



Global Water
Partnership



SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Stage 1 Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG 6.5.1: degree of implementation of IWRM

Rwanda

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Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1

Executive Summary

The workshop aiming at reporting on SDG 6.5.1 was convened jointly by the Ministry of Environment and the Rwanda Water Resources Board with support from the Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa. The workshop took place on the 27th October 2020. The workshop was preceded by the collection of relevant data for the reporting mainly focusing on collecting views from some water users, private operators and Civil Society Organizations to understand their level of understanding on the IWRM approach and the issues they perceive related to integrated water resources management.

The main findings from the data collection and the consultation workshop are the satisfactory progress in terms of putting in place the enabling environment for IWRM in Rwanda considering the existence of well-articulated policies and master plans/management plans related to integrated water resources management as well as the progressive strengthening of the technical capacity of the institution in charge of promoting integrated water resources management over the last decade.

However, some challenges still remain especially in terms of the current low involvement of private sector and Civil Society Organizations/Non-Government Organizations in promoting integrated water resources management, inadequate financing for promoting IWRM and limited technical capacity especially at sub-national level. The complete survey instrument can be found as a separate document.

1. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'

Compared to the previous baseline study report, there is quite a good progress, but still a lot has to be done. Some of the main challenges are linked to limited awareness of key stakeholders like water users and other key stakeholders on water use and management practices. Some are not yet aware of the rules and regulations such as the water law, land use and planning among others which they should normally abide to. There is also a challenge of geographical and temporal disparities in the availability of water resources which makes it more costly to supply water to certain areas.

- a) How can the main challenges be addressed?

Partnership from national to district level for sustainable and collaborative actions for IWRM should be strengthened through sensitisation of district farmers/communities, big/small water users. Efficient water use, irrigation systems and sustainable land use management should be enhanced as well.

- b) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

The perceived rate of progress is around 70% and the likelihood is high because of ongoing institutional reforms and fund mobilization strategies under development. National targets are set on yearly basis and can be used to support IWRM programme.

- c) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

Some stakeholders are of the view that the gender aspect in water resources management is not properly catered for at policy level while others are of the view that the gender aspect is considered into strategies, programmes and IWRM projects being implemented on ground.

- d) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

A proper coordination and integration of private sector, CSOs and NGOs at all levels of WRM is still lacking.

2. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation'

The outcomes from the discussions revealed the existence of a tangible improvements on the coordination framework for integrated water resources management compared to the situation in 2017 but participants acknowledged the limited involvement of the private sector and civil society organizations in promoting IWRM.

- a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

There is inadequate coordination among IWRM actors and inadequate human and institutional capacity especially at sub-national level.

- b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

Sustainable water management and the implementation of IWRM approach can't be achieved without a strong institutional framework which can effectively coordinate and manage the implementation of IWRM strategies. A participation of all different institutions involved in water sector should be promoted. The management of water resources at a catchment level is very important and should be given high priority.

- c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

The perceived rate of progress is around 73%. The institutional participation is high in Rwanda because of the existing engagement platforms such as the joint sector review, sector working group, thematic working group and multi-institutional steering committees for each project. There is no need for national target setting because the current framework is sufficient and might need strengthening in terms of civil society and NGOs engagement.

- d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

Some stakeholders were of the view that CSOs and NGOs are not well engaged in the existing WRM platforms and this being difficult to incorporate their points of views, contributions while others have an opposite view.

- e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

Strengthen water users' associations to ensure their commitment and participation in sustainable IWRM

3. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'

The main outcomes from the discussions were that there is tangible progress in setting up management instruments for water resources management especially the water resources information system which include the water monitoring network, water resources data base and on-line platforms for accessing water data and water use permits. In addition, various models for water resources allocation and flood forecasting have been developed and the process will continue.

- a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

The main challenges are that there is a gap in real time data availability, early warning systems for water related disasters and gaps in water quantity/quality monitoring over the past years which affect the use of data for long term planning. Achieving multiple water demand for different water uses will be a challenge due to declining water resources availability resulting from ecosystems degradation, land degradation leading to the siltation of water bodies, pollution from point and non-point sources and climate change.

- b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

There is a need for continuous monitoring and observations in order to not overuse the limited water resources. A continuous knowledge sharing and capacity building for efficient water use and protection should be prioritized. Well-planned long-term water storage infrastructures should be upgraded in order to meet the water demand. The Rwanda water portal should be updated continuously

- c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

The perceived rate of progress is around 65% and the likelihood of reaching implementation is still low because some management instruments such as aquifer instruments are not yet in place.

- d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

N/A

- e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

Promote water conservation techniques such as rainwater harvesting, water recycling and other relevant/appropriate technologies. Strongly implement the guidelines for the issuance of water use permits for abstractions and wastewater discharge. A continuous follow up/monitoring for compliance to be done with penalties for non-compliance.

4. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'

It was acknowledged that inadequate financing for water resources management is still one of the main challenges but various options are being explored to meet the current financial gaps which include engaging private sector and other key actors.

- a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

Raising the financial resources is an acknowledged challenge to implement water resources management projects.

- b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

The government of Rwanda expressed commitment to prioritize IWRM activities. There is also a wide number of development partners who have expressed interest in supporting Rwanda's IWRM programmes implementation. Large scale water related infrastructures are under development, ecosystems rehabilitation, and institutional capacity development among many others.

- c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

The perceived rate of progress is around 53% and the likelihood of reaching implementation by 2030 is very low considering new emerging priorities caused by COVID-19. There is a need to have robust fund mobilization instruments.

- d) What are the major points stakeholders did not agree on and why?

Some stakeholders wanted to consider the financial contributions from NGOs and CSOs but there were no data on such contributions and the only contributions considered are those from Government institutions.

- e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

Mobilize more funds from Government, NGOs, development partners, private sector and sensitize them to invest in IWRM projects

5. Next steps

There is high commitment from the Government of Rwanda to promote integrated water resources management with the aim to achieve the global targets by 2030 but also to meet the country's targets by 2024 as per the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) and the Rwanda's vision 2050. Continuous monitoring will be done in order to track the progress.

Annex 1: Workshop participants

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