

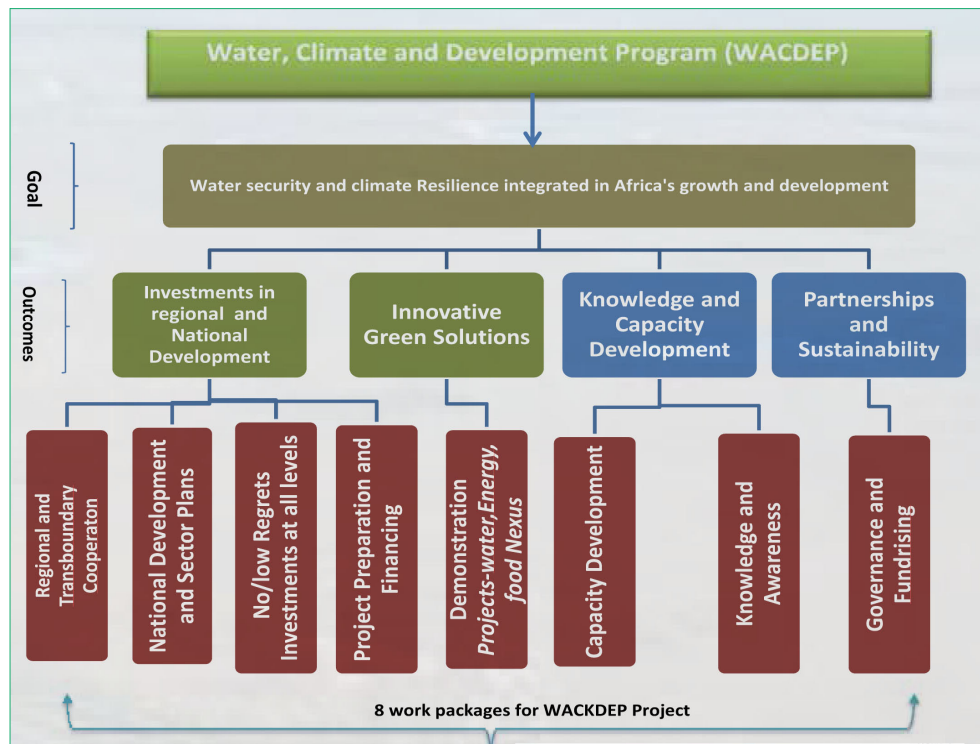
## What is WACDEP?

The Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) is a program of African Ministerial Council on Water. In November 2010, during the 3rd Africa Water Week, the extra-ordinary session of the AMCOW adopted a decision recommending that the GWP and partners operationalize the WACDEP.

In Eastern Africa, WACDEP is being implemented at Kagera basin, Rwanda-Burundi national level and Bugesera Trans-boundary water catchment by GWP Eastern Africa.

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;



Standing Right is GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator, Mr. Safari Patrick and Minister of Energy & Mines, Burundi

### GWP Eastern Africa Consultations with Burundi Key Ministries

#### Enforcement of Policy and Legal Instruments for Environment and Natural Resources, Key for WACDEP Success in Burundi

Enforcement of policy and legal instruments for environment and natural resources management and climate change is key for the success and sustainability of Water, Climate Development Program (WACDEP).

The observation was made by GWP Eastern Africa during a working consultative meeting held on 13 September 2013, in Bujumbura, with key Burundi Government officials in the Ministry of Water, Land and Urban Management, Ministry of Energy and Mines and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

*“The three ministries are strategic partners whose support will be instrumental to the realization of WACDEP objectives,”* said Safari Patrick, GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator



Standing Right is GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator, Mr. Safari Patrick and Minister of Energy & Mines, Manirakiza Côme in Burundi

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[← To Page 2](#)

## Message from the GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Water Digest specifically focused on Water, Climate Development Program (WACDEP).

This special edition presents the journey so far made right from inception of WACDEP to implementation (program's current phase). It is a snapshot of activities involving the stakeholders engaged, and valuable insights received and lessons learned.

To cite a few, this insightful process reminded us that the success of a program resides in those it is meant to serve—citizens—as the key stakeholders and beneficiaries of any program or project. To this end, ownership of WACDEP by the citizens and local leadership in Kamabuye (Rwanda), Busoni and Bugabira is a key milestone worthy of appreciation.

Also to note is the unwavering political commitment from both governments: Rwanda and Burundi. We have seen Ministries of the two countries expressing interests and excitement about WACDEP journey. It is this excitement that makes us feel more energized. As we moved forward, we also learnt that early and evidence-based response is far better than reactive and detached interventions. To align WACDEP with this need, a diagnostic situational analysis was conducted by a multi-disciplinary team of experts drawn from all levels—national and local of the two countries (see page 3 & page 6).

Building a water secure and climate resilient Bugesera region requires well-thought out engagement strategies. Given the role of the news media and communication in creating awareness, promotion of water friendly attitudes and practices in Bugesera region, we consulted the media and communication practitioners on a range of issues, to mention a few—how best can we communicate? With what communication channels? All these constitute the draft of the WACDEP Communication strategy.

To wind up, I need to borrow statement I still take as powerful, from the Governor of Kirundi Province, Burundi, Nzigamasabo Reveriens, “it is time for everyone to participate in the implementation of WACDEP.” Here we go!

# Rwanda-Burundi Local Leadership Critical For WACDEP



GWP Eastern Africa Staff with the local Leaders from Bugabira and Busoni Communes (Burundi) & Executive Secretary of Kamabuye Sector (Rwanda)

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 call for ownership was made during the 2<sup>nd</sup> consultative meeting with local leaders from Busoni, Bugabira Communes of Kirundo Province (Burundi) and Kamabuye Sector, Bugesera District, Eastern Province of Rwanda, last October 2012.

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.

Presenting the project activities, GWPEA 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, the GWPEA cannot afford underestimating the capacity of the local government officials to mobilize citizen participation and ownership of the activities in Bugesera Trans-boundary Project.

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

Illuminating on the objectives and rationale of the consultative meeting with specifically local government officials, GWPEA 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

commendable 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 Agriculture 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: Team of Experts Harmonized Situational Analysis Research Methodologies

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 yet-to-be carried out Situational Analysis for Bugesera Transboundary Water Project.

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 as set by the GWP Eastern Africa—the institution that commissioned the Bugesera Situational Analysis Research.

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 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 situational analysis will inform the implementation of the WACDEP around Cyohoha water catchment.

The key implementing partners



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

for GWP Eastern Africa specifically on WACDEP Program are local citizens as ultimate project beneficiaries, Government of Burundi and Government of Rwanda.

On the Burundian side, the data collection and analysis was conducted in Rubuga, Kigina, and Gaturanda in Bugabira Commune of the Kirundo Province, and Kamabuye Sector, Bugesera District, Rwanda.

In Eastern Africa, WACDEP is being 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:

- “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;
- 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.

## From Page 1

The objective of the consultative meeting was to twofold: to update the key ministry top officials about WACDEP implementation process and to seek continued policy support for the integration of water security and climate adaptation into national planning processes.

The Minister of Energy and Mines, Hon Manirakiza Côme, appreciated the objectives of WACDEP especially the component on demonstration

project that will help addressing bio-fuel and energy issues that Kirundo province has been facing a long time ago. He finally indicated that the Ministry has designated a focal point for WACDEP, Mr NIKOYANGIZE Firmin, and pledged to cooperate and provide any support needed for WACDEP Success.

The Permanent Secretary of Burundi Ministry of Environment, Water, Land and Urban Management, Epimaque Murengeantwali indicated that Burundi Government's commitment has

been expressed by appointing Focal Persons for the implementation of WACDEP at local and national level.

Worth noting, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Water, Land and Urban Management, along with a team of technical staff, is among the officials designated for following WACDEP implementation in Burundi.

He however urged for an a new approach of reporting results achieved on the ground

with particular emphasis on evidence-based achievements demonstrated by photographic images from the field as opposed to narratives.

The Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestocks, Mr Joseph NDUWIMANA, said some of the key objectives of WACDEP are mutually connected and mainstreamed in the Burundi national development priorities—thus an indication of the government's commitment to support WACDEP.

# WACDEP: Rwanda-Burundi Stakeholders Agreed on Priority interventions



Rwanda-Burundi Stakeholders after the meeting for the implementation of WACDEP Activities on the 25th of July 2013

*"It's time for participating in the implementation of WACDEP activities in Lake Cyohoho catchment."* Governor told stakeholders, in Kirundo Province, of Burundi, on the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Cyohoho 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 Cyohoho catchment,"* Kirundo Governor said.

The meeting prioritized key activities basing on the results from the situational analysis—formerly 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 located (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 resulting from unfriendly human practices such as over-cultivation, deforestation and unregulated livestock farming methods.

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 devel-

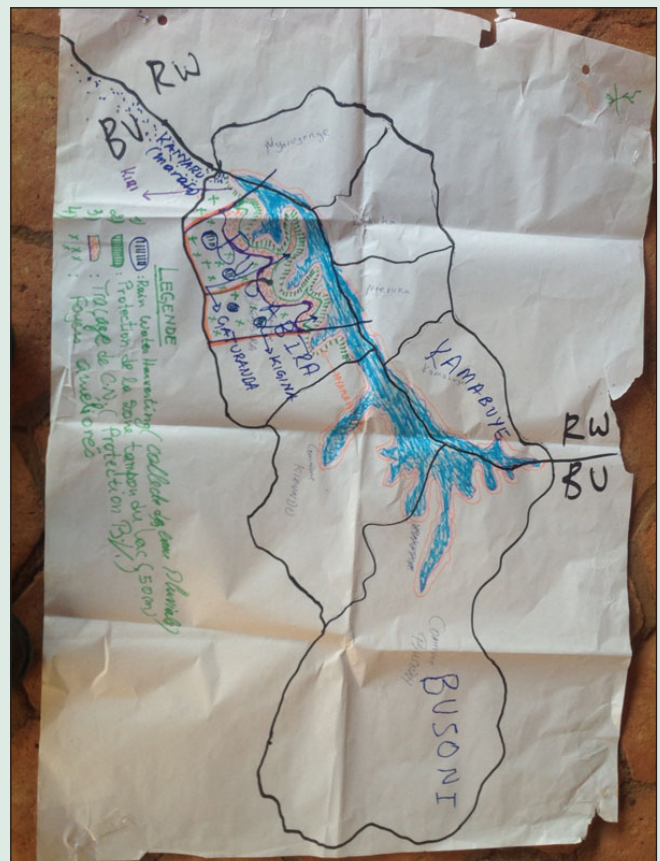
opment planning and decision-making processes through investment in water security and climate change adaptations.

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.



Lake Cyohoho water catchment sketch map



# Rwanda-Burundi Consultations on Communicating WACDEP Concluded



Members of the media with GWPEA Regional Coordinator in Kigali-Rwanda

*“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 draft WACDEP Communication strategy and to representatives of citizens and journalism practitioners in Burundi on key issues that need to be included in the Water, Climate Change Development Program (WACDEP) Communication Strategy.

The consultative discussions held on 16-17<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in Bujumbura, (Burundi) and Kigali, (Rwanda) respectively 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.

Participants emphasized that the WACDEP Communication strategy should build on the existing local and national communication strengths and work towards turning existing weaknesses into future opportunities.

*“Owing to the fact that Rwandans and Burundians have similar cultural, social and economic contexts, the choice of the methods [tools] while communicating WACDEP should seek to reinforce these similarities than ignoring them,”* said one

participant from Burundi.

## Identified strengths

According to the draft of the WACDEP Communication strategy, Rwandans and Burundians, specifically citizens living around Cyohoha Lake have many commonalities: uniformity in languages (Kirundi for Burundi & Kinyarwanda) similar dialectics.

GWP Eastern Africa considers the above as valuable strengths and resources that can be leveraged on while conducting joint communication activities such as public awareness, trainings, seminars and conferences.

Other strengths include: increasing ownership of WACDEP by local authorities and existing institutional and structural framework: Water ministries, directorates, committees that can facilitate fast exchange of knowledge and communication materials. Telephony culture stood as additional strength to leverage while sharing messages through short message services (SMS).

## Standing challenges

Field consultations noted that though women directed affected by water scarcity in Bugesera region, there are still low level of

women participation in protection and management of Lake Cyohoha.

Delayed participation of women in protection and management of Lake Cyohoha was considered to be linked to cultural reservations. GWP Eastern Africa envisions applying targeted messages to women and encouraging them join the Water Resources Management Committees as some of the strategies to overcome this challenge.

Other gaps included Limited scientific evidence demonstrating how climate change and its direct links with water scarcity, increasing floods and drought.

## Key opportunities

The political will to center Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Approach, increasing trend towards trans-boundary strategies (integration) and growing social media use amongst youth are some of the opportunities participants identified and urged GWP Eastern Africa to consider while fine-tuning drafted the WACDEP Communication strategy.

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.

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.

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.

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.

# WACDEP: Situation Analysis Research Validated



A group photo after the Situation Analysis Research validation workshop

Team 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.

The discussions held 20th December 2012 on Rwanda-Burundi Border, Bugesera District, Eastern Province of Rwanda centered on the research 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 Commune of the Kirundo Province, whereas in Rwanda, the study was conducted in Kamabuye Sector of the Bugesera District, the Eastern Province.

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

Other critical challenges included 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 for Bugesera District, Julius Rukundo who welcomed participants 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. Nzagamasabo 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 partici-

pants 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 “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.

## Country Water Partnerships Briefed on WACDEP

Members of Rwanda-Burundi Country Water Partnerships were on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013 and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 briefed on Water, Climate Development Program: its goal, objectives, outcomes, components and the expected role of stakeholders.

A total of 60 members from Water Partnerships were informed about how far the GWP Eastern has gone with implementation of WACDEP.

After a detailed presentation on WACDEP: origin, rationale, implementation process, the Regional Coordinator for GWP Eastern Africa, Mr. Safari Patrick urged CWP's formulate projects whose objectives would seek



Country Water Partnerships Briefed on WACDEP on 21st August 2013 & 12th Sept 2013

to scale up the best practices in their respective countries after the phase out of the program.

“We envision continuity of WACDEP even after its phase out period. Rwanda and Burundi Country Water Partnerships can learn and replicate best

techniques and strategies of WACDEP implementation process.”

Similarly, NZABONIMPA Oscar from APEFA (Rwanda) urged present members of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to link their on-site water and

climate related projects to WACDEP objectives to fast-track the process of achieving intended results at community levels. He however cautioned against duplication of efforts and resources.

Burundi Country Water Partnerships lauded GWP Eastern Africa's efforts evidenced by unwavering efforts to communicate about WACDEP whenever an opportunity presents itself.

GWP Eastern Africa has 168 Country Water Partnerships which serve as forums through which programs, projects and other activities are discussed, fine-tuned and validated for effective implementations.



# Media Trained on WACDEP Communication

## Water & Climate Change Issues are Newsworthy



Journalists interviewing the Executive Secretary of Kamabuye Sector, Bugesera District, Jean de Dieu Muyegenza

GWP Eastern Africa organized two days Water and Climate Development (WACDEP) Training Workshop on August 21-22, 2013 in Bugesera District, Eastern Africa Province, Rwanda.

Rwanda, Burundi journalists from print, broadcast, and online media organs and government communication officers formed media network to fast-track communications on WACDEP, promote awareness and dialogue around issues of water security and climate change adaptation.

Trainees also understood key concepts such as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Climate Change, Water Security and Why Water and Climate Change phenomena are newsworthy for the news media from Rwanda and Burundi.

The title of the workshop was

*“Role of Communication in Promoting Water Security and Climate Resilience”* and a total of 30 communications experts and journalists from Burundi and Rwanda attended the training.

The training was motivated by the understanding that improved communications and information dissemination concerning water and climate change adaptation issues will better enable local communities and policy-makers to preserve their water resources, thus the success of WACDEP in Bugesera region.

*“Such training is long overdue. We needed it long ago. However, we can catch up on time and do something about water security and climate change issue in Bugesera region and other areas”* said one media practitioner from Burundi.

The training method included

presentations, focus group discussion, film-screening, and field visit to Lake Cyohoha—trans-boundary water catchment between Rwanda and Burundi for stock-taking. Burundi is home to 369 square km of the lake, while 139 square km are settled in Rwanda.

One of the observations from the field was about how discrepancies in environmental law enforcement between the two countries thus promoting risk practices around the lake.

For instance, Rwanda currently has strict environmental laws in place for the protection of the lake’s resources, while Burundi’s government has yet to implement such protective measures.

Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, also a trainer, led an additional session on uncertainty of climate change, risk analysis, mitigation and adaption measures and linkages between climate change impact and water insecurity.

Journalists were able to interview local community members whose livelihoods depend on the lake in order to formulate stories they would share with their home communities with the intention of improving dialogue and cooperation between the two states.

The training ended with participants committing to inform and urge their communities to take

action to protect their waters and move towards a mindset of water preservation and cooperation. Furthermore, all participants expressed a desire to work together in the future to tackle this issue jointly, across borders.

Daniel Mulisa, representing the Ministry of Infrastructure in Rwanda, “awareness is created [through this workshop] between the members of the two countries. Everyone learned their shortcomings and will move forward...it [the training] will create a big impact because everyone here is a writer so everyone will write and write and more awareness will be created. And, if we write the articles many lives will be changed as a result of environmental protection.”

As a result, over 15 articles (online, broadcast and print) were produced, 1 Press Release and photojournalists captured photographs for future considerations.

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

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

## WACDEP Kicked Off at Local Levels

### Stakeholders Briefed on Program Objectives and Work Plans

The GWP Eastern Africa in collaboration with the Burundi and Rwanda Country Water Partnerships launched Water, Climate Development Program (WACDEP) at local level in Bugesera region connecting Rwanda and Burundi. The launch held on 24-25<sup>th</sup> July 2012 is part of WACDEP’s sequenced programmatic activities.

Program stakeholders totaling to 35 drawn from Development partners, Country Water Partnerships, Burundi and Rwanda Ministries of Water, Ministries of National Planning and Finance, UNFCC Focal Points, Nile-TAC, Local Cooperatives, Youth association, Women Association,

District Officials and relevant staff, and Local NGOs reviewed the draft work plan, implementation arrangement and foreseeable challenges.

Opening the workshop, the Vice Mayor in charge of Economic Planning and Development, Mr. Julius Rukundo, briefed the present about Bugesera District “as one of the 7districts of the Eastern Province of Rwanda with 15 Sectors, 72 cells, 581 villages and a population of over 371,000.”

He also mentioned that afforestation, soil erosion control, promoting best agricultural methods, conflict management, environment (including water



Understanding Bugesera Catchment problems through community participatory approach

management, and rainwater harvesting are given high priority and emphasis in the District’s planning and budget allocation.

GWP Eastern Africa’s Regional Coordinator, Safari Patrick,

presented WACDEP’s objectives, planned activities, implementation arrangement, expected results, overall impact as well as the expectations from stakeholders.

Embargoed until 21<sup>st</sup>  
August 2013



21<sup>st</sup> August 2013

## Press Release

### Media to Be Trained on Bugesera Water-Climate Change Issues

**GWPEA, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013, Bugesera District, Kigali-Rwanda,**

**From 21<sup>st</sup> up to 22<sup>nd</sup> August, over 30 media practitioners and communication officers from Rwanda and Burundi will train in making Bugesera region more climate resilient, water secure.**

The two day training taking place in Pallist Rock Hotel, Busegera District, Eastern Province, Rwanda, aims at equipping communication and media practitioners from the two countries with requisite skills and techniques of making Bugesera region more climate resilient and adaptive and water secure.

Topics to be covered include Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Climate Change Adaptations, Climate Risk Management, and newsworthiness of water and climate issues and communication of Water, Climate Development Program for diverse audiences in Rwanda and Burundi.

“The training is line with increasing awareness about water and climate change issues in Bugesera, strengthening partnership with the media and communication practitioners.” GWP Eastern Africa’s Regional Coordinator, Patrick Safari said.

He added, interacting with the news media and communication practitioners is one of the strategies to raise capacities, interests and getting messages delivered to some of our target audiences. “With the news media on our side, a water secure and climate resilient Bugesera region is possible” Safari Patrick added.

Through trainee-centred methods, trainees will complement the discussed water and climate change concepts with practical visits around Lake Cyohaha to observe and analyse interactions between climate change, water security and development in Bugesera region.

The training is part of the component for the program—**Water, Climate and Development** (WACDEP) conceived by the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), implemented by Global Water Partnership (GWP).

The overall objective WACDEP is to support integration of water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision making processes, through enhanced technical and institutional capacity and predictable financing and investments in water security and climate change adaptation.

Initially, WACDEP is being implemented in eight countries: Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Rwanda and Tunisia; and four river basins: Volta Basin, Lake Chad, Lake Victoria-Kagera, and Limpopo Basin.’

In Eastern Africa, the program will be implemented at different levels, in river Kagera basin, specifically around Lake Cyohaha—a trans-boundary lake between Rwanda and Burundi.

Historically, Bugesera, a region shared by Rwanda and Burundi face persistent drought brought by climatic changes resulting from unfriendly human practices—over-cultivation, deforestation and unregulated livestock farming methods.

**For more information, please contact Mr. Safari Patrick, GWP Eastern Africa’s Regional Coordinator, Tel: Cell phones: +256 752766780, +250 788309642 Email: [sapatrik2013@gmail.com](mailto:sapatrik2013@gmail.com), [psafari@nilebasin.org](mailto:psafari@nilebasin.org)**