

GWP Future is brighter'

18th GWP Eastern Africa's RSC Meeting



GWPEA Regional Coordinator, Mr. Patrick Safari presenting a token of appreciation for Regional Steering Committee Chairperson Mr. MUGISHA Shillingi during the concluded RSC Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya 2013.

The Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee for GWP Eastern Africa, Engineer Mugisha Shillingi foresees "GWP's future as brighter and better." Eng. Mugisha made the remarks at the sidelines of the 18th Regional Steering Committee meeting held from 18th-19th October 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The prediction was made during "10 Years Anniversary Celebration" of the GWP Eastern Africa and two personalities—including current chairperson and former Regional Coordinator, Mr. Simon Thuo were awarded with symbolic trophies for steering GWP Operations as devoted and exemplary leaders.

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GOLD MIGHT BE CHEAPER THAN WATER IN THE FUTURE -PROF HERALDS

The Regional Inter-University Knowledge Sharing Workshop kicked off in Uganda's capital Kampala, December, 5th 2012, participants urged for sustainable water resources management as a means to reverse the continuing water scarcity in the region.

Using the economics principle, 'scarcity', Prof Bernard Bashasha, the Principal of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University made the prediction drawing on how the

present generation is not mindful enough about water wasting in relation to future water demands.

Critical challenges

Citing the case of Uganda, Prof Bashasha said that in contrast to the past and present perceptions that "water is cheaper than gold, if the present water wasting is not reversed, there is a foreseeable future where water will be more

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GWP EDITORIAL TEAM

Safari K. Patrick- Regional Coordinator, GWP Eastern Africa
Kidanemariam Jembere- Programme Manager, GWP Eastern Africa
Willy Mugenzi, Regional Communications Officer

Message from the GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator



Dear Readers and Friends of GWP,

Welcome to the 5th edition of Water Digest specifically focused on GWPEA events and stories of Quarter three 2013. This special edition presents the journey made towards the implementation of GWPEA programmes and activities including WACDEP (Water, Climate Development Programme). It is also a snapshot of activities involving and fostering cooperation and partnership with key stakeholders.

To cite a few, this insightful paper showcases that the success of a GWP programs is embedded on serving Eastern Africa citizens as key stakeholders and beneficiaries of its programs and project, and also partnering with key Actors in the Region . To this end, ownership of WACDEP by the citizens, local and national leadership in Rwanda and Burundi is a key milestone worthy of appreciation.

Through this edition, I wish to present my vote of thanks for the political commitment of Gov-

ernments of Rwanda and Burundi through the Water Ministries for the support offered along the GWPEA programmes' implementation process and Journey especially WACDEP.

Building a water secure and climate resilient Region is not a one day event, it requires efforts and well-thought out engagement strategies and partnership with key Strategic Actors including NBI and Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC).

On this note, GWP Eastern Africa also recognizes the role of media and communication outlets that are instrumental for creating community awareness towards the change of attitudes and practices in relation to the management and protection of environment and natural water in the Region.

To wind up, it is my great pleasure to reiterate the necessity and call upon all partners (Governments, Private and Civil Society Organizations) to cooperate in the long journey of securing water for multipurpose uses (social, economic and ecological) in order to meet the population needs and build resilience of our communities against the negative effects of climate change (droughts, floods, landslides, etc.).

TOGETHER WE CAN.....

Building Capacities... GWP Communicators Trained in Designing Communication Strategies



Team of GWP Regional Communication Officers attending Communication Training in Bratislava, Slovakia December 2013.

Communicators from the GWP regional offices trained in designing communication and knowledge management strategies in Slovakia's capital, Bratislava from 9-13th December 2013.

The training is part of communication capacity-building series annually organized by the Communication Department of the Global Water Partnership head office.

The GWP also presented the linkages between communication and knowledge management specifically the knowledge management toolbox.

Participants will also undertake stock-taking visit to International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River in Austria.

Steven Downey, Head of Communications, GWPO said that this year's com-

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The revelation came after delegates of the RSC Members reviewed GWPO draft strategy (2014-2020) against GWP Eastern Africa's past: challenges, achievements, and programmatic activities and targets for 2014-2020 of the region.

The Regional Steering Committee commended the achieved progress and urged the team not be complacent, but keep the momentum towards a water secure and climate resilient region.

As his terms gets closer to its conclusive end, come March 2014, Eng. Mugisha attributed present admirable status of GWP Eastern Africa to "laudable partnership and contribution of different stakeholders." He cited Ministries of Water in the region, Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and development partners.

Eng. Mugisha testified having been

watching GWP Eastern Africa from scratch, survival and now headed towards strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in member states.

"When GWP Eastern Africa approached Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment, its major area of focus—promoting IWRM in the region was interesting for us—that is why partnering with it was the most viable option." Eng. Mugisha said.

Similarly, Simon Thuo, who formerly managed GWP Eastern Africa since its inception in 2003 noted that despite challenges associated with establishing a new organization, there are personalities and institutions worthy of acknowledgement and appreciation. One of these was former Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Maria Mutagamba

munication capacity-building uniqueness lies in learning from other organizations, specifically how they communication facilitates water resources management assessing the interactions between water resources, tourism and people.

Participants learnt how to design communication and knowledge management strategies tailored to region's audience communication needs: messages, audience selection of appropriate tools and how to use knowledge management toolbox to achieve communication objectives.

In his welcome remarks, Richard Müller, Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern and Central Europe (GWPEE) wished participants a productive and enjoyable stay in Bratislava, Slovakia.

He briefed participants about GWPEE: history, governance, strategies, core activities and programs (Drought Management Programme and Flood Management Programme).

Like Eastern and Greater Horn of Africa, Central and Eastern

Europe sometimes faces severe drought and floods.

GWP Eastern Africa and Water, Climate Development Program's Communication Officer from Burundi are expected to elaborate Communications and WACDEP Communication and Knowledge Strategies suiting audience informational needs.

Willy Mugenzi, Regional Development Communications Officer for GWP Eastern Africa hailed the training as a catalyst for learning, sharing and committing to do more for a water secure and climate adaptations at all levels. He added communication strategies are instruments that will guide implementation, monitoring and evaluation of communication efforts and resources at global, regional and national levels.

"Implementable communication strategies can help regional offices measure whether communication is contributing towards achieving the overall GWP Vision, strategic, and pragmatic objectives at our regional offices." GWP Eastern African Communications Officer.

(Uganda).

Drawing a lesson from his past leadership, Simon recommended further strengthening of Country Water Partnerships (CWP) as central neutral forums where both strategic and practical discussions on water and climate resilience are discussed. The draft strategy of GWP (2014-2020) emphasizes reinforcing CWPs.

The current Regional Coordinator for GWP Eastern Africa, Safari Patrick said that looking back; GWP Eastern Africa has come thus far and is positioned to reach very far in terms of achievements.

He expressed appreciations

for the roles of different stakeholders particularly Nile Basin Initiative, GWPO and others in creating an enabling environment upon which GWP Eastern Africa went beyond surviving to thriving.

Members collectively reviewed the GWPO draft strategy and the chairperson urged delegates specifically representatives of Country Water Partnerships to familiarize themselves with the strategy: its components and aspirations so that the strategy is coherently implemented and communicated at national level.

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expensive than gold."

Availing right knowledge, change of mindset and practices towards water resources in the region were among key suggested pathways to reverse the increasing water scarcity and insecurity in Eastern and Greater Horn of Africa.

Prof Bashasha made the revelation during the inter-university knowledge workshop taking place from 5th-6th December 2013 at the Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Workshop objectives

Over 40 lecturers, researchers drawn from Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan reflected on how to expand the use of Integrated Waters Management (IWRM) Toolbox in University education and research institutions and demonstrate the application of the IWRM in training and capacity building program.

Although some universities have well-established study programmes related to water resource management, others are still in the process of reforming their study courses to introduce modern teaching methods and courses, including IWRM programmes.

The participants agreed that most study programmes are a combination of academic teaching and practical assignments. Some lecturers consider the practical assignments more important, and the consensus was that all teaching also needs a deep community focus

GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator, Safari Patrick, briefed participants about background, evolution and strategies of GWP and regional office. He reminded participants about GWP's main emphasis on partnership with diverse stakeholders, including Universities and other knowledge bases such as research centers.

He urged for a broader view of partnership based the interconnectedness, "a partnership is not the sum of its parts; it is the product of the parts' interaction." Safari Patrick noted. The Regional Coordinator further indicated that the workshop will help bridging the gap between water policy and science interfaces through IWRM practices.

Global Water Partnership (GWP) representative to the workshop, Dr. Danka J. Thalmeinerova, Senior Knowledge Management Officer, expressed the desire of supporting regional knowledge centers and sharing knowledge with the larger knowledge producers and users.

Participating lecturers and researchers expressed the desire to bridge the gap between knowledge production centers and users in rural areas. Lecturers also asked for insights from the GWP specifically on how to make knowledge sharing more sustainable to the benefit of citizens.

The participants also appreciated finding out about lessons learnt from workshops held in Central Asia, West Africa, Caribbean and Central Europe.

Several Universities showcased how they have incorporated IWRM in their teaching and research endeavors, future priorities and foreseeable challenges and solutions.

The workshop was organized by the Global Water Partnership in partnership with the Makerere University and facilitated by regional office of the Global Water Partnership.

The vision of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) is for a water secure world. GWP is a network of more than 2,800 partners in 169 countries.

Burundi Government Commended WACDEP for Protecting Lake Cohoha



Standing in front, Eng Nduwayo Jean Claude, Burundi Minister in charge of Water, Environment, Land and Urban Planning joined the population in tree planting organized by WACDEP (December 21st, 2013 in Bugabira-Kirundo province).



Regional Coordinator GWPEA planting trees in Bugabira



Little child compared to a tree seedling

Burundi's Minister for Water, Environment, Land Management and Urbanism (MEEATU), Engineer Nduwayo Jean Claude commended Water, Climate Development Program (WACDEP) for Protecting Lake Cohoha buffer zone.

Minister complimented GWP Eastern Africa, residents of Kigina Cell, Bugabira commune in Kirundo Province of Burundi during a tree planting day on the 21st December 2013 under the theme: 'Protection of Lake Cohoha: Our most concern'.

Citizens, local and communal leaders, GWP Eastern Africa staff participated in the tree plant-

ing activity which left at least fifty meters from around the lake shores planted with trees.

Impressed by WACDEP progress, Minister Nduwayo said, "WACDEP activities will help Burundi government contributing to the goal of reaching 18% of forestry cover by 2025 to enable climate change resilience in Burundi." Today, (2013) the national forestry cover is 13%.

Residents were urged to preserve the planted trees, the buffer zones for the sustainability of ecosystems around the lake. The minister cautioned: "the buffer zone is the government's area, and no one has the right to carry out in that space any kind of ac-

tivities that may destroy the lake and its ecosystems," adding that after harvesting existing crops, the local farmers should never again plant other crops in that protected buffer zone.

Due to human activities such as farming, grazing, at least 30 meters of lake shores have been lost—a practice WACDEP is partly trying to reverse through awareness raising, tree planting, buffer zone demarcation and protection, institutional and policy strengthening and capacity-building for a water secure and climate resilient Bugesera region (where Cohoha is situated).

Regional Coordinator for Global Water Partnership (GWP) Eastern

Africa, Safari Patrick compared the planted seedlings to a very fragile human baby who needs tender care for growing up.

"Seedlings and human babies to grow well must benefit from tenderness and care of their own parents, in this case, of us here are responsible owners of the trees and we are required to care for the planted trees."

Mr. Safari added that besides the tree planting activity, WACDEP also plans to provide Bugabira and Busoni key households with improved cook stoves to ensure alternative source of energy as to reduce pressure on existing terrestrial Ecosystems in Kirundo Province.

GWP Eastern and West Africa Showcased WACDEP in Climate Change and Development for Africa Conference



3rd Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-III), Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-24th October 2013.

GWP Eastern Africa showcased Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) in the the 3rd Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-III), which took place in Ethiopia, capital, Addis-Ababa from 20-24th October 2013.

Climate change policy makers, researchers, scientists, practitioners, Heads of International organizations and other stakeholders present interacted with GWP Eastern and West Africa delegates, specifically on WACDEP: its outcomes, implementation strategies, and programme's beneficiaries, among others.

Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa,

Bugabira Citizens Celebrate - Dance and Sing in Praise of WACDEP Activities

Residents of Kigina Cell, Bugabira commune in Kirundo Province of Burundi celebrated through singing, dancing, drumming in praise of Water, Climate and Development Program, last December 2013.

Key message in the song—“WACDEP, extend further; in the Whole Country For Posterity.” The message delivered through Burundi’s local language, Kirundi, resonated with the guiding theme: “Protection of Lake Cohoha: Our most concern.”

Also, singers expressed their commitment towards protection of Lake Cohoha, commonly referred to as ‘Mother Cohoha’—the Provider of Life (water) and freshness during dry seasons.

As a child to an aging mother, enthusiastic residents promised to take care of the planted trees because once grown up, Mother Cohoha will survive and be more resilient to changing climate in Bugesera region.



Residents of Kigina Cell, Bugabira commune in Kirundo Province of Burundi celebrated through singing, dancing, drumming in praise of Water, Climate and Development Program, last December 2013, photo by GWPEA

Historical dry seasons

Over years, ecosystems in Bugabira Commune face persistent dry winds drought causing human encroachment of the lake for water, farming and other activities.

WACDEP intends to make a plantation of a total number of 118.112 tree plants in order to protect Lake Cohoha catchment and buffer zone. Among these trees, 30.000 are fruit trees.

Referring to the celebratory spir-

its of the residents, GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator, Safari Patrick, “it is this public approval and appreciation that WACDEP success is hinged on.”

He congratulated the residents for translating WACDEP key message in their own language powerfully delivered through songs, dances and drums.

The WACDEP aims at integrating water security and climate resilience in development planning processes build climate resili-

ence and support countries to adapt to a new climate regime through increased investments in water security.

By building climate resilience, the initiative will contribute to peace building and conflict prevention, support pan-African integration and help safeguard investments in economic development, poverty reduction and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

specifically the CCDA-III Exhibition, provided effective opportunity for participating institutions to gain additional exposure and knowledge of GWP Eastern and West Africa through Africa’s program—Water, Climate Development Program.

Themed: Africa on the run: can the opportunities from climate change spring the continent to transformative development?, the conference presented an opportunity for various stakeholders to deliberate on Africa’s development in the context of climate change.

GWP Eastern and West Africa participated in the conference with the guiding objective--to showcase WACDEP and generate feed-

back from participants about the program. Sustainability strategy of WACDEP stood out as prominent feature of the feedback generated from participants.

To this end, knowledge management and communication materials: books, synthesized reports, newsletters, brochures, pull up posters focused on WACDEP were exhibited through a reserved booth shared by GWP Eastern and West Africa.

Lessons learned include: increasing international recognition and renewed impetus to address climate change in Africa, wide knowledge gaps between knowledge producers and knowledge-users—mostly farmers, the interface between science-devel-

opment and policy is not yet fully strengthened.

As a result, participants resolved, among others to reinforce knowledge management and communication capacities to address knowledge and information gaps.

In January 2009 Africa Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) requested GWP to support the implementation of the 2008 African Union Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation. In response, the Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) was developed. It is being implemented in Eastern, Western, Central and Northern Africa and Southern Africa.

The conference was organized under the auspices of Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa), a joint programme of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The conference sought to address the need for improved climate data and information for Africa, as well as to strengthen the use of such information for decision-making by supporting analytical capacity, knowledge generation and sharing.

For more information, download key documents from: <http://www.climdev-africa.org/ccda3-conference-documents>

WACDEP Rwanda: Catalyzing Community Practice Change & Building Resilience in Bugesera Region



Bicamumpaka Jean, a 47 year-old man, resident of Kamabuye sector reasoned, “WACDEP is solution-oriented and a mindset changer.” Bicamumpaka has already made a decision--to move from the use of firewood to Biogas energy since it will be cost effective and time-saving.

Kamabuye citizens understood their role and are responsibly committed to manage Lake Cyohoha Water Resources

The efforts of Managing Lake Cyohoha waters especially the southern part have mainly been driven by the Government of Rwanda and development partners with water resources in their mandates.

Citizens used to keep a distant role or got themselves involved in the protection of the lake in expectation of monetary value in form of payment basis. The practice reinforced the perception that Lake Cyohoha is a permanent, government-owned infinite resource for exploitation than sustainably managed.

Through partnership with local authorities, GWP Eastern Africa’s WACDEP team, opinion leaders and local media, citizens have been sensitized, and thus take requisite ownership and responsibility in sustainable management of Lake Cyohoha.

To maximize the latter’s impact, over 30 journalists and communication officers from Rwanda and Burundi were trained on the “Role of Communication in Promoting Water Security and Climate Resilience” in Bugesera Region, August 2013. Participants further resolved to commit time to communicate WACDEP to citizens.

Relief from queuing for water in Biharagu Cell

A water pipeline with 2530 meters is under construction in Biharagu and Nyakayaga cell. A total of 3000 residents are expected to access water from the ongoing WACDEP supported water supply system.

Consequently, water polluting human activities that leave ecosystems of Lake Cyohoha affected will be reversed.

Mr. Ndayisenga, a local resident testified “it was like a chance dawned on me when I heard that WACDEP is supplying water in our cell,” adding, “I will no longer make two kilometers for water search.”

“Lining up for hours before a water tap is tiring and annoying,” Ndayisenga said as he expected the problem to be solved once the water pipe is complete and smoothly functioning. Limited access to water has proximate links to increased school drop-out amongst females and reduces role of women in national development.

Mukandahiro, a 28 year old woman says people used to fetch water from Lake Cyohoha as they had nowhere to get clean water nearby their homes.

She further noted, she personally spends at least 3 hours en route looking for water. A 20 Litre plastic jerry can costs 200 Rwandan Francs (\$3). “Fewer residents can afford this, thus resorting to water from the Lake,” Mukandahiro added.

Julius Rukundo, the Vice Mayor for Economic Affairs, Bugesera District, commended WACDEP as one of the unique programs whose practices on ground may be taken as case-studies for extensions and learning in other parts of the country.

“Biogas Demonstration Project in Kamubuye Sector should act as field study for other Sectors especially in matters of climate change risks, adaptation measures and environment protection.” Vice Mayor said.

Water, Climate Development Program (WACDEP) is gradually catalyzing change in locally held negative practices to positive ones—for the sustainability of Cyohoha water catchment of Kamabuye Sector, Bugesera Region, Eastern Province of Rwanda.

Grazing, farming on shores, cutting of trees and pumping water from the lake for home use have left Lake Cyohoha and its surrounding ecosystems vulnerable to climate change and water insecurity risks.

Changing peoples’ practices and behaviors especially those strongly held on as their source of livelihoods requires more than making the concerned residents aware of the consequences of their actions, but act as partners in search of solutions/alternatives.

In October 2013, GWP Eastern Africa with Rwandan partners kicked off a Biogas Demonstration Project in 5 villages of Tunda Cell, Kamabuye Sector, Bugesera District, Eastern Province, Rwanda.

Biogas is a cleaner and cheaper replacement of wood fuel. The latter is a widely used source of energy in Bugesera District.

Thus, Biogas will reduce tree cutting practices in Kamabuye Sector. At least 11 households from Tunda Cell are being supported by WACDEP to get their own Biogas Digesters.

Cutting of trees for biofuel was identified as one of the major contributing catalysts for climate change during the situational analysis study conducted in the beginning of 2013.

Consequently, end of 2013 left at least 30 hectares of land around Lake Cyohoha in Biharagu Cell, Kamabuye Sector planted with 36,640 drought resistant trees. Tree planting aimed at greening shores of Lake Cyohoha.

Historically, Bugesera region used to experience incessant drier seasons because of prolonged drought caused by man-made environmental destructions.

The Executive Secretary of Kamabuye Sector, Jean de Dieu Muyegeza is optimistic that “Biogas systems will help to curb down environmental degradation worsened by cutting of trees for energy and overgrazing.”

He added, “key components of WACDEP are complementing the Sector’s efforts to realize Government’s Economic Development, Poverty Reduction Strategy [EDPRS] and Millennium Development Goals [MDGs].”

Towards Water Security...

Planners discuss issues of inclusion of Water Security and Climate Resilience into National Planning Process in Rwanda



Standing is Kabarisa () Deputy Director for Water Resources Management, seated left is Eng Collete Ruhamya, Deputy Director General REMA and middle is GWPEA Regional Coordinator Mr. Safari Patrick.

Planning Officers from Rwanda Ministry of Natural Resources, infrastructure, Agriculture and Ministry of Local Government together with policy implementing Agencies discussed inclusion of water security and climate change adaptation in the national planning process.

Organized by GWP Eastern Africa, in collaboration with Rwanda Water Partnership, the National Workshop on Integration of Water Security and Climate Resilience took place in Kigali, Rwanda, December 17th 2013.

Kabarisa, Jean Paul Vincent, Deputy Director General for the Integrated Water Resources Management from Rwanda's Ministry of Natural Resources commended the registered progress of Water, Climate Development Program (WACDEP) in Rwanda.

WACDEP is Africa's program developed to address issues of

climate change and water security in Africa especially eight countries. In Eastern Africa, the program is implemented in Bugesera region specifically around Rwanda-Burundi trans-boundary Kagera River Basin.

Historically, Bugesera region was vulnerable to severe drought, water scarcity resulting into food insecurity and constant citizen movements for

The Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern Africa, Safari Patrick commended the inputs from participants drawn from different institutions with climate resilience and water security in their attributions.

food and water.

Citing government's efforts towards responding to erotic disasters: prolonged drought and floods, the Deputy Director General urged for more linkages between WACDEP activities to existing gaps in areas of national drought and flood man-

agements in Bugesera region.

Kamabuye Sector Executive Secretary, Jean de Muyengeza briefed participants about how far citizens are engaged in WACDEP activity implementation process and the level of ownership by local governance system.

"Citizens were the ones who identified key needs. To them,

access to water and energy were cited as key priorities. WACDEP based its activities on these needs," Executive Secretary of Kamabuye said.

The study on Integration of Water Security and Climate Resilience noted increasing political will, institutional, policy and

strategy frameworks as some of the commendable strengths.

"Rwanda as a water-scarce country has stepped-up its investments in efficiency, productive, equitable and sustainable management of its water resources," the report underscored.

However, technical capacity were cited as potential gaps that could affect sufficient and effective policy implementation in areas of water security and climate resilience.

The report recommended a smoother and smarter coordination mechanism for the implementation of water and climate resilience policies, programs and plans.

The Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern Africa, Safari Patrick commended the inputs from participants drawn from different institutions with climate resilience and water security in their attributions.

Safari Patrick suggested Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) as one of the solution best fitting to address institutional coordination gaps in Rwanda.

In her closing remarks, Coletha Ruhamya, Deputy Director General for Rwanda Environment Management Authority commended the consultative and knowledge sharing process. She urged for more interactive sessions to share and learn from the existing best practices in water and climate resilience sector.

Present to the National Workshop included senior officers from the Ministries of Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Infrastructure, Implementing Agencies such as Rwanda Environment Authority, Rwanda Natural Resources Authority, Rwanda Meteorological Agency and Bugesera District.

Strategic Partnership

GWP Eastern Africa and LVBC Signed a MoU for Cooperation in Water Resources Management



Signing of MoU between GWPEA and LVBC

Global Water Partnership (GWP) Eastern Africa and Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) committed to Cooperate for Sustainable Water Resources Management (SWRM) and promoting climate resilience in the wide Kagera Basin.

GWP Eastern Africa and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) signed the MoU last Wednesday, 18th December 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda. The MoU underscored the importance of partnership for a water secure and climate resilient region.

In witness of the legal, technical officers and partners of the two institutions, Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Secretary signed on behalf of LVBC and Mr. Patrick Safari, Regional Coordinator for GWP Eastern Africa. GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator, Safari underscores the importance of the MoU in enhancing “Institutional partnerships for integrated and sustainable wa-

ter resources management in the region.”

LVBC Executive Secretary of LVBC emphasized that the two institutions have many common interests, thus the rationale for complementing each other through a formal partnership.

“We can reach further and achieve more in management of water and natural resources at all levels in complementarity as opposed to isolation.” Dr. Kanangire observed.

Key strategic areas of focus of the MoU include: water policy analysis, policy dialogue, policy influencing, capacity building, knowledge and information sharing and development and implementation of joint programs and activities in water resources and environment management.

The two institutions will jointly implement the Water, Climate and De-

velopment Program (WACDEP) in the Kagera River Basin and ensure the development and implementation of a cooperative framework for the sustainable management of water and natural resources of the Kagera river basin and other sub-basins.

The two institutions, GWPEA and LVBC operate in the region and focus on the integrated and sustainable management of the water resources in the region among other things.

GWPEA was established in Eastern Africa Region since 2003 to foster and support countries in the promotion of IWRM at all levels.

Lake Victoria Basin Commission is a specialized institution of the East African Community (EAC) that is responsible for coordinating the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin