

## Message from the Regional Coordinator of GWP Eastern Africa



### ***Dear Readers and Friends of GWPEA,***

This 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Water Digest updates you on activities that were conducted by GWPEA during the last quarter, largely dominated by a wider range of consultations with key stakeholders with the aim of promoting water-food-energy security and climate resilience in the Region.

During this quarter, GWP Eastern Africa together with CAPNET engaged Ugandan young water professionals from the Ministry of Water and Environment and National Water Sewerage Corporation and enabled them to understand the roles and responsibilities in addressing challenges related to IWRM and Climate Change.

The training workshops raised awareness and capacities of participants and their respective institutions to understand climate resilience mechanisms to cope with the negative effects of climate change. It also equipped them with skills to mainstream water security and climate resilience into catchment planning and management processes through IWRM approach. Through such joint initiatives, GWPEA considers young water professionals as future leaders and change agents who are instrumental in catalyzing changes in practices towards sustainable water Resources Management at all levels.

The quarter was also marked by national consultations in Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan facilitated by GWPEA to review and comment on HLPE report and its relevance to national food and water security priorities. Experts from several institutions such as line Ministries, Government Agencies, Private Sector, CSO's, Academia and Research Institutions in the three countries, found that HLPE recommendations are aligned with national policies and development frameworks. These recommendations are expected to be tabled on Agenda of the upcoming 42<sup>nd</sup> plenary session of the Committee on the World Food Security to be held in Rome.

GWPEA team also attended the World Water Week events held in Stockholm, Sweden in August this year under the theme of ***"Water and Development"***. GWPEA used that opportunity to share its experiences and lessons learnt in building climate resilience of communities and ecosystems through WACDEP Programme. The team also had bilateral talks with its key partners that were present, such as UNDP, NELSAP and IGAD.

Dear Readers and Friends, GWPEA acknowledges support from its esteemed development partners and collaboration with various sister organizations in its pathways towards water security, climate and drought resilience in the Region through IWRM approach.

Last but not least, GWPEA calls upon donors, development partners, public and private Agencies to join its efforts towards achieving the water goal and targets under SDG's approved during the last UN General Assembly in New York.

Sincerely,

**SAFARI Patrick**

Regional Coordinator

GWP Eastern Africa

## Engaging Young Water Professionals through Training Workshops on IWRM and Climate Change



Figure 1: Group photo of participants during the training workshop

Studies have shown that Uganda is highly vulnerable to climate change and variability. In the recent years, it has been affected by increasing climate variability and occurrences of floods and drought. Such changes are likely to have significant implications for water sources, agriculture, food security, soil and national economy.

They also call for action from various actors to put in place palliative mechanisms and more particularly, raise awareness and educate people. It is in the same line that GWPEA and its partners embarked on a series of workshops aimed to train the youth on IWRM as an appropriate approach to efficiently manage water resources and build climate change resilience.

The first workshop was held in Kampala from 13-17 July 2015 and targeted the staff from the Uganda National Water Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and its youthful workforce organized under the Eastern Africa Young Water Professionals Association (EAYWPA). NWSC is a public utility established in 1972 with a mandate to provide water and sewerage services in the country. To date, the utility operates in 66 towns across the country.

The workshop was organized in partnership with NWSC, the Young Water Professionals (YWPs) and CAPNET through Nile IWRM Net and aimed to equip participants with appropriate skills to implement interventions that will ultimately increase the resilience of the utility to climate change and other factors and hence ensure its water security. It was attended by 35 participants from NSWC, Makerere University, YWP and the Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment.

The workshop was very practical and urged participants to think out of the box and come up with better ways to deal with challenges posed with climate change. It reached the following specific objectives:

- Creation of awareness and opportunities for utilities to develop climate resilience mechanisms to cope with the negative effects of climate change
- Better understanding of IWRM by NWSC staff and thus better planning and programming of climate resilience interventions by the utility
- Capacity building of all participants on aspects of climate change and integrated water resources management.

The second workshop was held in Kampala from 28 September to 02 October and gathered 40 participants from the Ministry of Water and Environment. Its purpose was to equip them with skills that will enable them mainstreaming water security and climate resilience into catchment based planning processes.

The training covered a number of thematic areas such as introduction to IWRM, water security, climate change, catchment planning and water source protection guidelines, IWRM and water integrity, climate resilience frameworks of the Nile basin countries as well as practical case studies on the implementation of catchment based IWRM Plans.



Figure 2: Participants listens carefully to the facilitator

As part of the training, participants visited the NWSC Gaba Water works to experience first-hand challenges that NWSC faces in providing potable water to the city, as a result of climate change. Participants also discussed their own experiences relating to the climate change challenges and IWRM efforts across the country.

## GWPEA Facilitated National Consultations on Water, Food Security and Nutrition in Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda



Figure 3: Experts examine HLPE Report in Uganda



Figure 4: Experts examine HLPE Report in Ethiopia

A report on Water and Food Security has been prepared by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE). This report will feed into the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 42nd plenary session to be held in 2015 in Rome.

The report explores the relations between water and food security and nutrition, from household level to global level. It investigates these multiple linkages, in a context of competing demands, rising scarcities, and climate change. It explores ways for improved water management in agriculture and food systems, as well as ways for improved governance of water, for better food security and nutrition for all, now and in the future. While a broad range of issues have been by the HLPE report at a global level, there are particular nuances in specific national or local context that may be hidden or not well captured. In this regard, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) facilitated a number of National Consultations in Sub Saharan Africa which were held to review the work of the HLPE to support the final resolutions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> CFS.

It is in the same vein that GWPEA facilitated the National Consultations on Water and Food Security and Nutrition in Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda in August 2015. The objectives of these consultations were to:

- Obtain views from relevant stakeholders in Uganda and Ethiopia on the proposals from the HLPE report on the interconnections between food and water security;

- Build awareness and examine the relevance of the proposed HLPE global perspectives to Uganda and Ethiopia;
- Provide inputs and options to support bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and recommendations that will enhance resolutions from the 42<sup>nd</sup> CFS.

Generally, the participants in these workshops were from key ministries, academia, UN agencies and NGOS. Participants were tasked to examine the relevance of each of the 8 key recommendations from the HLPE report in their country context for helping to meet national food and water security priorities.

Participants in the workshops concluded that all the recommendations are applicable and aligned with the policy framework in Uganda, as reflected in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2010/2011-2014/2015, the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP) 2010/11-2014-15), and the Strategic Sector Investment Plan for the Water and Sanitation Sector.

Participants also confirmed the applicability of HLPE's recommendation in the national context especially in Ethiopia. The emerging institutions and strategies; like capacity building institution in water management, nutrition, irrigation management, REDD+, trans-boundary negotiation, and GTPII, all can serve as means for implementation of HLPE's recommendations.

Participants argued that the recommendations are robust and timely for Ethiopia; considering the available land and water sectors for the envisaged targets and the challenges faced due to uneven spatial and temporal availability of water and multi-faceted accessibility problems. The HLPE report and its recommendations are believed to address Ethiopia's national position on water and food security in the broader context of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem nexus.

## **Consultations with Stakeholders at Water Management Zones, Districts and Communities Levels in Uganda**

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment (Uganda), and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), GWP Eastern Africa is developing a project proposal for submission to the Adaptation Fund with a budget of USD 7.5 million. The project is on: "Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through catchment based integrated management of water and related resources in Uganda" and its finalization requires extensive consultation with different key partners

From 6-10 July 2015, the GWPEA Team conducted consultations with the management and staff of the following three Water Management Zones (WMZs) to get their views for consideration during catchment management plan as part of the project:

1. Kyoga WMZ for Awoja catchment based in Mbale Town
2. Upper Nile WMZ for Aswa catchment based in Lira Torn
3. Victoria WMZ for Maziba catchment based in Kabale Town

Moreover the districts from the targeted catchments were also consulted in the process such as:

- a) Districts of Soroti, Sironko, Napak, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa and Kumi in Awoja
- b) Districts of Abim, Gulu, Aleptong, Lira in Aswa catchment
- c) Districts of Kabale, Kisoro and Ntungamo in Maziba catchment



Figure 4: Awoja river near Soroti town

The project design team carried out various consultations with the Catchment Management Committees that represent different government sectorial offices, NGOs, representatives of women, youth and local government. It also paid field visits to the different parts of the three catchments and made

consultations with the local communities and also appreciated the challenges and possible interventions.

Most stakeholders identified rehabilitation of degraded lands (mountain sides), of wetlands and riverbanks as priority interventions.

The proposed project is expected to contribute to resilience of ecosystems, agricultural production systems and other livelihood systems to impacts of climate change.



## **Demonstrating IWRM as a Tool for Drought Resilience in Uganda: Mushumba Community Initiatives for the Restoration of Kako and its Surroundings**

Within the framework of IDMP implementation, GWPEA has started the process of documenting and sharing knowledge about good case studies on drought resilience in the Horn of Africa, in selected countries including Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. It is against that background and purpose that GWPEA team undertook a field visit in August 2015 towards Mushumba Community Initiatives for Development (MCID), a community based organization located in Ryeru Sub County, Rubirizi district- in Uganda.

MCID was established in 2010 with a mission to improve the well-being of its members through community driven initiatives. The Mushumba community members have had water challenges for over a decade. The challenges were due to siltation from the degraded neighboring steep slopes causing turbidity and safety of the water. In 2012, MCID received financial support from the embassy of Japan in Uganda which constructed a pumped water system to provide clean and safe water for the communities. In 2013, the community organization received additional support USD 6000 from UNDP Uganda office to undertake interventions aimed at reducing siltation of Lake Kako

The main objectives of the interventions were to:

1. Restore and protect Lake Kako against siltation.
2. Reduce run-off resulting from degradation of the steep slopes surrounding L. Kako.
3. Promote sustainable alternative sources of energy for domestic cooking.

The stakeholders agreed to undertake the following actions to address some of the challenges.

1. Hold meetings to discuss potential interventions and carrying out sensitization of the community members around the L.Kako
2. Establish Mushumba community Lake Kako Management committee to oversee interventions on and around the lake
3. Explored ways of supporting farmers with inputs such as planting trees seedlings & ground cover plants on the steep slopes surrounding L.Kako
4. Raising awareness on sustainable renewable energy technologies that can easily be adopted and replicated

5. Identification and training of local artisans in solar cooker installation and maintenance
6. Identification of demonstration sites and installation of solar cookers as pilot initiatives

The assessment of GWPEA team on ground has evidenced that Mushumba Community Initiatives for Development (MCID) can be a good case study for Drought Resilience due to the following reasons:

- As far as the IWRM is concerned, the coordination of land use interventions will



Figure 5 : A farmer signs a MoU to express his commitment to change land use

promote sustainable water supply in the Lake Kako area. For example the interventions by the community such as tree planting and Vertiver grass growing along the slopes surrounding Lake Kako is protecting depletion of the lake water source. The communities are able to invest the time they

used to spend fetching water to better economic use and improve

their social welfare. At the same time, the interventions will help restore the degraded ecosystem.

It is worth noting that the establishment of Lake Kako Management Committee to oversee the activities on and around the lake during and after the project period has created a sense of project ownership. This has ensured continuation of activities. A larger part of the steep slopes within the surrounding areas need immediate attention with regard to activities that reduce land degradation. The needed actions include soil and land management measures like tree planting, terraces, mulching, digging trenches, and establish grass bands. These are important in reducing possibilities of occurrence of mudslides and landslides and severe run-off. Meanwhile, alternative livelihood sources and energy options like solar cooking technology that has proved to be an efficient sustainable energy source for domestic cooking need to be replicated.

## Enhancing Governance, Legal and Institutional Frameworks of Trans-boundary River/Lake Basin Organizations in Africa

From 28-30 September, GWPEA attended three days' workshop gathering members of the Coordination Bureau of African Network for River and Lake Basin Organizations (ANBO). The meeting took place in Kinshasa, DR Congo at Memling Hotel and was facilitated by ANBO /SITWA project.

The overall objective of the workshop was to review and discuss the consultancy report titled "Proposed options for institutional and governance structure of ANBO and its Regional Secretariat" and "Assessment of the legal and institutional needs of selected river/ lake basin organizations"

Members of ANBO Coordination critically reviewed the report conducted to assess the legal and institutional needs of selected Africa's L/RBOs and prepare a legal/institutional support roadmap for selected Africa's L-RBOs from the 60 major river and lake basins shared by two or more countries. A systematic and comprehensive study on all these river/lake basins, together with the prospects and problems for integrated multi-national development efforts of these basins, was conducted in a concerted manner.

In the selected rivers/lakes, consultants assessed the legal needs of basin organizations and carried out an in-depth documentary research. More specifically, the study focused on the following tasks:



Figure 6: Participants engaged in discussions

- Assess the current situation of the legal and institutional framework of the selected L /RBOs and the challenges that have hindered their effective management. This covered review of the agreements, management structure, legal and capacity needs;
- Identify the legal and institutional support required for the selected L/RBO;
- Elaborate on mechanisms/ plans for legal and institutional needs, required to support the Africa's L/RBOs in general, and in the select basins; and

- Develop a methodology to help SITWA Project and key partners to implement such support plans.

After review and discussion in details, members of ANBO coordination Bureau offered recommendations to improve the report and also agreed that the following L/Basin Organizations will be supported in line with the available budget amounting to Euros 60,000. The L/RBO's are River Medjerda for Algeria and Tunisia, ABAKIR, CICOS and IGAD water Unit.

Members of ANBO Coordination Bureau also discussed the report on the new ANBO governance and institutional structure based on existing strategic frameworks, decisions, consultation with key stakeholders and partners. The consultant was also requested to assess and substantiate and possible options for ANBO's governance structure and ANBO's secretariat and present them to the ANBO governance for consideration and decisions. Specifically, the consultant was requested to consider the ANBO statutes and Strategy (2015-2025), assist the ANBO and propose multiple scenarios for an overall ANBO governance structure by comparing different options;

Members of ANBO Coordination Bureau reviewed ten proposed institutional options and offered several recommendations for improvement.

## **Sharing Lessons and Best Practices in Trans-boundary Water Management: GWPEA at the World Water Week**

The 2015 World Water Week was held in Stockholm, Sweden from 23-26 August 2015. Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA) represented at this event by Kidanemariam Jembere, Regional Program Manager and Gerald Kairu, Regional Project Manager for IDMP\_HoA. The theme for this year was Water for Development.

The event attracted experts, practitioners, decision-makers, business innovators and young professionals from a range of sectors and countries, who came to Stockholm to network, exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions to the most pressing water-related challenges of today.

GWPEA team attended a number of sessions and made the following presentations:

- Presentation on building climate resilience of communities and ecosystems around Lake Cyohoha catchment.

From this representation there were key lessons learnt from WACDEP in the trans boundary Lake Cyohoha catchment, being used to influence policies and practices. The WACDEP program is being implemented within the national frameworks of water management and climate change adaptation in Burundi and Rwanda, it will be much easier to scale up lessons. Moreover, as Lake Cyohoha catchment is transboundary, the experiences from its management will inform management of bigger trans-boundary basins.

- Presentation on drought issues in the Horn of Africa- Enhancing drought resilience in the horn of Africa

The presentation highlighted the various policy and institutional frameworks that the IGAD countries are currently using and ways how to strengthen them. The presentation showed that national frameworks for drought risk management in the HOA countries are at different stages in terms of establishing national frameworks for managing drought resilience. However, with regard to capacity for implementation and other soft components, the HOA countries share similar priority areas of intervention. However, it was noted that all countries in the HOA region engage in key priority areas to building drought resilience such as capacity & partnerships building, early warning systems, mainstreaming drought resilience in government plans and regional cooperation for drought management.



Figure 7: Participants held various sessions

GWPEA team also participated in side meetings held with key partners such as UNDP, NELSAP, IGAD and the GWP-IGAD MOU implementation strategy drafted by GWPEA and shared with IGAD Secretariat for comments

## **Preparation of 5-years Capacity Development Program on Drought Resilience by GWPEA**

The increasing frequency and severity of droughts in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region is significantly impacting the economy of IGAD countries and people's livelihoods. Key sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, energy, water and transport are highly affected. A large part of the population, mainly composed of rural communities of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), is particularly vulnerable to drought, having a low resilience capacity. Other challenges include degradation of environmental and natural resources, a weak drought early warning system, policy gaps and inadequate institutional capacity in drought management. It is of primary importance to develop solutions aimed to enhance the resilience of countries, communities and ecosystems in the IGAD region.

The Global Water Partnership - Eastern Africa (GWP-EA) through the Integrated Drought Management Program in the Horn of Africa (IDMP HOA) is in a process of launching a 5 year capacity development program to address some of the identified drought challenges in the region. This is a follow up to the pilot regional training on applying Integrated Water Resource Management Tools for Drought Risk management that was held in June in Addis Ababa. The pilot training was organized by IDMP HOA in partnership with CAP-NET (Capacity development in sustainable water management Network) and the Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC) in Ethiopia.

The aim of the capacity development training is to strengthen the capacity of water and climate professionals in the IGAD region on drought disaster risk management, IWRM approach and on early warning systems to forecast climate-related risks. This capacity program is in line with IGAD priority intervention areas, contributing specifically to the attainment of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience Initiative (IDDRSI) framework.

The capacity building training is one of the IDMP HOA activities focused on promoting drought resilience and contributing to on-going efforts in drought management in the IGAD region. The training is a follow up to the regional workshops organized in August 2014 by UN-Water, WMO, FAO, and UNCCD as part of the UN-Water Initiative "Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies".

The targeted countries for the capacity program are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Somalia. Other countries from the Nile region such as Burundi, Congo, Egypt and Rwanda will be also included. The target audiences for the

training are participants from the water/climate change/disaster related ministries, agencies, academia, civil society and private sector, among others.

The capacity development initiative is attracting partners to support and get involved in the program. Partners who have already expressed interest include GWPEA, CAP-NET, IGAD, IGAD Climate and Prediction Application Centre (ICPAC) and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC).