

GWPEA Held its 20th Regional Steering Committee Meeting in Rwanda

From 8-9 October 2015, GWP Eastern Africa held its 20th Regional Steering Committee Meeting in Bugesera, Rwanda.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair of RSC, Eng. Nkurikiye Anicet who welcomed and thanked participants for responding to the invitation in spite of their busy schedule. More particularly, he welcomed new members representing Kenya Country Water Partnership who attended the RSC meeting for the first time.



[← To Page 3](#)

Participants to the 20th RSC meeting

GWPEA Organized an Awareness Raising Workshop for Regional Media Practitioners

From 22- 23 October 2015, the Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA) conducted a regional workshop themed "Role of the media in promoting water security, climate resilience and drought risk management". The workshop was attended by 15 media practitioners from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, Ethiopia and Djibouti. IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), one of GWPEA key partners was also represented in this workshop.

The two-day workshop took place in Entebbe-Uganda and was organized with the aim of upgrading skills and knowledge of media practitioners on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and its application in the region in addressing challenges caused by water insecurity, climate change and drought.

[← To Page 3](#)



Field visit to Wagagai flower farming

GWP EDITORIAL TEAM

Safari K. Patrick - Regional Coordinator, GWP Eastern Africa
Kidanemariam Jembere - Programme Manager, GWP Eastern Africa
Camille Karangwa - Regional Development Communications Officer

Message from the Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern Africa



Dear Readers and Friends of GWPEA,

Welcome to this 12th edition of Water Digest. This version updates you on activities that were conducted by GWPEA during the last quarter of the year 2015 with the aim of advancing water security and climate resilience agenda in the Region.

The core of GWPEA's achievements in the quarter was mainly related to the governance. GWPEA cannot achieve its mission without strong governance to steer and provide strategic guidance on its operations. One of its highest organs is the Regional Steering Committee that held its statutory meeting in Kigali from 8-9 October to discuss activity progress reports, budget execution for the year 2015 and annual work plans for 2016. The meeting provided valuable insights aimed at strengthening the GWPEA mode of operations and strategically guide the Secretariat work and outputs.

During the same quarter, GWP Eastern Africa participated in different other meetings and events intended to enhance partnerships and share lessons and experiences with sister organizations. In that framework, GWPEA took part in the WACDEP Technical Coordination Meeting in Ghana and shared its experience and innovative approaches in implementing WACDEP program in Bugesera as well as IDMP in the Horn of Africa. GWPEA team also attended the GWP Regional Days meetings and was able to share with other GWP networks its key achievements,

challenges and future perspectives in the post 2015 development Agenda.

In all fairness, GWPEA successes greatly depend on its interaction and cooperation with partners that promote water security and climate resilience; one of them being the Nile Basin Initiative. Towards the end of October, NBI convened a workshop to enable stakeholders validate the inception report of the EU-funded project designed to promote trans-boundary cooperation and multi-stakeholders engagement in the Nile River Basin Region. GWPEA was identified as an implementing partner for this project that is set to start in 2017.

The same cooperation was about the engagement of local leaders in countries where GWPEA projects are being implemented. For the sake of ownership and sustainability, GWPEA engaged Bugesera District and Kamabuye Sector leaders and communities (Rwanda) to maintain and sustain WACDEP investment in Bugesera as an exit strategy as the WACDEP project phases out in 2016. In that framework, 8000 seedlings were planted in the buffer zone, a nursery was established for future replanting and community structures were established to maintain the buffer zone ; plans are on track to demarcate the buffer zone for better management. Contacts with WASAC also generated positive results and the water is running in 3 water supply points and consultations are continuing to sustain all the 8 water points provided by WACDEP.

GWPEA also recognizes the role of media in informing and educating the public in the areas of water security, climate resilience and drought risk management in the region. To this end, GWPEA organized a regional workshop gathering 15 journalists from seven countries and engaged them on issues related to water security and climate change and urged them to ensure the coverage of such topics in their day to day news bulletins.

Dear Readers and Friends, it is through such engagement and partnerships that GWPEA hopes to mobilize various actors to join its efforts of fostering water security, climate and drought resilience in the Region through IWRM approach.

Sincerely,

SAFARI Patrick

Regional Coordinator

GWP Eastern Africa



← From Page 1

Mr. Frederik Pischke, Senior Network Officer from GWPO supporting GWPEA, expressed the GWPO commitment to support Eastern Africa towards water security, climate and drought resilience in the Eastern Africa Region through WACDEP and IDMP HoA programmes. He stressed that GWPO will continue engaging donors and development partners at global level so that they can support the GWP programmes and strategic goals towards 2020. He urged the CWP to play an instrumental and catalytic role in the process of achieving the SDG targets in the post 2015 development Agenda. He also underlined the importance of speeding up the accreditation process of CWPs to meet the deadline of November 2016.

During the two days meeting, RSC members deliberated on a number of items related to GWPEA projects and overall Governance. More specifically, members of RSC reviewed the work progress and budget reports for January – September 2015 as well as workplan and budget for 2016.

Other important agenda items discussed



RSC members visit the Lake Cyohoha buffer zone

include accreditation of CWPs, GWP anti-fraud /corruption policy, legal registration of GWPEA in Uganda, GWPEA assessment report, staff employment, extension of host agreement, and local fundraising issues. The meeting also reviewed the new GWPEA Communications and Resource Mobilisation Strategies and exchanged on the upcoming statutory meetings.

The RSC meeting culminated by a field visit to WACDEP project demonstration

sites in Bugesera region where GWPEA supported building climate resilience and water security through the following interventions:

- * Protection of Lake Cyohoha buffer zone
- * Community water supply systems
- * Biogaz digesters
- * Rain water harvesting and kitchen gardens

← From Page 1

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- a. To build the capacity of the media in reporting on water, climate and drought management
- b. To allow participants share experiences and best practices on covering that important topic.
- c. To raise awareness and knowledge of IWRM
- d. To create an understanding of mutual roles and responsibilities
- e. To create a sustainable collaboration between GWPEA and the media.

Through plenary and group discussions, participants shared their experiences and best practices on how they have been covering water, climate and drought topics in their respective countries.

The two-day regional workshop was structured with both knowledge and skills modules and conducted in a practical and interactive manner that

allowed all participants to engage and contribute during plenary discussions.

On day one, there were a number of knowledge modules aimed at increasing the participants' understanding and knowledge of a number of topics. These included; an introduction to GWP and its networks; an introduction to climate change and IWRM; a presentation on the GWPEA projects as well as the GWPEA communications strategy.

There were also three skills building sessions with presentations:

- * Using the media to promote water security, climate resilience and drought risk management: How is it done?"
- * "How IGAD uses media to promote water security, climate change resilience and drought disaster reduction: Experiences and lessons learnt"
- * Group work assignments to discuss key media issues in the areas of water

security; climate change; and drought risk management.

On day two, participants undertook two field visits to Kigungu Landing Site on the shores of Lake Victoria, and Wagagai Flower Farm in Entebbe. The purpose of the visits was to enable participants witness IWRM in action and be able to generate stories to be shared with their respective audiences.

The two-day regional workshop was structured with both knowledge and skills modules and conducted in a practical and interactive manner that allowed all participants to engage and contribute during plenary discussions.

GWPEA Attended the WACDEP Coordination Meeting in Ghana

The WACDEP Technical Coordination Meeting for 2015 was held in Accra-Ghana on 5-7 October 2015. During the meeting, Regional Coordinators, Managers, Communication Officers as well as partners from programme supported institutions came together to discuss ways of improving communications and knowledge management within WACDEP both internally and externally.

The WACDEP workshops serve as platforms to discuss a number of key issues including programmatic, financial (WACDEP budget allocations) for countries/regions and guidelines for WACDEP financial and narrative reporting.

The overall aim of the WACDEP meetings was to share progress, approaches and lessons learnt in delivering the WACDEP outputs. In so doing, it creates communities of practice so that regions and countries with commonalities in

deliverables can be encouraged to work together and learn from each other.

GWPEA was represented in that meeting by the Regional Program Manager, Mr. Kidanemariam Jembere and the Regional Project Manager for IDMP-HoA, Mr. Gerlad Kairu. They were able to share WACDEP implementation experience in the region and make the following four presentations:

- * An overview of the progress, challenges and innovative approaches in the implementation of the WACDEP in Rwanda and Burundi trans-boundary catchment (Lake Cyohoha)
- * Approaches and experiences of WACDEP and partners leading to building community resilience
- * Approach and experiences around project preparation/ financing

- * Progress, achievements and lessons of the Integrated Drought Management Program in the Horn of Africa (IDMP HOA)

GWPEA also learnt lessons from interactions with other participants, mainly:

- * Political support is vital in taking forward the program processes
- * It's useful to link practice and policy
- * There is huge capacity deficit in water security support by stakeholders at all levels (Regional, national, sub-national and local) hence, need to work with several partners to fill the gap
- * Documenting lessons, success stories and best practices in on-going/ supported can bring about replication .



Participants in WACDEP Coordination Meeting

During the meeting, Regional Coordinators, Managers, Communication Officers as well as partners from programme supported institutions came together to discuss ways of improving communications and knowledge management within WACDEP both internally and externally.

Engaging Multi-stakeholders including Women and Youth on “Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus”

On 29 October, GWPEA attended a workshop convened by Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat at its Offices in Entebbe. The workshop gathered stakeholders to validate the inception report of the EU-funded project for NBI designed to promote trans-boundary cooperation and multi-stakeholders engagement in the Nile River Basin Region.

GWPEA was identified as one of the key project implementing partners especially to deliver two outputs, notably (1) Conducting National multi-stakeholders' Dialogues on Water-Food-Energy - Ecosystem Nexus (WFEE) in the post 2015 Development Agenda; (2) Organising a Regional training workshop intended to engage youth and women on WFEE nexus in the Nile Basin Region.



Participants during the inception workshop

The workshop will be intended to demonstrate the role and responsibilities of young water professionals and women, changing agents, to promote water-food security and climate resilience in the Region through the sustainable

management of Water Resources and ecosystems. The project is expected to be effectively implemented in the year 2017.



GWPEA Participated in Regional Days Meetings in Stockholm

Every year, GWP organizes regional days that bring together its partners across the globe to review the progress made by the global network in its fields of action and make projections into the future. In 2015, the meeting was held from 22-25 November at Hazeliussalen Hotel in Stockholm.

GWP and its partners expressed satisfaction since their efforts to have a water dedicated sustainable development goal were successful. Discussions are now underway to better position the network of partners in supporting countries to be successful in the implementation of the SDGs as a whole but especially goal 6 with its different targets.

Delegates from GWPEA comprising the Regional Steering Committee Chair, the Regional Coordinator, the Regional Program Manager, the Program Manager for IDMP, the Regional Development Communications Officer attended the GWP- RD Meetings and valuably contributed in the following areas of focus:

Strengthening GWP Governance, networking and partnership

GWPEA delegates joined other participants to present key achievements, challenges and future perspectives on the following thematic roundtables:

- * Progress review 2015: Key achievement and challenges;

- * Partners, CWPs, RWPs – Challenges & ways for strengthening
- * GWP Strategic positioning, incl. SDGs & Mobilizing Resources
- * GWP programme: Thematic perspectives, contributing to achieving SDGs
- * Knowledge Management within GWP;
- * Allies, Strategic partners, Boundary actors and the 2017-2019 Work Programme

Tackling the development agenda towards 2020 in EA Region

GWPEA delegates presented the strategy pursued by GWPEA to address challenges related to high vulnerability to drought and climate change, and poverty at community level in the Region. GWPEA will cope with these challenges by effectively implementing the on-going programmes/projects notably:

- * Strengthening partnership and collaboration: GWPEA will continue engaging and collaborating with its key strategic partners including Government Agencies, REC's, Lake & River Basin Organizations, CSO's, Academia and Research Institutions, International NGO's and development partners, to roll out capacity building and policy influencing programs on IWRM and climate-drought resilience in the Region

- * Integrated Drought Management in the Horn of Africa (IDMP);
- * Water, Climate Development Programme (WACDEP)
- * Support selected countries in the implementation process of SDG's and targets;

Inter-regional learning and exchange of information and best practices

The GWPEA Regional Development Communications Officer attended communications meetings together with other regional communications officers. The meetings were held after regional Days on 26 and 27 November and aimed at exchanging information, best practices and lessons learnt in 2015.

GWPEA shared its new communications strategy and updated participants on its successful regional media workshop that gathered media practitioners from 7 countries.

The meeting was also an opportunity to reflect on the upcoming GWP 20th anniversary and preliminary plans. Participants also exchanged on GWP publications, social media, websites, target audiences and potential stories for GWP in Action, 2015 Annual Report.

Regional communication officers also received a brief introduction on the Office 365 platform and received tips and tricks on budget preparation, reallocation as well as audits and in-kind contributions.

Towards Ownership and Sustainability of WACDEP Activities in Bugesera



Freshly planted tree

The Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) which is implemented in Bugesera at Lake Cyohoha catchment, shared between Rwanda and Burundi nears its end in 2016.

During its 3 years implementation, GWPEA conducted a number of activities in the demonstration site aimed to promote water security and build the resilience of local communities to climate change. These activities include Cyohoha buffer zone management, water supply, roof water harvesting, biogas digesters, land terracing, cooking stoves, etc.

GWPEA regularly monitors activities and engages local authorities in an effort to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives and ownership by local communities. GWPEA is also planning to document them in 2016 to capture their results and impact in the region and share lessons learnt with other partners.

In early December, the Regional Development Communications Officer supported the district/sector teams with the replacement of trees in the buffer zone and did a follow up on the water supply at WACDEP water points while conducting preparatory work for the upcoming

documentation of WACDEP achievements in Bugesera.

Local authorities reiterated their support for WACDEP activities in Bugesera and officials from WASAC (Water and Sanitation Corporation) offices in Bugesera promised to play their part to solve the problem related to the lack of water in WACDEP water points.

Under the auspices of district and sector agronomists, members of local community were mobilized and were able to clear parts of the buffer zone, dig holes and plant 8000 seedlings to replace failed ones.

The team also discussed the demarcation of the buffer zone and suggested to plant all along specific plants that are commonly used in Rwanda to show delimitation of properties. The plant is called *Umuyenzi (Euphorbia tirucalli)* and is available from the local community.

Local community members also elected a community committee made of 20 members and signed a 2 years-agreement with Kamabuye Sector. The committee's main task will be to look after the buffer zone and ensure its sustainability. The committee will work on a voluntarily basis and in close collaboration with local authorities. The committee will be chaired by a steering committee made of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a secretary and two advisors.

Following GWPEA recommendation to establish a nursery bed in the buffer zone that will generate seedlings for replacement of trees, the committee decided to start one and provide seedlings to

be planted in February 2016 to cover another part of the buffer zone; 10 000 seedlings (cassia) will be prepared to this end.

The fact that members of community committee will be the ones preparing seedlings will enable them to earn a small income and reinforce the spirit of ownership.

Consultations with WASAC and Ngenda Water treatment officials also yielded positive outcome as the water is now running in 3 water points out of 8 constructed by WACDEP project. The district and WASAC committed to work together to ensure that all water points are fully functional.

Finally, stakeholders supported the idea of documenting WACDEP achievements and requested to be associated with it to be able to share their views on its impact in the region as well as the lessons learnt. The documentation is set to cover the buffer zone in general, the water supply, the roof water harvesting and the biogas.



The water is running in 3 water points



Participants holding discussions

Improving Trans-boundary Management and Cooperation in Africa

From 15-17 December 2015, GWPEA attended a three days' meeting gathering members of the Coordination Bureau of African Network for River and Lake Basin Organizations (ANBO). The meeting took place in Dakar, Senegal, at Fleur de Lys Hotel

The workshop was facilitated by ANBO / SITWA project. The overall objective of the workshop was to review and discuss various items notably:

1. Assessment of the legal and institutional needs of selected River/ Lake Basin Organizations
2. Review of ANBO Statutes/ Constitution,
3. Options for Institutional and Governance Structure of ANBO and its Regional Secretariat" and;
4. Review and approval of the Progress report 2015 and Work Plan 2016 for SITWA Project

Members of ANBO Coordination critically reviewed the above items in line with the report conducted to assess the legal and institutional needs of selected Africa's L/ RBOs and prepare a legal/institutional support roadmap for seceded Africa's L-RBOs. The selected ones are from the 60 major river and lake basins in Africa shared by two or more countries. After review and discussion in details, members of ANBO coordination Bureau issued recommendations to improve the report and also agreed that the following L/ Basin Organizations will be supported in

line with the available budget amounting to Euros 60,000. These L/RBO's include River Medjerda for Algeria and Tunisia and ABAKIR.

Members of ANBO Coordination Bureau were also gathered to review and approve the report produced by a Consultant who was tasked to design ANBO governance and institutional structure in tandem with the revised ANBO Constitution, also based on existing strategic frameworks, decisions, consultation with key stakeholders and partners. The consultant was also requested to assess and substantiate a range of possible options for ANBO's governance structure and ANBO's secretariat and present them to the ANBO governance for consideration and decisions

From 15-17 December 2015, GWPEA attended a three days' meeting gathering members of the Coordination Bureau of African Network for River and Lake Basin Organizations (ANBO)... The workshop was facilitated by ANBO /SITWA project.

ANBO Coordination Bureau members recommended the option on ANBO's Technical Functionality. This option, called 'Technical Functionality' builds on the enhanced core functionality providing for further additional technical/ managerial capacity in the Secretariat to implement priority projects identified as part of the Strategy and Action Plan. To this end, project implementation units for the implementation of these priority projects would be formed by the Secretariat, meaning that the Secretariat itself would implement the project and provide the project management capacity. While (some of) the priority projects might still be ICP funded, the projects would be implemented by Secretariat staff (provided this is permitted by the rules of the funding agreement).

The relationship between the Secretariat and the Coordination Bureau would remain the same, however, with an increased programme being implemented by the Secretariat. This would increase the amount (not the type of tasks) of technical oversight to be provided by Coordination Bureau. The additional staff (both technical and administrative) required for the Secretariat would increase its overall running costs compared to the previous options.

The 3rd day was exclusively scheduled for the SITWA Project Steering Committee that was called upon to review and approve the progress report 2015 and work plan 2016.



GWP@20
YEARS OF IMPACT
1996 – 2016

1996-2016: GWP CELEBRATES TWENTY YEARS OF IMPACT

GWP was founded in 1996 to foster integrated water resources management (IWRM) which is defined as the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources in order to maximize economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems.

GWP HISTORY AT A GLANCE

1992	International Conference on Water and the Environment published the Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development with associated guidelines, the Dublin Principles.
1992	UN conference on Environment and Development called for effective implementation and coordination mechanisms to promote IWRM based on public participation.
1995	UNDP and World Bank issued an invitation to contribute to the development of a Global Water Partnership.
1996	The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro and the informal adoption of the Dublin Principles established the basis for founding GWP in 1996. Initially GWP's activities focused on developing the conceptual framework of IWRM based on the Dublin Principles, and establishing regional Technical Advisory Committees as start engines for awareness-raising on IWRM in the regions.
1996	Interim Steering Committee established; this formed the Technical Committee in June, tasked with creating the analytical framework for the water sector to promote sustainable water resources management.
1996	GWP was inaugurated in Stockholm, Sweden in August. A Secretariat was established in the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in Stockholm.
1996	Technical Committee held second meeting in November in Windhoek, Namibia and established the GWP Southern Africa Regional Technical Committee.
1997	Technical Committee held third meeting in May in Manila, Philippines and established the GWP Southeast Asia Regional Technical Committee.
1997	Network of Regional Technical Committees created. They would advocate change and promote knowledge exchange on better water management. Drive for membership/partners began.
1998	Country Water Partnerships began to form.
1999	The initial strategy, published in early 1999, focused on conceptual development of IWRM concepts and advocacy for IWRM approaches towards sustainable water resources management.
2000	In conjunction with the World Water Council that made preparations for the 2nd World Water Forum in The Hague in 2000 and drafted the Vision, the GWP network held several national and regional dialogues that led to the publication and presentation of GWP's seven regional Vision to Action documents at the Forum, together with the overall Framework for Action". This firmly established the GWP as a key body on IWRM at the global and regional level.
2000	Following the Forum, GWP developed a 3-year work plan 2001–2003 centred on the actions identified in the Framework for Action.
2000	Decision taken to transform the Regional Technical Committees into broader, stakeholder-oriented Regional Water Partnerships, which would work with governments on national water change.
2001	GWP IWRM ToolBox launched.
2001	Area Water Partnerships began to form.
2002	GWP Secretariat formally established as an intergovernmental organization in Sweden.
2002	The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg called for all countries to establish national IWRM and water efficiency plans by 2005. It marked GWP's success in advocating this approach.
2003	The WSSD target, outcomes of External Review and new Executive Secretary focus on strengthening the governance and financial systems of the network, feed into the development of the new GWP Strategy 2004–2008.
2004	New strategy started; facilitating IWRM planning programs funded and initiated.
2006	Number of Country Water Partnerships surpasses 50. Number of formal Partner organizations exceeds 1,000.
2008	New Chair appointed. Formal process launched to develop the GWP Strategy 2009–2013.
2009	Launch of GWP Strategy 2009-2013. New Executive Secretary appointed.
2014	Launch of GWP Strategy 2014-2019.
2016	Celebrating Twenty Years of Impact