

## Editorial

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Water is a dealmaker for the Sustainable Development Goals, and for the health and prosperity of people and planet. But our progress on water related goals and targets remains alarmingly off track, jeopardizing the entire sustainable development agenda.

The first UN water conference in a generation, the UN 2023 Water Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands took place from 22nd to 24th March. It was a watershed moment to mobilize Member States, the UN system and stakeholders alike to take action and bring successful solutions to a global scale. To catalyse action, the Conference sought voluntary commitments, galvanized by the Programme, to the Water Action Agenda. Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa committed towards this agenda as we shall read in this edition of the “The Water Bulletin”.

We are pleased to share with you some of the work that GWPEA has embarked on in assisting governments through our Country Water Partnerships in designing and implementing country-led responses to SDG indicator 6.5.1.

March being a month designated as the Women’s History Month, this year, GWPEA marked 8th March in a unique way. The theme for the day was “Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality”. The advocacy around this theme was to design digital products and services with and for girls and women to meet their realities and reduce the gender digital divide. We were able to capture voices of women in technology in the partnership to give their thoughts.

In this issue, read about the strategic and diplomatic collaborations that GWPEA has set out to make among various developing and implementing partners in the water and climate sector. We recognize that a strong partnership with these funding partners leads to a diversification of our programs and projects and thus creating fertile ground for value addition to investment in the IWRM. We look forward to feedback from our esteemed readers.

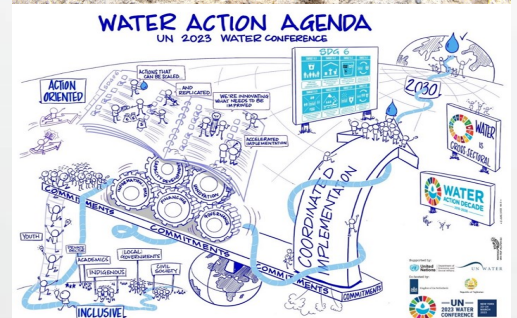
Happy Reading!

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## **GWPEA COMMITS TOWARDS THE WATER ACTION AGENDA 2030: STRENGTHENING PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SDG6 IWRM AGENDA AS A TANGIBLE RESOURCE BASE**

GWPEA has committed to Strengthen private sector participation in the SDG6 IWRM agenda as a tangible resource base. The [commitment](#) was registered on the UN Water Action Agenda to deliver on the water actions in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



**Ewaso Ngiro river catchment in Kenya, one of the conservation areas for the project**

This commitment will be delivered through the SDG6 IWRM Matchmaking Initiative, which aims to match country-defined priorities for water management improvements which are lacking financing or only have partial funding, with local funding sources, donors and other funding agencies that have available financing, but which are not currently investing in water management at the scale required or in the most coordinated manner.

The IWRM Investment Package which was developed in Kenya, have been designed to support conservation at the catchment level. The Investment Package is based on a common goal of “improved conservation and sustainable management of the catchment ecosystem for improved economic and social welfare,” aiming to promote application of “wise use” concepts; strengthen governance; build conservation awareness and capacity; encourage sustainable alternative livelihoods. The focus of the IWRM-IP is operational costs of carrying out essential catchment conservation and associated IWRM sustainable development activities in line with the National Water Resources Management Strategy.

These actions will result into restoration and rehabilitation of degraded natural landscapes, multi-stakeholder collaboration and cooperation fostered in catchment conservation management as well as Private-Public-Community partnerships equitably facilitated for improved access to inputs and market among other deliverables.

**“Creating a platform for private sector participation in the multistakeholder agenda for a water secure world is key to achieving SDG 6 and related goals”,** Said Mr. George Sanga, the Regional Coordinator. **“The SDG 6 IWRM Support Program Matchmaking Initiative has created the right platform for this to happen”,** he added.

The Water Action Agenda supported all stakeholders across different sectors to develop and implement voluntary commitments to further strengthen the global water agenda and provide a mechanism to organize and track the progress of such commitments. This was one of the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference that took place in New York, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Read more about the commitment [HERE](#)

### **GWPEA Participates in UN 2023 Water Conference, Marks World Water Day**

Thousands gathered in New York from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March for the first global water conference since 1977. The three-day event was a watershed moment for the sustainable development community as the world united for #WaterAction.

GWPEA was represented by the Uganda Water Partnership and Rwanda Water Partnership, led by the Chairperson Mr. Francois Tetero.

To mark the World Water Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, GWPEA joined her Regional Partnership counterparts in Africa in a Pan African social media campaign that was hinged towards the theme of the day, “Accelerating Change”.

Follow [this link](#) to read more from the social media poster we developed for the media campaign for the world water day.

As we offer solutions to the water challenge to accelerate change, GWPEA showcased how we are supporting farmers in Uganda to adapt to climate change by constructing simplified water harvesting structures including sand dams and boreholes in Karamoja region under the DRESSEA project.

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, during the World Water Day Celebrations at the UN 2023 conference said: “Without water, there can be no sustainable development.” Indeed GWPEA has committed to actively advancing the global water agenda through the commitment that the region submitted.



## SOMALIA NDA VALIDATES READINESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT ON CLIMATE FINANCE



Participants of the Validation meeting



Group work to assess gender inclusivity



Mr. Abdirashid Ateye, NDA's focal person



Mr. Ahmed Yusuf, DG, MoECC Somalia



Cross section of participants listening to the deliberations

"Climate adaptation is a major priority for Somalia especially during these times when the country is grappling with severe drought periods. However this will require substantial financial resources from the public, private, national and international sources". These were remarks made by Mr. Ahmed Yusuf, the Director General of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in Somalia, during the Stakeholders meeting to review and validate Somalia's National Readiness Needs Assessment, the Operational Manual for the National Designated Authority and the No-Objection Procedure for the GCF funding proposals.

The event which took place from 20th to 21st March in Mogadishu brought together stakeholders from federal line ministries, private institutions including local banks, academia/ universities and CSOs.

Under the Global Climate Fund's Country Programming Support and Project Pipeline Development in Somalia, a Readiness Needs Assessment (RNA), NDA Operational Manual and a No-Objection Procedure for GCF funding proposals were drafted. The RNA assesses Somalia's capacity vis-a-vis accessing and implementing climate finance and discusses how the country can improve its readiness to access and deliver climate finance. The NDA Operational Manual provides guidance to the NDA on the GCF processes, investment areas and requirements, the accreditation process and GCF's requirements and the required elements for the development of high-quality proposals and bankable projects for effective climate action in Somalia for GCF financial support. While the NDA's no-objection is a condition for approval of all funding proposals submitted to the Fund. The purpose of the no objection procedure is to ensure consistency with national

climate strategies and plans and country-driven approaches.

According to the overall perception of the validators, the documents were prepared in line with the country context and priorities. The RNA presented the needs of the country in terms of constitutional capacity, policy environment and technical knowledge. Addressing these needs will enhance the country's capacity to plan for, access, deliver and report on climate finance.

It was revealed that the private sector has had limited engagement in climate change initiatives in the country, so the meeting proposed to enhance private sector engagement. The participants also emphasized the need to develop national climate finance policy / strategy as proposed in the Readiness Action Plan.

The Ministry of Women and Human Rights proposed a gender transformative approach to be embedded in the documents. Somalia has a National Gender Action Plan 2023-2025 and all interventions should mainstream this gender action.

The Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme started its implementation in Somalia in June 2022, targeting the National Designated Authority, which is the newly established Ministry for Environment & Climate Change in Somalia. The project constitutes of Somalia's first readiness project outside of the National Adaptation Plan strengthening through UNDP. The project activities fill the urgent need for NDA strengthening, development of a country programme and establishment of a GCF pipeline for Somalia.

Read more about the project [HERE](#)



## DRESSEA PROJECT HELPING FARMERS AND PASTORALISTS ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND DROUGHT THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.



Scooping water and feeding the animals from wheelbarrows at the sand dam in Karamoja, Uganda

Uganda's "Cattle Corridor" which stretches from Karamoja region in the northeast, through central to the southwest of the country, is suffering a severe drought which has affected pastoralism and crop production, the main economic activities from which the communities derive their livelihoods in these areas. Two consecutive seasons of rain shortage have resulted into seasonal rivers, leading to shortage of water, and thus affecting agriculture which has increased famine, malnutrition and low productivity of crops and animals. Although most of the agro-ecological zones of Uganda are grappling with the effects of climate change and variability, the Karamoja sub-region is most affected.

GWPEA is implementing the ["Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in the IGAD Region \(DRESS-EA\)"](#) Project in four Riparian countries of Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda. The project, which is undertaken in collaboration with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) aims at increasing the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists to climate change risks mainly those related to drought, through the establishment of appropriate early warning systems and implementation of drought adaptation actions in the IGAD region.

For farmers and pastoralists to adapt to drought and climate change, the DRESSEA project is supporting them to undertake concrete innovative and appropriate sustainable land, water, crops and livestock management measures and technologies. The project proposes to construct simplified water harvesting structures which can easily be replicated by the community, among which are the sand dams, rock catchment water harvesting structures and compound water harvesting structures. The Uganda Program Implementing Unit assessed and verified the appropriate sites within the catchment and sub catchment management plans, where these proposed structures would be constructed. The sites include Lokere Catchment and Nangoloapolon sub-catchment in Nadunget, Moroto District where a sand dam is proposed to be established; Omanimani sub-catchment in Lokopo, Napak District, where a Rock catchment water harvesting structure will be constructed; and lastly, in Lotisan, Moroto District, where compound water harvesting structures will be constructed.

[Read more](#) about how the project is helping farmers to adapt to climate change and drought through innovative technologies and other interventions



## AWARENESS RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF IWRM POLICIES CRUCIAL IN CONSERVING CATCHMENT AREAS

GWPEA in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment Uganda have conducted a root cause analysis for the legal policy and institutional framework bottleneck and identified gaps, implementation challenges and solutions for inclusive and resilience in IWRM and WASH services in Uganda, under the [Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate Programme](#).

As part of the programme, GWP is supporting an inclusive and participatory government-led, multi-stakeholder change process to identify systemic and financial constraints in water resource management and define strategies to overcome them. In Uganda, UNICEF is also supporting a multi-stakeholder change process focusing on inclusive and climate resilient WASH services under the programme.

A stakeholder consultation meeting was organized earlier to identify bottlenecks and barriers that affect the achievement of IWRM and

WASH services in Uganda. One of the key bottlenecks that was identified and prioritized was inadequate legal policy enforcement and compliance that informed the formation of a thematic working group on strengthening Legal, Policy and Institutional Framework towards Inclusive and Resilient Water Resources Management in Uganda.

Some of the issues identified that are related to key bottleneck are: Enforcement of policies and laws (acts, ordinances, bylaws); Social cultural norms, attitudes, religious beliefs; inadequate coordination across institutions; Limited participation of men, women, youth and PWDs in WASH and IWRM; Low acceptance levels of IWRM conservation projects due to long-term impacts; Limited capacity and management resources; among others [Read more](#) about how the working groups delved into the root cause analysis in Kabarole and Gulu districts between 19th and 25th March



Participants at Kabarole District



LCV Chairman Kabarole District



During the group discussions

## PILOTING GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN IWRM ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST IN UGANDA

Global Water Leadership Program East Africa (GWPEA) in partnership with Ministry of Water and Environment as a focal point through the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme (IWRM SP) piloted the gender mainstreaming checklist in Uganda in preparation for the official SDG 6.5.1 reporting round in 2023. This is in relation to the integration of gender in IWRM. In reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1, the United Nations UN Member States including Uganda, submit a survey-based assessment on the status of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The survey contains a gender related questionnaire on the inclusion of gender in laws/plans or similar in water resource management (WRM). Based on the survey results from the previous year's 2017, 2020, and from the communication with country focal points persons for SDG 6.5.1 monitoring, many countries including

Uganda struggle with meaningful integration of gender considerations in their national, transboundary, and local water management. It's against this background that the gender mainstreaming checklist was piloted in Uganda.

The main aim of the piloting exercise was to test the checklist in a stakeholder consultation setting and to collect feedback from national stakeholders' key aspects of Gender mainstreaming in IWR checklist.

The exercise was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Skyz Hotel Protea Kampala.

The stakeholders were drawn from relevant Government MDAs, CSOs, Academia, UWP, and GWPEA. In total 23 (Female 13 and Male 10) participants attended the meeting. Read more about the resolutions from the exercise and general feedback to the checklist [HERE](#).



Participants at Skyz Hotel, Kampala



Group work discussions



Gender Advisor GWPEA making remarks



## GWPEA LAYS OUT FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN IWRM

Since its inception in 2003, GWPEA has partnered with various organizations to address water security issues in the Eastern Africa and Nile Basin region. As a custodian of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in the Region, GWPEA draws on 20 years of multi-level implementing experience, enabled by a functional interface with global development agendas, leadership, and finance flows.

Over the years, the GWPEA project portfolio has grown in leaps and bounds despite the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted greatly on our implementation due to the change in global economy and overall business outlook. However the post-covid era offers an opportunity for closer collaboration in GWP/GWPEA's main focus areas namely - Water Solutions for the SDGs, Climate Resilience and transboundary Water Management, with Gender, Youth and Financing being the

supporting anchor areas.

The diversity of our programs and projects portrays GWPEA's experience and avenues for collaboration with like minded partners. GWPEA is also fertile ground for value addition to investment in the above mentioned areas. Our current funders consist of globally renowned authorities such as GCF, Adaptation Fund, FCDO-UK, Austrian Development Agency and UNEP among others. Our implementing partners include regional development organizations like IGAD, OSS, AU-AMCOW and various individual governments in the 10 countries in which GWPEA works. In the past quarter, GWPEA set out to increase its partnership portfolio when we paid courtesy visits to the World Bank Group in Uganda, the Swedish Embassy and European Union Delegation in Uganda.

### VISIT TO THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN UGANDA



The Delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Swedish Embassy in Uganda on 22nd March and met with the Swedish Envoy to Uganda, H.E Maria Håkansson. Ms. Håkansson applauded the work being done by GWPEA in IWRM, and said that the visit and conversation was timely as we celebrate Water Day 2023. "Good water management is key for the achievement of the SDGs", she said. She was hopeful that the established partnership would go a long way in improving water solutions for the SDGs.

### VISIT TO WORLD BANK GROUP, UGANDA



Dr. Alexander Danilenko, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist at the World Bank Group, Uganda met the team. Various strategic issues of mutual interest, especially within the Country Partnership Framework on Water and Climate were discussed. The delegation was informed that in eliminating poverty and boosting shared prosperity in Uganda, IWRM and climate will be accorded special attention and subsequent funding in the new CPF for Uganda, which is in its final processes of development.



### VISIT TO THE EUROPEAN DELEGATION IN UGANDA

The GWPEA delegation was met by Mr. Jean-Baptiste Fauvel, the Program Manager at the EU Delegation in Uganda. The conversations were around the best practices in IWRM towards development. The team developed strategies on how to work together mutually with the European Delegation and other implementors of climate change and IWRM such as Global Green Growth Institute, KfW Development Bank and GIZ.

EU are working with these implementing partners towards climate change, WASH and IWRM in the region



## GWPEA MARKS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

Imagine a world where women and girls have equal access to information, technology advancement and innovation; Imagine a world where Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) were not a construct solely assumed by the male gender but a ration to the female gender too. Finally imagine a society where the advancements in Water Technology are gender inclusive!

Societies are seeing unprecedented progress in gender equality and female participation at all levels in our societies, specifically the world of science. We have seen a birth and rebirth of women in water technology which can be used to facilitate water collection especially in less developed countries acting as a 'tool of liberation for women' from the daily, mundane yet most challenging task of fetching water from far and hard to reach sources; a tedious and time consuming activity that had previously been relegated to women. (Singh 2010).

Women in arid areas - where climate change has made life harsh and hard to go by and where water is becoming increasingly scarce- are learning techniques to adapt to new weather patterns which will build their resilience, thanks to new technological innovations and advancements.

GWPEA has penetrated communities, training groups of women on their mandate and responsibilities in taking on leadership roles in Integrated Water Resources Management, receiving and disseminating information and making informed decisions that have abated the challenges of climate change. In the Horn of Africa, women have been brought closer to accessing information to weather patterns through training in a meteorological Information Management System, which was developed by GWPEA together with partners.

To commemorate this year's International Women's Day, six voices have come together to narrate their journeys to innovation and technology in the water sector. Here are a few excerpts from their stories.

 Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa

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A Gendered approach to innovation and technology in Integrated Water Resource Management is critical for achieving SDG6, SDG13 and related goals.

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP EASTERN AFRICA JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR PARTNERS A HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

 #IWD2023 #DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality



MR. GEORGE SANGA,  
REGIONAL COORDINATOR, GWPEA

 Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa

MS. FIRMINA ACUBA AJONYE,  
SENIOR SOCIOLOGIST,  
MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (UGANDA)

“

Digital Management Information System is a necessity for effective and inclusive Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in this era of COVID-19

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP EASTERN AFRICA JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR PARTNERS A HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

 #IWD2023 #DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality

 Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa

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Advance in digital technology is bridging the gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths by providing access to innovation hubs for women and girls.

MS. PAMELA AGABA,  
SENIOR WATER OFFICER,  
MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (UGANDA)

#IWD2023 #DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality

 International Women's Day



 Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa

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In Somalia women are the biggest group that protect water sources, collect water from far places and yet when it comes to accessing information on climate change as well as decision making on water matters, they are the least in the queue.

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP EASTERN AFRICA JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR PARTNERS A HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

 #IWD2023 #DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality



 Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa

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With the change of mind set towards some of the social norms that lead to gender inequalities, women of Mukirwa Women Group are now able to harvest and store rainwater using simple technologies to reduce soil run offs

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP EASTERN AFRICA JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR PARTNERS A HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

#IWD2023 #DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality

 International Women's Day



 Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa

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By considering the requirements of women and girls and removing any obstacles to their access of Artificial Intelligence, skills development and their meaningful participation, technology design must be gender transformative.

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP EASTERN AFRICA JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR PARTNERS A HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

 #IWD2023 #DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality





## NEWS FROM THE WATER PARTNERSHIPS

### **KENYA WATER PARTNERSHIP: Executive Secretary of KWP crowned African Achiever of the Year.**

Dr. Leunita Sumba, the Executive Secretary of the Kenya Water Partnership, and a member of the Regional Steering Committee of GWPEA has been crowned the overall African Woman Achiever in the category of “Most Influential Female in Water and Sanitation” in the prestigious African Women Awards. During the event which took place in Ethiopia on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, a number of women achievers were honored with various awards that saw them joining the larger group of the SHE ACHIEVERS NETWORK on the African Continent. It was hosted by The Business Executive [www.thebusinessexecutive.net](http://www.thebusinessexecutive.net) and other partners.

“I am very passionate about water, sanitation and environment and I love educating the public about it to elicit behavioral, attitude and mindsets change. This award has come at the most opportune time when we are facing challenges in these issues, and it will be a great step for me to continue championing environmental and river clean-up exercises in my country”, said Dr. Sumba who is the Chairperson of Women in Water and Sanitation Association Kenya. Read More about her Biography [HERE](#)



**Dr. Sumba, in the middle, posing with her award for the Most Influential Female in Water and Sanitation.**

### **UGANDA WATER PARTNERSHIP: Celebrating Uganda Water Week in collaboration with Ministry of Water and Environment.**

Together with the Ministry of Water and Environment and other partners in the water sector, Uganda Water Partnership marked The Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK), an annual event that is organized by the Ministry, through the Water Resources Institute (WRI). The 5th annual UWEWK which ran from 12th to 17th March 2022 was organized under the theme “Water and Environment for peace and socio-economic transformation of Uganda”.



**Participants of the Uganda Water and Environment Week at the opening ceremony**

The objectives of the event for this year were to; Highlight the role of water and environment resources management and development in promoting peace and stability, identify approaches for building resilience to risks and shocks related to COVID-19, climate change and environmental degradation, explore opportunities for enhancing financing of water, environment and climate change programmes and, deliberate on the role of partnership and intersectional collaboration in governance, management and development of water and environment resources.

### **Somalia Water Partnership marks World Water Day 2023**

The Somalia Water Partnership (SWP) together with Zamzam University of Science and Technology (ZUST) celebrated the World Water Day, 2023 in Mogadishu, Somalia on 22nd March., under the theme: “Accelerating Change, to tackle the Water Crisis”. The meeting was officially opened by the chairman of SWP Mr. Khadar Hussein Mohamud highlighted the role that water plays in life and the environment. Dr. Mohamud Harbi; the Rector of ZUST emphasized the role of academia in protecting and preserving Somalia’s water resources. “The country is facing a terrible drought that has led to a loss of lives. It is high time we built enough capacity as scholars to combat this disaster”, he said. Mrs. Asli Ismail Duale, Secretary General of SWP and Member of Board of Directors of SWP pledged support of the Country Water Partnership towards supporting efforts of women to protecting water resources .



**Members of the SWP during the World Water day celebrations**

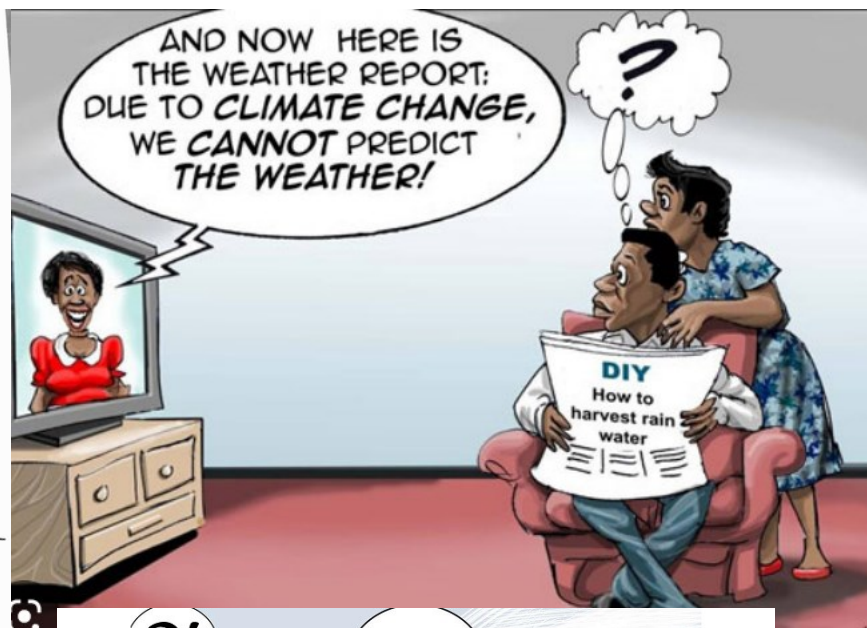


# NOTICE BOARD

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ Training of local Artisans in the Maziba Water Catchment zones to integrate gender transformative approaches in their demonstration projects– May
- ♦ Courtesy visits continue– Visit to the British High Commission in Uganda– April
- ♦ Field Visit to Maziba to capture best practices and lessons learned from the EURECCCA project, which is closing– May
- ♦ Celebration of 20 years Anniversary of GWPEA– June
- ♦ Global Water Summit 2023– May

## The Lighter Side of Water



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