



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER ISSUE



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
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Rwanda Water
Resources Board



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FORWARD

Dear readers,

I am thrilled to share with you the latest developments and accomplishments of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) in our November Newsletter.

Last month marked a significant achievement as the Nile Basin Initiative officially handed over six hydrological monitoring stations to the RWB. Strategically positioned across various regions, these stations will play a pivotal role in tracking water levels, flow rates, and other pertinent parameters.

I had the privilege of a courtesy visit to the Senate's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and Security.

Alongside key members of the RWB leadership, we presented the crucial role of the RWB in implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The committee expressed keen interest in our efforts to comply with UN climate change agreements.

I am delighted to announce a substantial stride in our collaboration with the ARCOS

Network through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed earlier this year. Through the Center of Excellence initiative, we are actively shaping the future of water resources management by providing training opportunities to young researchers.

The RWB continues its collaboration with the African Development Bank to ensure the results-oriented implementation of the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program in Nyagatare District.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all our partners, stakeholders, and the dedicated team at RWB for their unwavering commitment to advancing water resource management in Rwanda.

DR. EMMANUEL RUKUNDO
DIRECTOR GENERAL



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE HANDED OVER SIX HYDROLOGICAL MONITORING STATIONS

16 November 2023: The Nile Basin Initiative has officially handed over six hydrological monitoring stations to the Rwanda Water Resources Board, which are poised to monitor and collect data related to water levels, flow rates and other relevant parameters.

This ceremony was held in Kigali and was attended by the Rwanda Water Resources Board Director General, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo and the Nile Basin Initiative Executive Director, Dr. Grace

The six Hydrological Monitoring stations handed over Rwanda Water Resources Board are Akanyaru (Gihinga), Muvumba (Kagitumba), Nyabarongo (Kanzenze), Cyohoha (Shell), Akagera outlet, and Rweru (Gakindo).

these stations, provide essential data including: Water resources assessment and planning and allocation to competing interests, flood forecasting and early warning information to enhance Community preparedness and disaster risk reduction, Drought severity assessment and forecasting Forecasting of Power production for hydropower stations,

support river navigation and transport advisory to shipping agencies. Enhance joint transboundary studies and information sharing.

In his remarks, Rwanda Water Resources Board Director General, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo commended the Nile Basin Initiative and other partners for their contribution in establishing these very important infrastructures in water resources management.

"I therefore commend all the partners, particularly, the Ministry of Environment, The Nile Basin Initiative, the European Union through GIZ and Rwanda Water Resources Board for the establishment of such a transboundary monitoring system to enable a holistic monitoring of water in the country and the basin. This effort goes a long way in complementing our monitoring strategy as a country." Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo said.

The Nile Basin Initiative Executive Director, Grace, has extended his appreciation to Rwanda for being the first country to finish the establishment of these Hydrological Monitoring stations.



AFDB ASSESSING PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MUVUMBA MULTIPURPOSE WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The African Development Bank (AfDB) team recently conducted an assessment of the progress of the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Program, currently being implemented by the Rwanda Water Resources Board.

On November 22nd , 2023, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director-General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board, presided over a meeting encompassing various topics, including the advancement of implementation, financial management, procurement, and gender-related considerations.

The subsequent day saw Winnie Wairimu, the AfDB Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant, engaging with members of the Grievance Redress Committees for the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Development program in Nyagatare District.

During the meeting, committee members detailed the election process and their role in aiding community members in resolving issues associated with expropriation linked to the project.

Winnie Wairimu commended their dedication and encouraged them to wholeheartedly serve the community.

On November 24th , 2023, the AfDB team visited the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam site to assess the ongoing implementation of the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Program. The focus of the visit was specifically on evaluating environmental and social aspects.

The AfDB team emphasized the importance of the contractor to prioritize community safety and upholding gender equality in recruitment, with a special emphasis on prioritizing the Project Affected Persons (PAPs).

Financed by the AfDB in collaboration with the government of Rwanda, the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Project is being implemented by the Rwanda Water Resources Board. This comprehensive project involves the construction of a multipurpose dam with a storage capacity of 55 m³, a hydropower plant, an irrigation scheme, as well as domestic water supply



RWB PRESENTED RWANDA'S ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTING UNFCCC TO SENATORS OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COOPERATION AND SECURITY

17th November 2023: Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) Director General, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, was honored with a courtesy visit to Senators of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Security to present the role of Rwanda Water Resources Board in the implementation of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

He was accompanied by Deputy Director General, Mr. Evariste Nsabimana, and the Head of Department of Knowledge and Forecasting Hub, Mr. Musana Bernard.

The Senate's Standing committee was more interested in what is being done on the side of RWB to comply with the principles of UN agreement on climate change.

During the meeting with the Senate's Standing Committee, Director General of Rwanda Water Resources Board, Dr. Rukundo Emmanuel, highlighted the active engagement of RWB in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Specific measures and strategies were presented concerning the control of floods during the construction of roads, bridges, and other infrastructures, as well as existing and planned water storage development programs.

Furthermore, the Director General outlined the measures and strategies taken by RWB for catchments protection and erosion control, and monitoring of implemented interventions for catchment restoration and erosion control.

The Senate's Committee oversee the implementation progress on United Nations Convention on Climate Change of Rio de Janeiro Brazil, in 1992.



RWB AND ARCOS COLLABORATE TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE WATER RESOURCES MANAGERS

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) and the ARCOS Network, as part of the Center of Excellence initiative, signifies a collaborative effort to prepare the next generation of water resources managers through the training of young researchers.

Ange Shimirwa and Jean Paul Urwibutso represent the first cohort of the Center of Excellence in Water Resources Management, hosted by the Rwanda Water Resources Board, and are currently undergoing a professional internship. This initiative stems from the MoU signed between the RWB and ARCOS Network in July 2023.

These young researchers have embarked on a mission to evaluate the impact of restoration measures on water quality and biodiversity in Lake Kivu, specifically within Rutsiro District and the Koko River sub-catchment.

Ange Shimirwa and Jean Paul Urwibutso are diligently identifying existing catchment restoration measures, including their types, extent, and dates of implementation. They are also assessing the effects of these

measures on changes in water quality parameters (such as temperature, EC, pH, DO, TDS, TSS, turbidity, phosphates, and Nitrites) in the Koko River and the biodiversity near the inlet of Lake Kivu.

Furthermore, the researchers are evaluating the impact of these restoration measures on the sedimentation of the Koko River sub-catchment, as well as raising awareness among farmers regarding existing catchment restoration measures.

In September, Ange Shimirwa and Jean Paul Urwibutso attended the Second Edition of the Sustainable Leadership Journey, held in Laguna de Bay and Paliqui wetland in the Philippines.

They shared invaluable insights and experiences gained from the event, ranging from networking opportunities to the importance of safeguarding wetlands.



RWB DIRECTOR GENERAL RECEIVED AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TO RWANDA

28th November 2023: The Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, received the Ambassador of Israel to Rwanda, H.E. Einat Weiss, in a courtesy visit. They discussed potential collaborations between Rwanda and Israel in the fields of water and sanitation.

The purpose of Ambassador Einat Weiss's visit was to gain insights into Rwanda's water economy and sanitation, to present the Israeli experience in water and wastewater management, and to define avenues and topics for cooperation between the two countries.

This meeting underscored the importance of strengthening hydrogeological understanding to enhance groundwater management in the country.

Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board, also emphasized that Rwanda has intensified efforts to improve the understanding and modeling of groundwater.

Numerous training sessions are planned for 2024 in collaboration with the Nile Basin Initiative and the International Groundwater

Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC). Rwanda Water Resources Board had been engaged by InnoAfrica, an NGO based in Israel, in identifying priority area for their initial project in Rwanda using groundwater mapping in 2022





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