



one Nile - one family

THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Burundi



D.R.C



Egypt



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



S. Sudan



Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda

JANUARY 2025

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
1. CONTEXT	7
2. KEY INITIATIVES	8
3. NBD IN THE NCCR PROJECT	9
3.1. Component 5 (Enhancing stakeholder engagement in the Nile Basin)	9
3.2. Thematic Areas	9
Thematic Area 1: Platform for Cooperation	9
Thematic Area 2: Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation	9
3.3. Cross cutting: Gender:	9
3.4. Cross cutting: Communicating benefits of Cooperation and risks of Non-cooperation	10
4. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER EACH THEMATIC AREA	11
A. Thematic area 1:	11
B. Thematic area 2:	28
C. Crosscutting: Gender	62
D. Crosscutting: Communication	78
E. Cross cutting: External auditing	79
F. Crosscutting: Resource Mobilization Efforts	79
5. CHALLENGES	89
6. <u>LESSONS LEARNT</u>	89
7. <u>CONCLUSION</u>	90

Acronyms

CIWA	Cooperation in International Waters in Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EAC	East African Community
ENTRO	Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
ENWN	Egypt Nile Women Network
FAQs	Frequently Ask Questions
FY	Fiscal Year
GWP-EA	Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa
HQ	Head Quarter
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KNDF	Kenya Nile Discourse Forum
LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
MCA	Multi-Criteria Analysis
NBD	Nile Basin Discourse
UNDF	Uganda Nile Discourse Forum
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NCCR	Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience
NDFs	Nile Discourse Forum
NELSAP -CU	Nile Equatorial Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
Nile-TAC	Nile Technical Advisory Committee
Nile-COM	Nile Council of Ministers
Q1	Quarter 1
SNDF	Sudan Nile Discourse Forum
SSBC	South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation
SSNBDF	South Sudan Nile Basin Discourse Forum
TNDF	Tanzania Nile Discourse Forum
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB	World Bank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NBD received US\$750,000 (Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand) from the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA), a Trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB) for the project: “Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) (P172848).” NBD commenced implementation of the NCCR project in 2022 with the aim of strengthening stakeholder engagement to improve cooperation on and understanding of water resource management, specifically on the two thematic areas (Flood and drought risk mitigation and Leveraging platform for cooperation), and the two crosscutting themes (Gender, and Communicating benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation).

The initial grant allocated to NBD was exhausted in August 2023. During the project’s Mid-Term Review in May 2023, NBD lobbied NBI Centres for fund contribution out of their saving/ unallocated budget; and received a total of US\$466,000, which enabled NBD to implement the remaining activities under the NCCR project and to support its operational expenses for the year 2024.

In the NCCR project, NBD leads component 5 which aims to enhance stakeholder engagement to improve cooperation and shared understanding of water-related issues in the Nile Basin. NBD harnesses its broad membership to engage stakeholders in support of various thematic areas of the project with particular focus on thematic areas 1 and 2, and crossing cutting issues of gender and communication.

In the year 2024, NBD registered remarkable achievements in each of the Thematic Areas. In thematic area 1: Platform for Cooperation, NBD leveraged the 18th Regional Nile Day 2024 and NBI @ 25 Celebrations platform in Bujumbura, Burundi and participated in the donor’s strategic dialogue a day after the Nile day 2024 celebrations. NBD participated in the 7th World Bank (WB) Implementation Support Mission (ISM) for NCCR project (25th - 28th March 2024), where NBD presented its progress updates on the project, and discussed a concept note for a new project to be financed by CIWA/WB; NBD participated in the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2024 where the Regional Manager Eng. Sylvester A. Matemu showcased NBD’s achievements; NBD scaled up the internship programme from cluster 1 countries to Cluster 2 countries; NBD participated in the NBI Governance Meetings (41st NEL-TAC and the 65th Nile-TAC) which took place in July 2024 in Kampala, Uganda duly represented by the Board chair, and the Regional Manager; NBD participated in the 8th ISM of the NCCR project and leveraged the meeting to finalize its new project titled: Nile Civil Society for Climate Resilience (NCSCR) which is awaiting implementation in 2025; and finally NBD participated at the Extraordinary NBI governance meetings (November 2024) held in in Kampala, Uganda.

Under Thematic area 2, NBD supported Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) and Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) through

mobilizing grassroots communities for consultations and data/information collection on flood and drought risk mitigation. NBD supported ENTRO in mobilizing flood-prone communities in Juba - South Sudan for a two-days training; NBD leveraged the inception workshop on Drought Early Warning System (Nile DEWS) (29th - 30th January 2024) organized by ENTRO in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; NBD supported ENTRO in training communities on awareness and preparedness for flood risk mitigation in Gambella-Ethiopia and Malakal-South Sudan, and also collected secondary data on agricultural droughts in the Nile basin countries. NBD participated and contributed to the Flash-Flood Early Warning System dissemination strategy workshop that was organized by NELSAP - CU, and contributed to the Country consultations and field visits to grassroots communities on the identification of investment options for flood risk mitigation in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. NBD participated in the discussions and mobilized communities for consultations in Water Quality hotspot areas in Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania.

NBD leveraged the Regional Technical Working Group on Hydrology to introduce Citizen Science into the Nile Basin Hydrological Monitoring System. NBD will mobilize communities in selected stations for a pilot study to collect data and also engage in Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of hydromet stations.

In the Crosscutting theme of Gender, NBD conducted awareness-raising and capacity building trainings to National Nile Women Network members in the 9 countries, namely: Burundi, D. R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Under the Crosscutting theme of Communication, NBD developed and utilized various communication materials/tools including publications of brochures (English/French), Frequently Asked Questions leaflets (English/French), Video Clips including NBD's Good-Will message to NBI@25, and Roll-up Banners with messages relating to NBD's engagements in climate actions, transboundary community engagement platforms on NBI projects, women and youth empowerment in water decision making, and mentoring the young generation in conservation of the environment.

In the area of resource mobilization, NBD initiated partnership and funding discussions with UNDP, AKVO, GIZ, NBI Centres, ASARECA, IUCN, GWP-EA, LVRLAC, LVBC, and CIWA/WB to mention but a few.

These achievements were made despite multiple challenges, critical of which are limitations of human and financial resources.

1. CONTEXT

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is an independent voice of grassroots communities with over 600 CSO and NGO members. It was established in 2003 to link communities in 10 countries along the Nile with local and national governments, and intergovernmental organizations; informing and enriching projects, programs & policies at national and trans-boundary levels.

NBD's member organizations are local and national CSOs and NGOs working on a range of issues relevant to Nile cooperation: including water resource management, climate adaptation and mitigation, environment conservation, agriculture, energy, gender equity, livelihoods, poverty reduction, and other related fields. The CSOs and NGOs are members of chapters at national level referred to as Nile Discourse Forums (NDFs) established in each of the Nile riparian states namely: Burundi, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The NBD Network is coordinated by a Regional Secretariat based in Entebbe, Uganda.

The NBD network envisions *a Nile Basin in which there is sustainable social and economic development for all peoples of the Nile Basin, free of conflict, leading to achievement of justice, human rights, good governance, poverty eradication and protection of the environment.*

NBD's mission is to: *ensure that a fully informed and basin-wide civil society develops and plays a key role in achieving the vision, through pro-active and critical influencing of projects, programs and policies of the Nile Basin Initiative and other development processes.*

NBD plays a critical role in warranting that development in the Nile Basin is human centred, inclusive, and sustainable.

2. KEY INITIATIVES

NBD received US\$750,000 (Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand USD) from the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA), a Trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB) under the project: *“Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR).”* NBD commenced co-implementation of the NCCR project in 2022 with the aim of strengthening stakeholder engagement to improve cooperation on the Nile and understanding of water resource management, specifically under the two thematic areas (*Flood and drought risk mitigation and Leveraging platform for cooperation*), and the two crosscutting themes (*Gender, and Communicating benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation*).

The original grant allocated to NBD in the NCCR was exhausted in August 2023. During the project Mid-Term Review in May 2023, NBD lobbied NBI Centres for fund contribution out of their saving/unallocated budget. Accordingly, NBD received a total of US\$466,000 (US\$ 250,000.00 from Nile Sec, US\$ 150,000.00 from ENTRO, and US\$ 66,000.00 from NELSAP-CU).

Most of the funds committed by Nile Sec have been utilized to implement activities under Thematic area 1 (NBI governance meetings, Nile Days, Gender trainings, scaling up of the internship programmes) while part of it has been used to cover basic office functions.

Using contributions from NELSAP-CU, NBD mobilized communities for consultations to improve water quality and to identify investment options for mitigating flood risks in the Nile basin. Additionally, using part of the funds committed by ENTRO, NBD: (i) conducted trainings on awareness and preparedness of flood affected communities in Gambella City-Ethiopia, and Malakal City-Upper Nile State, South Sudan; and (ii) collected secondary data on the impact of droughts on agricultural activities in the Nile basin countries. The remaining funds from ENTRO will be used for mobilizing selected drought-prone communities for consultations on the functionality of the Nile-Wide Drought Early Warning System (Nile-DEWS) once it is developed and deployed.

3. NBD IN THE NCCR PROJECT

3.1. Component 5 (Enhancing stakeholder engagement in the Nile Basin)

In the NCCR project, NBD leads component 5 which aims to enhance stakeholder engagement to improve cooperation and shared understanding of water-related issues in the Nile Basin. NBD harnesses its broad membership to engage stakeholders in support of various thematic areas of the project.

NBD developed action plans on the flood and drought risk mitigation thematic area led by ENTRO and NELSAP for their stakeholder mapping exercise and development of information dissemination strategy. This aimed at incorporating the needs of the civil society end-users of the flood and drought early warning tools developed through the Project.

NBD prepared action plans to engage strategically with NBI Governance, with the aim of raising awareness, and sharing experiences and lessons from CSO activities in water resource management and Nile cooperation.

3.2. Thematic Areas

Thematic Area 1: Platform for Cooperation

Under this thematic area, NBD leveraged existing platforms to facilitate inclusive stakeholder dialogue for communicating benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation. Specifically, NBD leveraged the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM), the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) meetings, and Annual Nile Day 2024 to contribute to dialogue towards supporting inclusive decision-making on key water management challenges of the Nile Basin by sharing civil society perspectives, approaches and experiences.

Thematic Area 2: Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation

Under this thematic area, NBD mobilized stakeholders to contribute ideas on the application of existing Flood and Drought Early Warning Systems towards improving information communication for enhanced service delivery to communities on hydro meteorological hazard preparedness in the Nile Basin.

Cross cutting theme: Gender:

Under this crosscutting theme, NBD strengthened National and Regional Nile Women Networks, as new platforms to interact with NBD and NBI programmes to contribute towards realizing the usability of flood and drought early warning systems.

Cross cutting theme: Communication

Under this crosscutting theme, NBD used various platforms and forums to advocate for emerging issues related to benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation. NBD packaged its messages through knowledge products such as Promotional Banners, Annual Reports, FAQs Leaflets, Statements, and the NCCR Project briefs.

4. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER EACH THEMATIC AREA

4.1. Thematic Area 1: Platform for Cooperation

4.1.1. NBD at the 18th Regional Nile Day 2024

NBD joined NBI and other stakeholders to commemorate the Regional Nile Day and NBI @ 25 Celebrations in Bujumbura – Burundi. NBD mobilized 141 participants including: Board members, the NBD Secretariat Staff, Burundi NDF members and school children.



The NBD Board, Secretariat Staff, and the Burundi NDF members at the Nile Day 2024 in Bujumbura



NBD participants marching to celebrate the Regional Nile Day, 22nd February 2024 - Bujumbura

NBD participated in the marching of approximately 3kms towards the event venue at Donatus Conference Centre. Participants were provided with NBD branded Polo T-shirts, scarfs, caps and bags which gave color to the celebration and visibility to NBD.

NBD delivered a statement congratulating NBI upon reaching the 25th anniversary; highlighting NBD's time-tested partnership with NBI for the last 21 years; the alignment of the missions of the two organisations; insight on NBD's Strategy 2023 – 2027 and how it aligns well with NBI's Strategy 2017 – 2027; the different projects on which the two organisations have worked together; and reaffirming NBD's commitment to supporting the Nile Cooperation.



The Vice Chairperson Rev. Peter Mawa Sabastian delivering the NBD Network statement.

NBD awarded souvenirs to dignitaries at the NBI@25 commemorative event; participated in an open-air exhibition where NBD streamed video documentaries including NBD's Good-Will message to NBI@25, and distributed Souvenirs such as Pens, Lapel pins, note books, document folders, and bags.



The Vice President of Burundi receiving the award on behalf of the President at the 18th regional Nile day 2024



The Nile-COM Chair, and the Minister of Water and Environment-Uganda receiving an award at the 18th regional Nile day 2024

NBD participated in the donor's strategic dialogue that took place following the Nile day 2024 celebrations in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi.



NBD Chair Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana and NBD RM Eng. Sylvester Matemu participated in the NBI Development partners Strategic Dialogue meeting; Bujumbura 23rd Feb 2024.

4.1.2 NBD at the 7th WB Implementation Support Mission (ISM) for the NCCR project.



Participants at the 7th ISM of the WB/CIWA, 25th - 28th March 2024, Protea Hotel, Entebbe-Uganda

The 7th ISM for NCCR project took place between 25th and 28th March 2024. The objective of the mission was to follow-up on the progress of activities agreed during the 6th ISM in November 2023 and to provide support to the implementing agencies to ensure timely and quality delivery of the project. This mission reviewed the technical, procurement, financial management, environmental and social risk management, M&E aspects of the project, and the progress made towards enhancing inter-agency coordination.

NBD presented its progress update from October 2023 – March 2024, and was accorded a Satisfactory Rating. NBD and the NBI Centres defined a set of additional activities which NBD agreed to execute using the committed funds. NBD also presented its plan for the next 6 months (April – September 2024).

During the 7th ISM, NBD submitted a Project Concept Note to the Bank for review. The Bank and NBD scoped the activities that would be financed in the new Recipient Executed Trust Fund (RETF).



NBD team with Ms. Ai-Ju Huang (Senior Water Specialist of the WB) during the discussion on NBD's new project

The Bank team's Visit the NBD Office: After completion of the 7th ISM of the NCCR project, the Bank team visited the NBD Secretariat office in Entebbe; and held cordial discussions with the NBD Regional Manager and the Board Chair.



The Bank team visited NBD's Office. Left to Right: Ms. Azeb Mersha - WRM Specialist (WB), Eng. Sylvester Matemu - NBD RM, Ms. Ai-Ju Huang - SR. Water Specialist and CIWA Program Deputy Manager, Anders Jagerskog - CIWA Program Manager (WB), Shyam KC - SR. WRM Specialist/TTL NCCRP, and Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana - NBD Chair.



NBD Staff, NBD Chair, and WB/CIWA team at the NBD Office

4.1.3. NBD at the Uganda Water and Environment Week 2024.

The NBD Regional Manager Eng. Sylvester A. Matemu participated in the 7th Uganda Water and Environment Week under the theme “Rethinking collective action and innovative solutions to water, environment, and climate change crisis in Uganda.” Participating at a panel, he highlighted on the following issues that resonate with the theme of the event: (i) Innovative approaches and solutions to protect the lives, livelihoods, and property of communities in Uganda from the vagaries of climate change, (ii) the role of technology in addressing water, environment, and climate change challenges, (iii) opportunities and challenges in scaling-up investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation to increase the resilience of communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

4.1.1. NBD shared experiences of CSOs’ engagement in the Nile Basin Development processes

This was at River Basin Commission’s Multi Stakeholder Platforms (MSP) Development Workshop (5th - 7th March 2024) in Maputo - Mozambique. NBD was represented by the Regional Manager Eng. Sylvester A. Matemu who made a presentation on NBD’s experience and achievements in the Nile Basin region for the past 23 years



NBD RM, Eng. Sylvester Matemu presenting NBD’s experience in the Nile Basin.

4.1.5. The NBD Internship programme

NBD scaled up the internship programme from cluster 1 countries of Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan to Cluster 2 countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and brought on board 3 Female interns who have been interacting with local communities in discussions and best practice sharing on the challenges and mitigation measures for flood and drought risks.

The interns are playing a key role in bringing local insights, especially from Women and youth on how they perceive climate change, impacts and indigenous coping mechanisms; enabling local communities to share knowledge and best practices on flood and drought risk mitigations.



The interns - left to right: Ms. Susan Edith Asira (Kenya), Ms. Martha Isaac Mashauri (Tanzania), and Ms. Betty Nakalema (Uganda)

The interns are holders of Bachelor's degrees in the areas relevant to NBD's mandate. Ms. Susan Edith Asira from Kenya, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management from Kisii University and a certificate in Nature-Based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience; Ms. Martha Isaac Mashauri from Tanzania, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Development Studies from the University of Dar es Salaam; and Ms. Betty Nakalema from Uganda, holds a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies from Makerere University.

NBD signed internship engagement contracts with the 3 interns on August 1st, 2024. The interns were placed within the Offices of the respective NDFs in the 3 countries, and embarked on the activities of engaging with local communities, relevant local government authorities, and civil society organizations. Their engagement contributed to enhancing NBD's community outreach programmes and fostering a collaborative environment among stakeholders (government, civil society and communities). It also contributed to enhancing the learning scope of the interns themselves on how Civil Society, grassroots communities, and governments collaborate on natural resources management.

Internship Program in Kenya:

The internship activity in Kenya targeted Kisumu County as the selected Flood-Prone Area within the Kenya Nile Basin Region.

Starting in August 2024, the intern conducted a comprehensive stakeholder mapping of the flood prone areas in the county to identify relevant institutions involved in water resource management. Accordingly, she enlisted: local government institutions, Civil Society Organizations operating in the County; and Water Resource Users Associations.

Based on the mapping, she conducted community consultations through meetings and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) to gain information on the perspectives, priorities, and concerns of local communities (women and youth) on flood and drought risk mitigation measures and approaches. The discussions and interviews also aimed at gathering information from the community on the history of flood and drought in that area, the impact, and challenges faced.



The Intern discussing with selected members of local community in Kisumu

During the discussion, it was learnt that flooding hinders movement due to damage to infrastructure, disruptions in transportation, loss of livelihoods, and displacement of people.

Rivers Nyamasaria, Auji, Nungwi and Nyando burst their banks as a result of excessive rains causing floods and leading to severe damages to the residents in the Kano plains.

It was also learnt that most of the evacuation centers are often schools, and the families are forced to seek other alternative places to live when schools re-open. Apart from loss of properties, infrastructure, and lives, floods have resulted in socio-cultural effects on the survivors. These include: (i) mental health effects on children, (ii) increase in early pregnancies, (iii) lack of access to sanitary towels, and (iv) rise in Gender-Based Violence (GBV), among others.

During the discussions, communities agreed on climate change mitigation measures such as: soil conservation through tree planting; developing farm practice with on-farm adaptation measures (soil management and conservation practices such as terracing); construction of dykes to protect vulnerable areas and redirection of floodwaters away from agricultural land and residential areas; strengthen regulations to restrict construction in riparian zones; improve drainage systems to facilitate water flow during heavy rains; and strengthen information sharing as early warning systems. All these need improved collaboration between actors and putting in place a follow-up mechanism to implement the agreed actions.

Internship programme in Tanzania:

The internship programme activities in Tanzania targeted Mwanza region, which is the selected flood-prone area within Tanzania Nile Basin Region.

The intern identified stakeholders to engage with, including the categories of local government, civil societies, and local communities. Thirteen (13) key people were identified from two (2) women's groups, three (3) youth groups and three (3) government entities.

The intern conducted stakeholder consultations with the identified key representatives. During the consultation, participants emphasised the existing challenges in the Mwanza basin such as: overexploitation of Water Resources (unsustainable water use for agriculture, domestic, and industrial purposes has led to water scarcity and pollution), environmental degradation due to deforestation and lack of proper catchment management, and impacts of climate change (flood and droughts).



The intern with representatives from women groups in Mwanza - Tanzania

As one of the mitigation measures to the aforementioned challenges, participants stressed the need for collaboration among actors (Government institutions, civil societies, and community leaders) based on an MoU to clarify roles and responsibilities for effective accomplishment of the activities and avoidance of overlaps in WRM activities. It was observed that, these organisations were currently duplicating efforts especially in conservation-related activities. They also emphasized the need for joint fundraising initiatives for enhancing capacity and synergy for natural resource management.

Internship Program in Uganda:

The internship programme activities in Uganda are being implemented in Mabamba, Kasanje Town Council, Wakiso District; and Wantabya and Kizongo Villages, Wabinyonyi Sub-County, Nakasongola District which were identified as flood-prone areas within Uganda's Nile Basin Region. The intern engaged with stakeholders in Wakiso and Nakasongola districts to gather data on the impacts of floods, local priorities, and potential mitigation strategies.

The intern identified and held discussions with key stakeholders including: community leaders, local government officials, youth and women groups, and CSOs operating in the area. This activity was relevant to assess the roles, interests, and influence of the different stakeholders on water resource management and climate action decisions.



Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with selected stakeholders in Mabamba, Kasanje Town Council, Wakiso district

During the discussions, participants reported frequent and severe flooding in Mabamba, occurring approximately twice a year; intensifying the vulnerability of already fragile livelihoods. In contrast, Nakasongola District experiences prolonged drought periods from November to March, occasionally extending up to August. These climatic events have profoundly disrupted livelihoods, particularly in agriculture and trade, leading to: (i) Food insecurity due to reduced

agricultural yields and loss of income; (ii) Increased incidences of waterborne diseases during floods and malnutrition during droughts; (iii) Environmental degradation due to soil erosion caused by floods during rainy season and excessively hot soils during droughts; and (iv) Disruptions to education due to environmental conditions, among others.



Photo from Wantabya village; A woman and Youth leader explaining how drought affected their groundnuts and maize crops after a long period of drought.

Additionally, dangerous wildlife such as hippopotamus and crocodiles have been reported to invade flood-affected communities during flood events, posing safety risks. It was also learnt that extreme climate events resulted in communal conflicts due to land disputes arising from soil erosion and loss of arable land, leading to intensified competition for scarce agricultural resources.

As coping mechanisms, communities have been implementing various strategies to mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. The strategies include: (i) The construction of flood barriers and water trenches to manage excess water and protect vulnerable areas from damage caused by floods. (ii) Implementing water harvesting and conservation practices to ensure sustainable water-use during both rainy and dry seasons. (iii) Planting of drought-resistant crops to enhance agricultural resilience and reduce the impact of extreme weather conditions. (iv) Establishing proper waste disposal initiatives to prevent water resource clogging which can worsen flooding and water contamination. (v) Information sharing as early warning systems; they reported that they get information from televisions, radios, and social media for flood and drought warnings which allows them to prepare and respond timely and effectively.

However, participants emphasized that the effectiveness of these measures is inconsistent, and expressed the need for more robust and sustainable solutions.

4.1.6. NBD at the 41st NEL-TAC and 65th NILE-TAC Governance Meetings

NBD Leveraged the NBI Governance Meetings which took place on the 1st and 2nd July 2024 in Kampala, Uganda. The NBD Regional Manager and the NBD Board Chairperson participated in the 41st NEL-TAC and the 65th Nile-TAC meetings at Speke Resort, Munyonyo, Kampala. NBD made presentations on the long-standing partnership between NBD and NBI that also extends to the NBI centers, ENTRO and NELSAP. The presentation mainly highlighted the NBD-NBI/NEL-SAP joint achievements over the years, with particular reference to the achievements made during the NCCR project in the areas of drought and flood data collection that involved citizens across the Nile basin countries.



NBD Board Chairperson and NBD Regional Manager at the 65th Nile-TAC meeting, 2nd July 2024



The 41st NEL-TAC meeting in session, 1st July 2024

4.1.7. The 8th ISM for the NCCR Project

NBD participated in the CIWA/WB 8th ISM for the NCCR Project (21st - 24th October 2024), which was held in Entebbe, Uganda. The objective of the mission was to follow-up on the progress of activities agreed during the 7th ISM (March 2024) and to provide support to the implementing agencies to ensure timely and quality delivery of the project.

This mission reviewed the technical, procurement, financial management, environmental and social risk management, M&E aspects of the project, and the progress made towards enhancing inter-agency coordination of all the five implementing agencies (IAs) (ENTRO, LVBC, NBD, Nile-SEC, and NELSAP-CU).



Group photo of the participants of the 8th NCCR project ISM, October 2024, Entebbe-Uganda

NBD presented its progress update noting that all of the activities in the Platform for Cooperation thematic area were completed with key results achieved. Implementation progress on the Flood and Drought thematic area has advanced since the last mission, particularly in the completion of the flood management plan and selected flood awareness and preparedness community trainings which were previously delayed due to ENTRO's implementation schedule.

Particularly on the Flood and Drought thematic area, NBD has been actively supporting ENTRO and NELSAP through community awareness and engagement initiatives. NBD participated in ENTRO's Inception Workshop in Addis Ababa, which aimed at establishing Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness. Subsequently, NBD conducted a training workshop on "Awareness and Preparedness of Flood-Affected Communities" in Gambella - Ethiopia, and Malakal - South Sudan, targeting flood-prone sites identified by ENTRO. More still, NBD significantly contributed to country consultations and field visits aimed at identifying investment options for flood risk mitigation across Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, thereby enhancing NELSAP's efforts. In addition, NBD mobilized flood-prone communities in these countries for consultation and data collection, ensuring meaningful local engagement in the flood risk mitigation processes.

NBD's key role in gender sensitization and establishing gender networks in line with NBI's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy dissemination, and also NBD's support for gender and social inclusion during stakeholder engagements in flood prone areas and water quality hotspots in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya were recognized and appreciated.

NBD received a satisfactory rating for its overall progress towards completing activities and achieving intended results for the NCCR project.

4.1.8. NBD Finalized Preparation Of The The New Ncscr Project.

The WB team together with the NBD team appraised the NCSCR project from 24th - 25th October 2024.

The appraisal focused on: (i) refine project activities and expected results in the concept note and (ii) understand and define key components, results, implementation timelines and budget.



Group photo of the NBD and the WB teams, 25th October 2024

NBD provided an overview of the project highlighting its mandate, organizational structure, experience, and capacity to implement the project. The Bank team was briefed on the project context and rationale, project components and a detailed presentation on activities, implementation approach and expected results per component and sub-components.

After presentations, discussions were held per-component with recommendations and the way forward as follows:

Discussion on Component 1: Community Engagements and Capacity Building.

The Bank team acknowledged that NBD's unique position in grassroots communities provides leverage to reach out and obtain trust at community level to collect and disseminate information. They also acknowledged that NBD has the capacity to engage in citizen-led data collection and management, provided that this activity complements, but not duplicates what others have been doing. The Bank team thus provided additional budget of USD 500,000 to support subcomponent 1A of (i.e. Citizen-led data generation), making the total grant portfolio US\$3million.

Discussion on Component 2: Innovative Platforms for Stakeholder Dialogue and Action

The Bank team proposed to NBD to enhance synergy between its gender action plan and NBI's gender mainstreaming policy and strategy. It was also agreed that NBD shall prioritize the implementation of activities under sub-component 1A and adjust the implementation of other activities towards year 2. The number of interns was increased from 20 to 30, with a consideration of recruiting 2 Young Professionals that shall be based at the NBD Secretariat during the project period.

Discussion on Component 3: Project management

It was agreed that NBD will include activities for the operationalization of the long-term sustainability plan within Component 3 budget.

The meeting finalized the Project Concept Note, and NBD was guided to submit the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

4.1.9. NBD at the Extraordinary NBI Governance Meeting

NBD Board Chairperson and NBD Regional Manager participated in the Extraordinary NBI governance meeting 26th - 28th Nov 2024 in Kampala to discuss the Nile Cooperation after the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) came into force on 13th October, 2024.



Group photo of participants of the Nile-COM extraordinary meeting in Kampala, Nov. 2024



NBD RM engaging the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Kampala during the Extraordinary NBI governance meeting.

4.1.10. The NBD Governance Meeting (19th Dec. 2024)”

NBD held a virtual Board meeting on 19th December, 2024. The meeting discussed NBD’s work progress, including the status of the new project to be funded by CIWA/WB. The Board resolved to propose to the General Assembly the extension of the Board Term of Office for an additional 12 months as plans are underway for the physical General Assembly.

4.2. Thematic Area 2: Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation

4.2.1. Community Training on Flood Risks Mitigation - Juba, South Sudan

NBD mobilized flood-prone communities in Juba - South Sudan for a two-days (19th – 20th January 2024) training on awareness-raising and capacity building to mitigate flood risks where 20 community members (50% women) from flood affected areas of Akobo, Pibor, Nasir, and Malakal towns participated. NBD supported ENTRO in mobilizing communities for the training, and facilitated the training, including language interpretation to the trainees.



Participants in session during the training.

4.2.2. Inception Workshop on Nile Drought Early Warning System (Nile DEWS)

NBD leveraged the inception workshop on Drought Early Warning System (Nile DEWS) organized by ENTRO (29th - 30th January 2024) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Nile DEWS inception workshop participants, 19th – 20th January 2024

NBD and ENTRO agreed on the importance of collecting secondary data from selected drought-prone districts of the Nile Basin countries to contribute towards validating the functionality of the Nile-DEWS once it is developed and deployed. NBD thus collected secondary data on the impact of droughts on agricultural activities in the Nile basin countries, and submitted the reports to ENTRO with key findings that will be used to validate the functionality of the Nile-DEWS by March 2025.

4.2.3. Flash-flood Early Warning System Dissemination Strategy Workshop

NBD leveraged the Flash-Flood Early Warning System dissemination strategy workshop that was organized by NELSAP – CU (18th – 22nd March 2024) in Entebbe. NBD underlined the importance of developing a strategy that effectively communicates the early warning information to the end users/communities.



Workshop participants during a group discussions session

4.2.4. Inception workshop on Support for Establishing Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness

NBD participated in an Inception workshop on Support for Establishing Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness that was organized by ENTRO (4th - 5th April, 2024) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

NBD was represented by 2 staff from NBD Secretariat, and 2 representatives of the Sudan Nile Discourse Forum (SNDF).

NBD emphasized the need for supporting flood prone communities in terms of creating awareness and enhancing their preparedness against flood hazards which are threatening their lives and livelihoods.



Participants attending the Workshop on “Support in Establishing Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness, 4th – 5th April 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



The team that represented NBD at the workshop.

4.2.5. Country Consultations on Identification of Flood Risk Mitigation Investment Options - Ethiopia

NBD contributed to the discussions at Country consultations and field visits on the identification of flood risk mitigation investment options in Ethiopia from 21st – 24th April 2024.

NBD Secretariat and the Ethiopia Nile Discourse Forum (Eth-NDF) representatives participated in the country consultation and field visits. After consultations and field visits, it was agreed that flood risk mitigation interventions are critically needed to rescue the lives, and livelihoods of communities and protect the hard gained development infrastructure of the country from flood disasters.



NBD and NELSAP team at country consultation meeting with team of experts from the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy-Ethiopia, 21st – 24th April 2024.



The team visiting one of the existing flood risk mitigation investments in Ethiopia

4.2.6. Stakeholder Consultation on Water Quality - Ethiopia

NBD contributed to the Stakeholder consultation and field visits to water quality hotspots in Ethiopia (21st – 25th April 2024).

NBD made a presentation on its experiences in working with communities towards promoting Nile cooperation, and providing a safe space for dialogue to build trust and confidence among Nile stakeholders. The presentation emphasized NBD's significant contributions to organizing communities for promoting multi-stakeholder transboundary water governance in the Nile Basin.



Group photo of the participants, April 21-25, 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

During the mission, NBD paid a courtesy call to the African Union Commission on Friday, 25 April 2024, where the NBD Regional Manager was hosted by Dr. F. Z. Jihane, Head of Sustainable Environmental Division- SEBE DIRECTORATE, and by Ms Pamela Levira, Policy Officer - Climate Change. They discussed on Africa Water Agenda and the importance of civil society in promoting water cooperation for peace and security and social economic development



Brief meeting at the HQ of the African Union Commission, April 25, 2024.

4.2.7. Country Consultations on Identification of Flood Risk Mitigation Investment Options - Rwanda

NBD contributed to the Country consultation and field visit on the identification of flood risk mitigation investment options in Rwanda (29th April – 3rd May, 2024). NBD supported NELSAP-CU in mobilizing flood-prone communities for consultations and field visits in selected Flash-Flood Prone Areas as part of the process for the Identification of Investment Options for Improved Flood and Disaster Management in the Nile Basin Countries. These included meetings held with Rwanda government officials at different levels to identify priority sites for the investment plan, and obtain information on past and existing interventions to avoid duplicating efforts.



Meeting with stakeholders at the Rwanda Water Resources Board office, 29th April 2024

NBD mobilized grassroots communities in the flood-affected areas of Kirinda and Karongi centres in Karongi District to support NELSAP-CU in data and information collection from these communities.

Community representatives informed the meeting at Kirinda Centre that the district is vulnerable to flooding. The hilly terrain and heavy rainfall contribute to the risk of floods and landslides; impacting the local communities and infrastructure.



In the photo: a road which is continuously damaged by floods and rendered impassable

The meeting with Community representatives at Kabuye Centre, Karongi District, disclosed that the district experiences challenges related to flooding, with significant impacts on the lives of local communities, agriculture, and infrastructure. They shared their experiences on floods frequency, causes, and impacts on their lives, property, crops, and infrastructure.



Meetings with the grassroots communities of Kabuye and Kirinda centres, Karongi District.

4.2.8. Community Training on Awareness, Preparedness and Mitigation of Flood Risk - Gambella, Ethiopia

NBD, in collaboration with ENTRO, conducted a training workshop to enhance awareness and preparedness of communities on flood risk mitigation in Gambella City, Ethiopia (7th – 11th May 2024).

The 5-days training was attended by a total of **28 participants**, of which 14 (50%) were Female; 21 participants were drawn from flood affected communities, and 7 Government representatives from: City Council, Water & Energy Bureau, Lowland and Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change, Disaster and Risk Commission, and Education Bureau.



Participants of the community training workshop in Gambella, Ethiopia (7th May 2023)

The training: was successful among other things, it achieved the following:

- Created a platform for communities to discuss and understand the importance of awareness and preparedness before, during, and after flood occurrence.
- Created consensus among community leaders and government representatives on the importance of improving the capacities of the local community and local government for effective and timely preparedness and response to flood risks.
- Helped communities identify how, when, and where to get timely information on flood early warning.
- Assisted participants to clearly explore the challenges and mitigation measures to manage flood risks.
- Facilitated participants to develop a community-based flood management strategy/ plan supported with hazard and asset maps.



Participants attending the training, May 7th – 11th 2024, Gambella-Ethiopia.



Participants developing a community-based flood management strategy



Participants visiting flood prone sites along the Baro River.

After the mission in Gambella, the NBD team paid a courtesy call to ENTRO in Addis Ababa (13th May 2024), and met the Executive Director, Dr. Salih Hamid. NBD debriefed ENTRO about the community training in Gambella and its achievements; and thanked ENTRO's management and staff for the support provided.



NBD team composed of Eng. Sylvester Matemu, Ms. Verdiane Nyiramanna, and Mr. Herbert Wairugala with Dr. Salih Hamid of ENTRO, 13th May 2024.

On the same day, NBD paid a courtesy call to the Ethiopia NDF (Eth-NDF) Office in Addis Ababa, and met the Chairperson, Mr. Fanta W/Michael, and the Vice Chairperson, Ms. Aynalem Ashebir. The Eth-NDF is hosted by Agri-Service Ethiopia, which is a member of the Forum. NBD thanked Agri-Service Ethiopia for hosting Eth-NDF. During the discussion, the Eth-NDF team raised the issue of funding challenges which has not only affected the expansion of the NDF activities but also limited its impact on ground. The discussion highlighted the importance of collective efforts to mobilize resources for the NBD network as a whole.



From the left to right, Mr. Fanta W/Michael, Ms. Aynalem, Ms. Verdiane, Eng. Matemu, Mr. Temesgen, Mr. Bekele, & Mr. Michael at the Eth-NDF office, May 13th 2024, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia.

4.2.9. Country Consultations on Identification of Flood Risk Mitigation Investment Options - Kenya

NBD contributed to the Country consultation and field visit on the identification of flood risk management investment options in Kenya(20th - 24th May, 2024). NBD supported NELSAP -CU in facilitating field visits to the flood-prone areas to collect data and information required.

NBD also contributed to discussions at the meeting held with the Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation-Kenya that discussed key roles played in pro-active flood early warning and response to flash floods.



NBD and NELSAP -CU team discussing with the government officials at Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation-Kenya, 20th May 2024

NBD facilitated field visits and Community consultations at selected sites including: Kapuodhe area along Nyamasaria river and dyke(Tura in Nyando ACC'S office); at Ayweo (Nyakach, Nyakwere and Ombaka); Nyatike (Nyora primary school, and Angugo area, Osodo beach, Nyadho Kobala sub-location villages) and along the Sondu-Miriu River at Rachuonyo.



A community improvised dyke in a flooded area at Kapuodhe, along the Nyamasaria river and dyke



Focused group discussion during a community visit at the Nyando Site

Consultations at the Ayweo site was done with Seventy (70) people (45 Women and 25 Men) who said that the heavy rains experienced in the months of March and April 2024 were sudden and disastrous.



Consultations with community representatives at Ayweo site, Kenya, 23rd May 2024

Community consultations were held in Migori County on the 23rd May 2024, at a school which served as temporary shelter for the flood displaced people, called Nyatike site. At the consultation, a total of 52 (40 adults-28 Females- and 12 children) were present. Historicals informed that the recent heavy rains and flash-floods could only be compared to the 1961 floods. It was learnt that Lake Victoria is 2 kilometers away from Nyora Primary School which suffers greatly from the Lake backflows. The backflows affected people in 2022 and 2023, but the worst came this year 2024.



Community consultations held at Nyora Primary School in Nyatike, 23rd May 2024

The final community consultations were held in Homa-Bay at Osodo beach and Nyadho–Kobala sites on 24th May, 2024. Participants reported that when floods came, men and boys left for safer places, leaving women and children behind. In this regard the community proposed the following mitigation measures. (i) construction of more dykes by government and other stakeholders; (ii) relocation of community members who are exposed and vulnerable to flooding; and (iii) capacity building for communities to diversify income generating activities to help them combat poverty without destroying the natural environment.



Sights of flooding caused by Lake Victoria backflows at Osodo beach and Nyadho–Kobala in Homa-Bay

4.2.10. Country Consultations on Identification of Flood Risk Mitigation Investment Options - Uganda

NBD contributed to the country consultation and facilitated field visit for the identification of flood risk mitigation investment options in Uganda (28th 31st May 2024). NBD participated in the country consultations and mobilized communities for consultations on flood risk management and investment options along River Nyamwamba in Kasese.

At the country consultation held with Government Agencies at the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) headquarters, NBD reiterated its commitment and readiness to mobilize communities near River Nyamwamba to participate in the consultation meetings.



Meeting in session at the MoWE Headquarters – Luzira, 28th May 2024

MoWE elaborated on the challenges and gaps in the management and investment needs to counter flood risk in the country, which include: (i) Limited funding to make meaningful interventions in flood disaster management, (ii) Lake Victoria water levels are at highest ever recorded in the history for the last 120yrs, (iii) Flash floods and landslides go hand in hand, (iv) Limited capacity in early warning, monitoring and surveillance for floods, and (v) Lack of a comprehensive flood vulnerability assessment.

NBD and NELSAP - CU paid a courtesy call to key Offices in Kasese District Local Government on 29th May 2024, including: the Mayor of Kasese Municipality, Town Clerk, The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the LCV Chairperson. During the visits, Local Government Leaders committed to support NBD's activities in the district.



Meeting with the Mayor - Kasese Municipal Council



Meeting with the Environment Officer - Kasese Municipal Council

NBD and NELSAP-CU also met Uganda Military Academy Kabamba Students and key stakeholders on 30th May 2024, on the invitation from the CAO - Kasese District Local Government. The students were on a field study tour to learn about flood disaster response and management in Kasese. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of engaging with research and education institutions in understanding and managing flash floods. Local Government officials reported loss of educational infrastructure including Kilembe School that was swept away by floods.

World Vision – Uganda shared knowledge on their unique Disaster Response Model to which the district CAO also confirmed that Kasese district has emulated the same model and it has proven advantageous in responding to disasters.



Participants from Kabamba Military Academy, NBD, NELSAP, MoWE, and World Vision during the meeting(30th May 2024)

NBD facilitated consultations and Focus Group Discussions with Community Representatives at Bulembia Division headquarters, Kilembe Sub- County. NELSAP-CU and the consultants interacted with flood affected communities to understand the causes of floods, its impacts, community preparedness on flood occurrence, emergency support, and the proposed sustainable solutions to the flash floods. A total of 43 participants (14 Female, 29 Male) participated in the meeting.



Community representatives interacting with experts from NELSAP and NBD



Participants contributing to the discussions during the consultation meeting

MoWE noted that the flow of the river was diverted and the river bed was continuously desilted while Kilembe mines was still in operation, keeping the river bed at approximately 10 metres below surface. Since closure of the mines, desilting was halted, leading to a raised river-bed with water overflowing through the mines and community infrastructure.

As a mitigation measure, the government is currently desilting the river-bed using heavy machinery to control the overflow of the river into the surrounding areas.



Heavy machinery employed by government to desilt the river-bed

During the community field visit, it was confirmed that even the few surviving bridges, including major bridges like Rukooki have a few meters left to collapse and therefore need urgent attention to avert the disaster in waiting.



Communities downstream are severely affected by the floods

It was also noted that the desilting efforts at the upstream and midstream of the river channel creates free and rapid flow of water to the downstream towards Kasese town, thus flooding the town and nearby communities. Therefore, drainage interventions at the downstream and community preparedness for floods disaster must be prioritised on the investment agenda.

Participants stressed the importance of meaningful and inclusive engagement of stakeholders and local communities taking into account of their culture, religion, beliefs and values; and strengthening the already proven innovations (such as planting bamboo trees) married with other environmentally friendly innovations.

4.2.11 Community training on awareness, preparedness and mitigation of flood risk - Malakal, South Sudan

NBD, in collaboration with ENTRO, conducted a training workshop on awareness and preparedness of flood affected communities in Malakal City-Upper Nile State, South Sudan (11th – 14th June 2024). The training was preceded by briefing meetings with:

- (i) Hon. Peter Mahal Dhieu Akat, the Under Secretary for the Ministry of Water Resources, Republic of South Sudan. NBD briefed him on the planned activity and sought the government's support and permission to implement the activity.



The NBD team meets with the Under Secretary for the Ministry of Water Resources, Republic of South Sudan (10th June 2024)

- (ii) The Acting Director General (Ag. DG) at the Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment of Upper Nile State. NBD briefed the Ag. DG about the purpose of the training and requested him to officiate the opening of the training.



Meeting with the Ag. Director General of the Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment of Upper Nile State, Malakal (11th June 2024)

- (iii) The Governor of Upper Nile State, H.E. James Odhok Oyai at his office in Malakal. NBD briefed him on the purpose of the training. The Governor welcomed the initiative and also pledged support. Thereafter, a press conference was held and aired on SSBC National TV.



Meeting with the Governor of the Upper Nile State, Malakal (11th June 2024)

The training workshop commenced on the 11th June 2024, and addressed issues of community awareness and preparedness for mitigating flood risks before, during, and after flood occurrence.



Participants attending the workshop, Malakal-Upper Nile State, 11th June 2024.

A total of 44 participants (54.5% women) who participated in the workshop came from eight (8) villages in and around Malakal. The training methodology was interactive involving brainstorming, questions and answers, group discussions, presentations, and site observations. As a result, participants developed a community-based flood risk mitigation strategy and plan.



The participants in the learning hall (first photo) and field observation (second photo).

The 4-days workshop on awareness and preparedness of communities achieved the following: Created a platform for communities to discuss and understand the importance of awareness and preparedness before, during, and after flood occurrence; created consensus among community leaders and government representatives on the importance of improving the capacities of the local community and local government for effective and timely preparedness and response to flood risks; helped communities to understand how, when, and where to obtain timely information on flood early warning; and assisted participants to develop a flood management strategy and plan which would be implemented in collaboration with the government and NGOs.

On return from Malakal, NBD held a debriefing meeting with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation - South Sudan, and met Eng. Thomas Jang, the Acting Permanent Secretary, and also Director of Water Resources Management and Principal Nile-TAC/NEL-TAC. He was joined by Mr. Philip John Akol Deng, Nile-TAC and Director for infrastructure development in the Ministry. The debriefing was about the training deliberations, field observations, training achievements, and recommendations from communities. The Acting Permanent Secretary appreciated the outcomes of the workshop, and promised that the government will act on the outcomes of the workshop by involving the Ministry of Education, Health, and Infrastructure to jointly plan and deliver the required services to the flood affected communities.



Meeting with the Acting Under Secretary and his team, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Republic of South Sudan, Juba, 17th June 2024

The mission team paid a courtesy call to the South Sudan Nile Basin Discourse Forum (SSNBDF) office and held discussions with the Chairperson and the SSNBDF staff. The SSNBDF has created strong working relationship the government, especially with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation; this is well appreciated for visibility, credibility and legitimacy across the country.



The NBD RM, SG of the Board and the NBD M&E Officer hold discussions at the South Sudan NDF Offices

It was recommended that the SSNBDF ought to have: (i) an MoU or Letter of Intent with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation to formalize the relationship, (ii) increase the number CSOs and NGOs members, and (iii) organize the SSNBDF into “Focal Regions,” emulating experience from Kenya Nile Discourse Forum and Egypt Nile Discourse Forum.

4.2.12. Country Consultations on Identification of Flood Risk Mitigation Investment Options - Tanzania

Ahead of the country consultation in Tanzania, the NDB Regional Manager made courtesy visit to the Tanzania Nile Discourse Forum (TNDF) Office and held fruitful discussions with the TNDF Chairperson and staff. TNDF is hosted by one of its members, Governance LINKS Tanzania, which signifies a great collaborative spirit within the NBD network.



The NBD RM meeting TNDF Chairperson and TNDF focal person, 16th July 2024, Mwanza-Tanzania

On 17th July 2024, NELSAP and NBD met and discussed with key government officials, including the Lake Victoria Basin Water Board (LVBWB). The discussions enlightened the team on the existing investment opportunities for improved flood risk management in Tanzania.

On 18th July 2024, the team visited a site at Nyashishi River, which causes floods to Buhongwa and Lwanhima wards in Nyamagana District. The team met with Buhongwa and Lwanhima community members at Lwanhima ward offices.

Community consultations in the Nyashishi River Basin took place in Lwanhima and Buhongwa, the downstream wards which receive severe floods compared to other wards affected by the river. A total of **16 participants (7 Men and 9 women)** attended the field visits and discussions.



Consultation with the community representatives

During the discussion, it was learnt that Nyashishi river floods occur twice a year; Mar/Apr and Dec/Jan. In the 1980's, Nyashishi river had a deep and wide river bank, but due to human activities, currently, the river bank is filled with silt and sometimes shifts its course. Downstream flash flood is mainly caused by the upstream rains from Kisesa, Igoma and Misungwi.

During the field visits, cultivation up to river banks was observed, which in the occurrence of floods results in the loss and damage of food crops, livestock, and homes. Hygiene practice for women became difficult during flooding times due to overflow of toilet pits, resulting in outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea.



The team observes the environment at one of the floods hot-spots on Nyashishi River

Community efforts towards Nyashishi flash flood adaptation is carried out by the livestock keepers, who deepen the river channels by digging out the sand to provide water for their livestock. This has, to some extent, prevented the overflow of the river into the surrounding areas.

Communities suggested sustainable solutions for Flash floods including (i) excavating the river in order to deepen and widen the channel; (ii) capacity building of local communities on Disaster risk management; and (iii) awareness raising on Environment and climate resilience (including cleaning, protection, and conservation of river banks).

4.2.13. Regional Workshop on Validating Support for Establishing Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness

NBD participated in the Regional Workshop on Validating Support for the Establishment of Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness, organized by ENTRO (31st Oct. to 1st Nov. 2024)- at Bishoftu, Ethiopia. NBD contributed to the discussions, especially with regard to the importance of supporting flood prone communities in awareness creation and capacity building to enhance their preparedness. NBD was recognized and appreciated for the capacity building trainings on flood prone community awareness creation and preparedness conducted in Gambella, Ethiopia, and Malakal, South Sudan.



Participants during the workshop in Bishoftu, Ethiopia - Oct 31st - Nov 1st 2024

4.2.14. In-Country Water Quality Consultation in South Sudan and Rwanda

NBD leveraged the in-country consultations on Water Quality in Rwanda and South Sudan; which discussed the assessment of potential Water Quality(WQ) interventions based on the report for track 2 WQ hotspot areas.

The general objective of the in-country consultation processes was to review the water quality pollution issues in South Sudan and Rwanda based on the findings of the baseline survey, water quality model, and water quality management plan, that will inform the water quality pollution interventions assessment report.

The workshop intended to refine water quality MCA goals, objectives, criteria, and water quality pollution reduction scenarios (investment scenarios), and facilitate joint and collaborative planning meetings for in-country consultation processes with NELSAP-CU, LVBC, NBD, country representatives, and consultants.

NBD had the honors to deliver Opening Remarks during the Water Quality in-country consultation in South Sudan, held in Juba (6th – 8th November 2024).



NBD RM delivering the Opening Remarks Participants of the Water Quality Consultation Meeting in Juba, South Sudan - 6th - 9th Nov. 2024

In Rwanda, the stakeholders' consultation took place from 9th to 11th October 2024 and the Akagera River was selected as the water quality hotspot for the Nile Equatorial Lakes region. Over 25 participants from the NCCR Project Implementing Agencies, Rwandan universities, CSOs and NGOs based in Rwanda, government representatives, and NBD participated in the consultative meeting.



Opening session of the consultative workshop in Rwanda

NBD made a presentation on the contributions of Rwanda Nile Discourse Forum in mobilizing communities in the Water Quality Hotspot areas to facilitate water quality improvement.



Participants in a Group discussion

Stakeholders were requested to avail, NELSAP and the Consultant, all the relevant documents including presentations, updated project/programme papers, research papers, WQ data/information, and WQ pollution interventions assessment reports to realize good investment on Water Quality and implant good and reliable interventions to address the water quality problem.

Leveraging Regional Workshop on Validating the Functionality of the Flash Flood Early Warning System (FFEWS). NBD leveraged the Third Regional Workshop for the Flood and Drought Working Group organized by NELSAP-CU to discuss dissemination tools, validate the functionality of the FFEWS, and train the technical working group and national experts on the information dissemination and management of the system. The training workshop was held from 11th – 12th November 2024, in Nairobi-Kenya, and attracted over 50 delegates from all the Nile Basin countries including the Nile -TAC members took part. The training workshop also intended to handover the FFEWS to the countries, and strategize its sustainability after the end of the NCCR Project.



Group photo of participants 12th November 2024, Nairobi-Kenya.

The country delegates witnessed and appreciated the system disseminating early warning information and observed minor errors that are to be rectified. NBD requested for inclusion in the mail alert platform to receive early warning information in order to support countries in averting flood risks. The request was accepted and NBD is included in the FFEWS mail alert platform. Additionally, NBD shall be given an admin role to enrol one focal person per country who will receive the early warning information and support communities.

Leveraging the Joint Regional Working Group Workshop on Hydrology and Dam Safety.

NBD participated in the Second Regional Expert Working Group on Hydrology and Dam Safety, organized by NBI and ENTRO with support from GIZ (2nd – 6th December 2024), in Kampala, Uganda.

Technical experts and Nile-TAC members from all the Nile Basin countries, representatives of World Meteorological Organization (WMO), IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), ENTRO, NBD, and GIZ participated in the workshop. The workshop reviewed the status of the Regional Hydrological Monitoring System in terms of generating hydrological information products from the system for transboundary cooperation.

During the workshop, it was learnt that the handover of the system to the Member States has been completed in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda while Tanzania is planned for January 2025. The main threat to sustainability of the monitoring system was said to be vandalism, resulting from inadequate community engagement for station security.

NBD made a presentation on its experiences in engaging local communities in data collection using Citizen Science approaches. The presentation emphasized the importance of involving communities in: (i) hydrological data collection and integration into the Nile Basin Monitoring System using Citizen Science, (ii) Operating and Maintenance of the stations, and (iii) protecting the equipment from vandalism.

NBD's proposal on community engagement through hydrological Citizen Science was accepted by the participants. Local communities can be engaged in: (i) generating and transmitting hydrological data; (ii) clean-up initiatives to keep the surrounding area of hydromet stations free from debris and vegetation; (iii) performing minor repairs; (iv) providing regular inspections of hydromet stations to ensure they are functioning properly; and (v) providing improved security of equipment to reduce vandalism, theft, or damage.

Participants acknowledged that the monitoring systems in their respective countries generate seasonal reports, providing advisory services to the government on the state of flooding, early warning on flood forecasting, power production forecasting, sediment load monitoring, thus facilitating water resources planning, design and allocation.

At the end of the workshop, participants proposed way forward for approval by the countries. One of the key proposals was engagement with NBD on integration of Hydrological Citizen Science into the Nile Basin Hydrological Monitoring System - with selected stations for piloting.

C. Crosscutting theme: Gender

NBD conducted awareness raising and capacity building trainings to National Nile Women Network members in the 9 countries, namely: Burundi, D. R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The training workshops built on 2022 achievements where, NBD established grassroots Women Networks in the 10 Nile Basin Countries to enable them play key roles in sustainable and effective uptake of the NCCR project outcomes, especially in the Flood and Drought thematic area, towards enhancing flood and drought information dissemination in the Nile Basin region.

It is presumed that the networks should be sustained and strengthened through continuous awareness-raising and capacity building programmes. To that effect, from March - April 2024, NBD conducted awareness-raising and capacity building trainings for the National Nile Women Network members under the theme “Climate Resilient Social Entrepreneurial Pathways for reducing poverty and sustaining functionality of the Networks.”

Empowering Women through Social Entrepreneurship significantly helps to uplift them to achieve desired prospects of their lives. It can create women - change leaders and role models that inspire other women and girls in their communities. Moreover, innovative solutions to current economic, social and environmental challenges are needed to meet the communities’ existing needs.

The main objective of the trainings, therefore, was to create awareness and build capacities of the members of the National Nile Women’s Networks on Climate Resilient Social Entrepreneurial Pathways for overcoming poverty and sustaining functionality of the Networks through generating income, and at the same time, protecting the environment with the ultimate goal of creating climate resilient communities in their respective localities.

The two-days training workshops benefited a total of 275 participants (88% women), and achieved the following results: (i) enhanced participants’ understanding on the NCCR Project and its development objective; (ii) helped the trainees gain awareness on the complex link between women and water resources/environment as women are the primary users of water; (iii) familiarized the trainees with the existing entrepreneurial projects in their respective countries to benchmark the priority actions; (iv) enlightened the trainees to be able to identify and prioritize a series of social entrepreneurial activities for their actions; and (v) provided the trainees with an opportunity to prepare action plans on social entrepreneurial activities.

Summary of trainings in each of the countries

Burundi: The two-days training workshop run from 27th -28th March 2024 in Bujumbura, and was attended by a total of 35 participants (30 women and 5 men) comprising of grassroots women’s network members, Ministry of Environment, and representative of NBI in the country.

The role of women in water resources management and environmental protection, and the importance of social entrepreneurship to generate income and preserve the environment was discussed, which helped participants to generate innovative ideas for sustaining the Burundi National Women’s Network, and at the same time ensure climate resilience. Finally, a detailed action plan on social entrepreneurial activities was developed.



Participants of the training workshop, 27th – 28th March 2024- Bujumbura, Burundi

To ensure the success and sustainability of Burundi National Women’s Network, the workshop focused on climate-resilient social entrepreneurial paths and the following recommendations were made:

- Increase opportunities for experience-sharing on social entrepreneurship, and climate-resilient techniques.
- Establish partnership strategies with other public and private organizations at all levels.
- Conduct more awareness-raising events on the importance of entrepreneurship and climate-resilient practices.
- Strengthen the network’s monitoring and evaluation plan, as well as its internal and external communications.

D. R. Congo: The two-days' workshop for the national women network members on "Climate-Resilient Social Entrepreneurship Pathways to Overcome Poverty and Maintain Network Functionality," took place from March 25th to 26th, 2024 in Butembo town. A total of **35 participants (32 Women)** participated in the workshop.

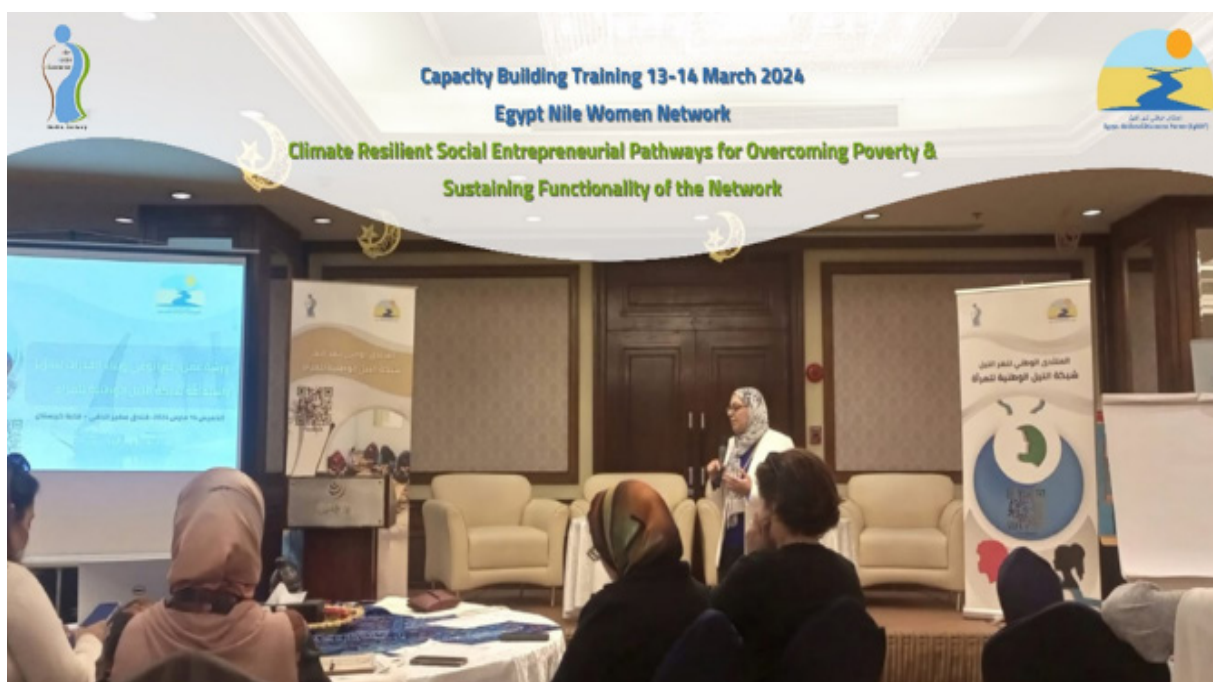


Participants at the training workshop, D.R. Congo, 25th-26th March 2024, Butembo

The participants mainly discussed: (i) the relationship between social entrepreneurial activities and climate resilience; (ii) business plan preparation; and (iii) the role of tree planting for protecting the environment and reducing impacts of climate change. These enabled them to understand the role of social entrepreneurship in solving economic and environmental problems in a bid to fight against the consequences of climate change. Participants' recommendations:

- There is need to fundraise for the women's network to implement social entrepreneurial activities.
- The women's network members need to establish Tree Nurseries for supply and marketing of fruit tree seedlings.
- There is need for additional capacity building on marketing and business plan development techniques.
- There is need for a quarterly meeting to evaluate the progress of planting of fruit trees and their positive impacts on income generation and climate resilience.

Egypt: The two-days training workshop for the Women network members on: “Climate-Resilient Social Entrepreneurship Pathways to Overcome Poverty and Maintain Network Functionality” was held from 13th – 14th March 2024 in Cairo. A total of **37 participants (31 female)** attended the training.



The Egypt National Nile Women Network workshop in session – Cairo, 13th – 14th March 2024.

The network members discussed a number of issues, including: (i) the vision and mission of the National women network in Egypt; (ii) the NCCR project and its development objectives; (iii) social entrepreneurship and women empowerment; (iv) the importance of having social entrepreneurship initiatives, to contribute to strengthening the resilience of women towards

climate change impacts and to the wellbeing of their families; and (v) empowering women in the field of agricultural food processing to achieve household food security.

The participants recommended that:

- Egypt National Nile Women's Network members ought to explore all existing opportunities through ongoing programs, activities, projects & women organizations to integrate the identified activities within the existing ones.
- Egypt National Nile Women's Network to explore funding opportunities, including the private sector, and form a working group to prepare project proposals.
- Networking and effective continuous communication among network's members is essential to exchange knowledge, experiences, and best practices.
- Mainstream media and social media are important tools to increase the visibility of the network on the national and local levels.
- Regional cooperation and experience sharing among the 10 National Nile women's networks is important.

Ethiopia: The two-days' workshop was conducted from 15th – 16th April, 2024, in Addis Ababa on “Climate Resilient Social Entrepreneurial Pathways for overcoming poverty and sustaining functionality of the Networks.” A total of **24 (75% women)** participants attended the workshop and mainly discussed the NCCR Project, the concepts of Gender, and gender equality, Social Entrepreneurship, the rationale for Gender sensitive social entrepreneurship, the need for women economic empowerment through green jobs, and strategies on how to empower women, in line with challenges that affect efforts for women empowerment.



From left to the Right: Chairperson of the National Women Network-Ethiopia and the Chairperson of the Eth-NDF discussing on the realization of the action plans developed, April 16, 2024, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia.

Participants emphasized the challenges of gender equality, women empowerment, and gender mainstreaming in government policies, programmes and projects related to environment, water and climate actions. They also underlined the role of women in climate change adaptation and mitigation decisions and actions.

The training enabled the participants to enhance their awareness on Climate Resilient Social Entrepreneurial activities that can generate income and at the same time protect the health of the natural environment; and to develop action plans on social entrepreneurship.



Participants at the training workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 15th - 16th April 2024.

Participants recommended that:

Cascaded capacity building training is needed to further engage with different stakeholders and enhance awareness within the network members.

System for internal communication for members are put in place using social media.

Strategic plan and resource mobilization roadmap is developed for sustaining the network.

Seed money to implement planned activities is secured.

Kenya: The two-days’ workshop for the National Nile Women Network in Kenya was held from 13th – 14th March 2024, in Kisumu. A total of 33 (91% women) participants attended the workshop, and discussed the science of Climate Change and how the national and county governments were collaborating to promote resilience at every level, including at the community level, with special focus on women, youth and the elderly. The participants were enlightened about the activities that LVBC implements in promoting, facilitating, and coordinating activities of different actors towards sustainable development and management of natural resources of Lake Victoria, where gender equality and women’s empowerment were central to the mandate of both the EAC and LVBC.



Participants, 13th – 14th March 2024, Kisumu - Kenya.

The workshop enabled the participants to gain knowledge on government initiatives, actions and policies related to climate change; understanding of the role of social entrepreneurship in achieving social change while creating a better and healthier environment. Participants developed an action plan on identified areas such as: oyster mushroom farming, improved “kienyeji” (indigenous) poultry keeping, fish farming, and craft work with papyrus.



Ms. Millicent Akinyi Opiyo the LVBC Gender Focal Person addresses participants at the workshop



Participants, 13th – 14th March 2024, Kisumu - Kenya

Participants recommended: (i) mobilizing seed funds to implement the planned income generation activities; (ii) developing by-laws to guide their activities within the umbrella of KNDF;

(iii) the need for regular communication among members through social media platforms; and (iv) continuous training on entrepreneurship to empower women

Rwanda: The workshop for the National Nile Women network members in Rwanda was held from 21st - 22nd March 2024, in Kigali; and was attended by **34 participants (88% Women)**. Participants discussed: (i) the concept of gender and climate resilient social entrepreneurship, (ii) climate resilient agro-circular economy focusing on managing plastic waste, (iii) possibilities of employment creation for women and youth through waste recycling (making of briquettes out of solid waste), and (iv) IWRM as a tool for Climate Adaptation.



Participants of the training workshop, Kigali-Rwanda, 21st – 22nd March 2024

The workshop enabled participants to enhance their awareness on the concept of gender and climate resilient social entrepreneurship, and to gain knowledge on the risks of plastic wastes on human and environmental health, and on the possibilities of converting plastic wastes into employment and income generation opportunities.

Participants recommended that: (i) the Women network should regularly organize similar capacity building programs; (ii) the insights and skills gained during this workshop should be used to innovate and catalyse change in the society; (iii) NBD should mobilize seed money to help to implement the action plan developed during the workshop.

South Sudan: The two-days workshop was held from March 25th – 26th, 2024 in Juba, and was attended by a total of **30 participants (83% Female)**. The participants discussed the NCCR Project objectives; climate change (causes, impacts and mitigation strategies); environmental degradation and impacts on communities’ livelihoods; the role of gender in building community resilience; and the need for women’s economic empowerment through green jobs.



Participants of the training - in part, Juba – South Sudan, 25th - 26th, March 2024.

Participants recommended that: (i) more resources should be allocated for similar trainings in the future, (ii) resource mobilization efforts should be initiated to sustain the network, and (iii) the Women network should expand its constituency for more and stronger impacts.

Tanzania: The workshop was held in Mwanza from 26th – 27th March 2024, and was attended by a total of **30 participants (93% Female)**. The participants discussed: the NCCR project objectives, and thematic areas; climate resilient social entrepreneurship and its benefits to communities’ livelihoods and the environment; and how to identify activities for social entrepreneurship and develop action plans.

The workshop enabled participants to gain knowledge and skills especially on home-made utensils and décor - using “eshisha” and other locally available raw materials, and identify and share social entrepreneurial successes and challenges with the network members.



Participants of the National Nile Women Network Workshop, Tanzania, 26th - 27th March 2024.

Participants recommended that: (i) the action plans developed should be implemented with commitment; and (ii) the government and development partners should support the women network technically and financially.

Uganda: The two days training for Women’s Network members on Climate Resilient Social Entrepreneurial Pathways for overcoming poverty and sustaining functionality of the Network was held from 12th to 13th April 2024 in Kampala, and was attended by a total of **25 (72% Females)**. Participants discussed: (i) the NCCR Project Objectives; (ii) social entrepreneurship in relation to environmental protection; and (iii) experiences and best practices on women entrepreneurs in Uganda.



Participants studying about Urban backyard farming at Kyanja demo farm, Kampala

It was agreed that women entrepreneurship and climate change projects can be associated to the 2021 training action plans being implemented by women champions in various areas of Uganda, including climate change innovation in green jobs like the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle waste), tree growing, solar energy promotion, water conservation practices, energy saving stoves, energy blackflies, poultry, and rabbit growing.

The training, enabled participants to: gain knowledge and skills on social entrepreneurship; get an opportunity to come together and share best practices and experiences on issues related to women and climate change, and develop a detailed long-term action plan for social entrepreneurship activities.

Gender training workshop: NBD leveraged the gender training workshop that was hosted by NBI from 6th -7th August 2024.

During the two days training, participants learnt about key concepts such as: gender; gender mainstreaming in water and environment; gender analysis as a tool for gender mainstreaming; gender, water access and control; water, gender-based violence and harassment; gender and climate change, and monitoring and evaluation for gender equity and equality.



Photos of NBD participants, 6th August 2024, NBI Secretariat-Entebbe

The training was interactive and participatory, involving presentations, group discussions, and group presentations.

Participants concluded the training by developing an action plan to be implemented by each organization (NBD and NBI).

D. Crosscutting: Communication

Communicating benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation is an on-going activity tied to the implementation of other activities. NBD developed and utilized various communication materials/tools from January – June 2024, including the following:

Publications: NBD published brochures (English/French), Frequently Asked Questions leaflets (English/French), NBD's contribution to the Nile Cooperation - NBI@25 brochures (English), and the annual reports.

Video Clips: NBD prepared several video documentaries including NBD's Good-Will message to NBI@25 which were showcased to the public in the exhibition area.

Roll-up Banners: NBD published banners with messages relating to NBD's engagements such as: climate actions, transboundary community engagement platforms on NBI projects, women and youth empowerment in water decision making, and mentoring the young generation in environmental conservation.

In an effort to further promote the NBD brand, souvenirs such as pens, lapel pins, notebooks, document folders, and bags were also prepared and distributed during various events including the Regional Nile Day 2024.



E. Cross cutting: External auditing

NBD contracted Bawunha & Badebye CPAs to carry out the auditing exercise for FY 2023. On 7th May 2024, a scoping and planning meeting was held between NBD and the auditors to outline the audit scope, establish timelines, and discuss the key areas of focus for the upcoming audit.

The auditors commenced the audit field work on 22nd May 2024 and conducted a thorough examination of NBD's financial records, internal controls, and compliance with relevant accounting standards and regulations.

The draft audited accounts were reviewed by NBD to verify the audit findings, and make final adjustments as needed. An exit meeting was held between NBD Board and Auditors and endorsed the findings. The final audited financial statements with an unqualified opinion were signed on 28th June 2024, and submitted to the World Bank through the NBI, marking the conclusion of the audit process.

F. Crosscutting: Partnerships Towards Resource Mobilization

NBD embarked on various partnership initiatives with strategic organizations in an effort to mobilize resources. These include the following:

- (i) Partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): NBD initiated conversations with UNDP to explore areas of collaboration between the two institutions, particularly on resource mobilization. The conversation resulted in the development of draft concept note "Roots of Resilience: Improving Community Livelihoods in Mabamba bay of Uganda," and discussions are underway.



L to R: Mr. Michael Kizza, Eng. Sylvester Matemu and Mr. Tom Sengalama at UNDP office, Kampala – 16th January 2024



NBD and UNDP team attending NBD's presentation, 19th August 2024

- (ii) Partnership with AKVO Foundation: NBD initiated collaborative efforts with AKVO - a software development foundation specializing in building and operating data collection and visualization systems to support sustainable development focusing on: water, climate, and agriculture. NBD and AKVO signed an MoU on 6th March 2024 which is aimed at developing proposals for joint fundraising.



The NBD Regional Manager and AKVO team, 21st May 2024, NBD Office.

- (iii) Partnership with GIZ: NBD approached GIZ for joint project development and implementation, and developed a concept note on “mapping key CSO actors and their approach in Plastic pollution monitoring in the Nile basin.” As a result, NBD signed a vendor agreement with GIZ and implemented the project.



NBD and GIZ team meeting at the NBD Office, 13th February 2024.



NBD and GIZ team in a meeting, September 2024

- (iv) Partnership with NELSAP-CU: NBD, in collaboration with NELSAP – CU, submitted two proposals to AfDB, and if successful, NBD will benefit USD 2million. In addition, NBD is earmarked to mobilize and sensitize community involvement in the Grid Interconnection Project between Uganda and South Sudan with funding from the AfDB. NBD has prepared and submitted activities and budget amounting to US\$1,062,350.00
- (v) Partnership with ASARECA: NBD initiated a partnership process with the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) and agreed to engage in joint resource mobilization; NBD and ASARECA proposed to sign an MoU to affirm the areas of collaboration between the two institutions.



In photos: The NBD RM, Eng. Sylvester Matemu (L) and the ASARECA ED, Dr. Enock Warinda (R) at his office in Entebbe, 17th January 2024.

- (vi) Partnership with Government of Uganda: NBD engaged the Ministry of Water Resources and Environment/Nile-TAC Chairperson and discussed among other issues to strengthen the working relationship between NBD and the Ministry.



Dr. Callist Tindimugaya and Eng. Sylvester Matemu

Similarly, NBD engaged the Water Resources Institute of Uganda in Entebbe, and discussed issues relating to collaboration between NBD and the Institute.



The NBD RM, Eng. Sylvester Matemu and the Water Resources Institute coordinator Ms. Gwendolyn Kyoburungi Zaake at her office in Entebbe, 17th January 2024

- (vii) Partnership with IUCN: NBD participated in the Climate Resilient Eastern African Transboundary Water Management for Environmental Sustainability (CREATES) programme Appraisal Mission, in May 2024, in Entebbe. This proposed project will be funded by the Danish government and to be jointly implemented by IUCN, GWPEA, UNEP-DHI in selected basins (Sio-Malaba-Malakisi, Mara, Turkana, and Juba-Shebelle River Basins). NBD showcased its experience and capacity to deliver programmes of this magnitude, and appealed to the Appraisal mission to include NBD in the project. NBD is making follow-ups as one of its efforts for resource mobilization.



Participants in session of the Appraisal Mission, 27th May 2024

(viii) Partnership with GWP-EA: NBD signed an MOU with GWP-EA on 27th May 2024.



NBD Regional Manager and GWP-EA Coordinator signing the MoU, 27th May 2024

The MoU will enable NBD to collaborate with GWP-EA in multi-stakeholder dialogues for policy influencing on sustainable water resources and climate resilience in the region human, institutional capacity building and awareness raising on sustainable and integrated water resources management, and development and implementation of joint programmes/projects.

- (ix) Partnership with LVRLAC: NBD signed an MoU with Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC) on the 19th June 2024.



NBD and LVRLAC signing the MoU; witnessed by the NBI Executive Director and the Treasurer to the NBD Board.

The MoU will enable the two organizations to engage in mutual cooperation and synergies towards joint project development and resource mobilization.

- (x) Partnership with LVBC: LVBC paid a courtesy visit to the NBD Office to discuss issues of strengthening partnership between the two organizations beyond the NCCR project; and this shall be formalised through an MoU.



The NBD-LVBC team at the meeting, NBD Board Room, Entebbe Office, 23rd July 2024.

- (xi) Partnership with MiCT: NBD co-facilitated the journalists' training workshop on monitoring plastic pollution in the Nile Basin: The Role of Citizen Science. The training was held from 16th – 20th September 2024, Entebbe, Uganda. Over 30 journalists from the 10 Nile basin countries attended the training workshop.

Having signed a vendor agreement with GIZ, NBD became a partner to co-organize the training along with MiCT (Media in Cooperation and Transition), GIZ, NBI Secretariat, and EARS (East Africa Radio Service).



Group photo of participants, 16th September 2024

NBD was responsible for enlightening participants on the role of Citizen Science in monitoring plastic pollution, selecting the 3 plastic hotspot sites in Uganda for field visit and facilitating participants during field trip to the selected sites.



NBD RMEQ giving opening remarks, 16th September 2024



Journalists interviewing Local Authority representative after visiting the dump-site

NBD was honoured to award certificates to the trainees and to close the week-long training.



NBD Regional Manager awarding certificates & the NBD Regional Manager giving closing remarks

NBD is in the process of signing an MoU with the Nile Media Network through MiCT

5. CHALLENGES

NBD registered the achievements stipulated above despite many challenges, critical of which are limitations of human and financial resources.

6. LESSONS LEARNT

Resource limitation and dependence on one donor has affected NBD's activities. NBD's strength and mandate is regular community mobilization, awareness raising, and training across the Nile Basin countries. This entails regular stakeholder engagement platforms and forums, and continuous dissemination of accurate information regarding project implementation, results, and any emerging issues which require adequate resource. NBD has therefore been exploring additional sources of funding to diversify its resource basket, including a possibility of annual subscription and membership fees from the NDFs.

7. CONCLUSION

During the year 2024, NBD has achieved commendable results well beyond what it had planned for.

NBD's collaboration and partnership with the NBI centres is now more advanced than ever before. This has contributed to the smooth implementation of activities planned under the funds committed by the NBI centres.

NBD has also created a network of partners and collaborators as demonstrated by MoUs signed with AKVO, GWP-EA, and LVRLAC; and dialogues initiated with GIZ, UNDP, LVBC, ASARECA, and MiCT. This networking is expected to open up new opportunities for joint resource mobilization.



Nile Basin Discourse

Nile Basin Discourse

Plot 2, Cemetery Lane, Entebbe - Uganda.

(Near the UN Base)

P.O. Box 185, Entebbe - Uganda

Tel +256 414 322 432, +256 39 3252161

Email: info@nilebasindiscourse.org

Website: www.nilebasindiscourse.org