



# Nile Voices



2nd Quarter: April-June 2015

► Nile Basin Discourse

## Message to Readers

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Nile Voices for the 2nd quarter 2015. The Nile voices are communicating with the public on activities, the results and stakeholder/community emerging issues. Read in here, the discussion platform of 30th April 2015 on the findings of completed stakeholder mapping of cluster1 countries Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan; progress on stakeholder mapping exercise and capacity building on climate risk management in the remaining cluster1 country Egypt; in addition to cluster2 countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda; and cluster3 countries of Rwanda, and Burundi.

In April 2015, the Nile Voices take the reader to NBD's presence at the 7th World Water Forum in South Korea contributing to different panel sessions on the roles of Civil Society Organizations, on issues of water resources management and stakeholder/community inclusivity in development agendas of the Nile Basin.

In the last month of the quarter, NBD was active in events including the 23rd Nile Council of Ministers (NILE-COM) meeting held in Dodoma on 4th June 2015, a meeting that had brought together Ministers in charge of water resources, development partners; NBI and NBD representatives. At the same venue and date, NBD's voice was heard as it awarded the 1st runner up in Radio media from Burundi's Private Radio NDERA AGAKURA.

Dear readers, a window is open for you in the NBD Nile Voices as the "Inner Voice". The "Inner Voice" space is welcoming views and ideas to cross-cutting issues of Climate Change, Water, Gender and livelihood in the Nile riparian states. All opinions will be incorporated in the spaces provided. Claim the space and let us hear the voice.

Happy reading

Dr. Hellen Natu,  
NBD Regional Manager

## A Feedback Platform on Cluster1

April 30th 2015, Nairobi Kenya saw NBD put together a feedback platform on completed stakeholder mapping results of Cluster 1 countries Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan. The platform provided discussion space for all the key stakeholders drawn from members of the three National Discourse Forums of the three countries, representatives of NBD Secretariat and the Kenyan National Discourse Forum; the NBI Secretariat and the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) and representation from the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).



Group discussion during the stakeholder feedback workshop in Nairobi

The objective was to critically discuss the results and guide towards improvement of the methodology being used in the stakeholder mapping of the Nile Basin countries, ensuring that specific objectives of the assignment stand to be achieved with plausible results at conclusion. The platform presented the opportunity for identifying challenges and providing feedback, in such a way that ideas could be voiced for improvement for the stakeholder mapping exercise in the Nile Basin countries.

**"the mapping exercise and building platforms on Nile Cooperation are very essential to reach the grassroots level with communities and local organizations as partners, and take a participatory approach to development planning". Hellen Natu**

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The NBD believes that the participation of stakeholders and civil society organizations allow the objectives of agreements and work programs of development agenda's to benefit from a "bottom up", in addition to the "top down approach," making them more responsive to the aspirations and needs of current beneficiaries and future generations. Based on this belief the platform formed an opportunity for ENTRO to present the possibilities of civil society involvement in the Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) project towards the enhancement of community inclusivity in the Subsidiary Action Program.

As discussions progressed, it was evident that NBD and NBI need to seize the opportunity to re-assess the indispensability of their partnership and to foresee the possibilities of joint resources mobilization while maintaining their identity and operational complementarities.

## A Partnership of NBD and ENTRO on Community Engagement

It was an opportune platform for the NBD and Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) to hold initial discussions on a partnership in community engagement

in the Baro – Akobo – Sobat (BAS)sub Basin of the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP). The BAS sub-basin encompasses about 186,275 km<sup>2</sup> that stretches from south-western Ethiopia to south-eastern and central South Sudan. In South Sudan the sub-basin covers the entire administrative units (states) of East Equatoria and Jonglei and Upper Nile; while in Ethiopia the sub-basin covers the administrative units (regions) of Oromiya, Gambella and SNNP. The sub-basin is home to about 3.6 million people. ENTRO has formulated the BAS Multipurpose Water Resource Development Study Project with the overall goal of promoting socio-economic development, regional cooperation and peace through sub-basin wide cooperation in integrated water resource development and management.

At the platform, Mr. Tesfaye Teferi of ENTRO guided the discussions, emphasising the key role NBD and its National Discourse Forums (NDFs) could play partnering closely with ENTRO and the respective national governments of South Sudan and Ethiopia. NBD that has its members close to the communities was found pivotal in this case where integrated water resources development and management requires inclusive, participatory and effective involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

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Nile-COM-Dodoma-2015

# NBD Ensued with Stakeholder Mapping

The NBD continued to carry out the stakeholder mapping for the seven remaining Nile countries grouped in clusters II and III. During the second quarter six countries were covered including: Egypt, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Burundi, were mapped in which participants highlighted key issues.

## Egypt:

The case for Egypt saw stakeholder mapping taking place and culminating in the workshop of 7th May 2015, in Cairo- Egypt. This workshop attracted forty two (42) participants, out of these, approximately 20% were women. The participants were drawn from CSOs, NGOs, Government Offers and Universities. The mapping enabled the voicing of a number of key issues.



Group discussions during a Stakeholder Mapping exercise in Egypt

Key issues highlighted by the mapping included (i) the community-based climate change adaptation and cooperation on the Nile interventions. The need for community – based physical interventions towards saving the Nile; adapting to climate change and cooperation on the Nile waters; and as pivotal the need for capacity building on policy advocacy and lobbying, and climate change related matters.

## Rwanda:

In Rwanda, the stakeholder mapping was conducted in the period that ended with the workshop of the 15th May 2015, in Kigali – Rwanda attended by forty (40) participants drawn from CSOs, NGOs, Government Officers, Universities, youth groups, women associations, media houses, private sector, development partners, NELSAP representatives. 25% of the participants were women. The mapping enabled the voicing of a number of emerging issues.



Participants in group discussions during a stakeholder mapping exercise in Rwanda

Emerging issues highlighted by the mapping included in-adequate information on climate change adaptation measures, the language barrier as most of the documents were in English and the need for intensified inclusivity of vulnerable communities, closer to the ground.



## Uganda

In the case of Uganda, the stakeholder mapping ran for the period that culminated in the workshop conducted on 19th May 2015, in Kampala-Uganda with forty two (42) participants of which 36% were women. The participants were drawn from CSOs, NGOs, youth group, women associations, Government Officers and parliamentarians, media houses representatives, private sector. The mapping enabled the voicing of a number of suggestions.



Participants in group discussions during a Stakeholder Mapping exercise in Uganda

Key suggestions by the mapping included (i) the need for the protection of catchment areas, (ii) reduction of river pollution, (iii) clarity in linking the Nile basin ecosystem with the livelihoods of communities, and collaborative involvement of the Civil Society Organizations and private sector in the eco-system management.

## Kenya

The stakeholder mapping in Kenya was conducted in the period that ended with the workshop of 22nd May 2015, in Kisumu – Kenya, with thirty nine (39) participants of which 28% were women. The participants were drawn from CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, youth group, women



Participants in group discussions during a Stakeholder Mapping exercise in Kenya

associations, universities, private sector, and the NBI/ NELSAP representatives. The mapping enabled the voicing of a number of emerging issues.

Emerging issues from the mapping included (i) Stakeholder and community consultations in the development agendas, suggesting that strategic, social and environmental study tools to take into account the stakeholders and communities consultations in addition to In addition to strengthening participation of focal area committees in leadership activities, (ii) intensified bottom-up communication, suggesting the improvement of the reporting and communication systems to and from members, and (iii) capacity building for enhanced CSO's institutional functions and partnerships.

## Tanzania

The stakeholder mapping in Tanzania took place in a period ending with a workshop held on the 25th May 2015 in Mwanza – Tanzania. The workshop attracted a total of 30 participants including representatives of the actual and potential CSOs, NGOs; partners from the government, private sector, international organizations and development partners. The mapping enabled the voicing of a number of emerging issues.



**Participants in group discussions during a Stakeholder Mapping exercise in Tanzania**

The emerging issues of the mapping included: (i) the emphasis on the bottom-up and horizontal communication necessary to communicate from

community to policy makers and along horizontal levels regionally stakeholders to stakeholders at different levels, suggesting communication to CSOs within the LDFs, and upwards to the NDF and the NBD and then partners, (ii) the need for capacity to enhance knowledge in strategic planning and water-related sectors' coordination and planning involving regulatory frameworks of the urban planning Law, the environmental Act and the mining Act.

## Burundi

The stakeholder mapping in Burundi took place in a period that ended on the 24th June 2015 with a workshop held in Gitega – Burundi, that attracted Forty two (42) participants-33% of which were women-drawn from the CSOs, the NGOs, the CBOs, youth groups, women associations, media houses, and Government representatives. These were participants who travelled over 200 km (round trip) to attend the workshop and contribute to the discussions. The mapping enabled the voicing of a number of emerging issues.

The emerging issues of the mapping included: (i) the need for capacity building of CSO members on advocacy, focusing on key contemporary environmental, democratization and poverty reduction issues; and (ii) the need for intensification of collaboration with ministries through communication and consultations in charge of environmental domains and OBPE (Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement), to enhance the achievement of the NDF's goals.



**Participants in group discussions during a Stakeholder Mapping exercise in Burundi**

# NBD committed to promote Nile Cooperation



**Reflection of Africa Waters' policies in community benefits.**  
Photo Courtesy: Marilyn Sara, 2015

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) reiterated its commitment towards regional cooperation in the Nile Riparian States during the 23rd Nile Council of Ministers meeting (Nile- COM) held in June 2015 in Dodoma, Tanzania.

The NBD Regional Manager, Dr. Hellen Natu, in her speech, called governments to use NBD-National Discourse Forums, in channeling communication with civil society about the benefits of government interventions and leverage civil society's grassroots presence to advance cooperation and development agenda. The basis for the call was based on the fact that the participation of stakeholders and civil society institutions allows the objectives of agreements and work programs of commissions / Authorities / initiatives to benefit from a "bottom up", in addition to the "top down approach," making them more responsive to the aspirations and needs of stakeholders.

As far as cooperation is concerned, she highlighted the stakeholder mapping taking place in the ten riparian states, with the aim of scoping out the actual and potential NBD member CSOs & partners, their activities & geographic coverage, and also community emerging issues on policies, projects and programs in the region.

The NBD Regional Manager also informed ministers and the participants of NBD's engagement in a series of capacity building exercises within the riparian states to enable the civil society and community members actively and effectively participate in social and climate resilience issues in the basin.

She emphasized that NBD was concurrently strengthening stakeholders' engagement in both Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) concerns and is also working closely with NBI for the creation of a platform where the benefits of cooperation are presented, discussed and guided by NBI with the CSOs and the community members brought together by the NBD.



# NBD in Korea

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) was among hundreds of participants at the World Water Forum, the largest international water event across the world, held in Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Korea on April 12-17, 2015.



**NBD Board Chairman Mr. Jean Baptiste (left) and Mr. Donald Kasongi the Secretary General of the board in Korea**

NBD was represented by the Regional Manager, Dr. Hellen NATU, the NBD Chairman, Mr. Jean Baptiste HABİYAREMYE and the NBD Secretary General Mr. Donald KASONGI and representatives of National Discourse Forums

Particularly, NBD was invited to participate in the framework of the regional consultation for the process of Africa. The sessions were coordinated by African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW).

During the Forum, NBD has shown its role as a civil society which promotes dialogue and cooperation on Nile water resources management. In the session entitled AfriWater CoP Program at the Citizen Forum "Village of Best Practice", Dr. Hellen Natu, presented on the topic entitled "Integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation to improving River basin management plan. Civil Society Perspective"

In her presentation, she gave the overall mandate of NBD as a civil society in the region. She highlighted the role of CSOs as they are operating at grassroots level with communities and local organizations engaged as partners while using a participatory approach to development planning. "This approach is important because it allows CSOs to respond better to local people's priorities and also build on local capacities", she emphasized.

Looking at the current vagaries of the weather, Dr. Natu said that integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation to Improving River basin management allows CSOs to respond better to local people's priorities and build on local capacities.

She highlighted the current development of a Discourse Intelligence Network (DIN) being made by NBD as a way of engaging CSOs' discourse in both horizontal and vertical communication.

At the same forum, Mr. Donald Kasongi joined the panel that discussed two global conventions on trans-boundary water cooperation namely: the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UN Watercourses Convention-1997) and Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention-1992).



**NBD joined the rest of participants in World Water Forum in Korea to call youth for supporting green world by planting trees**

In addition to the panel this special session gave the floor to stakeholders present to participate in the discussion.

The panel highlighted that more than 130 countries around the world still haven't ratified both Conventions, arguing the added value to these conventions remained unclear to many of the stakeholders.

## NBD awards media

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) joined other development partners, to award the most outstanding journalists at the ceremony held on 4th June, 2015 in Dodoma Tanzania.



**NBD Board Chairman handing award to Mr. Hakizimana Claver as first runner up for radio**

The NBD award went to Mr. Claver HAKIZIMANA selected as the first runner-up for radio category. Hakizimana is an experienced journalist at Radio NDERA AGAKURA – Burundi. His journalism area of interest is on environmental issues.





Group photo of Nile media awardees

Addressing participants at the Nile Media Awards, the NBD Board Chairman, Mr. Jean Baptiste HABİYAREMYE said that NBD supports and values the recognition of media practitioners and other communication frameworks in the riparian states.

He thanked organizers and partners for their initiative and called upon all stakeholders, partners, governments and communities in the Nile region to put Nile resources management as top on their agendas.

“We must reflect on communication as the heart of development and that development cannot be attained if there is no collaboration and multilateral communication on relevant issues in the region”, said the NBD Board Chairman.

The media recognition was organized by NBI in partnership with other development partners including NBD, Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWP-East Africa), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Deutsche Welle.



NBD Board Chairman addressing the participants during awards giving in Dodoma

The nomination focused on radio and print categories. Selected winners were: Ms. Secilia Ndabigeze (Tanzania) for 1st Prize - Radio category, Mr. Gerald Tenywa (Uganda) for 1st Prize - Print category, Mr. Hakizimana Claver (Burundi) for 1st Runner-up Radio category and Ms. Mona Selawin (Egypt) for 1st Runner-up in Print category.

The ceremony benefitted from the presence of the Nile Council of Ministers, the NBD Board Member – Kenya, who had been part of the jury, and the NBD Regional Manager.



## In the next Issue

Activity	Venue	Time
Stakeholder mapping DR Congo	Uganda	10th July 2015
Stakeholder mapping completion draft report Validation Workshop	Kampala, Uganda	7th September 2015
NBD Board Meeting	Kampala, Uganda	8th September 2015
NBD partnering with ENTRO and NELSAP	Addis, Kigali	July & August 2015







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