



## **NILE BASIN DISCOURSE FORUM IN RWANDA**

### **ONE NILE ONE FAMILY**

**REPORT OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON DEEPENING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND BENEFITS IN THE NILE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN CLEAN ENERGY FOR TRANSBOUNDARY DEVELOPMENT ON RUSUMO**

**VENUE: SPORTSVIEW HOTEL**

**DATE: 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011, KIGALI-RWANDA**



**Submitted to NBD/DFID Project**

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## Background

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a network of civil society organizations from the 10 countries of the Nile Basin -- [Burundi](#), [DRC](#), [Egypt](#), [Eritrea](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#), [Sudan](#), [Rwanda](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Uganda](#). This network seeks to achieve positive influence over the cooperation framework, development of projects and programmes under the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and other Nile-related programmes.

The overarching objective of the NBD is to promote sustainable and equitable development, poverty reduction, and cooperation between all stakeholders in the Nile Basin. Working at the level of civil society engagement, the NBD seeks to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits available to poor people within Nile countries and to ensure that there is a more equitable distribution of these benefits across the Nile basin as a whole.

The Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda (NBDF Rwanda), is one of the other sister National Discourse Forums in the other Nile Basin countries that focus on national engagement to fulfil the NBD Program Mission, Vision and Objectives. NBDF Rwanda has carried out various activities jointly with its 36 member NGOs that operate within the Nile Basin in Rwanda.

As part of implementing recommendations of the Nile Equatorial Lakes sub-region Multi-Stakeholders' Forum held in Kigali, in March 2011 by civil society representatives and experts, NBDF Rwanda organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Stakeholders Forum.

100 participants from all major sectors; Government, Private Sector, Academicians, Donors, Embassies, CSOs, CBOs, NGOs, Local administrative units in provinces affected, Researchers, Journalists, two representatives from NDFs of Uganda and Burundi, were invited to the one-day workshop. The theme of the workshop focused on clean energy and sustainable development with particular emphasis on community participation. Specifically the forum discussed community involvement in The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydro-Power Project (RRFP).

### **Workshop objectives:**

#### **The forum sought to;**

- Provide an opportunity to update key public constituencies on the level, process and methods of benefit and engagement of critical stakeholders at community level in the Rusumo Project.
- Identify ways of strengthening the capacity of local community stakeholders to participate effectively in the ongoing process of participation, negotiation and involvement in the completion of the resettlement and local area development planning exercises.
- Explore and refine strategies for increased and better mechanisms for collaboration with stakeholders at community level, with government agencies, project

implementing agencies and NELSAP sub-regional office to complement development of the project.

- In-depth sharing of information on any other concerns that maybe of importance to the project progress since NEL Sub-Regional workshop and the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Forum that were both held in Rwanda during year 1.

## INTERVENTIONS:

### The National Coordinator NBDF

The National Coordinator Nile Basin Discourse Rwanda, Mr. John Gakumba welcomed participants. He explained the objectives of the forum, and how it fit in the mission, objectives and goals of the NBD. He further gave a brief background of NBDF Rwanda's activities in the clean energy sector, and climate change. He informed members that the forum was a first of its kind in that it had sought to invite special guests from neighboring countries, to learn from their experiences.

### Chairman NBDF Rwanda:

Observing all protocol, the Chairman Rwanda NDF Mr. Jean-Baptiste Habiyaremye warmly welcomed participants to the forum. He took the opportunity to introduce special guests from Uganda and Burundi who, in the spirit of "One Nile, One Family" had honoured their invitation to the forum. Thereafter, participants introduced themselves and their constituencies.

« Dear friends, this forum represents our continued work in ensuring continued and deep participation of communities in the Nile » The chairman said. He reiterated NBD's commitment of putting communities and the poor at the heart of development as expressed by NBD's 5 year programme strategy, "empowerment through participation"



*NBDF Rwanda Chairperson seated with Hon Eng. Coletha RUHAMYA in spectacles during the official welcoming of Guests and participants*

"Our theme today, is community participation for clean energy for development, with a focus on the Rusumo Project, because we recognise the opportunities that access to electricity will contribute to the development of our people" Mr. Habiyaremye

The Chairman NBDF Rwanda reminded participants that the forum was part of implementing the recommendations of the Nile Equatorial Lakes sub-region Multi-Stakeholders' Forum held in Kigali, in March 2011, contained in the position statement of the Kigali Meeting.

“We can all ascertain that the Nile Cooperation pathway has not been straight, neither has it been easy. The memories we have left behind, we will always treasure and as we confidently take great leaps forward, we strive to do so together in a manner that fosters Nile Cooperation and Sustainable Development for the Basin communities”  
Eng. Ruhamyia, State Minister, Infrastructure

The Chairman expressed gratitude to NELSAP for their continued cooperation, He thanked government for the development efforts achieved and its willingness to involve civil society. “Our theme today, is community participation for clean energy for development, with a focus on the Rusumo Project, because we recognise the opportunities that access to electricity will contribute to the development of our people” Mr. Habiyaemye observed. The Chairman invited the Hon. Minister to share with the participants her word, and officially open the workshop.

#### Guest of Honour:

The forum was officially opened by the Hon. Eng. Coletha U. RUHAMYA, Minister of State for Infrastructure, Government of Rwanda. Observing all protocol, the Minister thanked NBDF Rwanda for the invitation and active participation in representing civil society. She applauded the chosen theme of the forum and reiterated the importance of water and energy for development “*Water is life and Energy is the pillar of economic development*” she said. The Minister recognised the challenges of cooperation on the Nile, but also rejoiced in the unique resource that is the Nile.



*In picture: far end is NBDF Rwanda Chair, Hon.Eng. Coletha RUHAMYA who is the Minister of State for Infrastructure of the Government of Rwanda in the middle and NBI Focal Point for Rwanda during the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Forum for NBDF Rwanda in Kigali-Rwanda.*

Madam Ruhamy called upon the participants to share information and engage all participants in the support for the development of Rusumo as a way of fostering ownership and accountability across the three countries.

Concluding her address, Madam Ruhamy saluted the slogan of the Nile Basin Discourse of “ONE NILE ONE FAMILY” as a way of fostering cooperation among the riparian societies. Wishing participants fruitful deliberations, The Hon. Minister declared the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Stakeholders Forum open.

#### **NELSAP Social Development Officer**

The NELSAP Social Development Officer, M/s Mwikali Wambua, presented the social development aspects of NELSAP activities with respect to energy development. She called upon civil society to take a leading role as partners and not as antagonists. For detailed information on Rusumo Project, Madam Wambua told participants that the Consultant would present findings and an update on the status of the project.

#### **Energy Water & Sanitation Authority (Energy Access Rollout Program)**

The Program Manager for the Energy Access Rollout Program of the Country’s Energy Water & Sanitation Authority (EWSA), presented the nationwide initiative to extend access to electricity, the Energy Access Rollout Program (EARP) and explained that it was part of the framework of Rwanda’s development plan of expanding access to electricity, improving quality and lowering the cost of economic infrastructure. Mr. Kasumba told participants that the goal of EARP was to improve access to reliable and cost effective electricity services for households and priority public institutions. Presenting the current status of the rural electrification program, Kasumba noted that the program had a component for *Green connections* that favored efficient lighting; Energy efficiency, Solutions for low income households- (ready boards). Participants were told that a total of 222,916 connections had been done; Kigali city 49.8% Southern 10.5 % Eastern 16 % Northern 12% Western 12%

#### **SNC LAVALLIN CONSULTANT**

M/s Julie Forget, the Project Director - Economic and Social Development of SNC-Lavalin, The consulting firm in charge of preparation of the Regional Rusumo Project’s Resettlement Action Plan and Local Area Development Plan, presented the status of their work. She told participants that the Preliminary Hydropower Dam Design, Preliminary Livelihood Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the Rwanda side of the project.

Madam Forget further told participants that they were in advanced stages in the preparation of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and the Local Area Development Plans (LADP). Field and social surveys had been undertaken in the three districts of Rwanda that would be affected, notably Kirehe, Ngoma and Bugesera. These involved undertaking a detailed inventory of all affected assets of project affected population.



Rusumo Falls, Site of the proposed Dam for Hydro-Power Production

Also a detailed census of all people affected by the loss of these assets had been done, As well as a socio-economic survey over all affected households to understand their current circumstances. Finally an inventory of current and planned development programmes upon which the LADP can build had been undertaken.

Madam Forget presented an 8step Stakeholder Engagement Process that would contribute to understanding of the study area and livelihood processes. The result of the stakeholder engagement process would be critical in designing the Livelihood Restoration Strategies and mitigating on the severity of impacts for project affected population, as well as in the preparation of resettlement and local area development.

Madam Forget explained the costs and power generation scenarios and made comparisons with international and best practice in resettlement and return on investment. She informed participants that a recent meeting of the project PIC and TAC had opted for the second option of a dam wall of 1323.5Metres high because it would considerably reduce on the impact to livelihoods and resettlement costs without significantly affecting the power generated.

She highlighted the next steps which would involve community consultations on restoration & compensation and elaboration of Resettlement and Local Development Plans with Stakeholders.

#### **NBD Consultant**

Informed participants that NBDF Rwanda had contracted him to produce an accurate report on key advocacy issues relating to the Rusumo Hydro- power project, the likely negative effects of the project at the community level and assess the adequacy of plans for mitigation and livelihood restoration.

The consultant informed stakeholders that he had reviewed documents on the project, held discussions with project personnel as well as with local government administrators at the district, sector, and village level. The Consultant also told the participants that he had visited the dam site, and health centres in Kirehe District. The consultant held focus group

discussions with women from three villages in the areas likely to be affected, to gain an insight on gender issues of the project. He said he had held discussions in Rusumo East, Nyankurazo, Gasarabwayi, Rukumba, Gicuma and Nyamugari. He told the forum that he still had to undertake a field visit to Ngoma and Bugesera to complete the work.

Key Issues Identified so far:

### **COMMUNICATION**

Lack of access to information by Stakeholders and inability to process information even where it is available.

The need to take into account other projects that may be complimentary/divergent (for instance at Rusumo there is a road, bridge, and railway proposed. Some of the stakeholders interviewed thought compensation was for the road).



*A sectional picture of participants during the 3<sup>rd</sup> NDF Rwanda National Forum in Kigali.*

A robust communication mechanism is required to manage expectations.

### **PARTICIPATION**

There is need to include other stakeholders at government level, and grassroots in decision making processes. A robust multi-stakeholder process and strategy should be developed.

Institutional challenges of implementation, with respect to Rusumo project; the Special Purpose Vehicle Architecture, lacks clarity, in the absence of power sharing agreements. Additionally there appears to be no representation at the PIC/TAC level of civil society or the private sector.

### **Limited capacity at sector level**

Whereas compensation laws exist, implementation has always been a challenge.

There are limited alternative land opportunities to compensate displaced people.

Health Sector capacity is lacking to deal with likely influx of people or water related diseases resulting from the reservoir.

Gender issues in compensation, in demarcation of affected areas, Women specific project considerations need to be reviewed.

Cost/ Calendar of access to electricity

LADP needs to put into account what PAPs deem as their priorities.

Youth & employment issues

The old and land issues

#### **AREA-SPECIFIC CHALLENGES (IZINGA Island & Gikumba)**

- Some areas not demarcated yet.
- Marshland/Papyri source of other activities besides farming (hunting, crafts, brickmaking)
- Areas belong to government, but cultural land tenure complicates issues of ownership.
- sole source of livelihood for some people who live in midugudu
- Petty traders at nyamugari feel left out, because they were not enumerated/photographed.

#### **INTERCONNECTIONS Consultant FICHTNER**

The consultant from Fichtner, who are in charge of the the transmission component of the Rusumo Project, described the area that will be affected: from Shango substation and Rusumo Falls Substation, there will be a line extension to Bugesera Substation (total length 114.7 km) Affecting 6 districts; Gasabo (21.56 km), Kicukiro (2.59 km), Rwamangana (17.28 km), Bugesera (0.93 km), Ngoma (38.37 km) and Kirehe (33.98 km)

He said that the project would have two types of impacts:

##### *Permanent Impact:*

Expropriated land for substations, tower foundations, removed houses.

Trees cut during land survey (within 30 m ROW). Crops destroyed for construction of towers and substations.

##### *Temporary Impact:*

Crops destroyed during land survey, during construction work, for worker's camps, access roads; Banana Plantations cut during land survey, for worker's camps, for access roads.

Damage to houses during construction work.

To mitigate against these impacts, there would be compensation for removed houses, compensation for land, crops and other infrastructure. Resettlement Packages for vulnerability, severe impact and a Moving Allowance would be earmarked by the project. PAPs livelihood restoration and Community Livelihood Improvement had also been planned for.

In order to understand the resettlement impacts of the Project survey and assessment activities were undertaken including:

- Detailed analysis of maps, aerial photographs and satellite images combined with cross check visits of the line-routing. Preliminary PAP census of all structures in ROW, all tower foundations and substations;
- Preparation of interactive maps and survey tools, preparation of paper maps and use of GPS Handhelds and GPS Cameras;
- A redesign of bypasses in order to minimize resettlement and impact assessment of proposed bypasses to evaluate potential trade-off had been undertaken.
- Detailed PAP census, inventory of losses and socio-economic survey of affected households in ROW and evaluation of land, buildings and assets to be compensated (>98% sample);
- Livelihood Survey in selected high impact areas and potential resettlement sites;
- Census of trees and banana plantations in ROW and an estimate of affected agricultural lands;
- Evaluation of Compensation Costs and establishment of Resettlement Packages according to PAP categories;
- Special consideration of vulnerable PAPs and severe impacts;
- Estimate of damages to crops / disturbance during land survey and construction process;
- Identification of community based livelihood measures, grievance settlement mechanism; legal support needs, public consultation and monitoring measures;
- Establishment of RAP budget.

The consultant informed participants that the total land expropriation requirements would be 10.03 ha, of which 3.34 ha for tower foundations, 6.69 ha for Shango, Bugesera and Rusumo Falls substations and 13.8 ha of temporarily destroyed crops during land survey.

4,400 trees (min. 5 years old) and 52.86 ha of banana plantations to be cut during land survey and construction of which 655 fruit and wood trees of resettlers;

A total of 134 households would be affected: 51 in Kirehe, 34 in Ngoma, 32 in Rwamangana, 16 in Gasabo, 1 each in Kicukiro and Bugesera. The total number of PAPs to be relocated is 709 (average 5.3 per household as per census result). Additionally other buildings affected include one church building "Paroisse de Bare", 1 Jeunesse Ouvrière Chrétienne JOC building and 2 cooperatives ("Association du Tabarane" and COMSS).

## DISCUSSIONS & ISSUES RAISED:

Noted that grassroots communities had expressed a need for a market that would serve communities around the area of the project from the three countries.

Participants sought to know what the total cost of the project, including resettlement and local area development would be.

Participants noted the need to integrate the project with existing policies and projects on the ground to maximise returns.

Participants further expressed worry at the high cost of electricity, which would make it inaccessible to the poor community. Why did it take long for Kaduha to be connected forum members enquired.

Participants sought to know how the project would enhance participation of grassroots communities, given their limited capacity to engage. They also wanted to know how gender issues would be catered for. Participants recommended more detailed examination of gender/elderly issues, with respect to compensation and land expropriation. Further recommended an intimate involvement of CSO in the process.

Participants expressed a desire to hold the next forum in Rusumo, as a show of solidarity, but also to get firsthand knowledge of the challenges of the communities.



*In picture: Egyptian Ambassador discussing during the coffee break with Hon.Eng. Coletha RUHAMYA at the workshop venue.*

Members of the forum wanted to know what impact the project would have on Nile cooperation, given the incomplete CFA process.

Participants advocated for careful planning before relocation of project affected population, including provision of basic needs during the relocation process and before the first harvest.

#### **REACTIONS TO ISSUES RAISED:**

Participants were informed that the project was advocating for a 'land for land' kind of compensation. Where it was not possible, market values would be used. The consultant further told participants that the number of people to be relocated had significantly reduced with the second option; with only 5600, although the cost of their relocation could account for almost 40% of the cost of the project. Further informed the forum that they were working hand in hand with local government and other partners operating in the area to ensure smooth process.

Participants were informed that the 'multi-purpose' component had been struck off the project name, since there would not be an irrigation component downstream.

The EARP program manager agreed that it was important that civil society be involved in discussions on electricity costs. He said that with rusumo power generation, the increase in power would lead to lowered costs. He said one of the challenges they met was connecting scattered settlements, and the resettlement could be a blessing in disguise as people settle in an orderly manner.

#### **Closing Remarks by the special guest from Uganda.**

Mr. Mulindwa, General Secretary of the Uganda NDF was requested by the Chairman Rwanda NDF to give closing remarks.



*In picture: far end is NPC of Burundi NDF, middle is NBDF Rwanda chairperson and with microphone is SG of Uganda NDF during the closing remarks of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Forum on Rwanda NDF.*

He thanked participants for the lively discussions on such an important theme, and told them that the ideas, and knowledge shared would be crucial to develop a project that took

communities' perspectives into account. He expressed gratitude at the warm reception that had been accorded to the Uganda delegation. Giving examples from Uganda to illustrate his idea, Mr. Mulindwa stressed the importance of sustainable development in all project work. Mr. Mulindwa challenged participants to widely disseminate the information because it was critical to dialogue from an informed position. Mr. Mulindwa requested the Chairman to invite participants to demonstrate, the NBD Slogan of **One Nile one family**, before officially closing the forum and joining a cocktail that was prepared by the NBDF Rwanda Office.