



THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin (Phase II)

ANNUAL REPORT 2017





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ACRONYMS

ADB	African Development Bank
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AusAID	Australian Aid
AWDF	African Women Development Fund
BAS	Baro-Akobo-Sobat
CIWA	Cooperation for International Waters in Africa
CRM	Climate Risk Management
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
COS	Communication and Outreach Strategy
D.R. Congo	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ENSAP	Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Programme
ENTRO	Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
FSS	Financial Sustainability Strategy
GA	General Assembly
GERD	Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam
GWPEA	Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought
IDA	International Donor Agency
IPCC	Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conserving Nature
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
LEAF	Lake Edward and Albert Fisheries
LoA	Letter of Agreement
NBD	Nile Basin Discourse
NBDS	Nile Basin Discourse Summit
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NDFs	National Discourse Forums
NELSAP	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
Nile-COM	Nile Council of Ministers
Nile-Sec	Nile Secretariat
Nile-TAC	Nile Technical Advisors Committee
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NTSE	National Technical Support Expert
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
SAP	Subsidiary Action Programme
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ToR	Terms of Reference
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a regional network of networks of over 600 civil society organizations (CSOs) established in 2003 to strengthen civil society participation in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) developmental processes, programs and projects. Member organizations are local and national CSOs working on a range of issues relevant to Nile cooperation. The NBD Secretariat coordinates the activities of eleven National Discourse Forums (NDFs) operating in Burundi, D.R. Congo, Eritrea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The Eritrean National Discourse Forum is not currently active.

The NDFs are, in turn, networks of national and local CSOs in each of the Basin countries established to galvanize national perspectives regarding cooperation in the Nile Basin. Using top-down, bottom-up, and horizontal communication pipelines, NBD performs four interrelated tasks: awareness raising, research on the benefits of cooperation, policy dialogue and influencing, and capacity building of its members and partners.

In the NBD's governance structure, the General Assembly (GA) currently constituted by 30 representatives (three from each of the ten active NDFs), is the supreme organ responsible for approving policies, appointing auditors, and electing members of the executive committee of the NBD Board. NBD's Board, which is responsible for formulating policies, providing leadership and strategic direction, is composed of 10 representatives elected by each NDF to the regional Board with three female co-opted members. The

female co-opted members advise the Board mainly on gender issues in the Nile Basin.

For NBD to build upon the results gained under the Cooperation for International Waters in Africa (CIWA)/World Bank (WB)-funded ***Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin Project***, and deal with the emerging issues, (WB) provided additional financial support to the tune of one million US dollars (\$1million) for Phase II project running from 2017 to 2019.

The key result of the phase II project is expected to be a strengthened, more sustainable NBD network that relies on an effective and efficient Secretariat, stronger ownership and involvement of its members, and increased constructive engagement with stakeholders to contribute to Nile cooperation. From January-December 2017, NBD focused on implementing key outputs stipulated under three major components.

COMPONENT ONE: STRENGTHENING THE NBD SECRETARIAT

NBD achieved the following key outputs: (i) Developed a new strategy (2018-2022); and (ii) Implemented the communications, advocacy & outreach and M&E strategies.

COMPONENT TWO: IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

NBD implemented the following:

(i) Facilitated stakeholder engagement in investment programs, particularly the Nyimur-Aswa transboundary Basin;



- (ii) Stakeholder awareness and engagement through the Nile Basin Discourse Summit (NBDS), a regional multi-stakeholder platform to discuss major challenges and opportunities involved in Nile cooperation;
- (iii) Generating content for the NBD website;
- (iv) Participation in and partnerships with regional/national organizations (e.g. Regional Nile day celebrations, NBI-Nile Basin Development Forum, and Nile media awards)
- (v) Virtual stakeholder engagement in investment programs through webinars.

COMPONENT THREE: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NBD MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

NBD achieved the following key outputs:

- (i) Enhanced knowledge and skills of members on climate risk management (CRM). A total of 353 (Female-114; Male-239) participants attended. NDFs held governance meetings to strengthen their governance.
- (ii) Revitalised links with the country entry-points for NDF national technical support. NBD signed contractual agreements with national technical support experts for the NDFs to galvanize national interests and articulate local issues to craft messages at the trans-boundary levels.
- (iii) Facilitated member capacity building through virtual dialogue (webinars), mainly on selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Resource mobilization has remained a critical challenge for NBD. The need for enhancing collective capacities for effective resources mobilization for

the network cannot be over-emphasized. Influencing policies, raising awareness, building capacity, piloting best-practices and undertaking advocacy take time. To yield plausible results, funding must be continuous to even beyond project duration.

Member NDFs



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- ✚ The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
- ✚ The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO)
- ✚ The Nile Equatorial Lakes Coordination Unit (NELCU)
- ✚ The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- ✚ The Global Water Partnership-Eastern Africa (GWP-EA)
- ✚ The Women for Water Partnership (WWFP)
- ✚ The Butterfly Effect Group (BE)

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- (i) Cooperation for International Waters in Africa /World Bank (CIWA/WB)
- (ii) IHE Delft Institute for Water Education



MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGER



On behalf of the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), I thank you, our dear partners and stakeholders, for supporting our efforts to

raise awareness on issues related to the Nile river resource. As you are all aware, the Nile Basin is characterized by high hydro-dependency levels traversing political boundaries. Although this kind of dependency is increasing every other day, availability of fresh water is shrinking. This calls for concerted efforts to ensure that the resource is put to sustainable use to benefit citizens of the Nile Basin. This gives each one of us a critical role to play.

To serve our stakeholders effectively and efficiently, NBD is putting in place the 2018 – 2022 strategy. We launched the strategy development process at a workshop on 21st February 2017 in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania. We expect to start implementation of the new strategy next year.

To ensure sustainability of our advocacy efforts, NBD continues to foster partnerships and collaborations as a means of mobilizing additional resources. In 2017, we responded to several calls for proposals and wrote concept notes to potential

donors. We hope and pray for positive responses. On a positive note, NBD will be implementing an assignment as a contracted party with IHE-Delft on *Women and Water in Communities for Change* project to be implemented in Tanzania and Uganda.

On 29th-30th November 2017, we held the first ever Nile Basin Discourse Summit. Representatives of CSOs in the Nile Basin, experts in water resources, researchers, development partners and media gathered in Entebbe, Uganda to discuss initiatives to promote regional integration through enhanced transboundary cooperation. Driven by the summit theme: ***"Integration and Inclusion: New Ideas for collaboration in River Basins"***, a total of 19 working papers were presented.

In the area of transboundary stakeholder engagement, we reached out to communities and relevant stakeholders in the: Nyimur-Aswa sub-Basin project (South Sudan and Uganda), Baro-Akobo-Sobat multi-purpose development project (South Sudan and Ethiopia).

With your usual support, we look forward to a more engaging 2018.

Thank You.

Dr. Hellen Nabwala Natu
Regional Manager, Nile Basin Discourse



OUR IDENTITY

WHO WE ARE

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a regional network of networks of over 600 civil society organizations (CSOs) established in 2003 to strengthen civil society participation in Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) developmental processes, programs and projects. Member organizations are local and national CSOs working on a range of issues relevant to Nile cooperation, including but not limited to, environmental conservation, agriculture, gender equity, livelihoods, and poverty reduction.

The NBD Secretariat, located in Entebbe, Uganda, coordinates the activities of eleven National Discourse Forums (NDFs) operating in Burundi, DR Congo, Eritrea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Currently, the Eritrean NDF is inactive. The NDFs are, in turn, networks of national and local CSOs in each country established to galvanize national perspectives regarding cooperation in the Nile Basin.

The NBD Network plays three critical roles: (i) a bottom-up communications pipeline for issues emanating from the citizens and civil society up to the governmental - at national and regional levels; (ii) a top-down pipeline for educating and informing citizens and civil society on Nile issues, development projects and programs and policies, etc.; and, (iii) a horizontal pipeline between citizens and civil society organizations both within and across national borders for knowledge and capacity sharing.

OUR VISION

A Nile Basin in which there is sustainable social and economic development for all people, free of conflict, leading to achievement of justice, human rights, good governance, poverty reduction and protection of the environment.

OUR MISSION

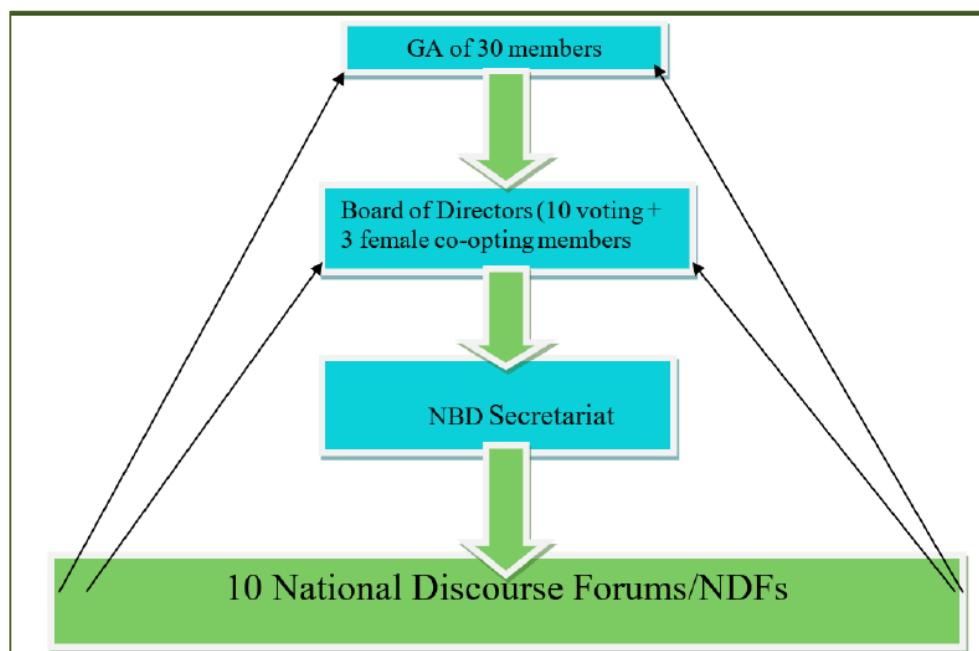
To ensure a Nile Basin-wide civil society progressively develops and plays a key role in proactive and critical influencing of policies and practices and capable of collaborating with government and intergovernmental structures and processes while adhering to transformative inclusion and participation.

OUR CORE VALUES

Our members adhere to the core values of ethics, inclusiveness, social justice & equality and mutual respect & accommodation.



THE NBD ORGANOGRAM



NBD's Regional Governing body

The General Assembly (GA): This is the supreme organ of NBD. It comprises thirty representatives (three representatives from each of the ten active NDFs) referred to as *delegates*. The GA is responsible for approving NBD's general policy, annual work plan, and financial and activity reports. The GA, in its annual meeting, is also responsible for appointing auditors and electing members of the executive committee of NBD's Board (Chairperson, Vice chairperson, General Secretary, and Treasurer).

The Regional Board: This is composed of representatives elected by each NDF. NBD has 10

voting members (one from each NDF) and three female co-opted members (one from each cluster¹). The female co-opted Board members are elected based on their expertise. This is an indication of NBD's attention to gender issues in the Nile Basin.

The regional Board is responsible for formulating policies, providing leadership and strategic direction for the effective operation and realization of NBD's objectives. The Board is duty bound to appoint and set performance contracts and targets as well as overseeing the performance of the Secretariat members of staff in their functions.

¹ **Cluster One:** Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

Cluster Two: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Cluster Three: Burundi, D.R. Congo and Rwanda.



THE CIWA PROJECT

Background

Guided by its strategic directions (NBD's Strategy 2013-2017), NBD designed a project, named: ***Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin (P132448)***, which run for three years (2013-2016) with financial support from Cooperation for International Waters in Africa (CIWA) and World Bank (WB).

Project Objectives

For NBD to build upon the results gained and deal with the emerging issues, CIWA/WB provided additional financial support of \$1million (One Million US Dollars) for Phase II of the project (2017- 2019). Phase II of the project will contribute to equitable, sustainable, climate resilient and inclusive development, and enhanced cooperation in the Nile Basin.

The additional funding concretizes the achievements out of Phase I (P132448) and supports the implementation of the issues that emerged therein. These include: drafting the NBD strategy 2018-2022; increasing stakeholder engagement on



investment programs, capacity building and raising awareness on enhanced participation of women in Nile Basin development and cooperation. Others include: Resilience to impacts of climate change to contribute to the fast-tracking of the relevant SDGs; the critical need for reliable entry points at national level for spot-lighting emerging issues towards advocacy; and need to mobilize resources to further strengthen and enhance NBD sustainability.

Expected Results

The expected key result of phase II of the CIWA/WB-supported project is a strengthened, more sustainable NBD network that relies on an effective and efficient Secretariat, stronger ownership and involvement of its members, and increased constructive engagement with stakeholders to contribute to Nile cooperation.



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS



A group photo of the World Bank supervision mission alongside the NBD Secretariat staff

The Nile Basin Discourse Annual Report 2017



COMPONENT-1: STRENGTHENING THE NBD SECRETARIAT

OUTPUT 1: NBD Strategy 2018-2022 developed

On 21st February 2017, the Nile Basin Discourse launched the 2018-2022 strategy development process at a workshop titled *“Looking back, reflecting on the present and shaping the future.”* The workshop was held at Peacock Hotel- Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The workshop came up with a draft which was presented to the Board, General Assembly, and NBDS meetings in November 2017. The final strategy will be ready for implementation in early 2018.



Back-to-back, NBD convened its 17th Board meeting on 20th February 2017. Ten Board members representing the ten active NDFs (Burundi, D. R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda) as well as the three female co-opted members of the Board (representing the three NBD clusters) attended the Board meeting. The Board was updated on both programmatic and non-programmatic activities

implemented by NBD during 2015 and 2016. Based on the update, the Board delivered several key decisions and guidance to NBD's short-term, medium-term and long-term actions.

As short-term actions, the Board reviewed and approved the NBD 2017 Work plan, revised NBD Finance & Administration manual, revised the NBD mission, approved three NBD strategies (Communication and Outreach, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Finance Sustainability).

As long-term strategic guidance, the Board discussed the need to renew the NBD-NBI

MoU, and approved the development of the NBD Strategy 2018-2022, stressing the importance for collective resource mobilization by the NBD Networks (the Secretariat and NDFs). Finally, the Board elected its vice chairperson Dr. Nadir Mohammed Awad, to replace former chairperson Mr. Jean Baptiste Habiyaemye (RIP).

OUTPUT 2: Additional resources mobilized

Resource mobilization remains a critical challenge to the NBD network. Throughout 2017, the NBD Secretariat made several efforts to bring additional donors on board.

The Board advised NBD to use the budget that had been allocated for an intern to hire a consultant/volunteer to assist the Secretariat in mobilizing resources in 2018.



NBD submitted a funding proposal to African Women Development Fund (AWDF). The proposal was on *“Transforming agricultural value chains of the Nyimur Basin rural economy to work for men and women.”*

NBD has been working with IHE-Delft, Birdlife International, and Nature Uganda on a seed fund from Coca-Cola. The project is on: *“Women and water in communities for change.”* The 20-month project (September 2017-August 2019) is to be implemented in Uganda and Tanzania. IHE Delft as the coordinating institution, is developing contracts for other implementing partners.

NBD has made efforts to access funding from African Development Bank (ADB). The efforts, initiated in the last quarter of 2016, continued in 2017. ADB is interested in working with NBD particularly with communities on agriculture in selected African countries.

OUTPUT 3: NBD Strategies implemented

▪ **Communications and outreach strategy**

The strategy was successfully implemented. Promotional materials were printed and distributed while the online newsletter (*Nile Voices*) was compiled and shared on a quarterly basis. Additionally, user-generated contents were got from NDFs and posted on the website coupled with conducting webinars among other activities.

▪ **Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy** The M&E strategy was successfully implemented. An online

M&E system was developed and is functional with clear indicators at goal, outcome, output and inputs levels integrated. Comprehensive data collecting and reporting templates were developed and inbuilt into the system.

All NBD Secretariat staffs and national technical support experts were guided on using the system. They have user IDs to access and use it to monitor NBD’s performance by collecting, analyzing and interpreting appropriate data.

OUTPUT 4: Intern recruited

Efforts have been made to recruit a young professional, from the Nile Basin countries, who will contribute towards implementation of planned activities in the NBD work plan. Terms of reference and selection criteria were developed by NBD Secretariat and sent out to all the NDFs. Only D.R. Congo, Rwanda, and Sudan responded to the call by sending a candidate each.

The NBD Secretariat set up a panel and interviews were conducted via Skype. However, the panel didn’t get the quality of the intern needed as per the selection criteria. The recruitment process will continue in 2018.

COMPONENT 2: IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

OUTPUT 1: Stakeholder engagement in investment programs facilitated (face-to-face)

▪ **Trans-boundary stakeholder engagement for Nyimur-Aswa sub-basin project**



The Nyimur multipurpose transboundary project covers Lamwo district in Uganda and Magwi, Ayaci and Pageri Counties in South Sudan, for community-based irrigation scheme, water reservoir, water supply, small hydropower production, and water and soil conservation components.

In addition to country specific platforms, NBD organized a transboundary engagement on 14th June 2017 at Waligo border in Lamwo district. The engagement involved both Uganda and South Sudan communities living in and around the Nyimur-Aswa catchment, the local government and intergovernmental stakeholders. Discussions revolved around issues likely to directly and indirectly affect the beneficiaries during implementation of the project. The engagement was attended by 60 participants (22 females, 38 males).

As an outcome, the engagement: (i) created a sense of community ownership of the Nyimur-Aswa project (ii) sensitized the communities on the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) studies of project development; (iii) identified the people who are living in the irrigation command area; and (iv) created a platform where local authorities listened to pertinent concerns of communities.

The engagement also identified gender-specific issues the project should pay attention to. These included: (i) provision of training sessions in relation to the project to promote skilled women labour for balanced employment and empowerment; (ii) small

scale industries (such as juice extraction firms) where women can be engaged; and (iii) Micro finance or loans to facilitate production and value addition in women's income generating projects.



Communities of Magwi, Ayaci, Pageri counties (South Sudan), and Lamwo district (Uganda) show-off the trans-boundary cooperation symbol (unity, love and cooperation across borders) created by the Nyimur project.

■ **Trans-boundary stakeholder engagement for Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) Sub-Basin**

The BAS multi-purpose project covers South Sudan and Ethiopia. The year 2017, saw the NBD network representation from the NBD Secretariat and NDF chairpersons from Ethiopia and South Sudan, actively participating in and contributing to high-level task force platforms for the BAS project coordinated by the governments of Ethiopia and South Sudan; and intergovernmental structures.

NBI, ENTRO, local authorities, opinion leaders and community representatives also participated in the discussions that led to the development of a communication and consultation strategy for stakeholder engagement coupled with finalizing the Environmental, Social and Strategic Impact



Assessment (ESSIA) identifying potential short-term and long-term projects for Ethiopia and South Sudan. As a follow-up, the NBD network will continue with the process in 2018, by bringing together the grassroots communities of the two countries at a transnational platform to inform and consult on the ESSIA and identified trans-boundary projects. The implementation of this activity benefits from the MoU that NBD has with ENTRO and collaboration with governments.

■ **Trans-boundary stakeholder engagement on the GERD**

This activity was planned to engage stakeholders from Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt to dialogue on enhancing cooperation in the Blue Nile Sub-Basin focusing on the dam, and on the Nile river resources in general.

The outcome would then be shared with other stakeholders in the network. Implementation of this activity benefits from the MoU that NBD has with ENTRO, and collaboration with governments.

In 2017, the NBD network (NBD Secretariat, NDFs of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia) contributed to discussions at various fora set up by ENTRO and NBI Secretariat on the hydro politics of the Nile that also covered the Blue Nile and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). As a follow-up, the NBD network will continue with the process in 2018, by bringing together the grassroot communities of the three countries at a tri-national platform to inform and consult on the hydro-politics, and the emerging issues.

OUTPUT 2: Stakeholder awareness and engagement increased through NBDS:

The Nile Basin countries face challenges such as weak cooperation, gender imbalance, climate change, food crises, rapid population growth, weak regional integration, and slow transition into a green economy. To collectively discourse on the above challenges and experiences from the Nile and beyond, NBD organized the Nile Basin Discourse Summit (NBDS) under the theme: *'Integration and Inclusion: New Ideas for collaboration in River Basins Management Policies and Practices.'* This regional multi-stakeholder platform, which was the first of its kind, took place on November 29-30, 2017, in Entebbe-Uganda.

Participants were drawn from CSOs in the Nile Basin, experts in water resources, researchers, development partners, and media. The 140 participants (44 women; 96 men) discussed the challenges, opportunities, experiences and best practices of cooperation and development investment in River Basins, especially the Nile. A total of 19 research papers were presented on three sub-themes: *Nurturing Cooperation for Sustainable Development; Knowledge Exchange and Water Governance; and Capacity Building and Innovation.*

During the summit, NBD also held its Board meeting and General Assembly (GA). The GA approved NBD's annual progress and audit reports, appointed NBD's auditors for 2017 through 2019, and elected a new Board and executive committee members to serve for the coming two years.



Participants in the first Nile Basin Discourse Summit

The executive committee of the Board comprises: Professor Muawia Hamid Shaddad (Chairperson), Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana (Vice Chairperson), Mr. Donald Malambo Kasongi (Secretary-General) and Mr. Gérard Nizigiyimana (Treasurer).



The new executive committee of the NBD Board. From Left: Professor Muawia Hamid Shaddad (Chairperson), Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana (Vice Chairperson), Mr. Donald Malambo Kasongi (Secretary-General) and Mr. Gérard Nizigiyimana (Treasurer).

The GA also endorsed NBD's manuals and strategies (Finance and Administration manual, Communication and Outreach strategy, Monitoring and Evaluation strategy, and Finance sustainability strategy).

The independent NBDS report will be finalized in early 2018, with the possibility of being published by Cambridge.

OUTPUT 3: Participation in and partnerships with regional/national organizations enhanced

Regional Nile Day Celebrations

NBD joined the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the rest of the Nile riparian states for the 11th Regional Nile Day celebrations that took place on 22nd February 2017 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. NBD collaborated with NBI and Tanzania's Ministry of Water and



Irrigation to organize the annual event. The Tanzania NDF was part of the national organizing Committee in Tanzania, while the NBD Secretariat was a member of the regional organizing committee spearheaded by the Nile-Sec in Entebbe, Uganda.

The event was attended by government officials from the Nile Basin countries, the diplomatic community, development partners, researchers, academia, CSOs, media, students, and the general public. The participants marched from MnaziMmoja Grounds to Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) where the event took place.

The Guest of Honor, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice President of Tanzania, and representatives of the ten NBI member states planted trees as a symbol of union in conservation and reservation of the Nile.

The Theme for the 2017 Nile day celebrations was, *"Our Shared Nile - Source of Energy, Food and Water for all,"*. It highlighted the significance of the Nile river resources for food, water, and energy as the

basic pillars in the cooperation for water resources development.

NBD Board chairperson Dr. Nadir Mohamed Awad encouraged Nile governments and development partners to direct their efforts towards transboundary investment developments of the Nile riparian states. He urged state and non-state actors to join efforts to collectively contribute to achieving the SDGs related to climate change mitigation and adaptation to ensure food, energy and water security for the Nile citizens.

"Our focus is in fostering and advocating for two emerging issues touching on grassroots communities:

(i) that Governments make efforts in providing enabling environment for transboundary development benefits to reach communities;

(ii) that development partners implement transboundary agendas with minimal costs to the communities."

Dr. Nadir Mohamed Awad
NBD Chairperson

• **NBD-NDFs Radio Program**

NBD had planned to transmit Trans-boundary mediating through radio on emerging cooperation and development issues. However, this activity was not implemented in 2017 due to budgetary allocation challenges. It is, therefore, pending for 2018 to benefit from back-to-back planned trans-boundary activities of the GERD, BAS, and LEAFII.



NBD members of staff at the Nile Day 2017 event in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania



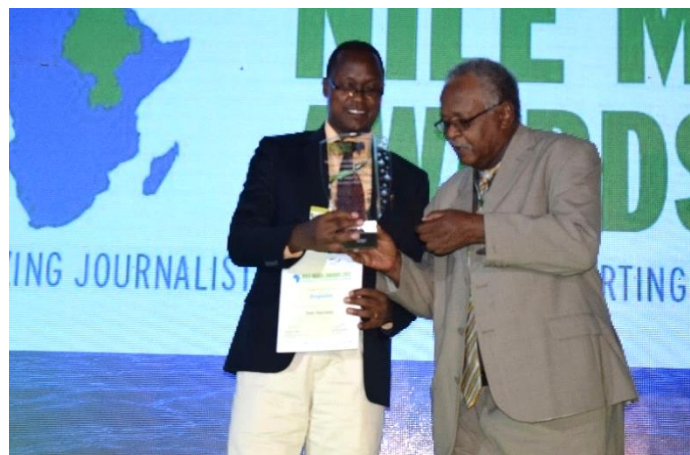
▪ **NBI-Nile Basin Development Forum**

From 23rd to 25th October 2017, NBD attended the fifth NBI bi-annual Nile Basin Development Forum held in Kigali, Rwanda. The event attracted ministers for water resources affairs from the Nile Basin countries, private sector representatives, researchers, scholars, CSO representatives, media, and development partners. NBD also participated in the exhibition together with NDF Rwanda.

Poor Women Development Network (PWDN), a member of Rwanda NDF, exhibited agricultural outputs (tomatoes, soya, egg plants, and pumpkin) as an outcome of its support to poor women through capacity building and mentorship on small scale farming, eradication of malnutrition, and craft works. The exhibition stand received a number of visitors, including ministers, who appreciated the role of NBD in supporting communities especially women.

▪ **Nile Media Awards 2017**

NBD partnered with NBI and other development partners to organize the 2017 Nile-Media Awards event on 23rd October 2017. NBD awarded the second runner up in the Radio category, Claver Hakizimana from Burundi who works for Radio Ndera Agakura. He received a professional digital voice recorder, branded notebook, two pens and flash disk. The award was handed over by NBD chairperson, Dr. Nadir Awad Mohammed.



NBD Chairperson Dr. Nadir Awad Mohammed. (Right) handing over an award to the Radio category second runner-up, Mr. Claver Hakizimana

OUTPUT 4: Stakeholder engagement in investment programs facilitated (virtual)

• **Webinars summarized and posted on YouTube**

NBD conducted two web-based discussions on pertinent issues in 2017. The group email-based discussion formed the best method to allow participants in regions to share their views. This was to avoid inconveniences that might occur due to time and internet access challenges.

The first webinar was conducted on 'Indicator 1' of SDG 13, target 3. The discussions of this webinar focused on how improved education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity can contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

The topic for the second webinar was: ***'Matching the diversity of resources with inclusive development aspiration in the Nile basin.'*** A video-recorded keynote address by Professor Oweyagha Afunadula was uploaded on the web to guide participants' discussion. This webinar aimed at



generating ideas to strengthen the common understanding on cooperation in the Nile basin.

▪ ***User generated contents for member engagement increased***

In 2017, a total of 64 user-generated contents emanated from eight NDFs. Ethiopia and South Sudan did not submit any due to in-country contextual issues. The contents covered several topics related to the Nile. Twenty (20) of the 64 submitted contents were uploaded onto the communities' page of the website. The contents are instrumental for knowledge and information sharing among those accessing NBD's website, and showcasing the practices of member organizations.

▪ ***Communiqués posted and shared***

NBD planned to issue communiqués, to be posted on the web, to facilitate stakeholder engagement in trans-national investment programs. The communiqués were to be issued after the stakeholder consultations on the projects of Nyimur-Aswa, BAS, GERD and NBDS.

A report on the transnational grassroots meeting of the Nyimur/Aswa project was prepared and uploaded. In 2018, NBD will discuss appropriate modalities of arriving at the agreed-upon communiques, especially under circumstances where platforms are held in the field/grassroots with due consideration to local and transnational context.

▪ ***Conducting Social media campaigns*** In 2017, NBD conducted a social media campaign on "Integration and Inclusion" "One Nile - One Family" during the Nile Basin Discourse Summit that took place in November 2017. More campaigns will be undertaken in 2018.

COMPONENT 3: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NBD MEMBERS

Output 1. NBD members' capacity enhanced (face – to-face trainings)

▪ ***Country level capacity building trainings***

NBD conducted nine country-level capacity-building sessions. The trainings were carried out on member engagement in CRM as a follow-up to, and updating information and data after, the 2015 capacity building sessions. This paved the way for sharing experience and advocating for best practices to decision makers in the NBD network. Due to political instability, NBD could not conduct planned national training and governance workshop in South Sudan.

Overall, 353 participants (female-114; male-239) attended the in-country capacity building sessions. These sessions were facilitated by in-country climate experts selected by each NDF in consultation with the NBD Secretariat. The trainings enhanced the knowledge and skills of participants on the processes of CSOs engagement in CRM as part of project formulation, implementation and M&E process.

Some of the NDFs had governance meetings where members discussed country reports and elected



Board members. Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan didn't conduct their governance meetings. Burundi NDF conducted its governance meeting recently (in 2016); Ethiopian NDF planned its governance meeting for January 2018.

▪ **Links with the Country Entry-Points for NDF**

National Technical Support Experts Revitalized

NBD signed contractual agreements with the National Technical Support Experts (NTSEs) for the 10 NDFs. The NTSEs were recruited by the NDFs' Boards in consultation with the NBD Secretariat and approved by the donor (CIWA/WB). The NTSE for South Sudan cancelled his contract with NBD on personal reasons, while the South Sudan NDF was unable to recruit a successor in 2017.

The NTSEs spearheaded preparation and organization of in-country trainings; wrote training reports; assisted NBD Secretariat in providing guidelines on codes of conduct for effective communication and consultation between the NBD Secretariat and member CSOs; provided appropriate assistance in facilitating country level discussions on NBD Strategy 2018-2022; facilitated provision of in-country user-generated content; encouraged (and some recruited) potential CSOs to join NBD network; and contributed to data and information/evidence collection for NBD's web-based M&E system.

It was observed that at the grassroots, NBD network members were focusing on environmental protection, integrated water resources management, agriculture and food security, WASH

programs, gender and youth inclusivity, education and advocacy among others. Environmental protection was high at the grassroots as a follow up on capacity building on CRM they had in 2015.

Output 2: NBD's member capacity enhanced (Virtual dialogue)

NBD conducted two web-based discussions on pertinent issues affecting cooperation and development in the Nile Basin.

The first webinar was conducted on Indicator 1 of SDG 13, Target 3. The webinar, which brought 41 participants on board from the 10 Nile riparian countries, took place from 16th to 20th January 2017. The participants decried the low level of involvement by CSOs in implementing the awareness-raising element of Target 3 of SDG13. It was recommended that CSOs fill the gap of educating the community on climate change impact, mitigation and early warning signs by forging a strong partnership with Nile Basin governments.

SDG 13: Requires signatories to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Target 3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

Indicator 1: Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula.



In July 2017, NBD held the second webinar entitled: *‘Matching the diversity of resources with inclusive development aspiration in the Nile Basin.’* Sixty-seven (67) members subscribed to the webinar. The participants were drawn from CSOs, NDFs, NBD partners, researchers and journalists among others from across the Basin and beyond. Participants underscored the need for an all-inclusive agenda sensitive to the needs and aspirations of vulnerable groups like people living with disabilities, the elderly and women. Citizen participation in the development processes was also emphasized with NBD urged to act as a change catalyst by promoting the principle of ‘putting people first’ in all development endeavors.

In summary, participants came up with the following recommendations:

- (i) CSOs actively participate in planning, designing and implementing development policies;
 - (ii) An integrated and multidisciplinary water resources development approach;
 - (iii) An inclusive development agenda through proper and transparent consultation and community involvement;
- Strengthening information flow between development actors through collaborative techniques to build informed agreements among experts, water users, and governing bodies at different levels.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Although the NBD Secretariat was able to get support from NTSEs in most NDFs, it was still a challenge getting user-generated content from some NDFs.
- Resource mobilization has remained a critical challenge for the NBD network. NBD needs to practically enhance its resources mobilization capacity at Board, Secretariat and NDFs levels, to achieve its mandate.
- NBD’s sustainability has been a major challenge that needs utmost attention by all concerned (NBD management, members, Basin governments, and development partners among others, etc.). Policy influencing, awareness raising, capacity building, piloting best-practices and advocacy take time. As such, they require a continuous and sustainable funding base beyond project duration to avoid interruption.

There is need to acknowledge the uniqueness of NBD networks’ operational engagements (policy advocacy, awareness raising, capacity building). Advocacy should be combined with physical investment.

NBD network should look beyond MoUs signed with NBI and its SAPs. Focus should extend to Nile resources and communities linking with national governments (line ministers and permanent secretaries).

Increased overhead costs from any funds as per the revised NBD Finance and Admin. manual should cover some of the core expenses of the NBD network mandate





FINANCIAL SECTION

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE NBD CIWA GRANT NO TF0185834 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

Particulars	Notes	Budget	Actual	Actual
		2017	2017	2016
		USD	US\$	US\$
Income				
Donor funding (CIWA)	13.1	514,324.00	491,725.94	332,979
Other income (Forex Gains)		0.00	90.75	164
Total Income		514,324.00	491,816.69	333,143
Expenditure				
Project expenditure	13.2	514,324.00	520,379.18	341,748
(Deficit) for the year***		0	-28,562.49	-8,605.00

N.B: The reported deficit was due to the total outstanding obligations (invoices) rightly reflected in 2017. These payables were cleared and settled after receiving the first tranche of funds in 2018.

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7.0 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT IN RESPECT TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NBD CIWA/WB GRANT NO TF0185834 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

NBD Regional Manager
Plot 32, Nsamizi Road
Entebbe- Uganda

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Engaging Civil Society and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin Project (ECSSCRNP) which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, the statements of comprehensive income for the twelve months period ended 31 December 2017, and the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes as set out on pages 22 to 25.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the project for the year ended 31 December 2017 and of its operational results for the year then ended, and are in accordance with the Significant Accounting Policies in Note 11 and the CIWA-WB guidelines for Accountable Grant Agreement No. TF0185834.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and Guidelines issued by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of NBD in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Going Concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis because The Nile Basin Discourse secured funding of US\$ 1 million from the World Bank through the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) covering a 3 year period, 2017 – 2019 to implement the "Engaging the Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin Project". The Nile Basin Discourse is currently implementing the approved 2018 Work Plan.

Key Audit Matters (KAM)

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. We have determined that there were no key exceptional audit matters to communicate in this report.

Responsibilities of Management and those charged with Governance for Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Accounting Policies described in Note 11 of these financial statements and the CIWA-WB Financing Agreement. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial

Opinion

In our opinion, the receipts were properly accounted for and withdrawals were made for the purposes of the project in accordance with the Grant Agreement. The Special Account Statement contained in note 11.0 and; notes thereon fairly presents in all material respects the account operations for the period ended December 31, 2017 in accordance with basis of accounting described under note 12 of this report.

Jasper-Semu & Associates
Jasper-Semu & Associates
Certified Public Accountants
P.O. Box 8294
Kampala



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