



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present the latest edition of our newsletter, highlighting key activities and milestones achieved during the fourth quarter of the 2024–2025 fiscal year.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) for their continued partnership and support. Through this collaboration, RWB received advanced laboratory equipment for water quality monitoring, under the NBI's NCCR Project. This significant addition will greatly enhance our technical capacity.

Under the Volcano Community Resilience Project, we installed advanced telemetry stations to strengthen our water monitoring system, setting the basis for development of the flood early warning system in

the Volcano Region. Complementary efforts in landscape restoration are also progressing well.

Beyond technical work, RWB joined national commemorations of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, reaffirming our commitment to unity and peace.

We also celebrated the International Labour Day by acknowledging our staff's dedication and excellence.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work.

RICHARD NYIRISHEMA
EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON



RWB BOOSTS WATER QUALITY MONITORING WITH NEW EQUIPMENT WORTH \$138,886

The Rwanda Water Resources Board has taken a significant step forward in strengthening its water quality monitoring system following the reception of advanced laboratory equipment and water quality sensors under the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project.

The NCCR project is designed to help Nile Basin countries collectively address increasing water quality challenges by enhancing national monitoring systems and promoting regional cooperation in the basin.

As part of this regional initiative, Rwanda received advanced laboratory and field equipment capable of measuring a broad spectrum of water quality parameters. The consignment includes handheld devices, general laboratory instruments such as multi-parameter meters, precision balances, bacteriological kits, physical chemistry toolkits, sediment samplers, ICT tools, and four real-time water quality sensors.

These sensors are installed at strategic monitoring sites: Akagera-Kanzenze Bridge, Akanyaru/Gihinga, Muvumba River/Kagitumba, and the Akagera outlet. The sensors will enable real-time data transmission, enhancing timely detection and response to water quality issues. The total value of the equipment delivered

to Rwanda stands at USD 138,886.18, approximately 200 million Rwandan Francs.

Speaking during the equipment reception, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Director General of Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), emphasized the importance of the support in advancing Rwanda's national water monitoring capacity.

"This equipment comes at a critical time when water quality challenges are becoming more complex due to climate change and population growth. With these tools, we will be better equipped to collect reliable data, respond more swiftly to water pollution, and contribute meaningfully to regional efforts in managing shared water resources," Dr. Rukundo said.

He added: "We thank the Nile Basin Initiative and the World Bank for their continued partnership and commitment to strengthening transboundary cooperation in the Nile Basin."

This milestone marks a major advancement in Rwanda's efforts to protect and sustainably manage its water resources, while reinforcing regional collaboration for a healthier and more resilient Nile Basin.



RWB DEPLOYS ADVANCED WATER RADAR SENSORS THE IN THE VOLCANO REGION

The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) has initiated the installation, configuration, and calibration of advanced radar sensors (RQ30-ADMS) in flood-prone areas of the Volcano Region, as part of the Volcanoes Community Resilience Project (VCRP).

In recent years, this region has witnessed an increase in the frequency and intensity of flooding events, resulting in loss of lives, destruction of infrastructure, and disruption of livelihoods.

To address these growing threats, RWB is implementing the Volcanoes Community Resilience Project (VCRP); a multi-district initiative targeting Musanze, Burera, Rutsiro, Rubavu, Nyabihu, Ngororero, Muhanga, and Gakenke Districts.

The project aims to strengthen climate resilience, improve natural resource management, and safeguard vital tourism assets across the Volcanoes and Vunga corridor regions.

Under Sub-Component 1.2 of the project, VCRP is prioritizing the development of a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) to reduce the risks posed by recurrent floods.

At the heart of this system is the deployment of 15 advanced hydrological telemetric stations equipped with RQ30-ADMS radar sensors.

These sensors are being strategically placed in high-risk areas to collect and transmit real-time hydrological data, supporting accurate flood forecasting and enabling timely emergency responses.

So far, eleven stations have already been installed at the rivers/gullies/streams of Nyamutera, Nyamukongoro, Mizingo, Nyundo-Sebeya, Karambo-Mahoko, Kinoni-Byangabo, Cyuve, Nyabutoshwa, Mpenge, Kagere, Muhabura-Mbandama located in Burera, Musanze, Nyabihu and Rubavu Districts.

The new radar sensors represent a significant technological upgrade from previous systems. While earlier sensors offered basic water level monitoring, the RQ30-ADMS units provide both water level and flow measurements with high precision.

They also feature remote connectivity via IP technology, allowing technical teams to monitor, reconfigure, and troubleshoot systems remotely, enhancing efficiency



RWB HOSTS 7TH MUVUMBA PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN NYAGATARE DISTRICT

Nyagatare, May 21, 2025 – The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) convened the 7th Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program at the dam construction site in Nyagatare District.

This meeting followed the 11th session of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), held a day earlier at the RWB headquarters in Kigali. Both gatherings are part of a coordinated effort to monitor and guide the implementation of the Muvumba Program, which aims to enhance water security and climate resilience in Eastern Rwanda.

Chaired by Ms. Beatrice Cyiza, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, the Steering Committee reviewed progress on dam construction, provided strategic and technical guidance, and approved the program's 2025/2026 annual work plan and budget.

Prior to the meeting discussions, members of the Steering Committee toured the site to inspect the ongoing works, including the excavation for the embankment dam, spillway, diversion conduit, batching plant, and the designated permanent dumping site.

Welcoming the committee members, RWB Executive Chairperson Mr. Richard Nyirishema thanked them for their

continued commitment to the program's success and stressed the importance of addressing project challenges collaboratively.

“Challenges are not something we hope for, but they are a reality in complex infrastructure projects,” said Mr. Nyirishema. “That is why this committee exists to review those challenges, propose timely solutions, and ensure that what can't be resolved at this level is escalated to decision-makers. We are here to ensure this project is delivered efficiently and on time.”

In her remarks, Ms. Beatrice Cyiza urged committee members to maintain continuous engagement beyond formal meetings, stressing that their oversight role is vital to the project's timely delivery.

“We should not wait for the next meeting to contribute,” said Ms. Cyiza. “As committee members, we have a responsibility to provide ongoing technical support wherever challenges arise, so that the project meets its targets as planned.”

Once completed, the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam will store up to 55 million cubic meters of water, supporting the irrigation of 9,000 hectares, providing water for livestock, and supplying 50,000 cubic meters per day for domestic use. Additionally, the dam is expected to generate 6,939 MWh of electricity annually.



RWB STAFF CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY

On May 23, 2025, the senior management and staff of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) came together to celebrate International Labour Day, under the theme “Job Creation Our Shared Priority.”

This day served as an opportunity for the staff and leadership to reflect on the achievements of the past five years since the establishment of RWB, express their appreciation, and renew their commitment to service.

During the celebration, the Executive Chairperson of RWB, Eng. Richard Nyirishema commended staff for their professionalism, commitment, and hard work in executing their responsibilities.

Outstanding employees from divisions and department were recognized, and Mr. Christian Nkurunziza, the Catchment Management Specialist emerged as the best employee of the Year 2024-2025. He was awarded a cash prize and certificate in recognition of his exemplary performance and dedication.

Mushinzimana Jean Marie Vianney, who served as the Catchment Management

Specialist at the Rwanda Water Resources Board, was honored for his invaluable contribution as he recently retired.

In his remarks, Eng. Richard Nyirishema, Executive Chairperson of RWB, emphasized the institution’s ongoing commitment to staff development.

“We are committed to empowering our workforce,” he added. “Together with our partners, we will continue to create opportunities for training both locally and internationally. But growth must be shared, those who receive training are expected to return and uplift their colleagues. That’s how we build lasting institutional strength.”

For RWB, celebrating International Labour Day is more than a symbolic gesture. It is a meaningful moment to reaffirm the organization’s mission, recognize individual and collective contributions, identify areas for improvement, and inspire continued excellence in the management of Rwanda’s water resources.



DRIVEN BY DEDICATION: MEET CHRISTIAN NKURUNZIZA, RWB'S EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2024-2025

Q1: How did you feel when you heard your name announced as Employee of the Year?

I felt Elated. It was a humbling moment that reminded me that consistency, even when unnoticed, eventually gets recognized.

Q2: What do you think made the biggest difference in your work this past year?

Staying focused, working collaboratively with colleagues, maintaining discipline in all tasks, being patient with long-term projects, and above all, staying fully dedicated to the mission of RWB.

Q3: What's your favourite project you've worked on at RWB?

Most all projects related to landscape restoration were good, but both VCRP and CND were the best.

Q4: What's one thing most colleagues don't know about you?

I am a good FIELD ANALYST

Q5: What's your secret to staying productive?

I never give up on any task once I've started. I believe in pushing through challenges and staying committed until the work is done and done well.

Q6: One word that describes your year at RWB?

Dedicated

Q7: What's your favourite field memory from this year?

Identification and mapping of the potential areas for landscape restoration interventions in the Congo Nile Divide Project.

Q8: Outside of work, what do you enjoy doing most?

My day begins with prayer, though my greatest enjoyment lies in sports (both playing and watching)

Q9: Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

R10: Like anyone else, I aspire to grow beyond my current level. Over the next five years, I want to deliver even better service than I do today while also achieving a higher income

Q10: Any advice to fellow staff aiming for next year's award?

Be hardworking, remain cooperative with your team, and above all, embrace a disciplined and proactive approach to every responsibility. Consistency really does pay off.



RWB CONDUCTS GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS TO ENHANCE GROUNDWATER MAPPING

The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), in collaboration with UNICEF, has conducted a comprehensive geophysical survey in Burera District to enhance groundwater mapping, alongside optimized borehole siting in Nyagatare and Gatsibo Districts.

This effort lays in the RWB's effort to enhance groundwater mapping and improve access to sustainable and well managed water sources.

These surveys build upon the previous studies such as the 2019 Groundwater Recharge and Storage Enhancement in Eastern Province and the 2024 Groundwater Mapping in the Eastern Province and Amayaga Region.

In the fourth quarter of the 2024/2025 fiscal year, RWB collected resistivity data covering a total of 5 kilometers in Burera District to support ongoing groundwater mapping. In addition, borehole siting optimization was carried out in Nyagatare and Gatsibo Districts, targeting high-scarcity zones highlighted in red and yellow on the national water shortage

maps.

These recent interventions built upon RWB's earlier contributions to expanding groundwater mapping across the country. Prior to this phase, similar geophysical data collection had been undertaken in the districts of Nyabihu, Musanze, and Rubavu, where a total of 26.05 kilometers of resistivity survey lines were completed, 10.01 km in Nyabihu, 15.04 km in Musanze, and 1 km in Rubavu.

To date, sixteen districts have been surveyed, including Nyagatare, Gatsibo, Kayanza, Ngoma, Kirehe, Rwamagana, Bugesera, Kamonyi, Nyanza, Gisagara, Ruhango, Burera, Gicumbi, and Nyamasheke, along with additional coverage in Nyabihu and Musanze.

This work, which maps aquifers, refines groundwater data, and identifies sustainable water sources for communities, is set to expand to other districts.

Such initiatives underscore RWB's strong commitment to ensuring the availability and sustainable management of Rwanda's water resources in support of the country's



KWIBUKA 31: STAFF URGED TO FIGHT AGAINST GENOCIDE

IDEOLOGY

May 16, 2025 – The management and staff of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) joined other institutions based at Nyarugenge Pension Plaza in commemorating the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The event took place at Ntarama Genocide Memorial in Bugesera District, the ceremony honored the memory of over 5,000 victims laid to rest at the Memorial.

The ceremony began with a solemn tour of the Ntarama Genocide Memorial, where over 500 staff from Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Emergency, National Land Authority, Rwanda Water Resources Board and Rwanda Meteorology Agency, learned how Tutsis who sought refuge in the former Catholic church were tragically massacred at the very site they hoped would offer safety.

In his address, Minister of Emergency Management, Hon. Maj Gen (Rtd) Albert Murasira on behalf of all the Staff emphasized that remembrance is not only about reflecting on the tragic past, but also about taking responsibility to ensure

a more united and just future.

“When we gather to remember, it is a moment to reflect on the horrors of the Genocide and to strengthen our resolve to uproot genocide ideology,” he said.

“Many of those who planned and carried out the Genocide were public servants, individuals who instead of protecting their fellow citizens, turned against them. This was a sign of poor leadership and lack of moral judgment.”

He urged all leaders and staff present to use their roles to promote unity and actively resist any forms of discrimination or divisionism.

“As public servants today, we must stand together, advocate for what is right, and take a firm stand against all forms of genocide ideology, denial, and revisionism,” he added.

The commemoration concluded with a strong call for institutional responsibility in safeguarding memory. By coming together, these institutions reaffirmed their shared commitment to preserving historical truth, promoting unity, and fighting genocide ideology in all its forms, ensuring that the genocide never happen again.



RWB TRAINS COMMUNITY FACILITATORS FOR VILLAGE LAND USE ACTION PLANS

May 30, 2025 — The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) has successfully trained community facilitators who will, in turn, lead the development of Village Land Use Action Plans (VLUAPs) in their respective areas, as part of the INTEGO Facility program, supported by the Rwanda Green Fund, which aims to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation while improving community livelihoods.

The training is designed to empower communities in the districts of Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Nyagatare, Karongi, Nyamasheke, and Rulindo to take ownership of sustainable land management practices and enhance catchment-level planning.

In his opening remarks, Bernard Musana Segatagara, Head of the Knowledge and Forecasting Hub Department at RWB, commended the participants for their commitment and underscored the importance of their role in transforming local planning practices.

“These Village Land Use Action Plans are more than just documents — they are tools for real change. Your role as facilitators is to ignite a shift in mindset, encouraging communities to take ownership of their land and plan for long-term sustainability,” he said. “The success of this program lies in

your ability to mobilize, educate, and lead with purpose.”

The training focused on equipping facilitators with practical skills for engaging communities in the planning process, ensuring that all citizens, regardless of gender or background, are actively involved.

One of the key lessons emphasized was the importance of inclusive participation, particularly the need to create safe spaces for both men and women to express their ideas.

Facilitators were encouraged to apply gender-sensitive methods, as it was observed that in some cases, separating men and women during group discussions helps ensure that all voices are equally heard. This approach is essential for developing action plans that genuinely reflect the needs and priorities of entire communities.

The VLUAPs will serve as roadmaps for implementing climate resilience interventions focused on soil erosion and flood control, including the construction of radical and progressive terraces, catchment restoration, reforestation and afforestation, agroforestry, and rainwater harvesting.



RWB ADVANCES KEY INTERVENTIONS UNDER THE VOLCANOES

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT

The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) is actively engaging in the implementation of the Volcanoes Community Resilience Project (VCRP), a major government-led initiative financed by the World Bank.

The project aims to strengthen climate resilience, reduce flood risks, and promote sustainable natural resource management across the Volcanoes Region.

Structured around its core objectives; to strengthen climate resilience, reduce flood risks, and improve the management of natural resources and tourism assets in Rwanda's Volcanoes Region, the project seeks to deliver integrated solutions that enhance both ecosystem health and community well-being.

As of Quarter 4 of the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the project has recorded significant progress. In Musanze, Nyabihu, and Rubavu Districts, a total of 60 Village Land Use Action Plans have been developed. These localized plans will guide sustainable land use and support communities to better manage land and natural resources in line with climate adaptation goals.

In efforts to combat soil erosion and boost agricultural productivity, 57 hectares of radical terraces have been constructed alongside the development of 232.9

hectares of trenches within existing forested areas. These activities have also contributed to local employment, with 1,335 casual workers hired, including 800 women and 535 men, reflecting the project's inclusive approach to job creation.

Progress is also being made in agroforestry, with 446,188 tree seedlings currently under preparation for planting across 1,361.5 hectares in the target districts. This activity, which is already 60% complete, is set to be finalized during the upcoming rainy season and will contribute to long-term landscape restoration.

To address water scarcity and reduce surface runoff, the project is installing rainwater harvesting systems for vulnerable households. Out of the 380 plastic tanks planned, 200 have already been installed in Musanze District.

In support of rural livelihoods, 10 cows have been distributed to selected poor households in Nyabihu District an intervention designed to improve household nutrition and income through sustainable livestock production.

Through these coordinated activities, RWB continues to contribute to the success of the Volcanoes Community Resilience Project.



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