



**Global Water  
Partnership**  
Eastern Africa



# **Ten Years Journey of GWP Eastern Africa (2003 - 2013)**

**Towards Water Security and Climate  
Resilience in the Region.**

# Acronym/Abbreviation

AfDB	African Development Bank
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
ANEW	African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation
ANBO	African Network of Basin Organizations
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CapNet	Capacity Development in Sustainable Water Management Network
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil society organization
CWP	Country Water Partnerships
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
EAC	East African Community
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
EUWI	European Water Initiative
FEMA	Forum for Energy Ministers of Africa
GWA	Gender and Water Alliance
GWP	Global Water Partnership
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IRC	International Resource Centre
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NBD	Nile Basin Discourse Forum
NGO	Non-government organization
REC	Regional Economic Community
RBO	River Basin Organization
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDOS	United States Department of State
WCW	World Conference on Women
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSP	Water and Sanitation Program
WSS	Water and Sanitation Sector
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

*Photo credits: GWPO, GWP EA, Gaster Kiyangi, Isaiah Esipisu, AMCOW*

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# Message from the Regional Coordinator

## Mr. Patrick Safari

been the main focus for GWP Eastern Africa over the last 10 years. In line with the GWP global thinking, GWP Eastern Africa, and its affiliate Country Water Partnerships, has promoted the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) ideology as a holistic approach to finding solutions to water insecurity. Consequently countries within the region have developed and are implementing IWRM plans and related strategies and actions.

Alongside the IWRM plans are the climate change strategies that seek to address climate change related catastrophes emanating from the water sector. Mainstreaming climate change adaptation approaches and building resilience of communities within countries has been a key component of GWP's climate change strategy in the region.

As a regional partnership we have grown from one Country Water Partnership to nine country water partnerships. Plans are also underway to enlist Djibouti Water Partnership. We've been able to accomplish several projects within the thematic areas of IWRM, media relations for water resources management, climate change, financing water and Pan-African Water Development concerns. Currently, we have a stream of new projects such as WACDEP, IDMP and these are a stepping stone for future aspiration of the regional water partnership.

Within the 10 years, we have provided a forum for addressing societal concerns and problems in the water sector in the region. GWP EA has been appreciated as a platform within which water security, climate change, financing water, building partnerships for improved sanitation, payment for ecosystem services and abstraction of water for industrial use have been discussed. We have learnt lessons along the way and will aim to consolidate and strengthen the achievements so far, as we position ourselves for the coming decade.

This success, is shared success, as we entered into partnerships with governments and other key actors in the region, the African Union, African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), the Nile Basin Initiative, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, and the East African Community; all of which embraced the work of GWP in the region.

**G**WP Eastern Africa (GWP EA) was established in May 2003 to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels in the region. Water security had been identified as a big problem and therefore GWP EA was initiated to work with governments to improve the financing and investments to address water security to trigger future economic development.

Policy decision makers needed evidence-based-advocacy and lobbying to make informed decisions and GWP EA, has been able to provide that for the last 10 years. Our development partners have brought us pride; always sparing resources to fuel the goals of GWP in the Eastern Africa region.

We are grateful for the support from GWPO, CIDA, SIDA, ADB, USDOS, USAID, DfID, PAWD, EUWI, UNEP, JICA, DANIDA, World Bank, among others. We do also recognise the good collaboration and partnership we have had with sister institutions such as NBI, IUCN, LVBC, IGAD, WMO, CapNet, UNEP and AMCOW among others.

Water resources management in the region, has for the last 10 years, suffered from drought and flood disasters, energy insecurity, climate change, food insecurity and water insecurity. There are signs that the region will remain susceptible to the above problems. It is the wish of GWP EA to continue supporting countries in the region to address the above catastrophes.

Addressing water security issues and concerns has



# Message from the Chairman

## Eng. Anicet Nkurikiye

the technical teams, financiers of the projects and programs as well as the Country Water Partnerships where action takes place.

Every year, the Steering Committee has laboured to hold Steering Committee meetings as well as Regional Consulting Partners' Meetings that are key in decision making for the partnership. In a similar spirit, governing structures of the respective Country Water Partnerships have adhered to transparency in governing the partnerships. This is a clear indication that the governance structures of the partnership, have played a great role in the current success.

GWP EA has encouraged water users and managers including government agencies, communities, private entrepreneurs and donors to act in concert together to make the most of the limited water resources in the region and support each other. This is through Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), a holistic approach for managing water resources.

The Country Water Partnerships have taken lead in defining the problems and resolved that each should become a leader in order to manage and utilize water in the region in a sustainable manner. However country water partnerships are constrained by resources and need to step up approaches for fund-raising in order to be able to achieve the above intention.

For all the achievements of GWP EA in the region, obtaining political support through awareness creation among decision makers has been paramount. GWP EA has enjoyed political support at local, national and regional level and this has created an enabling environment for sustained and effective action in implementing programs and projects. We hope we can uphold this in the coming decade. For this, I congratulate all the governments in the region for the support and collaboration.

The future of the region lies in the strength of the Country Water Partnerships. As we move into the next decade, Country Water Partnerships need to seek to identify and examine good and bad case studies of effective interventions in IWRM and advocate for the application of the lessons learned at area level to provide clear examples in support of policy and implementation programs in the context of the prevailing social, environmental and economic conditions.

We are relevant and need to continue demonstrating our relevancy. Congratulations.

**F**or any institution to accomplish 10 years, it must have generated a lot of experience and knowledge and this is the case for GWP EA.

As one will find out from this book, each Country Water Partnership in East Africa has made progress, no matter the level. It is this that we are celebrating, documenting and sharing so that those that will follow, will have a reference point.

Our region is made up of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, and until recently, Egypt. All these countries face severe water constraints. Only Uganda and Ethiopia have water resources commensurate with human and economic needs, but the development and utilization lags far behind multi-sectoral demands. The region therefore is under stress.

In the past 10 years we have been focused on strengthening our Country Water Partnerships to be able to take up the role of creating neutral platforms within countries to deliberate water resources development. We have attained this through increased knowledge sharing and communication as the key factors for enhancing and accelerating the implementation of water programs for the benefit of all citizens. The future of the regional partnership will depend on how good we continue to do this, and identify and share information for policy reforms in the region.

The Steering Committee of the Regional Water Partnership has played a big role in providing strategic guidance to the Partnership and providing a link between aspirations of the development partners,



# About GWP Eastern Africa

**G**WP Eastern Africa is one of the 14 regional arms of Global Water Partnership Network (see [www.gwp.org](http://www.gwp.org)). GWP is a network that aims to help advance the governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. It advocates for effective governance and a willingness to work together that are widely accepted as the keys to solving the problem of how to share limited water resources equitably among many different and competing water users.

GWP EA was constituted in 2003 by stakeholders in the Eastern Africa region to support the sustainable development and management of water resources in the region. It focuses on achieving the vision, mission and strategic goals of GWP global through approved work plans and budgets.

GWP's vision is "A Water Secure World" and the mission is to "advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development". The overall guiding principles are premised on the strong belief that an integrated approach to water resources is the only way to achieve sustainable development.

GWP EA, comprises of Country Water Partnerships (CWP) from Burundi, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. There are efforts to bring Djibouti on board. Somalia and Djibouti are much younger than the rest and are therefore at the initial stages of development.

Each of the member CWPs provides a multi-stakeholder platform within which water security, climate change, sanitation and Integrated Water

Resources Management (IWRM) issues and concerns are discussed. Each CWP has a Steering Committee composed of various stakeholders, a general assembly of all members (the Consulting Partners Meeting), and a Secretariat that guides the implementation of agreed work plans.

CWPs are autonomous platforms designed to ensure sustainability and ownership of actions by all stakeholders and accredited members. The CWPs are linked to GWP Eastern Africa under a regional network arrangement designed to facilitate networking, sharing of knowledge and information, policy dialogues and capacity building activities.

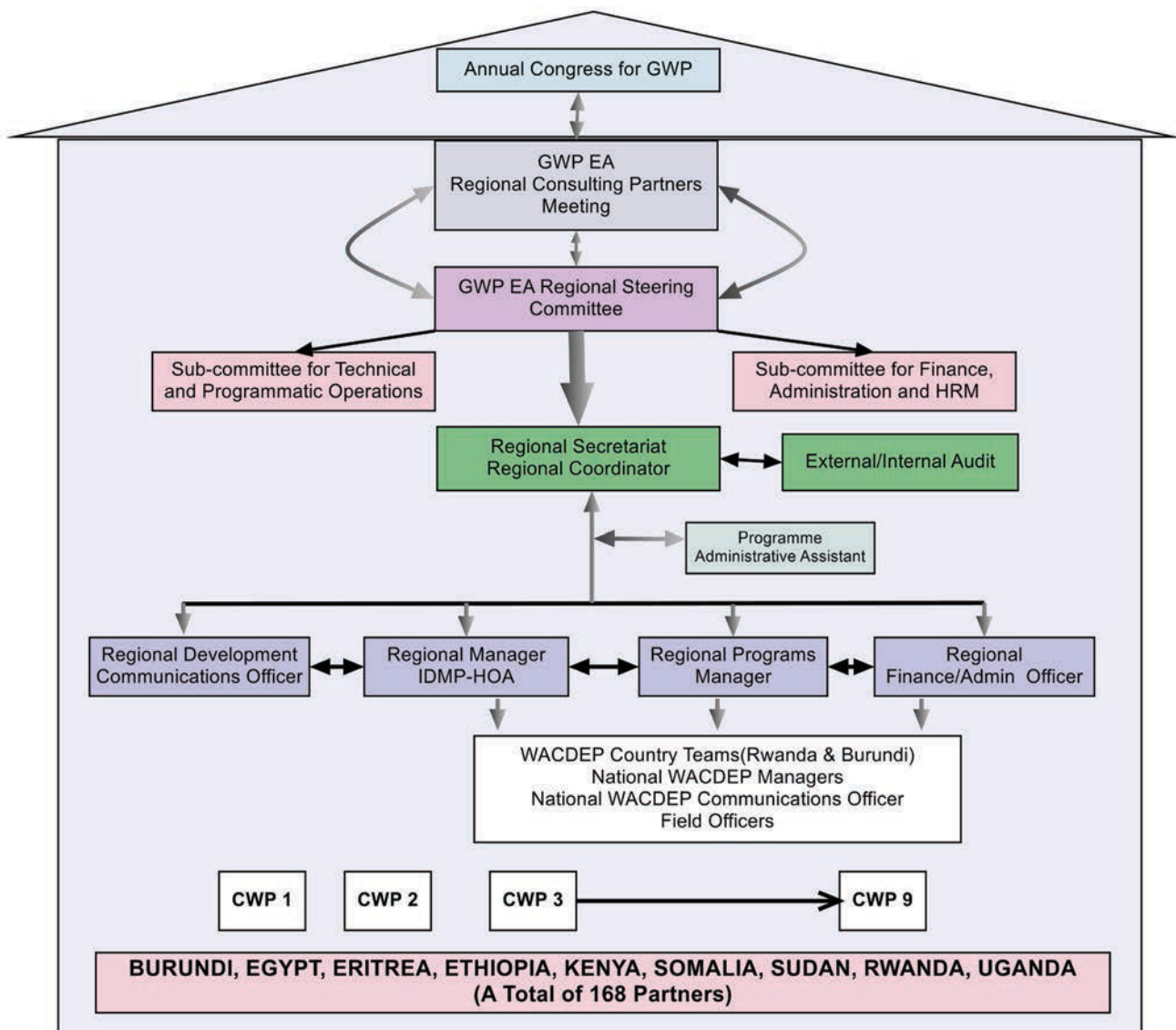
At regional level, GWP EA shares the same leadership structures and has the overall highest decision making body, the Meeting of the Consulting Partners (MCP), which represents all stakeholders in the nine Eastern African countries. The MCP has over the years, been able to meet and provide strategic guidance on implementation of the goals for which GWP EA was constituted.

The Regional Steering Committee (RSC), that sits twice a year has continued to provide strategic thinking and direction to the implementation of global and regional strategic actions and work plans. In addition, all the structures have performed to the best of their expectation.

Membership to GWP EA is continuously growing and currently stands at 168 active partners. These partners are also actively engaging in resource mobilisation and actual implementation of activities geared towards a water secure region.

**"To have a water secure world is to have water for all – for society, for economic development and for ecosystems; making sure we reduce risks of droughts and floods, improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable people in a holistic and participatory manner that addresses interests of all stakeholders", says Dr. Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary.**

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART for GWP Eastern Africa



Members of the Consulting Partners at a meeting in Kampala, Uganda

# 10 years of existence, 10 major accomplishments!

## 1) Policy Support

GWP EA advocated for integration of IWRM in national water policies and programs in the member countries. In collaboration with GWP global, it has supported the development of IWRM plans for Kenya (with funding support from CIDA), Burundi (with funding support from AfDB) and Ethiopia (with funding support from USDOS). These are at various stages of implementation. In Uganda and Ethiopia for example, IWRM plans are now being implemented at catchment level.

## 2) Knowledge management

GWP EA supported effective communication and knowledge management actions that have raised awareness for IWRM approaches and water security in the region. This has been through effective engagement of the media, capacity building for the media and media personalities. Effective communication approaches have also been utilized during country and regional level meetings; targeting different audiences including parliamentarians, civil society, local government partners as well as grass-root institutions. As a result there is raised awareness among government officials and politicians and a greater participation of line ministries in the planning and financing of water related projects.

## 3) Country Water Partnerships

The Partnership utilized the Country Water Partnership (CWP) approach which has proven its effectiveness in bringing different actors together to discuss tough issues and agree on the way forward. The adoption and implementation of IWRM at country level required consensus which was a result of the engagement through a stakeholder platform/forum in the name of CWPs.

## 4) Capacity Development

The Partnership has built capacity of water resources managers and users, in collaboration with GWP global and partners such as CapNet and IWRM Net. This has created capacity building initiatives and a knowledge base, that are continually being adapted to address the changing demands of the different IWRM planning and implementation stages. A typical example is the utilisation of the IWRM Toolbox in creating an understanding of the problems as well as solutions to water resources management in the region.

## 5) Information Sharing

Shared information through an outcome mapping approach and this has facilitated IWRM planning, as a new experience for many countries. This has helped local project teams compile local experiences across the countries and the region and these are shared from time

to time.

## 6) Resource Mobilisation

GWP EA undertook fund raising drives, to identify resources for financing the development of (and later on implementation) IWRM plans for Kenya, Ethiopia and Burundi.

## 7) Engaging decision makers

The Partnership engaged governments on the question of integration and coordination of related sector institutions. In particular, GWP EA has advocated for the need to harmonize policies established by ministries of forestry, energy, water and others and that these need to be coherent with each other if water management is to be improved.

## 8) Facilitating Dialogues

Within the established platforms, GWP EA has initiated the debate on water and climate change as well as developing gender-sensitive approaches for improved water resources management in the region.

## 9) Promoting IWRM and food security

Within the region, GWP EA has advocated for improved status of food security through scenario analyses and consideration for building resilience for agricultural production at community level.

## 10) Strategic Partnership

GWP EA African has established partnerships with the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), the East African Community (EAC), the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and many others in a bid to build synergies and drive a common goal of a "water secure region".

These, and many more outcomes and impacts have helped shape the image of the regional water partnership. The strategy is to continue advancing good governance and management of water resources for sustainable development at all levels. By so doing, we will be able to contribute to increasing water security and climate resilience, support policy development, advocate for water governance improvements and facilitate access to investments of at least € 200 Million for water reform programmes and infrastructure projects in the coming decade.



# The beginning wasn't easy

## Says Simon Thuo

Simon Thuo was among the proponents of the establishment of the GWP Eastern Africa and became the first Regional Coordinator for the regional partnership. He is a water engineer by training and after years of working within the water sector, he became a water policy analyst. He says, "It was from scratch, when GWP EA was formed in 2002 in Kampala and later established in May 2003 at the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat. The task was big as GWP EA set out to operate in the Greater Horn of Africa region; fostering partnerships in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, and later to be joined by Burundi, Rwanda, and Egypt".

At that time, the region was continuously suffering from the usual problems relating to water security and there was a gap; the need for a free platform to facilitate dialogue on improved water resources management in the region.

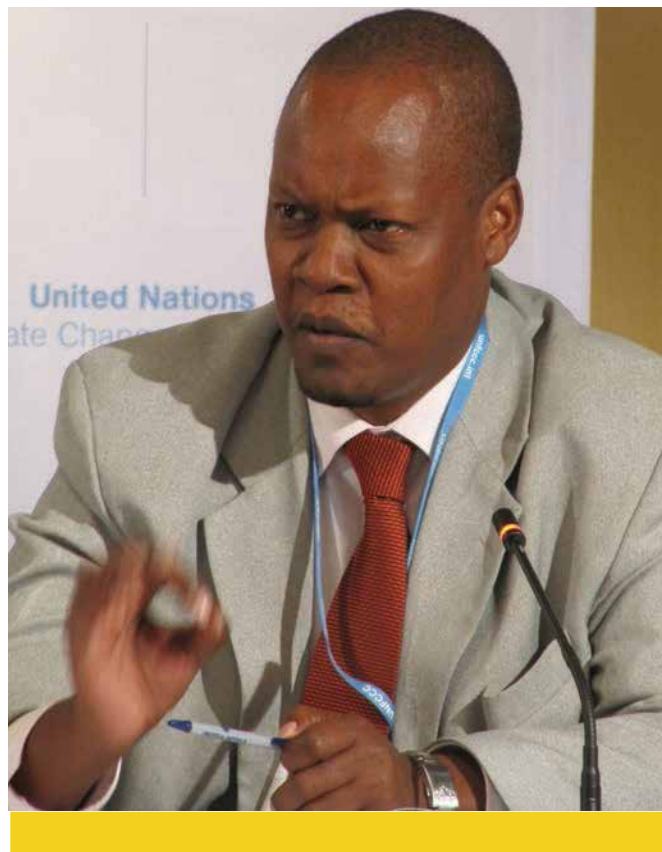
Elsewhere, the messages were starting to crystallize and Eastern Africa need to react pretty fast; find an institutional home for GWP Eastern Africa and....."we were happy that the Nile Basin Initiative offered to host through a Host Institutional Agreement in 2003, and then GWP EA started".

The Minister for Water and Environment in Uganda, Hon. Maria Mutagamba, was supportive in facilitating negotiations for the Host Institution Agreement but also for rolling out the initial actions in the region.

At that time, the objective was to raise awareness for IWRM in the region. The Partnership for Africa's Water Development (PAWD) Project supported this. This paved way for AMCOW to take up IWRM as an important strategy for better water resources management in Africa.

Within Eastern Africa region, IWRM principles continued to underpin ministerial discussions and points of action at the national level as countries strived to meet the target of completing the process of developing IWRM plans and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) also accepted to work with the regional water partnership on water governance issues through its committee on regional affairs and national resources to gain



better understanding of the significance and process of integrated water resources management in East Africa. Members of Parliament from the regional assembly outlined the need to deepen their participation and involvement in water resources governance.

The collaboration with AMCOW and EALA provided the political will and support and stronger working relationships. In fact, AMCOW requested the regional water partnership to play a stronger leadership role in bringing together the countries and the ministerial body on critical IWRM related issues as well as widen debate and discussion to address issues such as financing of water infrastructure in the region, data and information management and monitoring progress on water sector reforms. This was facilitated by a Memorandum of Understanding that clearly spells out areas of collaboration between GWP and AMCOW.

GWP EA also put in place a framework for broad stakeholder participation. This facilitated discussions with regional civil society groups that embraced IWRM. The African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEWS) and the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) Forum (an umbrella civil society network for NGOs in the Nile Basin) provided a forum for promotion of trans-boundary water resources management from an IWRM perspective as well as agree to work with GWP EA to carry out sub-regional sensitization workshops and trainings for civil society and media groups on IWRM and trans-boundary water resources management.

Sharing of the NBD membership database with GWP EA broadened the reach of the Regional Water Partnership's stakeholders to Non-State Actors and their participation in IWRM processes in region.

The process of reaching out to other Non State Actors intensified with the coming on board of the Nile IWRM Net (a network of IWRM capacity building experts in the Nile Basin with representation across the ten (10) Nile Basin countries) and the Africa Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW). Nile IWRM Net and GWP EA organized joint capacity building strategies in which both the RWP and CWP's shared resources and expertise to provide greater and more coordinated support to IWRM planning processes in the region.

Capacity building initiatives were part and parcel of the GWP EA success in the last 10 years. Capacity building initiatives in the region begun with aspects of water resources management issues; building on the initiatives of CWP's such as Ethiopia that organized Training of Trainers on Conflict Management and Negotiation Skills with the Arbaminch University, Concert Engineering and Cap-Net/Nile-IWRM Net.

These trainings targeted capacity building trainers from Kenya, Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia with an interest in deepening their negotiation and conflict resolution skills in water management and who are in a position to take the training forward at the country level.

Together with AMCOW, GWP assessed capacities of countries in as regards the implementation of IWRM

in the region. This was in collaboration with the Nile IWRM Net and Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Associate Technical Program (ATP). Other institutions in this process included Moi University, Nairobi University and Egerton University in Kenya, Abarmynch University in Ethiopia, Makerere University in Uganda and National Geographical Institute (IGEBU) in Burundi. The findings showed mixed results; with countries that were IWRM compliant while others had just kick started the process.

GWP Eastern Africa, over the years, collated knowledge and information on activities in the region and disseminated these through a regional newsletter, The Water Digest, the GWP EA in Action (an Annual Report) and on the GWP EA website. This encouraged the learning of lessons from within the region especially on the development of catchment management strategies, the role of local governments and IWRM planning processes. These lessons have been very useful for countries where catchment management strategies are just beginning to evolve as part of wider scale water resources management strategies.

Alongside the promotion of IWRM, GWP Eastern Africa, sought for the integration of IWRM in national development strategies in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Burundi. This increased the understanding on how IWRM fits within broader pro-poor governance dimensions in the context of MDG planning and water sector reforms and as well provided a platform for information and knowledge exchange on the approaches and strategies for inclusion of IWRM approaches in national planning processes.





# Global Water Partnership, a good platform in the region

approval from countries within the region and forming a strategic and operational plan ... and more.

Nonetheless tireless efforts saw the birth of a Regional Water Partnership in Eastern Africa that to date serves as a platform for stakeholder engagement in water resources management in the region.

Prof Isam says, "Whereas the platform is embraced by member countries, it still desires the active participation, in numbers, of civil societies and associated NGO' or CBOs. It is a golden chance where many grass roots flavors and government joys can be won, captured, nourished and expanded".

More can be gained from the establishment along many avenues, visions and actions such as:

- Leveraging of IWRM strategies, water policies, plans, ideas and program strategies within nations, water sheds and riparian valleys,
- Alleviating water wisdom, transparency and governance within stakeholders, nationally and regionally,
- Strengthening stakeholder engagement in policy formulation and implementation for interactive regional and trans-boundary roles,
- Raising water resources awareness within establishments, governing bodies, decision makers, community leaders, educational institutions, technology incubators, research domains and academia, media and political frames to create an enabling environment for solving water problems of the region,
- Offering more on job coaching, on-going knowledge sharing, trainers training, dialogue and communication on water security and sustainable growth as per IWRM foremost principal vision,
- Gathering more funds and finding appropriate channels for their utilization engaging and using youth platforms to convert them to valid profitable IWRM projects within demands and needs.

**P**rof. Dr. C. Eng. Isam Mohammed Abdel-Magid, (pictured above) is a professor of water resources and environmental engineering at the Environmental Engineering Department, College of Engineering, Center of Scientific Publications at Dammam University, Saudi Arabia.

Prof Isam had an opportunity to be at the forefront and serving as a member of the GWP Steering Committee in its early days, when he was a member of the Sudan Water Partnership.

He says, "From the beginning I spotted the importance of IWRM concept and process to the developing world especially to those countries shouldering poverty, fostering water-sanitation disease dilemma and dwelling within hostile geographical climates with scarce water resources. Such are the formidable conditions and daunting facts in Eastern Africa constituency. These countries face severe water constraints, tremendous deforestation schemes, poor agricultural practices, massive changes in surface runoffs, interminable groundwater depletion and pollution, ceaseless soil cover losses, water-and-sanitation diseases, poor sanitation and ill hygiene, serious and developing conflicts over water, untamed population growth, lack of democracy, injustice, sex discrimination and ill management and corruption".

Prof Isam, is one of those that kept hammering along the same symphony for establishing a Regional Water Partnership in Eastern Africa. But the challenge at the time was to identify development partners capable of financing the aspirations of the region, getting

"...the partnership still desires the active participation, in numbers, of civil societies, NGO's or CBO's. It is a golden chance where many grass roots flavors and governmental joys can be won, captured, nourished and expanded".

# Similar problems; but different approaches for the CWP's

All the countries in the region had more or less similar problems but chose to have different approaches to finding the solutions. There were commonalities though. For example, in all the countries, gender mainstreaming and financing water were identified as areas that required great concern and emphasis. They emerged as the most critical areas for capacity building and the regional office was requested to take the lead in the process of ensuring that the necessary skills for mainstreaming gender and fund raising are built into the Country Water Partnerships.

Nonetheless each country had its own priorities and approach to attainment of the overall goal of having a "water secure" environment.

In Kenya, development of the IWRM was a major priority and therefore the Country Water Partnership embarked on the preparation and publishing of the IWRM Plan that is now under implementation. It embraces intersectoral collaboration by key actors affecting water, it emphasizes the need for strengthening stakeholder involvement through structured information and capacity building and promoting the integration of pro-poor governance initiatives such as poverty reduction initiatives in national economic development frameworks.

For Eritrea, policy and legal framework reviews for embracing IWRM were a priority. The approach in Eritrea emphasized the need for a financing strategy to address critical water scarcity. Ethiopia, worked towards the attainment of the MDGs, parallel to the process of actualizing IWRM in Ethiopia. The pilots in 2 woredas- Tigray (with incompatible development plans where up/down stream competition were exacerbated by religion); Amhara (where former reserve for drought periods was overwhelmed by fivefold increase in demand); and the case studies in conflict mitigation and optimizing outcomes formed a basis for informed action across the region.

In Burundi, with funding

support from the African Development Bank, GWP EA and the Country Water Partnership were able to define priorities for the sector:- energy, food security (irrigation), water supply- community, health centers and schools. These have shaped the policy and legal reforms for the water sector.

In Sudan, the "Water for Peace" initiative has been key in identifying trans-boundary and national conflicts arising from water and natural resource allocation and this garnered support for the evolution of the Sudan Water Partnership.

In Uganda, the evolution of the water partnership was timely to support the smooth implementation of policies and laws that were already IWRM compliant. To date, water resources in Uganda are managed at Water Management Zone level.

The common action areas for all the countries will be improving economic efficiency, availability of reliable information on water resources management, food security considerations, improving sanitation, addressing climate change and improved financing of the sector.



# Walking the talk – turning wishes into actions.

In executing its mandate in the region, GWP EA had to undertake a review of the policy regime of the region within which IWRM was to be implemented. Therefore studies were carried out in all the countries to understand policy and the possible constraints towards the implementation of IWRM in the region. Some of these studies are available at the GWP toolbox website (see [www.gwpo.org](http://www.gwpo.org) or [www.gwptoolbox.org](http://www.gwptoolbox.org))

Together with the affiliated Country Water Partnerships, GWP EA, has over the years commissioned studies and carried out gap analysis on policy and management instruments related to IWRM in the respective countries. The motive was to garner support from a wide range of stakeholders in supporting IWRM as the best approach to solving water problems. Consequently all countries in the region embraced IWRM and are currently at various levels of developing, operationalising and implementation of the IWRM Plans.

In 2008, a review of progress towards implementation of IWRM and attainment of the MDGs, was conducted. Findings indicated that there was progress towards the promotion of IWRM in the in the region. All countries in the region have main-streamed the IWRM thinking and approaches in the respective policies

and laws. However, the countries still face challenges and constraints.

Foremost is the issue of financing and financing gaps which is linked to the problem of lack of funds specifically for water resources management. This includes the “need for financing to become government rather than donor-led initiatives in order to ensure greater long-term sustainability”. What GWP EA has done over the years is to lobby governments through AMCOW and the African Union to improve financing for water. Country Water Partnerships, too, have lobbied parliaments in the their countries to revise resource allocation. The results are starting to emerge.

Secondly, the need for greater institutional coordination across sectors and harmonization of laws and policies has been evident. GWP EA has filled this gap by creation of neutral platforms (Country Water Partnerships) within which institutional coordination and collaboration concerns have been discussed to resolve conflicts especially in mandates.

Lack of political commitment to the IWRM processes which has been a big barrier. GWP EA has been key in unlocking this through engagements with AMCOW, EALA and the African Union. The message has been

Table 1. Constraints and barriers

Key constraints and barriers	Ranking
Financing gaps	●●●●●●
Coordination, harmonization and conflicts of interest	●●●●●
Capacity gaps to implement plans	●●●●●
Political instability / political commitment	●●●●
Lack of local capacity to adapt / cultural barriers	●●●●
Low participation	●●●
Demographic pressure	●●
Low awareness	●●
Limited private sector involvement	●●
Bias to water supply development	●●
Lack of regional cooperation framework	●
Lack of guidelines	●
Levels of poverty	●
Lack of data	●

Source: GWP Eastern Africa, 2008: GWP Regional Status Survey of IWRM

and will continue being that politicians need to appreciate IWRM as a developmental process integral to the achievement of broader development goals and should be embraced within all the political manifestos and agenda.

There are problems of local-level adaptation. In some countries, there are still low levels of participation, particularly among women and the youth and this is a future challenge. What GWP EA has done is to engage governments to develop gender and youth mainstreaming strategies.

GWP EA has also advocated for a basin approach to management which provides a chance to Community Based Organizations to participate. In Ethiopia and Uganda for example, there are cases of local community based organizations getting involved in management of the resource.

To consolidate the results in the decade to come, GWP EA will have to take the following:

### Coordination and consultation

For all countries in the region, GWP EA has to continue playing the role of facilitating IWRM across stakeholder institutions to address the need for greater harmonization and consultation between policies, plans, laws and institutions, dealing with the challenge required (and will require) robust political economic realities (vested interests, private channels of communication and formal and informal networks of patronage). It is therefore a governance challenge.

The plan of action is to develop and strengthen country water partnerships and improve their role in identifying weak spots in consultation and harmonization and lobbying for more attention to this aspect at a national level, including the broadening out of stakeholder forums in the water supply and sanitation (WSS) sub-sector to include IWRM aspects.

### Financing strategies

The evidence from countries within the region suggests that IWRM (or even just WRM) does not receive specific government financing. This may be due to internal sector issues (particularly the weight given to WSS), but also a lack of political commitment, possibly caused by low awareness of the importance of IWRM within development, other competing higher priorities and lack of external donor pressure. It is likely that the case for more financing to the water management sub-sector needs to be made more strongly.

GWP EA therefore needs to continue developing briefing papers to support the case for improved financing and governance. This can assist policy makers in identifying financing opportunities and

suggest the most appropriate financing mechanisms in particular country contexts.

### Capacity and human resource development

In the course of taking action in the region, a glaring huddle has been the lack of human resources capacity making coordination a dilemma.

In order to have meaningful results, the region needs greater capacity, better personnel management and human resource development, which in themselves have financing implications.

In order to beef up the success so far attained, GWP EA and the CWP's will have to continue setting up better learning environments in-country, through which to support capacity development and on-the-job training activities. These could have an action-research component that involved experience sharing across sectors within a country on IWRM and between countries within the region.

### Piloting IWRM

In some countries, IWRM pilots have provided a basis for quick adoption IWRM. The piloting of IWRM in small catchments in Birki, Messena, Tigray and Amhara provided impetus to IWRM in Ethiopia. The pilots on River Rwizi and Lake George in Uganda provided meaningful lessons for other countries to try it out. Today countries are proposing to adopt IWRM among Community Based Organizations managing either small catchments or Water Management Zones. To GWP, this is a greater achievement in a span of 10 years.

The experience of these countries need to be shared across the region but there will be need for piloting in the new adopters to test local human and physical contexts.

### Greater media engagement and awareness-raising

GWP EA, together with the CWP's has deployed a mix of information, education and communication approaches to popularize IWRM principles, approaches and best practices. To compliment internal communications, GWP EA and its CWP's have undertaken media trainings, capacity building and field travels in a concerted effort to acclimatize media personalities, editors and reporters on the salient issues affecting water resources management. 10 years down the road, the countries are reporting increased coverage (audio, visual and print) of the water sector. This has helped elevate the profile of the water sector bringing water issues into the public domain for discussions. Quid networks created?

Further to this, GWP will need to further demonstrate the link between poverty eradication and livelihoods on one hand and how IWRM can abate the social

problems at community level. It is this that the media looks out for.

### Facilitating policy dialogues.

Apart from mainstreaming IWRM in national water policies, the Partnerships have facilitated policy dialogues on topical issues in society such as mainstreaming gender concerns in water and climate change, engagement of the youth and extremely vulnerable individuals, and disaster preparedness and management. Programs such as PAWD have facilitated platforms for such policy dialogues among members and for targeted advocacy work. Details needed.

### Development of IWRM tools/guidelines

The IWRM ToolBox has been a handy reference material providing policy analyses, research, studies and experiences obtained from various parts of the world. With the toolbox, it has always been possible to identifying which instruments are most significant for the country. Based on the available information so far, it was possible to

identify key constraints such as demand management, conflict management, regulatory instruments and institutional arrangements among others that are pertinent to countries within the region.

By adapting the tools to suit varying local conditions, countries have been able to contribute to wider-scale acceptance and implementation of IWRM policy in the countries and the region. Specific examples needed.

### Strengthening stakeholder participation

The creation of Country Water Partnerships with respective Steering Committees is a vehicle for

creation of forums for the promotion of IWRM and water resources management. Over the 10 years, new institutions have joined, year-by-year with the current membership going to over 300 accredited members across the region. Each of the Country Water Partnership, under the new revitalization initiative is targeting an annual increase in accreditation of members by 10%. Therefore by 2014, the region will have over 456 accredited members. Representatives of these institutions serve as focal person to further responsible water resources management in the region.

### Knowledge development and documentation for dissemination

The outcome mapping approach to capturing and documenting knowledge and information has been useful. In addition, documentary videos, CD ROM, and electronic data and information has been captured and easily shared over the years. Some countries at a certain point in time (such as Burundi, Egypt and Ethiopia) ran websites and google groups through which information is shared.

### Fund raising

It has not been easy coming across funds over the last 10 years. In part, this is because the water sector in general is poorly funded but also because Country Water Partnerships in the region have not been aggressive looking for resources. However, GWP EA is grateful for the support from all its development partners that have over the years provided the necessary resource envelop to drive its work plans. GWPO-Core, PAWD-Dutch, PAWD-Canadian, DANIDA, USAID, WACDEP, UNEP/CIDA, IUCN/USAID among others have enable GWP EA and the CWP's to attain progress.

“...we are grateful for the funding support from all our development partners and thankful that GWPO has continued parenting us”, Patrick Safari, Regional Coordinator GWP Eastern Africa



# GWP EA achievements against strategic goals.

GWP Strategic Goals	
<p><b>Goal 1: Promoting water as a key part of sustainable national development</b></p> <p>GWP Eastern Africa, together with all the CWP's and their Partners (academia, CSO, private sector) has lobbied for the integration of IWRM into practices, emphasizing integrated approaches and lobbying for improved financing of the sector. For all the countries in the region, IWRM is reflected in the water policies and are either piloted or implemented directly at catchment level.</p>	<p><b>Goal 3: Reinforcing knowledge sharing and communications</b></p> <p>Stakeholders have been informed by dissemination of knowledge relating to regional water resources and concerns. The media has been engaged in discussions and bringing water into the topical and public domain. Promotional materials have been used carrying reminder messages on the need for responsible utilization of water resources in the country.</p>
<p><b>Goal 2: Addressing critical development challenges</b></p> <p>GWP Eastern Africa became a platform of recognition in terms of addressing water security through the country water partnerships and contributed towards the development of water related climate change strategies in the region.</p>	<p><b>Goal 4: Building a more effective network</b></p> <p>There has been an appreciation of the network among countries, with various levels of strengths developed for each country water partnership and many of them striving to attain financial stability.</p>

Over the years, GWP Eastern Africa has had tremendous outcomes which largely hinge on the neutrality of the platform and widespread stakeholder involvement. The following are the summary of key results:

- The Partnership organized sub-regional and country meetings on different issues related to financing water, climate change adaptation,
- The Partnership has facilitated and supported the development and implementation of IWRM Plans for countries in the region.
- The Partnership has facilitated African Water Ministers to address water resources management issues

- such as climate change and financing water resources. GWP EA is now implementing the Water Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) of AMCOW in Burundi, Rwanda and the Kagera river basin
- The Partnership has been working with the Media in promoting water and climate adaptation issues in the public domain.
- The Partnership supported strengthening capacities of different partners on IWRM, gender, financial instruments, climate change adaptation among others.







# Country Water Partnerships

## Burundi Water Partnership (BuWP)

Burundi Water Partnership was established in 2005. This the time when the water sector in Burundi was characterized by fragmented policies and laws and the water sector coordinating structure had multiple problems such as:

- multiple planning for water resources by different ministries characterized by lack of inter-sectoral collaboration in water resources management;
- weakness institutional capacity (including human and financial capacity for water sector development);
- insufficient attention to protect the limited and vulnerable resource characterized by lack of data and information on water resources management.

**The vision** of BuWP is, “a water resource managed in an integrated manner that contributes to poverty reduction and ensures sustainable development”.

**The mission** is to assist the government to promote integrated water resources management through the involvement of all stakeholders in making motivated and transparent decisions for water management.

**The Objective** of BuWP is “to promote and support the Integrated and sustainable Water Management” by contributing to the elaboration of National Water Policy and water resources management strategy.

**Legal status** - BuWP is recognized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs since 2008. It is currently hosted by the Institute of Geography in Burundi (IGEBU), one of the member institutions.

**Membership** - BuWP has 21 accredited members but has continued undertaking a recruitment drive.

### Major achievements over the years

- Supported preparation of National IWRM Plan with funding support from African Development Bank and technical guidance from GWP Eastern Africa.
- As part of the process to develop the IWRM plan, BuWP organized national consultative meetings on water resources management in the country.
- Developing the IWRM Plan required a comprehensive communication strategy which BuWP develop and implemented parallel to the IWRM plan process.
- Facilitated review of National Climate Resilience Framework as part of UNEP/SIDA funded program of climate change adaptation in the Nile basin
- Recently, BuWP has been facilitating implementation of WACDEP in Burundi both at national level (supporting investment) and local level (establishing demonstration sites).

### Future strategic action

- Enhancing the visibility of the Country Water Partnership in the coming five years based on IWRM approaches;
- Advocating for the integration of water security and climate resilience strategies in the National Development Plan;
- Contributing to implementation of IWRM action Plan in small water catchments;
- Undertake comprehensive communication to raise awareness for IWRM and climate change resilience in the country, with specific focus on women and children;

# Egypt Water Partnership (EWP)

The EWP is an informal, independent, non-governmental, non-political, and non-profit group of multi-stakeholders that advocates for good governance of the water sector in Egypt through information sharing, capacity building and raising public awareness.

**Its mission is to** “promote sustainable management of water resources at national and local levels, through effective implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) with the aim of maximizing the benefit from water (economically and socially) without compromising the sustainability of water and its quality”.

The partnership aims to identify critical water issues of local and national importance and serve as the neutral platform to bring together large number of different perspectives on national water resources plans, policies, legislations, and water projects.

The slogan for EWP is, “Partners in Conserving Water” and since establishment in 2003, it has identified four priority water issues for action:

- Water scarcity and increased water demand in Egypt;
- Water pollution abatement and protection to meet future demands;
- Water rights and equity (equal opportunity in terms of access to safe/usable water);
- Working towards achieving the water Millennium Development Goals (reducing by half the number of people with no access to clean drinking water by year 2015).

## Legal status

EWP has a legally binding constitution compiled according to the Egyptian regulations for non-government organizations, 1 April 2004 – 30 September 2004. EWP is therefore a registered entity with Registration Number 6095/2005. It joined GWP EA in 2012.

## Membership

EWP currently has 71 accredited members. In addition to this, it has over 400 institutions enlisted in its database and these continuously receive information in form of publications and newsletters.

## Major achievements

- EWP has raised an endowment fund that is invested to earn an income which is used to support its activities, sustain the partnership and plan for long-

term needs;

- EWP has carried out national level public awareness events/campaigns to promote IWRM in Egypt (through promotional material such as newsletters, brochures and website among others).
- EWP facilitated the review of National Climate Resilience Framework as part of UNEP/SIDA funded program of climate change adaptation in the Nile basin.
- EWP has facilitated national dialogue on treated wastewater reuse as a measure for decreasing competition over conventional water resources. It has also facilitated the establishment of water treatment plants and low cost sanitation schemes in rural areas of the Nile Delta;
- In addition, EWP has coordinated a focus study on industrial areas' water impacts in the delta and



participating in the development of the Alexandria 2030 Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) plan

## Future strategic action

- EWP will continue serving as the neutral platform that brings stakeholders to discuss different perspectives on national water resources plans, policies, legislations, and water projects.
- It will take lead in the promotion of IWRM strategies and actions in the country and disseminate information and facilitate experience sharing among users and policy makers.
- The partnership will participate in global and regional water programmes and initiatives, and establish links with regional and international organizations.
- Raising funds for the EWP Endowment Fund will continue featuring as a strategic action.



### Proposed short term actions

- EWP has a set of short term actions which include:
- Addressing water conflicts and proposing conflict management mechanisms;
  - Providing public awareness for sustainable utilisation of water through IWRM approaches;
  - Initiating a Youth Employment Program for Water and Environment Protection.
  - Lobbying for improvement of irrigation in the West Delta
  - Addressing governance, science and technology for Sustainable Water Resource Management

### Challenges

The challenges that EWP faces include among others the need to encourage different stakeholders to participate in establishing a Water Trust Fund, encouraging "poor" stakeholders to join the partnership, soliciting for private sector contribution to the sector through social responsibility and engaging the media in raising public awareness

## Eritrea Water Partnership (Eri-WP)

The Eritrean Country Water Partnership was formally launched in January 2003. In 2005, the creation of Steering Committees at operational levels (national and regional) provided the first milestone because this paved way for obtaining government commitment, raising awareness on principles for achieving sustainable management of water resources (IWRM); and the establishment of the management and technical teams.

Eri-WP serves as a national water management and development platform that has contributed towards creating alliances between sector institutions for good governance of the Eritrea's water resources.

This has been achieved through creation of a conducive environment for securing political will, increased awareness on the importance of IWRM

and gender mainstreaming, particularly for the review of water policy and water law, institutional reform.



## Legal status

Eri-WP operates as a loose network. It has developed specific terms of reference that guide members and these are:

i) *ERI-CWP is a neutral, cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and non-profit platform for dialogue;*

ii) *The principal objective of ERI-CWP is to promote integrated water resource management (IWRM) in Eritrea, to ensure sustainable use of water.*

**Membership** - Eri-WP has 21 accredited members but continues to enroll new partners especially from regional centres within the country.

**Major achievement** - Eri-WP has supported the development of IWRM Policy, National Water Resources Management Strategy and water law under the Partners for Water Development (PAWD) program-Dutch support.

## Future strategic action

Eri-WP will continue serving as a national water management and development platform with a view to create alliance between sector institutions for good governance of the nation's water resources towards IWRM.

It will also create a conducive environment for securing political will, increase awareness, sensitize the public on the importance of IWRM and gender mainstreaming, particularly for the review of water policy and water law, and institutional reforms.

Eri-WP will also promote integrated water resource management (IWRM) in Eritrea, to ensure sustainable use of water. It will also aim to establish a database

and documentation in the Water Resources Department which in future could act as a catalyst for establishing a sector-wide Database and Documentation Centre.

## Proposed short term actions

- Building capacity of stakeholders in managing and monitoring disaster events (flood and drought)
- Supporting a process to expedite the implementation of IWRM Action Plan
- Promoting river basin management master plans based on the IWRM approach
- Supporting the involvement of women in policy & decision making processes for water resources management

## Challenges

- Building consensus on water resources management tools as people assigned by government kept changing from time to time.
- Securing Political Commitment for the relatively new concept of IWRM was problematic
- Mobilizing stakeholders with various sorts of expectations
- Creating Knowledge base since there was limited information on water resources management in Eritrea
- Reforming Institution for Good Governance in a somewhat established political dispensation
- Delay in approval to CWP Constitution





## Ethiopia Water Partnership (ECWP)

The Ethiopian Country Water Partnership (ECWP) was established in December, 2003, immediately after the establishment of the Eastern Africa Regional Water Partnership. ECWP was setup to:

- Provide a mechanism for networking and information exchange among water sector actors in Ethiopia.
- In addition, ECWP was to undertake capacity building and create a conducive environment for the adoption and implementation of IWRM and its best practices.
- ECWP was also envisaged to be a platform for advocacy and lobbying particularly in illustrating the need for increased financing of the water sector.

### Legal status

Operates as a loose network, hosted by a member institution

### Membership

Ethiopia Water Partnership has 23 accredited members and is freshly engaged in a recruitment drive.

### Major achievements

- Demonstrated implementation of IWRM national policy.
- Successfully piloted IWRM at smaller catchment level project in two selected watersheds (Berki and Messena) that are located in Tigray and Amhara regional states respectively, with the

US Government financial support of \$400,000

- Organized several consultative meetings covering different water related issues during which partnerships were created at different levels enhancing broader stakeholder participation and networking; enhancing IWRM implementation at grass roots level; and contributing towards implementation of the Water Resources Management Policy, Strategy and the Water Sector Development Program of the country.
- In collaboration with the Regional Water Bureau, Ethiopia Water Partnership was able to launch Tigray Regional Water Partnership and Amhara Regional Water Partnership (these are partnerships at local government level)
- Documentation of the cases in the two watersheds has provided a clue on which set of tools for integrated water resources management are applicable; providing an opportunity for scaling up.
- Organized regional (Nile region), national and sub-national level trainings on IWRM, conflict management and WASH
- Facilitated review of National Climate Resilience Framework as part of UNEP/SIDA funded program of climate change adaptation in the Nile basin
- Currently revitalizing the partnership with renewed interest by the Ministry of Water and other stakeholders

### Future strategic action

- Developing a long term strategy and work plan alongside fresh interest to revitalise the Country Water Partnership.
- Developing a comprehensive fund raising strategy that will see more funding options to operationalize Ethiopia Water Partnership activities.
- Undertaking initiatives for revitalization by refreshing a recruitment drive that is premised on incentives of becoming accredited members.

### Proposed short term actions

- Supporting the implementation of IWRM Action Plan
- Building capacity of stakeholders towards climate change resilience mechanisms at community level

- Scaling up Information, education and communication for IWRM
- Promoting gender-based approaches in water resources management that are mindful of the role of the youth in water resources management.

### Challenges

- Engagement of stakeholders at various levels of understanding of the IWRM concept led to delays of some of the planned activities.
- Management of the pilot projects in Amhara and Tigray required a lot of patience and lesson learning before actual take off.
- Sustainability of ECWP after the US financial support was a challenge; staff of ECWP left and this weakened the partnership.
- Because ECWP was not a legal entity, resource mobilization was a major bottleneck as most donors require it.

## The success story of IWRM in Berki Catchment in Ethiopia

The best success story for IWRM in the region is that of the Berki Catchment. Here, there is a spring near Berki diversion that is used by the Church for spiritual purposes (holy water). However, the church capped the spring anticipating that the government would develop it to supply water to Agula town. The action taken by the church created conflict between the Church and the Bureau of Water Resources. There was also conflict between downstream traditional irrigation water users and upstream Laelay Agula diversion water users, which resulted in the destruction of the diversion weir by downstream users.

It was clear that the different sectors were not effectively collaborating to deal with the water problem as there were various interests; water for drinking, irrigation or catchment protection. There was no plan to use Berki water resource for multiple and integrated uses. Water became scarce in Berki catchment, and there were various water resource management problems, including conflicts among upstream and downstream communities and between administrative authorities.

Realizing these problems, ECWP decided to do a pilot activity in Berki watershed for further scaling up. The process involved multi-stakeholder participatory planning at the watershed level. Specifically the following approach was followed:

- Identifying policy gaps and constraints in implementing IWRM
- Identifying stakeholders, sensitizing them on IWRM approaches and launching the Tigray Regional Water Partnership (TRWP)
- Establishing and training a Technical Team from various disciplines and sectors
- Assessing water and other natural resources of Berki watershed
- Studying the socioeconomic dynamics of Berki watershed
- Establishing Wereda Watershed Committees and Inter-Wereda Watershed Committee
- Documenting and sharing experiences on approaches, processes and findings

There were continuous training, awareness raising, and consultations among all stakeholders at various levels. The forums established have laid the foundations for all stakeholders to jointly plan and implement sustainable water resources management, and to manage water related conflicts. This has become a reference catchment where IWRM is successfully promoting stakeholder participation in water resources management.

# Kenya Water Partnership (KWP)

Kenya Water Partnership (KWP) was formed in November 2003. It was set up to create a forum for enabling key stakeholders to address pressing issues on water resources management. KWP seeks to be at the centre of the ongoing reforms in the Kenya Water Sector and in particular in contributing to the development and implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water Efficiency (WE) plan for Kenya in order to maximize the economic and social benefits from water, without compromising its availability and quality.

## Legal status

KWP, operates as a loose network. Its activities are coordinated by Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO) a member institution that offers administrative, human resource and financial management support. However, KWP is hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Water & Natural Resources, with offices at Maji House, in Nairobi. Kenya Water Partnership has 50 accredited members.

## Major achievements

KWP has had achievements against set targets which include the following:

- It supported preparation of the National IWRM Plan under the Partners for Water Development (PAWD) program - Canadian support. It is also currently supporting implementation of IWRM at river basin level;
- KWP has been involved in National Consultation on water in the post 2015 development agenda (SDG);
- It has facilitated the review of National Climate Resilience Framework as part of UNEP/SIDA funded program of climate change adaptation in the Nile basin;
- It is currently involved in the Kenya Atlas of Wetlands development and inventory of the Kenya Wetlands and Wetlands policy amendment;
- KWP participated in the review of stakeholder's directory for ease of communication and access to stakeholders for participation. Such stakeholders' contact resource(directory) will enable effective partnership, networking and sharing of best practices electronically other through other traditional means
- KWP has joined other networks with similar objectives such as National Environmental Civil Society Alliance-Kenya (NECSA-K) and Kenya Young Water Professionals for increased partnerships and collaborations;
- Recently, KWP started a 2 year project, 'Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management in Kenya.



## Proposed short term actions

KWP's current and immediate action plans and interest revolves around the following:

- Review the current National Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency Plan for Kenya.
- Continuing to act as a centre for sharing knowledge and improve coordination of water and climate change through the thematic groups.
- Engage more with the line ministries and other water players especially on climate change and water issues.
- Participate in policy issues affecting watersheds, wetlands and related developments such as issues of oil and gas exploration in these areas.
- Explore ways of empowering the youth in water resource management and development and getting them more involved.
- Follow up on the enactment and implementation processes for the Kenya Water Bill (2013) and National Water Policy (2012) draft:

## Challenges

The main challenges for KWP are:

1. Inadequate finances for programmes, administration and logistics to deliver on KWP expectations.
2. Overreliance on funding from Global Water Partnership; with limited local sources
3. Inadequacy in resource mobilization strategy; as members sit back to wait for what has been provided by GWP.
4. Varying levels of commitment from members; some have expectations way above those of the Partnership.

# Rwanda Water Partnership (RWP)

The Rwanda Water Partnership (RWP) is the youngest of all the Country Water Partnerships under GWP Eastern Africa. It was established in March 2008.

It operates as a loose network with more than 50 active members (though not all of them are fully accredited)

Since establishment, RWP has had the following key achievements:

- RWP Supported the development of the National Water Resources Management Plan;
- It facilitated review of National Climate Resilience Framework as part of UNEP/SIDA funded program of climate change adaptation in the Nile basin
- It has facilitated the implementation of WACDEP in Rwanda both at national investment and local demonstration levels

In addition to the above specific achievements, RWP has:

- Contributed to the elaboration of country status report on Climate Resilience within the framework of assessing the situation on " Climate induced stress on water in the Nile River Basin" with the support of UNEP-SIDA funded project;
- Conducted the multi-sectoral situation analysis in Bugesera within the framework of WACDEP implementation;
- Played an instrumental role in the development of IWRM policy, strategy and related laws and regulations;
- Played an instrumental role in the development of WATSAN policy, strategy by MININFRA;
- Developed policy briefs on the integration of water security and climate resilience into national planning and decision making;

## Future strategic action

The Rwanda Water Partnership is in the process to develop its strategy that will provide strategic direction to ensure sustainability. In line with the above, RWP will develop a comprehensive fund raising strategy to enable it raise funds to operationalize its strategic intentions.

## Proposed short term actions

Rwanda Water Partnership is intending to determine the major (national, regional and international) variables and considerations affecting the management of water resources within Rwanda. Concurrently, RWP would like to determine the existence of effective policy, legal and institutional framework and roles (enabling environment, institutional roles and management instruments) for the management of water resources. Upon doing so, it will determine the current strategic action to undertake in a bid to improve the water sector and contribute to national development.

RWP will also aim to explore opportunities for climate adaptation measures intended to improve the resilience of the local communities.

## Challenges

- Inexistence of RWP constitution and/or legal statute; this has an impact on resource mobilisation
- Not all members have a clear understanding of RWP objectives; therefore the need to raise awareness among members.
- Communication between RWP members is still low; therefore the need to utilise ICT tools and platforms to enhance communication.
- Documentation of RWP achievements is still a challenge.





# Sudan Water Partnership (SWaP)

Sudan Water Partnership (SWaP) was established in the year 2004 and has since actively participated in workshops, training courses, conferences and meetings organized by GWP Eastern Africa and its' regional and international partners.

Since establishment, SWaP has been able to establish governance structures which include the Consulting Partners Meeting, the Steering Committee, the Host Institution and has participated in a number of research and capacity building training sessions organized by GWP Eastern Africa.

Like other Country Water Partnerships, it operates as a loose network, hosted by a member institution and currently has 16 accredited members.

## Major achievements

SWaP, has over the years:

- Promoted “water for peace” – identifying trans-boundary and national conflicts arising from water and natural resources
- Facilitated review of National Climate Resilience Framework as part of UNEP/SIDA funded program of climate change adaptation in the Nile basin
- Contributed to the Project: “IWRM Policy and Institutional Review of the Water Resources in Sudan - Towards a shared vision of IWRM in Sudan”

As part of its communication drive, SWaP has translated some GWP IWRM technical documents into Arabic, to ease communication with Arabic audiences. It has also held several national seminar focused on the “GWP and its role in IWRM implementation”.

SWaP is appreciated as a forum for stakeholder engagement and because of that:

- The concept of IWRM is well absorbed by government officials, NGOs' and others working in the water sector.
- There has been production of a book on IWRM in Sudan by the Sudan University of Science and Technology.
- IWRM is assimilated in various projects especially the

- ENTRO/ NBI's Watershed Management Project.
- There has been development of an M.Sc. IWRM Course by the Sudan Academy of Sciences.

## Future strategic action

SWaP intends to develop project profiles and concept notes for short term activities based on the new GWP strategy and work program. To facilitate the above, SWaP intends to prepare an extended summary of the global strategy and domesticate it to meeting local interests within Sudan.

## Proposed short term actions

- SWaP intends to step up recruitment of members and activate its old member institutions.
- It also intends to formulate and execute projects in the domain of integrated water resources management both at the national and regional levels.



## Challenges

- Lack of financial resources to operationalize work plans. The fund raising capacity of SWaP is low
- Expansion and maintenance of effective partnership is still a challenge:
- The challenge to develop a constitution and acquire of legal status; this has been a stumbling block.
- Lack of awareness about water insecurity; Sudanese people think Sudan is a water secure country
- Popularity of the IWRM approach is still low; with even low enrolment for courses in water resources at the Sudanese Water Academy.



## Uganda Water Partnership (UWP)

The Uganda Water Partnership (UWP) started as a loose network of CSO/NGOs. It intended to promote and support the implementation of IWRM in Uganda.

Since its establishment, there have been a number of achievements alongside major milestones in the water sector in Uganda.

UWP is appreciated as a platform of water sector entities for sharing knowledge and experiences, coordination and promotion of collective effort in support of sustainable water resources management in Uganda.

It operates as a loose network, hosted by the Department for Water Resources Management of the Ministry of Water and Environment. Currently, UWP has 37 accredited members, while over 30 have submitted application forms for accreditation.

The major achievements revolve around the fact that UWP has been part of the process for popularising IWRM in the country and leading to the piloting of IWRM on River Rwizi through facilitating partnership among various stakeholders.

In addition, UWP facilitated National Consultation on water in the post 2015 development agenda (SDG), the review of National Climate Resilience Framework as part of UNEP/SIDA funded program of climate change adaptation in the Nile basin and drafting of the Water Management Zone Operations Manual, Catchment Planning Guidelines and produced communication material (fliers) to create awareness on water availability and demand, customary water

rights and practices across the country.

Over the years, UWP has been part of the comprehensive assessment of the available water resources of Uganda, based on existing data and information, in order to set the stage for its management and role in the national development.

### Future strategic action

- Contribute to increasing water security and climate resilience within the Water Management Zones by supporting policy development, water governance improvements, and implementing IWRM,
- Facilitate access to information on water resources management in the country.

To achieve the above intention, UWP proposes to:

1. Set up vibrant stakeholder fora in the Water Management Zones
2. Promote the and implementation of catchment based IWRM
3. Facilitate the process for inter institutional collaboration on water resources management
4. Raise awareness about water and climate change (promoting rainwater harvesting as an example)

### Challenges

- Fund raising to sustain UWP activities is still a big challenge.
- Actively engaging the existing members is a challenge as partners seem to operate in isolation.
- Documentation and sharing of contributions of members to UWP goal is still a challenge creating an impression that the Partnership is not active.

# Partnerships, regional and international engagements

## Partnership with AMCOW



In 2003 GWP Eastern Africa participated in the Pan African Implementation Conference of the AMCOW with a view of charting out a work plan for collaboration. This was the beginning of series of events that lead to a big partnership.

In 2005, GWP Eastern African participated in the 5th Ordinary Meeting of the AMCOW by organizing a Media & Water Practitioners conference that attracted 60 participants from Greater Horn of Africa including ministers. This paved way for improved coverage of water resources management in the media.

With support from UNEP, ADB and AMCOW, in March 2006, GWP EA started assessing IWRM status in Africa. In a similar spirit, in June 2006, GWP EA supported an expert roundtable in Nairobi to determine readiness of Eastern Africa countries to meet Millennium Development Goals. In the same year, GWP EA supported Eastern Africa ministers meeting in Addis Ababa to develop clear instructions to the Technical Committee on the role of River Basin Organizations, problems of financing for water and the status of water infrastructure in the region.

In April 2007- GWP EA organized an international conference on financing of Water in Nairobi in which new proposals on sector-wide investments were developed and the Nairobi Accord, which was the main output of the conference was adopted by a Full Council of AMCOW.

The Nairobi Accord set in place a wide range opportunities for further collaboration. In May 2007- GWP EA together with ANEW organized a media and civil society organization meeting to discuss water resource management in the region and the role AMCOW can play discussions on Water & AMCOW.

Ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) in November 2007, GWP EA organized a Ministerial Roundtable on Climate Change in Jinja, Uganda. In this meeting Energy, Agriculture, Water and Environment Ministers preceded by 60 UN, government and research experts deliberated on water and climate change catastrophes in on the African continent.

In June 2008, GWP EA commissioned a paper on behalf of the AMCOW ahead of the Sharm El Sheikh Heads of State meeting with UNSGAB. In the paper, AMCOW reiterated the importance of the water resource as a prerequisite for human and capital development and therefore the need to prepare regional/ national plans for water development as well as addressing investments for water infrastructure, climate resilience, risk management, water, food & energy security and mainstream gender, engaging civil society and the youth.

In 2008/9 and with funding support from PAWD, GWP EA (together with GWP Southern Africa) conducted an IWRM survey in 25 countries of Southern & Eastern Africa. Key recommendations from the survey included the need to promote water as key part of sustainable national development (this meant incorporating IWRM in national development planning, helping government to develop plans; build local /NGOs capacity to engage effectively and strengthening institutions to execute their mandate. The other findings of the survey included the need to address critical development challenges (climate change, food security, population growth, urbanization; conflict management), the need to reinforce knowledge sharing and communications (improved advocacy and lobbying) and building partnerships and networks (in a bid to improve governance and performance).

In 2009, GWP EA was part of the team that organized the African Water Week meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa during which African Water ministers acceded to the need to water, climate and development challenges.

In 2011 GWP Eastern Africa in collaboration with UNEP, WSP, GWA, and AMCOW participated in the development of the AMCOW Policy and Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in the Water Sector in Africa.

In 2012, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Rwanda) GWP Eastern Africa, International Water Association, Africa Water Association (AWA), African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), East African Young Water Professionals, Department of Water Affairs, South Africa and Water Aid, GWP Eastern African contributed to the adoption of the Water Declaration directed to government decision-makers in East Africa to increase resilience of the youth to climate change in the East African Region.



## International cooperation

GWP EA has been part of the (and has benefited from) International Reference Group that supports IWRM Plan content & process.

- GWP EA has participated in highlighting African achievements at World Water Forum, Stockholm Water Week and the African Water Week.
- GWP Eastern Africa has tracked the debate on climate Change, poverty eradication actions and opportunities for resources and intellectual development

## Regional partnerships

Over the years, GWP Eastern Africa has built relationships with:

- The African Union – particularly during the Sharm el Sheikh Decision from Heads of State and the implementation of resolutions,
- FAO Nile – on scenario studies on agricultural produce; implications for water resources and food security,
- Civil Society Organization such as ANEW and the Nile Basin Discourse Forum; on building synergies to deliver development within the region,
- African Network of Environmental Journalists – building capacity and working the media for increased coverage of the water sector in the media.
- Linking East African Legal Assembly, Nile Parliamentarians and the Ugandan Parliamentary Forum for Climate Change (PFCC) with AWEPA-EU Members of Parliament.
- The Nile Basin Initiative – delivering IWRM, sustainable utilisation of the water resources within the riparian countries, confidence building and stakeholder involvement and addressing the crucial challenge of climate change.



# Strategies for the decade to come

## The context

All countries in the region still have severe water constraints. Deforestation and poor agricultural practices are leading to reduced water retention capacities, surface runoffs and soil cover losses. Water-borne diseases, poor sanitation and conflicts over water are increasing as population grows. Climate variability, untimely rainfall patterns and lack of capacity to build resilience are eminent. Action is by far the only option.

## GWP Eastern Africa

Established in May 2003, it supports sustainable development and management of water resources. Its highest decision making body is the Meeting of the Consulting Partners (MCP) which represents all stakeholders in eight countries. It has a Regional Steering Committee (RSC) which meets twice in a year to oversight of programs. It has a Secretariat office hosted at the Nile Basin Initiative secretariat office in Entebbe, Uganda. Each of the eight countries (Burundi, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda) established Country Water Partnerships (CWP) that provide multi-stakeholders platforms. Each CWP has a Steering Committee composed of various stakeholders.

## The role

GWP EA focuses on providing effective but neutral stakeholder forum to facilitate consultation processes amongst different actors in the region, aimed at enhancing livelihoods through sustainable water use and management. It promotes the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach to foster the coordination, development and management of water resources for sustainable development.

## Strength of the partnership

The strength of the partnership lies in enhancing coordination/collaboration, networking and information/knowledge sharing, capacity building, and for policy dialogue. The affiliated Country Water Partnerships are instrumental in facilitating the development of national IWRM Plans, and piloting IWRM at local levels.

This has helped change the prevailing mind-set about water as countries now view water as a resource critical for development and poverty reduction.

## Past Achievements

The following are the summary of key results that hinge on the neutrality of the platform:

- The Partnership organized sub-regional and country meetings on different issues related to financing water, climate change adaptation,
- The Partnership has facilitated and supported the development and implementation of IWRM Plans for countries in the region.
- The Partnership has facilitated African Water Ministers to address water resources management and is now implementing the Water Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) of AMCOW in Burundi, Rwanda and the Kagera river basin.
- The Partnership has worked with the media to promote water and climate adaptation issues.
- The Partnership has promoted gender mainstreaming in water and climate change.

The partnership seeks to carry forward the successful results, lessons and experiences emanating from its previous work, for a water secure and climate resilient Eastern Africa.

## Strategic framework for coming decade.

The Partnership will continue contributing towards GWP's Vision – "A Water Secure World" and GWP's Mission- "to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development".

This will be achieved through a set of goals, outputs and outcome challenges detailed in the work program in table below. By the end of the coming decade, GWP EA anticipates higher levels of water security and climate resilience to be achieved by countries of the Eastern Africa, with populations experiencing

clear socioeconomic and environmental benefits.

GWP EA will contribute to increasing water security and climate resilience in at least 8 countries and for at least 100 million people. It also targets to facilitate access to investments of at least € 200 Million for water reform programmes and infrastructure projects needed to deliver water security.

Looking forward, GWP EA is implementing WACDEP program to achieve the set target - see section that follows.

Table 3. Goal, outputs, outcome and indicative actions for the coming decade

Goal	High level Outputs	Outcome Challenge	Indicative regional action
Goal 1: Catalyze change in policy and practice	Facilitation packages for countries and regions implemented and innovative, sustainable IWRM solutions demonstrated	Building Climate Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand WACDEP to two more countries in Eastern Africa focusing on climate change adaptation strategies for water resources in national policy development, planning and decision making processes for sustainable development and reduced vulnerability.</li> <li>• Implement integrated drought management program in the greater horn of Africa by providing policy and management guidance, sharing best practices and knowledge and through pilot applications.</li> <li>• Support integrated approaches to flood management to minimize loss of life and infrastructure from flooding.</li> <li>• Support the integrated urban water management program in selected cities and towns</li> <li>• Implement delta management program in the downstream Nile region in Egypt</li> </ul>
		Making the case for Food, Energy and Water Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a system for building synergies between food, water &amp; energy policies and programmes in selected countries in the region ( Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Ethiopia).</li> <li>• Support for the integration of water security into sectoral policies (agriculture/energy, etc) including measures to improve water security</li> <li>• Special program on protection of water towers, wetlands and deltas</li> </ul>
		Facilitating trans-boundary collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance regional and trans-boundary cooperation in the region</li> <li>• Build institutional and stakeholders capacity and share knowledge on trans boundary cooperation.</li> <li>• Support for the revitalization and activation of trans boundary institutional frameworks for shared water resources</li> <li>• Establish &amp; utilise research outputs for advocacy and dissemination to higher level policy and decision making bodies</li> <li>• Strengthen cross-border cooperation to alignment policies and enforcement regulations on natural ecosystems management</li> </ul>
Goal 2: Generate and communicate knowledge	Knowledge and capacity developed, disseminated and used	Develop knowledge products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop knowledge products on key issues such as in understanding the linkages between water, food and energy security, and the interrelationships of water security and climate resilience</li> </ul>
		Disseminate knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate knowledge among stakeholders in the region, including developing media features and publications for raising awareness</li> </ul>
Goal 3: Strengthen partnerships	An effective Global Action Network of partners sustained	Strengthen regional and national partnerships for action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen GWP EA including registration of the Secretariat as independent legal entity</li> <li>• Strengthen existing CWPs to obtain sustained financing and networking</li> <li>• Support establishment of other CWPs in the Region (South Sudan, Djibouti, Seychelles, Comoros Islands and Somalia )</li> <li>• Strengthen Young Water Professional Associations and support them to access to national/donor budget for water related actions</li> </ul>
Cross-cutting issues			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GWP EA will address the cross-cutting issues of increasing financing for water, promoting social inclusion, gender equity; supporting youth involvement; HIV Aids and Sustainable Land Use</li> </ul>

# Our on-going projects

## Water, Climate and Development (WACDEP)

This is a program implemented by Global Water Partnership through its regional secretariats and offices.

In Eastern Africa region, WACDEP is being implemented at different levels. At regional level it is the Kagera river basin, at country level, it is Burundi and Rwanda, and at catchment, it is Lake Cyohoha trans-boundary catchment (shared by Burundi and Rwanda).



In January 2009 AMCOW requested GWP to support the implementation of the 2008 African Union Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation.

In response, WACDEP was developed and in November 2010, during the 3rd Africa Water Week, the extraordinary session of the AMCOW adopted a decision recommending that GWP and partners operationalise the WACDEP.

Elsewhere, WACDEP is implemented in eight countries:

Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Rwanda and Tunisia; and four river basins: Volta Basin, Lake Chad, Lake Victoria-Kagera, and Limpopo Basin.

### The objectives

The overall objective of WACDEP is to support integration of water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision making processes, through enhanced technical and institutional capacity and predictable financing and investments in water security and climate change adaptation.

Within the Eastern Africa region, WACDEP has the following outcomes:

- Water security and climate resilience integrated in development planning and decision-making processes in East Africa Community, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Burundi and Rwanda;
- Capacities of partnerships, institutions and stakeholders in Burundi and Rwanda enhanced to integrate water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision-making processes.
- “No regrets” investment and financing strategies for water security, climate resilience and development formulated and governments of Burundi and Rwanda begin to implement them;
- Climate adaptation and water resources management plan developed for Lake Cyohoha catchment;
- Community-based climate adaptation and water security actions defined and implemented for demonstration or piloting purposes in Lake Cyohoha catchment;
- Useful knowledge and information on climate resilience and water security generated and disseminated among stakeholders in Eastern Africa

### The impacts

The impact of the program in Eastern Africa is that “a higher level of water security and climate resilience achieved in the countries of Burundi and Rwanda and in the communities of the Lake Cyohoha trans-boundary catchment.”

# From Planning, to Action; IWRM in Lake Cyohoha.

Lake Cyohoha transboundary catchment is located in the Bugesera region between Burundi and Rwanda. It falls within the Kagera sub-basin of the Lake Victoria basin, which is part of the greater Nile Basin.

Food insecurity is a major problem in the catchment, mainly due to: small size of farming plots, poor agricultural practices, population pressure and land degradation. Access to basic services is very low. The lake and its wetland systems are being threatened by agricultural expansion and urbanization. Moreover, climate change trends pose a growing threat (floods, droughts) in the catchment.

Global Water Partnership (GWP) launched a demonstration project on how to respond to the above challenges within the framework of the Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) in Lake Cyohoha catchment. Since inception, the project has taken shape and has promising results.

## Approach and early results:

In Lake Cyohoha catchment, WACDEP is supporting communities through demonstrating some climate change adaptation actions. A catchment/ecosystem approach is being used to promote integrated management of water and related resources in a trans-boundary catchment setting. Strengthening partnerships and developing capacities of stakeholders for water security and climate resilience are also included.

The program has evaluated most suitable options for water security and building climate resilience using community participation, and is now implementing measures such as tree planting, promoting biogas facilities and energy-saving cooking stoves, and expanding water supply services.

## Lessons so far

- Water resources are shared resources within a hydrological boundary. It is important to consider the catchment as a unit of management and establish mechanisms for cooperation since this is a trans-boundary resource.
- Communities need water for various uses and therefore it is important to integrate their concerns into the planned approaches and demonstration activities.
- Early participation and ownership by all stakeholders is useful for sustainability and provides lessons for future replication.



- Community catchment management structures are critical as they enhance empowerment and ownership and buy-in for tangible results.
- Linking policies with practice is useful in promoting water security and climate resilience. It provides communities with immediate solutions to their concerns and can immediately correlate the actions with policies.

## Anticipated impacts:

The planned construction of a water supply system for communities that is anticipated to reach over 3,000 households will in future provide clean water and therefore change the quality of life of the people in the trans boundary area;

The construction of bio-gas digesters that are fed by cow dung and fecal sludges to produce bio-gas energy will reduce dependency on natural vegetation for biomass energy. Two cooking stoves and one light bulb installed in each household's beneficiary's kitchen will change life instantly as there will be no smoke in the kitchen, there will be reduced expenses on kerosene, and reduced domestic conflicts.

Protection of Lake Cyohoha buffer zone through tree planting will definitely improve vegetation cover and greened landscapes. There will also be increased domestic energy sources for bio-fuel consumption.

It is also planned that the project will promote kitchen gardens in schools and households in a bid to improve food security.

If all goes well, this project will have addressed the concerns of the people in the catchment but also contributed to the overall goal of a "water secure" catchment area.



# Adapting to Climate Change induced Water Stress in the Nile Basin

The "Adapting to climate change induced water stress in the Nile River Basin" project was launched in March 2010 as a partnership between UNEP, GWP Eastern Africa and the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and funded SIDA.

## Project Background:

The Nile River Basin is shared by 10 river basin countries hosting about 40% of Africa's population. Due to its size and varying climate and topographies, the Nile Basin constitutes one of the most complex river basins.

The challenges emanating from climate change in the Nile Basin include: uncertainty in precipitation and river flow, land degradation, reduced river flow, floods, siltation, water-weed infestation, wetland degradation, droughts, deforestation, loss of species and ecosystems and increased incidence of disease.

## Project Goal:

The overall project goal is to build the resilience of ecosystems and economies that are most vulnerable to climate change induced water stress in the Nile Basin countries through building key adaptive capacity and piloting adaptation in "hot spots" with technical, policy and financial interventions.

## Project implementation

The project is focused on engaging all the Nile Basin countries in the collection of relevant data, mapping of 'hot spots' within the basin and defining adaptation options at national, sub-national and local levels. Implementation is in four discrete but inter-dependent work packages led by UNEP with various collaborating organizations.

- WPI: Comprehensive Assessments:
- WP2: Policy Support and Capacity Building
- WP3: Demonstration at field/site level
- WP4: Communication, awareness and media

GWP Eastern Africa, in collaboration with NBI, is involved in Work Package 2: Institutional and policy support to countries. Work Package 2 aims to build the capacities of government agencies, research institutions, NGOs and other social actors to facilitate climate resilience at local and national level, taking into account the opportunity offered by a basin-wide approach which reduces the acute local vulnerability common in adverse climate situations.

# Integrated Drought Management Program in the Horn of Africa

The goal of this initiative is to promote increased drought resilience of countries, communities and ecosystems in the Horn of Africa (HOA) region. The initiative has 4 components

1. Knowledge and capacity development for drought management among countries.
2. Supporting demonstration projects through innovative approaches and practices
3. Enhancing partnership and collaboration for water/drought management within the HOA region
4. Influencing national policies and strategies on drought management

It is anticipated that by the end of the project:

- Capacities for drought management at national and local levels will be strengthened,
- Innovative initiatives and documentation of best practices on drought management by stakeholders at community levels will be supported,
- Partnership and collaboration in drought management within the HOA will be enhanced,
- Policies /programs and strategies towards sustainable drought management at country and regional levels are will be influenced.

This now being implemented in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.

It is premised on the concept of consultation and participation in a bid to find solutions to inherent challenges affecting development in the Horn of Africa and indeed, this is the way to go.



# Voices from Partners

## Water Security

"The Eastern Africa region experiences the highest climate variability thus causing persistent prolonged droughts, erratic floods and untimely rainfall patterns. This is accelerated by deforestation, overgrazing, over-cultivation and poor water waste management. Therefore there is going to be reduced water quality and quantity in most water catchments mainly lakes, rivers, streams and swamps. Poor sanitation compounds health problems in both urban and rural environments. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach remains one of the solutions for building water secure and climate resilient communities and economies of the Eastern Africa" Gerald Tenywa, The New Vision, Uganda.



## Financing water

"The need for financing sustainable management of water resources and climate adaptation in Kenya must be a top priority. Despite increasing water demands for the growing cities, population growth and worsening climate threats, our countries reluctantly prioritize and place water and climate change financing in their national budgetary frameworks and plans. It is worse within local governments. It is therefore a necessity that East African countries continue to mobilize resources for financing water. We should be looking at a region with a future when the financing of sustainable water resource management will no longer be an afterthought item on the national development agenda", says Isaiah Espisu, Science Writer in Kenya.

## Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

"IWRM tools and frameworks promoted by GWP are the only comprehensive approach to water conservation, management and development. Within the Eastern Africa region, they are helping to create an enabling environment for suitable national policies, strategies, legislations and action plans aimed at sustainable water resources development and management; setting up the national institutional frameworks through which to put into practice the policies, strategies and legislation; and setting up the management and governance instruments required by these institutions at national and community levels. The future is bright as central governments and local governments embrace IWRM", Oyugi Jason



# Climate change



"GWP Eastern African has to continue advocating for policy revision to include climate adaptation and mitigation measures in national level development plans. It should also work on the mind set and practice change at strategic, technical, local and individual levels as this is the only way to bridge the gaps between science, policy and practices. It is also important that GWP Eastern Africa promotes low or no regret investments in the countries, replicate best practices from IWRM to address climate change, lobby for climate change financing mechanisms at all levels".

## Regional collaboration and partnerships:

GWP Eastern Africa Program Manager, Kidanemariam Jambere says, "The success of GWP in the region has also depended on regional initiatives such as the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), guided by the Cooperative Framework. Among other things the NBI aims to ensure sustainability of IWRM in development and management of water resources and provides a mechanism for sharing information on NBI programs and projects. GWP Eastern Africa will have to continue leveraging on these".

There are sub-basin institutions (with trans-boundary catchments) such as Kagera, Mara and Sio Malaba Malakisi and these have continued to provide pilot information that GWP Eastern Africa should capture good lessons and entrench them among country water partnerships.

The Eastern Africa Community, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and East African Legislative Assembly have made deliberations on water resources management that provide an opportunity for GWP Eastern Africa to follow up. Such deliberations include principles for trans-boundary landscape protection, and preservation of the ecosystems of international watercourses and the principle of sustainable development. GWP Eastern Africa has an opportunity to fast track such fundamental deliberations through designing projects that seek to promote the above principles.

"As a knowledge based institution, GWP Eastern Africa will have to undertake capacity-building approaches based on field consultations to encour-

age strategic intervention measures such as provision of information public awareness on IWRM and its contribution to socioeconomic development", Kidane adds.

There is still need for partnerships with research and training institutions to strengthen knowledge; strengthen capacity and collaboration with NGOs, and community-based organizations and the private sector for the delivery of water services to local communities and promote the collection, management and training of water resources management data.

Reaching out to the general public and bringing water issues to the public domain is a critical concern for GWP EA. "We are engaged in media relation initiatives, building the capacity of media practitioners and journalists to pick interest in water reporting so that there is an increase in number and quality of water stories in the media", says Mr. Camille Karangwa, Regional Development Communications Officer for GWP EA.

The future of the water sector in the region should be bright with all the said interventions.



# GWP Eastern Africa:

## *Proudly hosted by the Nile Basin Initiative*



**Nile Basin Initiative**  
One River | One People | One Vision

GWP Eastern Africa, has for the last 10 years been hosted by the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat in Entebbe, Uganda. All through the years, GWP Eastern Africa has enjoyed the guidance, patronage, partnership and provision of strategic thoughts about how to best deliver Integrated Water Resources Management approaches to the riparian citizens of the Nile river.

There has been a lot of leveraging on the financial and administrative capacity of the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat in terms offering support to manage financial and human resources of GWP Eastern Africa. To this, GWP Eastern Africa is grateful.

The core business of the NBI fits well within the thinking and philosophy of GWP, as the NBI seeks to achieve basin cooperation, improved water resources management and water resources development. In one way or the other, these have shaped the programmatic thinking of GWP Eastern Africa.

The Nile Basin Investment Programs such as the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program, The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program and the Shared Vision Programs, the Nile Information Systems, Trans-boundary Water Cooperation Initiatives have all enriched GWP Eastern Africa's work as GWP EA in turn benefited from the institutional structures in place to reach out to a wider stakeholder base in the region.

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a regional intergovernmental partnership that seeks to develop

the River Nile in a cooperative manner, share substantial socioeconomic benefits and promote regional peace and security. It was launched on 22nd February 1999 by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the riparian countries namely Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Eritrea participates as an observer.

NBI provides riparian countries with the first and only all- inclusive regional platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue, information sharing as well as joint planning and management of water and related resources in the Nile Basin.

The NBI has a shared vision that aims to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources.

NBI's aims to develop the Nile Basin water resources in a sustainable and equitable way to ensure prosperity, security, and peace for all its peoples but also ensure efficient water management and the optimal use of the resources. This can only be achieved through cooperation and joint action between the riparian countries, seeking win-win gains, targeting poverty eradication and promoting economic integration.

It is this richness in scope that makes NBI "a partner of choice in development to GWP". This is what GWP is proud of and will continue taking pride of.