



REPORT ON THE NATIONAL MULTY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON NATURAL RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

Bujumbura, Hotel Novotel, December 10th 2010



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List of abbreviations

NDF	National Discourse Forum
NBD	Nile Basin Discourse
DIFD	UK Department for International Development
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
TECCONILE	Technical Committee for the Promotion of the Nile Basin
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DSS	Decision Support System
GIS	Geographical Information System
RATP	Regional Agricultural Production and Trade Project
NELSAP	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
US D	United States Dollars
CFA	Cooperative Framework Agreement
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
HYDROMET	WMO/UNDP Hydrometeorological Survey. 1967. Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Rwanda and Uganda joined 1977. Ethiopia was not involved.
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
GTZ	Germany Technical Cooperation

1. Introduction.

The Burundi Nile Discourse Forum (NDF) organised on 10 December 2010 at NOVOTEL Hotel in Bujumbura a national forum on sustainable management of natural resources.

About 135 participants from the Parliament, international organisations, Cooperation Agencies, the key ministries involved in natural resources management (including ministries in charge of Environment, Agriculture, Energy, and Interior Affairs), the civil society organisations members of NDF and journalists, attended the workshop.

The current report summarises activities, conclusions and recommendations of the forum.

2. Forum activities

2.1. Opening ceremonies

The opening ceremonies were marked by the presence of Mr Emmanuel Makuza from the NBD's Regional Office in Kigali.

The National Coordinator of Burundi NDF was the first to make a speech; he welcomed the participants and presented the programme (Annex 4).

The opening ceremonies were chaired by Mrs Anne Marie BIHIRABAKE representing the Burundi NDF Chair. During her opening remark, Mrs A-M Bihirabake started by briefing the history and objectives of the NBI, the Nile Basin Discourse and the National Discourse Forum (NDF). She informed participants that the NDF was created in October 2003 to reinforce the legitimacy through an inclusive process in the management of natural resources of the Burundi's part of the Nile Basin.

She let know the participant that the NDF followed a participatory and inclusive process in developing a shared vision of the civil society organisations involved in environment protection. The vision was presented to the government and its development partners in October 2010. The National Discourse Forum in Burundi is engaged to make more efforts in environment protection to ensure the welfare of the current and the future generations.

This year, the focus was oriented on Bugesera region located in the North-East of Burundi in the Nile Basin part of the country. During the last ten years, the region has been characterized by an increased occurrence of prolonged droughts that lead to a persisting situation of food insecurity. The region is also characterized by a gradual degradation of natural ecosystems. For the preparation of the workshop, the National Discourse Forum organized in September 2010 a field visit to the region to evaluate the situation on ground.

The workshop chair then pointed out the objectives of the workshop: discuss about problems in the area of water and natural resources management in Bugesera, let participants know about projects and activities ongoing in the region, sensitize participants for a sustainable management of the Nile Basin,

and also discuss about the Nile Cooperative Framework Agreement. She indicated that the contributions and recommendations to be formulated will be useful for Burundi and the Nile Basin initiative at large.

She ended her remark by thanking the participants and the British Government which accepted to fund through DFID the NBD Program and the organisation of the forum.

2.2 Presentation of the participants, Workshop objectives and expected outputs.

The opening remark was followed by the presentation of the participants by themselves to know each other and the National Coordinator of the National Discourse Forum, Mr Geoffroy CITEGETSE, presented on the objectives and expected outputs of the workshop on sustainable natural resources management. These are the followings:

➤ Objectives

1. Discuss about issues of water and natural resources management in Bugesera region
2. Introducing the Burundi's National Discourse Forum and the NBD Programme
3. Awareness raising of stakeholders on Nile Basin management
4. Learn about NBI's projects
5. Nile Cooperative Framework Agreement

➤ Expected outputs

1. Suggestions for improvement of the Nile Basin management
2. Stakeholders sensitized on the Nile Cooperative Framework Agreement
3. Identification of issues to be discussed at the upcoming regional workshop
4. Recommendations on how the NDF can improve the awareness raising on the cooperative framework agreement and towards an enhanced management of the Nile's resources.

2.3 Presentations on different topics.

This activity was carried out with the facilitation of Mrs Marie Rose Kabura, Adviser of the Minister Water, Environment, Land Management and Town Planning and former General Director of Forest and Environment Departement. The participants could therefore follow the presentations on different topics that are summarized in the paragraphs below.

Presentation 1: The National Discourse Forum and NBD, by Lévis Ntabiriho, Executive Committee Member / NDF Burundi

Mr L. Ntabiriho firstly talked about the Nile Basin and its characteristics including the population, climate, water and natural resources. He then presented the NBI history including the creation of the Technical Committee on the Cooperation on the Nile (TECCONILE) in 1992, the signing by the Ministers in charge of water affairs in 1999 of the agreement institutionalizing the NBI and the adoption of the document of the Shared Vision Programme in 2001.

After, the presenter showed the reasons that motivated the civil society organisations to get involved in the NBI projects. These are: the need to facilitate the engagement of all stakeholders, the importance of considering the views and interests of the populations in the negotiations over the Nile, the wish of contributing in the development process of the cooperative framework agreement. With its ambition of fighting poverty, the NBI has to consider all economic and social issues. Within that context, the NBD was created in 2003 to promote the participation of the civil society in the NBI's projects and programme development.

The presenter informed the participants about the NBD's vision: *"A secured Nile Basin where natural resources are sustainably and equitably managed for the benefit of all its inhabitants"* and its mission: *"Ensure that there is a civil society fully informed, actively influencing over the development of projects, programmes and policies under the NBI and other Nile Basin related development processes"*.

The NBD operates through the National Discourse Forum in the Nile Basin countries. In Burundi, the NDF was launched in 2003 under the initiative of 70 CSOs. The Burundi NDF seeks to influence the development of projects and processes under the NBI by promoting the dissemination and exchange of information on current and potential developments under the NBI. Ultimately the Burundi NDF will contribute to the maximisation of social, economic and environmental benefits from the sustainable and equitable use of the Nile water resources with a view to reducing poverty in the Nile region.

Mr L. Ntabiriho took some time talking about the activities carried out by the NDF that are mainly: capacity strengthening of CSOs, awareness raising on environmental challenges, advocacy on the issue of water resources management, studies carried out, elaboration of the document on the shared environmental vision that has already been adopted and submitted to the Government.

He ended his presentation by mentioning the ongoing activities including: an advocacy programme regarding the elaboration of a national environmental policy aiming at enhancing the environmental

governance in Burundi, a planned adoption workshop with the Parliament on the shared environmental vision of CSOs.



View of the participants to the National Forum on natural resources sustainable management

Presentation 2 : Natural resources management in Bugesera region and its impact on population, by Salvator RUZIMA, Consultant.

The objective of the presentation was to rise for discussion some issues related to water and natural resources management in Bugesera Region. The content of the presentation included the following:

- (i) A quick analysis of the situation on ground in Bugesera Region in the area of environmental resources management.
- (ii) Identification of potential negative impacts of an inappropriate management of natural resources on populations at national and regional levels.

The presenter specified the Bugesera's natural resources as the following: the hills land and marshlands around the northern lakes and along the Akanyaru River, surface and ground waters, fisheries resources, minerals, Murehe natural forest and Lake Rwihinda Reserve. The state of the resources is summarized below:

(i). The hill's lands are characterised by a relative degradation due to high population pressure. The erosion rate is low and estimated to 2.5T/ha/year.

(ii). The fertile wetlands along the lakes are overcultivated, this has led to biodiversity degradation due to the destruction of bird and fish habitats, destruction of breeding sites and lost of some fish species.

(iii). The marshlands of the Akanyaru-Akagera complex play an important ecological role in the regulation of water levels in the Akagera and Akanyaru Rivers and also in the northern lakes. With the view of addressing the famine situation caused by the 1999-2000 severe drought, the local population has been allowed to exploit the marshlands for agricultural production. Nowadays, the marshlands, buffer zones included, are overcultivated with inappropriate techniques in a way that if no serious measures are taken, one can predict a risk of dryness and then the disappearance of the buffer zones in the near future. Consequences that may result in that inappropriate exploitation of marshlands are many and include the following: decreased food production during the dry season, increased livelihood of floods that destroy crops during the rainy seasons, perturbation of the Akanyaru's hydrological regime with its negative impacts on the water infrastructures located downstream like the Rusumo hydropower dam, degradation of the wealthy biodiversity that is source of livelihoods for the local communities (food resources, basketwork products, medicines from the natural vegetation).

(iv). Natural ecosystems and protected areas in the region include the Murehe Forest and the Lake Rwihinda Reserve. They are under gradual degradation even if some interveners have financed a number of projects for their protection. There is a risk of a complete destruction of the Murehe Forest in the few coming years because of an increasing illegal occupation. The biodiversity is threatened by anarchic mining activities.

The main constraints identified in the management of the natural ecosystems in the region are:

- (i) An integrated development plan for Bugesera Region to include ecosystems management is lacking;
- (ii) Lack of a legal framework for the management of the protected areas;
- (iii) Poverty and climate changes;
- (iv) Weak institutional capacity;
- (v) Poor community involvement in the management and conservation of the ecosystems.

(v). Water resources: the water quantity in Bugesera region is gradually decreasing since the last 10 years. Many water springs and ponds have dried and the water levels in lakes have significantly decreased. Potable water is becoming more and more scarce, it is nowadays sold at local markets like other food products. Water resources are threatened by: pollution due to sediment loads in rivers and lakes, invasive plants and salinization. There is hope that the projects ongoing implementation will address the situation and potable water needs shall be met in the future.

Then, the presenter indicated that the use of water (from rivers and lakes) for agriculture (irrigation) is still undeveloped. The current AfDF's project of Rural Infrastructure Development in Bugesera will probably contribute in improving the situation. The project plans to irrigate about 500 ha in Burundi and 1,000 ha in Rwanda using water from the lakes. Here, the presenter calls the participants to **ensure that environmental impacts caused by the project are mitigated.**

(vi). Fisheries resources are shared by Rwanda and Burundi, there is need of collaboration in their management. In Burundi, overfishing is the main constraint. The number of fishermen is high, they work in associations with a total of respectively 164 and 13 in Kirundo and Musinga provinces. The quantity of fish obtained annually is decreasing gradually. Another threat that is deteriorating the situation is the destruction of fish breeding sites.

(vii). Mineral resources: Columbo –Tentalite (Nb,Ta) and Wolframite (W)) are inappropriately exploited in the Murehe Forest resulting in biodiversity degradation. The big problem is that the environment is not rehabilitated after mining.

Another problem concerns the management itself. For many organisations intervening in natural resources and environmental management, **coordination and monitoring & evaluation systems are weak.** The organisations limit their projects on just humanitarian actions. The actions undertaken by the organisations relate to emergency relief. The institutional capacities are not strengthened to enable good coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the interveners' actions. Approaches are not harmonized and projects are not implemented properly.

At the provincial level, a coordination mechanism has been put in place but still not functioning. The following are the main consequences of that: poor results; no replicability of the actions undertaken and sustainability is not guaranteed; approaches and intervention techniques are not harmonized.

Transboundary collaboration should focus on the following: proper management of the Akanyaru marshlands in general and the protection of the buffer zones at the two sides in Burundi and Rwanda; equitable utilisation of water from the lakes by the communities in the two countries; improved management of fisheries.

The presenter ended by a two conclusions:

(i). There is an urgent need of a mechanism for an integrated water resources management of Bugesera at national (Burundi) and regional (Rwanda and Burundi) levels to ensure that the

populations' needs are met (domestic water, water for agricultural production, hydropower) without compromising the ecological integrity.

(ii). Urgent measures must be taken to stop the degradation of the Bugesera's natural resources because of the development opportunities that they can offer (ecotourism, fisheries, etc.).

Presentation 3 : Nile Basin DSS, par Gabriel Ndikumana, RATP/Agricultural Modelling and Data Management Officer and Former-National DSS Specialist

Mr G. Ndikumana started by talking about the NBI's projects under the two main programmes that are the Shared Vision Programme and the Subsidiary Action Programme. He indicated that DSS is one of the components of the Water Resources Planning and Management Project under the Shared Vision Programme. The project aim at enhancing analytical capacity at a basin-wide perspective to support the development, management and protection of Nile Basin water resources in an equitable, optimal, integrated and sustainable manner.

Le presenter then explained the meaning of DSS (Decision Support System). He said that a DSS is a common computer-based platform for communication, information management and analysis of water resources.

It provides a framework for sharing knowledge, understanding river system behaviour, evaluating alternative development and management strategies, and supporting informed decision making.

The objective of DSS *is*: To enhance capacity to support basin wide communication, information exchange, and identifying transboundary opportunities for cooperative development of the Nile Basin water resources.

After, he indicated the priority areas of concern: Water resources development; Optimal water resources utilization; Energy development (hydropower); Rain-fed and irrigated agriculture; Coping with floods; Coping with droughts; Watershed and Sediment Management; Navigation; Climate change and Water Quality.

Mr G. Ndikumana ended by letting the participants know about the progress made so far in the DSS development. He indicated that the identification phase including information collection, processing and analysis, and also the DSS design is already completed. The current phase relates to the DSS development. The Version DSS #1 is ready. The main elements for its development are:

(i). System design: Information Management System comprising the Database Management System, Database Processors and Data Analysis Tools and the Embedded GIS Functionality System : scenarios development tool; table processing tool ; reporting tool ; information and scripts processing tools ; project management tool; System Administration

(ii). Model design: MIKEBASIN is water allocation model

(iii). Graphic User Interface

(iv). Relational Database: PostGIS, PostgreSQL

The version DSS # 2 is under development, the final version DSS # 3 will be ready by July 2012.

Presentation 4: Regional Agricultural Production and Trade Project (RATP), by Gabriel Ndikumana, Agricultural Modelling and Data Management Officer.

The objective of the presentation was to inform the participants on the Regional Agricultural Production and Trade Project (RATP), a project recently launched. Its headquarters is located in Burundi.

Mr G.Ndikumana said that the RATP is one of the NELSAP projects; it is financed by CIDA through the Nile Basin Trust Fund managed by World Bank with a total budget amount of 7 Millions USD. The project is to be implemented into two phases: A preparatory phase of 15 months (April 2008-September 2009) and an implementation phase of 30 months (November 2010- April 2012).

The objective of the RATP is to enhance the knowledge of the Nile Basin's Institutions on agricultural developments in the basin, promote an efficient and sustainable water use and consistent economic investments in agriculture.

Before ending the presentation, Mr G. Ndikumana described the four project components: Definition of the NBI core Agricultural Agenda, sustainable water use for agricultural productivity, promotion of regional agricultural Trade, project management, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Presentation 5: The Nile Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), by Libérat Nahimana, adviser of the Minister of Water, Environment, Land Management and Town Planning and NBI/TAC Member;

Mr L. Nahimana focussed on the cooperation history. He talked about the **HYDROMET** related agreement effective from 1967 to 1992 and the **TECCONILE** from 1992 to 1999. He indicated that the NBI was institutionalized in 1999.

The cooperation between the Nile Basin countries is of great importance for many reasons:

(i). The Nile basin is facing many challenges including mainly: the poverty ; political instability characterized by civil wars ; high population growth rate; illness ; famines and food insecurity ; environmental degradation and climate changes related perturbations characterized by occurrence of repetitive floods and droughts, etc.

(ii). The Nile offers many development opportunities constituting areas of regional cooperation such as: food production; hydropower; navigation; environmental conservation; industrialization; regional integration (political & economic); peace and security; funds rising, etc.

He added that the recent negotiations for the Cooperative Framework Agreement to govern the Nile water utilization started in 2003. After several meetings of the negotiators teams and ministers in charge of water affairs, the CFA was adopted and made available for signature by the governments of the NB countries from May 2010 to May 2011.

The CFA on the Nile is a document made with 6 chapters and 44 articles.

The preamble indicates that the Framework applies to the use, development, protection, conservation and management of the Nile River Basin and its resources and establishes an institutional mechanism for cooperation among the Nile Basin States.

The part I is related to the general principles (article 3): These are the followings: cooperation; sustainable development; subsidiarity; equitable and reasonable utilization; prevention of the causing of significant harm; the right of Nile Basin States to use water within their territories; protection and conservation; information concerning planned measures; community of interest; exchange of data and information; environmental impact assessment and audits; peaceful resolution of disputes; water as a finite and vulnerable resource.

The part II (article 4 to 14) is related to the NBI States rights and obligations and these are:

- Equitable and reasonable utilization of the water resources of the Nile River system;
- Obligation to NBI States to take all appropriate measures to prevent the causing of significant harm to other Basin States, in utilizing Nile River System water resources in their territories;
- Protection and conservation of the Nile River Basin and its ecosystems individually and, where appropriate, jointly (article 6);

- Regular exchange of readily available and relevant data and information on existing measures and on the condition of water resources of the Basin, where possible in a form that facilitates its utilization by the States to which it is communicated (article 7);
- Environmental impact assessment and audits for planned measures that may have significant adverse environmental impacts;
- Subsidiarity in the development and protection of the Nile River Basin;
- Prevention and mitigation of harmful conditions in making every effort to take all appropriate measures to prevent or mitigate conditions related to the Nile River System that may be harmful to other Nile Basin States;
- Obligation to each NBI State to notify without delay and by the most expeditious means available, other potentially affected States and competent international organizations of any emergency originating in its territory (article 13);
- Article 14: Nile Basin States therefore agree, in a spirit of cooperation:
 - (a) to work together to ensure that all states achieve and sustain water security;
 - (b) ... the unresolved Article 14(b) is annexed to be resolved by the Nile River Basin Commission within six months of its establishment.

The part III is about the institutional structure to be put in place: the Nile river Basin Commission, its organs and functions (articles 15 à 30);

The part IV is related to subsidiary institutions (Sub-Basin organizations and arrangements) and their functions (article 31 and 32).

The part V is related to miscellaneous provisions (article 33 to 34) and the part VI comprises the final clauses (article 35 to 44).

The only article 14 b constitutes a disagreement between the two countries upstream Sudan and Egypt on one hand and the other remaining countries on another hand. In that last group, 5 over the 7 countries namely Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda have already signed while Burundi and DRC do not yet sign.

The question that was here asked is to know about the official decision of Burundi. The presenter told them that the signing period started during the elections period and the previous government preferred

to leave the responsibility for the coming government. He indicated that the government still have 5 months and called the audience to wait for the outcome.

A hard copy of the CFA document was given to all participants to know more about it.

2.4 Discussion in plenary session

During this session, participants actively discussed about some issues of interest for each topic. For the topic 1, 3 and 4, participants just asked some simple clarification questions that were quickly answered by different presenters. The major part of the discussions concerned the topics 2 and 5 respectively on management of natural resources in Bugesera region and the Nile Cooperative Framework Agreement. The outcome of the discussions is summarized in the following sections.

(i). Natural resources management in Bugesera region and its impact on population

Within this topic, the following issues were discussed: water resources management; management and conservation of natural ecosystems in Bugesera; conservation of buffer zones in the Akanyaru marshlands; coordination of interveners' actions in the region; the implementation progress of the project of rural infrastructures in Bugesera.

On the **water resources management**, participants wanted to know if the groundwater potential of Bugesera is known. They also asked if the NBI have the capacities and mechanisms of water use control and regulations.

The participants were informed that the GTZ has planned to carry out studies on groundwater potential of the region in the near future. They were also told that water use control and regulations are included in the Nile CFA.

On the **management and conservation of natural ecosystems in Bugesera**, it was found that the major constraint is the lack of legal texts governing the Murehe Forest and Lake Rwihinda Reserve.

On that issue, it was recommended the establishment of boundaries and required their legal registration as protected areas. They also recommended envisaging alternatives for the population to be displaced. They all agreed that the management and conservation of the ecosystems should be entrusted to experienced organisations/institutions. The need to involve local communities and local authorities was found essential.

Buffer zones: Some participants found that local authorities and population are not aware of the necessity of protecting natural ecosystems; they then propose the civil society to make efforts in their sensitization on protected areas conservation.

The **project on rural infrastructure development in Bugesera:** Many discussions were done on the impacts of the project. Some participants were wondering how large scale irrigation can be envisaged with water from lakes under gradual water level decrease. They tried to know if environmental and social impact assessment has been done before. Participants also asked why the project plans to irrigate 1,000 ha in Rwanda and only 500 ha in Burundi. They suggested an equitable sharing of the project's financial resources.

Participants recommend the local authorities and civil society to carefully follow up the project implementation process.

(ii). The Nile Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA)

Participants showed a lot of interest on the topic. They firstly found not good that the majority of Burundians are insufficiently informed about the content of the CFA. They wondered on the fact that Burundi did not sign, they guess a risk that Burundi could be marginalized by other upstream countries in general and the East African Community in particular. The NDF was then asked to popularize the CFA and sensitize the government to sign it in the near future before the deadline is reached.

3. Suggested issues to be discussed in the coming regional workshops

After discussions, a number of transboundary issues that need to be discussed at regional level were raised. These are:

- (i). Integrated water resources in the context of climate change; Management strategies to be implemented at national and regional levels.
- (ii). Local communities involvement in environmental resources management; Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to be promoted; Working relationship between local communities, local territorial administration authorities and institutions dealing with environmental management.
- (iii). Sustainable management of natural ecosystems; Alternatives development for local communities at national and regional levels. Feasibility factors.

4. Closing ceremonies

4.1 Reporting on the conclusions and recommendations.

As said above, the workshop conclusions and recommendations were summarized and reported to the participants. The main ones are:

- **For the Government**, participants recommended to :
 - Sign the Nile CFA;
 - Ensure the equitable sharing of the resources of the project on Rural Infrastructures Development in Bugesera Region ;
 - Urgently take appropriate buffer zones protection measures to safeguard the ecological integrity;
 - Improve the legal framework on natural resources management and protected areas, particularly the Lake Rwihinda Reserve and Murehe Forest. The government must ensure that the community concerns are considered. Income generating activities may alternatively be implemented for the benefit of the displaced population;
 - Start a participatory development planning process integrating environmental concerns and recognised best practices that need to be replicated in our country;
 - Promote the water harvesting techniques in irrigation development to meet the population's food security needs.

- **For the Parliament:** the parliament must ensure that adopted policy and legal instruments are implemented by the government.

- **For the provincial administration**, participants recommended to:
 - Reinforce the coordination mechanism of all interveners at regional level;
 - Integrate environmental management into local community development plans.

- **For both Government and Civil Society:** participants proposed a synergy between public institutions and the Civil Society. The synergy should be characterised by a permanent dialogue through information exchange. The participants recommend the government to include civil society actors in the future official international negotiators' teams.

- **For the civil society organisations**, participants recommended the following:

- The NDF should popularize the CFA as much as possible and undertake lobbying and advocacy tasks for its signing by the Burundi Government.
- The Civil Society should contribute in capacity strengthening for the local communities to make them responsible for their own development.
- The Civil Society should lobby for the harmonization and update of the existing legal instruments on natural resources and environmental management.
- The Civil Society must try their best to get involved in the preparation of all legal documents to be adopted by the Government and Parliament. They have to ensure the quality and timely contribution. Some projects may even be their initiative.
- The Civil Society should carefully follow up the Bugesera Project implementation process to ensure an equitable sharing of the project financial resources and to make sure that the impacts on environment caused by the project are mitigated.

4.2 Closing remark

The forum's workshop on sustainable management of natural resources was officially closed by Mrs Anne Marie Bhirabake, the Representative of the NDF's Chair. During her closing remark, she strongly appreciated the high level of attendance that reached 135 participants. This argued that was a proof of strong engagement of the civil society in raising awareness for and advocating a wise use of water and natural resources for a sustainable and equitable development.

She then called participants to participate in the coming consultations for the formulation of the second Strategic Framework for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction with an objective of advocating the integration of the sustainable water and natural resources management in the strategy document.

She indicated that active participation of all stakeholders will finally lead to the desired good governance on which sustainable and equitable development is based.

She ended by thanking the participants for their contributions and the accomplished work.

Annexes

Annexe 1: Discours d'ouverture.

Honorables Députés,
Honorables Sénateurs
Mesdames, Messieurs les Représentants des missions diplomatiques et consulaires,
Mesdames, Messieurs les Directeurs Généraux,
Mesdames, Messieurs les Directeurs,
Mesdames, Messieurs les Représentants des agences de coopération internationale,
Mesdames, Messieurs les Représentants des Organisations internationales
Mesdames, Messieurs les Représentants des organisations de la Société Civile,
Chers collègues représentants des Organisations membres du FCBN,
Mesdames, Messieurs les hommes et femmes des Medias,
Distingués invités,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Point n'est besoin de rappeler qu'aujourd'hui, le Burundi compte parmi les pays les plus pauvres de la planète. Et l'extrême pauvreté d'un grand nombre d'habitants est liée à l'état des ressources environnementales et la manière dont elles sont mises en valeur par l'homme dans sa quête de survie quotidienne.

Les menaces environnementales au Burundi sont donc liées en majorité à l'activité de l'homme qui sont essentiellement des pratiques culturelles non adaptées; la disparition progressive du couvert végétal; la dégradation de la qualité de l'eau suivie d'une mauvaise gestion des marais et zones humides; la mauvaise gestion des déchets et des eaux usées, etc.

Tout cela occasionne Chers invités la perturbation des systèmes écologiques ce qui accélère les phénomènes de changements climatiques, causant ainsi des inondations et des sécheresses.

Le Burundi dans sa recherche de solution aux menaces ci haut citées, a rejoint l'Initiative du Bassin du Nil, qui est un partenariat des états riverains du Fleuve Nil, et qui vise à développer le fleuve sur une base coopérative, à partager les bénéfices socio-économiques et à promouvoir la paix et la sécurité régionale.

L'IBN a commencé avec un processus participatif du dialogue parmi les pays riverains qui a abouti à leur accord sur une vision commune qui consiste à : « atteindre le développement socio- économique durable, par l'utilisation et le partage équitables des bénéfices communs des ressources en eau du Bassin du Nil ».

Honorables parlementaires,

Distinguées invités,

Mesdames, Messieurs,

C'est dans ce cadre de dialogue participatif qu'un Forum Régional de la Société Civile des 10 pays riverains du Nil a été créé sous l'appellation du Nile Bassin Discourse (NBD) et dont le siège se trouve à Entebbe en République Ougandaise. Cette approche de la société civile cherche d'une part à influencer le développement des projets et processus sous l'IBN, et d'autre part à maximiser l'accès aux avantages socio-économiques et environnementaux disponibles par les pauvres.

C'est pour cette même raison que le NBD a signé un mémorandum d'entente avec l'IBN pour effectivement informer la population à la base du processus IBN.

Ainsi, le FCBN (Forum Burundais de la Société Civile du Bassin du Nil) a été créé en Octobre 2003 en vue de renforcer la légitimité de base à travers un processus inclusif et transparent dans la gestion des ressources naturelles du Bassin du Nil burundais.

Honorables parlementaires,

Distinguées invités,

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Parmi les actions visant à contribuer à la gestion rationnelle et équitable des ressources naturelles, le FCBN avec les organisations partenaires de la société civile, a élaboré de façon participative et inclusive possible, une vision commune des organisations de la société civile œuvrant dans le domaine de la protection de l'Environnement, qui déjà été présentée au Gouvernement et à ses partenaires de développement, en Octobre dernier.

Aujourd'hui, nous ne pensons pas nous lasser de notre mission, mais plutôt vue la situation environnementale actuelle du pays, nous allons engager une vitesse supérieure pour sauver ce qu'il y a à sauver afin d'assurer la survie des générations futures.

Dans ce même ordre d'actions, le FCBN a organisé une mission d'évaluation en septembre 2010, de la situation dans laquelle se trouve la province de Kirundo, une province qui se trouve dans la région de Bugesera et dans le bassin du Nil.

En effet comme nul ne l'ignore, cette région connaît depuis plus d'une décennie des perturbations climatiques caractérisées par des sécheresses prolongées, ayant comme conséquence l'insécurité alimentaire chronique.

Ainsi, en vue d'apporter une solution durable, le FCBN a décidé de tenir ce forum pour discuter des problèmes liés à la gestion durable des écosystèmes humides de la région du bassin du Nil et faire des propositions concrètes sur lesquelles pourrait s'appuyer le développement durable du pays.

Honorables, Mesdames, Messieurs,

L'objectif de cet atelier est donc de discuter des problèmes liés à la gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'eau dans la région de Bugesera, vous sensibiliser sur la gestion du Nil, les actions qui sont en train de s'y être menées ainsi que le cadre de coopération sur le Fleuve Nil. Vu l'intérêt que vous attaché à la gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'eau en particulier, je suis convaincu sans que vos contributions et recommandations seront d'une grande importance non seulement pour la gestion du bassin du Nil mais aussi pour tout le pays.

Honorables parlementaires,

Distinguées invités,

Mesdames, Messieurs, Qu'il me soit permis de vous remercier encore une fois au nom du FCBN que je représente et en mon nom propre, d'avoir privilégié la participation à ce forum national sur la gestion des ressources naturelles du bassin du Nil Burundais.

Mes vifs remerciements s'adressent également au Gouvernement britannique, qui à travers le DFID a eu l'amabilité de financer le programme de Plaidoyer de la Société civile du Bassin du Nil et partant de l'organisation du présent Forum. Je saisis cette occasion pour souhaiter à tous les participants à cet atelier pleins succès à vos échanges. Je ne doute pas qu'il en sortira des recommandations utiles pour la bonne gestion des ressources naturelles de notre cher pays.

C'est sur ces mots que je déclare ouvert le Forum national sur la gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles du Bassin du Nil.

Vive la collaboration de tous les partenaires dans la gestion des ressources naturelles pour un développement durable,

Vive la coopération régionale et internationale.

Un seul Nil – Une seule Famille

Je vous remercie.

Annexe 2. Discours de Clôture

Honorables parlementaires

Distingués invités

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Permettez-moi d'exprimer ma grande satisfaction sur la manière dont cet atelier a été conduit. Mobiliser une soixantaine de participants avec des background différents relève d'une pédagogie efficace. C'est pour cela que je voudrais féliciter, en mon nom d'abord et sans nul doute en votre nom, tous les conférenciers d'aujourd'hui.

Je voudrais également saluer l'intérêt que vous tous avez continuellement démontré à travers les questions et contributions.

De telle mobilisation et engagement constituent, au-delà de tous les résultats, un facteur important de notre action de consolidation de la conscience de plaider pour la gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles et de la ressource chère qui est l'eau, tout ceci pour le bénéfice du développement durable et équitable, en faveur de la population que nous sommes sensés représenter.

Mesdames et Messieurs les Participants,

Au cours de cet atelier d'échanges, vous avez eu l'occasion de prendre connaissance de la conduite de certains projets de l'IBN. Vous avez également pris connaissances d'un cas parmi tant d'autres de la gestion des ressources naturelles et d'utilisation de l'eau dans la province de Kirundo.

Les travaux en groupe ainsi que vos échanges consécutifs aux présentations nous ont assuré que vous avez pu vous approprier des thèmes qui nous préoccupent aujourd'hui.

Mesdames, Messieurs les parlementaires

Distingués invités

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Dans un contexte de rareté de ressources et en vertu de votre statut de responsables, vous êtes aussi appelés à relayer le message à tous les acteurs des différentes instances de prise de décision auxquelles vous appartenez.

Je saisi cette occasion, et j'insiste pour que, au cours des consultations qui vont être bientôt menées, vous puissiez être les apôtres **de l'intégration de la gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles et de la ressource eau dans le CSLP deuxième génération**. Ainsi, l'action conjuguée de toutes les parties prenantes nous permettra sans nul doute de réaliser notre but d'asseoir un système de gouvernance plus ouvert et inclusif, fondé sur les principes de gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles, mettant en avant le bien commun et le développement équitable et durable de toutes les communautés que nous sommes appelés à servir.

Pour terminer, avant que je ne vous fatigue, je voudrais réitérer mes remerciements à vous tous pour l'intérêt et l'enthousiasme dont vous avez fait preuve durant cet atelier d'échanges.

Il ne me reste qu'à vous inviter à continuer vos discussions, cette fois – ci dans un lieu plus ouvert, nous permettant de jouir des merveilles de l'environnement, ici dans les jardins de ce même Hôtel.

Vive le dialogue entre les parties prenantes du Bassin du Nil.

Vive le développement durable au Burundi !

Un seul Nil – Une seule famille.

Je vous remercie.

Annexe 3 : Programme du forum

Heure	Activités	Responsable
8h30-9h00	Installation des participants	FCBN
9h00-9h10	Mot de bienvenu et présentation du programme	Coordonnateur du FCBN
9H10-9h20	Discours d'ouverture des travaux	Président et Représentant Légal du FCBN
9H20-09h30	Objectifs du forum national et résultats attendus	Facilitateur
09h30-09h50	Présentation du FCBN et du Programme NBD	Levis Ntabiriho
09h50-10h20	Pause café	
10h20-10h40	Présentation sur l'évaluation de la gestion des ressources naturelles et utilisation de l'eau dans la province de Kirundo	Salvator Ruzima
10h40-10h50	Projet Régional de Commerce et productivité agricole de l'IBN	Gabriel Ndikumana
10h50-11h00	Présentation projet IBN : Decision Support System (DSS) pour la gestion des ressources en eaux et planification	Gabriel Ndikumana
11h00-12h30	Travaux en plénières (séance 1)	Facilitateur
12h30-14h00	Pause - déjeuner	
14h00-14h30	Accord-cadre sur la Coopération dans le Bassin du Fleuve Nil	Nahimana Libérat, Conseiller au Cabinet du MEEATU
14h30-16h00	Travaux en plénière (séance 2)	Facilitateur
16h00-16h20	Pause-café	
16h20-16h40	Lecture des recommandations	Rapporteur
16h40-16h50	Discours de clôture	Président et Représentant Légal du FCBN
17h00-18h15	Cocktail de clôture	FCBN

Annexe 5: Liste des participants

No	Nom et Prénom	Institution/Association représentée et titre	Adresse (Téléphone, e-mail)	Province de provenance
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