

20 Years of Trying IWRM in Uganda

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Outline

- Emergence
- Development
- Current status
- Challenges and lessons



Emergence

- Process began in 1993 just after Rio 'Earth Summit'
 - Country emerging from conflict, donor liberalization agenda
 - Donor-supported IWRM 'implementation' / Nile Basin focus
 - Challenges of agricultural development (low input/output), pop growth, Lake Victoria management issues
 - Strong emphasis on decentralisation, but continued central control, and political 'elite capture' locally
 - Particular challenges around fiscal decentralisation



Development

- Chapter 18, Agenda 21
 - Uganda claims to have developed world's first 'Water Action Plan'
 - Encompassing "enabling environment", "institutional framework" and "management instruments"
 - The WAP underpinned sector reform, including the notion of water as an economic good with an economic value
 - Reflected in the Water Statute that was completed in 1995 and again in the National Water Policy of 1999 – described as a 'flood' of policies and plans
 - Multi-sector Water Policy Committee established in 1995...focus on collaboration



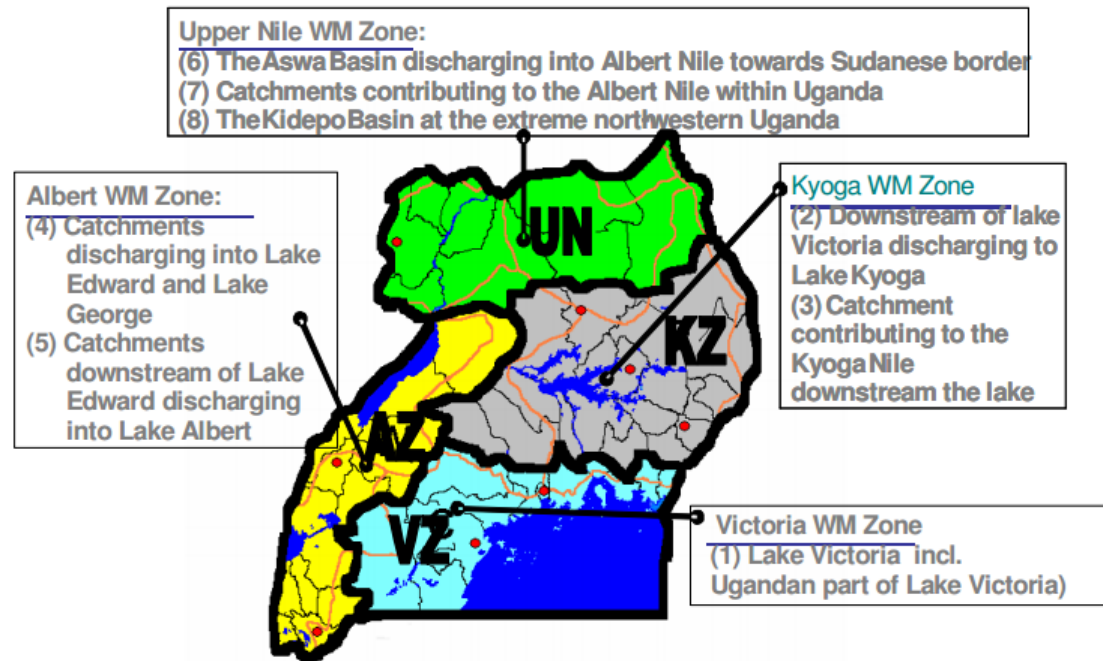
Development cont.

- Capacity and institutional constraints emerged...
 - Stronger institutional framework required
 - WSSD 2002 MDG target IWRM plans
 - Water Resources Management Reform Study 2003 to 2005
 - more effective framework for WRM in Uganda
 - shift from more centralized management to a catchment-based WRM system under which the country was divided into four Water Management Zones
 - 2005 Uganda published Water Sector Reform Studies, analyzing the four main water subsectors
 - led to a Strategic Action and Investment Plan (SAIP) bringing local government at all levels, as well as NGOs and the private sector, “into the execution of WRM functions within the decentralization context in Uganda”.



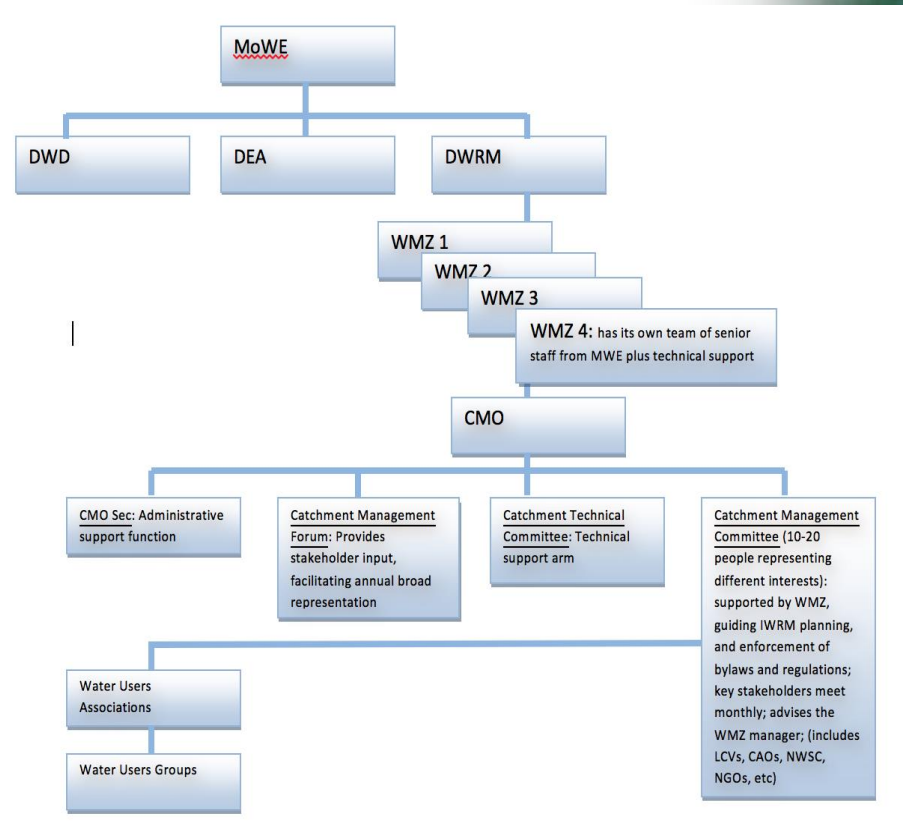
Current status

- Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM) established with responsibility for developing and maintaining national water laws, policies and regulations, and managing, monitoring and regulating water resources through the issue of permits.
- DWRM became responsible for the national pilot sub-catchment projects planned to be rolled out across the country by 2015



Institutionalisation

- Four CMOs have been set up
 - Rwizi, Albert, Mpanga and Semliki basins
- Each CMO has a mechanism for stakeholder coordination
 - Including Stakeholder Forum, Catchment Management Committee, Technical Committee and Secretariat.
- Districts located within catchments are where activities are “to be implemented”
- Assumption about the strength of linkages between the CMOs
- IWRM Working Group was established in 2013 under UWASNET, the official NGO water network in Uganda.



Emerging challenges and lessons

- Lack of WUAs 3rd tier legal status (inability to access funds)...practical challenges
- Importance of local political institutions (District Councils) in leadership, but ‘only interested in votes’ – is there a *political economic logic to IWRM or is it subject to elite capture?*
 - *What are the accountability mechanisms?*
- Challenge of perception of ‘conservation’ bias of IWRM – amongst potential users
 - *How developmental is it in reality – how to enhance?*
- (New) institutions create complexities: *are they really necessary? What are the alternatives?*

