

## Message from Mr. SAFARI Patrick, the Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern Africa



***Dear readers and friends of GWPEA,***

Welcome to this 10<sup>th</sup> release of GWPEA Quarterly Magazine "***Water Digest.***" This version brings to you some updates on GWPEA activities during the last quarter ( April-June 2015) as part of its continuous effort to support and advocate for good governance and sustainable management of water resources in the region.

In the course of this quarter, GWP Eastern Africa strengthened its collaboration with partners through a number of joint activities that were conducted such as Multi-Stakeholders' Forum on trans-boundary ecosystems of Mount Elgon, bringing together a wider range of stakeholders involved in the conservation and development of Mount Elgon rich ecosystems in Kenya and Uganda.

The forum deliberated on how various partners can synergize in the implementation of activities for sustainably conserving the Mt Elgon Ecosystems. The ultimate goal of such forum is to discuss the long term programmatic approach to support climate change adaptation and build resilience framework of local populations.

During the quarter, GWPEA also participated in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual TAC- COM Meeting for NBI. In this meeting, GWPEA presented progress report on its Programs/ Projects in the Nile Basin Region and also demonstrated some areas of collaboration between the two organizations. Further consultation on these areas is planned to set the ground for a vigorous and long-term collaboration. In the same vein, GWPEA sponsored the Nile Media Awards initiative that recognized journalists who, through their reporting, have contributed to promote better water resource management in the Nile basin.

Knowledge development, information sharing and capacity development components are enshrined in GWPEA goals towards 2020 and they are crucial for engaging and

empowering partners to play a significant role in implementing IWRM and changing policies and behaviors. To this end, different actors involved in water sector from the region were gathered in Addis Ababa in mid-June to undergo a Regional Training on forecasted climate and drought -related risks. GWPEA also hosted planners and decision makers in Rwanda and reviewed their progress in designing and implementing plans to integrate climate and water dimensions in their policies.

The last but not least, is the tremendous milestones made by GWPEA towards promoting and supporting water security, climate and drought in the Region. In consideration of this valuable performance, GWPEA has been awarded a *Certificate of Accreditation* by GWPO in recognition of its effort for improving the internal governance issues such as rotation of the RSC leadership, full-fledged staffing, effective and efficient management and administration of GWPEA operations and resources. Surely, the journey of GWPEA towards better management and planning of its operations will be highlighted and reported further after the Administrative and Functional Review conducted by GWPO team at the end of June 2015.

I take this opportunity to thank the GWPO and members of the RSC for their wise and strategic guidance offered to the Regional Secretariat. My sincere thanks are also addressed to our esteemed development partners and the wider range of our stakeholders for their tireless efforts to support technically and financially the GWPEA programs across the Region.

Sincerely,



**SAFARI Patrick**

Regional Coordinator

## **GWP Eastern Africa Organized a Regional Training on Applying IWRM Tools for Reducing Drought Risk Management**

The Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA), the Capacity Building Network for IWRM (Cap-Net) through Nile IWRM Net, and the Water and Land Resource Center (WLRC) organized training on Applying Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Tools for Drought Risk Management in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 15 to 19 June 2015. The aim of the training was to strengthen the capacity of water and climate professionals in the Horn of Africa (HOA) region on drought disaster risk management, IWRM approach and the need for timely responses to forecasted climate-related risks. The target audience was participants from the water/climate change/disaster related ministries, agencies and academia within the HOA region.

The training was officially opened by the Ethiopian State Minister for Water, Energy and Irrigation- H.E Kebede Gerba. The Minister noted that water resources in the region are facing pressure due to the increasing human population and poverty as well as climate change. He indicated that development of water in the HOA region would benefit from IWRM approaches and lead to sustainable and equitable utilization of the resource.

The training which was planned as a pilot was attended by 30 participants working in areas of water, agriculture, climate change, and disaster management. The training also provided an opportunity for more interactive exchange of ideas and experiences among the participants.

The training was organized in line with Cap-Net's core theme of capacity development for sustainable management of water resources, and GWP EA's Integrated Drought Management Program in the Horn of Africa whose objective is to develop capacity and enhance partnership and collaboration in drought management.

Participants acquired knowledge and skills in a number of areas which include drought occurrences, vulnerabilities and IWRM; drought characterization, monitoring and forecasting; drought risk management frameworks and interventions.

The training also involved a one-day field visit program to the Ethiopian Central Rift Valley area, specifically to Lake Ziway which provided the participants an opportunity to learn and share lessons on IWRM practices on the ground. Participants agreed on follow up actions that included development of a five year capacity building program on drought resilience in the HOA/Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region. The program that will be developed is expected to attract more partners to join hands in building capacity to address drought disasters in the HOA/IGAD region



Figure 1: Group photo of participants

## **Burundi CWP Trained Its Members on the New Water Code and Sanitation Policy**

The training workshop was held in Bujumbura on 15 April 2015 and was funded by GIZ to raise awareness on the new water code and sanitation policy in Burundi. This is part of the implementation of the Action Plan (2014-2018) of the Burundi Country Water Partnership. 26 participants from various BuWP member organizations participated in the workshop.

The workshop was officially opened by Mr. Evariste Rufuguta, Advisor to the General Director of Water Resources and Sanitation (DGREA) and Chairman of the Technical Monitoring Committee (CTS) of the National Water Policy. In his speech, he

congratulated the BuWP for its involvement in the implementation of actions related to the promotion of the water sector and climate change and urged participants to emulate its example. He informed them that the Government of Burundi supports all initiatives that are in line with the actions listed in national policies and strategies.

The workshop focused on three themes:

- Provisions of Water Law in the protection of water resources;
- The National Water/Sanitation Policy;
- Achievements in the pilot area for IWRM (Dama-Murebwe basin).



Figure 2: Participants vowed to popularize the new law

The workshop was very interactive and participants were able to ask questions and share experiences from their respective organizations in terms of applying the water and sanitation law.

After intensive discussions, participants formulated the following key recommendations:

1. BuWP should contribute in the implementation of the water law by raising awareness on related goals;
2. Local government is not fully involved in the implementation of the Water Law due to lack of knowledge of the content of the code, hence the need for sensitization from grassroots level;
3. The effective implementation of the policy will depend on the commitment of all partners including members of BuWP;
4. During the budget allocation, the Government of Burundi should make an effort and avail funds for the sanitation sector;
5. There is a need to strengthen partnership and ensure active synergy in the implementation of policies, strategies and regulatory laws.

## GWP Eastern Africa Facilitated the 5<sup>th</sup> WACDEP Workshop for Planners and Decision Makers in Kigali

On 21 May 2015, GWP Eastern Africa organized the 5<sup>th</sup> and last WACDEP workshop in Kigali, Rwanda. Nine participants attended the training including seven planners and two decision makers. The Deputy Director General of Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA) officially opened the training on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources. Participants made presentations of their project papers. The plenary discussion that followed the presentations provided constructive comments to presenters and made a number of observations and recommendations:

1. The WACDEP framework has to be extended to a critical mass of people to get trained, for example other ministries;
2. The implementation of WACDEP training modules requires involvement and ownership of local institutions by High Learning Institutions ;
3. The understanding and integration of the WACDEP in national and sectorial planning process is crucial;



Figure 3: Participants presented their plans

4. The funding of the project remains an issue;

5. The mentorship program has to be strengthened by training more candidates for the program;

6. There should be support and facilitation for the candidates when doing their research (designing the questionnaire; pre-test or questionnaire pilot test;

calendar of the data collection; data

collection; data processing, report writing data);

7. More sessions should be organized with different senior managers to brief them on WACDEP program and its framework.
8. A network between all participants should be established for continuous information sharing.

## **GWPEA Participated in Stakeholders' Forum to discuss issues related to the Trans-boundary Ecosystems around Mount Elgon between Kenya and Uganda**

Mt. Elgon is a trans-boundary ecosystem shared between Kenya and Uganda. It is also a key resource in both Kenya and Uganda that provides ecosystem's goods and services to a sizeable human and livestock population. However, despite its biological, cultural and socio-economic significance locally, nationally and globally, the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem is experiencing risks and disasters associated to climate change impacts and this situation is exacerbated by environmental degradation due to human activities with far reaching consequences on the ecosystem and people's livelihoods.

It has also been observed that despite the value of Mt Elgon and the positive changes achieved by the various partners working in small areas within the landscape, the interventions are scattered and uncoordinated, hence affecting the impact of the interventions. The ecosystem also has a number of thematic working groups which spearhead discussions and learning lessons on key themes within the landscape. However, the thematic working groups are limited to specific stakeholders and issues.

The forum was therefore created to provide a platform for coordinating all the efforts within the ecosystem. Since its formation in 2012, the forum has tried to engage more stakeholders and cover wider issues that reflect the inter-linkages within the ecosystem. It provides an opportunity for discussing Mt Elgon issues at a landscape level where various stakeholders get a common understanding of the issues within their landscape,



Figure 4: Participants engaged in discussions

how they affect or are affected by the various interventions and hence the various inter-linkages within the landscapes which then guides strategic interventions.

Based on the lessons and experiences generated from IUCN's long term presence within the landscape, the

Mount Elgon Stakeholders forum is

considered as the best platform to discuss these experiences with key stakeholders and use them as basis for generating ideas to guide the long term programmatic approach for the ecosystem. In this regard, knowledge products, good practices and lessons learnt from the implementation of the following specific and on-going projects in and around Mt. Elgon were showcased as follows:

- Implementing a Resilience Framework to Support Climate Change (RFCC) Adaptation in the Mt Elgon region of the Lake Victoria Basin project (2012-2015) funded by the Government of the United States of America in Trans-Nzoia County, Kenya and Bukwo, Bududa and Manafwa Districts in Uganda ;
- Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA) (2011-2015) funded by the German Government in the districts of Kapchorwa and Mbale in Uganda; and
- Pro-Poor REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Degradation) in Uganda funded by DANIDA (2011-2015) in the districts of Mbale and Kapchorwa in Uganda.

In addition to the dissemination of the IUCN knowledge products from the above projects among others, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission provided update on the ongoing processes of bringing together Kenya and Uganda to manage the Mt. Elgon as Man and Biosphere (MAB) Trans-boundary Reserve. The workshop was preceded by a field work to 3 IUCN sites for appreciation of best practices, challenges and opportunities in the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem management. IUCN believes that, this kind of constructive engagement will lead into a process of developing a comprehensive integrated long term programme for Mt. Elgon.

During this forum, GWPEA took an opportunity to disseminate and distribute a large number of copies of policy brief document titled "*Strategy and Guidelines for Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Approaches in Transboundary Ecosystem Management in East Africa*". The brief that was produced by GWPEA in collaboration with IUCN analyzes regional and national policies and strategies in environment and natural resource management and identifies opportunities, challenges and actions required to integrate climate change adaptation approaches into trans-boundary ecosystem management in Eastern Africa.



## GWPEA and NBI Explored Areas of Collaboration at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nile TAC-COM Meeting

From 3-4 June, GWPEA attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nile TAC-COM meeting that was organized by the Nile Basin Initiative in Dodoma, Tanzania. GWPEA participation aimed at:

1. Presenting the progress of the ongoing GWPEA programs
2. Presenting the areas of complementarity between NBI-GWPEA Programs
3. Proposing areas of collaboration between NBI-GWPEA
4. Joining NBI and supporting the Nile Media Award Event



Figure 5: The RC representing GWPEA in the Nile TAC-COM meeting

The GWPEA Regional coordinator presented to the Nile TAC-COM meeting the progress of the ongoing programs of GWPEA such as Partnership and networking as well as its current projects: WACDEP implemented in Burundi and Rwanda, IDMP implemented in the Nile Basin and IGAD Region. Participants commended the good work done by GWPEA in the region and urged both institutions to work together to strengthen

and formalize their collaboration.

Identified areas of collaboration between the two institutions were detailed as follows:

#	Program Areas of NBI	Strategic areas of GWP	Examples of on-going activities
1	Water Resources Management and Development	Catalyze changes in policies and practices  Generate and communicate knowledge and Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documenting lessons and good practices for water security and climate/drought resilience in the EA and HOA Region</li> <li>• National Dialogue/ Consultations on Water and Food Security</li> <li>• Policy Briefs for decision makers: Strategy and Guidelines for Integrating CC Adaptation in Transboundary Ecosystems in EA/Mount Elgon Region</li> <li>• GWP's IWRM Toolbox</li> <li>• Regional training on IWRM and CC</li> <li>• Regional training on IWRM and Drought Resilience in IGAD Region</li> <li>• Course on International Water Law</li> </ul>
2	Facilitating Basin Cooperation	Strengthen Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting cooperation for water security and climate resilience in Kagera transboundary river basin</li> <li>• Strengthening cooperation and partnerships at all levels for climate/drought resilience in EA and HoA Region</li> <li>• Strategic alliances and collaboration with key regional bodies such as EAC/LVBC,NELSAP, NBI, AU-AMCOW, AFDB, IGAD in the areas of WS,CResilience</li> <li>• Engaging private sector for investment promotion in the Nile Basin</li> <li>• Engaging youth, women and media outlets for promoting water security and climate/drought resilience in the region</li> </ul>

The Nile TAC-COM meeting took note of the good work done by GWPEA and lauded the proposal for enhancing the collaboration and partnership with NBI through a signed MoU. The Nile TAC-COM meeting recommended that NBI and GWPEA Secretariat work together to elaborate more and streamline the strategic areas of collaboration building on the existing / ongoing programs including but not limited to:

- CB Program for Drought Resilience in Nile Basin /IGAD region
- CB Program for International Water Law for Africa

- Application of IWRM to Climate and Drought Resilience Programmes
- Promoting Water-Food-Energy- Ecosystem Nexus ( WFEE) in Africa
- Engaging youth and Women in WS and CR programme in the Nile and IGAD Region;
- Special program: Unlocking the potential of Private Sector for investing in WFE Security Programs

## Engaging Media Outlets in the Nile Basin Region

In the side event of the Nile TAC- COM meeting, GWP Eastern Africa joined and supported the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) to honor winners of the Nile Media Awards 2015 competition at a ceremony held on June 4, 2015 at Saint Gaspar Hotel in Dodoma, Tanzania.

Through the Media Awards, NBI, GWPEA and other partners (GIZ, Nile Basin Discourse) seek to recognize journalists for outstanding reporting on issues surrounding the Nile cooperation, Nile Basin as well as inspire increased factual and accurate reporting on these issues.

In the radio category, Ms. Secilia Ndabigeze from Tanzania received an award for Best



Figure 6: Proud winners of NBI Media Awards

Radio Programme. In her feature, she embarked on a journey in the Nile Basin region to find out what the different countries were doing to overcome the problem of water hyacinth on Lake Victoria. Judges commended the feature for the structure and coverage of wide range of views, which consolidated the message.

Gerald Tenywa, from Uganda, collected the award for best story in the print category for an article titled "River erosion: Uganda losing land to Congo." The article explored how lack of a plan for sustainable development has caused the people of Ntoroko district in western Uganda to be at war with River Semliki. The judging panel applauded the topic, which addressed multi-dimensional aspects

including human, economic and environmental views. The 1st runner-up prize in the radio category went to Claver Hakizimana from Burundi while Mona Abdelhalim Eid Sewilam from Egypt was crowned 1st runner up in the print category.

The Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, John Rao Nyaoro said that engaging the media, keeping them informed through robust communication and participation has been given due emphasis as one of the building blocks of NBI.

GWPEA Regional Coordinator, Safari Patrick, stressed that one of the GWP strategic goals is sharing information and knowledge and GWPEA values its partnership with the media to promote water security and climate resilience in the region.

The special event was graced by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries, Members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee, representatives of Development Partners, among others.

## **GWPEA Facilitated the National Consultations to discuss issues of Water, Food Security and Nutrition in Sudan**

GWPEA in conjunction with the Sudan Ministry of Water and Electricity and the Sudan Country Water Partnership have conducted National Consultations on WFS, held in Khartoum on 15 June 2015.

More than 40 participants from cross-sectorial and multi-disciplinary fields and sectors such Government water-agriculture-energy ministries and affiliated agencies, academia, research entities, UN and International Development Organisations, were gathered to discuss and also provide inputs in the proposals from the HLPE reports on the interconnections between food and water security.

These National Consultations were also intended to build awareness and examine the country and national relevance of global perspectives, and provide inputs and options to support bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and recommendations that will enhance resolutions from the 42<sup>nd</sup> CFS.

Although water is central to development, its value is often overlooked. It is thus essential that the national consultations help to ensure water and the complexity of its governance is properly reflected in any food security agenda.

Moreover water is tied to most sustainable development themes – e.g. food, health, energy, ecosystems, etc. so it is essential to recognize the obvious linkages with these other thematic approaches.



Figure 7: Participants hold discussions

The Sudan National consultations thus aim to mobilize the voice of stakeholders in the broader national development context on the issues related to the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus. The country level feedback will influence the global policy dialogue and contribute to shaping potential resolutions from the CFS in 2015.

## GWPEA Participated in the 7th World Water Forum in Korea.

The World Water Forum is the world's largest meeting on water. Every three years since 1997, WWC has held each World Water Forum on or around World Water Day (March 22<sup>nd</sup>). The World Water Forum consists of at least three processes: the Political Process, the Thematic Process and the Regional Process, while gathering officials, legislators and local and regional authorities from more than 150 nations. Each topic is developed in cooperation with the private sector, governments, industry, IGOs, NGOs and academic

groups into a common framework of goals and concrete targets to reach



Figure 8: The RC presenting the technical Paper on food security and energy

This year, the WWF was held in South Korea from 12-17 April and GWPEA was represented by the Regional Coordinator, the Program Manager and the Project Manager for IDMP HoA.

GWPEA Team used that platform to share experiences and best practices from its programs and also learn from others.

The Regional Coordinator, Patrick Safari, presented a technical report themed " *Water for Food Security and Energy in Africa*" during both Regional and Inter-Regional sessions among other five themes selected by the Ministerial Council of 7<sup>th</sup> WWF . The report is a result of collaboration between GWPEA-AMCOW and IGAD.

Key messages and actionable recommendations were flagged out to higher level Policy Makers as follows:

- African governments should mainstream Water-Food-Energy nexus concepts within their long term national visions/strategies;
- Research institutions should deepen the understanding of WFE nexus in the African context and provide an appropriate platform for sharing best practices on the nexus approach
- National Governments, together with DPs and international finance institutions should look for innovative mechanisms to address the huge financing gap for infrastructure development, Strengthen Public Private Partnerships (PPP's) and promote appropriate technologies for WFE Security

The report also highlighted actionable recommendations for implementation as well as implementing entities:

Actions for implementation	Implementing entity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop policy briefs and guidelines for mainstreaming WFE nexus into national strategic plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMCOW, UNEP, GWP, DPs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the existing mechanism for knowledge and information sharing through the existing social networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Governments, AfDB, RECs, RBOs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the establishment of fundraising mechanism to address the huge funding gap for WFE(USD 31 Billion per year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Governments, AfDB, RECs, RBOs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create enabling environment for attracting private investment in the WFE sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RECs, National Governments, Private sector federation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote inter-regional and trans-boundary cooperation among states for WFE Security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Governments</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of Ecosystems in the planning and development of WFE security programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Governments, RECs, RBOs</li> </ul>

During the same forum, GWPEA also presented WACDEP Bugesera trans-boundary project and it was hailed as a successful case study for building community resilience to climate change.

## **Functional Review of GWPEA for Administrative and Financial Performance and Effectiveness**

A functional review of GWP Eastern Africa was carried out by GWPO team comprising of Mr. Frederick Pischke, Network Officer, Peter Nyman, Financial Officer and Susanne André, Legal Officer and HR Officer from 30 June – 02 July 2015. The assessment came at a crucial stage for the GWP Eastern Africa Secretariat with GWP Eastern Africa having just been fully accredited as part of GWP.

The objective of the functional assessment was to evaluate the operations and effectiveness of GWP Eastern Africa to achieve its objectives, deliver its programmatic work, increase its capability and comply with the financial and administrative management requirements.

The reviews of the RWP Secretariats are compulsory activities for GWPO, based on instructions from the GWPO Steering Committee, which has been acknowledged and emphasised by the Core Donors, the Sponsoring Partners, as well as by the European Commission in its Institutional Assessment of GWP.

The purpose of the review was twofold: (1) to reassure the GWP donors that the regional Secretariat complies with the GWP financial guidelines and the Host Institution selected to manage the GWPs funds complies with the minimum performance standards set for this service. (2) To support the operational management of the GWP Eastern Africa (GWP EAF) Secretariat to achieve its potential in the post-2015 development landscape. In addition to reassuring a sound financial and effective operational management, the visits undertaken by GWPO to the GWP Regions have proven to be very good tools for knowledge sharing and knowledge building, and improving the relationship between the region, host institution and GWPO. The visit was also an opportunity to introduce the recently adopted GWP Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.

The reviewing team had access to all required documents and held intensive consultations with GWPEA Secretariat staff, RSC members as well as relevant NBI officials.

The results and recommendations of the review are expected to help GWPEA improving its overall performance and better discharge its tasks.



Figure 9: Group photo during the assessment