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# Lake Cyohoha catchment: Enhancing climate resilience of communities and ecosystems

*(WORKSHOP: MANAGING CHANGE: STRENGTHENING  
RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISKS)*

by  
Kidanemariam Jembere,  
Regional Programme Manager, GWP Eastern Africa



# Outline

1. Introduction
2. The process
3. The activities- **local actions**
4. Learning points
5. Summary



# 1. Water Climate and Development Program (WACDEP) in Africa (AMCOW and GWP)

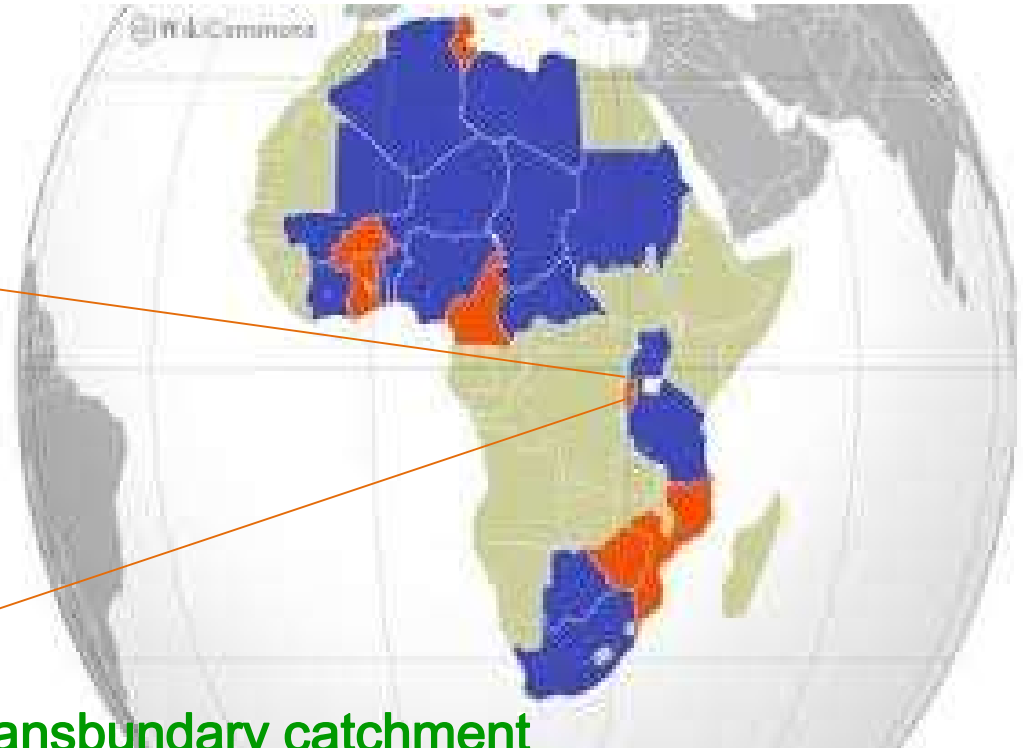
Piloted so far in:

## 5 Transboundary Basins:

- NW-Sahara Aquifer
- Volta
- L.Chad
- **Kagera**
- Limpopo

## 8 countries:

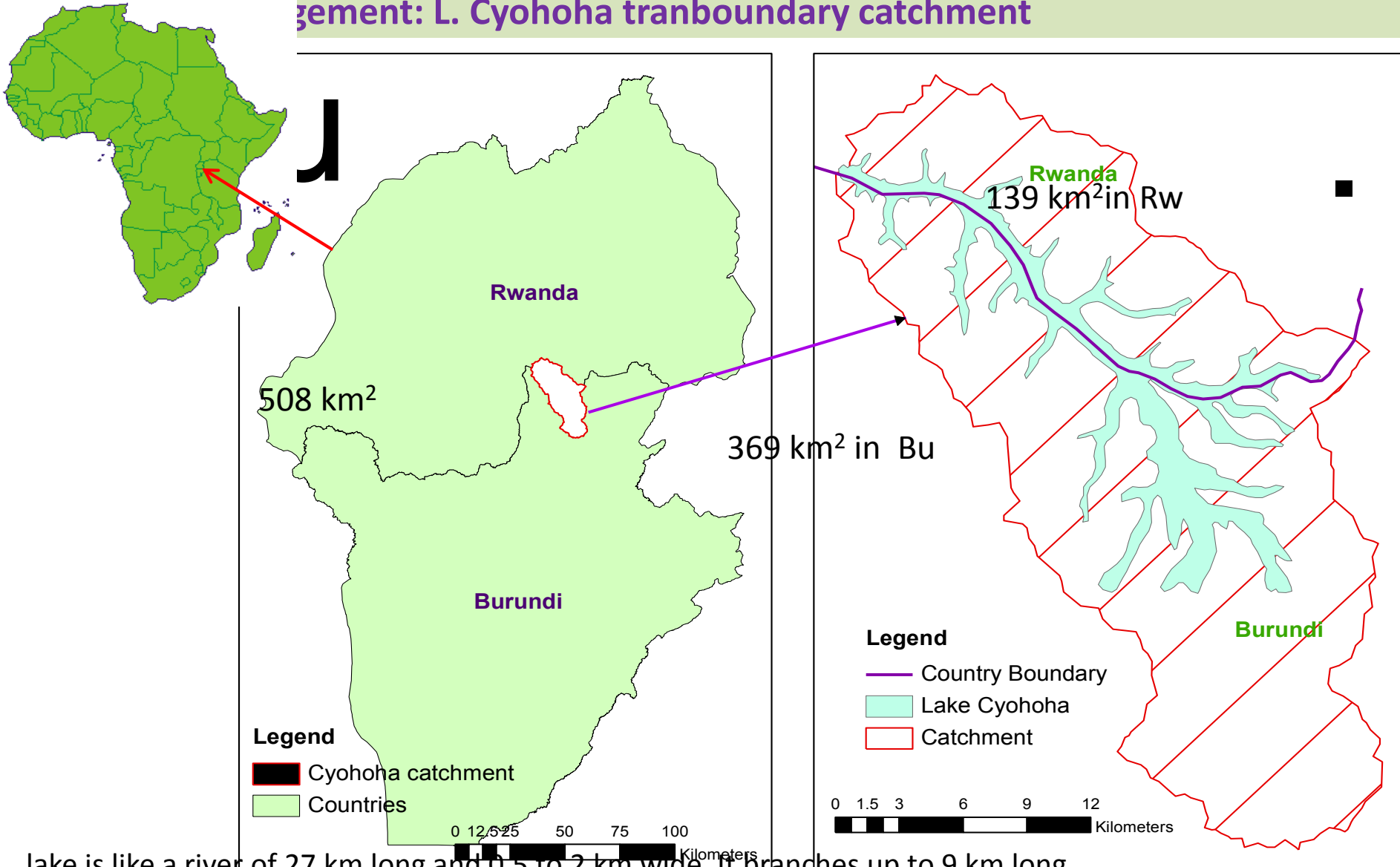
- Ghana
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Tunisia
- **Burundi**
- **Rwanda**
- Mozambique
- Zimbabwe



A transboundary catchment  
(Burundi/Rwanda)

# 2.The Methods/Process: Situational Analysis

Defining hydrological boundary as a unit of analysis, planning and management: L. Cyohoha tranboundary catchment



lake is like a river of 27 km long and 0.5 to 2 km wide. It branches up to 9 km long

The lake Cyohoha is separated from the river Akanyaru by a broadband swamps.



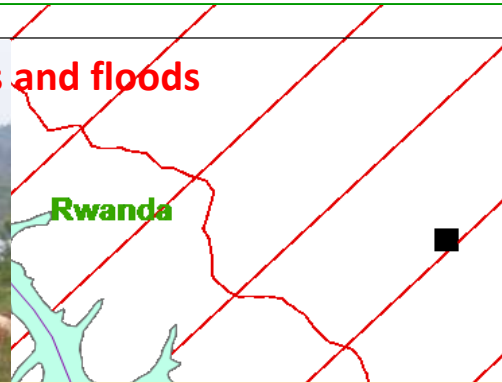
# 1. Challenges in Lake Cyohoha-Bugesera

Poor community structures

Poverty



Droughts and floods



*struggling to access water, food and energy*



1. degraded catchments
  - Degraded wetlands
  - Erosion, deforestation, overgrazing
  - Subsistence agriculture



2. Traditional cooking stoves and lack of fuel wood

3. Poor access to safe drinking water

Poor access to social services/infrastructure

High Population growth

# 2.The methods/Process: Situational analysis:

## Technical Analysis by Joint (Bu-Rw) Team of Experts

Multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach

Hydrologist/Hydrogeologist, Environmentalist/  
watershed management expert/ forester/  
wetland ecologist, Agriculture expert, Socio-  
economist, Gender Expert, GIS Expert



Bu-Rw Team for Situational Analysis in L. Cyohoha catchment



## 2.The methods/Process: Situational analysis: Awareness raising, sensitization, participatory analysis



### Participatory process during situational analysis

- history of drought/flood hazards, changes in rainfall seasons,
- local knowledge systems, local coping mechanisms, community structures
- Source of household energy, accessing it and challenges



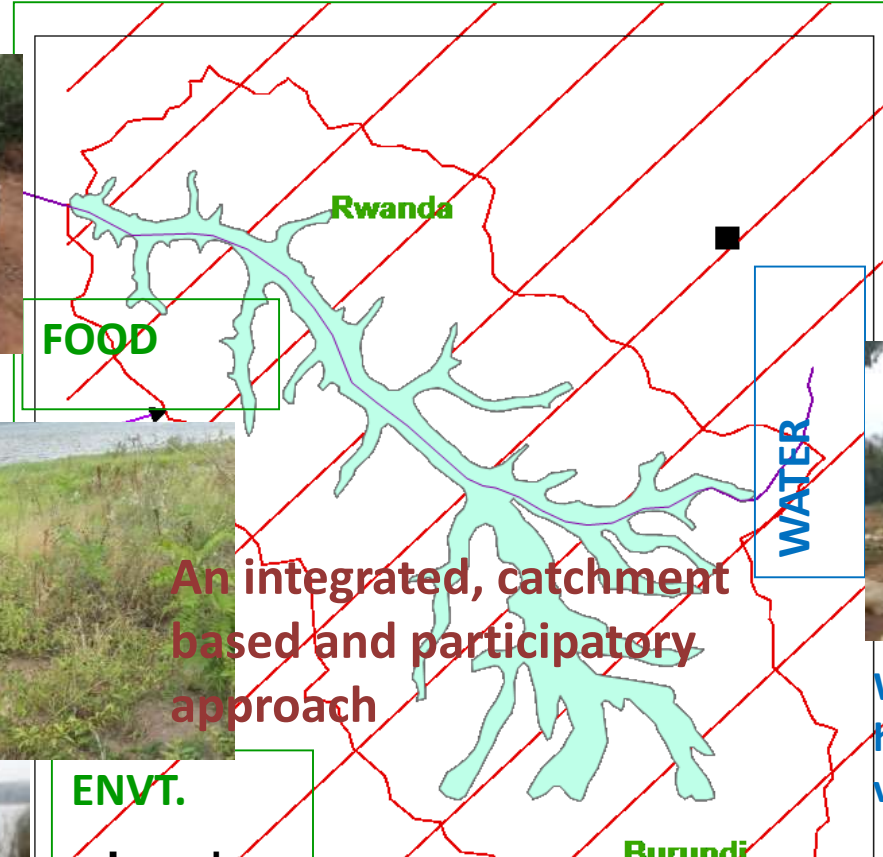
## 2. The methods/processes: prioritizing interventions (situational analysis, joint review and consultations with stakeholders)



# 3.The activities- local actions



Vegetables, fruit trees



Water supply, and Roof water harvesting for biogas, vegetables, washing



SWC and buffer zone magt.



Biogas and improved stoves





# 3. The activities- partnerships and capacities



High level Policy makers

The broader stakeholders

Partnership for local action/investment



Interdisciplinary & Inter-sectoral  
Team of Experts

Local Government &  
local actors



# 4. Learning Points

## Lesson # 1: Participatory and integrated approach



*Catchment/community structures facilitate participation, ownership and cooperation*

## Lesson # 2: Address communities' priorities



*Addressing communities' priorities facilitate participation, ownership and cooperation*



# 4. Learning Points

**Lesson #3: Raise community awareness and engage local media**

Training and informing media to inform the public



*Raising communities' awareness on shared resources and challenges enhances participation, ownership and cooperation*

**Lesson #4: Establish / strengthen partnership**



*Facilitating partnership among Universities, Ministries, NGOs/CSOs, private sector, youth, women, communities, etc facilitated joint learning and cooperation*

**L.Cyohoha Catchment:**

- Multi-stakeholders' forums
- Joint Bu/Rw PAC-Ministries
- Bu/Rw-CWPs/PACs
- L.Cyohoha Joint Committees

# 4. Learning Points

## Lesson # 5: Linking policy with practice



*Exchange visits/  
cross border  
learning b/n Bu  
and Rw influenced  
practices and  
cooperation*

## Lesson #6: Political support



*Ministers of Water  
for Burundi and  
Rwanda  
participating in  
WACDEP activities*

### 3. Conclusion/recommendations

- *Water resources are shared resources within a hydrological boundary. Use catchment/basin as a unit of management/cooperation*
- *Communities need water for various uses. Demands are integrated and thus approaches*
- *Early participation and ownership by all stakeholders is useful for sustainability*
- *Community catchment management structures enhances empowerment and ownership*
- *Linking policies with practice useful in promoting water security and climate resilience*

Thank you!