



GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENT
AT THE LAUNCH OF
COMMEMORATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022**

National theme: 'Our Earth, Conserve for Life'.

Global Theme: 'Only One Earth'

Venue: Uganda Media Centre, Kampala

24TH MAY 2022

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATIONS, 5th JUNE 2022, LUWERO

Statement by Hon. Minister of Water and Environment at launch of commemoration of WED 2022



On Sunday the 5th of June 2022 Uganda will be joining the rest of the World to commemorate the **International World Environment Day 2022**. The United Nations General Assembly declared this day for the first time during the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and Development in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972 and has been held annually on 5th June since 1974.

This is the day when each Member State is supposed to reflect on efforts put in place at national level with regards to protection of the environment. It is also a day for each Member State to reaffirm her commitment to sustainable environmental management.

World Environment 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, promoting progress on the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. With the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the helm, over 150 countries participate each year.


WED 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 2022 global WED will be commemorated in Stockholm Sweden under the theme '**Only One Earth**'. The **theme** and **Sweden** as the global host, is a symbolic recap of the 1972 Stockholm Conference which led to the formation of UNEP and the declaration of the 5th of June as the International Day for reflecting on human interaction with the Environment and its effects.

"Only One Earth" was the slogan for the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972. This put sustainable development on the global agenda and led to the establishment of World Environment Day. Fifty years later, Sweden is hosting Stockholm+50 from 2nd to 3rd June, and World Environment Day on 5th June 2022.

Time to act for environment is fast running out, and nature is in emergency mode. To keep global warming below 1.5°C this century, the world must halve annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Without action, exposure to air pollution beyond safe guidelines will increase by 50 per cent within the decade and plastic waste flowing into aquatic ecosystems will nearly triple by 2040.

We need urgent action to address these pressing issues, making "Only One Earth" and its focus on living sustainably in harmony with nature, as pertinent as ever.



World Environment Day 2021 launched the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. Restoration can help to end poverty, combat climate change and prevent a mass extinction. It will only succeed if everyone plays a part.

In Uganda, we have developed a ten-year Environment Restoration Plan and declared the next ten years as a war decade for environment restoration. We are making every effort to reverse forest cover loss, wetland cover loss and biodiversity loss.

In Uganda, this year's World Environment Day celebrations will be held in Luwero on 5th June 2022 under the national theme: '**Our Earth, Conserve for Life**'.

As we commemorate World Environment Day on June 5th, 2022 let us remember that the Earth we have is our '**Only Home**' and our survival depends on the way we handle it.


Our Earth faces a triple planetary emergency:

- The climate is heating up too quickly for people and nature to adapt;
- Habitat loss and other pressures mean an estimated 1 million species are threatened with extinction;
- Pollution continues to poison our air, land and water.

The way out of this dilemma is to transform our economy and society to make them inclusive, fair and more connected with nature. We must shift from harming the planet to healing it.

The good news is the solutions and the technology exist and are increasingly affordable.

1. Stopping encroachment on fragile ecosystems including; wetlands, forests, lake shores and river banks
2. Restoring degraded areas to bring balance in ecosystem functions and services

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3. Planting trees
 4. Stop settling and cultivation on steep slopes
 5. Seek for guidance from respective authorities before implementing projects avoid encroaching/ destroying natural habitats for biodiversity.
 6. Avoid dumping waste in fragile ecosystems and littering
 7. Avoiding use of environmentally dangerous single use plastics

Only One Earth, lets conserve it to secure our lives.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY