...district. The event was organised by Mbarara Centre for Sports and Health Promotion in partnership with Vision Group and

Over 500 people got free diabetes screening.

The Isingiro district health officer, Dr Edson Tumusherure, told people to

"This is a reminder about President's seven points on h... Two of them are good eating ... and exercising. And you should

Uganda gets sh87b for restoration of Rwizi and Mpologoma rivers

KAMPALA

By Andrew Ssenyonga

The Government has received sh87b from the Green Climate Fund to restore wetlands along River Rwizi in Mbarara district and River Mpologoma in Pallisa district.

According to Mary Goretti Kitutu, the state minister for environment, this was part of the climate financing as committed by developed countries to mitigate climate change effects.

"Developed countries committed to deliver on promises to continue long-term climate finance support to developing nations, with a view to mobilising $100b per year by 2020 for both adaption and mitigation," she explained.

Kitutu said the fund is aimed at safeguarding the two wetlands, improving people's livelihoods and increasing resilience of wetland-dependent communities. "We have destroyed this country ecologically. Those who are entrusted with this money must use it for the purpose it is meant for," she said.

Kitutu made the remarks on Tuesday during a media briefing on the just concluded United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bonn, Germany, at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala.

She noted that the degradation of wetlands and their associated ecosystems is on the increase, thus affecting about 3.2 million people who directly depend on wetlands for their livelihood.



Goretti Kitutu, the state minister of environment

The ministry is to set aside sh15b for promoting tree planting

"Residents of Mbarara and Pallisa town have been affected due to the low water levels of River Rwizi and River Mpologoma," she added.

She said the projects on the two rivers will also increase resilience in the face of climate change effects.

"This will be done through introducing climate-smart interventions, technologies and land use practices relevant for the wetland-dependent communities and catchment areas," she said.

Kitutu stressed that the Government has taken a bold step to develop a strategic programme of climate resilience and the forest investment plan.

"This will attract more funds from the Green Climate Fund and other funding sources once the concepts and proposals are finalised by the ministry," she noted.

Kitutu re-echoed the need to conserve forests and wetlands, use of energy-efficient cooking stoves and the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices.

She said the ministry is to set aside sh15b in the next financial year for promoting tree planting. "The move is part of the tree fund department, which was set up recently to conserve the environment," she explained. Kitutu said the conference proposed scaling up financial support for both mitigation and adaption beyond foreign aid.

"We shall have to undertake capacity and technology needs assessment to identify existing gaps in order to advance our low carbon and climate resilient plans," she noted.

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