

Bridge Science-Policy Gap

- High Level Policy Workshop Recommended



Participants of 2nd High Level Policy Workshop, 4th-5th April 2013 in Hotel Umubano, Kigali-Rwanda

The 2nd High-Level Regional Policy Workshop focusing on “Adapting to Climate Change Induced Water Stress in Nile River Basin,” resolved to bridge the gap between science and policy, enhance the efforts of generating and sharing knowledge about climate change and conducting hotspot analysis at country level.

The two-day high level policy workshop held in Rwanda’s Capital, Kigali, aimed at validating the Climate Change Resilience Status Reports for the Nile Basin Countries recommended to the momentum towards adopting climate change resilient prac-

[↩ To Page 2](#)

Climate Change Adaptation-“Essential Not Optional”

The two day workshop organized last May, 2013, by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and GWP Eastern Africa was held at the NBI secretariat in Entebbe, Uganda. It aimed at discussing *‘the role of the private sector in addressing the climate change and its impacts on key socio-economic sectors in the Nile Basin.’*

GWP Eastern Africa’s Regional Coordinator, Patrick Safari briefed participants about the relevancy and rationale for changing behavior by Private Sector actors. He urged participants to use a ‘no regret investment approach’ to do businesses.

He added, such behavior will drive towards water security and climate resilience in climate vulnerable regions of the Basin Nile. Recent findings have noted that the Nile Basin has the most rapidly growing population in the world, projected to increase within one generation by over 60% from 201 million in 2005 to 336 million by 2030.

[↩ To Page 4](#)



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
Kaitlin McGarvey & Sandra Mirembe, GWP Eastern Africa Internees

Message from the GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator



Dear readers,
Welcome to our 3rd issue of Water Digest. Let's hope you will find information therein informative.

One key lesson learnt from our last issue is that, we need to stretch the objective of Water Digest: informing our stakeholders about what we have been doing, and embrace interactive communications. The uniqueness of this lies in our endeavor to learn and listen from those we serve and serve with.

Herein, are powerful voices of different stakeholders right from policy-makers, local government officials, community opinion-formers, private-sector actors, researchers, academia and media among others.

Two voices prominently stood out: GWP Eastern Africa's newest water advocates (Mirembe Sandra & Kaitlin McGarvey). In our endeavors of working towards a *water secure world* (GWP Vision), we are always not only required to raise awareness, influence policies and seek to change unfriendly practices, but listen, learn and where possible replicate best practices for water security and climate resilient Eastern African region.

The duo's views and voices about us are insightful contributions to our everyday work of influencing policies, promoting of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at all levels. This is the real essence of effective communication and knowledge-sharing.

As we seek to break away from "Doing Business As Usual" and become more innovative, we look forward to a more enhanced conversation between GWP Eastern Africa Secretariat and our stakeholders at all levels. They more we listen, the better we serve, the surer we can be that we are on track towards attaining GWP's Vision.

Vision: for a water secure world

Mission: support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels

The activities of the GWP Eastern Africa and its daily engagements with partners and stakeholders are informed and guided by GWP's core values: **inclusiveness, openness, accountability, gender sensitivity, solidarity and respect.**

← From Page 1

tices as a means towards reducing water stresses in the Rive Nile Basin.

Participants were drawn from nine Nile Basin Countries, 8 Country Water Partnerships, Government Institutions, GWP Eastern Africa Partners: Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), research, academic and media institutions.

Nile Basin Countries and Climate Change

Though the 9 countries (Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo), have specific variations in cultures, policies and practices and institutional frameworks, climate change continues to be a across-cutting factor impacting their socio-economic livelihoods mainly agriculture, food security, hydro-energy production, water quantity and quality as well as mining safety and costs.

It was noted that increasing population growth and poor land use through unfriendly farming practices still stand out among the critical factors threatening climate and water security in earlier mentioned countries.

One common characteristic of these countries is unpredictable seasons; persistent droughts, torrential rains followed by destructive floods and continuous population exodus in search of water.

GWP Eastern Africa implements the **Adapting to Climate Change Induced Water Stress in Nile River Basin Project** with a consortium of other implementing partners: the Nile Basin Initiative, Danish Hydraulic Institute, United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

Officiating the workshop, the representative from Rwanda Natural Resources Ministry, Ms Lyliose Umupfasoni, Director for Environment, Water Resources and Forests, hailed the "existing regional cooperation in addressing shared challenges by managing trans-boundary water resources and adapting to the impacts of climate change."

"Partnering with GWP Eastern Africa helps in addressing some of the gaps in adapting to climate change, policy making, decision making and to adjust existing policies," Rwanda's Ministry official added.

GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordina-

tor, Mr. Safari Patrick, pointed out the project objectives, expected outcomes, roles of different implementing partners and rationale of the Kigali' 2nd High Level Policy Workshop to the participants.

"The workshop provides opportunity for discussing the outputs of the project achieved by various implementing partners since the project begun and consult on what actions to be followed at regional, national and local levels," GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator indicated.

Realized milestones

In line with GWP Eastern Africa's role in the implementation of the project, a series of high-level workshops, and policy-influencing meetings have been conducted and carried out the country status reports on climate resilience in each River Nile Basin Countries whereas other activities (outputs) were still ongoing.

The project funded by SIDA and Coordinated by UNEP, sought to increase the technical capacity of regional and national centers of excellence and research centers to support the adaptation actions of countries and communities.

The workshop was characterized by presentation of the project's outputs, achieved results, ongoing activities and forthcoming priorities. Presentations included: the Hydrological Modeling and regional Hot Spot Analysis under Climate Change Scenarios: Implications for the Nile Basin Region; Stock-Taking of Climate Change Adaptation: Experience of Pilot Study from Ethiopia and Uganda.

Hotspots area and fixing problems

Nile Delta Region (Egypt), Ethiopia highlands, Mount Elgon (Kenya) and Toska Depression were some of the identified hotspot areas of climate change areas needing focused attention.

"Floods and droughts can trigger or exacerbate the process of land degradation such as desertification, soil erosion and landslides thus affecting a big amount of land and water available for agriculture," noted one presenter in the workshop.

Participants encourage to change unfriendly farming and other human driven practices that fuel negative nexuses between climate change and water stressors.

Interdisciplinary Expertise

Representing the Chair of GWP Eastern Africa, Prof Munguti Katua Kitua, from Kenya Water Partnership said that with diverse backgrounds of participants, their knowledge and expertise can lead to “incisive and enriched contribution towards the discourse on Adapting to Climate Change and Water Stress in the Nile River Basin Region.”

Project Goal and Work packages

The Project goal is to build resilience of ecosystem and economies that are most vulnerable to climate change induced water stress in the Nile Basin Countries.

Among other implementing partners, GWP Eastern Africa’s role in the implementation of the project is to provide institutional and policy support to countries in the Nile Basin Region. In terms of outputs, GWP Eastern Africa is responsible for:

- providing technical input to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) options to basin-wide climate change adaptation planning and ensure linkages with na-

tional planning;

- conducting high-level regional policy roundtable to prioritize technical, financial and policy options for adaptation at basin levels;
- carrying out assessment of different IWRM options for resilience and their policy implications for the major sectors in Nile basin countries;
- conducting trainings, information management and dissemination through climate change adaptation portal and awareness materials.

Way forward

Since its inception in 2010, *Adapting to Climate Change Induced Water Stress in Nile River Basin Project* has had stimulated significant milestones in terms of achievements and several lessons have been learned. The workshop recommended that the next phase of the Project should be informed by and base on the achieved milestones and lessons learnt.

Other key recommendations drawn included:

proper water management, reduced deforestation, change of farming techniques and to establish early warning systems.

Key facts:

- River Nile is generally regarded the longest river in the world with a drainage system exceeding 3 million square km;
- River Nile is shared by 11 countries: Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Southern Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania & Uganda;
- River Nile’s flow starts south and moves northwards through Sahara Desert where precipitation is less 100mm—meaning the river is the lifeblood of the region;
- River Nile has many tributaries, the main ones: the White Nile and Brue Nile;
- River Nile has diverse ecosystems ranging from forests, moorlands, humid lowlands, savannah grasslands, aquatic, plant and animal species (source: The State of the Nile Basin Report 2012)

EDITORIAL Climate Change Adaptation: “Essential Not Optional”



Delta region (Egypt), Mount Elgon (Kenya), Bugesera region (Rwanda & Burundi), and Karamoja (Uganda), point to the existing linkages between climate change and water insecurity.

Rural small-scale farmers, herdsman, fishing cooperatives, fruit-gatherers and urban industrialists are steadily realizing that the survival and success of their activities will depend on availability of sufficient and quality water and friendly climate patterns.

The Nile Basin countries face the highest of climate variability ranging from 40-60% compared with less than 10% in the temperate countries. This affects rainfall, land cover, river flows, and agriculture.

“Floods and droughts can trigger or exacerbate the process of land degradation such as desertification, soil erosion and landslides thus affecting a big amount of land and water available for agriculture,” analyst

of hotspots in Eastern Africa, observed during the 2nd High Level Policy Workshop in Kigali, Rwanda, last April 2013.

To build a water secure and climate resilient Eastern Africa region, several recommendations from our past policy dialogue conferences, capacity-building workshops, seminars, and awareness-raising forums have been highlighted. Some worth citing are:

- Bridging science-policy gaps, High Level Policy Workshop, 4th-5th April 2013, Kigali, Rwanda;
- Considering climate change as a risk private sector ought to manage and use no regret approach, Private Sector Awareness Workshop, May 2013, Entebbe, Uganda;
- Replicating IWRM model in Climate Change Mitigation, IWRM Capacity-Building, May 2013, Nairobi, Kenya;
- Enhancing water relate di-

aster risks management capability by 2030, Uganda Consultations on Post 2015 Water Targets, March 2013, Kampala, Uganda.

- Changing attitudes and practices at all levels for a water secure and climate resilient region, High Level Policy Workshop, 4-5th April 2013, Kigali, Rwanda.

The above recommendations are in line with GWP Eastern Africa’s mission—support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels in the Eastern Africa and Greater Horn of Africa Region.

GWP Eastern Africa has Country Water Partnerships established in the eight countries of the Greater Horn and Eastern Africa region. These are: Burundi, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda. Currently, GWP Eastern African is hosted by Nile Basin Initiative, based in Entebbe, Uganda.

Climate change is real and consequential. There is no more denial; a disaster is looming. Drought in the usually drier regions of the Greater Horn of Africa is causing migrations, water-based conflicts, deaths of livestock and aquatic systems.

Over 35 participants from private sector of the 11 Nile Basin Countries, made a resounding statement—“climate change adaptation is no longer optional, but essential for sustainable livelihood in the Nile Basin Countries.”

Experiences from the Nile

Partnership: LVC and GWP Eastern Africa Discussed Strategic Areas of Cooperation

Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and GWP Eastern Africa discussed strategic areas of cooperation as the two institutions share a lot in water resources management in Eastern Africa region.

The meeting held on 10th July 2013 at LVBC's premises, Kisumu, Kenya, was attended by two leaders from each institution, Dr Canisius Kanangire (LVBC) and Patrick Safari (GWP Eastern Africa), Telly Eugene Muramira, Deputy Executive Secretary (Programs and Projects) and Program Managers.

After each institution presented its mission and programmatic activities, the meeting identified and agreed to jointly work together in policy analysis, policy dialogue and policy influencing,



capacity building and awareness, knowledge and information sharing, joint program development and implementation.

The cooperation will be guided by Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), spelling out each institution's deliverables and

inputs. The meeting resolved to designate focal persons, come up with clear, specific and measurable interventions in water resources management.

Mission of GWP Eastern Africa: to support the sustainable development and management of wa-

ter resources at all levels in the Eastern Africa Region

Mission of LVBC: to promote, facilitate and coordinate activities of different actors towards sustainable development and poverty eradication of the Lake Victoria Basin.

Climate Change Adaptation-"Essential Not Optional"

← From Page 1

"There is no more denying that climate change is real. We are therefore left with no option but to develop appropriate climate change adaptation measures such as change behaviors, and take the no regret actions," GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator noted.

Opening the workshop, the Executive Director of the NBI, Engineer Teferra Beyene, emphasized the need for "devising effective basin-wide adaptation and mitigation strategies" to ensure sustainable livelihoods ranging from small farm-holders to big factory owners and city developers.

Noting the importance of collective understanding of what climate change is, and its impact, NBI Executive Secretary added that the workshop is expected to deliberate how private sector can partner with Nile Basin Ini-

tiative and GWP Eastern Africa to effectively "adapt to anticipate adverse climate change impacts and the way forward."

The workshop is facilitated by the SIDA-UNEDP funded project termed "*Adapting to Climate Change induced Water Stress in the Nile River Basin.*"

Climate change: key challenges

Climate change is a serious threat with potential for negatively impacting businesses of the private sector and the socio-economic development in the Nile Basin Region.

The Nile Basin Region countries continually face rising temperatures, rainfall variations and consequently increasing foreseeable life-threats such as water, food insecurity, oceanic and marine system disruptions and increased hydro-based conflicts

in drier regions of the basin.

"Climate change poses serious business risks and opportunities; private sector needs to acknowledge that there is a climate change risk, then move towards turning the risks into opportunities—the routine business of private sector is managing the risks [...]" Dr. AbdulKarim Seid, Head of Water Resources Management at Nile Basin Initiative emphasized.

Private sector participation

To galvanize effective participation of the private sector in climate change adaptation mechanisms, the private sector operators called for increased incentives for investments in climate-resilient and water secure projects, targeted financing and harmonization of instruments such as policies and standards

amongst River Nile riparian countries.

"More needs to be done in areas of incentivizing investments in climate friendly and water secure areas," Wanjiku Manyara, General Manager from Petroleum Institute of East Africa recommended.

Commendable way forward

Using documentary video, presentations, Focus-Group Discussions, participants from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Egypt among others were challenged to creatively think and work towards: sustainable management of water resources and behavior change through no regret investments and continually advocate for eco-friendly policies and regulations.



Trainees Lauded IWRM as Effective Tools for Regional Climate Change Adaptation

GWP Eastern Africa organized a Regional Training Workshop on how to use Integrated Water Resources Management tools to effectively adapt to climate change in the Eastern and Greater Horn of Africa regions.

The workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2013 aimed at building capacities of water resources actors and young water professionals in particular, and thus have increased knowledge of how best to address local and regional challenges of climate change by applying IWRM as a tool for adaptation.

The training ended with recommendations: increasing advocacy for climate change financing and changing practices in Eastern Africa and Greater Horn of African region that further advance negative efforts of climate change .

Opening the workshop, Mr. Safari Patrick, the Regional Coordinator for GWP Eastern Africa urged trainees to contribute in changing peoples' beliefs about climate change-move from assumptions to practical evidences.

"Climate change adaptation should move rhetoric to reality. Climate change is a real phenomenon, ever happening. Therefore,

we need to adapt measures that minimize its negative impacts. One of these measures is the use of IWRM," GWP Eastern Africa Coordinator noted.

According to Callist Tindimugaya, Workshop Trainer, "climate change is contributing to the deaths of nearly 400,000 people a year and costing the world more than US\$ 1.2 trillion, wiping 1.6% annually from global GDP."

In addition, the trainer pointed out that due to dependence on natural ecosystem such as rain-fed agriculture alongside low adaptive mechanisms such as capacity gaps, "by 2015, around 480 million of people in Africa will face either water scarcity or stress due to climate change."

Responsiveness

Based on its applicability and holistic nature, participants drawn from nine Nile Basin countries were trained on Analysis of Climate Change Impacts On Water Use Sectors, understanding the existing interactions between water and climate change impacts, techniques of assessing climate change impacts, tools for managing uncertainties, climate change negotiation process among

others.

Presenting the meaning, genesis, rationale and challenges of IWRM, Safari Patrick shared with participants how IWRM tool played an important role in resolving water related conflicts in Berki Water Catchment of Ethiopia.

The trigger for positive change in the Ethiopia's Berki River Basin was a two-year pilot Project 2006-2008 run by GWP Eastern Africa through Ethiopia Country Water Partnership.

Training methodology

To foster effective learning, trainers used user-friendly and interactive tools such documentary screenings, case-study analysis, field visits, presentations and trainer-trainees focus-group discussions.

Trainees commended IWRM as appropriate and the best-suited tool for climate change adaptation and management of scarce water resources in the Greater Horn of Africa and beyond. They lauded the training methodology—noting its responsiveness to trainees' knowledge and capacity gaps and practical exposure to the climate change and water scarcity issues.

Guest Column

GWP Eastern Africa through its Water Digest listens from other voices. To this end, in each issue, we shall always seek to publish a guest column. In this one, we were privileged to have a passionate water security advocate, Kaitlin McGarvey. "The awareness that water builds a crucial foundation for every other facet of life motivated me to further pursue my understanding of water policy." GWP Eastern Africa considers this motivation as an inspiration. Read on...



My name is Kaitlin McGarvey. I'm earning my LLM in Water Law from the University of Dundee. My background, however, is in neither Law nor Water. My bachelors are in Political Science and Sociology from Azusa Pacific University, outside of Los Angeles.

I became interested in water after living in L.A., studying abroad in India and South Africa, and spending two years working in community development in the

Philippines. It became overwhelmingly apparent that water is the most important, and fragile, aspect of every community across the globe. Health, education, gender equality, and economics/livelihoods are threatened by water scarcity. The awareness that water builds a crucial foundation for every other facet of life motivated me to further pursue my understanding of water policy.

As I've learned about water security, I've come to hold Global Water Partnership (GWP) in high esteem for its emphasis on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). Coming from a community development background, I'm particularly interested in the participatory approach of GWP as well as the recognition that women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

Furthermore, I'm interested in

I am eager to see what I continue to learn from everyone here at GWP Eastern Africa, and hope to take the knowledge I gain back to Dundee and L.A. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be here and to learn from everyone who is a part of GWP Eastern Africa

the process of creating water cooperation amongst riparian states, particularly because I will return to Los Angeles, a city that faces water tension with surrounding cities and states.

For these reasons I wanted to spend time at GWP Eastern Africa to improve my understanding of how GWP Eastern Africa implements projects on the ground, interacts with stakeholders, builds capacity, and improves communication throughout the Nile Basin.

I have now been here for two weeks. In that time I have read, studied, and reviewed a number of GWP Eastern Africa project proposals and plans as well as

well as project assessments. By studying these projects, I have seen the complexities of implementing various water security plans, the importance of cross-sector linkages and the necessity for carrying out projects at all levels (both top-down and grassroots) in order to achieve sustainable water management, preservation and development.

I am eager to see what I continue to learn from everyone here at GWP Eastern Africa, and hope to take the knowledge I gain back to Dundee and L.A. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be here and to learn from everyone who is a part of GWP Eastern Africa.



I am Sandra Mirembe, a young graduate from Bugema University, Uganda with a Bachelor in Business Administration majoring in Human Resource Management with a minor in Marketing Management. I am an internee with GWP Eastern Africa.

I got motivated to join GWP East-

ern Africa to grow mentally and acquire more knowledge in administration and Water Resources Management.

GWP Eastern Africa is a very interdisciplinary organization which has been advantageous for me. I developed a lot of interests even in other disciplines: the connecting threads between human activities, water shortages and climate change.

The collaboration from the Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa staff and support provided was very helpful and I will always carry the skills and knowledge gained from this place wherever I go. My wish for the GWP Eastern Africa and GWPO as a whole is to see it grow stronger through the years creating a more water secure world and carry on its

My time at GWP Eastern Africa as an internee continues to provide me with insightful exposure about the Water World and Water Resources Management in Eastern Region.

mission of supporting the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels. This way, I will be sure of continuity of life—mine and others'.

My view on water and climate change in Eastern Africa is that apart from the pollution problems the water bodies face, increase in short rainfall seasons

has brought about an increased lack of reliability in water availability. This is especially the case for Lake Victoria.

Recent steep drops in lake levels since around the year 2000 are probably only partially related to drought conditions and also the rising water temperatures.

The high exposure and low adaptation capacities put the Greater Horn of Africa and Eastern Africa region in a state of vulnerability, especially due to effects of climate change and water insecurity.

My time at GWP Eastern Africa as an internee continues to provide me with insightful exposure about the Water World and Water Resources Management in Eastern Region.

WACDEP: Rwanda-Burundi Stakeholders Agreed on Priority interventions

“It’s time for participating in the implementation of WACDEP activities in Lake Cyohoha catchment-” Governor tells stakeholders, in Kirundo Province, of Burundi, on the 25th of July 2013.



Over 35 stakeholders mainly local government representatives, community representatives, technical officers from government of Rwanda and Burundi, local implementing partners for Water Climate Development Program agreed on priority interventions in Cyohoha water catchment—a trans-boundary lake for the two countries.

The meeting held on 25th July 2013, in Kirundo Province, Burundi aimed at agreeing on immediate response measures, specific sites for implementation, responsible lead implementers, collaboration mechanisms, and timeframe.

Officiating the meeting, Nzigamasabo Reveriens, Governor of Kirundo Province, Burundi urged stakeholders to commit their participation for effective implementation of WACDEP.

“It is time for everyone to be ready and actively participating in the implementation of WACDEP activities in Lake Cyohoha catchment,” Kirundo Governor said.

The meeting prioritized key activities basing on the results from the situational analysis—former-

ly conducted by a team of multidisciplinary experts from both Rwanda and Burundi.

Subsequent consultations did specify activities, locations, timelines, responsible lead institutions, collaborators and implementation mechanisms for WACDEP at community levels.

Ownership

Using the local map, potential beneficiaries of the Program identified and pointed out clearly the locations where interventions should be focused.

GWP Eastern Africa lauded the initiative of citizens and local representative selecting locations where WACDEP should be based as indication of citizen participation and ownership of the program.

Governor Nzigamasabo further noted that with the prevailing political will, expertise and citizen will, WACDEP objectives will turn into results.

During the national consultative workshop in October 2012, the Administrator of the Commune where the Program will be locat-

ed (Burundi side) had advised: “to maximize the program’s outcomes, it is recommendable that the project focuses on priority activities in one area and thereafter scale up to other areas.”

Historically, Busoni, Bugabira (Burundi’s communes) and Bugesera District (Rwanda’s) face persistent drought brought by climatic changes

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.

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.



resulting from unfriendly human practices such as over-cultivation, deforestation and unregulated livestock farming methods.

The Water, Climate and Development Program(WACDEP) was

Uganda Discussed Post 2015 Water Targets

In line with global discourse on targets for the next development agenda—termed as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Uganda discussed, defined and set her top most water priorities (see table at the end of article).

Organized by the Uganda’s Ministry of Water and Environment with the support from GWP Eastern Africa, the Uganda National Consultation on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place in Uganda’s Capital Kampala, last March 2013.

Officially opening the workshop, Uganda’s State Minister for Water and Environment, Honorable Betty Bigombe emphasized that: **“water issues and priorities need serious consideration in the post 2015 development agenda.”**

Discussants to such crucial forum were drawn from the public, private, civil society organizations, development partners, academia, media and the ultimate beneficiaries of national development plans—citizens—through their representatives.

The consultations aimed at bringing together a broad range of stakeholders to review progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particular water targets and discuss options for a new sustainable development agenda on water.



Standing is Honorable Betty Bigombe, Uganda's State Minister for Water and Environment, listening is Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulation, Ministry of Water and Environment

To effectively set up priorities for the next development agenda, participants reflected on some of the critical challenges that characterized the realization of the millennium development goals with specific focus on water targets.

Some of the challenges included: water scarcity amidst apparent abundant rainfall, water quality deterioration, increasing pressure on land and water due to agriculture practices and climate-related hazards (floods,

droughts).

Recognizant of significant achievements of the MDGs on water, Honorable Maria Mutagamba, a Member of UN Secretary General Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, currently serving as the Minister of Tourism and Wildlife underlined the need for increased sensitization of policy-makers, community-based organizations and communities about the importance of water in Uganda’s socio-economic development.

Community responsibility

“Communities should take more responsibility of managing the water they depend on for their daily lives through rain water harvesting and storage. This way, rain water will cease to be a burden but a source of development.” said Hon Maria Mutagamba.

GWP Eastern Africa, the sponsor of the water discussion forums in the Eastern bloc of Africa, informed participants that consultations on the next Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically on water were being held at global, regional, national and local levels.

Patrick Safari, GWP Eastern Africa’s Regional Coordinator, told participants that the discussion in Uganda had one major purpose, among others— “review the past, discuss on the present and draw consensus on Uganda’s next development priorities on water”

In light of this background, the table below summarizes the past water-related challenges and post 2015 priorities in Uganda.

Challenges	Context water-related information & facts	Priorities to inform post 2015 development agenda.
Scarcity amidst apparently abundant rainfall	Trans boundary cooperation:- 98% of Uganda’s water resources are trans boundary—meaning it a shared scarce resource.	<p>1. Water Resources Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water security for domestic use, livelihood maintenance and preservation of ecosystems by 2030. Increase, by 2030, water storage capacity;. Enhance, by 2030, water related disaster risk management capability <p>2. Key WASH priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal access for WASH services by 2030. WASH Services are socially, financially and environmentally sustainable; <p>3. Waste water and water quality management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban centers and industries have functioning wastewater treatment facilities by 2030; By 2030, water quality is assured and safeguarded for all use; Wastewaters are treated to a minimum standard quality before disposal to water courses and aquifers; Uganda adopts appropriate measures to collect and manage storm water
Increasing pressure on land – the imperative to increase agricultural production to support high population growth. Export oriented growth-developing commercial agriculture	80% of Ugandans derive their livelihood from agriculture, thus demonstrating the existing nexus between food security and water security.	
Low access to electricity, hence dependence on fuel wood and charcoal	Only 12% of Ugandans have access to electricity—meaning there will always be demand for hydro-power production for energy.	
Universal access to safe water	WASH: 36% of Ugandans do not have access to safe drinking water. National sanitation coverage is 68%, and more than 80% of diseases are water related or water borne.	
Expanding industry, mines, oil and gas, and growing towns that will need reliable water supplies	Climate change and water:- managing and securing water in a changing climate, and managing extreme events such as floods and droughts is equally challenging and imperative.	
Increasing flood risks	Source: Ministry of Water, Uganda.	

Rwanda-Burundi Consultations on 'Communicating WACDEP'

"Media is our strategic partner—without it, we expect low levels of awareness, and slow change in water unfriendly practices and policies—"



GWP Eastern Africa's Communication Office presented, and discussed with, media actors from Rwanda and Burundi on key issues that need to be included in the Water, Climate Change Development Program (WACDEP) Communication Strategy.

The consultative discussions held June 2013 in Bujumbura, (Burundi) and Kigali, (Rwanda) aimed at sharing with nationals of the two countries about draft of the WACDEP Communication Strategy: objectives and outcomes, targeted audiences, proposed tools/channels, feedback mechanisms and the implementation plan.

One of the core outcomes of WACDEP is useful knowledge and

information on climate resilience and water security generated, shared and disseminated among stakeholders in Eastern Africa.

The process of consultation identified the following strengths:

- Uniformity in languages between countries (Rwanda and Burundi) where WACDEP will be implemented;
- Increasing understanding of the importance of applying the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in both countries;
- cultural closeness, similarities and linkages facilitating mutual understanding at strategic and local levels;
- Existing institutional and

structural framework: Ministries, Committees enable exchange of information

Participants lauded GWP Eastern Africa's efforts of developing the WACDEP Communication strategy and called for using best-suited communication tools such as radios and meetings to communicate messages to different audiences.

"Communicating messages that are responsive to local contexts and needs would speed GWP Eastern Africa's efforts of realizing the objectives of WACDEP," one participant emphasized.

Willy Mugenzi, GWP Eastern Africa's Communication Officer pledged further cooperation and partnership with the media in

implementing and showcasing WACDEP success stories.

GWP Eastern Africa "considers the media as our best strategic partner in creating awareness, and changing unfriendly water practices," Mugenzi said.

The overall objective of WACDEP is to support integration of water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision making processes.

In Eastern Africa, WACDEP is implemented in River Kagera Basin (regional level), Rwanda-Burundi (country level) specifically around Lake Cyohoha (community level). Worth-noting, Lake Cyohoha is trans-boundary Lake between Rwanda and Burundi.

Bugesera District Signed MoU with GWP Eastern Africa over WACDEP Implementation

Signatures mean “commitment and expression of Ownership”

As the implementation of the Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) draws more momentum, local government is steadily moving towards real commitment and ownership of the program. As earlier reported, the Governor of Kirundo Province, expressed that ‘it’s time for the implementation of WACDEP activities’ (see the story WACDEP: Rwanda-Burundi Stakeholders Agree on Priority Interventions). In the same light, Mayor of Bugesera, observed that WACDEP comes to “contribute towards the building resilience of the local community..”



The above was evidenced by the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 3rd July 2013 by the Mayor of Bugesera District, Mr. Louis Rwagaju and GWP Eastern Africa’s Regional Coordinator, Mr. Safari Patrick.

The MoU signed in the District’s premises spells out the role of the district among others: ensuring a conducive environment for the implementation of WACDEP is provided and implement decisions and actions taken by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

Also, the Bugesera committed to “take appropriate attention for the smooth and suc-

cessful implementation of the programme in order to achieve the intended objectives,” the MoU reads in part.

Bugesera Mayor appreciated the support from the GWP Eastern Africa, specifically contribute towards “building resilience of the local community to climate change through sustainable Water Resources Management and natural systems around Cyohoha water catchment.” He observed that WACDEP activities will improve the livelihoods of the riparian communities.

GWP Eastern Africa’s Regional Coordinator,

Safari Patrick re-echoed the Mayor’s commitment as a resounding expression of local government’s ownership of WACDEP implementation. “MoU means commitment of Bugesera Local Authority to support and own the implementation of WACDEP activities on the ground through community awareness raising and mobilization,” Patrick Safari noted.

According to the MoU, GWP Eastern Africa’s Regional Secretariat commits to support Bugesera District and provide funding, technical support and required capacity for the successful implementation of WACDEP Programme/ project at all levels

GWP Eastern Africa Gets Accreditation in Uganda

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa Secretariat

GWP Eastern Africa on 23rd July 2013, got formal accreditation evidenced by the signing of the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa Secretariat.

Among other important points, the signed agreement notes that: “the seat of the GWPEA Secretariat shall be established in Entebbe or in any locality of Uganda as it may be decided by the GWPEA Regional Steering Committee”

In practice, the accreditation grants GWP Eastern Africa with legal personality: allowance to pursue and achieve its strategic objectives and mandate.

GWP Eastern Regional Coordinator, Safari Patrick, lauded the agreement as “the honour and privilege offered by the Government of Uganda to GWPEA.” Regional Coordinator strongly believes that the agreement will further consolidate GWP Eastern Africa’s efforts of supporting the sustainable management and development of water resources at all levels in the region.

GWP Eastern Africa has been benefiting and enjoying the high level diplomatic hosting of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) since its inception in 2013 (10 years now). Both institutions



have had mutually satisfying roles—always centered on sustainable and equitable management water resources in Eastern Africa and the Nile Basin.

The agreement was signed by Uganda’s Ministry of Water and Environment.

GWP Eastern Africa and Young Water Professionals Signed MoU

GWP Eastern Africa and Young Water Professionals on 5th July 2013 signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at providing a framework for engaging of young Ugandan men and women in the area of water and natural resources management. More specifically, the Young Water Professionals will be:

- Involving the youth in addressing the impacts of climate change and demographic pattern shifts on the natural resource base;
- Identifying options to improve the resilience of communities and ecosystems in the region as part of climate adaptation measures;
- Promote youth engagement in direct researches and interventions aimed at addressing challenges of Climate change and Water Resources;
- Promote the engagement of youth, as drivers and Change Agents, in climate change policy and governance formulations at local, regional and international fora in order to drive the youth



agenda

- Promoting basin-wide and regional cooperation across countries to enhance and promote social and economic outcomes from programs involving sustainable utilization of common water resources;
- Demonstrating and strengthening the role of youth as professionals, entrepreneurs, and

future water sector leaders together with other key actors in addressing challenges in all socio-economic sectors and academic disciplines crosscutting with water sector.

- Supporting peer-to-peer engagement of the youth through workshops, benchmarking visits, conferences, meetings and trainings as a way of building

networks, capacities and synergies within and among the youth to address water and climate related challenges.

The parties agree that it is to their mutual benefit and interest to work cooperatively to improve the public perception on the role of young people as present and future stewards, users and managers of water resources

Kenya:

Inclusion of Water in Sustainable Development Agenda After 2015



The National Consultation Forum held on 27th Feb 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya reflected on some of the weaknesses of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), priority issues to incorporate in the next Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and foreseeable challenges.

Public institutions, Civil Society Organizations, Academia, Media and other national stakeholders from Water Sector, Agriculture and Energy discussed about key priority water issues that need to be incorporated in the next development agenda termed as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

GWP Eastern Africa provided financial support to Kenya Country Water Partnership to come up with context-relevant water needs and priorities that will inform the next development agenda, come 2015.

The objective of consultative workshop in Kenya was to listen and identify water needs and set priorities regarding the future development agenda for water

and sustainable development in the post-2015.

Guiding frameworks for Incisive discussions

The discussions were guided by existing frameworks such as policy, legal and other best practices within Kenya's water sector. Henceforth, instruments such as Constitution of Kenya (2010), Kenya's strategic development document (Vision 2030), Water Act of 2002, Reports on Water Sector Reforms (2002), The National Water Policy of 2012 (NWP 2012), Water Sector Strategic Plan (WSSP 2012-2015) were reviewed, analyzed and guided the discussions.

Challenges and Priority areas

Though most legal and policy documents clearly noted availability and accessibility of water as a citizen right and priority, falling levels of water per capita per annum and slow progress in water and sanitation coverage stand out as Kenya's critical challenges. Kenya's development agenda—Vision 2030 might be delayed in case water is not

sustainably integrated and managed to support the country's key sectors: industry, agriculture and energy.

Kenya recognizes that Water is Life and that water and water-related issues penetrate all aspects of society, cutting across all boundaries, be they political, administrative, social, economic and technological.

Participants to the consultative zeroed down to four mutually interconnected priority area: Integrated Water Resource Management; Sustainable Environment and Climate Resilience Uses of water by Adapting the Sector Wide Approach to Planning (SWAP).

Inspired by the Kenya Constitution (2010) which emphasizes channeling 15% of the natural resources to counties, the meeting also underlined the need to equalize funds for water and sanitation service through availing affordable and access safe water and sanitation for all in both rural and urban areas.

Cross-cutting issues such as governance, gender and human rights based approach featured prominent and were strongly recommended as key components of the next development agenda.

“As population increases, water stress is mounting and the sanitation crisis growing, social conflicts over water resources continue to disrupt peaceful co-existence especially in the urban areas. Interests in Integrated Urban Water Management needs to be explored.” Reads part of the recommendations

To “progressively realize the human right to water and sanitation, the Kenyan government and development partners need to steer management of urban water in a sustainable way,” workshop further recommended.

Other critical areas noted were: application of appropriate technologies that are cost effective, environmentally, user friendly and prioritization of public participation as well as enabling public access to water related information.