

**Functionality of Water User Association for Sustainable Water Resources Management  
in Pangani Mainstem Sub-Catchment, Tanzania**  
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Community participation in water resources management has become widely adapted by many countries over past few years. In Tanzania community participation is done by incorporating the principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM). It also incorporating among other things democratized water management institutions and the principles of stakeholder participation as it was presented and regarded as the cornerstone of the water reforms. This research examined the functions of water user association which is the community institution mandated to manage water resources at the local level. Participation of communities in management of water resources is done through merging the different groups of water users into associations namely Water User Associations (WUA) as a mechanism for stakeholder's participation. WUA are believed to be appropriate community institutions that can help in water conservation, management, equitable allocation, collection for water user fees and mediation of disputes at user level. The results from the main study indicated that there are no satisfactory results in the management of water resource in Pangani mainstem sub-catchment. In many parts of the sub-catchment water conflicts are increasing, sources have deteriorated and water infrastructures are vandalized. In order to enhance the performance of Water User Association, the study has proposed windows for opportunity for the performance of water user association by strengthening four main areas of representation to the water user association. Other options and recommendations are to ensure regular training and awareness to the water users on the importance of managing water resources under the whims of the association of water users.