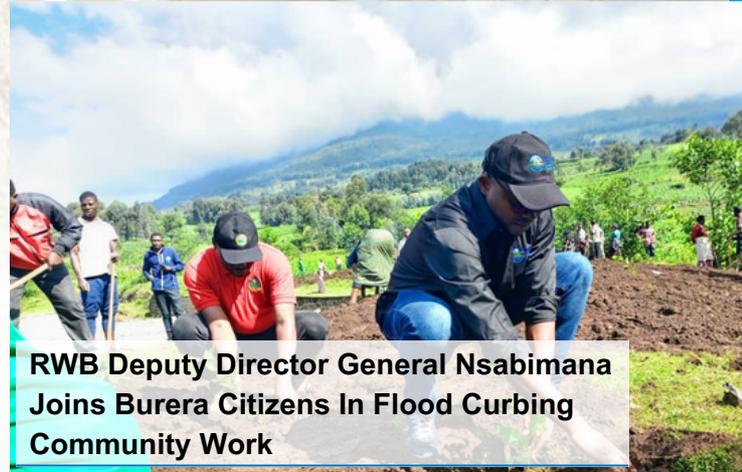


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We welcome you to our March 2023 Newsletter. It entails the latest from our institution. Thanks!

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RWB Hosts Water Experts For A Review Of The National Water Resources Master Plan



Water experts discussing the National Water Resources Master Plan in a workshop at the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) headquarters | Photo: Remy Niyingize

31st March 2023: Water experts gathered for a three-day workshop at the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) headquarters from March 29th to March 31st, 2023, to review the National Water Resources Master Plan (NWRMP) in preparation for Vision 2050.

The National Water Resources Master Plan (NWRMP) is the legal document that will inform the country's water users plans, such as the Energy Master Plan, Water Utility Master Plan, Irrigation Master Plan, and Urban Development Master Plan.

It will also inform the artificial storage development, catchment restoration interventions, nature-based solutions in water resources protection, Monitoring Information Systems (MIS), capacity building, and research in water resources management, among others.

The current National Water Resources Master plan was completed by the former Rwanda Water and Forestry Authority (RWFA) in 2015 with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Technical assistant of SHER Ingénieurs-Conseils.

However, the reasons for the key water resources actors calling for the update, or review of the National Water Resources Master plan towards 2050 include are the following:

- A need to adjust projections and ambitions to the Vision 2050, particularly the irrigation target of 600,000 hectares which is constrained by imprecise natural catchment transfer, and the high rate of urbanization as well as industrialization, as presented in the National Land Use Development Master plan for 2050 completed in 2020;

- Demand assessment by the economic sector needs to be more precise based on the Vision 2050, and hydrological data, and Hydro-economic analysis, water resources performance indicators;
- A need to properly articulate the catchment transfer scenarios;
- Separate allocation models, used by catchment, need to be integrated into one water allocation model (a unified model that can assess the national impact of each storage investment, diversions, and channeling to the balancing of water across years, seasons, and catchments);
- Phasing and prioritization of large investments such as dams and channeling need to be precise and tied to pre-feasibility to serve in the fund mobilization and project development;
- Current changes in water resources sub-sector reforms such as the establishment of RWB, among others.

RWB Deputy Director General Nsabimana Joins Burera Citizens In Flood Curbing Community Work



RWB Deputy Director General Evariste Nsabimana planting a tree on a pond in Umuganda to conclude World Water Day 2023 celebrations | Photo: Remy Niyingize

26th March 2023: Burera citizens in Rugarama Sector did the community work (Umuganda) on March 25, 2025 with a goal of maintaining the better sustainability of the 'Floods Management in Volcanoes' Region Project.'

It was organized by RWB and Burera District and was also in line with capping off the week-long celebrations of the World Forests, Water and

Meteorological Day in Rwanda.

The theme of World Water Day was 'Caring for water, delivering Access for all'.

It was attended by the Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), Evariste Nsabimana, the Mayor of Burera District, Marie Chantal Uwanyirigira, Honorable

Deputy Alice Uwera, and other officials.

Up to 1,013 Arenus trees were planted on Mbandana gully, where a water pond was also built to alleviate the flood peak flows from volcanoes.

“This Umuganda corresponded to World Water Day 2023, as floods pose threats to water allocations in our communities by polluting our rivers, and even destroying our key infrastructure including our water taps, among other things.”

“It was a good opportunity to raise awareness among citizens about the negative impacts of gully erosion, such as soil loss and water pollution, and encouraged them to take measures to ensure the sustainable management of the project infrastructures,” noted Deputy Director General Nsabimana during the mass community meeting.



Burera citizens delighted to do a flood-curbing community work | Photo: Remy Niyingize

The Mayor of Burera District, Marie Chantal Uwanyirigira, emphasized the importance of community involvement as well as ownership in protecting the gullies, ponds, and bridges built for the well-being of citizens.

Following a history of terrifying floods caused by volcanoes, Uwanyirigira stated that the project's infrastructures have played a critical role in ensuring the security of citizens and their properties.



Mayor of Burera District Marie Chantal Uwanyirigira together with officials planting a tree | Photo by Remy Niyingize

Project's achievements

Several activities have been carried out as part of the 'Floods Management in Volcanoes' Region Project, including the construction of 23 bridges, 10 water channels, 6 ponds, trees on gullies, and job creation for citizens.



Burera Mayor tipping citizens on fighting floods, soil erosion, among other disasters | Photo: Remy Niyingize



RWB Deputy Director General urging on sustainable management of flood control infrastructures | Photo: Remy Niyingize

Rwanda Celebrates International Day of Forests, World Water Day, And World Meteorological Day



The planting tree community work (Umuganda) was also done in Gicumbi District to end week-long celebrations marking World Water Day, International Day of Forests, and World Meteorological Day | Photo: Ministry of Environment

25th March 2023: Every year, Rwanda joins the rest of the world to mark World Water Day, International Day of Forests, and World Meteorological Day. These three global events are an opportunity to highlight the importance of forests, water, weather and climate in our daily lives.

In Rwanda, the three days are celebrated together in recognition of the interconnectedness and interdependencies between water, forest resources and our climate. This year, celebrations were marked by a series of activities across the country, including field activities, sessions on water, forest resources management and meteorological services as well as public awareness campaigns.

"Everything in nature is connected, from our forests and water to our climate. As we strive to be more resilient to climate change, let's partner with nature because we can only solve interconnected challenges with interconnected solutions. On Forests, Water and Meteorology days, let's put nature first," said Dr Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment.

International Day of Forests

International Day of Forests is celebrated on 21 March every year to raise awareness of the importance of forests to people and the planet. The theme for the 2023 International Day of Forests is "Forests and Health." Forests provide direct and indirect health benefits for all people – not only those whose lives are closely intertwined with forest ecosystems but also people far from forests, including urban populations.

Rwanda recognises the importance of forests to the health of citizens and the global population in general. The Government of Rwanda is promoting Forest Landscape Restoration with a pledge to restore two million hectares of forest landscapes by 2030. In addition, Rwanda has reached the target of 30% of its total area being covered by forests. The country is now investing in sustainable forest management to increase the stock and productivity of forests through public-private partnerships.

[Learn more about the International Day of Forests here.](#)

World Water Day

World Water Day has been celebrated annually since 1993 to focus global attention on the importance of freshwater and advocate for sustainable management of freshwater resources.

This year, World Water Day was celebrated under the theme of “Accelerating Change” to solve the water and sanitation crisis. The global campaign, called “Be the change”, encourages people to take action in their own lives to change the way they use, consume and manage water. In Rwanda, the day will be marked under the theme “Caring for water, delivering access for all.”

In Rwanda, the celebration of world water day on 22 March was preceded by a national water week during which various activities were conducted such as awareness-raising campaigns, conferences and the launching of water related projects. This year’s theme is an opportunity to reflect on the ideas, innovations,

and governance systems that can speed up the transition to more resilient water systems.

[Learn more about World Water Day here.](#)

World Meteorological Day

On 23 March 2023, Rwanda joined the rest of the world to celebrate World Meteorological Day, which commemorates the coming into existence of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 23 March 1950. It is an annual event commemorated by 193 WMO Member States and Territories globally, as well as meteorological communities worldwide.

This year, World Meteorological Day was celebrated under the theme “The Future of Weather, Climate and Water across Generations.” The celebration serves as an opportunity to increase awareness on weather and climate information and encourage Rwandans to utilise weather and climate information to be more resilient in the face of increasing challenges fueled by climate change.

[Learn more about World Meteorological Day here.](#)

The Community work (Umuganda) in Gicumbi District to end the week-long celebrations to mark World Water Day, International Day of Forests, and World Meteorological Day



Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment, urging Gicumbi citizens to protect the environment | Photo: Ministry of Environment



Gicumbi citizens appreciated the Green Gicumbi Project's contributions to their well-being | Photo: Ministry of Environment

Remarks By RWB Director General Dr. Rukundo At The UN 2023 Water Conference In New York



Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), speaking at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York | Photo: Alsaad Ndayizeye

**24th March 2023: FAO Side Event
"Disaggregation of the SDG indicator 6.4.2
(level of water stress) by river basin" at the
UN 2023 Water Conference
Friday, 24 March 2023 | New York, USA**

Deputy Director of Land and Water Division at
FAO, Sasha Koo-Oshima,
Brazil Representative, Felipe De Sa Tavares
Italy Representative, Martina Bussetini
Stockholm Environment Institute
Representative, Annette Huber-lee
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all!

Let me, first of all, welcome everybody to this
side event to discuss disaggregating water
stress by river basin, and learn about innovative
methods for water management and policy.

Thank you for taking time to be with us today,
we are very grateful.

I thank FAO for supporting the implementation
of pilot projects on the disaggregation of the
SDG Indicator 6.4.2 utilising the river basin

method in our respective countries.

The method provides an innovative contribution
to the sustainable use of water at the catchment
level by providing a finer view of both the causes
and effects of water stress, allowing policy and
decision-makers to target interventions at
catchments with high water stress.

This is in line with the 2023 World Water Day
campaign focused on accelerating change to
solve the water and sanitation crisis.

The latest global data show that governments
must work on average four times faster to meet
SDG 6 on time.

Rwanda is glad to be utilising this innovative
method to support our strategic water resource
management plans, and achieve SDG6.

Based on current trends, water stress in Rwanda
is expected to increase as the country develops
economically and our population continues to
grow and becomes more urbanised.

That is why we need to put in place the right
measures to ensure water is used efficiently.

I can assure you that the outputs of our disaggregation of SDG indicator 6.4.2 by river basin will be integrated into our institution's plans, and I am confident this approach will have a lasting impact on Rwanda's ability to be resilient in the face of climate change.

As we discuss innovation today, I encourage all partners here today to collaborate on additional projects and initiatives that can accelerate the change we want to see.

I thank you and wish you a pleasant session.

Press Release: RWB Director General Dr. Rukundo Shares Rwanda's Water Stress Experience At The UN 2023 Water Conference



Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), speaking at the UN Water Conference event 'Disaggregation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 6.4.2 - level of water stress by river basin. | Photo: Alsaad Ndayizeye

New York, March 24th 2023: Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Director of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), spoke today at the UN Water Conference event 'Disaggregation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 6.4.2 - level of water stress by river basin.'

The event was organized by the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

It also featured different water partners including Agência Nacional de Águas e Saneamento Básico (ANA) – BRAZIL, Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)– Italy and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

"I thank FAO for supporting the implementation of pilot projects on the disaggregation of the SDG Indicator 6.4.2 utilizing the river basin method in our respective countries,"

"The latest global data show that governments must work on average four times faster to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG6) on time. Rwanda is glad to be utilizing this innovative method to support strategic water resource management plans and achieve this,"

"The river basin method provides an innovative contribution to the sustainable use of water at the catchment level by providing a finer view of both the causes and effects of water stress. It also allows policy and decision-makers to target interventions at catchments with high water

stress,” Dr. Rukundo remarked.

He delivered remarks at this side event along with FAO Land and Water's Deputy Director Sasha Koo Oshima.

The side event's objectives were to illustrate the proposed methods for the disaggregation of water stress; present the success case study of Rwanda; and discuss the methods and their implications for water management and policy with the other country partners.

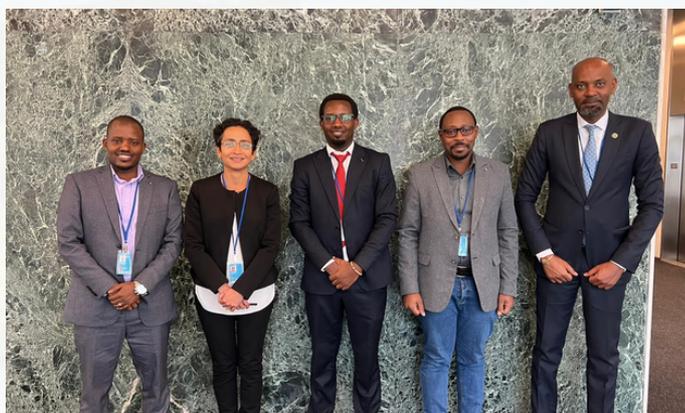
Furthermore, a panel discussion on a keynote titled 'The disaggregation of the level of water stress at river basin level in Rwanda: strengths and weaknesses of the applied method and usefulness for decision making' was held as part of this side event.

Among the panel speakers were Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Director General of Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), Alsaad Ndayizeye, River Flood Control Specialist of Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) as well SDG 6.4.2 Focal Point, Felipe De Sa Tavares, Superintendent of Water and Socioeconomic Studies of Agência Nacional de Águas e Saneamento Básico (ANA) in Brazil, Martina Bussettini, Head - Area for Hydrology, Hydromorphology, Hydrodynamics and Freshwater Ecosystem Dynamics, Environmental Monitoring and Biodiversity in Conservation Department at Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA) in Italy and Annette Huber-lee, Senior Scientist of Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) in USA.

Today's UN Water Conference event 'Disaggregation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 6.4.2 - level of water stress by river basin' showcased the innovative



RWB's presentation at the UN 2023 Water Conference held in New York | Photo: Alsaad Ndayizeye



RWB's DG and Flood Control Specialist taking a group photo at a side event | Photo: Alsaad Ndayizeye



RWB DG during discussions at the UN 2023 Water Conference held in New York | Photo: Alsaad Ndayizeye

methods to disaggregate water stress (SDG 6.4.2) and its components at catchment and river basin level, through the presentation of a few case studies prepared in various countries following different methodologies.

[Find more details here.](#)

Jordanian Delegation Pays Courtesy Call To RWB



A delegation from the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) paid a courtesy call to the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) and was received by Director General Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo | Photo: Remy Niyingize

16th March 2023: A delegation from the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) paid a courtesy call to the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) on Thursday, March 16th, 2023.

This delegation was received by Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, Director General of RWB, as their discussions focused on fostering partnerships and projects aimed at accelerating sustainable water resources management in Rwanda.

During their two-day visit, from March 15th to 17th, 2023, members of the JEA explored major areas for collaboration between the Jordanian and Rwandan Engineering Sectors.

This collaboration could also lead to the establishment of engineering consultancies in Rwanda, as well as engineering education and training.

Background

The Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) was founded in 1948 as a Society of Engineers and obtained its license in 1949.

This organization currently has two centers, one in Amman and one in Jerusalem.

In terms of comprehensive services and members, it is Jordan's largest association.

One of its many objectives is to organize the engineering profession's practice, raising scientific and professional standards in order to better contribute to economic, social, and national advancements.

Ends,

RWB Director General Meets Musanze And Burera Mayors For Volcanoes Project Discussions



RWB DG Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo together with his technical team during a meeting with Mayor of Burera District Marie Chantal Uwanyirigira | Photo: Remy Niyingize

12th March 2023: Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) met the Mayors of both Musanze and Burera Districts in Northern Province in line with discussions that tended to review the implementation process of 'Floods Management in Volcanoes Region Project.'

These official meetings were held on 10th March 2023. Mr. Ramuli Janvier, the Mayor of Musanze District, and Marie Chantal Uwanyirigira, the Mayor of Burera District both attended.

The 'Floods Management in Volcanoes Region Project' is implemented by the RWB. Its main goal is to protect citizens in the concerned districts against floods from volcanoes.

In 2018, RWB worked on a detailed design of flood control measures in the Volcanoes area. The study's aimed was to implement flood mitigation measures and protection structures in Burera, Musanze, Nyabihu and Rubavu districts.

Through the ongoing works, various structural and non-structural measures mitigate flood risks and to optimize benefits from floodplain areas in twenty-two main gullies that were identified in the four districts.

Burera has eleven gullies, Musanze with eight gullies, Nyabihu with 2 gullies, and Rubavu with 1 gully.



RWB DG Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo together with his technical team also met with Mayor of Musanze District Janvier Ramuli | Photo: Remy Niyingize

The major volcanoes' flooding impacted community, infrastructure, and agriculture activities, resulting in property damage, loss of agricultural soils and other infrastructures such as roads, bridges, and culverts, among other things.

This project's overall mitigation measures focus on reducing the flooded areas and include infrastructures such as retention ponds to reduce flood peak flow, rehabilitation of water channels,

construction of small bridges, and installation of gabions check dams for cave rehabilitation and maintenance.

Nonstructural measures of the project, on the other hand, include ecosystem implementation, nature-based approaches to managing flood risk, erosion, and runoff control measures, gully bank protection, and relocation of people from high-risk areas.

RWB, NELSAP Curate Dam Safety Consultation And Awareness Creation Workshop For Experts



A group photo of participants of the dam safety consultation and awareness creation workshop for experts aimed at improving dam safety management in Rwanda | Photo: Remy Niyingize

11th March 2023: The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) in collaboration with the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) held a dam safety consultation and awareness creation workshop for experts aimed at improving dam safety management in Rwanda.

The purpose of the meeting, which took place from 8th to 9th March 2023 in Kigali, was to create awareness on the main hazards on dams, specifically focusing on hydrological hazards, geotechnical and earthquake hazards, to review

the situation of dam safety in Rwanda, assess the role of regulatory units in dam safety risk management, dam safety requirements as well as the importance of Rwanda establishing committee on large dams.

The NELTAC members including Jacqueline Nyirakamana, the Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist at the Ministry of Environment of Rwanda and Remy Robert Duhuze Remy, the Water Monitoring and Quality Control Division Manager at the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) officially opened the

the meeting and reiterated the commitment of Rwanda government to dam safety issues.

Meanwhile, the event brought together all stakeholders working on dams including dam planners, dam owners, dam operators, regulators, dam safety technical experts, consultants and universities or research centres.

Several key agencies that took part in the meeting include Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Rwanda Energy Group (REG), Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC), Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA), University of Rwanda (UR)

They were also ministries such as Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA), Rwanda Development Board (RDB), among others.

About The Dam Safety Capacity Building Component

This is a component under the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR), a project funded

by the World Bank through the Cooperation in International Waters of Africa (CIWA).

The project is coordinated by NELSAP and will advance the development of a dam safety in the NEL region focused on strengthening the institutional environment for dam safety and improving the information base that is essential for the development and management of dams in the Nile Basin.

Under this program:

- Interested NEL-region member states will be supported in establishing national dam safety units, which will serve a regulatory function with regard to dam safety;
- Strengthen national dam safety units in the NEL region through hands-on training;
- Develop a geo-referenced inventory of dams in the Nile Basin that describes their key characteristics (including size, purpose, ownership, and so on); and
- Support the development of a tiered risk management framework for dams in the Nile Basin.



Workshop participants explored the dam safety situation in Rwanda | Photo: Remy Niyongize

RWB Director General's Field Visit In Western Province To Expedite Sebeya Project Implementation



RWB DG Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo in Nyundo Sector, Rubavu District to monitor the Sebeya Project's implementation | Photo: Remy Niyingize

10th March 2023: In his four-day field visit, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), monitored the implementation of the Sebeya Landscape Restoration Pilot Project (SLRPP) – Embedding Integrated Water Resources Management in Rwanda (EWRM) in the districts of Rutsiro, Ngororero, Rubavu and Nyabihu in Western Province.

The ongoing project is implemented by the Government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) in partnership with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), and Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI) through the community approach.

During his field visit, which lasted from March 7th to March 10th, 2023, Dr. Rukundo met with various project beneficiaries as well as district officials to discuss the project's challenges.

In this regard, he oversaw, along with the technical team, the ongoing construction of the new Sebeya retention dam in Kanama Sector, as



RWB DG Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo in Kanama Sector, Rubavu District, where the Sebeya retention dam is being constructed | Photo: Remy Niyingize

as well as the creation of terraces in Nyundo Sector in Rubavu District as catchment restoration initiatives.

He also visited Ruhango Sector in Rutsiro District as he tipped the project's beneficiaries on the soil erosion control measures, among other things, before heading to Muhanda Sector in Ngororero District to assess various implemented activities including the rainwater harvesting initiatives installed at schools.

Dr. Rukundo concluded his field visit at Nyabihu District while witnessing terraces, rainwater harvesting, and the Girinka Program.



RWB DG Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo in Ruhango Sector, Rutsiro District urging citizens to fight soil erosion | Photo: Remy Niyingize

Sebeya Project's Brief

Since 2019, the EWMR – SLRPP in the Sebeya catchment at Rubavu, Rutsiro, Nyabihu and Ngororero districts implemented various activities such as flood mitigation structures, terraces, afforestation, agroforestry, as well as supporting measures including cows, small livestock, rainwater harvesting, cooking stoves to households and schools, kitchen gardens and Community Environment Conservation Fund (CECF) through Village Saving and Loan Associations, among others.



RWB DG Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo in Muhanda Sector, Ngororero District assessing rainwater harvesting measures | Photo: Remy Niyingize



RWB DG Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo in Bigogwe Sector, Nyabihu District visiting terraces created through the Sebeya Project | Photo: Remy Niyingize



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