

Stakeholders pledged to collaborate with GWPEA for the implementation of IDMP-HoA



From left to right: Gerald Kairu, Hon Gebregziabher-Ethiopian State Minister for Animal Resource Development, Kidanemariam Jembere

Joint Planning Meeting for the Sustainable Management of Lake Cyohoha Buffer Zone

The Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA) held a joint planning meeting to examine the sustainable management of Cyohoha Lake buffer zone. The technical meeting took place at Umubano Hotel in Kigali on 22 July 2014. Participants from Rwanda and Burundi discussed immediate and long-term actions to be undertaken for the successful maintenance and management of WACDEP demonstration projects in both countries.

The meeting examined the current status of the buffer zone, especially the trees planted around Lake Cyohoha shores that are affected by the persisting dry season. The Cyohoha buffer zone is located in Bugabira Commune

of Burundi and Bugesera District on Rwanda side. It is in this capacity that local leaders from both districts attended the meeting to give their views on how better and jointly sustain the buffer zone.

The meeting resolved that local communities should be mobilized to work closely with local authorities so that they can play a key role in protecting and maintaining the buffer zone. The meeting also agreed on immediate actions and road map to be undertaken

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The Integrated Drought Management Program in the Horn of Africa (IDMP-HoA) is a new GWPEA Program that seeks to promote drought resilience of countries, communities and ecosystems in the region. IDMP aims to build climate resilience, reduce economic and social losses, and alleviate poverty in drought-affected regions within the HOA through an integrated approach to drought. IDMP-HOA program operates in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti, Somalia and South Sudan.

To achieve its goals, IDMP-HOA will focus on establishing strong partnership and building capacities with the overall aim of developing resilience to drought and climate change in the HOA following an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach. Its particular contribution will be to strengthen partnership and influence policy and practice towards more integrated management of drought in the HOA in a changing climate.

As a starting point, GWPEA held meetings with different potential stakeholders to explain the project and seek collaboration and partnership. On 9-10 July 2014, GWPEA visited the offices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Djibouti. IGAD is a Regional Economic Community (REC) comprising eight countries, namely: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, that are located in the Horn of Africa (HOA) with political support of the member States.

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GWP EDITORIAL TEAM

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Message from the GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator



Dear readers,

Welcome to this 7th edition of Water Digest. This version updates you on activities that occurred during the last quarter, largely dominated by national and regional consultations aimed to advocate for a sustainable management of water resources and climate change adaptation in the region.

In the course of this quarter, our new program, the Integrated Drought Management Program in the Horn of Africa (IDMP-HoA), engaged potential partners and received a positive feedback. The Program team travelled to Ethiopia and Djibouti to present the program and seek cooperation with other

organizations, such as IGAD, Governments, UNDP, CapNet. There is no doubt that the successful implementation of IDMP-HoA and its lasting impact will largely depend on its capacity to galvanize partners' participation in tackling the acute drought that affects the Horn of Africa Region. GWPEA also relies on the instrumental role that will be played by country water partnerships in executing the program and making a difference in affected communities.

In the same line, GWPEA, through the Water and Climate Development Program (WACDEP), reiterated the role of media in promoting water security and climate resilience. This was stressed during media training ses-

sions that were held in Burundi and Rwanda. The active participation of journalists and their genuine interests in matters pertaining to water and climate issues is an encouraging token for GWPEA to continue involving them in its efforts to sensitize and inform communities and leaders on water security and climate change challenges. Journalists were urged to take the message to the public and become agents for change in their respective countries so that water management and climate resilience issues are given due attention.

WACDEP was also at the center of a five-day workshop that was held in Harare in

mid-September. The 6th technical coordination workshop for WACDEP Africa brought together 53 participants from the region and beyond to examine the implementation progress and exchange experiences and lessons learnt. GWPEA was highly represented and its experience in Bugesera demonstration zone was largely recognized. Mr Reverien Nzigamasabo, the Governor of Kirundo Province, was also present; a strong signal that GWPEA values the role of local governments in implementing its projects. Indeed, this is the only way we can ensure ownership and sustainability of our activities!

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for sustainably managing the buffer zone during the prevailing dry season.

Below is a summary of key recommendations:

- Maintenance by watering, mulching and replacement of dead trees.
- Establishing nurseries for fruit trees (grafted type) on the site to train local communities.
- Supplying 10,000 trees of fruit trees (grafted avoca-

does, mangoes) at household level as an incentive.

- Maintenance of the buffer zone by land terracing and tree planting along the demarcation line.
- Promoting local associations for the protection of the demonstration zone.
- Progressive ownership and maintenance of the area by local community committees instead of NGOs, under the guidance of the



Participants discuss on managing the buffer zone

local administration.

- Sensitization of local communities against grazing cows and cultivation in the

buffer zone in collaboration with the local administration.

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The meeting's objectives were:

- To share the GWPEA experience with IGAD in the area of Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP), in supporting countries with mainstreaming issues of water security and climate resilience into Regional and National Planning Processes.
- To learn some of the IGAD programs and activities which are being implemented in the region (HOA) with a view to identify gaps and synergies to appropriately focus GWPEA interventions.
- To discuss collaboration between IGAD and GWPEA in program implementation in the region.

The meeting specifically examined the collaboration framework between the two institutions and identified gaps and synergies with the on-going IGAD programs. In principle, the GWPEA and IGAD agreed that the two parties can cooperate and contribute to some of the areas where gaps exist. The collaboration framework can be formalized and both organizations will continue sharing information and experiences through joint meetings and consultations.

In the same vein, from 3-9 August 2014, the Regional Program Manager, Kidanemariam Jembere and the Regional Project Manager for IDMP-HOA, Gerald Kairu, undertook a mission to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with the aim of introducing the Integrated Drought Management Program in the Horn of Africa (IDMP HOA) and participating in a regional workshop to support National Drought Management Policies (NDMP). The activities were also intended to seek



GWPEA Team discusses with an IGAD official

further collaboration with key stakeholders and also build capacity in drought policies in the region.

The GWPEA team discussed with a number of stakeholders who pledged their support towards the proposed IDMP activities and expressed the willingness to fill the gaps and synergize their activities in line with those of IDMP-HOA. Amongst the stakeholders met include, key official from the Ministries of Water, Energy and Irrigation, and Agriculture of Ethiopia, International Development Organizations such as UNDP, CAPNET/UNDP etc...

The GWPEA team informed stakeholders about the status of the IDMP HOA program, which included the assessments of drought management frameworks and efforts for the countries in the HOA that was commissioned. The reason for informing the stakeholders was to identify gaps and synergies between similar on-going programs and later come up with priority activities without duplicating efforts. In this way, the program is additional to the already existing initiatives. Also, as the project is in its initial stage, it's appropriate to identify the key partners as well as mapping out the areas where interventions will be done.

The IDMP-HoA Project Manager also attended the Regional Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa, as part of the UN-Water Initiative on "Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies", in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between the 5- 8 August 2014. The workshop was organized under the auspices of UN-Water, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in cooperation with the UN-Water Decade Program on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC). These international organizations are working together to develop capacities of stakeholders on national drought management policies.

The workshop reached the following key recommendations:

- Droughts have affected mankind for centuries, only a few countries have so far developed and implemented proactive, risk-based national drought management policies. So the workshop called for countries to move away from reactive, crisis-based approaches to a more proactive and risk-based drought manage-

ment approach.

- Advocate for countries to include budgets for disasters/droughts as opposed to the current approach of waiting for relief
- Strengthen policies- where they exist; if not available do whatever is possible to have policies in place that can be used to drought management
- Collaboration in terms of data sharing to enable countries get equipped to fight droughts collectively

GWPEA/IDMP HOA message at the workshop was that IDMP will partner with key stakeholders in the targeted countries to take forward practically some of the recommendations of the workshop during the three year implementation of IDMP.

The participation in the NDMP workshop equipped the team with capacity on how policy implementation is being done at country level in the eastern and southern Africa countries and how to engage the key actors to fill the gaps in the implementation process. Also, the workshop provided a link to some of the key stakeholders undertaking drought management and other related activities in other countries.

GWPEA Trained Burundi and Rwanda Journalists and Media Practitioners on Water Security and Climate Resilience



Journalists follow a presentation on IWRM/Burundi

GWPEA organized training workshops for journalists from various media outlets in Burundi and Rwanda on 25-26 August and 1-2 September 2014 respectively. Under the theme “Importance of communication in promoting water security and climate resilience”, GWPEA sought to increase their knowledge of water resources management and climate change challenges and raise their interest in reporting on these matters.

GWPEA has built a strong working relationship with local journalists and conducts regular field visits and training sessions to update them on WACDEP activities while ensuring their continued coverage of water and climate issues.

The training attracted 10 journalists in Burundi and 18 in Rwanda. The topics covered include Concepts, Reality and Uncertainty of Climate Change and Water Security, Climate negotiations frameworks and processes, Integrating climate change adaptation into water resources development and management, Showcasing IWRM as

a tool for Climate Change adaptation, Role of Communication in promoting water security and climate change, Water and Climate Change issues in media, etc....

Interactive sessions and group discussions enabled journalists to debate on water and climate change challenges in Burundi and Rwanda and the role that they can play to sensitize communities and leaders to take these issues as a priority and to own up solutions that are suggested by GWPEA/WACDEP in the Cyohoha Lake Buffer Zone.

The training received an extensive coverage in local media and journalists vowed to continue reporting on water security and climate change. They also urged GWPEA to train and sensitize news editors as they are the ones taking final decisions on which topic to be covered. They also requested to be regularly informed and associated with the trends and progress of WACDEP Project in Burundi.

Below is a summary of their main recommendations:

- GWPEA should help setting up a media network for peer-exchange, information sharing, support, etc....
- GWPEA should continue updating and building the capacity of journalists in climate change and IWRM through workshops, field visits, newsletters, websites and any other relevant communication channel
- GWP should facilitate journalists’ access to information by linking them with experts in climate change and water resources management
- Government officials should be sensitized to provide information on climate change to journalists
- Media managers/editors-in-chief should be sensitized on the importance of reporting on climate change and water
- They should be urged to invest(financial and human resources) in covering stories related to climate change and water resources management
- Journalists should make an effort to continuously upgrade their knowledge and report on climate change and water(individual effort)
- They should base their stories on well researched data and do a follow up on their stories
- Journalists should focus on local content and proximity in their coverage/Think globally and act locally
- There should be a continuous working relationship between media and GWP/WACDEP and journalists producing good stories on climate change and water resources management should be recognized through awards.

GWPEA will build on these recommendations and continuously engage them and build their capacities as part of its efforts to educate people and communities in promoting water management and climate resilience.



Participants in Rwanda media training

SITWA Organized a Series of Regional Consultations on ANBO Strategy and Workplan

The Strengthening Institutions for Trans-boundary Water Management in Africa (SITWA) is a European Union-funded project implemented by GWP and ANBO (African Network for Basin Organizations) to build the capacity of Basin Water Organizations (BWOs) in Africa in order to enhance their positive contribution to integrated management of trans-boundary water and environmental resources, and to sustainable socio-economic development.

To tap on the rich and diverse experience of Basin Organizations (BOs), SITWA embarked in a series of regional consultations across Africa to collect views and inputs before formulating a strategy and action plan for ANBO. Regional consultations in East Africa were supported by GWP Eastern Africa Secretariat and were held in Kigali, Rwanda on 1-2 August 2014. The two-day workshop was with the following specific objectives:

- a. Introduce to regional stakeholders the ongoing EU-funded project - Strengthening Institutions for Trans-boundary Water Management in Africa (SITWA)
- b. Assess the key needs of Basin Organizations in Africa with respect to technical assistance and capacity building
- c. Collect views of stakeholders in the Eastern Africa region on the potential future roles and structure of ANBO
- d. Gather views on potential partners in the East Africa region who could

facilitate the work of ANBO

- e. Collect suggestions on possible actions to feature in the 10-Year Strategy and 5-Year Action Plan of ANBO

Participants from different regional bodies involved in water resources management attended the workshop, namely:

- Lake and river basin organizations - Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), Nile Equatorial Lake Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP), Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River Basin Authority (ABAKIR), Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA)
- Regional Economic Community Secretariats – the East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD),
- Members of the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW)
- Regional Power Pools - Eastern African Power Pool (EAPP), EAC Power Sub-sector;
- Civil Society Organizations
- Other key stakeholders in trans-boundary water management – Water Ministries in Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan and Ethiopia);

The consultations were very successful as they generated a lot of discussions and suggestions on future activities. More specifically, the following outputs were realized:



Group photo of participants

- a. SITWA project was introduced to stakeholders in the Eastern Africa region; at the end of the consultative workshop there was greater awareness of both SITWA and ANBO amongst the participants;
- b. Key needs of BWOs in the region with respect to technical assistance and capacity building were identified, discussed and prioritized;
- c. Potential future roles for ANBO were proposed after extensive discussions;
- d. Proposals were made for potential partners that could facilitate ANBO operations in the region; also identified were potential co-founders or sponsors of ANBO programs; and
- e. A detailed action plan for consideration in development of the ANBO 5 year Action Plan was developed.

In a nutshell, the greatest achievement of this regional consultation was to increase knowledge and raise interest in ANBO and SITWA in

the Eastern Africa region. This is expected to increase membership and generate greater activity amongst the BWOs of the Eastern Africa region.

Back to back with the above consultations, the second Stakeholders' Validation workshop of SITWA was in Munyonyo, Kampala on 10-11 September 2014

With the administrative and logistic support of GWPEA, SITWA gathered the representatives of Lakes and Rivers basin Organizations in Africa, to validate a number of studies aiming at supporting L/RBO in the areas of:

1. IWRM planning processes in L/ BO's;
2. Infrastructures Development
3. Climate change adaptation

The workshop was successfully conducted and commended the good work done by the consultants. SITWA project coordination Unit was requested to ensure that comments provided are incorporated in the final reports by consultants.

GWPEA Shared its Success Stories on Building Community Resilience during the 6th WACDEP Technical Coordination Workshop in Harare



GWPEA Executive Secretary, Dr Ania Grobicki addresses the audience

As part of WACDEP Africa efforts to catalyze exchange of lessons, knowledge sharing and technical coordination of WACDEP implementation among GWP regions, a five-day workshop was convened in Harare, Zimbabwe from 15-19 September 2014. The workshop was hosted by the Zimbabwe Country Water Partnership (ZCWP), under the patronage of Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP SA), in collaboration with the Zimbabwean Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate.

The workshop attracted 53 participants from Eastern Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa, North Africa, Caribbean, AMCOW and GWPO and sought to achieve had the following specific objectives:

- Share lessons on progress of the implementation of the WACDEP in the coun-

tries and regions

- Discuss work going on in investment planning and clarify how this can be better approached
- Discuss the different innovative approaches that are being used by the countries in building community resilience through implementation of demonstration projects
- Develop and finalize 2015 WACDEP Annual Workplans for the region and countries
- Discuss progress and challenges in the implementation of the capacity development program.
- Share lessons from country missions by the Reference Group (RG) and recommendations for future contributions from the RG

In her opening remarks, the GWP Executive Secretary, Dr.

Ania Grobicki congratulated the Country Water Partnerships implementing the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) on their progress in delivering results in the 8 African countries as well as in four transboundary basins and one transboundary aquifers where the project is under implementation. Her speech emphasized on the importance of the year 2015 - a year in which GWP hopes will be a game-changer in the context of international agreements.

She reminded participants on the need to reflect on the broader global context in achieving water security by continuing with the established linkages and synergies with key partners in reaching binding international agreements on 3 major fronts in 2015. These are a dedicated water goal within the Sustainable Development Goals;

negotiation for our climate future through the COP21; and influencing the outcomes of the 3rd World Congress on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Her message was echoed by the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Honorable Saviour Kasukuwere when he officiated the workshop. Hon. Kasukuwere also called for better water resource management. He further noted that while the Government played a key role in securing water for competing demands, requests for a water secure world was a joint responsibility. This he noted, could only be achieved through water co-operation at national, regional, continental and global level but through partnerships with the multitudes of stakeholders ranging from citizens, policy makers and the private sector.

The workshop comprised two meetings catering for different participants. The first meeting which was the WACDEP Africa Technical Coordination and Annual Programming which was held from the 15th - 17th of September, 2014 and aimed at sharing information and building the capacity of the managers on a number of technical issues related to program implementation.

The second component of the meeting was An inception Workshop on Project Prepa-

WPEA Secretariat and WACDEP country managers participated in the workshop and presented the progress of WACDEP implementation in Burundi and Rwanda and largely benefited from sharing experiences and best practices with other regions.



A group photo of participants

ration which was held from the 18th – 19th of September, 2014. A Finance Expert took WACDEP national consultants and project managers through a sharing and training workshop aimed at supporting the implementation

of Project Preparation and Financing.

A parallel session was organized on IDMP Program and focused on the preparation of a three year Work Program for the IDMP HOA and IDMP WAF projects as a whole and the

detailed 2015 Annual Work Plan. The session also discussed the first findings from the assessment of identified needs and gaps and ways to address them.

GWPEA Secretariat and WACDEP country managers

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GWPEA Joined AFWA to Conduct a Regional Conference on Finding Solutions to Accelerate Water and Sanitation Access in Africa

From 21-25 July 2014, GWPEA supported and attended to a Scientific Technical Council (STC) organized in Kampala, Uganda jointly by Uganda National Water and Sewage Corporation (NWSC) and the Africa Water Association (AFWA) under the theme “Solutions for accelerating water and sanitation access in Africa”.

The African Water Association (AFWA) is a professional association of establishments, enterprises and utilities operating in the areas of drinking water, sanitation and environment in Africa. The Scientific Tech-



GWPEA RC, Patrick Safari, briefing the audience on GWPEA Program and projects

nicul Council is organized on a quarterly basis to enable members and partners to build consensus on the way forward in address-

ing cross-cutting and overarching challenges in a bid to improve service delivery across the continent. The STC attracts high profile del-

legates from over 40 African countries as well as exhibitors from across the world.

GWPEA sponsored the event and used this platform to share with participants its programs and activities across the region. It also had a stand where it showcased some of its publications.

The participants to the conference appreciated and lauded the good work done so far by GWPEA under WACDEP towards water security and climate resilience of communities in the Lake Cyohoha Catchment.

Representatives from NBI Member Countries Visited WACDEP Demonstration site in Bugesera



The delegation heads to Cyohoha buffer zone

On 13 August 2014, NBI member countries visited the Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) Demonstration site in Bugesera, Rwanda. The Visit aimed to witness the trans-boundary cooperation activities that are being implemented by NBI partners in the region. The delegation mainly made of Permanent Secretaries from various ministries visited the Buffer Zone at Lake Cyohoha South and a number of families who benefitted from Biogas systems that were provided by WACDEP in Kamabuye Sector.

These dignitaries were in Kigali from 12 August to attend a follow up meeting on power supply projects in Rwanda.

In Bugesera, the WACDEP country manager, Jean Pierre Hakizimana explained to visitors different trans-boundary activities that GWPEA is implementing to protect the buffer zone and its ecosystem. He stressed the role of local communities in maintaining

the environment and indicated that GWPEA is conducting parallel projects to help them build the climate resilience

Visitors were able to see various trees that were planted by WACDEP to protect the buffer zone, the water supply project as well as biogas systems that are already operational. They were also able to interact with beneficiaries who

hailed WACDEP support and were proud to be associated with the implementation. Visitors were able to see various trees that were planted by WACDEP to protect the buffer zone, the water supply project as well as biogas systems that are already operational. They were also able to interact with beneficiaries who hailed WACDEP support and were proud to be associated with the implementation

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It is worth noting that GWPEA projects created green jobs for community members as they get paid for growing seedlings and maintaining them once they are planted.

The delegation was delighted by the projects and appreci-

ated the similar political will between Rwanda and Burundi to protect the trans-boundary lake.

GWP Eastern Africa collaborates with the Nile Basin Initiative to advance regional cooperation and climate change adaptation among countries that share the basin.



The WACDEP Country Manager briefs visitors on GWPEA activities in the region