



Nile Voices

3rd QUARTER: July - September, 2016

Message to Readers

Dear readers

Welcome to this Nile Voices release on some of the activities implemented in the third quarter of 2016. During this period, NBD occupied itself in activities through collaboration with regional and sub-regional partners operating in the Nile basin.

NBD participated in the Nile media training organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) that took place in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia. At the meeting NBD had the opportunity to highlight the importance of involving media houses that focus on trans-boundary Nile issues.

Afterwards, a follow-up on the training opened up whereby NBD joined journalists from the Eastern Nile countries in a visit to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) that is currently under construction on the Blue Nile.

In the quarter, NBD Secretariat hosted the World Bank supervision mission led by Ms Habab Taifour the Task Team Leader, that looked at progress and guided the NBD team on the way forward of the NBD CIWA/ WB Project that is scheduled to end in December 2016. In the same period, NBD participated at the launch of the IGAD/ ICPALD Fodder and Range Platform held in Entebbe, Uganda. This was an opportunity for NBD to share experience and learn on trans-boundary discourse on the efficient utilization of water resources towards reduction of vulnerability of livestock producing communities of the Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs) in the IGAD member states.

On 16 September, 2016, discussions were held with Ms. Rebecca Carter, the Senior Associate in charge of Climate Resilient Development Practice at Water Resources Institute (WRI), who visited the NBD Secretariat. The visit resulted in the two organizations discussing possible future collaboration in the aspect of moving from global to grassroots, using the WRI's data tools namely the global water risk atlas, global flood analyzer, global forest watch water (GFW Water) and others that are being developed.

To close this 3rd quarter release, and as a follow-up to quarter 1 activities, herein is an update of the completion of Phase 1 of the water supply project under implementation by NBD's member, the Rwanda-National Discourse Forum (NDF – Rwanda).

Happy Reading!

Dr. Hellen NATU- NBD Regional Manager

NBD/CIWA Project, 2013 – 2016: World Bank Supervision Team Commends Achievements



Group Photo of WB Supervision Mission with NBD family/ Photo NBD

The World Bank Supervision team commended the achievements attained by the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) in the implementation of the NBD Cooperation on International Waters in Africa (CIWA)/World Bank (WB) Project that is near completion.

This was during the mission led by the Task Team Leader Ms. Habab Taifour, at the NBD Secretariat, Entebbe, from 14th to 15th July, 2016. Participants included the World Bank mission team, the NBD Secretariat staff led by the Regional Manager Ms. Hellen Natu and the NBD Board Chairperson, Mr. Jean Baptiste Habiya-mye. The two main objectives were for the team to be updated, and then discuss guiding the completion and planning the way forward.

The NBD team, focusing on the three components of the Project, presented the status on achievements, challenges and lessons learned on implementing a three year NBD CIWA/WB Project that is engaging civil society



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for social and climate resilience in the Nile Basin. The expected general result of the project is a strengthened, more sustainable NBD network with stronger ownership and involvement of its members, and increased constructive engagement with stakeholders to contribute to Nile cooperation and development.

Key achievements entail, (i) the 10 Nile Basin countries' stakeholder mapping exercise that captured, the actual members of the network, the extent of local, national and regional (trans-boundary) linkages between entities, the members' areas of inclination in water-related sectors', the relations with local political leaders, government agencies, beneficiaries, development partners, the challenges of securing women's voice in future Nile resources management, and the two pivotal roles of the network whereby the National Discourse Forums as key entry points to the ground, and the NBD Secretariat as key in advocacy on trans-boundary sub-basin and regional issues; (ii) participation in the communication and consultations of development agendas and scoping emerging issues for advocacy out of sub-basins of the Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS); Nymur-Aswa, the Lakes Edward Albert Fisheries (LEAF) were initiated (iii)

the 10 Nile Basin countries' whereby >400 stakeholders benefited from the peer-to-peer capacity building on climate risk management; (iii) under the project, the NBD website www.nilebasindiscourse.org had been revamped, in addition, an adjusted-to-fit the NBD Network context, open-source monitoring and evaluation system was being finalized. (iv) NBD Network governance strategies on financial sustainability, monitoring and evaluation, and communication and outreach, were in the last steps of finalization and at the door steps of delivery.

The mission deliberated on the status, and putting their heads together guided the way forward that was to involve a cost-effective finalization of activities scheduled in the last six months of 2016, and thinking through the after 2016.

The meeting closed on a positive note with guided directions from the World Bank team looking at beyond 2016. The NBD Board Chairperson, hoping for future collaboration, conveyed gratitude to WB/CIWA supervision team for their tireless guidance and cordial collaboration during the time of the NBD/CIWA project implementation.

NBD Commends the Role of Media in Fostering CSOs Advocacy in Nile Cooperation & Development



Journalists during the workshop in Addis Ababa / Photo Credit: Souzan

From 28th July to 1st August 2016, NBD participated in the media workshop organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). The training aimed at contributing to constructive mediareporting on Nile agendas in the Eastern Nile Riparian States.

The training saw the presence of 26 journalists from South Sudan, Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia plus representatives of SIWI, technical experts, the Nile Basin Initiative's - East-ern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO), the NBI Secretariat and the NBD represented by the General Assembly representative from Egypt and the Regional Manager.

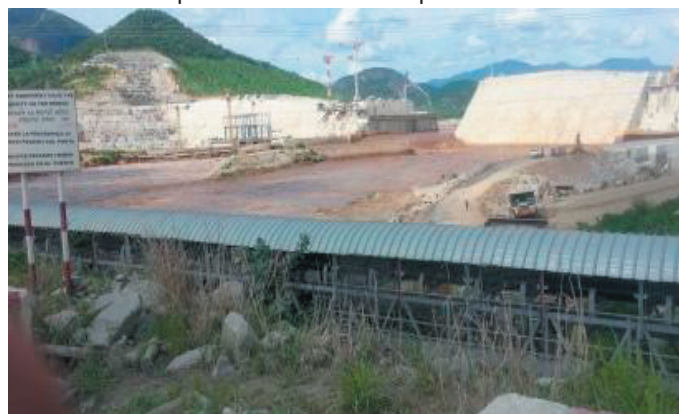
At the training, the NBD Regional Manager, highlighted NBD's appreciation of the pivotal role of media in fostering the CSOs advocacy on emerging issues, on cooperation and development in Nile Basin region, that ought to bring out accurate information closer to the context of communities.

In the presentation entitled: "Leveraging CSOs' Niche and National Media Outlets", Dr. Natu said that in the second strategic direction of the NBD Strategy 2012-2017, NBD considers the Nile Media Platform as the most critical avenue for obtaining

media coverage and tools that can enhance the carrying of the message in the pipelines vertically and horizontally. In so doing, contribute to nurturing the Nile cooperation and ensuring the participatory approach to development, fostering accountability and creating interface on emerging issues of development agendas by governments and local people, in the existing context.

Focusing on Eastern Nile cooperation, NBD and ENTRO have understandings that are media focused to collaborate in promoting Nile cooperation in general and Eastern Nile in particular through leveraging national media outlets; collaborating on community awareness creation on projects, programmes, policies and other emerging issues of high importance to the EN region and leveraging existing capacity, knowledge, and cultural understanding to enhance public participation in the development process of the Eastern Nile.

Besides, the NBD is a network of networks that include media organizations in NDFs whereby, the member media organizations have got space to play a role in fostering advocacy on emerging issues and best practices in the Nile Riparian States as a whole.



The rear view of the GERD under construction

NBD on Trans-boundary Water Resources Efficient Use and Governance at the Fodder and Range Platform



Group photo of Participants during the launch of ICPALD

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) participated at the launch of the Fodder and Range Platform organized by IGAD's Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock for Development (ICPALD), on July 11 – 12 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda.

At the launch, NBD's presentation highlighted elements of efficient use of both green and blue water, citing past studies on the water footprint of beef animals in rangelands and on fodder feeds respectively. Again, NBD put a finger on the importance of discourse on trans-boundary water resource shar-

ing and use that minimizes vulnerability especially along the corridors of livestock "on hooves" in the IGAD member states.

The launched Range and Fodder Platform, is to facilitate production and conservation of fodder that is to be accessed by all small holder livestock keepers at affordable costs to mitigate vulnerabilities of pastoralists in three selected IGAD member states that are also in the Nile Basin, namely Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

According to IGAD-ICPALD, the world's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) are dominated by pastoralism that is an extensive mobile rearing of livestock on communal rangelands that are dominant in the IGAD region. It is a major livelihood and production system practiced in ASALs and employs a high percentage of the population, with estimates indicating that there are about 120 million pastoralists / agro-pastoralists worldwide, of which 50 million are found in Sub-Saharan Africa.

NBD's effort at the launch, was to bring to the fore for discourse, through its CSOs network in the three countries, the elements of trans-boundary water resources efficient use and governance towards enhancing the livelihood of vulnerable communities in the ASAL region of the three selected IGAD member states that overlap into the Nile basin.

An Egyptian Journalist Narrates her Historical Visit to GERD

sembly. She is the founder of the department of Environment and Sustainable Development in Al Gomhoria Newspaper under which she is the Assistant Editor in Chief.

Being a member of NBD and a journalist at Al Gomhoria Newspaper, Souzan represented NBD General Assembly along with the Regional Manager, Dr. Hellen Natu at the Media Training organized by SIWI. She attended a five-day media training held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and participated in a Media tour to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) under construction in Ethiopia. This was her first visit to the dam as well as her fellow Egyptian journalists. The following is her reflection about the visit:

The walk that would be the toughest of my career in journalism began with the invitation of the Stockholm International Water Institute to visit the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam with other Egyptian journalists' delegation that was permitted to visit the dam.

We travelled more than 1,000 kilometres from Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, to the Province of Benishangul close to Sudan border in North western Ethiopia, where the dam site is being constructed.

We left Asela and reached Asosi region before the sunset and spent a night in a simple hotel from where our journey to the dam site began at five in the next morning. Aboard cars with four-wheels, we drove for a distance of 250 kilometres, for more than five hours before entering the dam area. Security operatives made sure we get the permission to visit and warned us of photographing within the region or even shooting video.



Ms. Souzan Mohammed Zaki

Souzan Mohammed Zaki is a journalist from Egypt and Secretary General of the Egypt National Discourse Forum (Egy-NDF) and a member of NBD' General As-

At the dam Site

We were greeted by the Ethiopian engineer, Semegnew Bekele, the GERD - Project Manager. He didn't hide his smile during the whole time of our meeting, and kept directing his speech to the Egyptian journalists despite the fact that the delegation included journalists from Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia, and allowed us to take pictures and shoot videos.

Message from Egyptian delegation

We conveyed to him our concerns, as Egyptians, about the impact of the dam that may cause a low water flow exerting downward pressure on the side shared by Egypt.

We asked him how it [the dam] will answer to the cooperation between the two countries and joint investments offered. This prompted him to repeat that the dam is useful for Egypt as well as Ethiopia once it is completed. The

Project Manager assured us that the Ethiopian dam will not harm Egypt and they are peaceful people seeking to develop the country without prejudice to the interests of others.

About the GERD

The GERD will be the biggest in Africa and the 8th biggest in the world. It has a 1,870 meters long and 145 meters high concrete dam, with spillways and a saddle dam. The reservoir area will cover 1,874 square kilometres at full supply level of 640 meters above sea level. It is being constructed for the purpose of generating electricity with total installed capacity of 6,000 MW. In addition, it is supposed to increase job opportunities, with outreach programs that reduce poverty and vulnerability taking into consideration gender issues.

The writer of this testimony is an Egyptian journalist. You may check other stories she published by Ms. Zaki on the dam here: http://www.gomhuriaonline.com/main.asp?v_article_

Nile Basin Discourse and Water Resources Institute Potential Collaboration



NBD staff and WRI's Ms Rebecca Carter during discussion

On 16 September, 2016, the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) welcomed Ms Rebecca Carter, the Senior Associate in charge of Climate Resilient Development Practice at Water Resources Institute (WRI) who visited the NBD Secretariat. The visit aimed at discussing with NBD the possible future collaboration that utilizes WRI's data tools including the Global Water Risk Atlas (GWRA), Global Flood Analyzer (GFA), Global Forest Watch Water (GFW-Water).

The WRI's data tools, are to enhance the evaluation, planning for, and prioritizing adaptation, in addition to enhancing NBD' scoping and advocating with evidence on emerging issues and best practices. The participative discussion with the NBD Secretariat centered on the roles of NBD and WRI in the potential collaboration effort, utilizing the data tools on Nile basin issues on water, and water – related sectors of agriculture, energy, and environment The WRI is unique in its own context.

Its work focuses on six goals which are climate, energy, food, forests, water and sustainable cities. Whereby, the developed data tools uniquely touch and can be utilized on all the key water-related sectors. The unique structure of NBD from regional to grassroots level gives it a cutting edge in the two pipelines of vertical and horizontal in transferring knowledge to communities, and advocating for issues to the decision making arms. The two organizations, NBD and WRI share a stand with a common ground on the water strategic pillar, that focus on informing about enabling solutions and mobilizing action that help catalyze communities to press governments and other powerful actors to adopt inclusive decision-making processes and pursue water outcomes that benefit all especially poor people.

The 1st Phase of the Project on Water Supply Completed: Update by Rwanda - NDF



The project the beginning (L) and after completion (R)

The first phase of the water supply project implemented by the Rwanda-NDF's member ARDE/KUBAHO to benefit more than 693 of whom 67% are women is now complete. Phase1 includes water supply facilities located in Ntebe Village, Sheli Cell, Rugarika Sector in Kamonyi District, Southern Province of Rwanda. The main part of the facility consists of the water source protection, and a storage chamber and water tank of 5m3 that will feed into a water system supplying downstream communities.

In addition, the water outlet was constructed to serve about 152 local households adding to the 693. The source has a water discharge varying from 0.8L to more than 1L/Sec in dry and rainy seasons respectively.

The full project when complete, is expected to supply clean water and improved sanitation facilities to 4,500 residents in addition to 50 poor households respectively in Rugarika sector in two cells of Sheli and Bihembe in Rugarika sector. More information on this project please visit the website www.arde-kubahorwanda.org



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