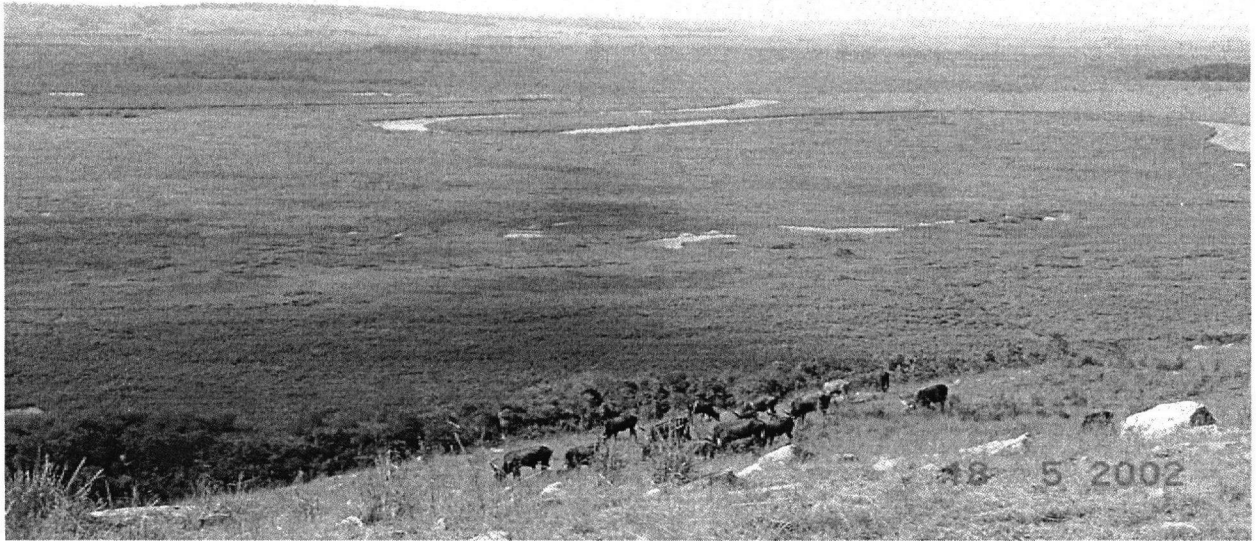




THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



**INFORMATION ON THE COMMEMORATION OF WORLD WETLAND DAY IN
BUSHENYI DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2020**

BY

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

BRIEF ON THE PREPARATIONS TO COMMEMORATE THE WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2020, AT BUMBAIRE SUBCOUNTY, BUSHENYI DISTRICT

1. Introduction

World Wetlands Day is commemorated on 2nd February, it marks the day of coming into force of the Convention on Wetlands. Uganda will commemorate the day on Friday, 07th February, 2020 at Bumbaire sub-county Headquarters, Bushenyi District Local Government. The venue was selected to draw the attention of the local people and general public on the increasing threats to the wetland biodiversity in the region due to ongoing degradation activities in the area.

2. Progress to date

2.1 Preparations

Preparations for the day is being collaboratively done by a National Organizing Committee (Central Government level) and a Local Organization (District Level). What follows is progress on key areas:

2.2 Venue

The venue has been secured and will accommodate about 2000 invited guests. The District Organizing Committee has confirmed that all matters to do with venue preparation for hosting the function have all been effectively addressed.

2.2. Guest of Honor

The Rt. Honorable Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda is expected to officiate over the function as Guest of Honor. The invitation was delivered and what is required now is follow up and confirmation.

2.3. Media Programs

Radio talk shows are scheduled on 04th and 06th on Bfm based in Bushenyi. The Minister's Statement was recorded on 29th Jan 2020 at Uganda Media Centre and will be aired on 06th February, 2020 on UBC TV. Newspaper supplements will also feature during the week. There will be live streaming of the event on social media and NBS TV.

2.4. Excursions

Two field sites have been identified; one will be at Nyaruzinga wetland, Nyakabirizi Division where the GCF project is setting up alternative livelihood to communities. A section of the degraded wetland will be planted with wetland vegetation. The second is at National Water and Sewerage intake point. All these sites demonstrate the theme and its relevance to Ugandans.

2.5. Youth Dialogue

Apart from the speeches from the invited guests, we have also organized a Youth Dialogue, where the youth will be able to discuss the theme of the day and then present a Declaration to the Guest of Honour.

2.6. Traditional songs, wetland song, wetland run, cycling, tag of war and painting competition

Participants will be entertained to this during the morning part of the celebrations.

2.7. Wetlands Day Public Talk

Working with Nature Uganda, there will be a Public Talk on Wetland Day on 06th February, 2020 at the Uganda Museum. It is expected to draw participants from different fields and scientific papers shall be presented.

3. Participation

We have invited about 2000 participants from Government agencies, Embassies, institutions, schools and civil society. The Regional de-concentrated structures of the Ministry of Water and Environment in South-Western Uganda based in Mbarara, Kabale and Fort Portal has been mobilized to effectively participate.

4. Other planned activities

In addition to the National Event, districts country-wide are encouraged to commemorate the WWD 2020 in their respective regions. They will be technically supported by the Regional Wetland Offices in the regions.

5. Pending tasks

- Follow-up with the Office of the Prime Minister to confirm his availability as the Guest of Honour. This is not yet confirmed.

- Hold last National Organizing Committee meeting on 5th February 2020
- Hold joint site meeting with Bushenyi District Local Government on Wednesday 5th February 2020.
- Finalise production of awareness materials
- Commemorate the day in Bushenyi.

The purpose of this information paper is to:

1. Update you on the status of preparations for World Wetlands Day 2020.
2. Request you to participate in your various DLGs to commemorate the day.



Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar
Minister of State Environment