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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Use

Kigali WACDEP Policy Support Workshop ‘Emphasize Partnership’

Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA), Kigali, Rwanda, June, 14th 2013,

Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa organized a Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) Policy Support Workshop taking place in Kigali, Friday, 14th June 2013.

The Workshop focuses on discussing the roadmap for WACDEP implementation towards 2013-2015, hence calling for stronger partnership and collaboration of various players as pathways for effective implementation in Rwanda-Burundi, especially in Bugesera Trans boundary Region.

Opening the workshop held in Hotel Umubano, GWP Eastern Africa’s Regional Coordinator, Safari Patrick briefed participants about the background, objectives, outcomes of WACDEP and its components, key players and their roles towards successful

GWP Eastern Africa privileges effective collaboration and participation of diverse stakeholders; right from central, local and community levels. Given how youth and women are directly affected by water scarcity and climate change, WACDEP seeks to engage with this special vulnerable category to understand and ,” said GWP Eastern Africa.

Participants to the Policy Support Workshop were drawn from Central Government and local Government, Civil Society Organizations, Academia, Media, Private Water Operators, Environment Agencies, and representative of Women, Youth and Fishing Cooperatives at Bugesera District level.

The workshop’s objective is briefing and raising awareness of key policy/decision makers on the WACDEP program in Rwanda, and seek support from various players in the course of WACDEP implementation. A long with other activities, the WACDEP programme will contribute towards “integrating water security and climate resilience into National and Development planning and decision making processes in Rwanda and Burundi,” GWP Eastern Africa’s concept note reads in part.

Implemented in Bugesera Trans boundary Catchment in Kagera River Basin, WACDEP is a joint program of African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP) with the aim of supporting African countries for climate resilience through improved and sustainable water resources management.

Since its inception and kick off, WACDEP has had a series of activities: consultation of stakeholders to launch WACDEP, Situational Analysis to identify and understand the challenges and opportunities, policy dialogue with Rwanda-Burundi decision-makers in Rwanda and Burundi including Kirundo and Communes Bugabira and Busoni surrounding Cyohoha South Lake.

Key issues affecting Bugesera region identified during the consultations and situational Analysis were: increasing climate change variation thus drought, unpredictable rainfall patterns and unfriendly human practices among others.

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| OVERALL GOAL: <i>to promote water as a key part of sustainable regional and national development and contribute to climate change adaptation for economic growth and human security</i> | |
| OBJECTIVES | OUTCOMES |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water security and climate resilience integrated in development planning and decision-making processes in Burundi and Rwanda; • Capacities of partnerships, institutions and stakeholders in Burundi and Rwanda enhanced to integrate water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision-making processes; • Residents of the two countries specifically from the Bugesera catchment started “No regrets” investment and financing strategies for water security, climate resilience and development; • Community-based climate adaptation and water security actions defined and implemented for demonstration or piloting purposes in Bugesera catchment; • Useful knowledge and information on climate resilience and water security generated, shared and disseminated among stakeholders in Eastern Africa |
| OVERALL IMPACT: <i>is that “a higher level of water security and climate resilience achieved in the countries of Burundi and Rwanda, and in the communities of the Bugesera trans-boundary catchment”.</i> | |

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