



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024, ISSUE



**RIGHT HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER DR. NGIRENTE URGES RWANDANS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST EROSION**

P3

**RWB HOSTS WORKSHOP FOR THE FINAL PRESENTATION OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN MBUYE, RUHANGO DISTRICT**

P4

**RWB URGED HOT SPRING INVESTORS TO APPLY FOR WATER PERMIT**

P5

**RWB HOSTS INCEPTION MEETING FOR "STRENGTHENING GROUNDWATER MONITORING IN**

P7



# FORWARD

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the latest edition of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) newsletter.

Within these pages, we highlight some of the most notable achievements and initiatives that have taken place in our ongoing commitment to sustainable water resource management.

A significant milestone in this journey stems from the timely directive issued by the Right Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente, during the 19th National Dialogue Council/Umushyikirano. In his remarks, he urged Rwandans to actively combat soil erosion, thus aligning with our ongoing initiatives in catchment restoration and erosion control.

This underscores the vital role citizens play in mitigating rainwater-related disasters. In addition, a noteworthy accomplishment in this pursuit is the successful completion of the "Master Plan for Water Resources Development in Mbuye, Ruhango District."

This marks a considerable step forward in providing a sustainable solution to water scarcity in the Amayaga region.

Furthermore, RWB has implemented guidelines mandating permits for investors interested in capitalizing on hot springs tourism resources nationwide. These measures prioritize the safety of both local communities and tourists.

In the domain of groundwater management, the Rwanda Water Resources Board, in collaboration with UNICEF Rwanda and IGRAC, has launched the "Strengthening Groundwater Monitoring in Rwanda" project. This collaborative effort aims to monitor and model the country's groundwater resources, addressing challenges such as over-abstraction, contamination, and changes in land use.

We trust that the stories contained in this edition will inspire you. RWB remains steadfast in its commitment to the responsible management and conservation of Rwanda's water resources, and we

**DR. EMMANUEL RUKUNDO**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**



## PM DR. NGIRENTE URGES RWANDANS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST EROSION

Right Honorable Prime Minister, Dr. Edouard Ngirente has urged all citizens to actively participate in the fight against erosion and other rain-water related disasters.

He made this remarked during the 19th national dialogue concoul/ Umushyikirano, which took place from 23rd to 24th January 2024, at Kigali Convention Center.

Right Honorable Prime Minister, mentioned that various disaster events arise from mountains which have been degraded by human made action.

“People have illegally cut down trees on the mountain through which rainwater flows, and you can also observe others who have degraded trenches.” PM Dr. Ngirente stated

Right Honorable Prime Minister, urged all Rwandan citizens to abandon the mentioned habits and adopt sustainable environmental protection practices, such as afforestation and establishing trenches, among others.

“We encourage every citizen to establish trenches on their land and plant grasses to control erosion. It has been proven that these grasses can also serve as fodder for animals. Fighting against disaster include afforestation, every should have plants in his or her land.” He said

As per the 2022 State of Erosion in Rwanda Report, the primary factors influencing the extent of soil erosion encompass land use and vegetation cover, topography, soil, and climate.



## RWB HOSTS WORKSHOP FOR THE FINAL PRESENTATION OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN MBUYE, RUHANGO DISTRICT

19th January 2024: Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) Director General, Dr Emmanuel Rukundo, presided over a workshop for the final presentation of deliverables of the "Master Plan for Water Resources Development in Mbuye, Ruhango District.

This project is under implementation plan between Rwanda Water Resources Board(RWB) and Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute(KEITI).

The project consultant (SAMAN) presented the findings of the Masterplan for water resources development and two Pre-Feasibility Study reports of selected multipurpose dams which can be implemented in the study area for providing clean water to the community, irrigation, hydropower and flood control in Mukunguri catchment (part of Amayaga/drought prone region).

Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) Director General, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Expressed his gratitude to the Korea Environment Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI) for financing the project.

"Your financial contributions have not only funded this Masterplan project but have also sown the seeds of hope for countless lives of Amayaga region; a drought prone area where this project is being implemented." Dr Emmanuel Rukundo said

He expressed his belief that the envisioned multipurpose dam will play a vital role in delivering clean and accessible water to communities, in addition to serving as a source of energy and enhancing agricultural productivity through effective irrigation methods.

It is expected that after securing funds, the



## RWB URGED HOT SPRING INVESTORS TO APPLY FOR WATER PERMIT

The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) has mandated that investors looking to profit from hot springs tourism resources throughout the country must now apply for permits. This is to ensure the safety of the local community and tourists who seek recreational activities from the hot water resources.

The hot springs water was scientifically proven to contain a lot of minerals that can heal various illnesses and complications like muscle disorders, and various skin diseases.

People were managing and making use of hot springs in terms of recreational activities and healing without permits from Rwanda Water Resources Board according to the 2018 water law. This led to accidents. Permits are mandatory to avoid accidents involving tourists and local community members in the hot springs," Vital Munyandinda, said the Water Permits Division Manager at the water resources board."

He noted that the hot springs protection involves hygiene and sanitation, safety, and improved facilities for the tourists.

"Rwanda Development Board and districts can direct investors to us so that we can give them permits as long as they fulfill all

requirements. The investors should have well-trained technicians to ensure the safety of hot springs tourists, and we can guide them on the training," he said.

According to the guidelines, the investors seeking to make use of hot springs should write to the Rwanda Water Resources Board and send a copy to the district management.

The investors are also required to have a water permit use invoice, registration certificate, Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate, and a map showing demarcation for their project.

"Those given permits should fence the area with hot springs, observe the level of heat in the hot springs water before allowing users, and ensure hygiene and sanitation of the water," the guidelines say.

The guidelines also include monitoring demarcations and depth of hot springs to prevent drowning accidents.

Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) ordered investors to have well-trained security, and rescue officers with the required equipment to ensure the security and safety of hot springs users.



## RWB INTERNS UNVEIL THEIR RESEARCH FINDINGS

5th January 2024: Ange Shimirwa & J. Paul Urwibutso, interns based at Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), presented the findings of their research "Assessing the impacts of existing catchment restoration measures on water quality and biodiversity of Lake Kivu in Rutsiro District, Koko River sub-catchment".

The presentation took place in presence of staff from Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) and ARCOS Network staff.

These two young researchers have been on mission to identify existing catchment restoration measures including their types, extent, and dates of implementation, to

Assess impacts of those measures on water change quality (Temperature, pH, DO, TDS, TSS, Phosphate, Nitrite, turbidity) on koko river and biodiversity near inlet of lake kivu.

Their study has also focused on assessing impacts of those restoration measures on sedimentation of koko river sub catchment as well as assessing farmer's awareness on existing catchment restoration measures.

This research is under the Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project, through the agreement signed between ARCOS and Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB).





## RWB HOSTS INCEPTION MEETING FOR “STRENGTHENING GROUNDWATER MONITORING IN RWANDA” PROJECT

30th January 2024: the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) organized an inception meeting for the Strengthening Groundwater Monitoring in Rwanda project, bringing together various stakeholders involved in the groundwater field.

This initiative is a collaborative effort between UNICEF Rwanda and IGRAC, with the objective of assisting the Rwanda Water Resources Board in monitoring and modeling the country’s groundwater resources.

The Strengthening Groundwater Monitoring in Rwanda project is crucial as the country heavily relies on groundwater, facing challenges such as over-abstraction, contamination, and changes in land use.

Key components of the program include assessing the current status of groundwater monitoring and analyzing existing data collected by RWB for decision-making purposes.

The project will also evaluate the variability of surface and groundwater through the analysis of existing data, providing valuable insights for water resources planning in the context of climate change.

Additionally, it aims to train key stakeholders in the use of the MODFLOW model and identify suitable sites for the installation of additional groundwater monitoring. It will also involve the preparation of specifications for the required equipment.



## MEDIA REVIEW

- Kigali: Rwf2Obn needed for 'ecotourism lake' in Masaka. [Read more](#)
- RWB yikomye abavogera amazi y'amashyuza batabyemerewe. [Soma](#)
- Amashyuza agiye kujya acungirwa umutekano. [Soma](#)
- Govt mandates permits for hot spring investors. [Read more](#)
- Hasohotse amabwiriza agenga ikoreshwa ry'amazi y'amashyuza. [Reba amashusho](#)
- FEATURED: How improved infrastructure has saved Nyabugogo from devastating floods. [Read more](#)
- Main polluters of four major lakes revealed: What next? [Read more](#)

PREPARED BY: ARSENE MUVUNYI - PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER



**RWB**

Rwanda Water  
Resources Board

Nyarugenge Pension Plaza

Toll Free: 9977 | [www.rwb.rw](http://www.rwb.rw) | [info@rwb.rw](mailto:info@rwb.rw) X: @RwandaWater