Internship Programme Activity Debrief
December 2025

1st – 31st, December 2025

With Support from

CIWA

Executive Summary

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), through its NCSCR Project, deployed 8 interns across 8 Nile Basin countries. Operating through National Discourse Forums (NDFs), in December 2025 interns conducted field visits, community dialogues, stakeholder engagements, and awareness campaigns to generate ground-level evidence on climate vulnerability and strengthen civil society engagement in transboundary water governance.

Country Activities at a Glance

- **Burundi:** Field visit to Agasaka Plastic Center, Bujumbura, assessing plastic waste recycling contributions to environmental protection, climate mitigation, and community livelihoods.
- **D.R. Congo:** Climate change awareness campaign among farmers in Kyatenga Plain, Beni Territory, focusing on adaptation practices, water management, and gender and youth engagement.
- **Egypt:** Field visit to Sidi Salem, Kafr El-Sheikh, documenting water salinity and pollution impacts on agricultural productivity and farmers' livelihoods.
- **Ethiopia:** Three field missions in Gefersa Sub-City and Guje Woreda, Addis Ababa, covering stakeholder engagement, community dialogue, and dam infrastructure reconnaissance.
- **Kenya:** Field visit to Nyakweri and Sori wards, Migori County, gathering community data on indigenous water management, drought resilience, and women and youth participation.
- **Rwanda:** Supported the RNDF Annual General Assembly and a national workshop on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, focusing on governance and climate policy capacity building.
- **South Sudan**: Heat wave awareness campaign in Muniki Block B, Juba, educating 45 community members on health risks of extreme heat, hydration, and safety measures.
- **Tanzania:** Field visit to Pamba Ward, Mwanza, documenting flash flood impacts, indigenous coping practices, and facilitating a community climate awareness session.

Key Crosscutting Findings

Across all country contexts, field activities revealed interconnected climate challenges including flash flooding, water salinity, drought, extreme heat, and plastic pollution, all of which disproportionately affect women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Communities demonstrated resilience through indigenous knowledge and local adaptation practices, but consistently lack institutional support, resources, and formal platforms to translate this into sustained action.

Overall Assessment

The December 2025 activities successfully advanced the NCSCR Project's objectives of citizen-led data generation, stakeholder engagement, and climate resilience documentation. The internship strengthened partnerships between NBD, NDFs, and grassroots communities, providing a strong foundation for deeper field engagement in subsequent months. Sustained investment in community-led monitoring, indigenous knowledge documentation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration will be critical for long-term impact across the Nile Basin.

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List of Acronyms

AAWSA – Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority

BIF – Burundian Franc

CSO – Civil Society Organization

DRC – Democratic Republic of Congo

EG-NDF – Egypt National Discourse Forum

ETH-NDF – Ethiopia National Discourse Forum

FGD – Focus Group Discussion

ITMOs – Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes

KII – Key Informant Interview

KNDF – Kenya National Discourse Forum

NBD – Nile Basin Discourse

NCSCR – Nile Civil Society for Climate Resilience

NDF – National Discourse Forum

RNDF – Rwanda Nile Discourse Forum

SSNBDF – South Sudan Nile Basin Discourse Forum

TNDF – Tanzania Nile Discourse Forum

WRA – Water Resources Authority

WRUA – Water Resource Users Association

1. Introduction

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a regional network of civil society organizations (CSOs) from Nile Riparian countries, established in 2003 to strengthen civil society participation in Nile Basin development and governance. NBD promotes inclusive dialogue, environmental conservation, and the sustainable management of transboundary water resources across the region.

Through its National Discourse Forums (NDFs), NBD operates at grassroots, national, and regional levels to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and community engagement on water and climate-related issues. The organization plays a critical role in linking grassroots communities with policy processes and regional initiatives.

The Nile Civil Society for Climate Resilience (NCSCR) Project, implemented by NBD from March 2025 to March 2027, aims to enhance civil society participation in advancing cooperation on transboundary water management within the Nile Basin. The project contributes to equitable, sustainable, and climate-resilient development through citizen-led data generation, knowledge sharing, and community engagement.

NBD runs an established Internship Program as part of its broader institutional capacity-building efforts. Within the framework of the NCSCR Project, the program receives support to further strengthen youth engagement and technical contributions to ongoing activities. Interns are deployed through NDFs, where they contribute to citizen science, stakeholder engagement, and the documentation of indigenous knowledge, while building practical skills in environmental management, communication, and project coordination.

This report highlights the activities undertaken by 8 interns during the month of December 2025 across multiple Nile Basin countries, with a focus on field engagements, stakeholder identification and community-based data collection aimed at strengthening climate resilience and water resource management.

2. Burundi – Ngagara, Agasaka Plastic Center

2.1 Overview

The intern, accompanied by the NDF Coordinator and Secretary, visited Agasaka Plastic Center in Ngagara, Bujumbura; a plastic waste collection and recycling enterprise with over 10 years of experience. The visit aimed to assess its environmental, climate, and socio-economic contributions in line with national priorities and NDF-supported climate mechanisms.

2.2 Objectives

- Assess collection, sorting, and recycling mechanisms at Agasaka Plastic.
- Analyze contributions to environmental protection and the fight against plastic pollution.
- Examine socio-economic impacts, particularly job creation and gender inclusion.
- Identify stakeholder roles, especially government environmental services.
- Identify challenges and needs to guide future interventions

2.3 Key Findings

- Agasaka Plastic significantly reduces plastic waste in Bujumbura and upcountry, improving urban sanitation and protecting ecosystems.
- Recycling limits greenhouse gas emissions from burning or dumping plastics, aligned with national climate commitments.
- Over 100 employees with monthly salaries employed; approximately 35% are women.
- Local residents collect and sell plastic at 200 BIF/kg, generating household income across multiple neighborhoods.
- Waste is processed in Ngozi and semi-finished products are sold regionally in Tanzania and Kenya.
- Active partnerships with the Ministry of Environment, local communities, and civil society organizations including NDF, enables identification of waste dumps across the city.

2.4 Key Challenges in the Community

- Transportation constraints; difficulty moving collected plastic to the Ngozi processing site.
- Frequent electricity cuts disrupt equipment operations.
- Agasaka Plastic Center lacks a secure, stable working location.
- Parts of the community remain unaware of the environmental and economic value of plastic recycling.

2.5 Lessons Learned

- Local recycling initiatives offer concrete solutions to environmental and climate challenges when backed by community engagement.
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration state, communities, private sector, and civil society is the foundation of sustainable environmental impact.
- Economic incentives (paying communities per kg of plastic collected) drive behavior change more effectively than awareness alone.
- Gender inclusion and youth empowerment are natural outcomes of well-designed recycling value chains.

- Strengthened institutional and technical support is needed to consolidate and scale these achievements.

Figure 1: Employees of Agasaka Plastic in preparing recycled bottles

Figure 2: Plastic bottles after being processed

Figure 3: Manager of Agasaka Pastic discussing with Burundi NDF

3. DR Congo- Kyatenga Plain, Beni Territory

3.1 Overview

The intern conducted a field visit to the Kyatenga plain in the Beni territory, DRC, on behalf of the DRCNDF. The visit focused on raising climate change awareness among member and non-member farmers, observing agricultural practices, and engaging local authorities, women, and youth on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

3.2 Objectives

- Raise awareness of the consequences of climate change among farmers in the Kyatenga plain.
- Share knowledge gained from training on climate change with local communities.
- Engage traditional and administrative authorities on their role in addressing climate change.
- Facilitate discussions with women and girls on solutions for water supply challenges.

3.3 Key Achievements

- Climate change adaptation practices have been integrated into farmers' activities, including access to production inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and tools that improve yields and agricultural mechanization like Tractors to plough their land.
- Awareness raised on reforestation and row planting to balance mechanization-related deforestation and land clearing.
- Communities were sensitized on sustainable water management, crop cultivation, and tree planting to protect water sources.
- Local communities demonstrated capacity to build water wells, set up waste bins, and collect plastic waste.
- Gender and youth engagement: a division of labour was observed, with young people, women, and women with disabilities involved in seedbed maintenance, watering, and selling seedlings.
- Stakeholder engagement achieved with land chiefs, agronomists, and women's organizations committed to training and adaptation measures.

3.4 Key Challenges in the Community

- Severe water shortages and drying rivers are the dominant climate change-affecting farmers in the Kyatenga plain.
- Deforestation driven by agricultural mechanization, contributing to land degradation and worsening climate vulnerability.
- Land governance conflicts: disputes over customary fees among land chiefs disrupt community cohesion and are believed by farmers to affect rainfall patterns.
- Cultural pressures on women and girls: early marriages increase significantly during the dry season when water scarcity intensifies household burdens.
- Youth disengagement: Young people require re-energizing and targeted motivation to participate in environmental protection activities.
- Weak inter-institutional synergy: greater coordination between state and humanitarian actors is needed to effectively address climate change impacts.

3.5 Lessons Learned

- First-hand observation of climate impacts such as drought-stricken nurseries and irrigation practices provides insights that reports alone cannot capture.
- Community-led adaptation works as farmers are already adopting local solutions (water collection, irrigation, tree planting) and need technical and financial support to scale these efforts.
- Indigenous knowledge is a valuable resource that should be integrated into formal climate adaptation planning.
- Gender and social dynamics must be addressed alongside environmental goals cultural pressures on women and girls are exacerbated by climate stress and cannot be separated from climate action.
- Dialogue with local authorities is critical as land chiefs and administrative leaders play a decisive role in community-level climate governance and are partners as well.

Figure 4: Famers and young agricultural producers are planting trees in the nursery

Figure 5: Group photo with cooperative of famers and DRC NDF

Figure 6: kyatenga plain seedlings beds, the plants are dry

4 Egypt- Sidi Salem farmers

4.1 Overview

In his first month of engagement, the intern conducted a field visit to Sidi Salem, Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate, Egypt, on behalf of EG-NDF. The visit focused on documenting water quality challenges particularly increasing salinity and pollution and their direct impacts on agricultural practices and farmers' livelihoods in the area through site observation and discussion.

4.2 Objectives

- Observe and document current water quality conditions in the field.
- Understand the direct effects of poor water quality on agricultural practices and farmers' livelihoods.
- Develop practical recommendations to improve water management, reduce pollution and salinity, and enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability.

4.3 Key achievements

- Field-based evidence collected on the severity of water salinity and pollution, and their impact on crop yields and soil productivity.
- Documented that farmers adapt to temperature fluctuations by rotating crop types, demonstrating grassroots climate adaptation in practice.
- Identified a government-supported rice straw shredding initiative that converts straw into animal feed or factory fertilizer, reducing open burning and the "black cloud" phenomenon.
- Observed community and civil society early warning networks that share climate alerts, pest outbreak information, and practical advice strengthening collective resilience.
- Noted that women and youth actively participate in agricultural work, supporting family livelihoods on the farms.
- Documented local water management practices: farmers use fresh water to wash soil affected by salinity, particularly for rice crops, to prevent further soil degradation.

4.4 Key Challenges in the community

- Sidi Salem close to the Mediterranean Sea causes salty water intrusion, degrading soil quality and reducing crop productivity.
- Irrigation canal water is not always available at the start of the farming season, causing delays in irrigation and adding stress to early crop growth.
- Government restrictions on rice farming have worsened salinity management, as rice cultivation and freshwater flushing are key tools for soil treatment.
- Costs for pest control and other agricultural inputs are increasing while crop prices remain unchanged, squeezing farmers' margin
- Waste from canal cleaning is left on roadsides and municipal collection delays leave farmers with additional burdens.
- Farmers have limited understanding of the root causes of climate change and lack sufficient guidance on effective adaptation strategies.

4.5 Lesson Learned

- Farmers are already adapting informally rotating crops, flushing soil with fresh water, managing canal waste but lack the knowledge and resources to implement at big scale.
- The rice straw shredding programme is a concrete example of a policy intervention that reduces environmental harm while benefiting farmers economically.
- Water salinity is not just an environmental issue but also a livelihood crisis, directly threatening food security and farming incomes in Northern Egypt.
- Civil society and community networks play a vital early warning and coordination role that should be formally recognized and supported in climate adaptation planning.
- Building farmers' understanding of climate change causes and solutions is as important as providing technical interventions.

Figure 7 On the left salt accumulation on the soil surface as small salt particles are visible in the soil, indicating partial drying after irrigation. On the right water canal as main source of irrigation

Figure 8: This image shows the farmers preparing the land before planting.

5 Ethiopia – Gefersa Sub city

5.1 Overview

Following the November plan to secure field site approval and launch the first field visit, intern carried out these planned actions in December 2025. Three field missions were conducted across the Gefersa Sub-City and Guje Woreda, Addis Ababa, focusing on stakeholder engagement, community dialogue, and physical reconnaissance of the Gefersa River catchment and dam infrastructure.

5.2 Objectives

- Identify local CSOs and NGOs active in the Gefersa catchment for potential collaboration.
- Gather community-level insights on negative factors affecting the Gefersa Reservoir, including pollution and land degradation.
- Document the physical state of dam infrastructure and assess flash flood vulnerability within the buffer zone.
- Explore the feasibility of community-managed water quality monitoring systems within the Local Dialogue framework.

5.3 Key Achievements

- Confirmed the presence of local CSOs working on soil conservation near the catchment and initiated the process of finding their contact for collaborative engagement opportunity during the January dialogue phase.
- Conducted structured community interviews with five residents including two women, one male youth, and two elder who shared firsthand accounts of water quality deterioration, land erosion, and the absence of formal channels to report pollution.
- Completed a guided site walkthrough documenting specific pollution entry points, greywater drainage channels, buffer zone encroachments, and visible greasy waste materials near reservoir inlet points.
- Conducted a technical briefing with the Gefersa Dam Site Supervisor (Mr. Yersan, AAWS-Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority), gaining insights into operational challenges including siltation, increased treatment costs, and livestock-related perimeter breaches.
- Obtained access to the Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority for a full dam infrastructure tour, confirming the dam remains operational while identifying urgent maintenance needs.

5.4 Key challenges in the community

- Greywater & chemical pollution; runoff from car washes, homes, and institutions flows into the Gefersa River, contaminating community water supplies.
- Severe land erosion; heavy rainfall washes topsoil off paved surfaces, forming dangerous gullies along riverbanks and destroying farmland.
- Reservoir siltation; upstream erosion deposits sediment into the reservoir, reducing storage capacity and raising water treatment costs.
- Flood-prone buffer zone settlements; households built within the 100m reservoir buffer lack drainage infrastructure, heightening flash flood risk.
- No pollution reporting mechanism; residents witness illegal waste dumping daily but have no formal channel to alert authorities.
- Livestock breaching dam fencing; animals entering the reservoir perimeter cause bank erosion and direct water contamination

5.5 Lessons Learned

- Formal introductions and administrative briefings at the Sub-City and Woreda levels unlocked cooperation that would otherwise have been difficult to secure.
- Communities are not passive observers of environmental degradation; they are its most precise monitors.
- Water degradation, land erosion, and climate vulnerability are deeply interconnected and cannot be addressed in isolation. Pollution in the river directly increases costs at the dam and treatment plant, while erosion destroys both community land and reservoir capacity simultaneously.
- The lack of community-managed monitoring systems is a key gap, highlighting the need to formally involve communities in environmental management.
- Gender and intergenerational perspectives are important, as they provide deeper and more diverse insights into environmental challenges

Figure 9: Field consultation and site walkthrough with community representative Mr. Tilahun

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Figure 10: Liaison meeting with Mr. Abebayew, Gefersa Office Leader, Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority (AAWSA).

Figure 11: Evidence of industrial effluent and contamination from livestock breeding activities entering the Gefersa River system

6 Kenya - Stakeholder Engagement in Migori County

6.1 Overview

In her second month of engagement, the intern conducted a field visit to Nyakweri and Sori wards in Migori County, Kenya, which aimed to strengthen grassroots engagement on climate resilience, transboundary water resource management, and the inclusion of women and youth in climate adaptation dialogue through focused group discussion, Key informant interviews and site observation.

6.2 Objectives

- Gather real-time data from grassroots communities on traditional and indigenous approaches to water resource management and climate adaptation.
- Communicate the benefits of Nile cooperation and the risks of non-cooperation to communities, especially women and youth.
- Support citizen-led data generation and data-driven dialogue on transboundary water cooperation

6.3 Key Achievements

- Documented indigenous adaptation practices still in active use, including drought-resistant crop cultivation and traditional weather forecasting using wind, with community elders and women identified as key custodians of this knowledge.
- Engaged with the Water Resources Authority (WRA) and River Kisat Water Resource Users Authority (WRUA), gaining insights into institutional roles in drought management, early warning systems, and water conflict resolution.
- Documented women and youth contributions to climate resilience, including drought-resilient kitchen gardening, tree planting, water infrastructure maintenance, and community awareness activities.
- Identified community-level water management gaps including seasonal sand dams, limited water storage infrastructure, and degraded riparian catchment zones due to deforestation and overgrazing.
- Collected qualitative data through FGDs, KIIs, questionnaires, interviews, and direct observation across two wards, providing multi-method evidence base for the NCSCR case study.

6.4 Key Challenges in the Community

- Communities in Migori County are severely affected by persistent water scarcity. Seasonal sand dams and limited water storage infrastructure including few tanks and reservoirs leaving residents without reliable water access during dry periods.
- Degradation of water catchment areas along riparian zones, driven by deforestation and overgrazing, is reducing water retention capacity and worsening drought conditions across the county.
- Traditional weather forecasting, long relied upon by communities for planting and water management decisions, is becoming unreliable as climate patterns grow more erratic and seasons more unpredictable.
- Women face a disproportionate workload due to water scarcity and climate stress, limiting their capacity to participate fully in community resilience and adaptation efforts.

6.5 Lessons Learned

- Indigenous knowledge held by community elders and women is a critical and underutilised resource for climate adaptation that must be formally documented and integrated into water management strategies.
- Women and youth are not just vulnerable groups but active agents of resilience their roles in farming, water management, tree planting, and community education must be recognised and supported with resources and reduced workload burdens.
- Sustainable water management requires investment in physical infrastructure. Without improved water storage facilities and restored catchment zones, community resilience efforts will remain limited in impact.
- Grassroots engagement reveals dimensions of climate vulnerability particularly around gender and youth.

Figure 12: Discussion with community in Nyakweri

Figure 13: Interview between KNDF Intern and chairperson of KISAT WRUA

7 Rwanda - Governance, Capacity Building & Stakeholder Engagement

7.1 Overview

In Rwanda, the intern supported governance resolution, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement activities under the Rwanda Nile Discourse Forum (RNDF) in Kigali. Activities focused on the RNDF Annual General Assembly and a national climate policy workshop.

These engagements aimed to strengthen governance, enhance stakeholder collaboration, and document community-led climate adaptation and water management practices.

7.2 Objectives

- Support RNDF in GA preparation and coordination, including statutory meetings and documentation.
- Contribute to capacity building on climate adaptation, mitigation, Article 6 mechanisms, and Nature Based Solutions.
- Support stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing within the Nile Basin Discourse framework.

7.3 Key Achievements

- Supported the RNDF Annual General Assembly (12 Dec, KIM Hotel, Kigali) with 29 participants 68% women and 55% youth covering governance resolutions, collaboration, and strategic planning.
- Participated in a national capacity-building workshop on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, strengthening stakeholder understanding of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs), non-market mechanisms, and climate finance.
- Documented governance resolutions aimed at strengthening RNDF collaboration and admitting new member organizations.

7.4 Lessons Learned

- Effective governance and regular stakeholder engagement are critical for sustaining collaboration within the Forum.
- Capacity building is most effective when linked to practical, locally relevant examples rather than abstract policy content.
- Gender-responsive and inclusive participation as demonstrated by strong female and youth representation at the Assembly strengthens climate decision-making.
- Continuous knowledge sharing is essential to translate climate policy into community-level action.

Figure 14: Group Photo during the RNDF Annual General Assembly

Figure 15 Participants attending the national capacity-building workshop on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement organized by Equiterra Consulting Group Ltd

8 South Sudan - Muniki Block B, Juba

8.1 Overview

The intern conducted a one-day heat wave awareness campaign in Muniki Block B, Juba, Central Equatoria State, engaging 45 community members (28 women, 17 men) on the health risks of extreme heat, hydration, and local safety measures.

The campaign was organized with the South Sudan Nile Basin Discourse Forum (SSNBDF) in response to rising temperatures that reach over 40°C during the December–March heat season.

8.2 Objectives

- Educate the community on health risks associated with extreme heat and identifying vulnerable groups.
- Encourage lifestyle choices prioritising hydration and sun safety.
- Collect data and feedback to assess the effectiveness of the campaign.

8.3 Key Achievements

- Successfully engaged 45 participants in a heat wave awareness campaign, building community understanding of heat risks& illness like dehydration, feeling drained, fatigue confusion, dizziness etc. and safety measures like staying indoors during peak heat hours and wearing light coloured clothes
- Participants acquired practical hydration management skills, including properly maintain fluid intake, recognising signs of dehydration in themselves and others like heavy sweat, weakness etc.
- Established connections among community members, local leaders, and health educators to sustain ongoing dialogue on heat-related issues.
- Identified vulnerable groups to heat namely elderly, infants, pregnant women, people with chronic diseases etc.
- Initiated collaboration with Save the Nature (SATNA), a women-led environmental organisation, for joint community tree planting and ecosystem conservation activities.

8.4 Key Challenges in the Community

- Muniki Payam communities face severe daily heat fluctuations from 25°C at night to over 40°C during the day placing particular strain on vulnerable groups including children, the elderly, and individuals with chronic conditions such as diabetes.
- In Water scarcity compounds heat vulnerability hits different with residents especially women struggling to maintain adequate hydration with limited water access.

8.5 Lessons Learned

- Culturally relevant messaging is essential for community health campaigns to resonate and drive behaviour change.
- Collaboration with local leaders strengthens community trust and increases participation in awareness activities.
- Follow-up activities are necessary to sustain awareness and reinforce behaviour changes beyond a single campaign event.

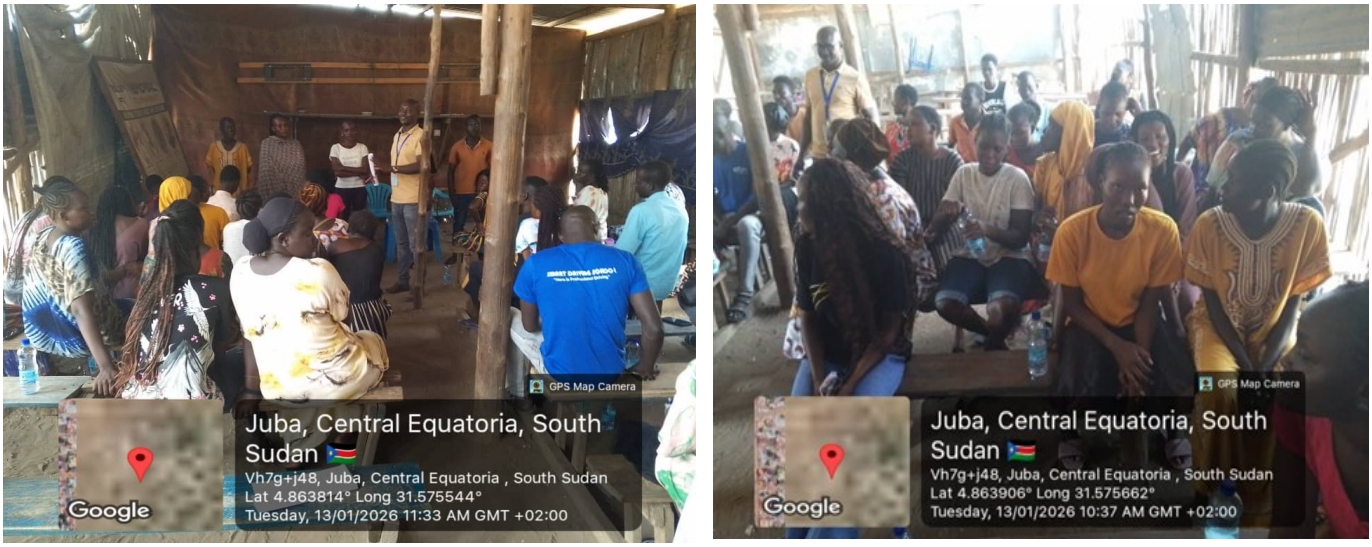

Figure 16: On the left demonstration of lightweight colored clothes better adapted during heat. On the right participants during discussion

Figure 17: Group Photo during Heat awareness campaign

9 Tanzania - Pamba Ward, Mwanza

9.1 Overview

In Tanzania, The intern conducted a field visit to Pamba Ward, Nyamagana District, Mwanza, on behalf of the Tanzania Nile Discourse Forum. The visit focused on documenting the impacts of flash floods in Mirongo River on affected communities, documenting indigenous knowledge, coping practices, and facilitating a climate awareness session on water resource management.

9.2 Objectives

- Collect data on the impacts of flash floods in Mirongo River on the community.
- Document indigenous knowledge and practices used to mitigate and cope with flash flood impacts.
- Facilitate an awareness-raising session on climate initiatives for water resource management.

9.3 Key Achievements

- A Key Informant Interview (KII) with Pamba Ward Executive Officer Mr. Shadrack Mboje. He shared impacts of flood; destroyed roads, loss of property and lives, and outbreak of cholera and typhoid. Coping mechanisms used are sandbag placement, riverbank tree planting, and avoiding activities near riverbanks especially during the rainy season.
- Conducted a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with flash flood-affected community members. Experiences shared include prolonged rainfall as the main flood cause, loss of property and lives, disease outbreaks, and women and youth contributing to resilience through tree planting, waste management, and social media awareness.
- Documented indigenous practices including placing sandbags near river sources to prevent overflow and planting trees along riverbanks to reduce soil erosion.
- Facilitated a community awareness session on climate initiatives and water resource management, with strong community turnout exceeding the original target number of participants.
- Communities proposed practical solutions including tree planting near river sources, bridge construction for safer movement, and river water purification for safe drinking.

9.4 Key Challenges in the community

- Prolonged heavy rainfall in Nyamagana District caused severe flash flooding in Mirongo River, destroying road infrastructure and displacing community property including water storage barrels.
- Lives were lost during the floods, with children particularly vulnerable to being swept away by fast-moving floodwaters.
- Floodwaters spread waterborne diseases including cholera and typhoid fever, posing ongoing public health risks to affected households.
- Communities lack permanent flood mitigation infrastructure such as bridges and river barriers, leaving them reliant on temporary measures like sandbags during each rainy season.
- Vulnerable groups including women, youth, and the elderly face limited capacity to participate in and lead climate resilience activities due to resource and mobility constraints.

9.5 Lessons Learned

- Indigenous knowledge is a practical and readily available resource for flood mitigation these community practices such as sandbag placement and riparian tree planting demonstrate localised, low-cost adaptation in action.
- Strong coordination between the intern, the NDF coordinator, and local authorities was key to the visit's success, enabling smooth community mobilisation and high participation.
- Community members are willing and motivated to engage when given a platform turnout exceeded expectations, reflecting high local awareness of and concern about climate impacts.
- Sustained follow-up through awareness sessions, capacity building, and collaboration with local authorities is essential to translate community knowledge into lasting resilience.

Figure 18 Key informant Interview with Pamba ward executive officer (Mr. Shadrack Mboje)

Figure 19 FGDs with Flash floods affected communities in Mirongo River

Figure 20 Group photo with communities affected by Flash floods in Mirongo River

10 Conclusion

The December 2025 reporting period demonstrated the growing role of NBD interns in bridging the gap between national civil society organizations and the communities most affected by climate change across the Nile Basin. Across Burundi, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania, interns engaged directly with grassroots communities, local authorities, and institutional stakeholders, generating firsthand evidence on the realities of climate vulnerability at the community level.

The activities carried out this month brought to light a range of interconnected challenges from flash flooding and water salinity to extreme heat, plastic pollution, and drought that are reshaping livelihoods, threatening food and water security, and placing disproportionate burdens on women, youth, and vulnerable groups. At the same time, communities demonstrated remarkable resourcefulness, drawing on indigenous knowledge, local networks, and practical adaptation measures to respond to these pressures.

Across all country contexts, a common thread emerged: communities are willing and ready to act, but require stronger institutional support, better access to resources, and formal platforms to make their voices heard in climate and water governance processes. The internship provided an important entry point for this dialogue, strengthening trust between NBD, National Discourse Forums, and the communities they serve.

As the program moves into subsequent phases, the insights gathered this month must inform more targeted and inclusive interventions, with sustained investment in community-led monitoring, indigenous knowledge documentation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration as the foundation for long-term climate resilience across the Nile Basin.