



Status of Catchment based Water Resources Management in Uganda

Leo Mwebembezi

Principal Water Officer DWRM/MWE

Background to Uganda's water resources

- Uganda's surface area is **241,500** Km²
- 15% of Uganda is open water, 3% permanent wetlands & 9.4% seasonal wetlands
- Area of lakes shared between Uganda & neighbouring countries is **78, 596** Km²
- Area of lakes in Uganda is **34, 814** Km²
- Annual Rainfall in Uganda is (600 – 2500 mm)
- Groundwater – Fractured & non fractured aquifers

IWRM in Uganda

- Uganda adopted the principle of IWRM during preparation of Water Action Plan (WAP) in 1993-94
- WAP detailed activities associated with water resources development and management
- WAP defined problem of securing water of acceptable quality and quantity to sustain the health of the people of Uganda and for other economic activities
- Expresses the need for an institutional framework within which priorities can be determined and optimal uses planned.

WRM Reform Study

Uganda undertook a WRM reform study from 2003 to 2005 with the objective

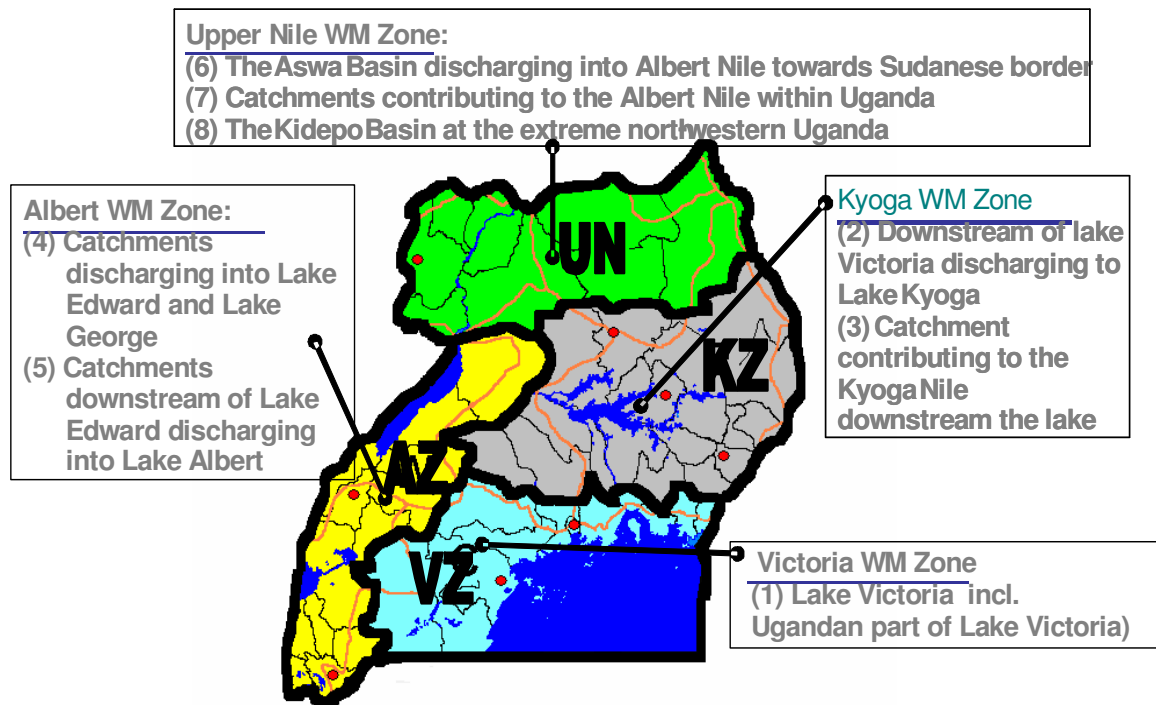
“To establish an effective framework for Water Resources Management in Uganda to ensure that water resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner”

Reform study led to preparation of a WRM reform strategy

Reform Recommendations

- Paradigm shift in WRM from centralised to Catchment/Basin
 - Victoria Water Management Zone
 - Kyoga Water Management Zone
 - Albert Water Management Zone
 - Upper Nile Water Management Zone

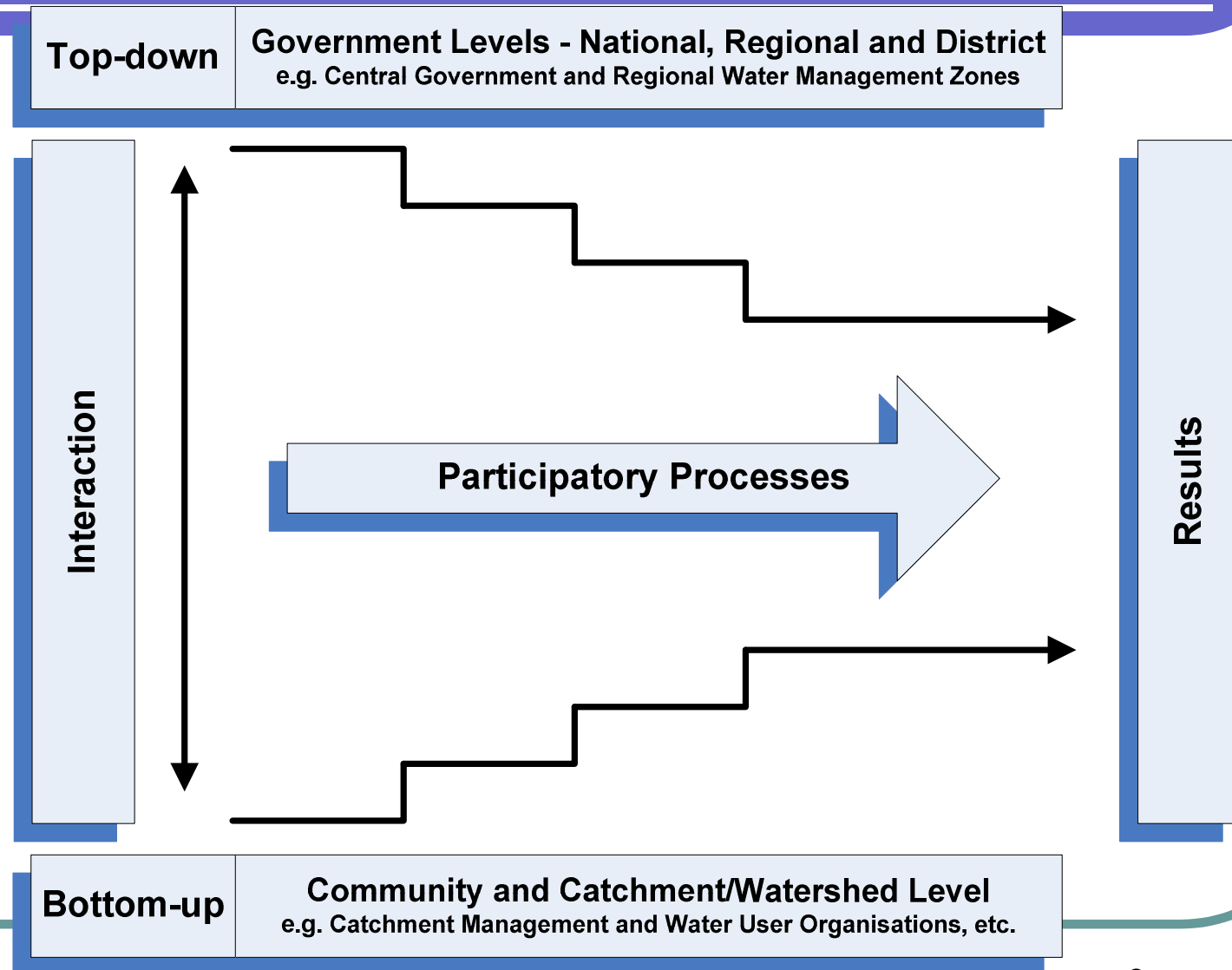
Decentralised IWRM- WMZ



Why decentralise WRM?

- *To maximise economic and social benefits for Ugandans from water/related resources management and development*
i.e. it is the best way to deliver benefits from water/related resources for the people of Uganda

Bottom-up / Top-down approach to decentralised WRM



Levels of decentralisation

- Water Management Zones
- Catchments
 - National catchments – e.g. Rwizi, L. George, etc.
 - Transboundary catchments – e.g. Kagera River, Sio-Malaba-Malakisi basins
- Districts

Water Management Zones (WMZs)

4

Upper Nile WM Zone

- (6) The Aswa Basin discharging into Albert Nile towards Sudanese border
- (7) Catchments contributing to the Albert Nile within Uganda
- (8) The Kidepo Basin at the extreme northwestern Uganda

Albert WM Zone

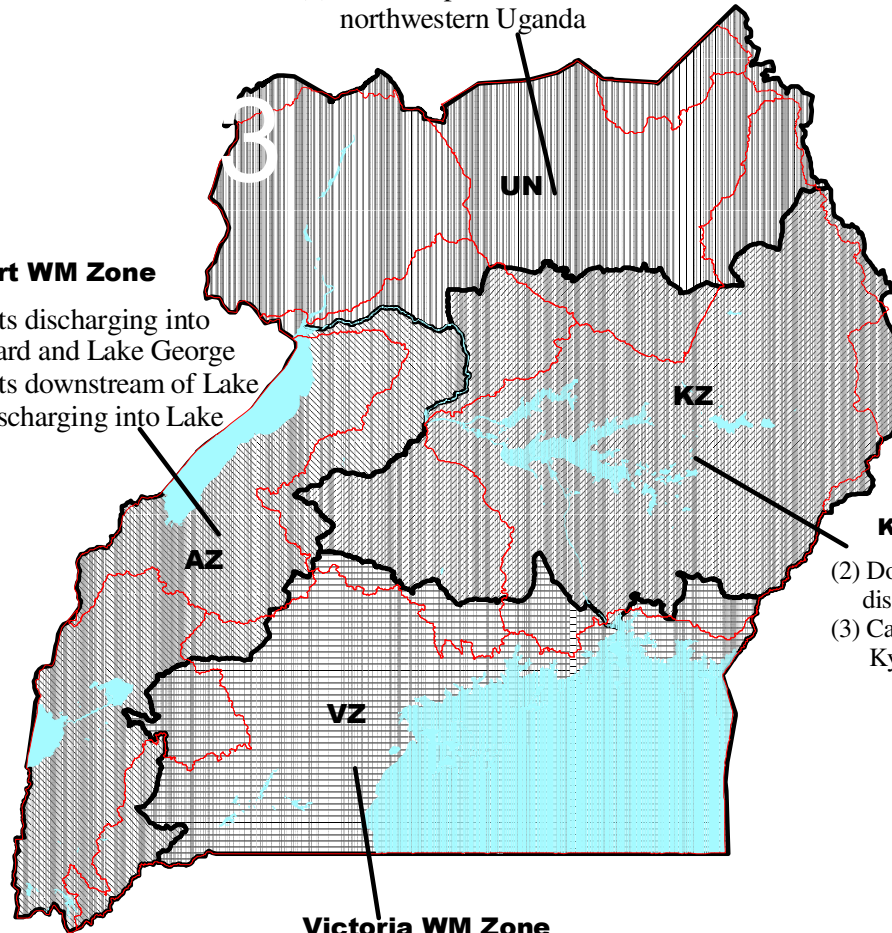
- (4) Catchments discharging into Lake Edward and Lake George
- (5) Catchments downstream of Lake Edward discharging into Lake Albert

Kyoga WM Zone

- (2) Downstream of lake Victoria discharging to Lake Kyoga
- (3) Catchment contributing to the Kyoga Nile downstream the lake

Victoria WM Zone

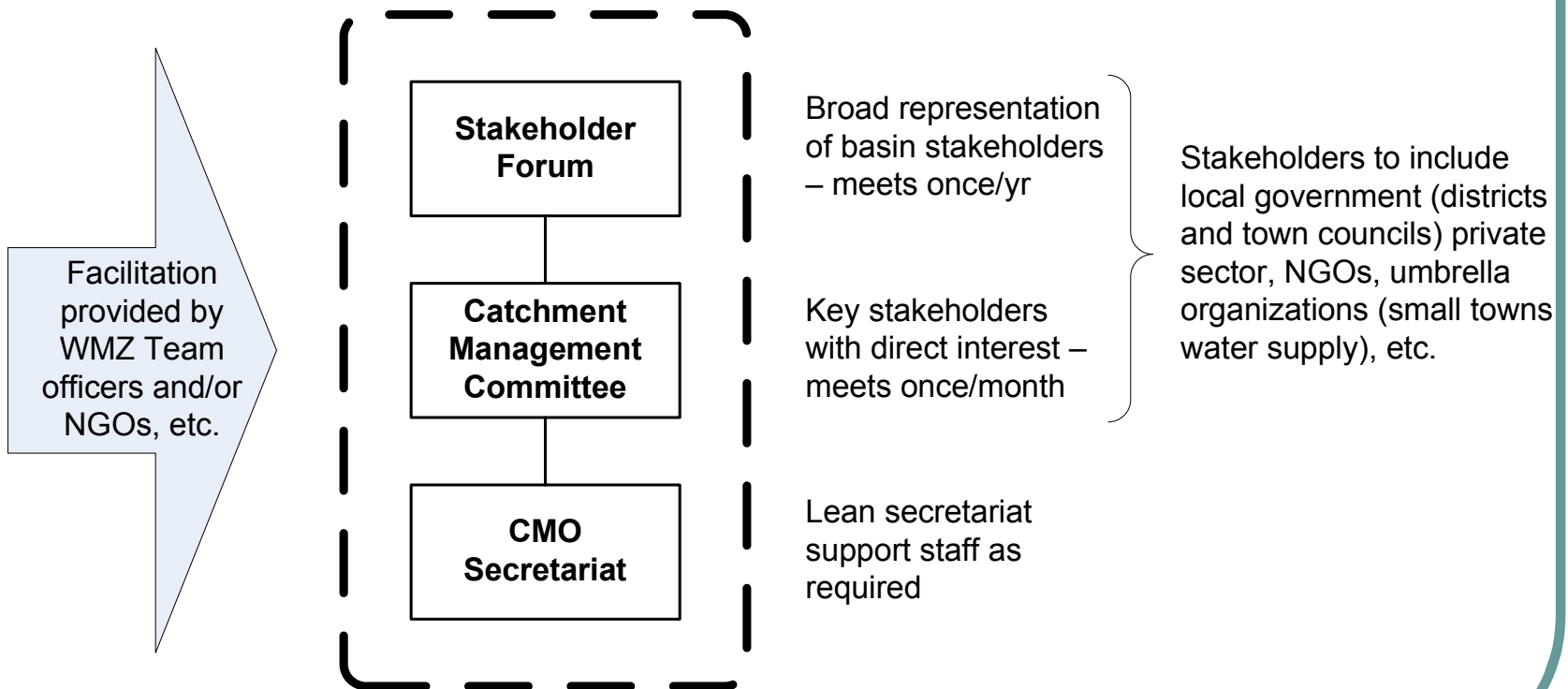
- (1) Lake Victoria include Uganda Part of Lake Victoria



National and Transboundary Catchments



Catchment Management Organization (CMOs) structure



Water Management Zone bodies

● **Water Management Zone Team**

Roles

- Planning and coordination of implementation of WRM activities
- Coordination of preparation and review of integrated water resources management plan (IWRM) in the Water Management Zone (WMZ) in collaboration and liaison with other stakeholders.
- Support the CMC to prepare and implement IWRM Plans in the Catchment Management Organization (CMO)
- Support CMC to monitor and enforce relevant bye-laws, guidelines, regulations, permits, plans, standards, etc.

Composition

- Senior staff from the Ministry of Water and Environment who are supported by other technical staff as appropriate

Catchment management bodies

● Stakeholder forum

Roles

- Policy Initiation
- Represent interests of major stakeholders in the CMO
- Advise and provide information to CMC and CMO Secretariat
- Review relevant proposals, plans, projects, etc. & initiate proposals, petitions, & other actions

Composition

- Representation of District councils, Farmers Groups, Sub-county representation, Women groups, Relevant Local Government technical staff (Environment committee, Natural resources Committee), NGOs, CBOs and other lead agencies, Registered water user associations and WSS operators in the CMO

Catchment management bodies

● **Catchment Management Committee (CMC)**

Roles

- Advise the WMZ Manager on issues related to regulation of water use and management of water resources in the catchment
- Responsible for planning, implementation, monitoring & reporting on WRM and related activities in the CMO
- Conflict resolution
- Review policy, plans and provide guidance to the CMO secretariat on implementation of IWRM interventions in the catchment

Composition

- Chairpersons Districts, Chief Administrative Officers, District technical staff (Natural Resources, water, community development, Production etc), Other Lead Agencies (NWSC, NGOs and Private sector), Relevant prominent organisations

Catchment management bodies

- **Catchment Management Organisation Secretariat**

Roles

- Coordination of planning of WRM issues within the catchment area
- Coordination of preparation and implementation of IWRM plan in the catchment in liaison with Local Governments (LGs), relevant district officers, water users associations and other stakeholders
- Coordinate implementation, monitoring and enforcement of relevant acts, bye-laws, guidelines, regulations, permits, plans, standards, etc.

Composition

- Made up of staff specifically engaged to support the CMO

Local level management bodies

● **Water users association**

Roles

- Coordinate implementation of activities decided in the stakeholder forum and CMC
- Make and implement bye-laws
- Assist the CMC in information dissemination, planning, regulation and enforcement of water resources management activities

Composition

- Representatives of water user groups

Local level management bodies

● **Water users Groups**

Roles

- Responsible for proper use, management and protection of water and related resources
- Make and implement bye-laws for water resources protection

Composition

- Individual water users

Local level management bodies

● **Other Water Related Stakeholders**

Roles

- Responsible for proper use, management and protection of water and related resources
- Make and implement bye-laws for water resources protection

Composition

- Farmers, builders, project developers, brick makers, industries, hydro power producers, etc

Status of Catchment Based WRM

- Implementation of catchment based WRM is based on partnership approach where Ministry engages with other relevant organisations and builds on ongoing and planned WRM activities by the partners
- Have partnerships with various NGOs (WWF, Protos, CARE, IUCN etc) who support and facilitate implementation of activities
- Four 4 catchment Management organisations so far created (Rwizi, Mpanga, Albert and Semliki).
- Various CMO governance structures (Stakeholder Forum, Catchment Management Committee, Secretariat) created.
- Activities in each catchment involve undertaking situation analysis, stakeholder analysis, water resources situation analysis, preparation of catchment management plan etc
- All activities are stakeholder driven and implementation of the catchment management plan is by stakeholders
- 6 more CMOs to be established within the next year