



RYWP Newsletter

(July 2020- December 2021)

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Collaboration agreement between CNRU and RYWP

In October 2020, the Rwanda Young Water Professional (RYWP) signed a long term collaboration agreement with the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO (CNRU). This agreement aims at establishing an appropriate collaborative framework to facilitate and coordinate cooperation between the CNRU and RYWP in promoting youth engagement in addressing water security challenges in Rwanda.



▲ RYWP Executive Secretary and the CNRU Secretary General signing the agreement

IWA 8th YWP chapter Global Coordination call

The 8th International Water Association Young Water Professional (IWA YWP) Global Co-ordination Call took place on Wednesday 25 November 2020 with the

topic for this call being “How to Successfully Lead a YWP Chapter”.

The idea behind that Global Co-ordination Call topic was to share lessons learnt and knowledge on how to work effectively as a YWP Chapter committee and through this successfully lead our YWP Chapter.



▲ IWA YWP chapter online Global Co-ordination call

The RYWP participated in the call and shared with other YWP country chapters its key achievements so far, ideas and approaches to successfully lead a YWP chapter.

Career guidance and Capacity Development

One of the Rwanda Young Water Professional's main goal is to provide career guidance and capacity development. This is done through: i) trainings of YWP members, fresh graduates as well as other relevant beneficiaries especially students at various levels ii) support for scholarship obtention for RYWP members at Master's and PhD level.

For the period of July 2020 to December 2021, about two (2) members of RYWP were granted with scholarships for their Master Degree in both the Netherlands and Sweden. In addition, ten (10) YWP members attended the training on Hydrological and Hydraulic Modelling (HEC-HMS, HEC-RAS model) organized by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) in collaboration with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).



▲ Capacity building training on Hydrological and Hydraulic Modelling

Webinar and Conferences

1. Hosting of knowledge sharing webinar on sustainable urban planning

In March 2021, the UR-YWP organized a webinar on Sustainable Urban Planning under the theme “Live Green, Live Smart” which aimed at providing an opportunity for youth from various schools to learn from experts. The objectives of the conference was to bring together youths and professional practitioners from the civil, environmental and architecture related industries for knowledge sharing and networking with the purpose of infusing youth with passion and vision of protecting environment wherever they go.



▲ Sustainable Urban Planning Webinar under the theme “Live green, live smart”

Participants included students from the University of Rwanda (UR) and other High Learning Institution (HLI) within Rwanda, fresh graduates and some invited expert from environmental related industries such as the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Netherlands Embassy in Rwanda, MASS Design, Eco Design and Protection Ltd. The RYWP assisted in the

preparation of the webinar and provided opening remarks.

2. Hosting of the RYWP-GWP joint conference on the WEF Nexus

The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus in a changing climate conference, co-hosted by the Water Partnership Rwanda and Rwanda Young Water Professional took place on Tuesday 7th December 2021. The main objectives of the conference were: i) to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing, lessons learnt and good practices among stakeholders to deeply understand the role of each dimension towards sustainable development goals; ii) to contribute to the stock-taking of each dimension and propose possible solutions to ensure equitable and quality opportunity exploration for the WEF Nexus application and iii) to discuss and define strategies to follow up on the conference outcomes and reinforce continued partnership.



▲ WEF Nexus in a changing climate conference

The conference was a one day event with a theme of “valuing the interlinkage between Water, Energy and Food in a Changing Climate” and the proposed thematic areas for the conference were:

- Urban water resilience for livable and sustainable cities
- Water for renewable energy, smart agriculture and healthy people

Participants who attended the conference included policy makers, technical experts, private and public sector leaders, lecturers, students from the University of Rwanda and researchers.

Projects Implementation

1. KnoWat (Knowing Water better) Project

In the context of strengthening focus on water governance for agriculture and food security to address water scarcity in a changing climate, FAO implemented the project “KnoWat - Knowing Water better” funded by the Government of Germany and implemented by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) and with close collaboration with Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB).

The project had six expected outputs, out of which the third was “**Comprehensive water users and use assessment to inform water accounting and tenure in 20 level two catchments is completed and validated**”. To implement this output, extensive fieldwork to all water users in the country and assessment of their current water consumption and future need, was needed and this activity was conducted by the RYWP from July 2020 to December 2020.

The data collection and field works conducted by the RYWP contributed in addressing one of the challenges encountered by the water sector in Rwanda which is lack of water-related data. In addition, the use of WaPOR was introduced to some members of the RYWP. They were able to be trained to interpret WaPOR datasets produced for the project, such as water resource assessments and scheme-level information.

2. Nature-based Flood Adaptation Project

The project was funded by the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO, through its International Hydrological Program. The project was for a period of 10 months (October 2020- July 2021) and was implemented by RYWP.



▲ Validation workshop on the NbS inception report

The main objective of the project was to conceptualize nature-based flood control measures in Mpazi sub-catchment based on scientific facts and assessment of the hydrological behavior of Mpazi sub-catchment.

The identified NbS that are suitable for Mpazi are: reforestation, conservative agriculture, green spaces, bio-retention systems, permeable paving, channel buffer zone areas, rainwater harvesting systems (RWH), net-Tech and flow control structures. In addition, the result of the model for the assessment on impact of the proposed NbS showed a reduction of up to 8 m³/s and 20 m³/s if the RWH systems were to be implemented.

3. RWB Capacity Support Project

As part of its technical assistance to the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), IUCN partnered with the RYWP, to recruit 6 Interns from within the Rwanda YWP network in accordance with standards set and agreed by both IUCN and RYWP with the immediate objective of supporting the RWB to implement the Embedding Integrated Water Resource Management in Rwanda (EWMR) Project.

The period of the internship was supposed to be for 1 year (Jan 2021-Dec 2021) but due to Covid-19 related instructions, it started in June 2021.



▲ Intern conducting a field survey in sebeya catchment

The internship was an important opportunity for the interns' capacity building as well as for the host institution to get the day-to-day support needed in the project implementation. Activities of RWB that were supported by the YWP interns include:

- Providing technical support in water data collection storage and analysis; provide technical support in maintenance of water monitoring equipment and create base maps
- Supporting the division in recording and monitoring ongoing activities on ground; produce related data, report, maps and shape files and report the monthly and quarterly progressive in terms of reports, shape files and maps.
- Providing support to RWB in preparation of water bulletins and reports.
- Providing support to RWB in data collection, field inspections (example the Ngaru-Nyabarongo hydrological stations) and surveys, produce related reports and suggest follow up actions.
- Attending the knowledge sharing conference on Water-Energy-Food Nexus in a changing Climate organize by the RYWP in partnership with Water Partnership Rwanda.
- Attending the workshop on water monitoring and quality control organized by RWB, GIZ and UNICEF.

Highlights of key ongoing initiatives

This section highlights key ongoing initiatives of the RYWP for the next 6 months, from January 2022 to June 2022. These are as follows:

- Preparation of the assessment and visioning workshops for the Musanze Urban Water Resilience (UWR) Project
- Implementation of the Musanze UWR Project based on the project workplan
- Establishment of three Technical Committees (TC) to support in the implementation of the RYWP's activities
- Support YWPs in capacity development and career guidance by providing recommendations for both pursuing studies and seeking jobs.