



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA)

Connect to Nature with WED 2017

The biggest celebration of environment is here again. World Environment Day (WED) 2017, the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment will be celebrated Monday June 5th 2017.

First held in 1974, WED has been a global day to raise awareness on different thematic environmental issues. Uganda has been commemorating WED since 1989 under different advocacy themes from a call to saving fragile ecosystems to raising awareness on climate change.

WED 2017 Celebrations

Globally, WED 2017 will be celebrated under the theme "Connecting People to Nature." According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the theme implores us to think about how we are part of nature, appreciate its beauty and its importance, and to take forward the call to protect the Earth that we share.

In Uganda, WED will be celebrated together with the International Day of Biological Diversity (IDBD) which is commemorated on May 22nd every year and this year's theme focuses on Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism.

WED in Uganda will therefore be celebrated under the local theme "Connect to Nature, Appreciate Biodiversity." The theme establishes that if we venture out into nature, we will fully appreciate her beauty, and our vast dependence on a rich biodiversity's ecosystem services for our own livelihood, as for other vital drivers of economic development such as tourism and agriculture. This experience, accordingly, will fortify the political, behavioural and economic case for stronger actions on the protection of Mother Nature.

A Call to Action

Nature needs our attention. With 80% of Uganda's population living directly off the environment, any compromise to her quality will directly affect the dependants. The recent dry spell comes on the heels of recent rising encroachment rates on fragile ecosystems for instance on forests and wetlands. Since 40% of the rains we receive are influenced by the micro climatic conditions, protection of these fragile ecosystems is paramount to necessary weather conditions to sustain livelihoods. Nature is our lifeline. It's our support structure. We need to reconnect to appreciate ways in which natural systems support our own prosperity and well-being.

Every Action Counts.



NEMA Executive Director, Dr. Tom Okurut hands over tree seedlings to Hon. Jovlet Kalisa Ibanda Woman MP together with a team from Uganda's Little Hands Go Green at the beginning of the Environment Week in Kampala.

Contact us on: NEMA House Plot 17/19/21 Jinja Road P.O. Box 22255, Kampala, Uganda **Tel:** 0414 259735 (Hot Line) **Fax:** 0414 257521
E-mail: info@nemaug.org **Web:** www.nema.go.ug