



Nile Voices

2nd QUARTER: April- June, 2016

Message to Readers

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to the Nile Voices release for the 2nd quarter, 2016, which illustrates various activities implemented in the 3 months of April to June of 2016. This edition exclusively focuses on NBD's intervention on the ground. The attention was mainly given to Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Tanzania national discourse forums, and mostly focuses on community livelihoods to highlight the role of NBD in fostering cooperation in the region.

Throughout the stories in this issue, one witnesses the contribution of Kenya National Discourse Forum (KNDF) to community development through ventures and sanitation activities. Also, in this issue, is the role of Tanzania National Discourse Forum (TNDF) as a point of reference on how NBD is helping, not only, government but also other partners to address community challenges that are not friendly to water resources management.

This release has reflected on the role of close relationship and good partnership of NDFs with governments to improve community livelihoods, protecting and conserving environment resources. Best practices were evident in Rwanda, Sudan and Burundi NDFs.

Lastly, the Executive Committee of the NBD Board visited the secretariat as a routine visit to address issues on program management, governance, resource mobilization among others.

For more information, please visit our website at www.nilebasindiscourse.org.

Happy Reading
Dr. Hellen NATU

Executive Committee Applauds Role of the Secretariat



NBD Executive committee and Staff in the meeting/ Photo NBD

The NBD Executive Committee was at the NBD Secretariat on 29th -30th June 2016 mainly to evaluate the progress of activities to date. During the meeting, the EC interacted with secretariat staff on various pertinent management issues that included, but not limited to: program management, governance, resource mobilization, human resource management and institutional capacity.

The EC also approved the on-coming bi-annual platform of discourse and experience – sharing on emerging issues of cooperation and development on the Nile and beyond. The “Nile Basin Discourse Summit.”



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Kenya NDF Participates in the Fight Against Poverty



Edward Alitsi, VCDO Executive Director (R) onlooking as one of VCDO Staff exhibiting what they do in Beekeeping during Nile Day 2016/ Photo NBD

Kenya National Discourse Forum (KNDF)'s presence at grassroot community level in Kisumu continues to help the community in alleviating poverty by initiating projects and initiatives that improve community livelihoods.

Two community organizations that are members of KNDF in Kisumu took the lead in helping the community to venture into money generating projects such as beekeeping and water and sanitation.

In Vihiga County, the Vihiga Community Development Organization (VCDO), promotes activities to improve community livelihoods. According to Edward Alitsi, the VCDO Executive Director, the last 5 years VCDO decided to focus on beekeeping to encourage the Vihiga Community to venture into beekeeping as business harmless to environment.

He said that they are practically keen on involving youth and women because beekeeping has a tremendous potential for job creation and income generation.

"We promote environmental conservation by involving schools and individual farmers to plant trees especially indigenous trees as bees depend on pollen from their flowers. So we are able to enhance the biodiversity to conserve water in the soil and we are contributing environmental protection in the Nile Basin" He said.

Similarly, Kakamega County, located at 21 kilometers from Vihiga County, formed the Maragoli Hills Water Resource Users Association (MAHIWRUA) which focuses on activities to the improvement of access to clean water by the community surrounding Maragoli hills. Maragoli is located in Western, Kenya with an estimate of terrain elevation of 1808 meters above sea level.

Caleb Malongo, the Chairperson of MAHIWRUA, emphasized the need for accessibility to clean water in the surrounding communities.

He said that it is important to manage water resources and that more projects are needed in the area to help people accessing enough clean water facilities. So far, MAHIWRUA has established 14 fish ponds for the community and protected 4 springs together with three schools which got water harvesting tanks each in 2013. However, Malongo said that community appreciation on environmental management is still low as evidenced by overgrazing in Maragoli Hills that has caused soil erosion.

KNDF which has multi-stakeholder membership across

the country, has its headquarters located in Kisumu. KNDF is mandated to address issues that include environment, agriculture, land use, water & sanitation and energy among others. They operate in the Lake Victoria basin on activities lead to socio-economic development.



Caleb Malongo the Chairperson of Maragoli Hills Water Resource Users Association (MAHIWRUA)/ Photo NBD



KNDF Chairperson, Mr. Joseph Peter Ngome/ Photo NBD

For more information about KNDF please www.nilebasindiscourse.org/ndf-windows/kenya-national-discourse-forum.html

Visibility of Rwanda NDF Structure Leads to Success



Mr. Jean Baptiste HABIYAREMYE, the RNDF Chairperson/Photo NBD

The Rwanda National Discourse Forum (RNDF) with its diverse community based activities and its large scale network of members across the country led to visibility in the country.

The Chairperson of RNDF, Mr. Jean Baptiste HABIYAREMYE stresses that RNDF structure and advocacy for member organizations increased their visibility in the country. In 2015, RNDF in collaboration with its member, Rwanda Environmental Conservation Organization (RECOR), implemented the Community Based Climate Change Adaptation project (CBCCA) in Kagera Basin which benefitted 3500 individuals in four

districts across the country namely: Bugesera, Gatsibo, Kirehe, and Nyagatare.

RNDF Chairperson of RNDF says that communities acquired skills related to climate change adaptation such as: kitchen garden, fabrication of improved cooking stoves, and use of renewable energy. Communities also received domestic animals as source of household income generation.

The activities of RNDF and its large scale membership in the country, led to the recognition of French government through its embassy in Rwanda to access views from communities, academicians and other non state actors. The views were sent and shared as recommendations during COP21 that held end of 2015 in Paris, France.

“We gathered more than 100 participants from various field including governments, private sector, academia and communities whose views were shared during COP 21”, he says.

RNDF continuously helps member organizations to secure small grants through advocating and recommendation role. This year 2016 has already seen three member organizations mainly: RHEP, ARDE-KUBAHO and EDESEN secure funds for community livelihood projects under RNDF support.

Community Feedback on RNDF after it implemented the CBCCA Project



Mukabutera/ Bugesera District/ Photo RNDF

“Previously a bunch of firewood would last one day but now it can be used for three days.”



Nirere Jacqueline/ Kirehe District/ Photo RNDF

After trainings by NBDF/RECOR in making kitchen garden, Nirere says *“We try to implement it even if the project stops we shall continue to do it for ourselves.”*

For more information visit: www.nbdfwanda.org/spip.php?rubrique3

Burundi NDF's Activities Shape Visibility in the Community



BNDF trained participants in modern beekeeping - friendly to environment conservation/ Photo BNDF

The Burundi National Discourse Forum (BNDF)'s visibility continues to generate outcome due to its closeness and advocacy for the community and projects in the country. The national forum which is member of the Nile Basin Discourse recorded major achievements in favor of the community as said Mr. Edimond Dieudonné HAKIZIMANA, the National Board Chairperson.

Most activities include the project on the protection of the Natural Forest reserve of Bururi. The IUCN financed project saw Burundi NDF playing a key role in sensitization and mobilization of local communities on the reduction of tree consumption. The Bururi Natural Reserve forest is located in Bururi, in the northwest of the capital of the Bururi Province, a vast mountain overlooking the urban center of Bururi.

It is the most southern part of the Congo-Nile ridge forest system overlooking the City of Bururi. It is an area of 3,300 Hactares, including 2,300 hactares of natural forest and 1,000 hectares of artificial plantation.



The view of Nyakungo site degradation with a soccer playground (left) and mineral extraction inside the Bururi forest reserve (right)/ Photo BNDF

Burundi NDF in partnership with Burundi Association for Nature "Association Burundaise pour la Nature" (ABN) and Association for the Protection of Natural Resources for the Welfare of the Population of Burundi (APRN / BEPB), initiated a project entitled "Integrated Management of Bururi natural Forest Reserve ". Through this project, Burundi NDF commissioned the study on the conservation of nature in general and the natural reserve of the Bururi forest in particular.

The objective of this study was to develop a document that could facilitate consistency interventions, harmonization of approaches, collaboration and coordination associations and / or partners to achieve a rationale and integrated management of the reserve.

Burundi NDF in collaboration with two member organizations namely ABN, APRN trained and sensitized communities in the use of alternative energies such as improved cooking stoves. The project started in 2014 and has been running to date.



Burundi NDF and partners delivered and coached beneficiaries on how to use Beekeeping materials/ Photo BNDF

BNDF in 2015 also conducted advocacy on exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in Lake Tanganyika. The study financed by Pole institute resulted in fruitful outcome and recommendations were made including the pre-research, evaluation and analysis of impact of that project to avoid trans-boundary conflict since the lake is shared by many countries.

Committing to conduct that advocacy, Burundi NDF wanted to ensure that the human environment composed of ecosystems offered by the Lake Tanganyika basin is protected. And that any danger for the current generation and future generations are separated by the involvement of everyone.

BNDF highlighted that these studies of Hydrocarbon take into account not only economic but also social and environmental aspects. Mr. Hakizimana said that the sensitization which involved government authorities at all levels and lake users such as the fishing community.

He affirmed that all success is due to their closeness to the community and working hand in hand with other stakeholders including the government most especially in advocating for the community. He said that despite their efforts they still need capacity development for both their members and themselves to advocate for their members at decision-making level as they have established good relationship with the government especially the Ministry of Water, Environment, of the Interior Territory and Urban Development.

For more information Visit: www.nilebasindiscourse.org/ndf-windows/burundi-national-discourse-forum.html

Positive Attitude Yields Success on Nile



DR. Nadir Mohamed AWAD, SNDF Board Chairperson/ Photo NBD

The Chairperson of Sudan National Discourse Forum (SNDF), Dr. Nadir Mohamed AWAD confirmed the positive perception of Sudanese community on the Nile and encouraged Local Discourse Forums for better success in future. SNDF has greatly achieved community mobilization and awareness creation in collaboration with its members.

He said that the unique geographical structure of Local Discourse Forums justifies the need of empowerment of their manpower to achieve SNDF goals. *“They need capacity development including trainings because they are close to communities and involvement in environment conservation”* Dr. Nadir suggests.

SNDF works closely with communities along the Nile and they have strong positive perception on SNDF intervention in the area.

Dr. Nadir said that the SNDF opted to focus of creation on awareness in the community, stakeholders and decision makers to take water resources management and environment conservation practices the next level of discussion.

This is to ensure the practicability of its goal which is to provide Nile civil society communities with the knowledge, capacities, capabilities and access needed to improve their lives, better their communities and influence their own destinies.

Some of their recorded contribution included protection of the River Nile against bank erosion by planting natural flora that is typically environmentally friendly. With involvement of 10 Local Discourse Forums, the Sudan National Discourse Forum established the recreation area along the White Nile at Kosti area and put canals for irrigation.

SNDF has fully participated in discussion related to the Nile such as sub-regional workshop on Nile tributaries which brought together three countries: Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia and diplomats from these respective countries. Also SNDF participated in regional workshop that discussed on building dams on the Nile and as a civil society they produced a statement displaying their views on the matter.

More information about SNDF is found at:

www.nilebasindiscourse.org/index.php/ndf-windows/sudan-national-discourse-forum.html and <http://sudanndf.org/>

Population Pressure On Water Resources Instigates TNDF attention



Mr. Donald M. Kasongi, TNDF Chairperson says that over population near Lake Victoria is threatening resources including water and fish species / Photo NBD

Population pressure on water and resources management has become the interlocking issue on Lake Victoria. During the consultations carried out by Tanzania National Discourse Forum (TNDF) with communities around Lake Victoria, it was evident that growth of population will cause depletion of natural resources, non communicable disease, and degradation of environment.

The consultations were conducted in 2016 by TNDF in partnership with Institute of Resource Assessment of University of Dar- es- Salaam in five districts of Biharamulo, Kagera, Nyamagana, Geita and Remera.

According to Mr. Donald Malambo Kasongi, the TNDF Board Chairperson, these challenges attracted their attention and instigated their intervention to address the challenge jointly with other stakeholders. In April 2016, TNDF engaged consultation meetings with different sectors including health sectors and discussed on family planning and other matters that are linked with the usage of Lake Victoria.

He advised that priority must be mainly to address community needs that are putting Lake Victoria's water and other resources under stress. "There is need for joint and harmonized plans on resources management with different players like Private sector fully involved" he said.

Five focal persons were sent to five districts to collect information and conduct community awareness around Lake Victoria. Community engagement on climate change was among major focus of the consultation. Mr. Kasongi said that different sectors that were involved included government institutions, communities, and private sector at District level.

TNDF Board Chairperson said that currently the community faces challenges such as trade and investments (mining), population growth and uncontrolled fishing activities.

www.nilebasindiscourse.org/index.php/ndf-windows/tanzania-national-discourse-forum.html

Location in Mwanza Town, Headquarter of Tanzania National Discourse Forum



Map of Mwanza Town/ Source: Google map

The headquarter of TNDF is located in Mwanza. This town presents a progressive population growth due to the business, investment and other commercial activities. As one of big town around Lake Victoria shores, Mwanza is not an exception.

Being the most important port on Lake Victoria, and home to the terminal of a branch of the central railway line from Dar es Salaam, Mwanza is very important transit point for business, people and travellers from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and the other towns of Bukoba, Musoma and Shinyanga.

The majority of Mwanza inhabitants are self-employed and most of them are employed people working in the service sector, while self-employed are involved in petty trade, cultivating land, micro-fishing activities, and so forth.



Our Contacts:

The Secretariat

Nile Basin Discourse

PLOT32, Nsamizi rd

Tel: +256414322432

Fax:+256 414 323 930

P.O. Box 185 Entebbe - Uganda

E-mail: nbd@nilebasindiscourse.org

Twitter: @nilebasin

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/NileBasinDiscourse>

Website: www.nilebasindiscourse.org

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