

GWP Vision is Achievable -RSC acting chair tells country water partnership delegates

The acting Chair of the 17th Regional Steering Committee meeting for Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa, Prof Munguti Katua, told 15 delegates from Country Water Partnerships that GWP's vision: 'a water secure world is achievable, if the present GWP Eastern momentum is kept on.' The delegates had gathered for the Regional Steering Committee Meeting held last year from 22nd up to 23 October 2012 in Burundi's Capital, Bujumbura.



Delegates during the 17th RSC Meeting in Bujumbura-Burundi 23 October 2012

The discussions in the RSC meeting mainly centered on the 2012 registered achievements, work plans and key strategic directions for 2013, strategies for sharing best practices amongst the Country Water Partnerships (CWP's).

The meeting also generated inputs from participants on several operational tools and strategies aimed at strengthening the GWP Eastern African Secretariat and Country Water Partnerships.

Referring to the general approval of GWPEA's renewed pace to deliver to the expectations of different stakeholders, Prof Munguti added all CWP's activities need to be more aligned to the general philosophy of GWP Forum as clearly imbedded in its vision, mission and four strategic goals. (See GWP vision, mission and strategic goals from www.gwp.org)

The acting chairperson was voted to steer the meeting attended by representatives from Country Water Partnerships from 7 countries: Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda, Egypt and Ethiopia.

Mr. Evariste Sinarinzi from Burundi Country Water Partnership, also who also served as the representative of the Burundi Ministry of Water and Environment welcomed the meeting as "timely and reflective of Burundi's continued commitment to further improve water resource planning and management."

He further urged delegates that all deliberations, decisions and commitments characterizing the meeting should be geared towards, one key goal—"serving and responding to citizens' water needs in our respective countries."

Local Governments Ownership of WACDEP Project



Consultative Meeting with Rwanda-Burundi local gov't leaders Bujumbura-Burundi 23 October 2012

The Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa Secretariat held a consultative meeting with local government officials to garner consensus and local government's feedback on the project's objectives, intended outcomes, foreseeable challenges and steps to garner citizen participation and support for the WACDEP Trans-boundary project.

The Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) was developed following 2009 African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) decision to fast-track the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation.

WACDEP seeks to support the integration of water security and climate resilience in the development planning and decision-making processes through investment in water security and climate change adaptations.

The meeting which took place in Burundi's capital Bujumbura was attended by District Administrator for Busoni Commune, Mme Kabihogo Léocadie, Administrator for Bugabira Commune, Mme Ndubwimana Consolate, Kirondo Province, Burundi, and Muyengeza Jean de Dieu for Kamabuye Sector, Busegera District, Eastern Province, Rwanda and Country Water Partnership representatives from Rwanda and Burundi.

Presenting the project activities, GWP Eastern

GWP EDITORIAL TEAM

Safari K. Patrick- Regional Coordinator, GWP Eastern Africa
Kidane Mariam Jembere- Programme Manager, GWP Eastern Africa
Willy Mugenzi, Regional Communications Officer, GWP Eastern Africa
Doreen Byangeru, Administrative Assistant, GWP Eastern Africa

Message from the GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator



Welcome to our second issue of GWP Eastern Africa, *The Water Digest* newsletter. *The Water Digest* is one of our communication tools through which we share latest and planned activities,

events and other developments from GWP Eastern Africa with our stakeholders.

GWP Eastern Africa is continually making its modest contribution towards a water secure world through a range of activities under advocacy, policy influencing and building strong partnerships and strategic communication.

In the recent past, we conducted successful activities: organized key strategic events—17th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting in Burundi's capital Bujumbura, consultative workshops with different stakeholders both at local and strategic levels (see story on consultations with local governments in Burundi and Rwanda and Young Water Professionals Conference in Kigali), commissioned two researches—situational analysis in the framework of Water Security, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) in Bugesera water catchment and Country Status Report on Climate Resilience in the wider Nile Basin, among others.

The findings from these researches continue to act as evidence-base for most of our projects such as WACDEP in Rwanda-Burundi Trans-boundary water catchment and Adapting to Climate Change Induced Water Stress in the Nile Basin funded by UNEP and SIDA. GWP Eastern is committed to using evidence to advocate for wise water policies, practices and uses in Eastern and Greater Horn of Africa.

Evidently, such modest contribution cannot be realized without the valuable support of the Global Water Partnership Secretariat, Regional Steering Committee (RSC), Water Country Partnerships and Nile Basin Initiative (our host institution).

The Water Digest's expected results will be reached if our stakeholders provide us with insightful feedback via the provided post address, telephone, website and other interactive communication tools. As we move deeper into 2013, we would be very grateful to hear from our stakeholders. In partnership, a water secure world is possible.

**SAFARI Patrick, Regional Coordinator,
GWP Eastern Africa.**

← The Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern Africa, Mr. Safari Patrick acknowledged the warm and healthy cooperation between the Global Water Partnership, Regional Secretariat, Nile Basin Initiative and the Steering Committee Members.

“GWP Eastern Africa is now better positioned to deliver to the expectations of GWPO, and further deepen cooperation with partners and stakeholders across the region,” Safari noted.

He urged CWP's to be more proactive especially in sharing knowledge in integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), Resilience to Climate Change, Water-Food Security nexus and influencing and

advocating for water-wise policies and plans in their respective countries.

Safari stressed that through concerted efforts, challenges pertaining to food insecurity, environmental degradation and limited climate change adaptation mechanisms still facing the Eastern and Greater of African Region can be transformed into future opportunities and strengths.

To foster an integrative approach in addressing the above challenges, GWP Eastern African has 8 CWP's and 165 partners actively involved in domesticating IWRM, influencing and advocating for water-wise policies and plans at country levels.

← Africa Regional Coordinator, Mr. Safari Patrick told local government officials that it is GWP's tradition to engage with multi-layered actors for buy-in and garner local ownership of water and trans-boundary related projects.

To this end, he noted that GWP Eastern Africa cannot afford underestimating the capacity of the local government officials in mobilizing citizen participation and ownership of the activities in Bugesera Trans-boundary Water Project.

“the success of the Bugesera Trans-boundary Projects rests on collective efforts of citizens, local government and GWP Eastern Africa's support,” Safari emphasized.

Illuminating on the objectives and rationale of the consultative meeting with specifically local government officials, GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator also added that: “nobody else is better placed to know citizens' challenges, needs and interests than local government officials.”

“To maximize the project outcomes, it is recommendable that the project focuses on priority activities in one area and thereafter scale up to other areas.” Kabihego Léocadie advised. Concentrating the project outputs in one area for increased project impacts was strongly recommended by most participants from Rwanda and Burundi.

“Focusing project resources in one area enables creation of village models and offers enough lessons for replication to other areas.” John Gakuba, Rwanda Water Partnership, Vice Chairperson contended.

Adolphe Mbonimpa, Director of Agricul-

ture and Livestock at Kirundo Province, Burundi commended the project's approach of conducting a systematic evidence-based situation analysis prior to the project implementation.

He mainly lauded the project for considering the early warning systems as a proactive response to the hazardous climatic conditions that have periodically disorganized livelihoods in the Rwanda-Burundi communes (districts). Mbonyimana hopes that at the end of the project, the targeted areas will be more resilient to ever-changing climatic conditions.

Historically, Busoni, Bugabira (Burundi's communes) and Bugesera District (Rwanda's) face persistent drought brought by climatic changes and unfriendly human practices such as over-cultivation, deforestation and unregulated livestock farming methods. In Eastern Africa, WACDEP will be implemented at Kagera basin, Rwanda-Burundi national level and Bugesera Trans-boundary water catchment. The Bugesera project's main activities will include among others:

- establishing a framework for implementing climate adaptive measures at various levels;
- providing training and demonstrating climate responsive agricultural and natural resources management practices,
- strengthen capacities of key stakeholders and local communities through behavior change awareness campaigns;
- strengthen communities' local early warning and flood management systems.

WACDEP: Rwanda-Burundi Team of Experts Team Discuss Water issues

Team of Experts from Rwanda and Burundi discussed water and climate adaptation and resilience issues in the drier Nile Basin, specifically around Lake Cyohaha trans-boundary water of Bugesera region for the two East African countries.



Validation Workshop for Situational Analysis, 20th December 2012



The discussions held 20th December 2012 on Rwanda-Burundi Border, Bugesera District, Eastern Province of Rwanda centered on the findings from the Situational Analysis: current challenges, potential resources, best practices and priority recommendations.

The study commissioned by Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA) seeks to draw evidence to inform the implementation of the Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) in Bugesera region—formerly characterized by severe seasonal droughts, floods and food insecurity.

The multi-disciplinary Team of Experts used guided interviews, questionnaires, observations, document reviews and community consultations to generate data in Rubuga, Kigina, and Gaturanda for Bugabira Com-

mune of the Kirundo Province, whereas in Rwanda, the study was conducted in Kamabuye Sector of the Bugesera District, the Eastern Province.

GWPEA prioritized WACDEP intervention in this region to increase its climate resilience, adaptation mechanisms and stimulate wise community practices favoring the sustainable management of Burundi-Rwanda shared waters of Lake Cyohaha.

Similarly, the situational analysis identified severe drought, persistent floods and unfriendly human practices such as fishing, farming, lack of integrated water resource management approach and citizen mindset as some of the key challenges.

Other critical challenges include limited participation of women in the management of water resources in Bugesera region.

“Given the fact that women are the vast majority in Burundi their limited participation in managing Lake Cyohaha can be a potential constraint for equitable and sustainable management of water resources in Burundi,” said Ange Kigeme, a member of the Burundian Team of Expert.

The Vice Mayor for Socio-Economic Affairs, Bugesera District, Julius Rukundo had earlier said that collaborative efforts between development partners and government saved Bugesera from the desertification to naturalness.

The Governor of Kirundo Province, Burundi, Mr. Nzagama-sabo Révérien said that such a situational analysis focused on climatic, hydraulic, socio-economic, environmental situation of Bugesera Region is an indication of **“sustained collaborative efforts to turn severe seasonal droughts and floods that formerly characterized Bugesera a thing of the past.”**

The Regional Coordinator, Patrick Safari for GWPEA briefed participants about the background, objectives and intended outcomes of WACDEP-Rwanda-Burundi Water catchment project.

He illuminated the linkage between increased severe climate conditions, water scarcity and food insecurity in Bugesera region.

He commended the existing political will as demonstrated by the participation of local and central government actors from Rwanda and Burundi right from initial phase up to current stage of obtaining data from the field.

To build a water and climate secure region, GWPEA Coordinator added the

GWPEA Communication Officer Trained on “Communicating Impact”



The GWP Eastern Communication Officer, Willy Mugenzi underwent through an in-service skills enhancing training held in Athens, Greece from 1st-10th December 2012.

The training focused on writing compellingly to meet diverse audience needs, use of modern communication tools such as websites and social media facebook, twitter, youtube, linkedin others to maximize GWP visibility, presence and reach.

Head of Communications at GWP Stockholm, Steven Downey said the training is demand and needs-based and thanked participants’ active responsiveness and participation.

Participants to the training hailed the training as very relevant, refreshing and appropriately designed to augment communicators’ skills and knowledge.

GWP considers communication as one of the strategic pathways for sharing knowledge, advocating and influencing change in policy and practices for a water secure world. Thus, communication and knowledge management is one of the four strategic goals of GWP.

“it was critical to base WACDEP implementation on insightful evidence from the field, thus the rationale for commissioning such a situational analysis study in Bugesera.”

GWP seeks to build a water secure world.

PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP -Insights into Uganda's Case

Can Public Private Partnership Approach (PPP) be helpful in Managing Water Resources and ensure a water secure world? Uganda's case provides insightful lessons worth sharing, where need be replication. Uganda Local Water Authorities, Association of Private Water Operations, Government, and end-users/water users expressed confidence in the GWPEA's Reform Study recommendation: that enhanced 'Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Approach to water resource management could help Uganda fast-track the process towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target on water by 2015.

The MDGs Report 2012 projection indicate that in 2015 more than 600 million people worldwide will still be using unimproved water sources.

In Uganda, the study commissioned by the Ministry of Water and Environment with the support of the Global Water Partnership East African Region revealed that the overall national access to water services in 2012 stands at 74% and 54% in large towns and small towns respectively. Worth-noting, it is higher than the regional average for Sub-Saharan Africa, about 60%.

"The frequency of complaints from the Operators to the Directorate of Water Development has drastically reduced," thanks to an established working relationship

under private-public partnership approach (PPP), the report observed.

Due to PPP Approach, water supply has significantly improved in rural areas in Uganda; there about 100 gazetted water authorities, of which 80 are managed by private operators.

Lillian Idrakua, Assistant Commissioner for Department of Water Resource Management, Ministry of Water and Environment said the coming on board of the Private Sector Operators in water resource management "added value to the whole water supply chain; private sector has the requisite technical and human resource skills and capacities."

Idrakua lauded the inclusion of

Civil Society Organization in Water Resource Management. She believes Civil Society Organizations are key partners; they can provide financial resources, monitor the implementation and influence water-wise behaviors at the grassroots.

Using its advocacy skills, GWPEA advocates for water-wise policies, practices and integration of IWRM in national development plans. Assistant Commissioner asserted that "Uganda is on good course towards meeting MDG target on water."

The PPP Approach was praised to work in the interest of most invisible and voiceless rural water users. As for Julia Nakisitu, a water-user, any cooperation involving government, civil society

and public representative should be welcomed and sustained. Asked why, she reasoned, *"such approach can control exploitative practices of private sector through price manipulations."*

Any partnership bringing together state and non state actors in the management of water resource—investment, access up to management can guarantee "increased efficiency and effectiveness," observed Denis Byamukama, Vice Chairperson of the Uganda Association of Water Private Operators.

Likewise, he strongly believes that price manipulation cannot thrive in such watchful and monitoring framework under public-private partnership.

The shift from the Government-

WACDEP: Team of Experts Harmonized Situational Analysis Research Methodologies.



Team of Experts analyse a water catchment map with GWP Eastern Africa Programme Manager, Kidane Mariam Jembere in Bugesera, Rwanda-Burundi border, November 2012

A multidisciplinary team of experts drawn from Rwanda-Burundi Public Institutions conducted a pre-research field visit to areas around Cyohoha Water Catchment last November 2012.

The purpose of the field visit was to harmonize the team's research methodologies, identification of research and project intervention site, respond and internalize the Terms of reference for the situational analysis for WACDEP Project.

Briefing the team, the GWPEA Project Regional Program Manager Mr. Kidanemariam Jembere urged the team of experts to enhance team work and continually reflect on the project's guiding Terms

driven to Public-Private Partnership Approach was motivated by limited incentives and motivations by Government employees to run private and business-oriented water related services such as billing, collection of water sales as well as bureaucracies in the management of government water resources.

The Director of Water Resource Management, Ministry of Water and Environment, Engineer Shillingi Mugisha contends that Public-Private Partnership Approach could fast-track the process towards increased broader commitment to provision of equitable and sustainable water services in Uganda.

Though PPP offers good lessons for further replications, Engineer Shillingi calls for the general change of mindsets, noting that **“there are still people who believe that Government is the only water provider and water is infinite and free. Such mentality needs to be challenged and uplifted.”**

The Regional Coordinator for Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa, Safari Patrick commends the Public-Private Approach as

of Reference (ToRs) specifically the selection criteria for the site where the study will be implemented.

The selection criteria include: having a trans-boundary waters, evident need for intervention (hot-spot) and non-duplication of other partners’ past interventions.

Kidane emphasize that **“the chosen project intervention site should “enable the citizens of the two countries to jointly collaborate while managing the shared trans-boundary water and other natural resources.”**

The findings of the situation analysis will inform the implementation of the WACDEP around Cohoha water catchment.

A clear picture of the project

the “most effective and efficient approach for water resources management since it responds to diverse interests and needs of various stakeholders in water sector in Uganda.” He further noted that GWPEA supported the study because it is an evidence based

process for ensuring sustainable management of water resource infrastructure at all levels in Uganda, hence promoting no or low level regret investment in the water sector.

Further information about the transition from State-driven to

Public-Private Partnership and ownership of water resources management, visit our website: www.gwp.org and check a news story titled: Uganda: Output-based contracts in small towns water supply: challenges and opportunities.

intervention area will show socio-economic, gender, natural resources/environment, agricultural potential and hydrological challenges, opportunities and priority/strategic areas of focus by GWP Eastern Africa and its implementing partners.

On the Burundian side, the data collection and analysis is expected to be conducted in Rubuga, Kigina, and Gaturanda in Bugabira Commune of the Kirundo Province, whereas in Rwanda, the study will be at Kamabuye Sector of the Bugesera District in the Eastern Province.

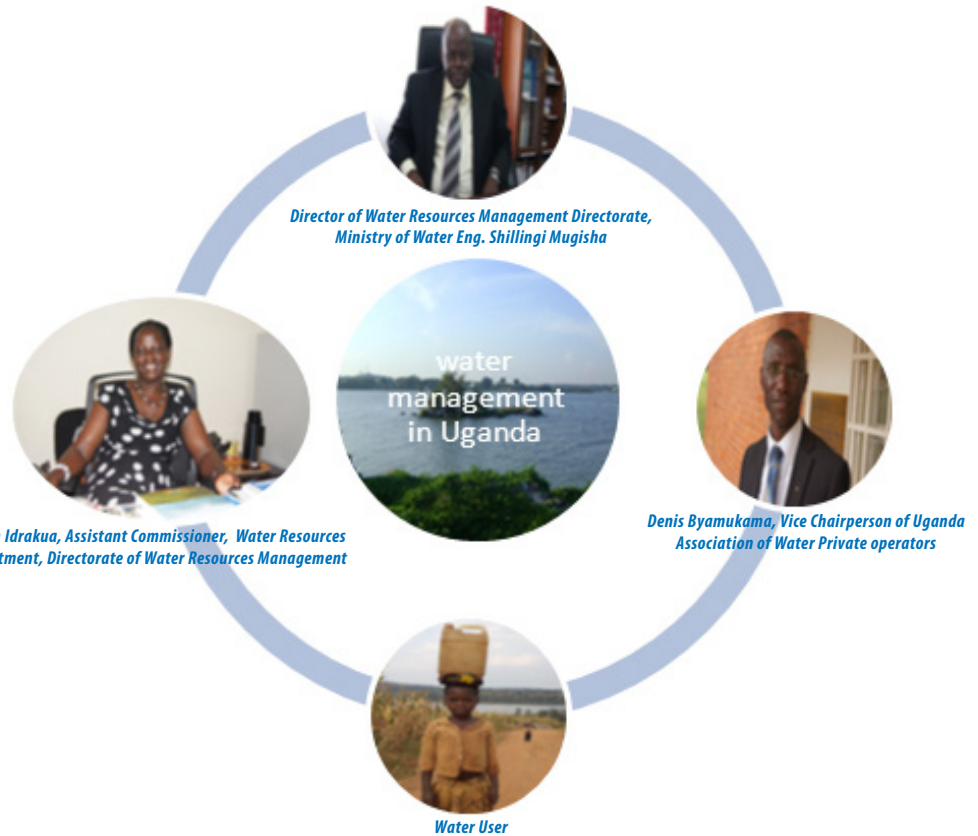
The key implementing partners for GWP Eastern Africa specifically on WACDEP Project are local citizens as ultimate project beneficiaries, Government of Burundi and Government of Rwanda.

In Eastern Africa, WACDEP will be implemented at Kagera basin, Rwanda-Burundi national level and Bugesera Trans-boundary water catchment. In the long term, WACDEP seeks to achieve **“a higher level of water security and climate resilience in the countries of Burundi and Rwanda”** the envisioned project impact reads in part, whereas its expected outcomes are:

- Water security and climate resilience integrated in development planning and decision-making processes Burundi and Rwanda;
- Capacities of partnerships, institutions and stakeholders in Burundi and Rwanda enhanced for climate change adaptation and sustainable water resources management

in a trans-boundary setting in Bugesera catchment, and at higher level in Kagera basin.

- “No regrets” investment and financing strategies for water security, climate resilience and development formulated and governments of Burundi and Rwanda begin to implement them;
- Community-based climate adaptation and water security actions defined and implemented for demonstration or piloting purposes in Bugesera catchment;
- Useful knowledge and information on climate resilience and water security generated and disseminated among stakeholders in Eastern Africa;



Director of Water Resources Management Directorate,
Ministry of Water Eng. Shillingi Mugisha

Lillian Idrakua, Assistant Commissioner, Water Resources
Department, Directorate of Water Resources Management

Denis Byamukama, Vice Chairperson of Uganda
Association of Water Private operators

Water User

Burundi-“Effective Water Cooperation Can Deliver Results”



Ange Kigeme(left) member of GWP Eastern Africa steering Committee and Christophe Gahungu head of IWRM Monitoring & Evaluation

Using Burundi’s case, the Regional Coordinator For GWP Eastern Africa strongly believes that “the success of IWRM implementation in Burundi is a testimony that “water cooperation can deliver laudable results in Integrated Water Resources Management. It a success that calls for further collective celebration.”

Water Cooperation is one of the integrated approaches to managing the world’s water resources for economic growth, social equity, and ecosystem sustainability. The United Nations declared 2013 as an *International Year of water cooperation*.

GWP Eastern Africa joined international community to look back and celebrate how Water Cooperation is steadily delivering towards—a *water secure world* (GWP Vision). To this end, this story focuses particularly on how far Burundi has moved towards the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as one of the pathways toward the above vision.

Burundi’s Context

Burundi experiences unstable climatic conditions and her geography is localized between latitude 2°20’ and 4°27’ south of the equator and between 28°50’ and 30°53’. The population is

90% rural drawing its main livelihood from farming. The country has much water potentials with an estimated 3600 water basins notably Congo, Tanganyika and Nile.

By 2006, Burundi did neither have IWRM Plan nor well-functioning institutions or guiding policy framework for Integrated Water Resources Management. However, it had the political will to see to it that the abundantly existing, but finite resource, water— is effectively managed, legally regulated and policy-wise mainstreamed.

Past water sector assessment reports indicate that in 2006, Burundi’s water sector critically needed supportive “institutional reforms, clear mandates for control and coordination of water resource management, establish a multi-sector stakeholder body to streamline and rationalize all interventions in the sector of water.”

As a response, multi-stakeholder intervention involving Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA) Africa Water Facility (AWF), African Development Bank, the Government of Burundi initiated the IWRM financing process, conducted appraisal studies and identified key priori-

ties, challenges and recommendations.

Similarly, the African Development Report (2006) titled “*Support to the Formulation of Burundi IWPM Plan*” recommended, among other things : “building stronger partnership and forums for the discussing water issues of national, update and complete water legislation and formulate national policy for Integrated Water Resources Management.” The report also strongly drew among other key recommendations:

- ✓ a national IWRM Plan be developed, adopted and implemented by the Government of Burundi for sustainable water resource management;
- ✓ Water development strategies systematically integrated in the national development plan;
- ✓ An integrated framework for institutional reform, strengthening and capacity-building developed;

Burundians’ assessment of the progress

According to Gahungu Christophe, Head of IWRM Monitoring and Evaluation in the Directorate General for Integrated Wa-

ter Resource Management, observes that “*Burundi has made impressive headways in as far as IWRM implementation. This has been due to multi-sectoral cooperation bringing together Government, Civil Society Organizations and other developmental partners such as World Bank, GWP, UNICEF among others to draw concrete pathways to where we are now.*”

Gahungu further stressed that water cooperation in Burundi thrives because of the formed water Sectoral working groups, increased commitment and ownership by all stakeholders.”

In view of challenges that faced the water sector and IWRM in 2006 , the multi-stakeholder cooperation in Burundi has enabled the realization of significant milestones so far.

Milestones from 2006-2012

To effectively implement the IWRM, the Burundi is applying a piloting approach specifically focusing IWRM implementation around Tanganyika Basin situated in Rumonge Commune, Bururi Province. This approach provides opportunities for learning, scale up of best practices, and stimulating maximum impact on the ground. Such approach is highly lauded by Burundians as “cost-effective and impact-guaranteeing.”

Ange Kigema, a Burundian from the Civil Society Sector, member of the Monitoring and evaluation team, also serving as the GWP Regional Steering Committee , expressed optimism in the future of IWRM in Burundi.

“Considering where IWRM has come as a concept, then a policy, strat-

Integrated Water Resource Management in Burundi

Challenges in 2006	Water Cooperation Partners;	Achieved milestones by 2012
Limited Resources to initiate IWRM process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burundians; Government of Burundi, Africa Water Facility; Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa; African Development Bank; GIZ; The UN Agencies and Programs; And development partners; Civil Society Water Partnership (Forum); Media fraternity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured funding for IWRM
-Lack of national institutional framework for coordination of water and IWRM issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Water and Environment established; Directorate General for IWPRM established and functional;
Absence of a national IWRM water policy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A national Water Policy formulated in 2009
Lack of a national IWRM Strategy and Action Plan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A national IWRM Strategy and action plan formulated in 2011
Lack of regulatory and legal framework		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Law drafted and promulgated in 2011; Monitoring and Evaluation framework established;
Lack of a neutral multi-stakeholders' forum to discuss, share knowledge and information on water		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National multi-stakeholder Water neutral forum (Partnership) was formed and actively functional
Low level of understanding of IWRM-Development Nexus		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased ownership by stakeholders due to increasing knowledge and information sharing
<p>Information extracted from ADB Report (2006) and interviews conducted by GWPEA (2012)</p>		

egy and now on a phase towards the process of being decentralized, I am sure that its future is brighter.”

The success of IWRM can be attributed to increased ownership by the Government of Burundi and Civil Society, she contends.

Envisioned outcome of IWRM in Burundi

It is expected that effective implementation of IWRM will drive Burundi towards sustainable water resources management and thus contribute to social equity, economic effi-

ciency and environmental sustainability. It will result into improved health and wellbeing of the population, improved water related livelihoods, increase gains from agriculture and reduce the persistent risks of floods and drought.

How Country Water Partnerships Thrive: Insights from Kenya Water Partnership

GWP Eastern Africa considers decentralization of the water resources management roles to country level as one of the ways to stimulate effective partnership and ownership at country level. As a result, GWP Eastern Africa has 8 Country Water Partnerships: Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt and Eritrea. Each CWP seeks to translate the overall GWP Vision into a local practice. As resources to mobilize, influence and advocate for sustainable management of water resources continue to

be scarcer; CWPs are continually required to think harder and much more creatively so as to roll-out their activities in their respective countries.

Below are some insights how Kenya Water Partnerships (KWP) managed to turn around existing challenges into valuable outputs.

- Use of aspiring young University graduates, motivate and provide mentorship accompaniment by KWP staff; such specific involvement of university graduates ensures stimulating

interests amongst yet-to be young water professionals and ‘multiplier-effect’;

- Forming Thematic Working Group to discuss in which issues of climate change, Water security, land use, Water and Sanitation, IWRM legislation and policies are discussed and make informed annual work plans;
- Strategic advocacy meetings aimed at policy and institutional reforms
- Resources mobilizations from

donors through proposal and concept writing (about USD 178,000 was obtained from the Government of Sweden and DFID in 2012);

- Conduct sensitization campaigns on IWRM to ensure 6 basin stakeholders embraced and applied the IWRM approach;
- Building capacity and competency skills in advocacy, networking, monitoring and evaluation, participatory and facilitation;



GWP Eastern Africa Contributed to Adoption of Water Declaration for ‘Future Leaders’

As a co-organizer of the East Africa Young Water Professionals Conference held in Rwanda’s capital Kigali, December, 2012, GWP Eastern Africa contributed to the adoption of Water Declaration directed to government decision-makers in East Africa and beyond.



3rd left is Patrick Safari GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator in Young Water Professional Conference, December 2012, Kigali-Rwanda



The conference which had brought together over 200 youth from 15 African countries resolved to take up “a more visible, active and meaningful role in addressing climate change and water resources management challenges.”

Participating institution included 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, Water Aid among others.

Through a presentation themed “Increasing Resilience to Climate Change: What is the Role of the Youth?” GWP Eastern Africa used the platform to showcase Global Water Partnership’s philosophy, its current drive to mobilize collective efforts towards climate change adaptation mechanisms and the role youth can play in lessening

climate change effects in Eastern Africa.

Along with other actors, GWP Eastern Africa co-organized, co-financed and facilitated the conference themed “Water for the Future: A contribution of the Youth.”

As future leaders, creative, largest and fastest growing proportion of the Africa’s population, the youth further committed themselves to “fully take charge of water management challenges and solutions,” reads the declaration of the 2nd East Africa Young Water Professionals Conference.

GWP Eastern Africa recognizes that the youth as Africa’s next decision-makers are key stakeholders in understanding linkages between climate change and sustainable water resources management.

The youth resolved to direct their youthful energies towards dealing with climate change issues. Due to climate change, the Greater Horn of Africa has experienced severe shortage of water, erratic floods, and

changing rainfall seasons.

From a GWP Eastern perspective, “one key outcome of the conference achieved was that at least 200 of a specific category of African population, next future leaders and actors from over 15 African countries and beyond fully understood their expected roles in addressing climate change challenges and how it impacts on water resources management.”

Basing on their capacity to stimulate sustainable change in climate change and its negative effects on water, GWP Eastern Africa urged participating young water professionals not only adopt a water declaration, but as Africa’s upcoming leaders, they practically engage African decision-makers to adopt water and climate friendly policies and strategies.

Rwanda’s Minister of the National Resources and Environment, Stanslas Kamanzi pledged the continued support for youth initiatives in managing water resources and climate change.

“Worldwide, the Youth have come up with innovations that have contributed to drastically changing the social environment they live in. The African Youth is certainly on the right path in this regard.”

The conference attracted high level decision-makers from Eastern African Members countries also underlined the need for youth to take urgent measures and prudent care for water and climate issues to guard against generational consequences.

Participants also emphasized the need for increased exchange of scientific knowledge and water resource management and climate change adaptation best practices especially in water stressed countries.

Motivated to build a future with minimal climatic and water related hazards, the Kigali Declaration drew 5 guiding principles; the 4th principle committed the youth to conduct mass education of citizens to create an understanding of the magnitude of the water sector challenges that face Africa in the near and distant future.