

## Third Regional Consulting Partners' Meeting for GWP Eastern Africa

In line with its Constitution, GWP Eastern Africa held the 3rd RCP meeting on 20-21 March 2014, at Munyonyo Speke Resort Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The statutory and decision making meeting takes place every two years and gathers delegates from member countries i.e. Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Egypt, Sudan and Somalia.

More than 40 delegates attended the meeting and discussed major achievements and challenges of GWPEA over the past ten years (2003-2013) and provided strategic guidance on matters arising. They reviewed and endorsed the bi-annual activity and financial progress reports for 2012-2013. They also examined



Handover between RSC Chairs.

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## WACDEP Rwanda instrumented the Celebration of Nile Day

Every year, Nile Basin governments and citizens celebrate the Nile Day in commemoration of the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) on 22 February 1999 by the Council of Ministers in charge of Water Affairs of the Nile Basin countries. The day is celebrated both at regional and national level and provides the opportunity to focus on stimulating region-wide awareness regarding the management and development of the common Nile Basin water and related resources

On 18 March 2014, Rwanda celebrated the Nile Day at country level under the theme of "Water and Energy: National challenges, trans-boundary solutions". The ceremony took place at Kamabuye Sector, Bugesera District, where about

five hectares of Lake Cyohoha South buffer zone were protected by planting agro-forestry trees.

The Water and Climate Development Program (WACDEP) in Rwanda supported the organization of the event and provided logistical support and seedling trees to be planted. WACDEP

has been operating in Bugesera since 2012 and conducted a number of activities aimed at protecting the buffer zone of Lake Cyohoha that is trans-boundary with Burundi. The overall objective of WACDEP is to support integration of water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision making process. [← To Page 3](#)

*The Rwandan Minister of Natural Resources and Guest of Honor, Honorable Stanislas Kamanzi, joined local communities and stakeholders in planting 10,000 agro forestry trees around Lake Cyohoha south.*

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# Message from the GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator



*This edition also covers the second round of Kenya and Uganda national consultations on water and sustainable development facilitated by GWPEA. These consultations brought together around 100 participants from different organizations to give voice of stakeholders on a water goal and targets with the post-2015 development agenda.*

Dear Readers and Friends of GWP,

Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Water Digest. This edition brings you updates on activities carried out by GWPEA during the last few months, mainly dominated by national and regional events including consultation meetings to discuss the water goal for the post 2015 development agenda.

GWPEA values partnership and strives to empower Country Water Partnerships so that they play their instrumental role of promoting water security and climate resilience into National Development Planning processes. This was again stressed during the 3rd Regional Consulting Partners' Meeting which ratified the affiliation of Somalia Country Water Partnership to Eastern Africa Region. It is worthy noting that the meeting culminated with the handover between the outgoing RSC Chair, Eng. Mugisha Shillingi, and Eng. Anicet Nkurikiye, the in-coming Chair.

This edition also covers the second round of Kenya and Uganda national consultations on water and sustainable development facilitated by

GWPEA. These consultations brought together around 100 participants from different organizations to give voice of stakeholders on a water goal and targets with the post-2015 development agenda. Participants lauded the value of these consultations and articulated their appreciation of the opportunity to comment. The consultations:

- Helped countries look towards the future and where they wanted to be in terms of addressing water-related issues by 2030;
- Encouraged discussion of the means and challenges of implementation;
- Catalyzed other meetings at both the national and sub-national levels to continue and broaden the dialogue further;
- Created a platform for broader ownership of and influence the global development agenda beyond 2015;
- Aided the countries to critically look at goals and targets and to assess whether they are in line with national goals and plans; and
- Helped national governments' mis-

sions in the UN to consider water issues during the SDG negotiating process.

Moreover, this edition showcases how WACDEP is continuously galvanizing synergies among various partners. Planners in Burundi and Rwanda devised ways to integrate water and climate into national plans and strategies. Media practitioners visited the site where Lake Cyohoha Buffer zone is being protected in order to better understand the project's activities and help in the community mobilization process via media outlets.

The last but not least item highlighted in this edition refers to tremendous efforts pursued by GWPEA to capacitate and engage the youth to play their roles as future leaders in addressing water and climate related issues in 2030 horizon. It is against this background that GWPEA in conjunction with CapNet organized regional workshop trainings on IWRM as a tool for Climate Change Adaptation.

Nevertheless, water security should be everybody's concern and I call upon everyone to join us in this noble cause.



Group photo of delegates to the RCP meeting.

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and validated the highlights of new GWP Strategy (2014-2020) as well as the three year's work plan and Budget (2014-2016).

Another highlight of the RCP meeting was the unanimous approval of the Somali Country Water Partnership's request to join the organization, making it the ninth

member of GWPEA.

Delegates formulated solutions and recommendations that will guide GWPEA in the coming two years. The meeting strongly urged CWPs to restructure their governance and leadership to include other partners, mainly non-governmental actors, and legalize their status. CWPs

were also encouraged to be proactive and explore diverse sources of funding including their members, local donors, and include youth and gender dimensions in their governance and operations. They were also urged to align their programs and activities to the GWP strategic goals (2014-2020) and submit the mandatory quarterly reports.

To keep with the GWPEA tradition of rotating the position of Regional Chair among Member Country Water Partnerships, Eng Anicet Nkurikiye from Burundi Water Partnership was elected as a new chair and replaced Eng Mughisha Shillingi from Uganda CWP.

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The Rwandan Minister of Natural Resources and Guest of Honor, Honorable Stanislas Kamanzi, joined local communities and stakeholders in planting 10,000 agro forestry trees around Lake Cyohoha south. In his address, the Minister highlighted the Government commitment for finding adequate solutions to water and energy challenges and urged the community to sustain the activities of protecting Lake Cyohoha south's natural ecosystems. Minister Kamanzi reminded that the protected lake discharges its water into Akagera River where a big hydropower project is expected to provide about 80 MW for Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania.

The Vice Mayor in charge of Economic Development in Bugesera District, Mr Rukundo Julius, highlighted that Bugesera used to be the driest District in the country with frequent drought. But through environmental protection and rehabilitation as well as continuous awareness of local leaders on natural resources management, the district has progressively overcome challenges and is moving towards a sustainable development. Julius Rukundo hailed the sig-



Hon. Minister Stanislas Kamanzi addresses the media

nificant role of WACDEP in these efforts, more specifically in the protection of Cyohoha South Lake through a trans-boundary demonstration project.

The event was largely covered by media outlets and the organizers used the occasion to raise awareness and disseminate information on sustainable water resources management and climate resilience.

WACDEP focuses in demonstrating in-

novative green solutions in Bugesera trans-boundary catchment with the aim to enhance the resilience of communities' to climate change and support Burundi and Rwanda to integrate water security and climate resilience in their national development planning and decision-making processes, support development of no/low regret investment and financing strategies, and to develop projects for funding.

## Turn up of Uganda and Kenya National Consultations on Water in the post - 2015 Development Agenda



*Participants deliberate on the water goal - Kenya*

In collaboration with Kenya and Uganda Country Water Partnerships, GWP Eastern Africa conducted national consultations on Water for the post 2015 Development Agenda. These thematic consultations brought together various stakeholders and enabled them to deliberate on the proposed water targets and indicators.

In Kenya, stakeholders agreed that the goal and the targets on water were relevant as stated in the UN water report. However, they emphasized that all the targets for water should work towards the implementation of the IWRM process as there was no specific target on the same. Participants also stressed that effective implementation of the targets will demand improved funding, strong institutional frameworks, improved capacity, efficient monitoring systems, expanded infrastructure and strong collaborations among others.

The national water dialogue on a dedicated goal for water came at a time when Kenya had developed frameworks to ensure universal access to

water by 2030. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for the right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities. It also provides for a right to reasonable standards of sanitation hence the need to provide targets that are sustainable in order to secure water for all by 2030.

Participants reiterated Ke-

nya's commitment to support the achievement of the goal as stated and its inclusion in the future global sustainable development agenda.

Graced by Hon Prof Ephrem Kamuntu, Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda national consultations took place on 18 March 2014, in Kampala and reviewed

progress on the MDGs and discussed options for a new sustainable development framework.

Participants called for the post-2015 agenda to stress that water, sanitation and hygiene are closely inter-linked and should be addressed in a holistic framework. They recommended that the post-2015 framework should promote better collaboration and coordination across sectors (energy, agriculture, health, education, ecotourism, etc...) by strengthening the linkages between goals and targets that contribute towards ending poverty.

Specifically, it should be recognized that access to water, sanitation and hygiene is a key determinant of health and nutrition, and human wellbeing at large.

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*Participants deliberating on water goal for the post 2015 development agenda-Uganda*



Group photo of participants

# IWRM hailed as an Effective Tool for Climate Change Adaptation

From 19-23 May 2014, the GWPEA in partnership with the Kenya Water Partnership and the Nile IWRM Net organized a regional training workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as a tool for adaptation to climate change. The training aimed to build capacity of participants to address challenges of climate change on water resources within the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management.

The training course was attended by a total of 28 participants, mainly young water professionals from national water authorities and other sectors in the Nile basin. Participants were drawn from the Nile basin countries of Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda and Somalia.

The workshop explained the causes and damages of climate change with a focus on Eastern Africa region and showcased how the application of an integrated model for water resources management can help mitigate it.

Participants learned that climate can influence productivity and reliability of supply of water food and energy. Cli-

mate change has a chain of linkages with environment (land, water, air, eco-systems), economy (wealth, trade, poverty) etc... Potential climate change affects various sectors such as health, forests, agriculture, water resources and coastal areas.

The facilitator, Dr Callist Tindimugaya warned participants that climate change scenario of Africa looks grim and may even get worse if nothing is done *“By 2025, around 480 million of people in Africa will face either water scarcity or stress. Climate change will significantly disrupt development plans of African countries through drought, coastal flooding, climate zone shifts, water scarcity.... and may even cause local and regional conflicts”*, said the expert.

As a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and associated resources to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems, IWRM enables interdependent uses of water while upholding the sustainable management and development of wa-

ter resources.

Participants were able to see IWRM in action by visiting Thika Dam, the main source of water supply to Nairobi, Kenya’s capital. It is currently managed by the Nairobi Water Company. The dam was constructed under the Third Nairobi Water Supply Project between 1989 and 1994 with funding from the World Bank, ADB, Kenya Government and other partners. The dam has a height of 65 meters with a fill volume of 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup>. Thika Dam harnesses water from the surrounding catchment to impound Thika Reservoir in order to supply continuous reliable water to the city of Nairobi at regulated quantities. IWRM was applied in the regulation of water supply to Nairobi according to availability as well as conservation efforts of the catchment involving the government, private sector and other players.

Participants commended the IWRM as an effective tool to deal with climate change and committed to apply it in their respective countries and share it with their peers. They resolved to maintain the network, to share good practices and home-grown initiatives across the region.

## WACDEP Progress Report presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> African Water Week and the Nile-COM Meeting

**G**WP Eastern Africa presented WACDEP Progress Report at the African Water Week (AWW) convened in Dakar by the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) in conjunction with the African Union Commission and other development partners.

The Regional Program Manager, Kidanemariam Jembere, presented the progress of Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) from its inception and throughout its implementation. The presentation provided the background information and described the process of identifying challenges and prioritizing interventions through a detailed and participatory situation analysis. The presenter highlighted the WACDEP's role in supporting the demonstration of interventions for water security and climate resilience at community level, as well as the lessons learnt, such as the imperative to fully involve the local community and link interventions to national



*Participants listen to presentations during AWW in Dakar.*

priorities and policies.

The WACDEP progress report was also presented at the 22nd annual Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) meeting held on 19 June 2014 in Khartoum, Sudan. WACDEP is a joint program of African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) and the Global Water partnership (GWP) that aims to support African countries to

climate resilience through improved water management.

Patrick Safari, the Regional Coordinator, briefed participants on the progress made with the implementation of WACDEP in Bugesera trans-boundary catchment focusing on the protection of Lake Cohoha buffer zone in both Rwanda and Burundi.

## Rwandan Government Officials Explored Ways of Advancing Water Security and Climate Resilience Agenda

**T**he Rwanda Country Water Partnership and the Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) conducted a five day workshop for stakeholders from government institutions. The workshop was held in Bugesera where WACDEP is implementing different activities related to climate change resilience and water security.

Participants were drawn from key partner ministries including Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Local Governance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources and affiliated institutions.

The workshop offered a platform for participants to share experiences and best practices in terms of promoting water security and climate resili-



*Participants visit the water supply site.*

ence agenda. It also aimed to enhance the technical, analytical and institutional capacity for climate resilient development among government's personnel dealing with planning.

Throughout the training, participants exchanged on their experiences and initiatives that their respective minis-

tries are taking to build the climate change resilience and developed action plans and strategies aimed to advocate for better informed water and climate change policies. It also enabled them to see the progress made by WACDEP in protecting Lake Cyohoha buffer zone and various activities it conducted in the area to sensitize and assist local

communities.

Participants visited the demonstration site in Kamabuye sector and interacted with local authorities who shared their experiences in working with WACDEP. They were able to see a number of activities implemented by WACDEP in rehabilitating the Cyohoha buffer zone and supporting local communities such as the tree planting, the installation of biogas and the water supply.

Participants hailed the initiative and promised to lobby their respective ministries for a more vibrant involvement and partnership to advance the water security and climate resilience agenda through planning, budgeting and implementation.

## Burundi Media Practitioners Vow to Report on Water Security and Climate Change

From 17-18 June 2014, WACDEP Burundi organized a media field visit in Bugabira commune of Kirundo province. Eleven journalists from public and private radio stations, televisions, print and online media took part in the tour that was organized in partnership with local authorities.

The visit occurred after a series of trainings that were conducted last year to sensitize journalists on water security and climate change challenges. One of the training's recommendations was to provide accurate and update information to journalists through workshops and field visits to enable them to regularly report on water and climate issues and the WACDEP work around Lake Cohoha.

Journalists visited Kigina and

Gaturanda cells which are part of WACDEP pilot zone and demonstration site. They were able to witness the effect of climate change in the region and the WACDEP effort to mitigate it. Most of journalists hailed the involvement of local authorities in the project implementation but noted that a lot has still to be done to sensitize local communities as they continue practicing agriculture in the buffer zone, **"WACDEP and its partners need to continuously educate people and help them understand the importance of protecting our waters. In that global effort, the media can also play a role in packaging and disseminating the message. That is why we are here and I invite my colleagues to join WACDEP in defending this noble cause"** said Nsengiyumva Eric, Arc-



Journalists gather information on the buffer zone.

En-Ciel journalist.

The field visit was an eye-opener to most of journalists as they realized that there is an urgent need to lobby government policy makers as well as citizens to take action and deal with climate change. They vowed to produce more stories on water and climate change issues. However, they also raised challenges related to the lack of appropriate working equipment such as cameras and recorders and the means to have to access to the demonstration site. **"Whereas we understand the plight of WACDEP and the urgency to cover water and climate change issues, we also**

**face the challenge of having the necessary tools to present unbiased and well researched stories, and we will continue to rely on WACDEP assistance to carry out such assignments."** cautioned Bigirimana Jean, Radio TV Rema journalist.

Journalists also expressed the need for more training and capacity development sessions on water and climate change. **"We need to be refreshed and updated on new developments; this can also build ownership and foster a culture of reporting and raising awareness on water and climate which we can pursue beyond WACDEP"**, noted another journalist.

## Results of the Resilience Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mount Elgon Region (RFCC) Project Validated

GWPE Eastern Africa, in collaboration with IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) organized the second regional consultative meeting of stakeholders to present the results of the RFCC project and validate the draft strategies for integrating climate change adaptation into national and trans-boundary ecosystem management in Kenya, Uganda and the EAC region.

The workshop was held in Kisumu, Kenya on 29 April 2014 and gathered stakeholders from various institutions such as Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Ministries of Environment and Water, and Climate Change Focal Points of Kenya and Uganda, representatives of Districts / counties



Participants hold discussions

of Kenya and Uganda, USAID, IUCN, and others participated in the workshop and contributed to the improvement of the strategies.

Resilience Framework to support Climate Change adaptation in the Mt Elgon region of the Lake Victoria Basin – Kenya and Uganda (RFCC) is a three year (2012-2015) project implemented by IUCN and its partners to improve the understanding of the science

on climate change and demonstrate social and ecological resilience in the hotspots of the Mt Elgon region of the Lake Victoria Basin.

GWPEA was tasked to elaborate strategies for influencing policy related to climate change and provide guidelines for implementation of the policies. GWPEA reviewed policies, strategies, institutions and laws on climate change adaptation of Kenya,

Uganda and EAC Region. Based on three separate reports for Kenya, Uganda and the EAC, GWPEA developed draft strategies and guidelines for integrating climate change adaptation into policies and shared them with other stakeholders

The workshop was successful as it achieved its objectives of collecting further inputs for the draft strategies, and also contributed in creating ownership of the strategic actions proposed by GWPEA. It was agreed during the workshop that the strategy paper will serve for both national and regional strategy for the "Implementing a resilience framework to support climate change adaptation in the Mt Elgon region (RFCC)".



Participants hold discussions

## Planners Committed to Integrate Water Security and Climate Resilience into National Development Plans in Burundi

From 23-26 June 2014, GWPEA through the WACDEP Project organized a four-day workshop for planners from key ministries that deal with water, namely Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Live stocks, Ministry of Energy and Mines as well as Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

The workshop aimed at imparting participants with skills and knowledge to develop a balanced portfolio of investment options that enhance water security for climate resilient growth and development; to prioritize no/low regret options and to make a clear economic case for investment; and develop inter-ministerial/department linkages to promote networking and cooperation.

The workshop enabled participants to discuss their respective action plans and discussed the following topics through working groups:

- Fight against repetitive drought in Bugesera region by promoting IWRM to strengthen climate resilience
- Climate resilience in accessing energy, drinking water and sanitation in rural and semi-urban areas
- Improving climate resilience through rainwater harvesting for the promotion

*“Even though we come from different ministries, the workshop offers us a framework to complete each other by sharing our different ideas and views and improve our action plans”, said Kanyange Beatrice, Advisor to the Ministry of Energy and Mines.*

of irrigation in Moso region

“Even though we come from different ministries, the workshop offers us a framework to complete each other by sharing our different ideas and views and improve our action plans”, said Kanyange Beatrice, Advisor to the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Through a field visit, participants were also able to see the impact of climate change in Burundi. Participants visited the bed of the river Gasenyi upstream and downstream at Gatunguru in Burundi’s capital, Bujumbura where torrential rain and landslide caused death of more than seventy people and hundreds of houses destroyed last year. They also paid a visit to organizations working in the region and promoting irrigation such as the SRDI, a regional organization working for developing Imbo region with a project to improve irrigation of rice and the International

Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for learning and experience sharing.

Participants noted that the watershed is not well managed and various ongoing activities increase its vulnerability, especially the increasing number of farmers that are planting rice. They recommended a number of actions to be undertaken such as the management of Mpanda watershed, desalination of the affected area, technical and human capacity development, promotion of rice varieties with short production cycle and more productive.

Enlightened by presentations, discussions and lessons learnt from the field, participants stressed the crucial role that the government must play at all levels in the planning, budgeting and effective implementation of relevant solutions. They reaffirmed their commitment to integrate water security and climate resilience into their planning portfolios.