

Press Release

Rwanda-Burundi Media Trained on Bugesera Water-Climate Change Issues

***GWPEA, 21st August 2013, Bugesera District, Kigali-Rwanda,
From 21st up to 22nd 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: sapatrick2013@gmail.com, psafari@nilebasin.org