



Nile Voices

 1st QUARTER: January- March 2016

Message to Readers



Welcome to the Nile Voices for the 1st quarter, 2016, which is communicating in brief various activities implemented in the 3 months of January to March of the year.

Through this newsletter, the reader as a stakeholder, is supposed to be engaged in the CSOs activities as concern cooperation on the Nile and inclusivity of grassroots communities. This Voices start with a brief article on the presentation of the NBD-CIWA/World Bank project on “Engaging Civil Society for social and climate resilience in the Nile Basin” at the CIWA Advisory Committee meeting of February 2016 in Kisumu-Kenya.

In the same month, NBD and its Kenyan National Discourse Forum (NDF) were involved in both the Regional and National Nile day 2016 preparations and celebrations.

Again, in the same month a team from The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) and The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action on Program (NELSAP) visited Magwi County, Imatong State in South Sudan to conduct stakeholder consultative meetings aimed at engaging communities in the proposed Nyimur project, part of South Sudan.

In March 2016, NBD members participated in the world water day celebrations, whereby one National Discourse Forum, the Rwanda - NDF launched the water supply and sanitation project that is to benefit 1200 members of the community in the Kamonyi District, Southern Province.

The quarter saw NBD strengthen partnership, with GWP-EA to enhance the inclusivity of stakeholders in Nile cooperation.

In this quarter, the determination to reach communities by the CSOs is summarised in this citation...

Citation: “Let us walk and get to the community waiting since the four wheels cannot pass”

Mr. OKENY James Adot, / CSOs Representative / Nile Discourse Forum - South Sudan.

Happy reading.

Dr. Hellen Natu
Regional Manager



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NBD presents CIWA/World Bank Project Results

The NBD - CIWA /World Bank Project on “Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin” has been running for the period starting February 2013. The implementation of it entailed activities that were running towards the finishing line with resulting outputs on three components.

The NBD and its member National Discourse Forums (NDFs) of the Nile Basin riparian states, namely Burundi, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, collaboratively implemented the activities with results including:(i) a stakeholder mapping exercise of the members in all the ten countries. (ii) capacity building/trainings to enhance the engagement of the members more effectively on climate resilience;(iii) community dialogue around four NBI trans-boundary investment projects.

The presentation was made to the third Nile Basin CIWA Advisory Committee meeting at which the Nile basin country representatives, basin organizations and development partners convened to review the progress of the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) program in the Nile Basin. The meeting took place in February 2016 in Kisumu - Kenya.

According to the CIWA Advisory Committee, the implementation of the Project was successfully moving towards the achievement of the planned.

Hellen NATU
NBD



Photo Credit: NBD

Attaining Regional Integration through Nile Cooperation: Voice of Civil Society Organizations



NBD Chairperson Mr. Jean Baptiste HABIYAREMYE addressing participants on Nile Day 2016, Kenya/ Photo Credit: NBD

Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) affirms that cooperation and engagement of stakeholders in the Nile Basin Riparian States are among drivers that may lead to regional integration.

NBD conveyed this message on 22nd February 2016 on the 10th Nile Day regional celebrations held in Vihiga County Kisumu, Kenya. NBD used this opportunity to pass on the message to thousands of participants including ministers in charge of water affairs from Nile Riparian States, Permanent Secretaries, members of diplomatic community, Development Partners, Researchers, Academia, Civil society organizations, Youth, International and National media houses, School children, and communities of the Vihiga County who were present.

In his speech, the NBD Board Chairperson, Mr. Jean Baptiste HABIYAREMYE highlighted the NBD's role in fostering cooperation among different stakeholders. *"NBD firmly believes that the successful cooperation on the Nile will lead to undisputable success of regional integration with a feedback loop that involves the government the non-state-actors and communities"* Jean Baptiste said.

Commenting on the role of NBD in mobilization of community involvement, the NBD Regional Manager Dr. Hellen NATU said *"Our mandate here is to see that the community is benefitting from investments agenda that NBI is undertaking with minimal harm and that their livelihoods are also enhanced."*

At the celebrations, NBD mobilized about 40 civil society organizations that are members of the Kenyan National Discourse Forum. NBD strategically disseminated key messages of CSOs role in cooperation on the Nile using promotional materials that included T-shirts and caps pull ups, brochures



Public marching at Nile Day celebrations 2016 in Vihiga/ Photo Credit: NBD

and flash disks. Find details of the speech and video on NBD website: www.nilebasindiscourse.org

Fidele NIYIGABA
NBD

Ecosystem Services Of Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) Under Stress: NBD at UNEP/WCMC/ARCOS Workshop



Participants at UNEP/WCMC/ARCOS Workshop / Photo Credit: ARCOS

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) attended a two-day workshop jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS). It was inception and data gathering workshop for the project titled “Engaging stakeholders in using future scenarios to analyze the potential impacts of agricultural development in the Lake Victoria Basin,” being jointly implemented by the two organizations. The workshop took place from 16th-17th March 2016, in Kampala-Uganda.

About 35 participants drawn from government offices, universities, and civil society organizations coming from the five countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) attended the workshop. NBD and NBI were the two regional organizations that attended the workshop.

The objectives of the workshop were to: (i) illustrate how mapping, modeling and scenarios can be used to support land-use related policy review and development; (ii) identify policy and planning processes that could benefit from scenarios-based support and capacity building activities to be carried out in the future; (iii) map key high impact developments in the Lake Victoria Basin and the affected ecosystem services; and (iv) identify data and knowledge gaps for effective assessments to support more informed decision-making on agricultural development planning.

It was highlighted that the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) commands key biodiversity areas such as fresh water, wetlands, forests, national parks, islands, and beaches, to mention just a few among many. These areas provide critical ecosystem services to the basin community and local and regional ecology. These include: *provisioning* (such as the production of food and water), *regulating* (such as the control of climate and disease), *supporting* (such as nutrient cycles and crop pollination), and *cultural* (such as spiritual and recreational benefits). These key biodiversity areas, it was disclosed, are under severe stress due to community encroachments for agriculture, settlements, and energy. Existing and/or planned mega development projects in and around the LVB, such as extractive industries, standard gauge railway, oil pipelines, sugar cane plantations, and so on are also posing serious threats to the basin’s ecosystem.

After the two days intensive and extensive participatory discussions, the workshop came up with: (i) maps per country of ecosystem services, biodiversity and development in the Lake Victoria Basin; (ii) a list per country of policy and plans that influence the Lake Victoria Basin, with links to biodiversity and ecosystem services; and (iii) a list per country of data gaps and needs relating to understanding the impacts of development in the Lake Victoria Basin on ecosystem services and biodiversity. These workshop outputs, which constitute project outputs, will be refined and presented at the next workshop planned to take place in July/August 2016 for further fine tuning and validation.

At the workshop, a question was raised as to who will own, implement, monitor and review these outputs so that they bring desired results on the ground. The organizers of the workshop responded that anyone interested can take the outputs up to the next level. The writer of this report believes that NBD is rightly positioned to implement these outputs provided that resources are available. NBD has about 400 member CSOs operating in the five LVB countries. NBD, using its bottom-up, top-down and horizontal communication pipelines can advocate for the implementation of these scenario-based policies, create awareness of communities on the policies, and build the capacities of communities and local government institutions to enable them support the implementation of these policies. NBD shall take proactive initiative to communicate to, negotiate and partner with, the UNEP/WCMC for the implementation of these outputs in order to mitigate environmental stresses and enhance ecosystem services of the LVB.

Lake Victoria basin is home to over 30 million people living in the five countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The basin is the defining feature of the regional ecology, the primary source of livelihood security for the basin’s human population, and an important source of revenues and economic growth for the nations of the catchment basin.

Tessera AYENEW
NBD

Strategizing Alliances to Reach Out to Communities



NBD's Regional Manager, Dr. Hellen NATU and GWP-EA 's Regional Coordinator Patrick K. SAFARI signing MoU/ Photo Credit: NBD

Nile Basin Discourse continues to broaden partnerships with basin-wide stakeholders to ensure success of its contribution to the communities' involvement through pro-active and critical influencing of Nile basin policies, programs and projects. For the same purpose, NBD signed a five - year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in March 2016 with Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWP-EA) so as to strengthen their commitment in communities' involvement.

By signing the MoU, the two parties have agreed to make mutual commitment to collaborate and cooperate in various areas including policy analysis, multi-stakeholders dialogue and institutional influencing on sustainable water resources and climate resilience in the region. They have also agreed to cooperate in partnership building, networking and coordination mechanisms among NBD member CSOs/NGOs and other non-state actors and stakeholders in the implementation of programmes of common interest as well as development and implementation of joint programmes and resources mobilization.

This five - year MoU is to lead to consultations on issues and activities of strategic importance for the purpose of furthering and facilitating the effective achievement of the objectives they have in common and ensuring the greatest possible coordination of activities with the aim of optimizing experience, resources, complementarities and outcomes.

The spacial and organiazitional set up of both parties have complementarity. NBD has its CSOs Network that reaches grassroots communities through Local Discourse Forums. NBD also connects to policy makers through the Secretariat. While GWP-EA, as a neutral regional organization, has built up a network of Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) that closely work with local governments.

The two parties also share the common vision of promoting the sustainable management of water resources in the Nile River Basin through IWRM approach with the purpose of accelerating economic growth, social progress and sustainable development in the spirit of equality and partnership among people in the region.

Fidele NIYIGABA
NBD

NBD and NELSAP Furthering Stakeholder Consultations on Nyimur Multipurpose Project in Magwi County, South Sudan



NBD's Regional Manager scoping emerging issues of the project from the community/ Photo Credit: NBD

On March 2016, a team from The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) and The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) visited Magwi County, Imatong State in South Sudan to conduct stakeholder consultative meetings aimed at engaging communities in the proposed Nyimur project part of South Sudan

The NBD team comprised Dr. Hellen Natu and Mr. Herbert Wairugala; and Eng. Vincent Ssebuggwawo from NELSAP. The Ministry of South Sudan comprised Eng. Makuac Deng Ador and Mr. Tiyonga Simaya Athanasio. The Nyimur project is intended to considerably focus on downstream activities which include: a community based irrigation scheme, a water reservoir, water supply, small hydropower production, and water and soil conservation components. This project also extends into Lamwo district in Uganda.

Two important meetings were held in Magwi County. The first was with the Deputy Executive Director of Magwi County and another with over 100 representatives of the community from Magwi County of which 55% were women. These were duly mobilized and informed about the proposed project. The civil society organization member of the Nile Basin South Sudan played a key role.

In one of the meetings with the Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Albino Zakaria Mustafa, the NBD Regional Manager explained that the role of NBD in the project would mainly be awareness raising and advocacy in order to facilitate the decision making process by the people of South Sudan. Here, the authorities committed themselves to supporting the project preparation and implementation, particularly to secure political will and create an enabling environment for project processes.

In the community meeting, members raised a number of concerns with regard to the proposed project. They sought clarification on how the project would benefit the community and especially the women and youth.

and how to ensure that the project addressed the concerns of the different interest groups.

The community members also asked how water would be distributed in the irrigation and areas, without penalizing communities outside.

Concerning the duration of the project, the community was informed that the on-going feasibility studies would be conducted in two years and if feasible the project implementation would take approximately four years.

The community was pleased to learn that the project will be managed and organized in such a way that community members will be trained to actively participate in and manage, and will only draw on external expertise where specialised skills are needed.

Lastly, the community members sought clarification on the issue of displacement of property and people by the proposed project. They were informed that the project will mainly provide water, train and organize the community and look for stable markets for their agricultural produce. Therefore, the project will pose minimal risk to communities in terms of displacement of people. However, land will be need for land for canals and the water reservoir.

Herbert WAIRUGALA
NBD

World Water Week 2016: ARDE/KUBAHO Launches Water System to Supply 1200 People



A boy from a water spring with ARDE team after accessing water spring catchment / Photo Credit: ARDE KUBAHO

Association Rwandaise pour le Développement Endogène (ARDE / KUBAHO) launched the water supply system from which they will capture the water source to supply water for 1200 people in 2016. The launch took place during National World Water Week 2016 kicked off on 21 to 26 March 2016. ARDE/KUBAHO is member of Rwanda Nile Basin Discourse Forum (NDF) focusing on water and sanitation activities.

Rwamurambi water spring collects water from Ntebe, Rugalika, Kamonyi District, Southern Province of Rwanda. This water system is a startup project which will benefit 1,200 people by 2016.

From 2017 to 2018, an extension water supply project, (KINYAMBI – GITWA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT) will follow to benefit other 4020 people including 3650 people in Kigarama model village of Rugalika Sector, Kamonyi District. The same water supply project will also benefit Kigarama Health post, Kinyambi Primary & Nursery school, a village market and around 370 Households in the Sheli and Bihembe cells. Besides the water supply, the project is also to implement the sanitation activities that involve building toilet facilities for 25 vulnerable households and 6 ECOSAN toilets for Kinyambi Primary school. ARDE/KUBAHO implements this WASH project in collaboration with German HOFFNUNGS ZEICHEN “Sign of Hope” where the latter support the project with funding as cost sharing. According to Mr. Hakizimana Jean Pierre, the National executive Director of ARDE/ KUBAHO, the water supply will be handed to the district after its completion for daily basis management.



Water scarcity in Kamonyi District where ARDE / KUBAHO is implementing the water supply/ Photo Credit: ARDE/KUBAHO

ARDE/KUBAHO

Pictorials on NYIMUR Trans-boundary Project- Visit in Magwi County



Group photo of NBD- NELSAP Representatives and Magwi County Authorities after interactions on transboundary project benefits to the communities/ Photo Credit: NBD



NBD's Regional Manager, Dr. Hellen NATU explaining the benefits of the project to community participants/ Photo Credit: NBD



Community raising hands to show that they need to be involvement in the project implementation/ Photo Credit : NBD



Community consultation with much consideration of community views: NBD's Regional Manager and NELSAP taking note as communities express themselves/Photo Credit: NBD



James OKENYI Adot, CSO Representative- NBD-South Sudan/ Photo Credit: NBD



Gender inclusivity in focus in community consultations/ Photo Credit : NBD



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3. Discussing Gender issues in the Nile Basin Countries
4. Community Engagement on Lakes Eduard Albert fisheries
5. KNDF involvement in community development



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