

Building Partnership and Cooperation on Promoting IWRM application in the region



Signing an MoU between GWPEA and NBD

On March 4th 2016, GWP Eastern Africa and the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) signed in Entebbe, Uganda, a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration and partnership.

The NBD is an umbrella organization of CSO's that vertically reach grassroots communities through local discourse forums and upwards to policy makers through the secretariat. It envisions a Nile Basin in which there is sustainable social economic development for people of the Nile Basin, free of conflicts, leading to achievement of justice, human rights, good governance, poverty reduction and protection of the environment.

Considering that GWPEA and NBD share the common vision of promoting the sustainable

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GWPEA Participated in the Capacity Building Workshop on Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM)

From 25-28 January 2016, GWPEA Regional Program Manager, Kidanemariam Jembere, attended a capacity building workshop on Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) that took place in Abidjan, Ivory Coast at the premises of the African Development Bank. The workshop was jointly organized by GWP and the African Water Facility (AWF) to train some of their staff on IUWM approaches and tools.

The Training was divided into two main sessions. One was on Introducing the IUWM approach while the other was the IUWM Technical workshop. The first part introduced principles and benefits of IUWM approach, and reviewed the current status of urban water and

waste water management in Africa. The IUWMP Technical Workshop focused mainly on introducing the IUWM Tool Kits, a planning model developed by the University of South Florida in USA.

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Message from the Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern Africa

Dear Readers and Friends of GWPEA,

Welcome to this 13th edition of WaterDigest which features GWPEA activities in advancing water security and climate resilience agenda in the Region.

The core of GWPEA's achievements in the first quarter of 2016 was mainly related to building partnerships, strengthening governance and developing capacity at different levels. It is a fact that GWPEA cannot achieve its goals without strong partnerships with other players in water resources management. It is in that vein that GWPEA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), an umbrella organization of CSOs which is based in Entebbe, Uganda. Recognizing their shared vision of promoting IWRM, the two organizations formalized their cooperation and look forward to a robust and lasting partnership in different areas.

GWP Eastern Africa also joined other stakeholders in the Ugandan national dialogue on fresh water and sustainable development goal to discuss and map out strategy on how Uganda can fast-track and achieve the Water goal and targets in connection with other goals, in the post 2015 development agenda. The dialogue concluded that the achievement of SDGs requires strong inter-sectorial



coordination, monitoring and peer review mechanism and involvement of various actors at all levels.

During this quarter, GWP Eastern Africa continued supporting Country Water Partnerships in strengthening their governance to better serve their member organizations. It took part in the Ugandan Consulting Partners' meeting that elected a new Chair for the Uganda Country Water Partnership and affirmed its determination to gain accreditation by GWPO before the November deadline. GWPEA also witnessed the launch of South-South Cooperation between Sudan Country Water Partnership and Slovakia Country Water Partnership.

This is indeed a good example of how countries and regions can learn from each other and work together to

promote water security and climate resilience. All it takes is the willingness to share knowledge and expertise while channeling our efforts in the same direction. GWPEA is committed to such a noble cause and counts on the support and actions of partners and friends to make it happen.

Sincerely,



SAFARI Patrick

Regional Coordinator
GWP Eastern Africa

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management of water resources in the Nile River Basin through IWRM approach with the purpose of accelerating the economic growth, social progress and sustainable development in the spirit of equality and partnership among people in the Region, major areas of support including multi-sectoral approaches and investments, advocacy, capacity building, coordination and result based monitoring and evaluation among others.

The purpose of the signed MoU is to establish a strategic partnership between NBD and GWPEA through which parties agree to make mutual commitments to collaborate and cooperate in various areas including but not limited to the following:

- * Policy analysis, multi-sectoral dialogues and institutional influencing on sustainable water resources management in the Region;

- * Human and institutional capacity building and awareness raising on IWRM;
- * Knowledge generation and information sharing;
- * Development and implementation of joint programs with the aim of mobilizing additional resources

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The training workshop was concluded with a planning meeting on the way forward and issued the following key recommendations:

- * Continue supporting the cities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Madagascar and Seychelles in integrated urban water management planning. Joint (GWP and AWF) appraisal missions were

carried out in the four cities and support approved by AWF; a city from Sierra Leone may be considered in 2016.

- * Potential new cities from Tunisia, Ethiopia, Cameroon, etc. to be identified for consideration in 2016/17
- * Capacity building program on IUWM to be developed through creating hubs that will also serve as knowledge and

information centers.

The GWPEA Representative was also able to meet and establish contacts with participants from the following institutions: AWF, AfDB-Water Supply and Sanitation Department, AfDB Field offices staff from Sierra Leon, Madagascar, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, IWMI as well as the University of South Florida.

GWPEA Engaged Local Stakeholders in Rwanda for the Sustainability of WACDEP Activities in Bugesera

On 09 March 2016, the GWPEA Regional Program Manager and the Regional Development Communications Officer held a meeting with Representatives from the Rwanda Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA), the **Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA)**, Bugesera District and Kamabuye Sector at the Mirror Hotel in Kigali.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Tetero F. Xavier in his capacity as the Chair of the Rwanda Country Water Partnership and the Director for Water Regulation at the Rwanda National Resources Authority. He welcomed all participants and stressed the importance of such meetings as they enable partners to exchange views on WACDEP implementation and harmonize their approaches to make it successful and impactful.

The meeting examined the status of WACDEP implementation and noted that it nears its end and the District/Sector/local communities are prepared to take over and maintain the activities. It also noted that MINIRENA as line Ministry has been involved in the implementation process, especially in the capacity building component. On this note, the meeting



Demarcation line made with euphorbia tirucalli trees

recommended that GWPEA formalizes the hand-over to local authorities before June 2016 and ensures that MINIRENA is continuously informed of the progress.

The meeting also noted the appointment of a District Focal Point for WACDEP as well as the establishment of the community committee for the management and ownership of the buffer zone.

Participants also analyzed the planned activities and budget allocated and agreed on priority activities. All these activities must be implemented before June and requires close collaboration between GWP, CWP and local communities. Activities include:

stakeholders' meetings, media trainings, tree planting, delimitating the buffer zone, documentation, etc... It was agreed that the CWP could hire an intern to help with these activities since there is no more WACDEP management team in Rwanda.

After the meeting, the Regional Communications Officer proceeded to the Demonstration Site to support and document the planting of 10 000 seedlings in the buffer zone as well as the delimitation of the buffer zone, an area covered of approximately 20 ha. All these activities were carried out by local communities with an active involvement and supervision of district and sector technicians.

GWPEA Attended the Ugandan National Dialogue on Fresh Water and Sustainable Development Goals

On 25 September 2015, countries adopted a set of goals aimed to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. For the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do his/her part: governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and communities.

It is against this background that from 20-21 January 2016, GWPEA was invited to the National Dialogue on "Fresh Water and Sustainable Development Goals" held in Kampala, Uganda. This Dialogue was jointly organized by the Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment and the National Planning Authority with the logistical support of the World Wide Funds.

The two-days meeting was aimed at bringing together key stakeholders (public, private, local governments Civil Society and Religious Organizations, academia, research and media Institutions) operating in the water and interconnected sectors to discuss and map out strategy on how Uganda can fast-track and achieve the Water goal and targets in connection with other goals, in the post 2015 development agenda in Uganda.

Officiated by Hon Minister of Water Resources and Environment, Prof



Ephraim Kamuntu, the meeting gathered several participants who were urged to reflect more on the importance and linkage between the water goal to other SDGs such as Goal-1 : End poverty in all its forms everywhere, SDG-2: End hunger , achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture, SDG-3: Ensure healthy lives

and promote wellbeing for all at all ages; SDG-5: Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls; and SDG-7: Ensure access to affordable , reliable and modern energy for all.

The Minister indicated that it is quite clear that by investing in the sustainable management of water resources, Uganda will be scoring on most all the SDGs.

The meeting highlighted that the achievement of SDGs require strong inter-sectoral coordination, monitoring and peer review mechanism and involvement of various actors at all levels.

During that two days dialogue, participants brainstormed on how to design the strategy for fast tracking the SDGs 6, and the following questions guided the discussions:

1. How the coordination, collaboration and partnership among the stakeholders can be strengthened at various levels (governments, donors, religions, INGO's, DP's, CSO's, private sector, academia and research organizations) to achieve the SDGs?
2. How can we scale up the implementation of various programs to achieve the SDGs by 2030?
3. What are the available opportunities for mobilizing resources for achieving the SDGs targets related to water?
4. How can the achievement of SDGs target be closely monitored? What needs to be done and by who?
5. How can we improve the awareness, mindset change, human and the institutional capacity to achieve the SDG targets?
6. What role can the various stakeholders play to realize the SDGs and what needs to be done to enlist their support to achieve the SDG targets?
7. How should SDG be addressed so that it effectively contributes to the achievement of other water related goals?

At the closing of the meeting, GWPEA offered to support the Ministry of Water and Environment in designing a strategy that will help fast tracking and achieving the water goal and related targets clearly indicating the progress markers, baseline for Uganda, priority actions to be undertaken, mapping of partners involved and their support, timeline and required resources.

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Strengthening Partnership and Networking through South-South Cooperation between Sudan and Slovakia CWP's

Cooperation between GWP Slovakia with the Eastern Africa region has been in existence for quite some time. As first it was the establishment of ongoing communication with Save The Lake Foundation, which is running the long-term program on the Victoria Lake to clean it from the harmful water hyacinth and use the removed biomass for fertilization and heating.

The second was the participation of GWP Slovakia in the 1st Environmental Conference in Khartoum and following bilateral meetings between 12- 19 March 2016 where the Slovakia Team used the opportunity to gain first insight on water-related programs and projects in Eastern Africa region, especially the ambitious program of building the green shelterbelt around the Khartoum city and others.

GWP Slovakia expressed the willingness to support these activities through expert assistance as well as fundraising. The first activity of the STL Foundation would be supported by the Slovak government development program through Slovak Aid.

The climate-change combat activities in Sudan will be supported by GWP Slovakia in the context of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Higher Council of Environment Rural and Urban Promotion (Sudan) and the Technical University in Zvolen and the GWP Slovakia on 17 March 2016 in Khartoum. The Department of Environment of the TU Zvolen is also a partner institution of GWP Slovakia.

According to the MoU, GWP Slovakia will support the Higher Council through:

- * Expert assistance and participation within the executive committee of the Green Belt project,
- * Knowledge and equipment sharing
- * Help to prepare the pilot phase of the Green Belt project including the help by receiving funds from EU programs
- * Masters and PhD/ student exchange

As a follow up to their visit, a meeting was organized between the Director General of the National Centre for Research and Secretary General of the Environment Council of the northern State concerning desertification control and water management especially river bank erosion and sand bars. Another meeting between the Chair and other representatives from SWaP, the Secretary General of the Higher Council for Environment and Urban and Rural Promotion in the Khartoum State will also be organized.

The Slovak delegation is expected to come back to Sudan very soon. In the meantime, all parties will work together to finalize the project document and amend the MOU to explicitly include SWaP.



Group photo of participants

Uganda Country Water Partnership Held its General Consulting Partners Meeting

The general consulting partners meeting was held in Entebbe, Uganda on 18 March 2016 and gathered 33 participants, mostly members of the Uganda Country Water Partnership. The Chairperson of UWP, Mrs. Florence Grace Adongo welcomed all participants and highlighted the following points in her remarks:

- * The government of Uganda embraced the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) since 1992 following the Rio Conference which is promoted by the Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) worldwide to bring stakeholders from various sectors and institutions to build network through exchange of ideas, critical knowledge and information to foster actions to achieve sustainable management of water resources.
- * Water resources management is being implemented at catchment level in the four regions of Uganda, namely the Upper Nile in the North, Kyoga in the East, Albert in the West and Victoria in the Central parts of Uganda
- * The continued support from Global Water Partnership East Africa (GWPEA) in accrediting Partners, including the organization of the Consulting Partners meeting and the search for an institution that can host the UWP and thus provide the necessary financial and administrative management services, a key requirement for use and reporting on future funding expected from GWPO and other local funders
- * UWP, as a Country Water Partnership, has to be accredited by November 2016
- * The background to the Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) and the Regional Water Partnership for East Africa and how Uganda has benefited from various programs initiated by the GWPO
- * Requested participants to write project proposals with the assistance of the Regional Coordinator based in Entebbe at the GWP Eastern Africa Secretariat.
- * Thanked the participants on behalf of the Ministry of Water and Environment for continued support towards water resources management

GWP Eastern Africa was represented by the Regional Coordinator, Mr. Patrick Safari who thanked UWP for organizing such important statutory meeting and highlighted the following immediate issues to be addressed urgently by the UWP : accreditation of Uganda Country Water Partnership and need for a Host Institution (HI) in which funds will be channeled and managed . A HI agreement to be signed between UWP and the HI with the technical support of GWPO, GWPEA and the NBI Secretariat. He also shared criteria for hosting and Conditions for accreditation of Country Water Partnerships.

Participants also discussed on UWP Governance structures and elected a new steering committee led by Mrs. Florence Grace Adongo. The new committee is very diverse with members from Government ministries, civil society, academia and private sector.

Promoting Ecosystems, Rainwater Harvesting and Energy Saving Through Games



Community members playing Mpan'game

One of GWPEA partners named "Mpan'game Club" is a nonprofit-making organization registered in Uganda that was named after Mpan'game, a community participatory board game designed along River Mpanga and aimed at community sensitization on natural resources conservation issues.

Through playing Mpan'game, communities are able to identify activities detrimental to the environment and appreciate the interconnectedness of the ecosystems. At the end of each game session, participants are more aware of the wider consequences of their actions and also are able to develop and test out appropriate strategies for sustainable use of the water resource.

Through playing Mpan'game, communities are able to identify activities detrimental to the environment and appreciate the interconnectedness of the ecosystems.

Several communities in the Rwenzori region have played Mpan'game. Existing farmer groups especially those within the Mpanga catchment were sensitized using this tool. The groups are composed of approximately 30 members and are representative of the upstream, mid and downstream sections of the catchment. After sensitization, communities identified different strategies to curb natural resource degradation. These were ranked and a few piloted for demonstration purposes. For implementation of selected strategies, the club has partnered with different partners like the Flemish Partnership for Water, VLIR-UOS, PROTOS and other local organizations. These efforts have culminated in a series of achievements such as:



Community participation in construction of water tank



Completed underground water tank

Members have been guided on the type of trees to plant for the apiary unit and also supported with 60 bee hives. A total of 1000 caliandra seedlings were purchased and distributed for both planting at the demonstration unit and also farmer land holdings

Training in construction of rainwater harvesting tanks

Water for household use is a major demand for most of these communities. As a result, the club supports training of communities in using locally available materials to construct rainwater harvesting tanks. For demonstration purposes, a total of 10 underground tanks with a capacity ranging from 10,000 to 15,000 liters have been jointly constructed with the communities.

Training in construction of energy saving stoves

In order to reduce cutting down forests especially in the hilly slopes, the community requested support in acquiring energy saving stoves.

Therefore, Mpan'game club with support from Kiima foods an expert organization in construction of energy saving stoves, continues to train members in using local materials to construct energy saving stoves. The stoves constructed are called ceramic cook stoves that lead to over 80% saving of firewood. The Training of trainers exercise was conducted per community group and each household made its own stove after the training. From the training, members gained skills in ceramic cook stove construction and it is expected that they will train their fellow neighbors and pass on the new skills.

Support to the Bee keepers Association

Through the Mpan'game, upstream communities identified bee keeping as an environmentally friendly activity. They organized themselves and formed a group of over 60 members, purchased over 16 hectares of land and demarcated it for setting up an apiary demonstration unit. The group thus requested for support in this area. Therefore members have been guided on the type of trees to plant for the apiary unit and also supported with 60 bee hives. A total of 1000 caliandra seedlings were purchased and distributed for both planting at the demonstration unit and also farmer land holdings.