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RWB & Korean Technology Institute Sign Records of Discussions for the Water Resources Development Project



Officials during the signing of the Records of Discussions (R/D)/ Photo: Remy Niyingize

2nd September 2022: The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) and Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute of the Republic of Korea (KEITI) have signed the Records of Discussions regarding the project titled "Master Plan for Water Resources Development in Mbuye Sector, Ruhango District, Southern Province."

This ceremony has been attended by Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director General of RWB, IM Hyunjung, the Director General of KEITI, Patrick Karera, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Environment (MoE), and other officials from various public institutions such as WASAC and REG.

The visit of KEITI to Rwanda was scheduled, for September 1st to 2nd, 2022, with the aim of discussions with MoE and RWB regarding the desired measures to be taken by the Governments of Korea and Rwanda for the successful implementation of "Master Plan for Water Resources Development in Mbuye Sector, Ruhango District, Southern Province Project."

The project is anticipated to establish concrete cooperation in the development of water resources between the two countries, as well as to explore cooperative projects.

KEITI, in collaboration with MoE and RWB, will launch this project at the Ururumanza River.

Ends,

RWB & UNICEF to Address Water Scarcity in Eight Districts of Rwanda



Participating stakeholders posing for a group photo/ Photo: Remy Niyingize

9th September 2022: Water scarcity is currently affecting 8 districts of Eastern and Amayaga region in Southern provinces. They are namely Kayonza, Ngoma, Kirehe, Bugesera, Gisagara, Nyanza, Ruhango, and Kamonyi.

In line with sustainable management of groundwater resources to address water scarcity, the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) and UNICEF Rwanda conducted a study aimed at conducting groundwater mapping in concerned districts.

This is under the framework of the project titled 'Consultancy to Provide Technical Services for Groundwater Mapping in Rwanda.'

In this regard, a two-day validation workshop for the study has been held in Kigali, from 8th to 8th September 2022, convening different water stakeholders.

Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director General of RWB, has emphasized on the importance of stakeholders' engagement as a success factor.

“We look forward to stronger cooperation and active participation of all partners for a successful implementation of this study, which will lead, among others, to identify some specific implementations of groundwater exploitation in Rwanda.”

“We thank UNICEF Rwanda for the groundwater governance support to increase the scope of current groundwater information in terms of data availability, area covered, as well as metering and monitoring on production boreholes,” he said.

He further accentuated that these initiatives are in line with the country’s vision towards water resources management, which is centered on valuing water, and the International Water Day 2022 theme "Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible.

Julianna Lindsey, the Representative of UNICEF Rwanda, has also remarked that they will partner with RWB on resource mobilization for strengthening sustainable groundwater management and continue efforts to generate evidence of the climate change impacts and water scarcity on children.

Water Security for All: Consultancy Services for Integrated Strategic Water Resources Planning and Management for Rwanda



Discussions over the consultancy/ Photo: Remy Niyingize

14th September 2022: The study titled ‘Consultancy Services for Integrated Strategic Water Resources Planning and Management for Rwanda’ is underway while being conducted by the Future Water together with the local partner ENTREM Limited.

Hence, the validation of its second interim report has been held by the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) in collaboration with Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA), and other concerned stakeholders.

In 2017, the Government of Rwanda developed a 'Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR)' as an investment vehicle for Rwanda to meet its climate change goals and to ensure the country is well equipped to face the challenges brought on by climatic uncertainties.

However, 'Water Security for All - Strengthening Resilience in the Water Sector' is one of the SPCR sub-programs, while it entails three themes such as integrated strategic water resource planning and management; catchment restoration, and climate resilient water infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the study is expected to review the water resources supply and demand for major rivers and their catchments, plan the resource allocation to key economic activities and sectors, and prioritize strategic investment that will reduce the risks while building on water resources opportunities. It will also increase readiness to implement the water policy and flagship initiatives.

The ultimate objective of the strategic water resources planning is to increase the national water security.

Ends,

RWB DG Meets Burera and Musanze Districts' Officials over Floods Management in Volcanoes Region Project



RWB's DG together with the technical team meeting Musanze officials / Photo: Musanze District 14th September 2022: A six-year "Floods Management in Volcanoes Region Project" is anticipated to curb floods affecting different volcanoes' regions of Burera, Musanze, Nyabihu, and Rubavu Districts in the Northern Province of Rwanda.

Therefore, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director General of RWB, and the technical team have paid a courtesy call to Burera and Musanze Districts' officials to discuss the ongoing implementation of this project.

They are Mrs. Marie Chantal Uwanyirigira, the Mayor of Burera District, and Andrew Mpuhwe, the Vice-Mayor in charge of Economic Development of Musanze District.

The project phases include activities such as ponds, flood retaining walls, and water channels all designed to prevent and mitigate flood damages in volcano areas, and implement ecosystem and nature-based approaches for managing flood risks.

It is being implemented by the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) in line with its mission of establishing flood management strategies across the country.

The stormwater, from the volcano regions, continued to be the cause of severe floods frequently observed in Burera, Musanze, Nyabihu, and Rubavu Districts.

22 gullies have been identified including 11 in Burera, 8 in Musanze, 2 in Nyabihu, and 1 in Rubavu District.

This project implementation process will be done in four phases kicking off with the four prioritized gullies including two identified in Burera District in Muhabura – Mbandana and Nyarubande and the other two in Musanze District in Muhe and Susa.

Ends,

Rwanda Receives Equipment for Six Hydromet Stations



The reception ceremony of the new Hydromet equipment in Rwanda/ Photo: Remy Niyingize

19th September 2022: Rwanda officially received from the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), equipment for the installation of six hydrological monitoring stations (hydromet) in the country.

The stations will support water quality and sediment monitoring in several rivers that fall within the Nile River basin in the country.

The NELTAC members including Robert Duhuze Remy, the Monitoring and Quality Control Division Manager at the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), and Jacqueline Nyirakamana, the Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist at the Ministry of Environment received the equipment from the NBI European Union (EU-BMZ) Hydromet Project on behalf of the Government of Rwanda.

“These hydromet stations will provide real-time data and more reliable information to improve water resources planning and management both at national and regional levels,”

“They will enable better flood and drought disaster preparedness, monitoring of surface water quality and sediment transport, coordinated management of water storage dams, navigation, and improved adaptation to climate change,” said Jacqueline Nyirakamana.

Besides, their testing was witnessed by Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director General, and Everaste Nsabimana, the Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB).

“The hydromet stations will address the gap related to the availability of data, particularly with regard to groundwater. Additionally, they will provide us with daily updates and aid with future floods forecasting,” added Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo.

In Rwanda, the hydromet stations will be installed at six (6) locations namely: Gihinga in Bugesera District, Akagera Outlet and Kagitumba in Nyagatare District, Ruliba in Nyarugenge District, and at Gakindo and Cyohoha Shell.

Installations of the stations begun on 20th September 2022 at Akagera River, and will continue for a week.

As part of this hydrological package, Rwanda has received water level and rainfall sensors, data loggers, accessories necessary for installation/ rehabilitation of the six selected stations, equipment for water discharge measurements (ADCP) dual data transmission technology (GPRS and Satellite) with the option to switch to either for compliance with the national policy and country limitations.

Rwanda has also received a toolkit for water quality and sediment transport monitoring. Information products generated from data collected at the regional stations will be considered as final information for decision making and the country is putting in place a mechanism for sharing these. Upon completion of installation, the hydromet stations will be handed over to the country for operation and maintenance.

Training of national staff for this purpose is ongoing, and in addition the national data centre will also be equipped.

Background to the Hydromet Project

The critical gap in data in the Nile Basin was recognized during the preparation of the first set of cooperative projects under NBI.

To address the data scarcity in the Nile Basin, NBI is establishing the first Regional HydroMet System for the Nile Basin and is also upgrading the national data management centers.

The Hydromets will support NBI Member States in understanding the biophysical phenomena, engage in informed water planning, conduct evidence-based decision making that will lead to improved cooperative water resources management and development.

The hydromet stations will also be installed in other Nile Equatorial Lakes countries namely Burundi, D.R Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda as well as in the eastern Nile Countries.

“The Nile Basin regional HydroMet system shall provide the data and information required to facilitate the implementation of various projects and programs and will significantly contribute to conflict prevention and regional integration,” said Eng. Dr. Isaac Alukwe, the NELSAP Regional Coordinator.

Steering Committee for IWRM Programme in Rwanda Resumes



Discussions over the ongoing implementation of IWRM Programme/ Photo: Remy Niyingize

21st September 2022: The sixth Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting for Integrated Water Resources Management Programme in Rwanda (IWRM Programme) has resumed on Wednesday, 21st September 2022.

It is an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss and assess the progress of the project implementation in all aspects including bio-physical, socio-economic and supporting measures.

PSC is the lead governance body for the implementation of IWRM Programme, while also serving as the overall project steering committee, and comprised of senior officials from various Government institutions.

The body also oversees project implementation through bi-annual meetings to review the progress and provide high-level guidance.

Background

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) and the Government of the Netherlands (GoN) have expressed their interest for establishing a strategic partnership and hence launched the Integrated Water Resources Management Programme in Rwanda (IWRM Programme).

The programme is implemented by the Government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) with the technical assistance of a consortium led by the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) Rwanda with the funds from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

under this programme, the implementation of participatory community-based approaches is piloted in Sebeya catchment to improve landscape restoration and management for sustainable socio-economic and climate-resilient development through reduced land degradation, river sedimentation and flooding; improved incomes and resilience from the sustainable use of landscape resources; operational landscape governance and management institutions; and evidence-based guidelines on the landscape approach through knowledge management.

Ends,

Stakeholders Gather for Kivu and Akanyaru Catchments' Management Plans



The group photo during Akanyaru Catchment Management Plan meeting / Photo: Remy Niyingize

22nd September 2022: The stakeholders, from the central and local governments as well as the private sector within Kivu and Akanyaru catchments, have assembled to discuss their management plans during a two-day validation meeting.

Catchment planning is the best practice for integrated management of water, land, and related natural resources, based on the hydrological boundaries of a catchment or watershed.

In his remarks, Dr. Emmanuel Rukundo, the Director General of RWB, noted that through the implementation of RWB's mandate, the catchment management plan is an important milestone for equipping Rwanda with comprehensive planning tools for water resources management.

“The main focus of catchment planning can be summarized in four key elements which are catchment restoration, water allocation, water governance and knowledge management,” he added.

Kivu catchment consists of small catchments that drain the western side of the water divide between the Nile and the Congo Basin, with a land area of 2,425 Km² within the country.

Akanyaru catchment is a transboundary catchment that springs in Nyungwe Forest. The catchment has 3,402 Km² of land area. Akanyaru River is the main river of the catchment contributing to a number of activities that benefit the communities of the catchment.

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