



THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

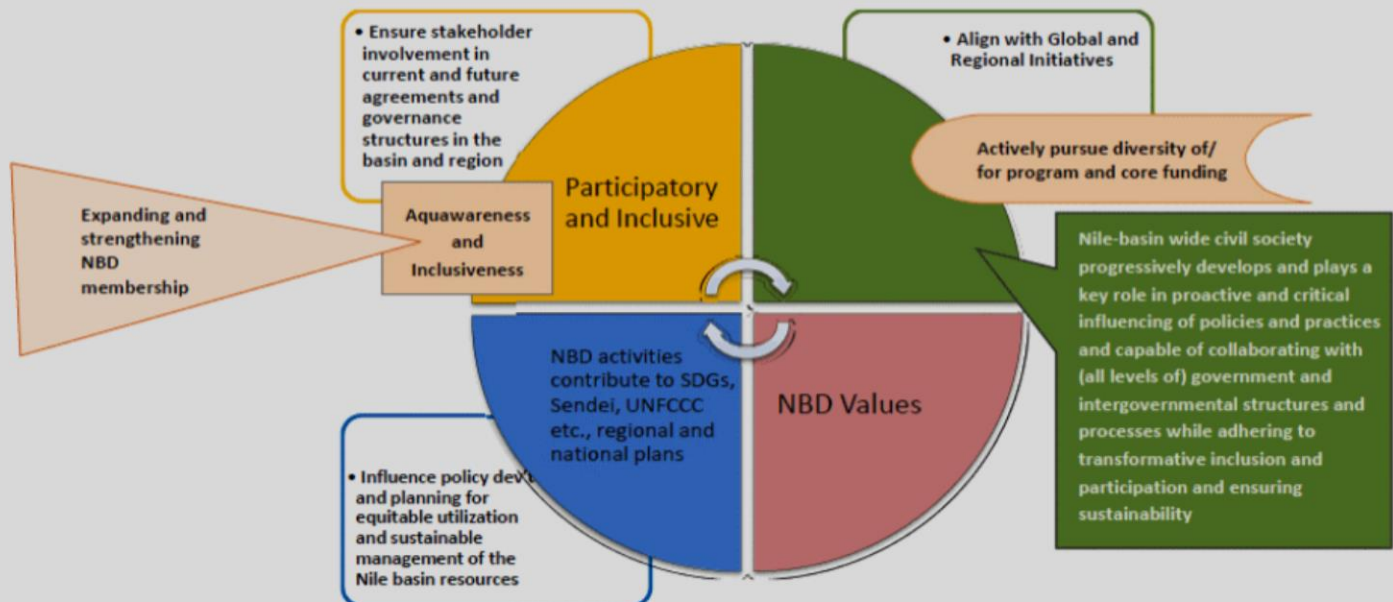
Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin (P132448-Phase II)

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Burundi D.R. Congo Egypt Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Rwanda S. Sudan Sudan Tanzania Uganda

NBD Strategy



Inclusive Aquawareness and Empowerment - NBD Strategy 2018 – 2022

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1:	Align with Global and Regional Initiatives
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2:	Ensure stakeholder involvement in current and future agreements and governance structures in the basin and region
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3:	Influence policy development and planning for equitable utilization and sustainable, incremental management of the Nile basin resources – adhering to nexus approaches on food, nutrition and energy, that are climate resilient
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4:	Aquawareness and inclusiveness
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5:	Expanding and strengthening NBD membership base
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 6:	Actively pursue diversity of/ for program and core funding

ORBITUARY



NBD Secretariat is very saddened to announce the untimely death of Dr. Nadir Mohammed Awad (RIP), who was the National Chairperson of Sudanese National Discourse Forum. He passed away on 27th September 2018 in Khartoum. Dr. Nadir served as Regional Vice Chairperson and Chairperson of NBD Board from December 2014 to November 2017. His firm stand on conservation of environment, courage and teamwork spirit will be always remembered.



The Nile Basin Discourse with deep shock and sadness announces the untimely death of Dr. Malikwisha Meni (RIP) who passed away on 18th September 2018 at Matanda Hospital in Butembo, D.R. Congo. Dr. Malikwisha was the Secretary General of D.R. Congo National Discourse Forum. He was also the Chairperson of DRC NDF. Dr. Malikwisha has been with NBD for several years and contributed tirelessly to its success.

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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
SAP	Subsidiary Action Programme
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ToR	Terms of Reference
US	United States
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 currently inactive.

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: raising awareness, research on the benefits of cooperation, policy dialogue and influencing, and capacity building of its members and partners.

In NBD's governance structure, the General Assembly (GA), currently constituted by 30 representatives (three from each of the 10 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, CIWA/WB provided additional financial support. The additional \$1 million (one million US dollars) is for a 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 to December 2018, NBD focused on implementing key outputs stipulated under three major components.

COMPONENT ONE: STRENGTHENING THE NBD SECRETARIAT. NBD:

- (i) Developed a three-year Strategy (2018-2022);
- (ii) Made resource mobilization attempts to various donor agencies and partners including the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, European Union, African Women's Development Fund, IDRC, AusAID, UK Aid Direct and the US

Department of State among others. NBD has also developed three documents as cascaded exit strategies to be submitted to the current donor (CIWA/WB), exploring the possibility of re-engaging for a cost extension.

- (iii) Further implemented two NBD strategies (Communications and outreach and Monitoring and Evaluation).

COMPONENT TWO: IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

NBD:

- (i) Facilitated face-to-face stakeholder engagement in investment programs-Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management Project (LEAF II), transboundary engagement for Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) sub-basin multi-purpose water resources development and management project.
- (ii) Enriched its website with user-generated contents. In 2018 NBD collected 97 user-generated contents from the NDFs;
- (iii) Joined NBI and the Nile riparian states for the 12th Regional Nile day celebrations on 22nd February 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

COMPONENT THREE: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NBD MEMBERS AND PARTNERS. NBD:

- (i) Enhanced knowledge and skills of women and youth in Climate Risk Management (CRM);
- (ii) Maintained links with country entry-points for NDF national technical support experts. The experts have been instrumental in galvanizing national interests and articulating local issues to craft messages at trans-boundary levels;

- (iii) Facilitated a social media campaign on 16 days of Activism against gender-based violence (GBV). A total of 653,618 twitter users saw the message with #One Nile-One Family. A total of 1200 twitterers directly tweeted on GBV.

Resource mobilization has remained a critical challenge for the NBD network. The need for enhancing collective capacities for effective resource mobilization cannot be overemphasized. This is because influencing policy, raising awareness, building capacity, piloting best-practices and undertaking advocacy take time. These initiatives, therefore, need a sustainable funding base to yield plausible results.

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 (WFWP)
- ✚ The Butterfly Effect Group (BE)

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

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





MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGER

Our esteemed partners and stakeholders, on behalf of the NBD secretariat, I convey our unreserved gratitude for your continued support that has enabled NBD deliver on its mandate in 2018.

We are particularly indebted to our core funders, CIWA/WB who have supported us financially through Phase II of the **Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin** project. Using this additional funding, we have engaged constructively with stakeholders at all levels to contribute to Nile cooperation.

This year NBD finalized 2018-2022 strategy under the theme, **Inclusive Aquawareness and Empowerment**. We look forward to operationalizing it in 2019. The strategy is premised on six strategic directions:

- Align with global and regional initiatives;
- Ensure stakeholder involvement in current and future agreements and governance structures in the basin and region;
- Influence policy development and planning for equitable utilization and sustainable, incremental management of the Nile basin resources-adhering to nexus approaches on food, nutrition and energy, that are climate resilient;
- Aquawareness and inclusiveness;
- Expanding and strengthening NBD membership base;
- Actively pursue diversity of/for program and core funding.

We have made resource mobilisation one of the key priorities to ensure sustainability for our activities. The NBD resource mobilisation team has reached out to several prospective partners and donors. It is through these efforts that NBD secured USD 15,525 from the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education to implement the **Women and Water in Communities for Change** project in Uganda and Tanzania.

The year 2018 has provided us an opportunity to continue with transboundary engagements to achieve ownership and support for the different projects and initiatives we are undertaking. These include: Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) multi-purpose water resources development and management project, and the Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAF-II) project among others.

In September two distinguished members passed on. Dr. Malikwisha Meni (RIP) was the secretary-general of D.R. Congo NDF. Dr. Malikwisha was one of the prominent founders of the Nile Basin Discourse and has been at the forefront of defending the role and contribution of the Nile Basin Discourse. Dr. Nadir Mohammed Awad (RIP) was the National chairperson of Sudan NDF. He has served as Regional Vice chairperson and Chairperson of NBD Board. His firm stand on environmental conservation, courage and teamwork spirit will be always remembered.

Dr. Hellen Nabwala Natu
Regional Manager

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 of the Nile basin, free of conflict, leading to achievement of justice and human rights, poverty reduction, protection of the environment including especially our water and good governance based on cooperation between riparian states and involving all stakeholders

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 (all levels of) government and intergovernmental structures and processes while adhering to transformative inclusion and participation and ensuring sustainability

OUR VALUES

NBD is constantly adapting and exploring new ways to enhance its network movement that meets the needs of an ever-changing world. NBD's new strategy defines the unique contribution the organization makes in attaining sustainable development and highlights the direction it is taking to best achieve its vision and goals.

Ethics: NBD is a network of independent and diverse organizations. It is the diversity of experience and perspective that represents the strengths of the network, which is built on the democratic principles of equality, transparency, accountability and integrity and protection of values.

Value Water in all its dimensions-in its economic, social, environmental and cultural importance.

Participatory and Inclusive: NBD's members are committed to a regional network of collaborative initiatives to generate synergetic development and mutual learning and support. In so doing, NBD member organizations seek to influence formulation of public policies and plans favorable to advancement at national, local and (sub-) basin level of human rights, equality, peaceful co-existence and cooperation, poverty reduction and the coordination of efforts among development communities serving the Nile basin. NBD works closely with partners with shared values and aims.

Social justice and equality

NBD works to promote sustainable development that entails empowering disadvantaged segments of society to gain increased access to resources through policies that grant equal opportunity and fairness to all. NBD aligns to the principles of agenda 2030: People, planet, prosperity, peace, partnership.

Mutual Respect and Accommodation

By its nature, the Nile Basin includes a diversity of views, values and cultures demanding mutual understanding, tolerance, cooperation and conflict mitigation. It goes beyond national and administrative boundaries. To this end, the NBD aims to optimize common interests and understanding to exploit advantages of unity with diversity leading to benefit-sharing.

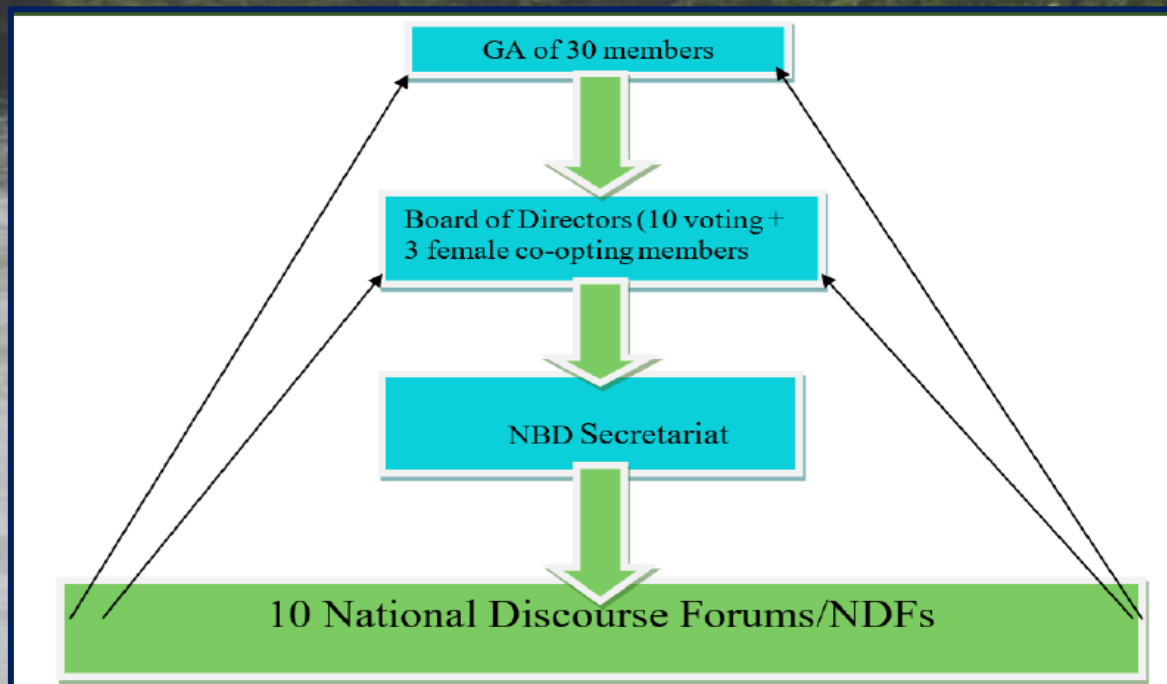
Excellence

Fulfil NBD mission by providing relevant and timely products and superior client service that reflects its commitment to collaboration and the higher standards of quality-however depending on resources available.

Incremental changes and innovation

Constantly seek new ways to accomplish NBD work and to generate extraordinary results. NBD is dedicated to delivering creative and forward-looking solutions and advancing the use of modern technologies.

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 workplan, 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 oversee performance of the secretariat 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.

What NBD does

Using top-down, bottom-up, and horizontal communication pipelines, NBD performs four major but interrelated tasks:

- Raising awareness on issues related to the Nile river resource;
- Doing research/assessments on the benefits of cooperation and costs of non-cooperation;
- Policy dialogue to influence trans-boundary cooperation;
- Capacity building of members and partners.

NBD uses top-down communications pipeline for informing citizens and civil societies about development projects and programs being undertaken in the Nile basin. A bottom-up communications pipeline serves for raising the voices of citizens and civil societies up to the decision/policy-making bodies; and NBD uses horizontal communications pipeline between citizens and civil society organizations both within and across national borders mainly for knowledge/information sharing and peer-to-peer capacity building.

THE NBD BOARD MEMBERS SINCE NOVEMBER 2017



Prof MUAWIA Hamid Shaddad
Board Chairperson



Ms Verdiane NYIRAMANA
Board Vice Chairperson



Mr Gérard NIZIGIYIMANA
Board Treasurer



Donald Malambo Kasongi
Board Secretary Gen.



Dr. Habtemariam Abate Gorfe
Board Member



Rev. Joe Asila
Board Member



Jonathan Ukelo Wanok
Board Member



Mohamed Mahamoud El-Sayed
Board Member



Rev. Peter Mawa Sabastian
Board Member



Ms NAMANSA Juliet Faith
BALABA
Board Member

Co-opted Gender Board Members



Ms. Ayna-lem Ashebir Gebrehiwor
Cluster One



Ms Jacinta M. A. Kapiyo
Cluster Two



Ms. Therese Kakule Katungu
Cluster Three

THE CIWA PROJECT

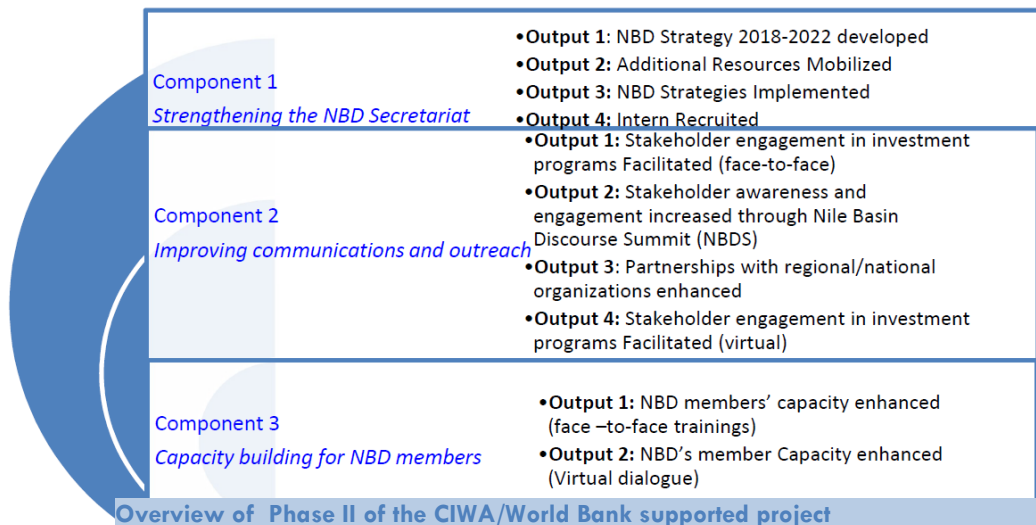
Background

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), Trust Fund administered by the World Bank (WB).

For NBD to build upon the results gained and deal with the emerging issues, CIWA/WB provided additional financial support of \$1 million (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:

- Develop the NBD Strategy 2018-2022;
- Increase stakeholder engagement in investment programs of the Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) sub-basin multi-purpose water resources development and management project, Nyimur-Aswa sub-basin project and the Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAF-II) project.
- Increase transboundary stakeholder engagements in key initiatives such as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD);



- Build capacity and raise awareness on enhanced participation of women in Nile basin development and cooperation, and resilience to impacts of climate change towards contributions to the fast-tracking of relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Critical need for reliable entry points at national level for spot-lighting emerging advocacy issues;
- The need for a Nile Discourse Summit to discuss emerging issues, share experience and innovative best practices;
- Mobilize resources to strengthen and enhance sustainability of the organization and its members.

Expected Result

The key expected 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 MILESTONES

Specific milestones under the additional funding include the following:

(a) Enhanced capacity of NBD Secretariat

Planned outputs under this milestone include:

- (i) NBD Strategy 2018-2022 developed and operationalized;
- (ii) Additional resources mobilized to sustain NBD financially;
- (iii) NBD's three Strategies implemented: Communications and outreach; Monitoring and Evaluation; and Financial Sustainability;
- (iv) Interns recruited.

(b) Improved Communication and outreach

Planned outputs include:

- (i) Face-to-face stakeholder engagement in investment programs facilitated. The programs include LEAF II, BAS and GERD.

- (ii) Participation in and partnerships with regional/national organizations increased using established platforms to advocate for trans-boundary water governance including:

- NBD-NDFs radio program (trans-boundary media-ring through radio on emerging issues on cooperation and development;
- Participating in NBI-Nile day to advocate for emerging issues and perspectives in the basin;
- Partnering and participating in NBI-Nile Basin Development Forum, NBI-Nile media awards, and IGAD – Water Dialogue Forum and Underground water program- focusing on IGAD-NBI member states;

- (iii) Virtual stakeholder engagement in investment programs facilitated. The virtual engagement includes: webinars, increasing user generated contents and engagements, posting and sharing

communiqués, and conducting social media campaigns on relevant issues.

(c) Capacity building for NBD Members and partners

Planned outputs under this milestone include:

- (i) Face-to-face national level trainings facilitated on gender equity, empowerment of women and young people as resilience champions-including experience-sharing on innovative ideas in efficient water resource use, linking women entrepreneurs to private sector involved in climate resilience, advocating for best practices to decision makers in the network with updated information to members;
- (ii) Capacity building training on CRM for South Sudan;
- (iii) Country entry-points through NDF national technical support experts revitalized to get their assistance regarding country-level activities;
- (iv) Webinars conducted to connect and guide members to use online resources related to capacity development and potential sources of fundraising for their work.



Participants in a capacity building session

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

COMPONENT-1: STRENGTHENING THE NBD SECRETARIAT

Output 1: NBD Strategy 2018-2022 developed and operationalized

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) launched its Strategy (2018-2022) development process in February 2017. An external consultant was hired to facilitate the process. The draft was presented to the NBD board, general assembly, and the Nile Basin Discourse Summit for inputs.

The final Strategy was approved by the General Assembly in November 2017 and the consultant submitted to the NBD secretariat in August 2018.

Output 2: Additional resources mobilized

Resources mobilization remains one of NBD's key priorities. During the year, NBD made resource mobilization engagements with various donor agencies and partners including the following:

(i) **IHE-DELFT:** NBD initiated partnership with IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, the largest international graduate water education facility in the world based in the Netherlands. Under the project, *Women and Water in Communities for Change*, NBD secured \$15,525 to implement activities in Tanzania and Uganda. NBD implemented the activities in the two countries back-to-back with its already planned capacity building on empowering women and youth. Selected IHE-DELFT project beneficiaries from Mabamba bay wetlands in Uganda and from Mara wetlands in Tanzania participated in the capacity building.



NBD in partnership with IHE DELFT conducting a WASH community learning caravan in Mabamba bay, Lake Victoria.

(ii) **European Union (EU):** NBD initiated talks with Jean-Baptiste Fauvel (Programme manager, EU delegation to Uganda) to know available opportunities and how best to position the NBD network to take advantage of those opportunities. The meeting took place on 3rd April 2018 in Kampala, Uganda. Fauvel promised to link NBD to respective EU representatives in the other riparian states for any potential engagement at national level.

(iii) **African Women's Development Fund:** NBD submitted a concept note, *Transforming Agricultural Value Chains of the Nyimur Basin Rural Economy to Work for Men and Women*, to African Women's Development Fund.

(iv) **IDRC-AusAID:** NBD submitted a concept note, *Strengthening Women and Youth Networks*, in response to a joint call for proposals issued by IDRC and AusAID on ensuring a food secure Africa. The concept note was submitted in partnership with Tanzania Home

Economics Association (TAHEA) and Resource Management and Policy Analysis Institute (REMPAI) of Kenya.

(v) **UK Aid Direct (Impact Grant):** In April 2018, NBD submitted a concept note, *Nature-based solutions for improving the lives of poor and marginalized communities around wetlands of the Nile Basin*, in response to a call for proposals by the UK Aid Direct funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

(vi) **U.S Department of State:** In June 2018, NBD submitted a proposal, *Increased Trans-boundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Blue Nile Basin*, to the U.S Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) Office of Environment, Conservation and Water.

(vii) **Prospects of a cost extension from World Bank:** NBD has developed three documents as cascaded exit strategies to be submitted to the current donor (CIWA/WB). The documents explore the possibility of re-engaging World Bank on prospects of a cost extension. The cascaded exit strategies were:

- (a) A fully-fledged three-year project ending in 2022;
- (b) A one-year (2019) cost extension covering staff salaries with some additional activities;
- (c) A one-year cost extension covering staff salaries for 2019 to complete the remaining activities of the existing project.

Output 3: NBD strategies implemented

- **Communications and outreach strategy:** The strategy was successfully implemented. IEC materials were printed and distributed. Relatedly, the quarterly

e-Newsletter (*Nile Voices*) was shared, user-generated contents were gathered from NDFs and posted on the website, webinars were conducted in addition to undertaking social media campaigns among other activities.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy:** The M&E strategy was successfully implemented. The online M&E system is functional with data for indicators (at goal, outcome, output and activities) entered and computed. The data collecting and reporting template, which is inbuilt into the system, is being used by the NDFs.

Output 4: Internship recruited

Since 2017, efforts have been made to recruit young professionals from the basin countries to contribute towards implementation of planned activities in the 2017 and 2018 workplans. In 2017, the NBD secretariat developed and sent out terms of reference to all the NDFs. Only D.R. Congo, Rwanda and Sudan responded by sending one candidate each. The NBD secretariat set up a panel and interviews were conducted via skype. However, none of the candidates fulfilled the requirements.

For 2018, the NBD secretariat made some proposals. The proposals, awaiting presentation to the executive committee of the NBD Board, include:

- (a) Change the title 'Intern' to 'Volunteer'. This will provide a wider (global/regional) scope of participants other than limiting it to NDFs;
- (b) Solely consider an international volunteer from organisations such as Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and/or AIESEC. This was premised on the fact an intern would be unable to perform the duties effectively due to the magnitude of the task at hand (fundraising) for this years' intake.

COMPONENT 2: IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

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

Trans-boundary stakeholder engagement for LEAF II project: NBD in collaboration with the NDFs in Uganda and the D. R. Congo organized a transboundary communities' engagement workshop on the Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAF-II) project. The workshop which brought together 65 participants (women 17; men-48) was conducted on 7th December 2018 at Hotel Vienna, Mpondwe - Bwera, Uganda.

The workshop participants included: representatives of local communities from Uganda and D.R. Congo, district political leaders and local government representatives from both countries, members of border security from Uganda, leaders and technical support experts of the NDFs from both countries, representatives of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NEL-SAP) of NBI, and LEAF II project coordinators from both countries.

The participants issued a three-pager declaration as the way forward. The detailed Bwera Declaration is published in the NBD's website. In summary, the Bwera declaration made recommendations premised on four key tenets:

- Improving and strengthening politico-technical and people-to-people cooperation between Uganda and D. R. Congo;
- Project management and capacity to follow-up, monitor/review the progress, and timely address challenges;
- Technology choice for catchment restoration/river banks protection and livelihoods improvement;
- Institutionalization of cooperation (legal, institutional, policy set up for sustainable cooperation) between Uganda and D.R. Congo.

The LEAF II project seeks to support sustainable use of fisheries and the water resources and facilitates the general bilateral cooperation between the anglophone and francophone countries of (Uganda and D.R. Congo respectively) which have shared resources but lacking harmonized policies and strategies on the utilization and management of those shared resources.

"Recognizing that cooperation between Uganda and D. R. Congo under the umbrella of the NBI, local community involvement is feasible, possible and necessary to address pressing problems facing communities/populations, environments and economies of the two countries. We commend the commitment of the Governments of the two countries to ensure full benefits of basin populations and stakeholders in the project area through sustainable and meaningful cooperation".

BWERA DECLARATION



Participants in the transboundary stakeholder engagement for LEAF II

Trans-boundary stakeholder engagement for Baro-Akobo-Sobat sub-basin project: The trans-boundary stakeholders' consultation workshop on the Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) multi-purpose water resources development and management project was organized on the 20th December 2018 by NBD in collaboration with the NDFs of Ethiopia and South Sudan. The workshop took place in Berlottue Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

"We call upon The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) to build capacities and create awareness of projects' beneficiaries and stakeholders so that they could and would make meaningful participation and informed decisions on the implementation of the projects"

ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION

A total of 27 participants (Women 3; Men 24) representing local communities from the Baro-Akobo-Sobat sub-basin in South Sudan and Ethiopia, government representatives from both countries, management and staff of the NDFs of the two countries, NBD Secretariat, and representatives of ENTRO and NBI attended the workshop.

At the end of the consultative workshop, participants issued a declaration as the way forward in which

strengths, limitations and actions to be taken to quick start project implementation as well as the expected roles of each stakeholder in, and contributions to, the success of the project were clearly stipulated. The Addis Ababa Declaration urged the governments of Ethiopia and South Sudan to:

- Commit enough resources to implement the projects identified by the BAS feasibility study to address the dire needs of local communities in the sub-basin;
- Harmonize policies and strategies both at the transboundary and national levels to ensure integrated water resources development and management in the sub-basin with multi-sector inclusivity;
- Involve relevant local government authorities and other local stakeholders in the BAS project cycle management.

Output 2: Participation in and partnerships with regional/national organizations enhanced

• Regional Nile Day Celebrations, 2018

NBD joined the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the rest of the Nile riparian states for the 12th regional Nile day celebrations on 22nd February 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme "*The Nile: Shared River, Collective Actions*," highlighting the significance



NBD staff marching during the 2018 Nile Day celebrations

of acting together for the safety, prosperity, and wellbeing of the Nile communities and of the River itself.

The Ethiopian NDF was part of the national organizing committee in Ethiopia, while the NBD secretariat worked as a member of the regional organizing committee spearheaded by the Nile-Sec in Entebbe, Uganda. Participants were drawn from Nile basin governments, diplomatic community, development partners, researchers, academia, CSOs, and members of the public. The participants marched from Meskel Square to the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) where the event took place.

Guest of Honor, Ethiopian President Mulatu Teshome, said, “Nile is a water scarce river, and hence one has to learn to use it wisely, responsibly, and collectively, in which case Nile Cooperation is not an option but it is a must.”

“Each and every riparian country has a legitimate right to use the river Nile. They should stand together to gain more out of it. No alternative to structured and regular dialogue-no short cut but long and deepening as the river itself.”

Ambassador Rolf Wilbert
German special envoy to the Nile region

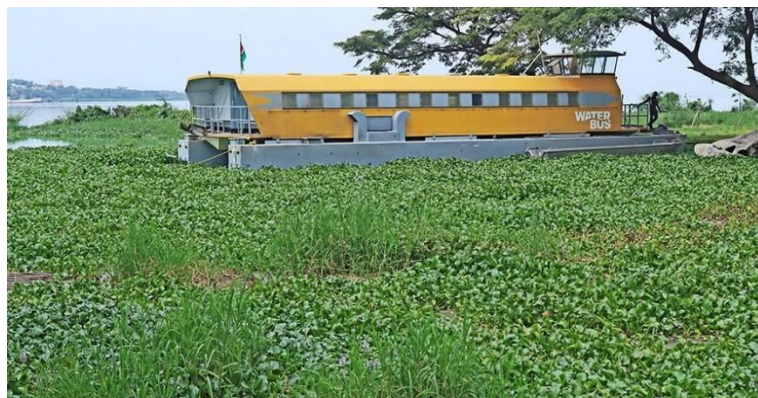
NBD Secretary-general Donald Kasongi, on behalf of Board Chair Prof. Muawia Shaddad, reiterated NBD’s readiness and willingness to continue working closely with different stakeholders in the Nile basin to foster cooperation and support initiatives that enhance optimal and collective sharing of Nile resources.

Output 3: Stakeholder engagement in investment programs facilitated (virtual)

- **User-generated contents for member engagement increased-one from each country per month:** During 2018, NBD secretariat collected 97 user-generated contents from the NDFs. The collection represents over 80% progress of the targeted user-generated contents from all the NDFs. Ethiopia has never sent any user-generated content to NBD while South Sudan only contributed user-generated content for the month of May 2018 despite repeated reminders from the Regional M&E officer.

The content covered several topics including protecting the environment through tree planting, disaster prevention, income generating activities for local communities to improve livelihoods, women’s rights, engagement of youth in waste management and challenges and opportunities of the water hyacinth in the Nile basin. Other topics include: transboundary lakes management in the basin, prevention of water pollution, climate change impacts and mitigation/adaptation measures, food and nutrition security among others.

The user generated contents were reviewed by the secretariat staff and uploaded on the community blog of the NBD website.



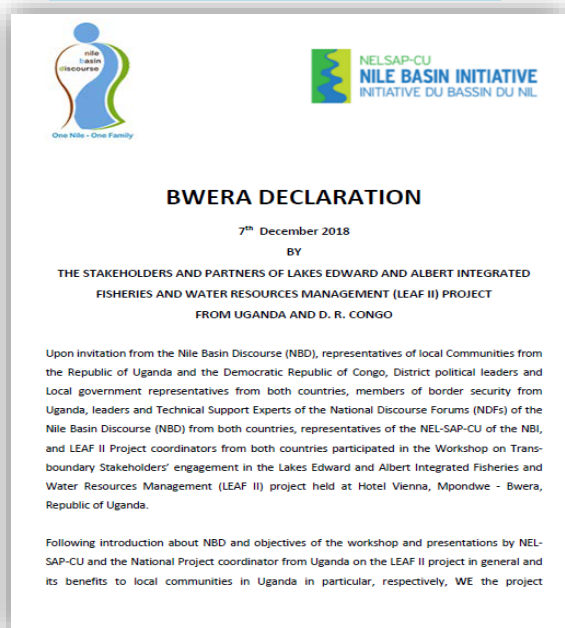
The water hyacinth on Lake Victoria, which is the source of River Nile

• **Communiqués posted and shared:**

During the year, NBD issued two communiqués which were posted on the website. The communiqués were issued at the end of transboundary stakeholder consultations on the LEAF II and BAS projects on the 7th and 20th December 2018 respectively.



The Addis Ababa Communiqué



The Bwera Communiqué

• **Conducting social media campaigns**

NBD conducted one social media campaign during the year on the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence under the theme “*Strengthening women participation in water decision making in Nile basin.*”

Members, partners and friends of the Nile participated in the campaign through online tweets. The NBD social media campaign used the hashtag #OneNileOneFamily. A total of 653,618 twitter users were engaged through the hashtag. About 1200 individuals directly tweeted on the issue, increasing the total number of NBD’s tweets on @nilebasin.



A screenshot of the social media campaigns on @nilebasin

Component 3: Capacity building for NBD members Output 1: NBD members' capacity enhanced (face – to-face trainings):

• **Country level capacity building**

NBD facilitated trainings on gender equality, empowerment of women and young people as climate resilience champions in the Nile basin. The trainings aimed at making selected women and youth climate change resilience champions by building their capacity

to help them create green jobs. To guide the trainings, NBD used the in-country climate change experts already engaged under the NBD-CIWA/WB Phase I project.

In Tanzania and Uganda, NBD in partnership with IHE-Delft, implemented the *Women and Water in Communities for Change* project. Under this partnership, NBD reached out to 11 participants from Uganda's Mabamba Bay Wetlands, and 10 from Tanzania's Mara Wetlands.



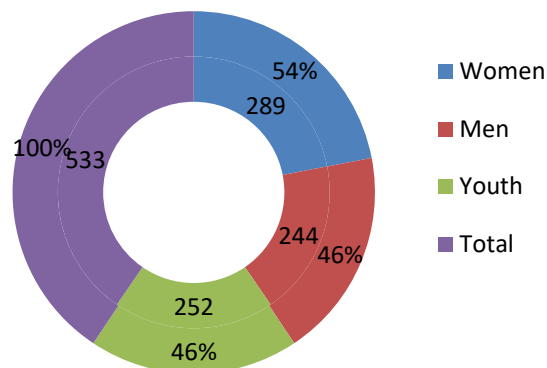
Participants in a capacity building session

• **Links with the country entry-points for NDF national technical support**

NBD maintained links with the National Technical Support Experts (NTSEs) for all the 10 NDFs. The NTSEs:

- Spearheaded the preparation and organization of the in-country capacity building sessions;
- Wrote workshop reports;
- facilitated the increase in monthly in-country user-generated contents and engagements;
- Encouraged (and some recruited) potential CSOs to join the NBD network;

Capacity building trainings for Women and Youth in 9 N



- Contributed to data and information/evidence collection for NBD's web-based monitoring and evaluation system.

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

NBD prepared a training video, *Introduction to funding and donor trends* to build the capacity of its members on resources mobilization. An expert was commissioned to prepare a power point presentation and video footage which was finally posted on YouTube on the 11th September 2018.

Some of the aspects covered in the training video include: basic terms and steps related to fundraising, a typical funding agency's funding cycle, broad trends in NGO project funding coupled with and where how to identify funding opportunities. The trainees are advised to design adaptive fundraising strategies, bearing in mind, the changing donor trends.

KEY CHALLENGES

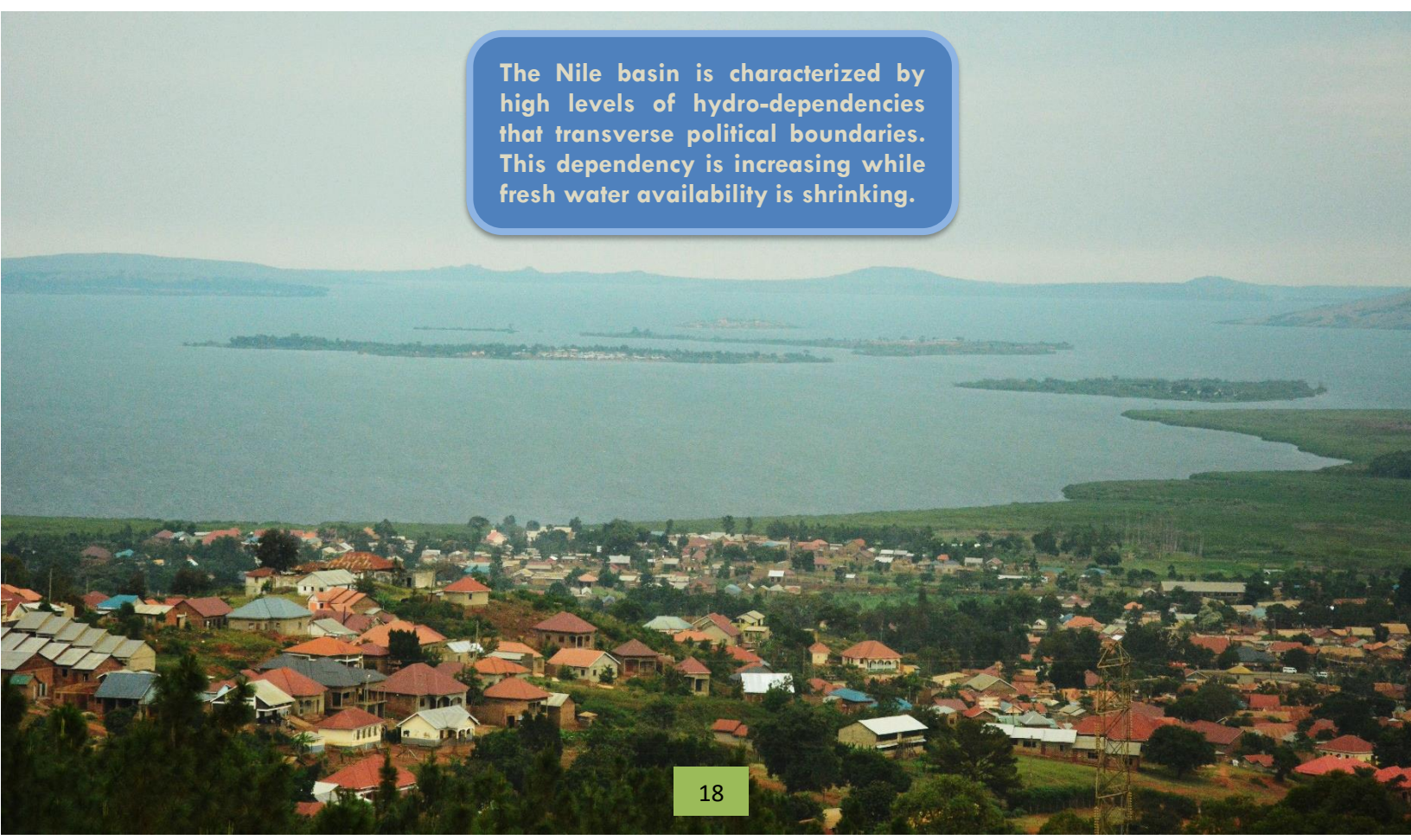
- Although NBD Secretariat got support from NTSEs in most NDFs, it lacked dedicated full-time coordinators/ staffs for all NDFs resulting from resource limitations. This has negatively impacted activities of the NBD network.
- Communication flow and information sharing between the secretariat and network members is limited and intermittent. This trend has constrained NBD from operating in a fully-fledged capacity for better impact in the basin.
- Resource mobilization has remained a critical challenge for the NBD network.
- Achieving results from advocacy efforts requires time and a sustainable funding base. NBD's sustainability remains a major challenge requiring utmost attention by all the concerned parties (NBD management, members, basin governments, and development partners).

Recommendation

Addressing the above challenges requires:

- The NBD network should look beyond the MoUs signed with NBI and its SAPs. It should as well focus on the Nile resources and communities linking with national governments.
- Resource mobilization should be prioritized at all levels: board, secretariat and NDF. The uniqueness of the NBD networks' operational engagements (policy advocacy, awareness raising, capacity building) should be appreciated. As such, advocacy ought to be combined with physical investment.

Some of the core expenses of the NBD network mandate can be covered by the increased overhead cost from any funds as per the revised NBD Finance and Administration manual.



The Nile basin is characterized by high levels of hydro-dependencies that transverse political boundaries. This dependency is increasing while fresh water availability is shrinking.

FINANCIAL SECTION

STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES FOR THE NBD CIWA/WB, GRANT No. TF015834 AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

Particulars	2018	2017
	USD	USD
At start of year	-28,403.98	158.51
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	57,284.89	-28,562.49
At end of period	28,880.91	-28,403.98
Represented by:		
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	61,881.21	-37.46
Receivables	395.00	1,011.99
	62,276.21	974.53
Current liabilities		
Payables	33,395.30	29,378.51
Net current assets	28,880.91	-28,403.98



**JASPER-SEMU
& ASSOCIATES**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
(7th Floor, Conrad Plaza Plot 22, Entebbe RD)

NBD CIWA WB Grant No. TF015834
Report and financial statements
for the period ended 31 December 2018

P. O. Box 8294 Tel: +256-414-231577 / 250177 / +256-393-262632 E-mail: jasper@infocom.co.ug KAMPALA, UGANDA

7.0 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT IN RESPECT TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NBD CIWA/WB GRANT NO TF015834 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

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 (ECSSCRNBP) which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018, the statements of comprehensive income for the twelve months period ended 31 December 2018, and the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes as set out on pages 23 to 26.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the project for the year ended 31 December 2018 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. TF015834.

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

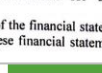
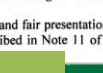
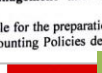
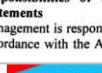
These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis because The Nile Basin Discourse secured funding of US\$ 1 million from the World Bank through the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) covering a 3 year period, 2017 – 2019 to implement the "Engaging the Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin Project". As The Nile Basin Discourse is continuously implementing the 2019 activity work plan, the organization is in advanced stages with the World Bank to access more funding so as to implement both newly introduced activities and ongoing activities at least for the next 12 months.

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



NBD REGIONAL SECRETARIAT STAFF

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Regional Manager

Herbert Wairugala

Regional Finance and Administration
Officer

Ayenew Tessera Fenta

Regional Monitoring and Evaluation
Officer

Jennifer Kurubeija

Regional Program Administrator

Fidele Niyigaba

Regional Communication and Media
Officer

Mathias Nyanzi

Regional ICT and Social Media
Officer



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



Our Contacts

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