

Mr. Sylvester A. Matemtu, is an Assistant Director responsible for Transboundary Waters in the Ministry of Water, United Republic of Tanzania. He has Civil Engineering back ground and also an Expert in International and National Water Law (holder of Master of Laws in International and National Water Law and Policy from University of Dundee – Scotland)

Tanzania shares more water resources with neighbouring countries than any other country in Africa. There are 14 surface water bodies (leave alone ground water aquifers) shared with eight neighbouring countries namely; Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.

At national level, Mr. Matemtu has the responsibility to coordinate negotiations on transboundary water agreements and supervise preparation and execution of transboundary water resources management and development plans as well as ensuring mainstreaming of adopted regional and international water programmes and strategies at national level.

His wide experience in the public sector covers a period of 37 years to-date (1982 – 2019), out of which 26 years in the Water Sector and 11 years in the Education, Energy, Minerals and Communication Sectors. In the said sectors, he served at different capacities including; chairmanship of various Technical Advisory Committees at national, regional and international levels, various Boards of Water related Institutions and advisor to Ministers responsible for Water, Higher Education, Communication, Science and Technology.

In respect of the above, he has written different research papers on trans-boundary water cooperation and conflict resolution apart from opportunities by invitation to make presentations at regional and international high-level forums on transboundary water resources management since 2003. Some of key regional and international institutions referred here include United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), African Ministers Council (AMCOW), Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), Songwe River Basin Commission (SRBC), Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) and Joint Water Commission of Ruvuma River Basin (JWC). Also, on part time basis, he used to support the WaterNet programme (International Water Law) for Master's degree students studying Integrated Water Resources Management Modules at the University of Dar es Salaam.

In his free time, he enjoys physical exercise, reading and watching television.