



Nile Voices



1st Quarter 2015

■ ■ ■ ■ ► Nile Basin Discourse

Message to Readers

Dear Readers,

In the 1st Quarter of 2015, the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) has been engaged in mainly three areas, namely: (i) Stakeholder Mapping of the NBD/NDF member CSOs/NGOs, their partners and community in Cluster I countries of Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia (ii) Cooperation on the Nile; and (iii) Capacity building of NBD/NDF member CSOs/NGOs, partners and community on climate risk management. The NBD conducted its first national stakeholder mapping exercise in Khartoum – Sudan on February 23rd 2015.

The mapping in the three countries was coordinated and facilitated by a team of experts drawn from the NBD Secretariat and the respective National Discourse Forums. The Mapping exercise was launched in Sudan as a cost-effective mechanism by combining staff travel to and fro with the regional Nile day celebrations that took place in Sudan from 21-22 February 2015.

In a day-long stakeholder workshop, the NBD was able to perform and deliberate on three interrelated issues:

- First, undertaking the stakeholder mapping exercise, in order to understand their interests, relationships, capacities and communication modes.
- Second, creating a discussion platform on the issue of cooperation on the Nile, in collaboration with the NBI, to enhance public awareness and emphasize benefits of Nile cooperation to the basin communities
- Third, building the capacities of NBD/NDF member CSOs/NGOs, partners and community on climate risk management with the aim of engaging CSOs in social and climate change resilience.

Over 100 stakeholders drawn from the Nile Discourse Forums (NDFs) comprising of current and potential member CSOs/NGOs, members from communities, together with partners from the government, private sector, universities and development partners were all in attendance during the stakeholder mapping and capacity building exercises.

In this quarter, NBD keenly participated in activities related to cooperation on the Nile, where it joined the NBI and the rest of the Nile riparian states for the celebrations of the 9th Nile day that took place on 21st and 22nd February 2015 in Khartoum, Sudan.

In addition, NBD contributed to the process and discussions towards the Nile Basin media awards slated to take place in Dodoma –Tanzania in June 2015. In collaboration with NBI, GWP-EA, GIZ, DW Radio, NBD confirmed that at the June 2015 media awards, it planned to award one of the winners in radio media.

NBD ear-marked the radio media as it enhances access to grass root communities in the Nile basin that neither have the luxury of reading news papers, nor have total access to them, but only access local radio broadcasts.

“The wave length of a radio in a room reaches every ear that can hear”

Dr. Hellen Natu, NBD Regional Manager

Nile Basin Discourse launches stakeholder mapping

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) has planned to undertake the stakeholder mapping exercise for its ten member countries namely, Burundi, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

In this quarter, the NBD conducted stakeholder mapping in Sudan (Feb. 23rd), South Sudan (March 23rd - 24th), and Ethiopia (March 26th - 27th).



The consultant Dr. John Mburu with Stakeholders during the Stakeholder Mapping in Khartoum, Sudan



Focus Group discussion during Stakeholder Mapping in Ethiopia

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NBD undertook the exercises with the objective of building a broad picture of the stakeholders including civil society organizations and networks, partners and community members working on issues of/in Nile cooperation and development initiatives and how they are evolving; assess the extent of linkages and coordination, if any, between these entities.

The mapping generally is expected to identify gaps in the current Nile Basin stakeholder engagement processes, gather ideas from the stakeholders on how NBD can best coordinate in order promote Nile cooperation and development initiatives, develop partnerships, coalitions for developing and managing stakeholder engagement, map existing expertise by themes, geographical area and the type of activity, identify existing gaps and opportunities (funding, political support, capacity), assess existing interventions to fill the gaps and take advantage of the opportunities.

During the stakeholder mapping in all the three countries, key issues considered were: membership and geographical coverage or the eco-mapping, participation



Stakeholder Mapping Participants in South Sudan

in Nile Basin activities, benefits from NDF, NBD and NBI, governance and leadership issues, engagement processes and service delivery to members, challenges and constraints, support and coordination linkages, information and communication strategies, funding and political support, related capacities, social inclusion- (youth, gender and the vulnerable persons).

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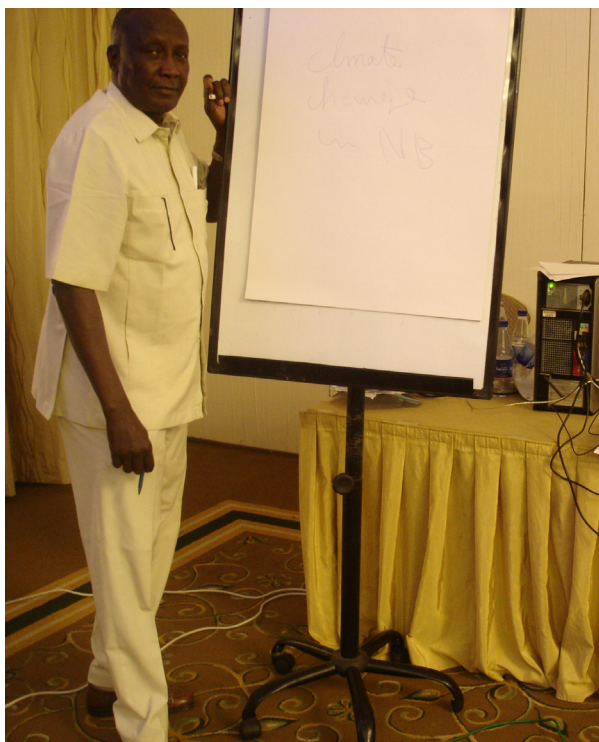
NBD Team during the Nile Day 2015 celebrations in Khartoum, Sudan



Children joined celebrations of the Nile Day 2015

Preparing for the worst: NBD Builds capacity of stakeholders on climate risk management

During the first quarter of 2015, the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) has ensured that Nile Discourse Forum member CSOs, NGOs, partners and community representatives from Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia are equipped with knowledge on the fundamentals of climate change, climate change adaptation, Climate Risk Management (CRM), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR/M) and the need for integrating



Capacity Building, Sudan



Capacity Building, South Sudan



Capacity Building, Ethiopia

the CRM and DRR/M. This happened in tandem with the stakeholder mapping workshop that took place in each of the countries on days scattered in the months of February and March 2015.

The NBD organized the capacity building with the intention of developing an understanding of the concept and practical implementation of CRM, and the role CSOs can play in CRM and DRR.

Speaking during one of the workshops, the NBD Regional Manager Dr. Hellen Natu called on participants to own the awareness creation aimed at reducing the risks of climate change, as CSOs had obligations in the process. “We all have an obligation, as CSOs, to take into action and also contribute to the different dialogs about reducing the climate change risks. Don’t wait for the government to take action alone and ask what the government is doing?” She stated.

In the three countries, NBD built capacities of over a 100 stakeholders (mainly CSOs/NGOs). The stakeholders present, gained basic knowledge and understanding on the basics of climate, climate change, impacts of climate change both global and country specific. The training highlighted the element of social inclusivity, mainly gender and vulnerable communities in climate risk management.

Nile Day 2015: Water and Improved Livelihoods opportunities in Nile Cooperation

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) joined the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the rest of the Nile riparian states in Khartoum, Sudan on 22nd February 2015. The NBD and NBI spearheaded the preparations for the annual event in collaboration with the government of the host country-Sudan.

The Sudan National Discourse Forum (SNDF), an arm of NBD, played a key role in the National Organizing Committee (NOC) while NBD Secretariat closely collaborated with the Nile-Secretariat in Entebbe, Uganda for a successful event.

During the event, the NBD represented by the Board Chairman, Mr. Habiyaemye Jean Baptiste, firmly assured the audience of NBD's commitment to support cooperation on the Nile for the improvement of livelihoods in the basin. ...“Our collaboration is to foster Nile cooperation. Now we are here today, to strengthen our partnership with all stakeholders of the Nile basin countries, and to show the existing added value of CSOs participation in programs and projects in the Nile basin,”... stressed the Board Chairman.

NBD joined the rest in a public procession, enjoyable display of boat-racing, tree planting and a touristic boat-luncheon on the Nile.

NBD also used this opportunity, during the exhibition, to showcase its experiences and achievements with strong emphasis in offering public platforms for evidence-based dialogue, partnerships, and cooperation in the Nile Basin.



NBD Board Chairman Habiyaemye Jean Baptiste during the Nile Day 2015 celebrations

NBD's publicity and voice was boosted during the Nile day event because in attendance were the Nile Basin countries' Water Ministers, including representatives from Egypt, development partners, and Government officials of the Republic of Sudan. The celebrations were officiated by the guest of honor, who welcomed the Egyptian delegation for coming back on board and urged all riparian states to continue working together towards achieving Nile cooperation.

This year's Nile day's theme was dedicated to “Water and improved livelihoods - opportunities in Nile cooperation.” The theme reflected directly on the first objective of NBD which is to “Support initiatives for sustainable integrated river basin management at all levels for livelihood improvement & development in the basin.”

NBD put its emphasis on the link of water, livelihoods and economic development as key factors to achieving the sustainable development of communities in riparian states, looking at cooperation as the only option for the management and development of the limited Nile resources.

NBD keen to nurture Nile Cooperation

NBD created a platform for discussion on the benefits of Nile cooperation during the stakeholder mapping workshops in three of the cluster 1 countries. NBD invited NBI to present the processes of cooperation in the Nile including the opportunities and challenges existing in the Nile Basin.

Opportunities highlighted included but not limited to: fishing, availability of fresh water, wetlands, fauna and flora. In addition, it was indicated that the basin had significant potential for hydropower and power trade, improving rain-fed and irrigated agricultural land, water storage, tourism, managing shared risks, broader economic regional integration, and promotion of regional peace and security.

In terms of challenges, it was highlighted that there is lack of sufficient trust (perception versus facts), high population growth that increases demand on scarce resources, the limited basin-wide information on hydrology, meteorology, socio-economic data, the threatened wetlands, soil loss, and land degradation.

To remedy this, setting common principles, standards, and codes of conduct, procedures and regulation of basin resources as well as developing regional capacity and cross-scale learning in responding to challenges were seen as necessary.

Finally, it was underlined that partnering with NBD provided NBI with a platform for discussion, communicating benefits of cooperation, disseminating accurate information to stakeholders to mitigate negative perceptions, and collecting views and feedback for the attention of NBI on policies, programs and projects to benefit communities in the basin.



Ms Dorothy Kaggwa, NBI Head Strategic Planning and Management.

NBD Secretariat strengthened

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) was strengthened with new staff in the department of communication and media with the recruitment of Fidele Niyigaba as NBD's Regional Communication and Media Officer and Mathias Nyanzi as NBD's Regional ICT and Social Media Officer.



Niyigaba Fidele, NBD regional Communication and Media Officer

Fidele joined NBD with a wide-working experience in communication and journalism both at National and International levels. His working background is mainly in media and NGOs. Fidele has got a 7 year-experience in media including 6 years of communication experience working in NGO environment. Before joining the NBD he was working as country communication officer for water, climate and development programs run by Global Water Partnership East Africa.



Mathias Nyanzi, NBD regional ICT and Social Media Officer

Mathias joined NBD with a wealth of experience in the ICT field. He is highly skilled in web-related technology, enterprise computing and social media.

Prior to this appointment Mathias worked with the Refugee law Project, School of law - Makerere University as the IT Supervisor and with the Uganda Charitable and Benevolent Teamwork - Lugazi as IT Officer.

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Activity	Venue	Time
Consultative Meeting on the draft of Stakeholder mapping report-Cluster 1	Nairobi , Kenya	April, 2015
NBD participation in World Water Forum 2015	Korea	April , 2015
Stakeholder mapping and capacity building	Egypt	May, 2015
Stakeholder mapping and capacity building	Rwanda	May , 2015
Stakeholder mapping and capacity building	Uganda	May , 2015
Stakeholder mapping and capacity building	Kenya	May , 2015
Stakeholder mapping and capacity building	Tanzania	May, 2015
Stakeholder mapping and capacity building	Burundi	June, 2015
Nile Media Awards	Tanzania	June, 2015
NILE - COM meeting	Tanzania	June, 2015





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