



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024, ISSUE



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FORWARD

Dear Readers;

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I present to you the latest edition of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) newsletter, showcasing our ongoing efforts and achievements in advancing water security and sustainable development in Rwanda for the benefit of our nation and its people.

First and foremost, RWB has launched the Inter-Universities Modelling Hackathon that stands as a testament to our dedication to harnessing the creative potential of Rwanda's youth. By engaging students from diverse academic backgrounds, we aim to cultivate a culture of innovation and data-driven decision-making in addressing pressing challenges in water resources management.

In this newsletter, we present to you the progress made in the implementation of the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program. With the support from the Government of Rwanda and the African Development Bank, we are making significant strides in infrastructure

development, including the construction of a dam that will provide water for irrigation, domestic use, and hydropower generation. It is a milestone in our efforts to meet the increasing water demand of our communities; thus, the mid-term review.

Moreover, our proactive measures to mitigate the risk of floods demonstrate our unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of Rwandan citizens.

As we enter the rainy season, we remain vigilant in our efforts to provide timely warnings and guidance to citizens at risk of flooding.

Rwanda Water Resources Board is committed to advancing the sustainable management of water resources, fostering innovation, and promoting resilience in the face of climate change. With the continued support of our partners and the dedication of our team, we are confident in our ability to build a more water-secure and prosperous future for Rwanda.

DR. EMMANUEL RUKUNDO
DIRECTOR GENERAL



RWB AND ARCOS JOIN EFFORTS TO LAUNCH A WATER RESOURCES MODELLING HACKATHON

Kigali, 03 April 2024 - The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), in collaboration with the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), launched an Inter-Universities Modelling Hackathon aimed at revolutionizing water resources management approaches.

This groundbreaking event, marked the beginning of a journey to bring together innovative young minds from various universities in Rwanda, converging their talents in undergraduate and postgraduate programs related to water resources, natural resources management, urban planning, and geography, other related field to tackle real-world challenges.

Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Director of RWB, expressed high hopes for the event, stating, "We have great expectations from the innovative solutions and young talents that will be showcased during this hackathon. It is essential for us to harness the innovative potential of our youth to address pressing issues in water management."

"We also extend our gratitude to our partner,

ARCOS, for their invaluable collaboration and support in this initiative." He added

The launch event provided a platform to introduce the Inter-Universities Modelling Hackathon, which will span over a period of four months and will encourage participants to develop data-driven solutions that address critical aspects of water resources conservation and sustainability.

The objectives of the event are multifaceted, aiming to promote sustainable water resources management, build capacity for talented youth, foster innovation for resilience, and promote data-driven decision-making.

Through this collaborative effort, RWB and ARCOS aim to foster innovative solutions towards resilience, and data-driven decision-making in water resources management together with biodiversity preservation practices, resilience to climate change and raise awareness through education.

The Inter-Universities Modelling Hackathon represents a significant step forward in Rwanda's efforts towards achieving sustainable water resources management practices.



RWB HOSTS THE MID-TERM REVIEW FOR MMWRDP

23rd April 2024: The Director General of Rwanda Resources Board, Dr Emmanuel Rukunda, chaired a mid-term review meeting for the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program.

The meeting attended by the African Development Fund delegates, program staff took the opportunity to present the implementation status with the progress made so far.

Additionally, the Rwanda Water Resources Board Deputy Director General, Evariste Nsabimana and African Development Bank Country Manager, Aissa Toure Sarr participated in a field visit to further understand the current status.

The Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program is financed by the Government of Rwanda and African Development Bank it aims to construct a dam that impounds 55 million m³ of water.

The water will be used for irrigation of 9,640 ha, livestock watering, supply 50,000 m³/day water for domestic water use, and a 1MW hydropower plant..





RUSIZI CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTED

The Rusizi Catchment Management Committee has elected its leaders who will assume responsibilities for the next two years.

The election occurred during the Rusizi Catchment meeting, hosted by the Rwanda Water Resources Board.

In his address, Bernard Musana, Head of the Knowledge and Forecasting Hub Department, emphasized that international best practices in water resource management underscore the importance of involving and engaging water users and stakeholders in decision-making processes.

Joseph Desire Muhayeyezu, Vice Mayor in Charge of Economic Development of Nyamasheke District, was elected as President, while Anne Marie Dukuzumuremyi, Ag. Vice Mayor in Charge of Economic Development of Rusizi District, became the Vice-President.

Albert Sengambi, Director of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Unit of Nyamasheke District, assumed the role of Secretary, and Philippe Uwambajimana, Director of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Unit of Nyaruguru District, alongside Vivine Uwamahoro, Land Administration Officer

of Rusizi District, were voted as Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator respectively.

The Chairperson of the Rusizi Catchment Committee expressed readiness to assume responsibility and pledged to deliver their best as the new committee.

The Rusizi Catchment is among the nine level one catchments identified by the Rwanda National Water Resources Master Plan of October 2015.





RWB HIGHLIGHTS MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURES ESTABLISHED TO CURB FLOODS IN RUBAVU

The Rwanda Water Resources Board has recently announced that the measures put in place to prevent floods caused by the Sebeya River have had a significant impact on Rubavu District.

In May 2023, Rubavu District was hit by heavy rainfall, which led to dangerous floods caused by the Sebeya River.

Following this incident, the Rwanda Water Resources Board implemented various measures to prevent future flooding in the area.

One of the measures taken was the construction of the Sebeya retention dam, which can hold up to 2 million cubic meters of water and release it gradually.

“Sebeya Retention Dam marked a pivotal milestone in flood mitigation efforts. The dam functions to control the release of water through slowly ensuring a controlled flow downstream,” Said Director General, Emmanuel Rukundo

In addition to the retention dam, the Rwanda Water Resources Board built retention walls

on 7 of the 14 identified hotspots, covering nearly 1.3 km.

These walls were designed to reinforce vulnerable areas and reduce the risk of further flooding. The remaining hotspots will also be addressed in the coming fiscal year.

The rehabilitation of the Gisunyu Gully involved the creation of a network of ponds, including one main pond and 94 smaller ponds, with a total detention capacity of 2,500 cubic meters.

The Nyundo Bridge was also upgraded by the Rwanda Transport Development Agency (RTDA), which significantly increased its conveyance capacity from 12 to 80 cubic meters. Wing walls were also constructed upstream and downstream to redirect overtopping water back into the channel, mitigating the risk of structural damage.



RWB PREDICTS FLOODING AS HEAVY RAINS CONTINUE

Rwanda Water Resources warned Rwanda citizens of predicted potential floods during the rainy season of May.

According to Rwanda Meteorology Agency, it's expected that during the 1st dekad of May 2024, Rwanda will have a rainfall ranging between 40 and 200 mm.

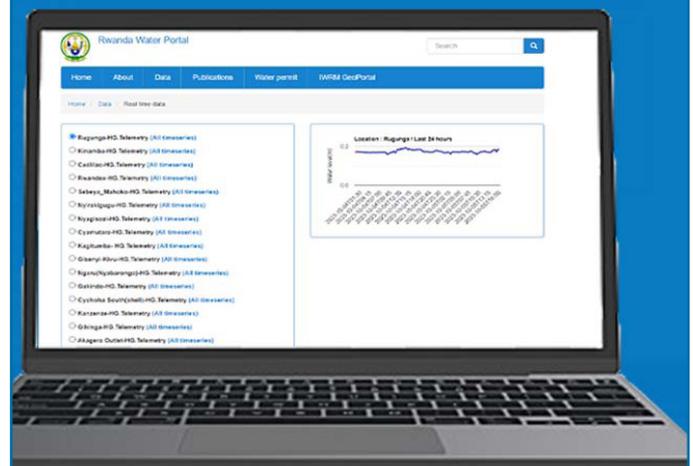
Rwanda Water Resources Board forecast that this rain will cause flood in some Rivers in the country namely Sebeya, Karambo, Nyabahanga, Kabirizi, Nyabarongo, Mwogo, Mukungwa, Rubyiro, Cyagara,

Gullies in the volcano regions of Burera, Musanze, Nyabihu, and Rubavuas and rivers in the Virunga Corridor could also cause floods.

Rwanda Water Resources Board advised people who dwell in high-risk zones to relocate and avoid frequenting the buffer zones.

All citizens are urged to stay informed via www.rwb.wateroptal.rw

FOLLOW REAL-TIME SURFACE & GROUND WATER LEVELS



www.waterportal.rwb.rw

CALL FOR WATER RESOURCES MODELLING

HACKATHON 2024



PARTICIPANTS

All undergraduate and master's students enrolled in universities, IPRCs and other high learning institutions in water resources, climate, urban planning and geography related programs.



HACKATHON

The participants will use HEC-HMS or SWAT model to produce a well calibrated hydrological model for one of the following level 2.5 Rwandan sub catchments: Kamiranzovu, Sebeya Pfunda, Sebeya Bihongoro and Mbirurume. The competitors will use a set of data from the available data sources local or global datasets.



ENTRY & PRE-SELECTION

The registration period to the competition is from 3rd March to 15th April, 2024 Participants are required to submit a filled form available at www.rwb.rw together with a valid student card. -The pre-selected students will be notified not later than 19th April,2024



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Source and quality of data
- Model parameterization
- Model calibration
- Results interpretation and its use in water resources management



AWARDS

1st winner: 1,000,000 RWF | 2nd winner: 800,000 RWF | 3rd winner: 600,000 RWF
4th winner: 500,000 RWF | 5th Winner: 400,000 RWF | 6th Winner: 300,000 RWF
7th winner: 200,000 RWF



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