



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2014

### **The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance promotes Water Quality in Kenya through Department of State Exchange**

San Antonio, Texas — The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA), headquartered in San Antonio, will host Rose Wamalwa from Women in Water and Natural Resources Conservation in Kenya through the Department of State's Community Solutions Program.

While she is here, Rose will work on researching the impact of sewage on the Edwards Aquifer and on GEAA projects devised to mitigate non-point source pollution on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. She hopes to establish relationships and learn about water quality and water conservation programs in Central Texas that can translate into the creation of similar projects in Kenya.

Rose Wamalwa is the founder and Program Director of Women in Water and Natural Resources Conservation in Kakamega Kenya. Born and raised in a rural setting, Rose recalls walking for 5 kilometers with a jerrican of water on the head. Growing up she experienced the abuse, harassment and discrimination of women in her community. Her Organization is a response to the need to strengthen and build home grown capacity, empowering African Women to seek solutions for African Communities.

Her goal is to pursue an integrated socio-economic and cultural development approach in the fight against poverty and social exclusion through grass-root organizing of the community and families. In Collaboration the Global Women Water Initiative, the organization has trained about 3000 women in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania on WASH and its related technologies and constructed 50 rain water harvesting tanks and 20 ventilated pit latrines.

"We find that addressing the challenges of cyclical drought and impaired water quality are goals central to both of our organizations", says Annalisa Peace, executive director of GEAA. "I look forward to working with Rose to discover innovative ways to conserve and protect our most precious resource – water."

Rose is in San Antonio on a four-month fellowship as part of the [Community Solutions Program](#) of the U.S. Department of State, in partnership with IREX. The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance was chosen as one of 60 U.S. organizations to host Community Solutions Leaders from more than 30 countries this fall.

The Community Solutions Program is a professional development program for the best and brightest global community leaders working in the fields of transparency and accountability, tolerance and conflict resolution, environmental issues and women's issues. The program matches global leaders with organizations across the United States to collaborate on projects and leave better positioned to make lasting change in their home communities. For more information, please visit <http://www.exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/community-solutions>

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