



RWB
Rwanda Water
Resources Board

RWANDA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

P3. 15 HYDROLOGICAL STATIONS LAUNCHED
IN KIGALI

P6. MUVUMBA MULTIPURPOSE DAM
TO REVOLUTIONIZE AGRICULTURE
AND LIVESTOCK IN NYAGATARE

P7. RWB HOSTS MUKUNGWA
CATCHMENT COMMITTEE MEETING



FORWARD

Dear Esteemed Readers,

I am immensely pleased to introduce to you the most recent edition of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) newsletter.

Within these pages, we highlight noteworthy accomplishments and progressive undertakings that mark our relentless commitment to the sustainable management of water resources.

Foremost among our achievements is the launch of the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam project, poised to revolutionize the agricultural and livestock sectors in Nyagatare District.

Additionally, RWB had the privilege of hosting a highly productive meeting with the Mukungwa Catchment Committee, culminating in the establishment of the Mukungwa Catchment Management Committee. An actionable plan has been drafted to prioritize pivotal initiatives and projects within the catchment area. These developments signify crucial milestones in our journey.

Furthermore, we take pride in announcing the inauguration of 15 cutting-edge hydrological stations within Kigali City. These stations are set to substantially augment our data collection processes.

Last but not least, our dedicated RWB interns participated in the Sustainable Leadership Journey, held in the Philippines. This invaluable experience significantly contributes to their maturation as prospective leaders within the realm of water resource management.

We trust that the narratives within this edition will captivate and inspire you. The RWB remains dedicated to its commitment of being the responsible stewardship in preserving Rwanda's invaluable water resources, eagerly anticipating the accomplishment of even greater milestones in the days to come.

Sincerely,

DR. EMMANUEL RUKUNDO
DIRECTOR GENERAL



RWB INTERNS ATTEND SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP JOURNEY IN PHILIPPINES

Rwanda Water Resources Board research interns attended the Second Edition of Sustainable Leadership Journey which took place in Laguna de Bay and Paliqui wetland in Philippine, from 9th to 13th October 2023.

The purpose of Sustainable Leadership Journey was to connect, collaborate and empower the young generation to thrive in sustainability leadership to become future lake managers.

Intern Jean Paul Urwibutso, being one of the participants, expressed the invaluable insights and enriching experience he gained from this event.

“Engaging with a diverse array of young and passionate conservation leaders, students, and nature enthusiasts, we shared our environmental conservation narratives. Our collective experiences, spanning from humble beginnings to the present, painted experiences of our conservation journeys.” Said Jean Paul.”

His colleague Ange Shimirwa was impressed by the transformative potential of utilizing green filters in safeguarding wetlands.

“One of the most significant takeaways for me was the presentation on the use of Green filters in wetland conservation at Panguil river Eco park. This filtering technique gathers all advantages of being environmentally friendly and provides efficient wastewater treatment. Green filters often attract wildlife related to wetland ecosystems having therefore a positive impact on biodiversity.” Said Ange Shimirwa.

Rwanda Water Resources Board and ARCOS have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, which encompasses the establishment of the Center of Excellence in Water Resources Management. As part of this initiative, Ange Shimirwa and Jean Paul Urwibutso are serving as professional research interns.

They are conducting a research project named “The impacts of existing catchment restoration measures, on water quality and biodiversity of lake Kivu in Rutsiro, Koko sub catchment as case studies”



RWB HOSTS MUKUNGWA CATCHMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

19th October 2023: In line with its mandate as the authority responsible for the management of water resources at both the national and catchment levels in Rwanda, as stipulated in the Water Law No. 49/2018 enacted on August 13, 2018, several key provisions within the law emphasize the establishment of catchment committees. Specifically, articles number 8, 14, and 20 outline the legal framework for this process.

Recently, the Rwanda Water Resources Board played a pivotal role in hosting a significant event within this context: the establishment meeting of the Mukungwa catchment committee.

This meeting resulted in the establishment of Mukungwa catchment committees.

Moreover, an action plan was drafted to prioritize critical initiatives and projects within the catchment area. These outcomes represent important steps towards effective water resource management and conservation in Rwanda.

This meeting which was held in Musanze District, brought together participants from the Districts of Mukungwa Catchment namely Musanze, Nyabihu, Ngororero, Gakenke, Gicumbi and Burera.

In his opening remarks, the Head of the Department of Knowledge and Forecasting Hub, at Rwanda Water Resources Board Mr. Musana reminded the participants that Mukungwa catchment attracts national priority as per 7 years' government programme/National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) 2017-2024 which requested the development of a project to manage water flows from the volcano region and other rivers to mitigate related disasters and improve water resource management.

The members of Mukungwa Catchment committee elected management committee and technical support committee. The Vice Mayor in Charge of Economic Development in Nyabihu District, Habanabakize Jean Claude, emerged as the chairperson while the Acting Mayor of Gakenke District, Niyonsenga Aime Francois assumed the role of Vice chairperson.

Akirimari Daniel was appointed as the Secretary and the Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Burera District, Nizeyimana Daniel, the Environmental Officer in Musanze District, Wishavura Marie Grace emerged as Coordinator and vice coordinator respectively.

The elected chairperson of Mukungwa Catchment Committee, Habanabakize Jean Claude, urged his colleagues to work together for the betterment of their catchment area.

“You have seen the disasters that broke out in May, our catchment was severely affected. As committee members, we are the ones to work together and plan ahead to mitigate these disasters.” said Habanabakize Jean Claude

The elected committee will serve for a renewable term of two years.

The participants also identified the key areas that need much attention in developing Mukungwa catchment plan.





MUVUMBA MULTIPURPOSE DAM TO REVOLUTIONIZE AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK IN NYAGATARE DISTRICT

26th October 2023: The Mayor of Nyagatare District, Stephen Gasana, expressed his confidence in the Muvumva Multipurpose Dam as a sustainable solution to increasing agricultural productivity.

These remarks were made during the official launch of the dam in Nyagatare District, which was attended by Nsabimana Evariste, Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board, as well as district officials and other stakeholders.

Mayor Stephen Gasana stated that they anticipate a boost in agricultural productivity thanks to the irrigation scheme facilitated by the Muvumba Multipurpose Dam.

“Currently, we cultivate on 40,000 hectares per season. Our productivity was unpredictable due to insufficient water, but this infrastructure assures us that things are about to change.” He mentioned.

Additionally, Mayor Stephen sees this dam as a solution for providing water to livestock in Nyagatare District, which often faces shortages, particularly during the dry season.

Evariste Nsabimana, Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board, assured all participants that by the end of the project, Nyagatare District would experience significant growth in both agriculture and livestock.

“I believe that within the next three years, this project will have made substantial contributions to improving water supply and agricultural productivity. I urge you to collaborate with us to ensure the success of this project.” He stated

The dam will have a height of 39 meters and a storage capacity of 55 million cubic meters. It is also equipped to generate 1MW of hydropower.

Furthermore, it is designed to cater to various needs, including domestic water supply and irrigation for a net command area of 9,640 hectares encompassing Tabagwe, Gatunda, Karama, Rukomo, Nyagatare, Rwempasha, Musheru, and Rwimiyaga sectors. Additionally, it will serve for livestock watering and flood control.

This will be implemented through the Muvumba Multipurpose Water Resources Development Program (MMWRDP), funded by the African Development Fund in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda.



15 HYDROLOGICAL STATIONS LAUNCHED IN KIGALI CITY

The City of Kigali has unveiled 15 hydrological stations designed to monitor flood levels within the capital.

Launched on October 31st, 2023, in celebration of World Cities Day, this infrastructure will provide timely and accurate data to better comprehend the factors contributing to flood risk in Kigali, allowing for more effective planning.

Remy Norbert Duhuze, the Water Monitoring and Quality Control Division Manager at the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), explained the operational details of these flood monitors.

According to Mr. Duhuze, the monitors are responsible for collecting vital data on water levels and flow in rivers. Equipped with wave sensors and strategically positioned near rivers, they effectively communicate fluctuations in water levels.

Moreover, these flood monitors are equipped with SIM cards, enabling the automatic transmission of real-time data to a central database.

“We receive the information in real-time on our server, allowing for swift action in the face of imminent flooding. This warning system will bolster our flood prediction capabilities.” Duhuze stated

He went on to highlight the potential of flood monitors in supporting the city’s infrastructure development, particularly in the design and implementation of effective measures to mitigate the impacts of floods.

“With data on flood status, we can plan and construct essential infrastructure, such as drainages, flood-retention ponds, and culverts, to minimize the severity of floods,” Duhuze added.

The installation of these flood monitors is expected to play a crucial role in supporting the upcoming Kigali ‘Stormwater Management Master Plan,’ scheduled for completion in 2024. This plan represents a pivotal step in the city’s flood management strategy.

Rwanda records 99 hydrological stations including 5 which are still under construction in Volcano region.

CABINET RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

On Friday, October 20 2023, His Excellency Paul Kagame, The President of the Republic of Rwanda, chaired a cabinet meeting at Village Urugwiro.

- **The cabinet approved draft laws including:** Draft law approving the ratification of the grant agreement between the Republic of Rwanda and the International Development Association relating to the grant for Volcano Community Resilient Project.
- **The Cabinet approved orders including:** Ministerial order relating to water use permit.
- **The Minister of Infrastructure informed the cabinet of the 2023 international water Association, Water and Development Congress & Exhibition** scheduled from 10th to 14th December 2023 in Kigali.



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