



THE WATER, CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (WACDEP) IN THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION

FACTSHEET

WHAT IS WACDEP?

The Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) is a five-year program (2011-2016) implemented by Global Water Partnership (GWP) on behalf of the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW). It is a direct response to the commitments expressed by African Heads of States in the Sharma el-Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation in 2008.

WACDEP was formed to formulate adaptation measures to improve the resilience of countries to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to water resources and Africa's capacity to meet the water and sanitation targets. It is implemented in eight pilot countries: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tunisia and Zimbabwe, and four trans boundary basins: Volta Basin, Lake Chad Basin, Kagera Basin, Limpopo Basin, and North West Sahara Aquifer.

In Eastern Africa region, WACDEP is being implemented at different levels. At transboundary river basin level-Kagera, at country level-Burundi and Rwanda, and at catchment/community level-Lake Cyohoha catchment (shared between Burundi and Rwanda) in Bugesera region. The Program seeks to achieve a higher level of water security and climate resilience in the countries of Burundi and Rwanda. It also aims to integrate water security and climate resilience in development planning processes, building climate resilience and supporting countries to adapt to a new climate regime through increased investment in water security.

OVERALL GOAL

To promote water as a key part of sustainable regional and national development and contribute to climate change for economic growth and human security.

WACDEP APPROACH

WACDEP supports communities through promoting local actions that will enhance climate resilience and water security. It also strengthens partnerships and builds capacities of stakeholders, including communities, for water security and climate resilience.

WACDEP uses a participatory approach to facilitate the process of:

- Enhancing regional cooperation for climate change adaptation and water security in Kagera river basin
- Integrating issues of water security and climate resilience into national and sector development planning and decision-making processes
- Developing no/low regrets investment plans and financing strategies
- Preparing projects and mobilizing financial resources
- Demonstrating climate change adaptation actions - with the aim of enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change impacts in Lake Cyohoha catchment
- Developing capacities of institutions on issues of water security and climate change adaptation

ACHIEVED RESULTS

WACDEP achievements in the region can be summarized as follows:

1. Cooperation being facilitated for water security and climate resilience in Kagera transboundary river basin.

(Kagera basin climate vulnerability assessment conducted, challenges and hotspots identified, and priority interventions identified by involving partner countries (Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) and key regional organizations (NELSAP, LVBC and GWPEA). Five project concepts drafted, later on merged into three. One comprehensive project concept for investment drafted.



Meeting of partners to agree on priority project concepts in Kigali, Rwanda

2. The processes of integrating issues of water security and climate resilience into national and sector development plans in Burundi and Rwanda facilitated. (Existing mechanisms of integrating issues of water security and climate resilience into national and sector plans in Burundi and Rwanda reviewed, new mechanisms identified, support for capacity development provided for planners and decision makers)

3. Support provided in developing no/low regrets investment plans and in preparing projects to mobilize resources. (Five project concepts drafted for Kagera Basin, later on merged into three. One comprehensive project concept for investment drafted. Some processes being supported in Burundi and Rwanda for developing plans and projects for resource mobilization.

4. Local actions to enhance water security and climate resilience in lake Cyohoha catchment being demonstrated

- 4.1. Awareness-raised about sustainable water resources management and climate change

- 4.2. Priority interventions to enhance water security and climate resilience in Lake Cyohoha catchment identified and agreed upon by stakeholders



- 4.3. Draft catchment Plan for Lake Cyohoha prepared for integrated water resources management (IWRM) and climate change adaptation

- 4.4. Catchment management structures (and broader stakeholder platforms) being established for Lake Cyohoha catchment



4.5. Demarcated and managed part of the buffer zone along the lake shorelines, planting conservation and fruit trees (60ha),

4.6. Rehabilitating upper catchment areas (100ha).



4.7. Demonstrated biogas facilities as energy sources (11 units),

4.8. Introduced improved cooking stoves (for 1000 households)



4.9. Extended water supply services (for about 3,000 people).

4.10. Established 8 water committees to manage water points

4.11. Demonstrated roof water harvesting facilities (11 households)



4.12. Established small vegetable gardens using drain water from the water points



4.13. Interest of neighboring communities for support in taking local actions expressed, sustainability and scaling-up strategies being discussed with key stakeholders.

5. Support in developing capacities of institutions on issues of water security and climate change adaptation provided. Trained/mentored 24 planners and 12 decision makers from Burundi and Rwanda in water security and climate resilience and how to integrate them in their planning.

Engaged and trained over 40 local media practitioners in promoting water security and climate resilience in the region



6. Strengthened partnerships between local government, local implementing actors and communities in Burundi and Rwanda



KEY PARTNERS

No	Name of Partner
Global	
1	Austria Development Agency (ADA)
2	Department For International Development (DFID)
3	Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
4	Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)
5	Cap-Net/UNDP
6	UNDP-GSP
Continental: Africa	
1	African Union (AU)
2	African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW)
3	African Development Bank (AfDB)
Regional: Eastern Africa/Horn of Africa	
1	East African Community (EAC)
2	Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
3	Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
4	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Program (NELSAP)
5	Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)
Country: Burundi	
1	Ministry of Water, Environment and Urban Planning and Management (MEEATU)
2	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

3	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Planning
4	Ministry of Energy and Mines
5	Geographic Institute of Burundi (IGEBU)
6	National University of Burundi
7	Kirundo Province Administration, and its Office for Agriculture and Livestock, Burundi
8	Local implementing partners (eg. ASSADEC, GHEA, INECN)
9	Local communities from Burundi part of the Lake Cyohoha catchment in Bugesera region
10	Burundi Country Water Partnership
Country: Rwanda	
1	Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA)
2	Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA)
3	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)
4	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)
5	Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA)
6	Ministry of Local Government
7	National University of Rwanda
8	Bugesera District Administration, and Kamabuye Sector Office
9	Local implementing partners (eg. ASSADEC, GHEA, INECN)
10	Local communities from Rwanda part of the Lake Cyohoha catchment in Bugesera region
11	Rwanda Country Water Partnership

WHAT PARTNERS SAY:

"We used to cultivate and raise cattle here at the lakeshore. With time, the water withdrew, and the coast was drying rapidly year after year. It was looking like this place would become a desert and the lake would disappear. But since the project came in and sensitized us about the importance of protecting our lake, we have stopped these activities and we planted trees. The level of water is increasing and I am happy that our lake is here to stay", Ester Mukashyaka, a resident of Kamabuye Sector

" Indeed had not been an implementation of the new regulations of the Rwanda Management Authority(REMA), and local partners like WACDEP, the lake would be now in its final stage of disappearance. Thanks to their interventions, the lake has now started to replenish and regained about 5 meters", Oscar Murwanashyaka, Kamabuye Sector Executive Secretary

"The WACDEP Program has been instrumental in demonstrating best practices in protecting the buffer zone, all in line with the government policy. The nature of the project and its trans-boundary dimension calls for more exchange and interaction between Burundi and Rwanda teams for the harmonization of views and policies", Vincent de Paul Kabalisa, Director IWRM-Wetlands, RNRA

WAY FORWARD

Lessons learnt from WACDEP will continue to be used to influence policies and practices in both countries. Since the program has been implemented within the national frameworks of water management and climate change adaptation in Burundi and Rwanda, it will be much easier to scale up these lessons in the region or elsewhere.

WACDEP demonstration actions were set to showcase appropriate adaptation measures to climate change in Bugesera region. The involvement of local communities and authorities in the project implementation, its alignment to national programs and priorities ensure its sustainability and legacy in the region.

For more information:

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