

GWP Eastern Africa Held its 19th Regional Steering Committee Meeting in Cairo



RSC members' deliberations.

From 1-2 October, GWP Eastern Africa organized the 19th Ordinary meeting of the Steering Committee. The meeting was held in Cairo, Egypt and aimed at discussing the activity progress reports and budget execution (Jan-Sept 2014) and annual work plan and budget for 2015.

The meeting took note of the good progress made in the implementation of planned activities and commended the good work done by the Regional Secretariat in the year 2014. After deliberations on the work plan 2015, the RSC noticed the declining trend of WACDEP budget and resolved that more efforts should be put on financial resources mobilization for Regional Secretariat and CWP's. With the aim of ensuring the visibility and trust of Regional Secretariat and CWP's, also for leveraging local resources, tactical guidance has been discussed and the RSC recommended the following steps:

- * Identify priority areas / interventions

susceptible of attracting funding for GWPEA

- * Develop and submit project proposals to potential donors especially the African Water Security (AWF)

Expedite the process for legal ratification of GWPEA regional office in Uganda; with the support of Uganda Country Water Partnership, the Regional Secretariat will pursue the process towards legal ratification and progress will be reported to the RSC,

- * Supporting the establishment of Djibouti and South Sudan CWP's, the Regional Secretariat will facilitate the process to bring the two CWP's on board,

- * Mainstreaming cross-cutting issues such as gender and youth issues in the GWP Programs,

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GWPEA Stakeholders Discussed Investment Options for the Kagera River Basin

Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa, in collaboration with LVBC (Lake Victoria Basin Commission) and NELSAP (Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program), organized a regional stakeholders' meeting on 22-23 September in Entebbe, Uganda to identify priority challenges and responsive interventions that will enhance water security and climate resilience in the Kagera trans-boundary river basin. The meeting was organized in the framework of "Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP)" of AMCOW in the Eastern Africa Region.

The meeting gathered 13 participants from Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, EAC, NELSAP, LVBC, GWPEA, and WACDEP to discuss challenges and opportunities arising in the Kagera River Basin. Dr Yazidi Bamutaze, a consultant hired by GWPEA to analyze and map the vulnerability of the basin to climate change and propose climate change adaptation response measures, presented the preliminary results of his research and gathered inputs and comments from participants.

More specifically, the meeting reviewed the following key points:

- * On-going and planned projects both at regional and country levels
- * Identified hotspot sites

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Message from the Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern Africa



Once again, I thank the readers of our quarterly published editions and therefore call upon the esteemed stakeholders to join and continue supporting GWPEA's programs towards securing water and building climate resilience in the Eastern Africa Region.



Dear readers and friends of GWPEA,

Welcome to this 8th edition of Water Digest. This version updates you on activities that occurred during the last quarter of the year 2014, largely dominated by consultative meetings with stakeholders to advance the water security and climate resilience agenda in the region.

In the course of the quarter, GWP Eastern Africa together with LVBC and NELSAP convened a meeting gathering representatives from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania to identify priority challenges and responsive interventions that will enhance water security and climate resilience in the Kagera river basin. The process is ongoing and promising as all parties explore different options to value the Kagera basin through regional cooperation.

GWPEA also supported Burundi Country Water Partnership meeting with stakeholders to present its five year strategic plan and explore areas of collaboration. Many national and international partners responded positively to the call to support the implementation of the strategic plan. This augurs a better future collaboration and sets the tone for potential local funding mobilization opportunities, a policy that is very recommended by GWPO and was stressed by the latest GWPEA RSC meeting that was held in Cairo in October 2014. GWPEA is hoping that other CWP's will follow the suit and it will strive to support them in this direction.

GWPEA reached out to local communities around the transboundary Lake Cyohoha buffer zone in the framework of the Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP). A football match opposing two teams from Kamabuye Sector, in Bugesera District enabled GWPEA to engage with stakeholders and discussed the importance of maintaining the buffer zone and its natural ecosystems. Equally, GWPEA organized radio quizzes in Burundi, Bugabira Commune with local communities and leaders in big numbers to answer questions related to the buffer zone and WACDEP interventions in the region.

Given the role of the media outlets in communicating and disseminating messages to larger community audiences, GWPEA organized media field visits to the demonstration sites in Rwanda and trained Burundi media editors and program managers to get a clear picture of WACDEP interventions in the region and urged them to put water and climate topics on their editorial agenda.

Once again, I thank the readers of our quarterly published editions and therefore call upon the esteemed stakeholders to join and continue supporting GWPEA's programs towards securing water and building climate resilience in the Eastern Africa Region.

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- * Attempt fundraising and attracting financial resources from governments as contributions to activate CWP's;
- * Allocate seed funding to CWP's to prepare proposals.
- * Approaching and synergizing with REC'S (IGAD, LVBC, NBI, ANBO, and other Lakes / River to make joint proposals and get high level support,

etc...]

- * Seeking the host of CWP's and pursuing the legal registration for CWP's;
- * CWP's to follow the planning and reporting template provided by GWPEA Sec. to align with GWP Strategy towards 2020;

- * GWPEA to consider arranging some field visits during the future RSC meetings

In conclusion, the meeting approved the 2014 progress report and 2015 workplan and budget for 2015 subject to amendments provided by the RSC members and further guidance from GWPO.

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GWPEA was tasked to continue spearheading the exercise and conduct the follow up action by finalizing the study report, developing project concept notes, preparing investment program and facilitating further projects development as well as exploring further potential funding options.



Participants hold discussions.

* Proposed interventions

Identified possible investment areas that promote water security and climate resilience

* Implementation arrangements, and possible funding sources

As a result of fruitful discussions, the meeting formulated the following recommendations:

- * Strengthen partnership and collaboration at different levels
- * Build on existing institutions, initiatives
- * Strengthen information sharing
- * Gain ownership of, and support for interventions from countries and regional organs-share the project concept notes to higher level institutions

* Expand similar interventions beyond Kagera river basin. Eg. Learn from SADC region how they are operating.

* Countries to allocate adequate funding for climate change adaptation giving priority to water security programs

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GWPEA Stakeholders in Burundi Validated Mechanisms of Integrating Water Security and Climate Resilience into National Development Plan

The validation workshop of mechanisms for integrating water security and climate resilience into national development plans took place in Bujumbura on 5 September, 2014. The workshop was opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry in charge of water, Mr. Ndagijimana Remy. The workshop was attended by 30 participants from key institutions such as ministries of water, ministry of agriculture and live stocks, ministry of finance and development planning, ministry of energy and mines, together with other sector partners.

In his opening remarks, the PS deplored the fact that various processes of preparation, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation are currently not harmonized. He also stressed the lack of a reference document defining procedural steps for planners and policy makers. "Given this prevailing situation, a document containing mechanisms for integrating water security and climate resilience into national development plans comes at the right time and I urge the participants to take full advantage of it", he said.

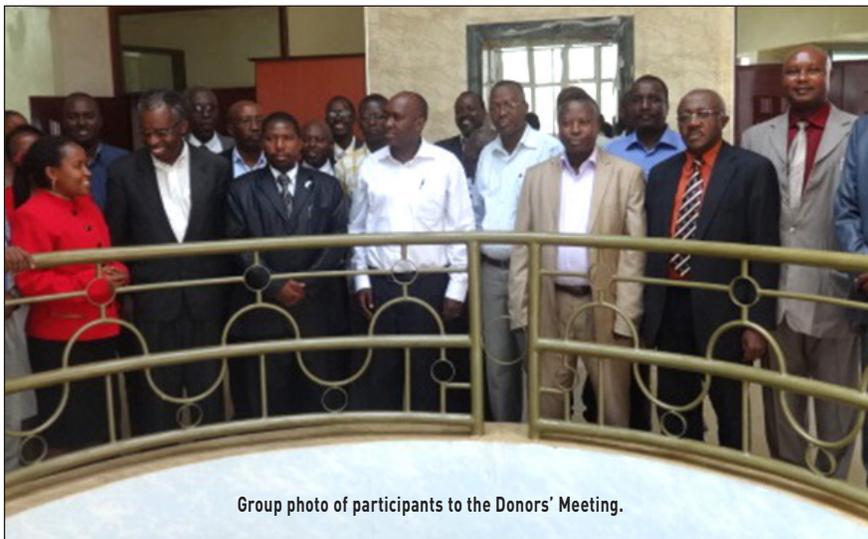
In this workshop, discussions evolved around the creation of a planning structure within the ministry in charge of water



The Permanent Secretary, Remy Ndagijimana, opens the workshop.

(MEEATU) gathering the most important sectorial partners that would initiate and support the sectorial planning process and drive the budget discussions with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

Participants validated the document after making a number of amendments aimed to make it more relevant and compelling.



Group photo of participants to the Donors' Meeting.

The Five Year (2014-2018) Strategic Plan for Burundi Water Partnership was presented to development partners on 25 September, 2014 in Bujumbura.

Burundi Country Water Partnership convened a Fund Raising Workshop attended by Donors and Stakeholders

The Five Year (2014-2018) Strategic Plan for Burundi Water Partnership was presented to development partners on 25 September, 2014 in Bujumbura. Officiated by the Assistant to the Minister in charge of water (MEEATU), the workshop aimed at creating a platform to raise funds for the implementation of activities contained in the different project proposals of the strategic plan for water resource management and climate resilience.

The Bu CWP strategic plan falls within the framework of the implementation of the GWPEA/WACDEP component 4 'Partnership and Sustainability' especially in its work Package 8: Governance and Fundraising that seeks to strengthen partnership for water security and climate resilience at different levels specifically by enhancing fundraising of programs promoting water security and climate resilience.

Over 10 different partners were represented to the conference namely Action Aid Burundi, Water and Sanitation for Africa, Lake Victoria Environment Management Program, African Bank of Development, PROTOS, GIZ/KFW, FIDA/PAIVABA, GIZ/ACCES & Prosec-Eau, Lake Tanganyika Authority, World Vision, etc. The meeting was also

attended by officials from sectorial ministries together with the BuWP steering committee members as well as WACDEP staff, and media professionals.

The Burundi CWP strategic plan

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comprises two project proposals subdivided into fourteen goals. The total amount needed for the implementation of this Five Year strategic Plan for Burundi water partnership is Three Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand US dollars (3,250,000 USD).

Different partners appreciated the strategic plan and most of them vowed to support its implementation

These are for instance:

* **PAIVA- B / IFAD** through interactive Partnership as an intervention strategy and monitoring and evaluation through Goals 6-7-8 of the Strategic Plan

* **Lake Tanganyika Authority:** Common management through the project for the protection of Lake Tanganyika Watershed and to Climate Change Adaptation and the Monitoring and Evaluation especially in resource mobilization,

* **GIZ / ACCESS:** Work in synergy for public awareness, the development of policies and strategies relating to pilot adaptation measures (e.g. water harvesting,) to Climate Change through the Goals 1 , 5,6,13 of the Strategic Plan

* **Action-Aid Burundi:** Develop a partnership for the design of projects related to Climate Change through the development of contingency plans, the participatory vulnerability analysis, etc.

* **PROTOS:** Through experience exchanging, sharing of tools and documentation, partnership in the implementation of projects to be included in annex to IWRM plan of the Isale Commune being drafted.

ANBO-SITWA Project Stakeholders reviewed ten years' Strategy (2015-2025) Strategy & Five Year Work Plan (2015-2019)

From 28-29 October, GWPEA joined other partners invited to review and discuss the 10-year strategy and 5-year action plan for ANBO. The strategy and workplan were enriched with recommendations made during the ANBO Coordination Bureau Meeting in Abuja on 16 April and a SITWA Steering Committee Meeting in Dakar on 29 May 2014. They also integrate the main inputs provided by regional consultations conducted in August-September 2014.

The "African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO)", was established on the occasion of its inaugural General Assembly held in Dakar on 10 and 11 July 2002 as an International Non-Profit Organization for an unlimited period of time. From its inception, ANBO has been conceived as a voluntary network of river basin, lake and aquifer organizations set up with the assistance of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO). ANBO was established to answer the need for coordination and strengthening of cooperation among African BOs. ANBO therefore groups these entities as a single representative umbrella organization under the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), which coordinates water policy within the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) of the Union African.

The inter-regional consultations conducted during 2013, which resulted in the Inception Report for the SITWA Project, recommended the preparation of a strategy for ANBO. As the SITWA Project moves into its three year Implementation Phase (2014-2016), one of the main tasks is to prepare this strategy, which should allow ANBO play its role as a Pan-African body in charge of Trans-boundary Water Resources Management in Africa under AMCOW.

The strategy reflects a clear vision and mission that ANBO will pursue in 10-years period and detailed five-year action plan that coincides with the Africa

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Water Vision 2025. The strategy is expected to allow and facilitate the various stakeholders including RBOs, RECs and government agencies in charge of trans-boundary water resources management to improve cooperation and exchange of best practices and lessons learnt.

This is expected to contribute directly to the overall development of water resources in the African continent for economic growth and poverty alleviation. The strategy should also promote, as an essential tool for sustainable development, the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in river basins, lakes and aquifers.



Participants in SITWA/ANBO workshop.

GWPEA Organized a Regional Meeting on Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa

From 25-26 September, the GWPEA program known as “Integrated Drought Management Program in the Horn of Africa (IDMP HOA)” organized a stakeholders’ meeting in Nairobi, Kenya following a scoping exercise to assess the drought resilience status in 8 countries in the Horn of Africa. The countries include Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, south Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.

The main purpose of the workshop was to discuss the IDMP program document and implementation arrangements expected to start in January 2015. Specifically, the workshop was intended to provide inputs into the existing programme document on drought resilience in the Horn of Africa and to design implementation arrangements in the period from 2015-2017. The outcome of the workshop is expected to help enrich the IDMP HOA program document to make it comprehensive in order to address the needs and priorities of the countries in the region

The meeting was very successful and formulated a number of crucial recommendations:

- * Countries need to prioritize the hot spots where program interventions will be done.

Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) need to critically look at the consultant reports as well as the Country Programming Paper (CPP) to establish the linkage and ensure that the IDMP HOA program activities contribute to the CPP.

- * The regional secretariat needs to expedite the country drought assessments for Somalia and South Sudan to generate information that will be the basis of implementing activities in those countries as well as completing the project document.

- * The program document, which is the basis of implementing



Group photo of participants.

the various interventions in the region, has to be cascaded into the regional annual work plan to be approved by Regional Steering Committees.

- * The regional secretariat needs to engage IGAD, which is a key-strategic partner in the region- GWPEA must expedite to formalize collaborations between GWP and IGAD.

- * The Country Water Partnership together with the regional secretariat has to work towards leveraging funds once the program document is completed.

Two key points emerged very clearly from the meeting that can take the program forward. These are mainstreaming water security in drought management work and strengthening partnerships within the region. This will enable make much progress and add value as well as leverage more funds. Ownership of the project and its interventions is critical to create the desired drought resilience.

RWANDA: Journalists Visited WACDEP Demonstration Site in Bugesera



Participants visiting the Lake Cyohoha buffer zone.

On November 19, GWPEA organized a field visit for Rwanda journalists which took them to Bugesera where WACDEP conducts protection activities around Cyohoha Lake. 20 journalists from radio, TV, print and online media took part to that trip that enabled them to understand WACDEP approach and achievements in protecting the buffer zone.

Journalists were able to interact with local authorities and communities, thus getting a real picture of what the project is about and what it means to the region.

Journalists also produced stories that were aired in various media channels.

GWPEA Trained Media Editors and Managers on Water and Climate Challenges in the Region

GWPEA has regularly trained journalists in Burundi on climate and water challenges in the region and encouraged them to play a pivotal role in informing the communities. Realizing the importance of the topic, journalists requested GWP Eastern Africa to extend the training to media editors and managers as they are the ones taking editorial decisions. The training was organized in December 2014 and 20 editors and managers made a firm commitment to put water and climate on the agenda and assign a journalist to cover water and climate related topics.

Below are their main recommendations:

- * Make available information related to Water and cc for media professionals
- * Work with media in all projects' steps from the beginning to the end of the project
- * Avail technical and financial means to facilitate media access to information
- * Build the capacity of journalists on issues pertaining to environment
- * Organize media synergies on topics related to water and climate change
- * Plan regular media field visits



Group photo of participants

- * Support the establishment of media networks on water and climate change
- * Organize media tours in countries with good example of adaptation to climate change to share experience and best practices
- * Give enough space to environment issues in different media outlets

GWPEA promised to build on these recommendations and keep communicating progressively the progress of its stakeholders

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GWPEA Conducted a Community Outreach in Bugesera to Raise Awareness on the Buffer Zone

On 20 November 2014, GWP Eastern Africa, in collaboration with Kamabuye sector leaders, organized a community outreach event that explained the WACDEP project to an audience of 500 people and urged them to be the custodians of the buffer zone as well as WACDEP initiatives in the region.

A football match opposed two local teams and GWPEA used that event to disseminate more messages about WACDEP. The winning team was given a trophy that sealed the GWPEA partnership with local community, especially the youth, in protecting the Cyohoha buffer zone.



Playing soccer for a noble cause.

BURUNDI

GWPEA Engaged Local Communities Through Radio Quizzes

On November 19, GWPEA organized radio quizzes for local communities living around the Cyohoha buffer zone, in Bugabira Commune where the WACDEP project is implemented. The activity was aimed at sensitizing communities on the importance of maintaining the buffer zone as well as increasing their knowledge on WACDEP project and its role in promoting water security and climate resilience in the region.

The radio quizzes were conducted in close collaboration with the Burundi National Radio. The event that was held at Bugabira stadium attracted over 1000 participants eager to showcase their knowledge of the buffer zone protection and scope prizes reserved for winners.

The event offered a great opportunity to showcase WACDEP approach and activities in the region as well as reach out to local communities that will continue looking after the buffer zone as the project phases out in 2016. Local leaders were also present and reiterated their commitment to support the project and its legacy.

Lucky winners were given awards ranging from caps, t-shirts, plates, cups to cellphones. The proceedings were recorded and aired thrice on the Burundi National Radio.



A participant answering questions.

The event offered a great opportunity to showcase WACDEP approach and activities in the region as well as reach out to local communities



Group photo of participants

On December 30, 2014 members of Kenya Water Country Partnership held a general assembly meeting to discuss governance issues that culminated to the election of new leaders.

The outgoing chairman, Mr. Hadley Becha welcomed everyone to the General Assembly and explained that KWP had not held such a meeting in a long time due to financial constraints. He thanked the government of Kenya and especially the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources for providing an office for the Kenya Water Partnership (KWP).

General Assembly of Kenya Country Water Partnership Lauded the Results of WACDEP

He further appreciated the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) for allowing KWP to hold meetings within their premises at subsidized rates. Besides, he thanked the Global Water Partnership (GWP) represented by the Regional Coordinator for providing resources to plan and undertake activities for KWP. GWPEA Regional Coordinator, Mr. Patrick Safari, took the opportunity to present the achievements of the Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) to the general assembly of KWP. The meeting took note and commended the good work done under WACDEP in terms of building technical capacity of stakeholders and community resilience to climate change. Participants recommended that the WACDEP Program should be extended and scaled up to other countries in the region.