

**Report of  
Project Start-Up Meeting  
“Integrated Watershed Management Research and Development Capacity Building”**

03.09.-07.09.2012, Nairobi, Kenya



Project partners at Kenyatta University, Nairobi. Kariuki 2012.

## **1. Introduction**

The start-up meeting of the university cooperation project “Integrated Watershed Management Research and Development Capacity Building” took place from 3<sup>th</sup> till 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at Sportsview Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. After reception with welcome addresses and introductory speeches (see programme) the project partners ( see 2.) presented the background and their expectations and discussed about project objectives (see 3.), discussed about the project log frame and time schedule (see 4.) and conducted a field trip to the selected research catchment in Kenya including meetings with institutions relevant for IWM (see 5.).

## 2. Participants

Prof. Chris Shisanya, Kenyatta University, Department of Geography, Kenya

Prof. Joy Obando, Kenyatta University, Department of Geography, Kenya

Prof. Jenny Day, University of Cape Town, Freshwater Research Unit, South Africa

Dr. Jules Remy Ndam, University Yaounde I, Geography Department, Cameroon

Mr Rodrigue Aimé Feumba, University of Yaoundé I, Higher Teachers' Training College, Department of Geography, Cameroon

Dr. Joerg Szarzynski, United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security, Germany

Mrs Anette Stumptner, Freie Universität Berlin, Department of Physical Geography, Germany

Dr. Stefan Thiemann, IWM Expert, Germany

### Guests:

Mr Christoph Hansert, Director DAAD Regional Office for Africa, Nairobi, Kenya participated in the Meeting on the opening day of the workshop.

Mr David Gitau, Vice chair Thiririka WRUA, Gatundu, Kenya joined the project team on Wednesday morning for a discussion about cooperation.

## 3. Background, expectations of African partners and main objectives

The project partners agreed on the background situation in African watersheds, presented their expectations of project results and discussed the main objectives of the project.

Main problems in the field of IWM in Africa are among others:

- Several challenges in the watersheds (e.g.: water regulation problems, poor water quality, etc.);
- Only inappropriate learning materials available; i.e: not tailored to the needs of each stakeholder group: : researchers, institutions and locals;
- Lack of mutual understanding of IWM and communication between IWM stakeholder groups.

The African partners adduced the outcomes of the project:

Cameroon	Kenya	South Africa
WRUA is established	The actual situation of the watershed is assessed	A CMP is developed → case study/framework
CMP as pilot plan is developed	IWM actors and their activities are identified	The institutional setting regarding IWM is assessed
Synergies between different stakeholders are set up and new learning methods are introduced	interactive e-Learning platform is developed where all actors	Capacity on all levels is built by e-Learning
Awareness regarding IWM is raised		Local communities are sensitized for IWM

Abbreviations:

WRUA: Water Resources User Association, CMP: Catchment Management Plan

According to the background situation and the expectations of the African partners the main objectives of the project as discussed are:

- to foster Integrated Watershed Management in the identified watersheds in Kenya, Cameroon and South Africa;
- to improve learning approaches /materials for all IWM stakeholder groups;
- to provide interactive e-Learning platform IWM for information and communication;
- to derive guidelines referring to a) and b) based upon experiences gained from comparative studies in three contrasting environments in three African countries;
- to foster science-policy dialogue based on the project outputs.

As a secondary effect it is intended to enhance communication between the stakeholder groups in IWM.

#### 4. Project log frame and time schedule

The workshop participants discussed in detail the objectives, results and activities during the three-year project duration (see details in attached logical framework).

<u>2012/2013</u>	Country	Acting Persons	Ju l	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Project start	all	all											
Project start-up meeting <i>two days plus field trip</i>	Kenya	Anette, Stefan, Chris, Joy, Jörg, Rodrigue, Jules, Jenny											
Project management (FUB) <i>permanent</i>	Germany	Stefan & Anette											
Assessment of 'living laboratories' and governance processes and mechanism <i>one week per country for Anette; MSc students to continue additional three weeks</i>	Kenya, South Africa, Cameroon	Anette plus 2 MSc students from Germany for each country; students from partners				K E N Y A	C a m e r o o n		South A fri ca				
Design of e-environment <i>permanent</i>	all	Anette / Cedis, Stefan, Mama, Tony, Chris, Jörg											
Project management meeting <i>South Africa</i>		all										?	?

## 5. Living laboratory for IWM in Kenya and meetings with IWM institutions

Participants selected Thiririka watershed as living laboratory in Kenya on the basis of several criteria (Water Resources User Association (WRUA) existing/in development status, close to Kenyatta University and Nairobi, etc.). During the workshop several meetings with institution responsible for IWM and water services were conducted in order to learn about the institutional setting for IWM in this region and to discuss regarding cooperation and research:

- a) Athi water service board in Thika: Mrs Nderu and Mrs Mdirangu
- b) Gatundu water & sanitation company: Mr David Muigai
- c) Water Resources User Association in Thiririka: Mr George Gitau, Vice chair of WRUA
- d) Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA): Mr. Geoffrey Wachira; sub-regional manager



Meeting with Mr Wachira, WRMA. Feumba 2012.

It is to be mentioned that WRMA is conducting some Capacity building activities in the field of integrated water management and all institutions appreciate the cooperation with the project and discussed joint activities (e.g. development of CMP).