formed catchment management organisations. Capacity building is required for these and other emerging sector demands. All these require significant increase in funding for sector capacity development.

### **Environment and Natural Resources**

Continuing high levels of degradation of the environment and declining productivity of natural resources will constrain Uganda's ability to achieve middle-income status. It was therefore recommended to develop a concept for an integrated "Uganda Landscape-Level Ecosystem Resilience Programme" to be implemented across the ENR Sub-Sector for submission to the government and sector development partners for consideration for financing.

Budget allocations and human resources from both central and local government are insufficient for districts and sub-counties to execute ENR activities and programmes at the required level. **Key actions** will be to identify, develop and implement mechanisms to build the capacity of local government to design and undertake programmes supportive of ENR activities. The government will be lobbied to review current financing to District Governments to implement programmes supportive of ENR agendas

## Weather, Climate and Climate Change

UNMA needs to engage critical sectors such as agriculture, Water, Energy, Health, and Infrastructure when developing tailored weather information and sector specific advisories. Packaging and repackaging weather information is required to make communities understand better.

UNMA was also advised to expand information dissemination to other networks including the ENR CSO and UWASNET networks.

## Sanitation

Household sanitation coverage used to be much higher in the past as a result of the much smaller size of the population, which could be easily handled by the sufficient number of Health Inspectorate staff. In addition, the chiefs were effectively enforcing the digging of latrines. Political reforms led to replacement of Chiefs by LC1s (who are strong in political mobilisation but less in enforcement). It can be concluded that engaging local leaders to commit to improving sanitation including support to enforcement may be one way forward. A **key action** to that effect is to support local governments to get their ordinances approved (this is done by Ministry of Local Government forwarding them to the Ministry of Justice) to ensure a smooth process.

Other topics discussed include the need to develop national standards for sanitation (Including toilets in flood prone areas), the need for operation and maintenance of public toilets, to regulate sanitation, and to develop a road map for sanitation in institutions.

## 8 Undertakings for FY 2016/17

Undertaking 1 of the previous year was retained to be completed in FY2016/17. Previous year's Undertakings 2 on wetland and local forest reserve boundary demarcation reverts to the respective departments for ongoing action and is not taken forward as an undertaking into FY 2016/2017; the same applies to Undertaking 3 on oil spill contingency plan implementation.

Previous year's Undertakings 6, 7 and 9 were achieved, whereas Undertakings 4 (catchment-based IWRM) and 5 (drinking water quality framework) were partially achieved and were modified for FY2016/17 to be completed in the current year.

Undertaking 8 on finalising the irrigation policy was not achieved. It was decided to abandon this Undertaking after two failed attempts, with the hope that with external support and other negotiators the process will ultimately be successful.

Six completely new undertakings were identified, of which four will be addressed within the water development thematic working group, and two in the sanitation thematic working group. The following undertakings were thus adopted for the 2016 JSR:

### Environment and Natural Resources

**Undertaking 1:** Address the drivers of environmental degradation by mainstreaming ENR considerations across government sectors by focusing mainstreaming actions on the high profile/high impact sectors of agriculture, infrastructure, lands, energy and water in order to achieve reduced contributions to degradation by these sectors by the end of FY 2017/18.

### Water Resources Management

**Undertaking 2:** Operationalise the proposed coordination, implementation and funding mechanisms for catchment-based IWRM by the end of FY2016/17.

**Undertaking 3:** Finalise the National Framework for Drinking Water Quality Management and Regulation by the end of FY 2016/17.

### Water Supply and Sanitation

**Undertaking 4:** Develop a strategy for providing at least one safe water source per village in line with the Presidential Directive by the end of FY 2016/17.

**Undertaking 5:** Re-organise Umbrella Organisations focusing on financing mechanisms and management responsibilities for piped water systems by the end of FY 2016/17.

**Undertaking 6:** Strengthen utilisation of Water for Production storage by end of FY 2016/17.

**Undertaking 7:** Review the water tariff regime to strengthen pro-poor provisions with respect to public institutions, rural areas and water vending by the end of FY 2016/17.

**Undertaking 8:** Develop a strategy on Cholera elimination in the 16 cholera-prone districts by end of FY 2016/17.

**Undertaking 9:** Develop a strategy to scaling up Town Sanitation Planning (TSP) in a phased approach, harmonised with District Investment Plans, by the end of FY 2016/17.

### Policy and Institutional Issues

**Undertaking 10:** Review Sector Performance monitoring framework – to incorporate the water quality monitoring, good governance, human right to water, climate change, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the National Development Plan (NDP II).

**Undertaking 11:** Finalise the development of costed CD plans for the departments of the MWE + agencies and embark on implementation by the end of FY2016/17.

**Undertaking 12:** Develop a strategy to systematically build the capacity of middle and lower level sector personnel in leadership and managerial skills to address emerging sector demands by the end of FY2016/17.

## 9 Closing ceremony

The JSR 2016 closing ceremony was chaired by the Permanent Secretary, MWE. He informed the audience that NEMA and MWE's Climate Change Department team would today finalise the guidelines that all sectors will use for mainstreaming climate change in their budgeting for 2017/18.

The Lead Development Partner Representative for the water and sanitation sector, and co-chair of the Water and Environment Sector Working Group, was handed over to the German Embassy. Similarly, The Embassy of France handed over the Lead Donor position for the environment and natural resources, and co-chair of the Water and Environment Sector Working Group to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The outgoing chairs were thanked for their good work and commitment to the sector.

H.E. Dr. Peter Blomayer, The Ambassador of Germany, in his capacity of incoming Chair for the water and sanitation sub-sector, informed participants that Germany has supported the water sector in Uganda for about thirty years. He mentioned that he would like to see the law for an autonomous regulator established as soon as possible for more accurate data, pro-poor tariffs and more transparency. The NWSC has of now, performed excellently, but the process of transfer of more towns should be more transparent. Further urbanisation and population growth are key challenges which need to be addressed urgently. Uganda's economy has to cope with the negative impacts of

climate change. In that regard, he encourages the government to finalise the national irrigation policy, and whereas more storage capacity is needed, there also needs to be more collaboration amongst line ministries to ensure good use. Collaboration with the private sector, which uses the water source but may also be polluting it at the same time is of significant importance, something which is central in the German/GIZ supported Water Stewardship Programme.

He also mentioned the need for addressing the whole sanitation service chain from containment to final disposal or re-use, and addressing the challenges with WASH in hospitals and schools. He confirmed that good governance, which is embedded in the theme for this event, is crucial for attainment of the national goals as well as the SDGs. He finally mentioned that Uganda is appreciated for its approach and policies for reception of refugees in the country. However, its host communities are stretched to the limit in terms of pressure of incoming refugees, and collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister will be required to deal with the increasing challenges in the provision of water and sanitation services.

Thereafter, USAID in its capacity as the incoming chair for ENR, represented by Mr. Mark Meassick, USAID Mission Director, made some closing remarks. He formally congratulated the ministry on the successful implementation of the Joint Sector Review 2016, which is a model for all other sectors to replicate. He applauded the recent ratification by Uganda of the Paris Agreement on climate change and advised to aim for a sustainable low carbon future in Uganda.

Gender in climate change and ENR programme is important is important for gender mainstreaming, and the new gender strategy for the environment and natural resources sub-sector is therefore very welcome. One key concern is that Uganda's wetland conservation and increasing forest cover targets have not been achieved. Furthermore, the NDP-II targets will not be achieved with the current resource envelope, and increasing financing to the sector will therefore be crucial. Impacts of a rapidly growing population, illicit wildlife trade, limited institutional capacity and low governance in ENR have all contributed to the loss of forest cover. Environmental degradation and climate change vulnerability is the biggest threat for Uganda to reach Vision 2040. He stressed that USAID is committed to provide support to combat these through various types of partnerships with the government of Uganda.

The Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Dr. Kitutu Mary Goretti, then gave her closing speech, thereby marking the formal closure of the 2016 Joint Sector Review. She advised the sector to have tangible targets in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

She wondered why Uganda has more water sources than villages, but has not reached equal access; the sector needs to increase efforts to address water supply inequality.

In terms of the need for enforcing existing laws, she informed the audience that land titles in Goma Forest have been cancelled and NFA will take charge of that portion of degraded land, and will start a campaign of massive tree planting. She further expressed that the sector needs to involve communities in planning projects and move with them. She also mentioned the need to invest in research, and was happy with the plans for the new Water Institute. Finally, she thanked the outgoing co-chairs i.e. France and World Bank, and welcomed the incoming co-chairs USAID and Germany. With those few words, she declared the Joint Sector Review 2016 closed.

## 10 Conclusion

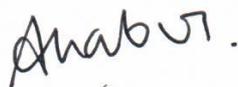
The Thematic Groups responsible for implementing the undertakings should provide detailed work plans before the next Water and Environment Sector Working Group meeting. Budgets should accompany the work plans if additional on-budget resources are needed to implement the activities of the work plans.

All parties agreed to implement the undertakings and key actions by coming up with Thematic Group members, lead institutions, milestones, actions with indicators and time frame for achievement of results.

Eng. Aaron Kabirizi  
For Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Water and  
Environment

On behalf of the **Government  
of Uganda**

Signed:



Kampala, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Ms. Shawna Hirsch  
Team Leader, Environment  
USAID Uganda

On behalf of the **Development  
Partners, Water and  
Sanitation**

Signed:



Kampala, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Ms. Caren Blume  
Deputy Head of Co-operation  
German Embassy

On behalf of the **Development  
Partners, Environment and  
Natural Resources**

Signed:



Kampala, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016