



"One Nile – One Family"

## UGANDA NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM

***Theme: Mainstreaming Local Community Stakeholder Participation and Benefits in the NELSAP Sub Regional Hydro-Power and Interconnection Projects***

**SOURCE OF THE NILE HOTEL  
JINJA  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### *Introduction*

Uganda Nile Discourse Forum (UNDF) is a national network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with a vision to realise sustainably managed Nile Basin resources for the prosperity and good health of the people. As a network, UNDF strives to ensure that development programs in the Nile Basin lead to poverty alleviation and sustainable development without affecting negatively the livelihood of local communities or the environment.

UNDF is part of the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), which is a regional network of civil society organizations established to facilitate and support civil society engagement in Nile Basin Cooperation and development processes. NBD operates through 10 National Discourse Forums (NDFs) in the ten riparian States (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) that share the Nile. The NBD is currently the only established institution with the specific mandate to: engage in identification and conceptualization of NBI development programs and policies, build a collective voice in the Nile Basin; increase stakeholders' interest in trans-boundary activities and regional collaborations; and to establish a strong and broad knowledge base through networking and information sharing, trans boundary links between NDFs within NBD.

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) through the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) based in Kigali, Rwanda, is implementing two key initiatives aimed at guiding the development and trade of power in the NELSAP region - **The Nile Basin Initiative Regional Power Trade Project (RPTP)** which intends to establish a conducive environment to support continued discourse and promote power trade among Nile Basin countries as well as the **NELSAP Power Program**. The objective of the NELSAP Power Program is to create a regional power market amongst the NELSAP Countries through development of the regional Power infrastructure and ensure establishment of rules & mechanisms for power exchange. The Interconnection Project of Electricity Networks of 5 Nile Equatorial Lakes Countries (Kenya, Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi); is one of the various projects being implemented by NELSAP. In Uganda the project is being implemented through the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Ltd.

Uganda Nile discourse Forum (UNDF) held another National Stakeholders Forum on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at the Source of The Nile Hotel in Jinja (see program in annex 1). The Forum was focused on the implementation process of the proposed 256km, 220KV Jinja [Uganda]-Lessos [Kenya] electricity interconnection project. Participants discussed the key findings from the assessment conducted among the affected local communities and other key stakeholders. The forum also developed key advocacy highlights and participants had the opportunity to interact with other key policy makers and stakeholders. This was intended to strengthen collaboration and sustainable development in the Nile Basin. The representatives of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) interacted with advocacy CSO organisations and built rapport for future interventions in the region.

## 1.1 OBJECTIVES.

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- i) The objective of the Forum was to disseminate the findings of the assessment to the Forum for discussion, get clarification on the findings and to improve them by adding the people's voice.
- ii) To update the representatives of the Project-Affected People and the other stake holders on the progress of the power interconnection project and to identify issues for crafting advocacy and messages aimed at improving the implementation of the power interconnection projects under Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)

## 1.2 PARTICIPANTS

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The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs), UNDF members, Local government officials, Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Ltd staff, Line Ministry representatives, UNDF board members, UNDF and NBD staff, Members of Parliament, other

### Stakeholder groups represented in the forum

• Central & Local (District & Sub-County) Leaders	23
• Local Community/Project Affected People & Village leaders	17
• Private Sector/Development partners	5
• Civil society organisations & UNDF Board members	28
• Media	4
• UNDF/NBD Staff	4
Total	81

Civil Society Organizations, the private sector and the donors/development partners' representatives. The categories are shown below and the full list is attached in annex 4.

## 2. DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

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### 2.1 WELCOME REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN UNDF

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The Chairman, Uganda Nile Discourse Forum welcomed participants and started by introducing UNDF to them. He said UNDF is a network of CSOs in Uganda promoting sustainable use and management of the Nile Basin resources through empowering members and communities to advocate for better livelihoods, and that UNDF has 56 members. It is also part of the larger network, the Nile Basin Discourse that operates in the 10 Nile Basin countries. The network provides a platform for Civil Society to engage with other partners such as the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) or other Nile Basin developments.

As a network, UNDF strives to ensure that development programs lead to poverty alleviation and achieving sustainable development without affecting negatively the livelihood of local communities or the environment on which we depend, and encouraged more civil society organisations to join this network, in order to reach all corners of our country. The Uganda Nile Discourse Forum has a secretariat that runs the day to activities.

He added that the forum sought to highlight the costs and benefits of the Nile Cooperation, by presenting, discussing and validating results of an assessment of potential benefits and costs of the “Project for the Interconnection of Electric Grids of The Nile Equatorial Lakes Countries”, through focussing on one of the project components: **the proposed construction of 220kV double circuit transmission line from Bujagali via Tororo substation to the Uganda/ Kenya border**, which traverses the districts of Jinja, Mayuge, Bugiri, Iganga and Tororo. The assessment aimed to provide evidence on the community and stakeholder involvement in project implementation and the project’s current and potential benefits and costs. As an output, the forum would identify key advocacy highlights for improving the manner in which NBI activities and similar projects in the basin are implemented.

He highlighted that the regional interconnection Power project is a welcome idea because it came at time when all countries in the Nile basin are experiencing power shortages, high unemployment, and lack of sustainable energy sources for industrial development, all of which contribute to increasing prices of goods and services due to high costs of production as a result of using expensive energy sources. He noted that over 95% of the population has no access to electricity, and even those with access cannot afford its high cost. Thus over 30 million Ugandans use biomass or fuel wood as their main source of energy, with a bag of charcoal over Ush. 80,000 in Kampala by that time. He noted that this was disastrous to the environment, and so Uganda welcomed the idea of regional interconnection. He however added that there is need for similar investments in rural electrification and reduction in electricity prices.

He said that he hoped that we shall all be winners under these projects, since such big projects have profound impacts on the lives of people where they are implemented. Therefore, our intervention is to bring out pertinent issues for the participants to share but also contribute to critical decisions making processes. He said that research has shown that the Nile River has the potential to generate substantial amount of energy at the same time providing for other activities that sustain the livelihood of communities. However, the River is facing threats from anthropogenic activities resulting from climate change, unsustainable use and degradation of the catchment.

The Chairman stated that all humans need water to survive: “water is life”, and yet there are observations already to the effect that waters of the Nile are dwindling, which has profound impact on the future of millions of people in Uganda and other countries. He then noted that it is our collective responsibility to guard jealously this resource by engaging in activities that contribute positively to the survival of the Nile. He then called upon everybody to work towards achieving our vision of “one Nile, one family” and pledged UNDF support to government and development partners towards successful implementation of the project. He hoped stakeholders will

*“... “water is life”, and yet there are observations already to the effect that the waters of the Nile are dwindling, which has profound impact on the future of millions of people in Uganda and other countries in the basin. . It is our collective responsibility to guard jealously this resource by engaging in activities that contribute positively to the survival of the Nile. I call upon everybody to work towards achieving our vision of “one Nile, one family””*

Chairman, UNDF

continue engaging throughout the projects implementation, and wished every one good deliberation.

## **2.2 OVER VIEW OF THE FORUM BY THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR UNDF**

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The UNDF Coordinator made an overview presentation about forum (annex 5). She informed the meeting that the current NBD/NDFs program is focused on raising awareness of key and relevant stakeholders on the benefits and costs of Nile cooperation and informing NBI programs with **community needs and perspectives**. She added that Civil Society Organizations are encouraged to be members to enable the network to reach all corners of the Nile Basin. She informed the stakeholders that the National Forums being held in all countries in the Nile Basin provide a medium through which the civil society can engage the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and Governments. The forums also facilitate civil society participation in the implementation and monitoring of NBI development activities in the Nile Basin.

The UNDF Coordinator informed the meeting that the forum purpose was threefold:

- To validate key findings of the assessment conducted among the communities affected by the Bujagali-Tororo-Kenya transmission line and other key stakeholders
- To develop key advocacy highlights
- To interact with key policy makers and stakeholders in attendance to strengthen collaboration and sustainable development in the Nile Basin.

She then enumerated the objectives of the meeting that included:

- To raise awareness of stakeholders Nile Cooperation & the benefits of Nile cooperation
- To deliberate on the manner in which the Regional Power Interconnection Project is being implemented
- To inform NBD's and NBI's approach of promoting community centered project implementation
- To generate ideas and recommendations to NBI and NELSAP on the implementation of the Regional Power Interconnection Program
- Identify strategies to promote stakeholder participation, to protect and maximize social benefits from the project.

Finally she encouraged open discussion and active participation and engagement and open sharing of information in this and other future interactions to strengthen collaboration, and reasserted that stakeholders focus should remain the sustainable development in the Nile Basin

## **2.3 REMARKS FROM THE NBD REGIONAL MANAGER**

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The Regional Manager of NBD was represented by the Advocacy Officer of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Sub-region who also doubled as the forum facilitator. He said that this kind of Forum offers an opportunity for public discourse in a non-binding way- people are free to say what they feel (which is not necessarily what they think) without restriction.

He said the Nile Basin is not about water per say, and the fact that our Chief Guest was from the Ministry of Lands and Urban Development when we discuss issues of energy and water demonstrate the multi-sectoral nature of the NBD forums.

He said NBD has held forums in different countries in the basin to help engage as maximally as possible the implementation of NBI programs. NBD operates in a bigger picture, as the only civil society platform in the basin that discusses these issues. He said NBD occupies a special space in public discourse to take these issues forward.

He pointed out that UNDF is a flagship NDF within the NBD, because of two reasons: 1). the NBI is located in Uganda and so the country forum needs to be very pro-active and, 2). UNDF is among the most active forums in the network. But also, Uganda occupies a very special place in the Nile Hydrology and History. He pointed out that Jinja as a venue for the forum was very suitable: at the source of the Nile. Also, in particular reference to power trade, Uganda was the first country to export energy in the basin, as far back as 1958, transmitting from Jinja to Lessos in Kenya, with no trans-boundary power trade framework at all. Uganda thus offers experiences for the current power trade program to learn from.

## 2.4 OFFICIAL OPENING BY GUEST OF HONOR

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The Guest of Honor (Hon. Minister Daudi Migereko) was represented by the Director in the Ministry of Lands and Urban Development, Mr. Bwogi L. M. He welcomed the participants to the Forum and thanked them for their participation. He mentioned that this project is strong development in the energy sector and in the country as a whole. He said the theme of the forum emphasized the importance of community participation in developments within the Nile Basin to enhance the benefits accruing to them, and that when communities are involved in project implementation, there are higher chances of ensuring that projects respond to the needs of the society. He said the theme not only focused on energy development but also urges us to open up to the opportunities that arise from our shared resource – the Nile River.

*“ Ugandans do not need to be reminded of the importance of increasing our power supply and distribution capacities, especially given the current power shortages for both domestic and industrial use..... Cross-border sharing of power takes advantage of economies of scale, by creating a wider market for energy resources, and, above all, through sharing of resources like power, peace and stability in the region will be enhanced because the ties between sovereign countries will be stronger, which is the rationale of Nile cooperation*

**Hon Min of Lands, Housing and Urban  
Development, Uganda**

He said the main objective of the power trade project is to improve the rate of access to electrical power for the people of the Nile Basin member countries and to foster regional power trade, and added that Ugandans do not need to be reminded of the importance of increasing our power supply and distribution capacities, especially given the current power shortages for both domestic and industrial use.

He noted that energy development and trade is the key to unlocking the untapped potential of cooperation within the Nile Basin, and that

cooperation and sharing of resources through projects like this one are necessary because the countries in the region are endowed with a diversity of resources, and thus it is sometimes more cost effective to import a product (e.g. electricity) than to have every country producing its own. In the case of electricity, cross-border transmission ensures security of supply even where individual countries are hit by emergencies like drought, or they need to shut down generation plants for regular maintenance works. He added that cross-border sharing of power also takes advantage of economies of scale, by creating a wider market for energy resources, and above all, through sharing of resources like power, peace and stability in the region will be enhanced because the ties between sovereign countries will be stronger, which is the rationale of Nile cooperation. He said the long-term objective of the power trade program is to contribute to poverty reduction through improving access to reliable, low cost, sustainably generated power, and that since power interconnection and trade has many positive benefits, cooperation is the only option. He said the government calls upon its citizens to support this program, and government will on its part ensure that such projects are implemented in a manner that is both socially and environmentally responsive. Finally, he wished for the success of the national stakeholders' forum and said he looked forward to productive and fruitful deliberations. Thereafter he officially opened the forum.

## **2.5. THE REGIONAL POWER TRADE PROGRAM**

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The NBD Advocacy Officer made a presentation about the Regional Power Trade program (See annex 6). He pointed out that the main reason for power interconnection is not export of power; rather it is to enable countries to sell power when they can't use it, since power cannot be stored. Different countries have different load hours. He mentioned that the DRC, Ethiopia and Uganda have the highest potential power generating capacity in that order, most of which is still unexploited.

He described how the power trade project is funded, emphasizing donor and government contributions which have to be made before donors commit funds to projects.

He said that Uganda has un-bundled the power sector, a phenomenon that is important in the sector operations. He also pointed out that Uganda is the most advanced in the Regional Power Trade project scope process.

He hinted on the key issues in the implementation of the project as follows;

- The capacity CSO actors should form a key element of this intervention
- The project should benefit the people.
- Institutional co-ordination harmonization of interconnection is key.

## **2.6. FINDINGS FROM ASSESSMENT THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE BUJAGALI-TORORO-KENYA TRANSMISSION LINE**

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The Consultant presented the study done for mainstreaming community participation in the Bujagali Tororo power Interconnection project. He presented findings from the assessment done in all the five Districts in Eastern region including districts of Jinja, Mayuge, Bugiri, Iganga and Tororo (see annex 7). The report stimulated discussion among the stakeholders, and Project Affected People were given time to add their voices on the

assessment findings.

## 2.7. STAKEHOLDER VOICES

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The community representatives and local leaders present reacted to the consultant's presentation but also raised other issues that are presented below.

### A) UNCERTAIN COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM THE PROJECT

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*Uncertainty over project impact on local communities:* Many of the community representatives and Local Government participants were uncertain whether and how much local communities would benefit from this project, or whether they would just see wires passing over their homes as have happened along many electricity transmission corridors. An old man from Tororo Mr. Okitwi Cornelius asserted: "... the project should provide an opportunity for local people to benefit, it should lead to positive change in local livelihoods, not the opposite!". The Hon Member of Parliament (Rwampara) advised UETCL to involve peoples in the projects that are benefiting the community. He concluded by saying that people will only appreciate the project if they benefit through access to power, so a rural electrification component is vital. He said electricity coverage in his constituency is 2% or less, yet transmission lines pass through to Rwanda.

### B) DELAYED COMPENSATION

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- i. *Long project lead time:* Many of the PAPs were given the impression during the project surveys that they would be compensated within a year. It has been 3 years since, and PAPs have become anxious, unsure whether compensation will be effected at all. People mentioned that the uncertainty has made them unable to plan for their families, causing economic retardation.
- ii. Due to the delayed compensation, some participants suggested that property be revalued to take into consideration the changing value and inflation. However a participant from Bugiri Local Government cited a danger with this: he mentioned that after the surveyors earmarked the corridor, most of the valued trees and crops were cut down by owners and the general public (because they no longer belonged to anyone). So if re-valuation was to be done, the total value might actually be lower than the initial values!
- iii. Unpredictable events like deaths have occurred since the corridor property was valued. In some households, people have died and been buried in the corridor land. The question then becomes: will the new graves be compensated?

### C) UNCLEAR COMPENSATION CRITERIA AND LIMITED INFORMATION FLOW

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- i. *No negotiation provided for:* The Chairman of Bugiri District mentioned that people were worried because there were no clear criteria for compensation. He wondered why they are not given an opportunity to negotiate the

*"...we are treated like refugees on our own land. We are not consulted enough when people make decisions about our property!"*

(PAP, Nyakayojo Sub-County)

terms before payment is done, just like in any other transaction with a buyer and seller. A participant from Mbarara District lamented, "...we are treated like refugees on our own land. We are not consulted enough when people make decisions about our property!". He added that household were offered a mere Ush 100,000 as disturbance allowance to shift from homes their families have occupied for decades, which is perceived as very unfair.

ii. *Fear of corruption:* A participant from Tororo raised a concern that the rich, well connected people are offered higher rates for their property, and the poor and powerless are given peanuts. This is raising fear that the valuers/project implementers are corruptible! A Local government leader added that "... you forced us to sign the papers because you said that if we did not sign our files would not be captured! But clearly the valuation was unfair!" Participants also alleged that field project staff was giving PAPs the impression that this being a government project, they have to accept what is being offered or else they will lose it (giving an impression that there is no option for negotiation or recourse).

iii. *Potential health impact of the transmission line:* There was also fear of the future impact of the high voltage electricity line. Participants believe that the line will have negative impact on the health of people who live near the corridor. However, their concern was that no clear information was given to them about this issue.



iv. *Local governments fear to lose:* Lower local government officials, in whose constituencies like schools and health units and sub-county headquarters were affected by the transmission line said they were uncertain whether they would be compensated, since such property belongs to government. However, local communities have invested a lot in such property (e.g. constructing offices, schools, etc). This again pointed to lack of information to the affected institutions.

However in their response the UETCL Officer informed them that government-to-government compensation is done. UETCL has compensated government entities like Uganda Wildlife Authority, National Forest Authority and others.

v. *Poor information flow to affected people:* Sub-county leaders pointed out lack of information from UETCL to the local leaders on project progress and processes. One sub-county Chief mentioned that the sub-county properties were valued twice, with no reasons given to the sub-county leaders. In Ntungamo/Mbarara, it was mentioned that some of the people who signed the compensation papers (agreed to

the packages offered) had their voter cards taken by the project officials. No reason was given why the cards were taken. This, they said, demonstrated poor information provision by project implementers. As a result surrounding local communities were suspicious of ill intentions, and in some areas people accuse their leaders of conniving with UETCL. This is causing misunderstanding. Leader present in the forum said that if information flow to the local leadership is poor, to the grassroot PAPs is even worse. The UECTL Project Manager present in the forum promised to follow up the case of voter cards.

- vi. The meeting highlighted the need to involve local leadership (District, Sub-county and Area Members of Parliament, provide them with constant information so that they too can keep communities informed). The MP for Rwampara (Hon Vicent Mujuni Kyamadidi) said it is illegal to give some body's land value without his/her consent (it has to be negotiated).
- vii. The MP said UETCL should make information on compensation public, rather than approaching individual PAPs with papers to sign when they do not understand them. Such papers may actually contain clauses that are not PAPs friendly. Local leaders believe the reason they are not being involved by UETCL is for ill intentions. He added that he was in possession of a memorandum from Rwampara PAPs demanding that UECTL halts the compensation process until outstanding issues are resolved. He said politicians need information to pass on to their constituencies, and it is the duty of project implementers to provide the **correct** information about these projects. Otherwise politicians have the ability to jeopardize such projects through [providing incorrect information] in public pronouncements (e.g. through radio), because they are obliged to fight for the rights of their voters.
- viii. *No Civil Society Witness Organization:* The UETCL have not involved a witness CSO in the implementation processes of the power projects under NELSALP in Uganda. This is part of the cause of misinformation and misunderstanding among the PAPs, and between them and the project implementers. Some participants hinted that UETCL is tactfully avoiding involving CSOs because there is fear that CSOs will increase awareness among the PAPs to demand for what is due to them. .

... “we politicians need information to pass on to our constituencies, and it is the duty of project implementers to provide the **correct** information about these projects. Otherwise we have the ability to jeopardize such projects through public pronouncements, e.g. through radio, because we are obliged to fight for the rights of our voters’.

**Hon Vicent Mujuni Kyamadidi, Rwampara County**

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## **D) VALUES USED TO RATE PROPERTY**

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- i. *Lack of District Valuers and ineffective District Land Boards:* The fact that some districts have no employed District Land Valuers leads to absence of proper district valuation rates. This in addition to the fact that some District Land Boards were infective, since they were not reviewing their valuation rates annually and send

them for approval to the Chief Government Valuar as provided for in the law. A district officer advised that it's actually illegal to use out-dated valuation rates, it should never happen! The District Local Governments are thus to blame.

- ii. *People need to be made aware of Legal provisions:* The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) and the Land Act (1998) provide that land belongs to the people, and government must pay adequate and prior compensation before acquiring that land. The value of such land is the market value in that area. Even where government must compulsorily acquire land for public good projects, the compensation has to be negotiated. So people are advised to use the law. CSOs were called upon to create awareness about these facts among the affected communities.
- iii. *Old district valuation rates:* The Participants from Mbarara mentioned that the District Values/rates utilized were borrowed from Isingiro District, because Mbarara District did not have up-to-date values/rates (they mentioned that the Mbarara rates they were 12 years old). The problem with this however, is that the two districts are different in terms of economic indicators, and thus the people feel their property was actually under-valued.
- iv. *Unfair compensation rates:* Compensation rates for individual properties were also said to be grossly unfair. The Mbarara participants for example cited the value attached to banana plants. They said a cluster of banana trees were valued at Ush. 8000/=, yet a single bunch of bananas costs Ush 20,000/=. And yet bananas are a perennial crop. A participant from Bugiri district mentioned that the 2008 rate for a cemented grave was Ush 150,000. However, a bag of cement costs Ush. 30,000 as of Oct 2011, and clearly Ush 150,000/- cannot re-construct a grave. Some of the participants observed that this as enough reason for revaluation using up-to-date values of their districts. Participants in Tororo cited a PAP (who was the most affected by the transmission line, and has to shift from this land, but is being offered a mere Ush 3,700,000 for his homestead (allegedly a permanent house) and all his land over 3 acres. The UECTL Project Manager present in the forum promised to follow up the case of this PAP.
- v. *Improper valuation methods:* People from both the Mbarara-Mirama Hills line and Bujagali-Tororo line mentioned that some houses were valued from the outside only, where the valuation team refused to enter the houses and determine the true value of houses. According to the participants, this problem contributed to under-valuation.
- vi. *Misinformation on true size of land pieces:* One community representative mentioned that the project surveyors were taking advantage of people's ignorance of the metric system. He mentioned that in some areas a **hectare** of land was

*"The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) and the Land Act (1998) provide that land belongs to the people, and government must pay **adequate** and **prior** compensation before acquiring that land. The value of such land is the market value in that area. Even where government must compulsorily acquire land for public good projects, the compensation has to be **negotiated**. So people are should use the law".*

**District Official, Jinja**

recorded as **an acre**, meaning that some landowners might be compensated for less than their true size of land.

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## **E) IMPACT ON FOOD AND ECONOMIC SECURITY**

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- i. PAPs and Local Government leaders mentioned that the PAPs were advised to stop any economic activities along the corridor to be taken over by the projects. Also, the surveyors cut down some crops during the survey, and subsequently crops in the earmarked corridor were cut down or ignored and trees cut down. This has led to food and economic insecurity.
- ii. The project is also having an impact on local government economies and service delivery. Local government leaders pointed to the negative impact of the project on local government economies. When people get displaced, local authorities will lose taxpayers and thus revenue. In terms of service delivery, where service centers line health units are to be relocated, the health workers were said to be unsure of future employment (and predicted layoffs) and this was said to lead to low morale among workers and thus poor service delivery. One local councilor mentioned that because of the impending resettlement, local leaders will lose their leadership positions, leading to loss of income. Loss of income from employment was never considered in determining compensation, but ideally should also be factored into the compensation.
- iii. The UECTL Project Manager present in the forum promised to follow up the case of institutions which were affected by the transmission line, because the usual practice is to avoid such institutions through diversion, not only to reduce the cost of compensation, but also to avoid negative consequences for the communities involved, e.g. Kakira Sugar Works and at Dominion School in Bugiri District.

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## **F) INEFFECTIVE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES**

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Participants mentioned that the grievance committees created to handle project issues had no guidelines, no directions and thus were dormant. Since these committees were located at sub-county level, the local communities had developed suspicion that local leaders were conniving with UETCL. However, another participant drawing from the experience of a previous project mentioned that it was true that local leaders are at times corrupted and will place their personal interests above those of the community.

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## **G) GENDER ISSUES RELATED TO COMPENSATION**

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There is a danger that men may use the compensation package for their own benefit, leaving out their wives and children, unless support is given to families where this conflict might arise. Women need to be supported to get fair share of family compensation packages.

In polygamous households, people must demand that if homesteads have to be moved, houses should be built for each of the wives, not just one house for the whole household.

## **2.8. RESPONSE FROM UETCL<sup>1</sup>**

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Mr. Othieno first informed the meeting that UETCL is a Government Company, and what they are doing is on behalf of Government of Uganda. He added that the participants' contributions in this forum were very important to UETCL, because they will help to improve project implementation. He recommended that from then onwards the stakeholders of the project should meet and discuss more with UETCL. He was glad that CSOs have now come forward to engage these projects at an early stage, unlike in the past when they operated in the background.

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### **A) THE STRUCTURE OF THE POWER SECTOR IN UGANDA**

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He noted that some of the issues that arose were because there is confusion about the structure of the power sector in Uganda. There are many companies in the power sector, and people get confused, and usually heap all the blame on UETCL which is usually at the forefront.

He mentioned that the 1964 Electricity Act was repealed by the 1999 Act, which unbundled the power sector into generation, transmission and distribution. The Uganda Electricity Generation Company Ltd. Is in charge of power generation, and has given a concession to Eskom. Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Ltd is in charge of maintaining distribution infrastructure and billing consumers. The company has given a concession to Umeme. There is also The Electricity Regulatory Agency in charge of regulating electricity generation, transmission and distribution. There is also the Rural Electrification Agency, which is in charge of extending power to rural areas. This agency is heavily funded by the World Bank and multilateral agencies, and that is where CSOs advocating for rural electrification need to be targeting. UETCL is in charge of high voltage power transmission. They buy the power from the generation companies and sell to the distributors.

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### **B) THE ENERGY SITUATION IN UGANDA**

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Ten years ago the Kiira Dam was constructed, alongside the Nalubaale Dam. Subsequently the level of water in L. Victoria fell, mainly due to climate change in the catchment areas. This reduced power generation at the dams, leading to a power deficit. In response, the government contracted thermal generation plants. These use heavy oils and ordinary diesel. This generation method is very expensive, so prices of power went up. But the long term plan of government is to construct other dams including Karuma, Ayago and Isimba.

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### **C) THE BUJAGALI-TORORO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS**

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- i. The EIA process started in 2004 and consultation went up to 2007
- ii. The drawing of the Resettlement Action Plan stated in 2009
- iii. Disclosure begun in 2011

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<sup>1</sup> Response made by Mr. John Othieno, Principal Environmental Officer, UETCL, as well as Eng Simon Ngabo, Senior Project Engineer

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## **D) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE NELSAP TRANSMISSION PROJECTS**

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UETCL knows that it is important to involve CSOs in its project implementation processes, and the donors have been making the case for proper implementation of the projects. UETCL is not handling community awareness raising. He called on stakeholders under UNDF to help in disseminating the right and non exciting information to PAPs. He said that all information is available and can be accessed through UETCL and Ministry offices and for those who can access internet they can use the UETCL WEBSITE [www.uetcl.com](http://www.uetcl.com)

Community development and livelihoods restoration will come later in the project cycle, and is Livelihood restoration is aimed at improving livelihoods.

For the NELSA projects 100 model houses are to be built for the vulnerable households along both transmission lines. Other PAPs will be compensated in other forms.

Guidelines for community development within such projects are laid out in the World Bank OP4, and there is a World Bank compliance review mechanism where people can write to WB if they feel projects are breaking the WB provisions.

In response to the concern that contractors often do not employ local community members, the UECTL informed the meeting that it has no control over who the contractors employ.

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## **E) THE ISSUE OF THE WITNESS NGO**

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The UECTL advertised to procure an independent witness NGO, but no NGO applied. The company intends to re-advertise, but the procurement process will take long. In the past, UECTL used InterAid as the witness NGO. However InterAid was paid by UECL and this was challenged as conflict of interest that could have cause compromise community interests. Thus now UECTL requires a CSO that can finance itself.

Participants wondered why UECTL did not undertake public hearing of the results of the EIAs for the projects. Such hearings promote public participation and ensure that any issues not clarified by the EIA are resolved or recommended for review. The fact that we still have serious outstanding issues about the projects is because these public hearings were not undertaken. However the UETCL informed the forum d that transmission lines do not require public hearings.

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## **F) DELAYS IN THE PROPERTY VALUATION PROCESS**

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For each project, UETCL contracts a Social Economist, Surveyors and Valuers for a year. Each landowner is given notice when his property is being valued. The valuation report is submitted to UETCL after one year. UETCL then submits it to the Chief Government Valuer (CGV). Because the office of the CGV is under-staffed, and highly manual, reports often stay in that office for 6 months to 2 years. The projects involved also usually include a large volume of cases to review individually, and this takes a long time. In general the process involves lots of technical and beuaracratical delays. After the report is approved by the CGV and returned to UETCL, public disclosure starts, and eventually individual disclosure.

On inflation he said that UETCL discloses the approved rates by the Government Valuer to individuals. If one has a grievance, the land committee at every parish level handles them. If they fail then it's referred to the consultant to do the revaluation. If the PAP is still unsatisfied then the last resort is to go to courts of law for redress. He however cautioned PAPs to exhaust all other accessible, timely and economically non stringent mechanism put in place before going to court which takes much longer. He sited Bugagali where NAPE assisted PAPs to appeal through courts, but over 500 cases have not been finalized for two years now.

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### **G) THE INFLATION ISSUE**

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Accountability within such big government project is crucial, and it makes it difficult to factor inflation into property values. However, the key decision make is the CGV, if s/he recommends for indexing values to inflation, it can be done.

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### **H) COMPENSATION RATES**

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Crops and temporally structures are valued according to district rates. It is the responsibility of District Land Boards to review these rates annually. If the district doesn't have up-to-date rates, the latest rates of the neighboring districts are used. Mr. Othieno called on CSOs to work with the PAPs to ensure that the districts have up-to-date property values/compensation rates.

Graves are valued at district rates. Compensation for graves includes the cost of reconstructing it and the relocation cost as well.

Funds for compensation are contributed by the Government of Uganda, in Shillings. The donors only pay for the transmission line construction.

Permanent structures and land are valued on going market rates in the area. Total compensation package depends of the total land portion affected.

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### **I) HANDLING GRIEVANCES ABOUT COMPENSATION**

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There are three avenues for handling grievances:

- i) Aggrieved property owners can ask for intervention of the parish land committee to handle the case. If the land committee fails to resolve it, they refer it to the Consultants to review assessment and valuation of their property. If this happens, the review findings will be re-submitted to the CGV for approval
- ii) Grievance committees: can be asked to review the case and recommend revision
- iii) Court action by the aggrieved property owners (this option however takes years to conclude, and PAPs are advised to utilize the first 2 options).

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## **2.9 GENERAL DISCUSSION**

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Participants observed that as CSOs we need to support the PAPs to use the law to protect their rights, by shifting from requesting to demanding for their rights. If need be, we

should engage the lawyers within our network to engage government on these issues. People don't need to kneel before the government to get what is due to them.

It was also observed that it's is the duty of the Government to cater for compensation and resettlement of people affected by the power projects, and usually enough money is budgeted for this process. But experience from previous projects has shown that Government officials/UETCL, valuers focus on cheating the affected community. Thus CSOs were called upon to monitor the process and sensitize the communities affected, even though UETCL intentionally left CSOs out of the process.

The JICA representative informed the meeting that the development partners have two main interests in these projects:

- i. Having successful projects that benefits the people
- ii. To ensure that PAPs are adequately compensated fairly and adequately

He said JICA recognizes the problem of lack of access to electricity among communities living along corridors of high voltage transmission lines, and has recently begun to fund construction of distribution infrastructure in such corridors. He gave an example of Bugiri and Mayuge areas where JICA approved a project to be implemented soon, and another one proposed in along Kawanda-Masaka line.

### **3. IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS, KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES AND STRATEGIES**

The advocacy issues and strategies identified are given in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Advocacy Issues and Strategies identified by the Uganda National Stakeholders' forum participants**

Issue	Interest of CSOs	Stakeholders	Strategy/Action
<b>Compensation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project-affected-people should be given an opportunity to negotiate the terms of compensation</li> <li>• Inflation should be factored into compensation rates</li> <li>• PAPs should be given fair and timely compensation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair, negotiated, timely and prior compensation of PAP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAPs</li> <li>• Village leaders</li> <li>• Local Govt</li> <li>• UNDF CSOs members</li> <li>• NELSAP</li> <li>• UETCL</li> <li>• Chief Govt Valuer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate information about rates and payment system to all stakeholders</li> <li>• Lobby the Chief Govt Valuer to recommends indexing values to inflation</li> </ul>
<b>Community awareness of their rights ad entitlements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAPs need to be aware of their rights as provided for in the national and international laws and guidelines vis a vis government projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities who are aware and can defend their rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAPs</li> <li>• Village leaders</li> <li>• Local Govt</li> <li>• UNDF CSOs members</li> <li>• Development partners</li> <li>• NELSAP</li> <li>• UETCL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train CSOs in the national and international legal provisions</li> <li>• Support the CSOs to disseminate this knowledge to affected communities</li> </ul>
<b>Communication strategy o power projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased understanding of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby UETCL/NELSAP to promptly produce a</li> </ul>

Issue	Interest of CSOs	Stakeholders	Strategy/Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UETCL has no clear communication strategy prior to project implementation</li> <li>• PAs need clear &amp; concise information about the project implementation process and duration</li> <li>• Poor communication creates anxiety and misunderstandings among stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<p>the NELSAP projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced incidences of conflict and misunderstandings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NELSAP</li> <li>• UETCL</li> </ul>	<p>communication strategy and a package, which should be disseminated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UETCL/NELSAP should establish a one point center for all information related to projects e.g. Website</li> <li>• Urge UETCL and NELSAP appoint a witness CSO to assist the process of information dissemination with further delays.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Information dissemination about NELSAP power projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is need information dissemination about the NELSAP Power projects in local languages for easy understanding for all the stakeholders</li> <li>• UETCL should involve local leadership (District &amp; Sub-county Leaders and Area Members of Parliament), provide them with constant information so that they too can keep communities informed).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities need key information in understandable format to increase understanding of projects, community rights and entitlements and to mitigate unnecessary conflict</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDF &amp; UECTL</li> <li>• Affected communities</li> <li>• Local leaders fn MPs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDF and UETCL should develop fact sheets immediately</li> <li>• Mobilize resources for a dissemination program, &amp; disseminate among the affected communities</li> <li>• UETCL should hold meeting with leaders, MPs to provide key information and get feedback about projects</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rural electrification component of power projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NELSAP Transmission projects will be more appreciated by local communities if they have a rural electrification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rural electrification strategy alongside the NELSAP transmission projects would reduce poverty and lead to sustainable management of the Nile catchment areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDF members</li> <li>• NBI/NELSAP</li> <li>• Govt of Uganda</li> <li>• Development partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NBD &amp; NELSAP should lobby Development partners to support rural electrification</li> <li>• CSOs should compile information about the Rural Electrification Program from REA and disseminate to communities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project witness CSO requirement not effected</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UETCL has not involved a witness CSO in NELSAP Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A witness CSO creates awareness among the affected communities on project processes, benefits, and legal provisions &amp; also keeps project implementers informed of community issues and mitigate conflict</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSOs</li> <li>• UNDF, NBD, NELSAP, UETCL,</li> <li>• Community leaders, District Local Authorities</li> <li>• Development partners</li> <li>• PAs</li> <li>• Local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby UETCL and NELSAP to advertise and recruit an independent witness CSO immediately</li> </ul>

Issue	Interest of CSOs	Stakeholders	Strategy/Action
<p><b>Ineffective grievance handling mechanisms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The grievance communities created at sub counties were said to be ineffective and not trusted by PAPs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PAPs need access to effective grievance handling mechanisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UETCL</li> <li>Local Government (sub counties)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby UETCL to speedup the recruitment of the witness CSO which will facilitate the streamlining of grievance handling mechanism within communities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Out-dated district compensation values</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some District Land Boards do not review their valuation rates annually as provided for in the law</li> <li>It is illegal to use out-dated valuation rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community property should be fairly valued</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSOs</li> <li>District Land Boards,</li> <li>Chief Govt Valuer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby District land boards to update their valuation rates</li> <li>Lobby UETCL to review where old rates were used</li> </ul>

## **4. UGANDA NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM STATEMENT**

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### **Mainstreaming Local Community and Stakeholders' Participation and Benefits in the NELSAP Sub Regional Hydro-Power and Interconnection Projects**

#### ***Introduction***

Uganda Nile Discourse Forum (UNDF) is a national network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with a vision to realise sustainably managed Nile Basin resources for the prosperity and good health of the people. As a network, UNDF strives to ensure that development programs in the Nile Basin lead to poverty alleviation and sustainable development without affecting negatively the livelihood of local communities or the environment.

UNDF is part of the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), which is a regional network of civil society organizations established to facilitate and support civil society engagement in Nile Basin Cooperation and development processes. NBD operates through 10 National Discourse Forums (NDFs) in the ten riparian States (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) that share the Nile. The NBD is currently the only established institution with the specific mandate to: engage in identification and conceptualization of NBI development programs and policies, build a collective voice in the Nile Basin; increase stakeholders' interest in trans-boundary activities and regional collaborations; and to establish a strong and broad knowledge base through networking and information sharing, trans boundary links between NDFs within NBD.

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) through the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) based in Kigali, Rwanda, is implementing two key initiatives aimed at guiding the development and trade of power in the NELSAP region - **The Nile Basin Initiative Regional Power Trade Project (RPTP)** which intends to establish a conducive environment to support continued discourse and promote power trade among Nile Basin countries as well as the **NELSAP Power Program**. The objective of the NELSAP Power Program is to create a regional power market amongst the NELSAP Countries through development of the regional Power infrastructure and ensure establishment of rules & mechanisms for power exchange. The Interconnection Project of Electricity Networks of 5 Nile Equatorial Lakes Countries (Kenya, Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi); is one of the various projects being implemented by NELSAP. In Uganda the project is being implemented through the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Ltd.

UNDF organised a National Multi-stakeholders' forum that attracted participants from Civil Society, Central & Local Government, Local Community & Private Sector aimed at generating ideas and recommendations on improving the implementation of the Regional Power interconnection Program. The forum took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 at The Source of The Nile Hotel, Jinja, Uganda:

#### **Participants at the forum;**

**Observed** that the Regional Power Interconnection Project is of the essence, because it comes at a time when all countries in the Nile Basin are experiencing power shortages, high unemployment, and lack of sustainable energy sources for industrial development, all of which contribute to increasing prices of goods and services due to high costs of production as a result of using expensive energy sources;

**Noted** that over 95% of the population in Uganda has no access to electricity, and even those with access cannot afford its high cost, leading to a situation where over 30 million Ugandans use biomass as their main source of energy, with the associated negative impact on the environment;

**Further noted** that big development projects have profound impacts on the lives of people where they are implemented; and that the manner in which the Regional Power Interconnection Project has been implemented has created discontent among key stakeholders in many areas, and the level of information exchange between the project implementers and the project-affected stakeholders has been inadequate:

**Re-asserted** the critical role of civil society and the UNDF/NBD network in voicing pertinent issues and contributing to critical decisions making and implementation processes within the NBI/NELSAP projects;

#### **The Multi Stakeholder Forum recommended:**

1. **The urgent recruitment of independent NGOs by UETCL and NELSAP** to play the key role of witness on the energy projects, to create awareness among the affected communities on project processes, benefits, and legal provisions, to keep project implementers informed of community issues and to mitigate conflict through facilitating the development of effective grievance handling mechanisms among the affected communities. This was based on the observation among participant that there was a missing link between the project implementers and the local communities, leading to unwarranted misunderstanding. Grievances' handling mechanisms in place were also revealed to be weak/ineffective.
2. **That development projects should always have a clear communication strategy prior to implementation**, to provide clear & concise information about the project implementation process to the affected people, local leadership, Members of Parliament and the general community. This in order to avoid anxiety and misunderstandings among stakeholders. This information should be translated to relevant local languages. Participants observed that current flow of information on the project between key stakeholders is intermittent.
3. **That there is need to uphold and respect the Project-affected-People's right to negotiate the terms of the compensation for their property**, and that inflation should be factored into the compensation rates, and that fair, timely and prior compensation be given. Voices of community representatives indicated that modalities for land acquisition and compensation including property valuation and resettlement have been determined unilaterally, and serious delays in the project processes have created discontent.

4. **The urgent review of property valuation rates by District Governments** before property valuation begins, to avoid the problem of property under-valuation. Where affected people feel their property was undervalued, it should be re-valued according to the updated value rates. Project-affected people expressed concerns about use of out-dated district compensation rates leading to undervaluation of their property.
5. **The inclusion of a rural electrification component in energy development projects** to create appreciation for the projects among local communities, reduce poverty and promote sustainable management of the Nile River catchment areas. Many local communities have expressed concern about having high voltage transmission lines traversing their villages when they have no access to power. This leads to negative perceptions of such projects.
6. **The Ugandan Government should promote cheap and environmentally friendly alternative sources of energy.** This will contribute poverty reduction and protection of the Nile River catchment areas.
7. **The Ugandan Government should review conflicting policies that have led to negative impacts on the Nile Basin catchment area.** The urgent need to increase power/energy generation was incompatible with the current government policy to increase industrialisation through deforestation of key water catchments areas for River Nile, e.g. Mabira Forest and the Ssesse Islands.
8. **NBI should enhance Civil Society participation in project development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting beyond consultation.** When key stakeholders are involved from the start, it increases understanding and acceptance of development projects.

UNDF remains committed to supporting communities and NBI in achieving sustainable use and conservation of Nile Basin resources.

## **5. CLOSING REMARKS**

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The UNDF chairman thanked the participants for their commitment to come and actively participate in the discussion and called the stake holders always to be part of UNDF programs when invited. He asked CSOs to register as members of UNDF to form a stronger network. . He asked UETCL to be more open to the stakeholders, and provide correct information to avoid problems like unrealistic community expectations, but also ensure that people know the real time that such big projects take to mature. He said it is in the interest of UECTL and the government valuers to use updated rates for compensation to avoid legal implications.

The Chairman officially handed publications of Nature Uganda on Mabira Central Forest Reserve to the MP Rwampara County (Ho. Vicent Mujuni Kyamadidi) and asked him to vanguard the protection of Mabira Forest within parliament. The MP declared his support of the Mabira cause, and pleaded not to let it be degazetted.

In his closing speech, the Chair LCV of Bugiri District thanked all the people for their active participation in the debate. He said the policy issues raised in the forum should be advanced to policy makers for immediate attention. He said the power project is a step forward in Uganda's development agenda as we move towards take -off stage, so all stakeholders should support it.

He officially declared the meeting closed at 5.45pm.

## 6. ANNEXES

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### ANNEX 1: FORUM PROGRAMME

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Time	Activity	Responsibility
07:30 – 08:30	Registration of participants	UNDF
08:30 – 08:45	Self Introductions	Facilitator/AO, NBD
08:45 – 09:00	Welcome Remarks	UNDF Chairman
09:00 – 09:30	Overview of the Forum	NPC-UNDF
09:30 – 09:45	Remarks from NBD	RM, NBD
09:45 – 10:00	Official Opening	Guest of Honor
10:00 – 10:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	UNDF
10:00 – 10:45	Basin wide cooperation and institutionalization of Nile cooperation (SVP, SAPs and Nile Basin development projects)	Nile-TAC Member/MWE
10:45 – 11:00	Discussions on presentation	Facilitator /AO, NBD
11:00 – 11:20	Voices from the Project Affected people and Community Leaders	Facilitator /AO, NBD
11:20 – 11:45	Findings from assessment of the Regional power development and Interconnection program (The Bujagali-Tororo-Kenya transmission line)	Consultant
11:45 – 12:00	Discussions on Presentation	Facilitator /AO, NBD
12:00 – 12:45	Stakeholder Involvement, Resettlement & Compensation in Energy Development in Uganda	John Othieno, UETCL
12:45 – 13:00	Discussions on Presentation	Facilitator /AO, NBD
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	UNDF
15:00 – 16:00	Identification of key stakeholders, key advocacy issues and strategies	Facilitator /AO, NBD
16:00	Closing Remarks	The Mayor, Jinja
16:30 -17:00	TEA/COFFEE	UNDF

## **ANNEX 2: OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF UGANDA NILE DISCOURSE FORUM**

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The Guest of Honor, Hon Daudi Migereko  
Hon Members of Parliament  
District Chairpersons and Local government' representatives,  
Members of UNDF,  
Representative of partner organizations (NBD, NBI, CSO)  
Lead government agencies  
Ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, allow me take this unique opportunity to welcome everyone to this forum. Thank you all for finding time to attend this important National Stakeholders' Forum. This is the second forum this year. Your attendance is a sign of your commitment and interest in the Nile Basin.

Let me introduce you to Uganda Nile Discourse Forum (UNDF). UNDF is a network of CSOs in Uganda promoting sustainable use and management of the Nile Basin resources through empowering members and communities to advocate for better livelihoods. UNDF has 56 members and is part of the larger network, the Nile Basin Discourse that operates in the 10 Nile Basin countries. UNDF provides a platform for Civil Society to engage with other partners such as the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) or other Nile Basin developments. It was established in 2003 as a round table of NGOs and CSOs with the purpose of establishing a strong and informed membership to effectively participate in the implementation and monitoring of NBI activities in Uganda. We at UNDF strive to ensure that development programs lead to poverty alleviation and achieving sustainable development without affecting negatively the livelihood of local communities or the environment on which we depend. We encourage as more civil society organisations to join this network, so that we can reach all corners of our country. The forum has a secretariat that runs the day to activities.

The theme of the forum today is '**Bridging the Gaps in Community Participation in Trans-boundary Investments in the Nile Basin**'. The forum seeks to highlight the costs and benefits of the Nile Cooperation, by presenting, discussing and validating results of an assessment of potential benefits and costs of the "Project for The Interconnection of Electric Grids of The Nile Equatorial Lakes Countries", through focussing on one of the project components: **the proposed construction of 220kV double circuit transmission line from Bujagali via Tororo substation to the Uganda/ Kenya border**. The project traverses the districts of Jinja, Mayuge, Bugiri, Iganga and Tororo. The assessment aimed to provide evidence on the community and stakeholder involvement in project implementation and the project's current and potential benefits and costs. As an output, we hope to share or identify key advocacy highlights for improving the manner in which NBI activities and similar projects in the basin are implemented..

UNDF is privileged to bring together the project proponents, affected communities, engineers, government officials, development partners. For over 7 years, UNDF has

worked with people ensuring that communities and civil societies are fully informed about the issues within the Nile basin.

UNDF and its partners in the other nine countries that share the Nile provide a potential opportunity to monitor activities within the ten countries and advise the governments accordingly.

Hon Minister and members, the regional interconnection Power project is a welcome idea. It has come at time when all countries in the Nile basin are experiencing power shortages, high unemployment, and lack of sustainable energy sources for industrial development. This is partly the cause of increasing prices of goods and services due to high costs of production as a result of using expensive energy sources.

Hon Minister, over 95% of our people have no access to electricity. Even those with access cannot afford the high costs of electricity. This means that 95% of Ugandans (over 30m) use biomass or fuel wood as their main source of energy. A bag of charcoal is over Ush. 80,000 in Kampala. This is disastrous to the environment. We welcome the idea of regional interconnection. However, we need to see similar movements in rural electrification and reduction in electricity prices.

I hope that we shall all be winners under these projects. As you may be aware, such big projects have profound impacts on the lives of people where they are implemented. Therefore, our intervention is to bring out pertinent issues for the participants to share but also contribute to critical decisions making processes.

Research has shown that the Nile River has the potential to generate substantial amount of energy at the same time providing for other activities that sustain the livelihood of communities. However, the River is facing threats from anthropogenic activities resulting from climate change, unsustainable use and degradation of the catchment.

Hon Minister, we all want water, as it said “water is life”. There are observations already to the effect that waters of the Nile might be dwindling. This has profound impact on the future of millions of people in Uganda and other countries. Therefore, it’s our collective responsibility to guard jealously this resource by engaging in activities that contribute positively to the survival of the Nile, e.g the by advocating for conservation of Mabira Forest.

Lastly I call upon everybody to work towards achieving our vision of “one Nile, one family” and I pledge our support to government and development partners towards successful implementation of the project. We hope to continue engaging throughout the projects implementation.

I wish every one good deliberation.

Achilles Byaruhanga  
Chairman, UNDF

### **ANNEX 3: OPENING SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOR**

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Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Chairperson of the Uganda Nile Discourse Forum, officials our colleagues from the Nile Basin Initiative, representatives of our national and local government, governments, community members and representatives, ladies and gentlemen.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Government of Uganda, I welcome you all to Jinja, Uganda. I want to thank all of you for attending this important event. This is a demonstration of your commitment and strong belief in government development programs. The theme for this national forum focuses on **Bridging the Gaps in Community Participation in Trans-boundary Investments in the Nile Basin**. This theme emphasises the importance of community participation in developments within the Nile Basin, in order to enhance the benefits accruing to them. When communities are involved in project implementation, there are higher chances of ensuring that projects respond to the needs of the society. This theme not only focuses on energy development but also urges us to open up to the opportunities that arise from our shared resource – the Nile River.

The project being deliberated on today is part of the Regional Power Generation and Trade Program being implemented through Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) under the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) framework. Specifically we are discussing the processes involved in implementing the construction of 220kV double circuit transmission line from Bujagali via Tororo substation to the Uganda/ Kenya border.

The project's main objective is to improve the rate of access to electrical power for the people of the Nile Basin member countries and to foster regional power trade. Anybody who lives in Uganda should not need to be reminded of the importance of increasing our power supply and distribution capacities, especially given the current power shortages for both domestic and industrial use.

Energy development and trade is the key to unlocking the untapped potential of cooperation within the Nile Basin. Cooperation and sharing of resources through projects like this one are necessary because the countries in the region are endowed with a diversity of resources, and thus it is sometimes more cost effective to import a product (e.g. electricity) than to have every country producing its own. In the case of electricity, cross-bonder transmission ensures security of supply even where individual countries are hit by emergencies like drought, or they need to shut down generation plants for regular maintenance works. Cross-border sharing of power also takes advantage of economies of scale, by creating a wider market for energy resources. And above all, through sharing of resources like power, peace and stability in the region will be enhanced because the ties between sovereign countries will be stronger. This is the rationale of Nile cooperation. The long-term objective of the power trade program is to contribute to poverty reduction through improving access to reliable, low cost, sustainable generated power. Power interconnection and trade has many positive benefits, and COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES IS THE ONLY OPTION!

Therefore the government calls upon its citizens to support this program, and government will on its part ensure that such projects are implemented in a manner that is both socially and environmentally responsive.

Finally, I wish for the success of this national forum and look forward to productive and fruitful deliberations.

I am delighted to declare this forum opened.  
THANK YOU.

## ANNEX 4: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organisation/Institution	Designation	District	Tel No/Email.
<b>Central and District &amp; Sub-County Local Govt and MPs</b>				
1. Bwogi L.	Ministry of Lands & Urban Development	Director	Kampala	
2. Azalwa B. Malijham	Bugiri DLG	Chairman	Bugiri	0782-386738
3. Wanyama C.	Bugiri DLG	Sub-County Chief	Bugiri	0772-837141
4. Mugoya Moses	Bugiri DLG	LC3 Chairman, Buwunga	Bugiri	0772-670453
5. Wamala Jotham	Iganga DLG	CAO	Iganga	0773-234410
6. Mukoka M. Emmanuel	Iganga DLG	LC3 Chairman	Iganga	0752-352042
7. Kyozi Ayobu	Iganga DLG	LC3 Chairman	Iganga	0782-031710
8. Mukaga Johnson	Iganga DLG	District Lands Officer	Iganga	0772-511535
9. Birete Mary	Iganga DLG	SAS	Iganga	0772-437124
10. Nakiranda Mercy	Iganga DLG	Sub-County Chief	Iganga	0772-355232
11. Kaganzi Charles	Jinja DLG	District Natural Resources Officer	Jinja	0752-651429
12. Begumya N. Eliab	Jinja DLG	CAO	Jinja	0772-629092
13. Nalubowa B.	Jinja DLG	Sec Finance	Jinja	0755-963520
14. Mukungu Moses	Bodondo SC., Jinja	Sub-County Chief	Jinja	0782-678667
15. Kakaire Herbert	Mayuge DLG	CDO, Imanyoro	Mayuge	0779-364923
16. Aram Thomas	Mayuge DLG	Environmental Officer	Mayuge	0752-851765
17. Mujuni Vincent Kyamadidi	Parliament	MP, Rwampara	Mbarara	0781-238097
18. Francis X. Orono	Tororo DLG	Deputy CAO	Tororo	0772-542210
19. Fuorr Euphrarius	Tororo DLG	District Lands Officer	Tororo	0772-477929
20. Owor Richard	Tororo DLG	Sub-County Chief	Tororo	0774-710754
21. Padde S. Etoori	Tororo DLG	SAS/S.C. Chief	Tororo	0753-377576
22. Awori Teopista	Tororo DLG	Sub-County Chief	Tororo	0772-454943
23. Were James	Tororo DLG	Sub-County Chief	Tororo	0775-319414
<b>Private Sector/ Development Partners</b>				
1. Daniel Rutabingwa	JICA	Consultant	Kampala	0772-564933
2. Sendege Fred	CEPAD	Researcher	Kampala	0776-641612
3. Othieno John	UETCL	PEO	Kampala	0772-670110
4. Ramesh G.	Tilda Uganda Ltd	Engineer	Bugiri	0772-255403 <a href="mailto:ramesh@tildauganda.com">ramesh@tildauganda.com</a>
5. Simon Ngabo	UETCL	Project Engineer	Kampala	0772-389662
6. Mulumba Mathias	CEPAD	Consultant	Kampala	0772-537222

Name	Organisation/Institution	Designation	District	Tel No/Email.
<b>Local Community Representatives/ Project Affected People/Area Local Councils</b>				
1. Mwonda Samuel	Community Rep	Teacher	Bugiri	0777-066685
2. Nkaye Sosi	LC1	Chairman	Bugiri	0775-251225
3. Maloba Alfred	LC1	Chairman	Bugiri	0782-491231
4. Nabirye Christine	LC1/PAP		Bugiri	0702-127209
5. Nyanzi Saad	PAP		Iganga	0782-124822
6. Buyenga	PAP		Iganga	0782-803115
7. Prossy Batambuze	LC1	Sec, Women	Iganga	0701-462306
8. Mulooki	Community Rep, Mafubira SC	PAP	Jinja	0782-064344
9. Kanyiriri Faizal	PAP	Jinja	Jinja	0782-050102
10. Nyanzi Sali	PAP/LC1, Mafubira		Jinja	0782-124822
11. Mulekwa Ibrahim	Area Local Council	Chairman	Mayuge	0772-537582
12. Rev Aida Nandengo	Church	member/PAP	Mayuge	075-309333
13. Nathan Muganga	Community Rep, Rwampara	Sec, PAPs Association	Mbarara	0772-592403
14. Kirego Martin	Community Rep, Rwampara	Chairman, PAPs Association	Mbarara	0772-651729
15. Francis K. Tumuhairwe	PAP Association	Vice Chairman	Mbarara	0779-179366 joykt@agric.mak.ac.ug/ jotugo@gmail.com
16. Onyango Isidore	Local Council 1	Chairman	Tororo	0772-654684
17. Okitwi Cornelias	PAP		Tororo	0773-305684
<b>Civil Society Organisations</b>				
1. Ongatai Amosiah	YES	Project Coordinator	Busia	0702-312702
2. Nabirye Milly	Iganga (Ibulanku)	Chair, CSOs	Iganga	0783-393356
3. Ochwo Jenifer	ECOVIC	Program Officer	Jinja	0772-494779
4. Nandhego Joy	Environmental Conservation Effort	Administrator	Jinja	0703-292128
5. Kalanzi Ramadhan	UFDA	Chairman	Jinja	0752-596922
6. Patience Muramuzi	NAWAD	ED	Kampala	0772-820199
7. Noreen Nampewo	NAPE	Gender Officer	Kampala	1002-471772
8. Nakyeyune Berna	PELUM, UG	Program Assistant	Kampala	0755-491501
9. Lynn Turyatamba	AFIEGO	Program Officer	Kampala	0785-162520
10. Sayuni Sandra	Nature Uganda	Administrator	Kampala	0772-537476
11. Steven Semakula	ULA	Program Officer	Kampala	0772-465622
12. Mukasa Joseph	UWS	Research Assistant	Kampala	0773-493301
13. Bwesigye Don B.	AFIEGO	Program Officer	Kampala	0772-512460
14. Charles Olweny	VEDCO	Advocacy Officer	Kampala	0782-410537 <a href="mailto:mlnzcharliz@yahoo">mlnzcharliz@yahoo</a>

Name	Organisation/Institution	Designation	District	Tel No/Email.
				<a href="#">o.com</a>
15. Waswa Jamada	UFDA	Secretary	Mayuge	0774-347098
16. Kaganga John	UCSD	Board Member	Mityana	0772-494697
17. Nicholas Senyonjo	UEEF	ED	Mukono	0772-420182
18. Agaba Garshom	NECOM	Program Coordinator	Ntungamo	0712-157080
19. Abdoni Ouma	World Vision	Social Worker	Tororo	0774-763480 <a href="mailto:abdonouma@gmail.com">abdonouma@gmail.com</a>
20. Moses Aisu Okurut	SAFE	Director	Tororo	0772-837861
<b>UNDF Board Members</b>				
1. Achilles Byaruhanga	Nature Uganda	ED, NU, Board member UNDF	Kampala	0772-522727
2. Barbara Kamugisha	Mirama Hills RDS	Director	Ntungamo	0772-456422 <a href="mailto:kamugishab@yahoo.com">kamugishab@yahoo.com</a>
3. Joseph Mulindwa	UEEF	SG, UNDF	Kampala	0772-642865
4. Steven Bagambe	LIPRO, Board Member, UNDF	V. Chair	Bushenyi	0772-345454
5. Ogwal Willy	AUXFOUND/UNDF	Member	Jinja	0713-309863
6. Okonera Vincent	HCF	Member	Busia	<a href="mailto:happychildfound@yahoo.com">happychildfound@yahoo.com</a>
7. Sarah Kisolo	RUDMEC	ED	Kampala	0772-588192
<b>UNDF/NBD staff</b>				
1. Jason Oyugi	NBD	OA-NEL	Nairobi	254-733-762685
2. Kiwanuka Achilles	UNDF	PO	Kampala	0774-720089
3. Ahwera Betty	UNDF	PA	Kampala	0773-269711
4. Agrippinah Namara	UNDF	NPC	Kampala	0772-485996
<b>Media</b>				
1. Denis Sigoa	UBC	Reporter	Kampala	0772-470184
2. Nabwiiso S.	The Weekly Observer	Reporter	Kampala	0752-808923
3. Kintu Simon	NTV, Jinja	Reporter	Jinja	0772-646893
4. Steven Tendo	Monitor Publications	Reporter	Kampala	

**ANNEX 5: STAKEHOLDER FORUM OVERVIEW (AGRIPPINAH NAMARA, NPC, UNDF)**

**ANNEX 6: PRESENTATION ABOUT THE NELSAP REGIONAL POWER PROJECT (JASON OYUGI, OA, NBD)**

**ANNEX 7: PRESENTATION OF RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUJAGALI-TORORO TRANSMISSION LINE (MATHIS MULUMBA, CEPARD)**

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