

GWPEA Joined Uganda to Celebrate the World Water Day 2015



The Ugandan Minister of Water and Environment visits GWPEA stand

The World Water Day was commemorated in Uganda on Monday, 23 March 2015. The celebration ceremony took place at the new premises of the Directorate of Water Resources Management in Entebbe under the theme of Water and Sustainable Development.

The event highlighted specific aspects of freshwater to ensure that the year 2015 provides an important opportunity to consolidate and build upon the previous world water days to highlight water's role in the sustainable development agenda.

Honorable Professor Ephraim Kamuntu, the Ugandan Minister of Water and Environment who was the guest of honor stressed the importance and centrality of water as a basic necessity for the human life. He highlighted the need to prioritize water

in all sectors and change people's mindsets as some still consider water as an infinite and granted resource.

The event culminated by a round tour of participants who were invited to visit the exhibition stands where various communication and knowledge materials were exhibited by different stakeholders.

GWP Eastern Africa was invited to that event, as a Regional Body hosted by Uganda Government. It used that opportunity to brief the attendants on its on-going programs in the region. GWPEA also exhibited and disseminated some of its promotional and communication materials.

GWPEA and AMCOW Held Consultations on Water for Food Security and Energy

In preparation of the 7th World Water Forum scheduled for 12-17 April 2015 in Daegu-Gyeongbuk, KOREA, GWP Eastern Africa, African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and IGAD jointly organised a one day-consultation meeting in Nairobi on January 30, 2015.

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Message from the Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern Africa



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Dear readers and Friends of GWPEA,

Welcome to the 9th edition of Water Digest, the Quarterly news Magazine of GWPEA. This edition brings to you some updates on activities achieved by GWPEA during the last quarter with the aim of improving governance and management of water resources at national and regional level.

In the course of this quarter, GWP Eastern Africa together with the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and other partners finalized and presented a synthesized paper on **Water for Food Security and Energy** during the 7th WWF in Korea. The paper is a result of many consultations held with different regional stakeholders and the paper presents the African overview on this crucial theme **“Water -Food – Energy Nexus”**. The paper was developed to show case how to better manage and use water for ensuring food security and generating the much needed energy on the continent.

This quarter was also marked with the celebration of the World Water Day on 22 March under the theme of **Water for Sustainable Development**, where GWPEA joined the Uganda Ministry of water. The GWPEA's message during the event was to highlight the need for promoting the application of IWRM in various sectors and countries to ensure that people have access to drinkable water and manage it as a precious resource that can contribute to their integral socio-economic development.

The best way to raise awareness and bring behavioral change about the integrated water resources management is to engage relevant stakeholders and decision makers. A number of countries have so far embarked on this journey. Citing few examples, Burundi CWP trained its member organizations on the new law on water and sanitation and urged them to take the lead role in promoting IWRM, Kenya and Ethiopia exchanged lessons and best practices of promoting IWRM through a collaborative and coordinated framework.

GWPEA will endeavor supporting such bilateral and multilateral cooperation and firmly believes that it is through stakeholders' consultation, engagement, information and knowledge sharing that we can achieve our vision of creating a water secure region.

Looking forward, I thank all development partners and sister Regional organizations mainly REC's, Lake & River Basin Organizations for their continuous support and collaboration offered to GWPEA towards its noble journey of Improving Water Security, Drought and Climate Resilience in the Eastern Africa Region.

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The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) was chosen by the World Water Council to coordinate the Regional Process for the Africa region for the 7th World Water Forum. This was in recognition of AMCOW's successful coordination of the last 6th World Water Forum in Marseille, France.

Since February 2014, AMCOW consulted and sensitized especially its member Ministers of Water and Sanitation in Africa; the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that are expected to play the roles of the Sub-regional Coordinators; key international partner organizations that worked with AMCOW in the coordination of the 6th WWF Africa Process; and funding organizations such as the African Development Bank (AfDB).



Participants hold discussions

GWPEA Hosted the 15th ANBO General Assembly

From 12-13 February 2015, GWP Eastern Africa hosted the 15th General Assembly of the African Network of Basin Organizations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participants included government officials, representatives of international and regional organizations such as GIZ, UNDP/GEF, EU, NEPAD, OMVS, CICOS, NBI, AMCOW, UNESCO, etc....The Assembly was officially opened by H.E Alemayehu Tegunu, Ethiopian Minister for Water and Energy.

The Assembly examined and validated ANBO Ten-Year Strategy and its Five-Year Action Plan. It also adopted the following key resolutions:

1. The immediate implementation of ANBO strategy and action plan
2. The authorization to give power to the coordination bureau to disseminate ANBO strategy at large scale to enhance its visibility and conduct initiatives in order to mobilize funds
3. Use OMVS financial and accounting procedures until the ANBO one is adopted so as to manage funds resulting from membership
4. Develop financial and accounting procedures manual for ANBO to be adopted at the next GA
5. Acknowledge the creation of Mono River Authority
6. Send regular reminders to ANBO members regarding their contributions
7. Finalize development of the "ANBO project document" for submission to UNDP/GEF for final approval
8. Take note of and support the participation of ANBO in the elaboration of the "H2020 project document" presented by NEPAD Center of Excellence
9. Differ the decisions on Articles 8, 10 and 11 of the ANBO statutes to the next General Assembly that will take place during the last quarter of 2016.
10. The General Assembly approves



Participants in the ANBO General Assembly

the integration of new members:

- OSS: Observatoire du Sahel et du Sahara
- ABAKIR : Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River Basin Authority

With the adoption of the new strategy, ANBO is well equipped to fulfill its mission for the next 10 years to support the African Basin Organization in developing their capacity to play a leading role in sustainable regional economic development through promoting cooperative water investment and management and enhancing cooperation and exchange of experiences among its members.

In Eastern Africa region, AMCOW mandated GWPEA to coordinate consultations in the region/countries and prepared a sub-regional report highlighting facts and figures focusing on water-food-energy-nexus. The report was presented and discussed in Nairobi, Kenya on January 30, 2015.

The Nairobi meeting reviewed a study on Water for Food Security and Energy that was commissioned by AMCOW in view of the upcoming WWF. Participants from AFDB, IGAD, AMCOW, GWPEA and the Kenyan Government underlined several factors that contribute to food insecurity and limited agricultural and economic productivity on the continent. The most critical ones are the ever increasing population and the associated water and energy demands exacerbated by changing weather patterns and climate change. The uncertainty and complexity characterizing climate impacts on dynamic systems such as agriculture, water and energy

systems often generate cascading effects across system boundaries whenever one of the interacting components is impacted.

The meeting also resolved that the core driver of the Water, energy and food demand, which is the population growth, should be wholesomely addressed. Participants also highlighted the need to harmonize the range of actions planned by the major donors with the objective to boost investments in water, agriculture and energy in Africa within the framework of the Paris and Accra declarations on aid effectiveness.

In March 2015, AMCOW partners including GWPEA met again in Abidjan to review and validate the final paper compiled from all sub-regional reports. The latter will reflect the African position on the issue of water for food security and energy in Africa and will be presented by AMCOW during the 7th World Water Forum in Korea in April 2015.

Burundi CWP General Assembly Renewed its Commitment to Mobilize Local Resources

On 26 March 2015, the Burundi CWP held its ordinary statutory general assembly meeting in Bujumbura to discuss several issues including the review of progress towards activity achievement for the year 2014 and the strategy for the implementation of the Bu CWP's Action Plan for the year 2015. After deliberation on the programmatic issues relating to the successful implementation of Burundi CWP operations, members adopted the following recommendations:

1. Improving the communication and information sharing amongst Burundi CWP members;
2. Always updating the database of Bu CWP members to include new applicants;
3. Documenting and disseminating the impact of the activities of WACDEP project;
4. Burundi CWP member organizations committed to contribute a minimum fee of Burundi Francs 40,000 per year as seed money to run the BuCWP office;
5. Potential donors and development partners should be approached by the Steering Committee members to request support for the implementation of 2014 work plan;
6. Burundi CWP should endeavor to develop and submit project proposals called upon by various development partners on competition basis;



Members of Burundi CWP

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GWPEA attended discussions on Improving Trans-boundary Water Resources Management in Africa

As recommended by ANBO Coordination Bureau meeting of 12 February 2015 held in Addis-Ababa, GWP Eastern Africa joined ANBO-SITWA technical team to finalize the GEF-UNDP funded project document.

The team met in a technical session from 24 -25 March 2015 in Senegal-Dakar. The project is intended to strengthening the institutional capacity of African Network of Basin

Organization (ANBO), and contributing to the improved trans-boundary water governance in Africa. The project has two main components notably: (1) Strengthening ANBO's institutional and technical capacity as technical arm of AMCOW; (2) Supporting the capacity building of Lake/River Basin Organizations, Groundwater Commissions and RECs to foster trans-boundary cooperation in Africa.



Participants in group discussions

Stakeholders Reviewed and Discussed the UN-Kenya Water Country Brief Report

In conjunction with the Kenyan Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, GWP Eastern Africa facilitated the elaboration of Kenya water country brief report acquainted with qualitative and quantitative data on the use and management of water in Kenya. The draft Water Country Brief (WCB) report was reviewed by a multi-stakeholders' team from water, agriculture and energy sectors in a one day workshop held at Laiko Regency Hotel in Nairobi on 31 March 2015.

The WCBs will be fed into the UN Water Brief Report



Participants reviewing the country brief

to be reviewed by UN-Water Group. The CWB report intends to frame water issues within the larger development equation in a country as a way to stimulate further political attention and investments in water:

The overall objective of the WCBs is to better visualize the critical importance of "investments in water" for human and economic development. The expected result is to foster increased

political momentum for enhanced interventions on water-related issues by policy makers, dealing with peace and security, infrastructure investments, agricultural, health, education and environmental issues, as well as macro- and micro-economic perspectives. Thus, the need to mobilize increased financial and institutional investments directed to water-related interventions. Though WCBs will mainly target national governments, major civil society organizations and private sector actors and the media will also be engaged.

Kick-off of National Consultations on Water and Food Security in Uganda and Sudan

Within the framework of contributing to national and regional dialogues in Sub Saharan Africa in the context of climate change and in the perspective of CFS(Committee for World Food Security) 42nd session, COP(Conference of Parties) 21 on Climate, and for the sake of preparing development programs to support food security policies, in April 2015, the Secretariat of GWPEA briefed the Government Officials and Chairs of Uganda and Sudan CWP's on the process of holding National Consultations on water and food security in piloting countries such as Uganda and Sudan.

The background of these consultations is that Africa, in particular its sub Saharan part, is one of the most affected areas in the world regarding food insecurity (2014 report on hunger, IFPRI). Climate change is going to amplify the challenges faced by the agricultural sector and more widely

food production due to increased climate variability – a challenge in itself for cultures and livestock breeding – and to more frequent extreme events (floods and droughts).

In its latest report the IPCC explains very clearly the expected impacts in the coming years or decades. For the agricultural sector which food security and poverty reduction depends very much on in Africa, climate change impacts on water will indeed be the main driver of major changes, dramatic ones if adequate measures are not taken. The lack of water along the production cycle (in rain fed systems – the most important one in surfaces used for cultures or grazing – and in irrigated systems), floods before harvest, are actual threats for food security in areas where this is already a challenge.

The purpose of the National/Regional Consultations is to obtain views from

countries on the proposals from the HLPE on the interconnections between food and water security. These National/Regional Consultations will build awareness and examine the country and regional relevance of global perspectives, and provide inputs and options to support bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and recommendation that will enhance resolutions from the 42nd CFS.

The consultation output will be a country report setting out succinctly the views of the participants on the key issues for the future food and water security agenda. It will be centered on water resources management and its relationship with food security and on potential way forward. The aim will be to produce a brief Consultation Report consisting that gives an overview of opinions on the proposed recommendations and their implications.

Partners Identified Priority Investment Project Concept Notes for Water Security and Climate Resilience in the Kagera River Basin



Group photo of participants

GWPEA, in collaboration with LVBC and NELSAP, organized a regional stakeholders' meeting 25 March in Kigali, Rwanda. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together partner countries (Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) and key regional partners (EAC, LVBC, NELSAP and GWPEA) to agree on the type and nature of projects by reviewing the draft concept notes.

Earlier the three regional organizations and the four partner countries have been collaborating in carrying out Kagera basin-wide climate vulnerability assessment, identification of hotspots and identification of response measures. Moreover the partners identified, assessed and prioritized possible investment options.

The objective of the regional partners' meeting was to review the draft concept notes for investment in water security and climate resilience in the Kagera River basin. The meeting reviewed the five draft concept notes, and finally agreed to consider the following three priority investment concept notes:

1. Water harvesting and storage-Lead Institution, LVBC
2. Integrated catchment management - Lead Institution, NELSAP
 - Climate smart agriculture

- Integrated flood management.
3. Energy conservation and innovations – Lead Institution, LVBC
 - Involve research and universities

The meeting also agreed on the lead institutions which will take responsibility to push for next steps towards developing investment projects. Furthermore, the meeting reviewed constraints or bottlenecks for financing investment projects in the river basin and in the partner countries, and also identified possible measures to be taken to address the identified challenges.

GWPEA, Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) are collaborating on the implementation of WACDEP at Kagera River basin level. One area of their collaboration is to develop investment projects in Kagera river basin.

The objective of the regional partners' meeting was to review the draft concept notes for investment in water security and climate resilience in the Kagera River basin.

Kenya and Ethiopia CWP's Shared Experiences and Best Practices on Water Resources Management

From February 28 to March 6, 2015 the Ethiopia CWP visited Kenya CWP to look into the policies and strategies the Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) of Kenya has developed, how this policies and strategies are aligned with recent devolution of power to counties, the organizational integration of basin authorities with the national entity, how the different Water Resources User Associations (WRUAs) are formed, supported and performing.

The exposure visit was meticulously planned and well communicated from the WRMA top management, River Basin Regional and Sub-regional Offices down to specific Water Resources User Associations. The Ethiopian team was composed of nine members from the House of Peoples Representatives, the Ministry of Water irrigation and Energy, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Center for Development

and Capacity Building ,Sustainable land Use Forum, and Ethiopian Country Water Partnership.

On the Kenyan side, Mr Richard Mutua, Executive Director of Kenya Water Partnership (KWP) and Dr. Tena Alamirew, Executive Secretary of Ethiopia Country Water Partnership facilitated the exchange visit.

Key lessons:

- The process that the Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) of Kenya has gone through the different policy development process, the effort to align the policy towards the 2010 constitution, and Water Resources Users Association (WRUA) Development cycle (WDC).The team also noted that all six River systems in Kenya have well established and effectively functioning institutions in charge of water management at catchment (basin) and sub catchment

(sub-basin) scale.

- Practical experience in partnership building for better impact such as World Wide Fund For nature (WWF) that developed Lake Naivasha Integrated Water Management Plan, and KenGen for Payment for Ecosystem services (PES) initiatives. In terms of water management the delegation was informed how KenGen – the public – private power generating company is working under WRMA. It pays for the amount of water it uses and effectively discharges its corporate social responsibility.
- The team also learned how water centred development can be designed to encompass other livelihood improvement initiatives and how the plans of county government can incorporate the watershed level planning initiatives.



Participants from both teams

Key Partners in Burundi Committed to Sustain WACDEP Programme in Bugarura

This commitment was expressed by different WACDEP partners during the Burundi Country Manger's visit to the demonstration sites on 5- 6 March 2015. The partners include the Governor of the Kirundo Province, the Head of Department of Agriculture (DPAE) of the Kirundo Province, the Head of environmental Protection (OPBE=INCEN) in Kirundo, and the Mayor of Bugabira commune.

All stakeholders much appreciated interventions that are being carried out by WACDEP in Bugesera, and expressed their commitment to sustain these activities



Land terracing around the buffer zone

even beyond the current WACDEP. They reiterated that they would continue providing their support

for the successful implementation and sustainability of WACDEP in Burundi.

WACDEP is demonstrating improved and energy saving coking stoves and managing the buffer zone along the shorelines of Lake Cyohoha through soil and water conservation measures, and improved agricultural systems.

All stakeholders much appreciated interventions that are being carried out by WACDEP in Bugesera, and expressed their commitment to sustain these activities even beyond the current WACDEP.

GWPEA Participated in a Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender and Corporate Social Responsibilities in Water Policy-related Work

The workshop was co-organized by GWP and SIDA in Athens on 2-4 March 2015 in order to strengthen their partners' capacity on mainstreaming gender and corporate social responsibility (CSR) issues in water policy-related work. The workshop came after the recent launch of GWP's Gender Strategy and the current efforts for its regional programs to mainstream gender into their line of work. The workshop addressed CSR and Gender concepts and their relevance to the project results. Its objective was to

enable participants make use of the tools learned to improve their own gender/ CSR analysis, identify related possibilities and challenges, and thus, get an enhanced understanding of how to increase the use of these issues in consultation processes and policy making.

Mr. Kidanemariam Jembere, the Regional Program Manager who represented GWPEA believes that the training was extremely important as it helped participants to increase their awareness on the benefits of considering



gender and CSR in their programs.

"The training was very relevant and useful especially as it helped me to start thinking how our

region could implement the two cross-cutting issues through mainstreaming into our program activities", said Mr. Kidanemariam.