



# Nile Voices



3rd QUARTER: July - September 2015

▶ Nile Basin Discourse

## Message to Readers

Dear Readers.

Welcome to the Nile Voices of the 3rd quarter 2015. The issue contains briefs on: the emerging issues out of the D. R. Congo as a concluding country in NBD stakeholder mapping and the capacity building on climate risk management of July 2015, the September 2015 workshop that discussed the draft stakeholder mapping report that covered in details data and information scoped out by the exercise undertaken in ten NBRS.

In the same period, NBD forged partnerships with two centres of the NBI that focus on Subsidiary Action Programs (SAPs) namely ENTRO and NELCU. In the case of ENTRO, an MoU was signed on 31st July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia while the case of NELSAP, a Letter of Agreement (LoA), as an annex to the existing NBD-NBI MoU, was signed 15th September 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda. Both the MoU and the LoA have similar understandings with the roles of NBD touching on grassroots community inclusivity at planning and implementation of project. The parties are to collaboratively facilitate consultations, outreach communications and discourse platforms on cooperation on the Nile

Dear readers, hear the Nile Voices and a warm welcome to the website  
[www.nilebasindiscourse.org](http://www.nilebasindiscourse.org).

Dr. Hellen Natu,  
 NBD Regional Manager

## Vulnerable communities' inclusivity: A key issue out of D.R. Congo

The issues of vulnerable communities' inclusivity ranked high at the mapping of D.R. Congo CSOs members. During the stakeholder mapping which took place in a period that ended on 10th July 2015, participants had the opportunity to raise and discuss emerging concerns. The aim was to understand the interests, relationships, capacities, and communication modes within the CSOs members of the NDF and its partners. At the workshop, it was learned that in D.R. Congo, there are laws and policies focusing on environment and basin water resources protection.



Participants at the Stakeholder mapping report in D.R. Congo, July 2015.

The challenge however, has been the implementation, especially the inclusivity of the vulnerable communities in activities of environment and water resources management and Nile cooperation. The NDF through its CSOs members is making effort to geographically cover the basin in the implementation of activities. This is the D.R. Congo Nile Basin area that stretches from Goma (North-Kivu) to Aru (Ituri) and includes six territories: Rutshuru, Lubero, Beni (North-Kivu) Djugu, Irumu and Mahagi (Ituri). The members of the D. R. Congo NDF are clustered in three physical focal areas (Bunia, Butembo and Rutshuru) and each focal area contributes

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representatives to the large thirteen member steering committee of the NDF Office in Butembo.

In addition to the mapping, the D.R. Congo NDF's CSOs members and partners got insight into climate risk management (CRM) and disaster risk reduction (DRR), through the peer to peer capacity building. This was by an in- country expert identified by the NDF to build capacity using a module that was prepared in collaboration with the NBD Secretariat and World Bank.

In conclusion and looking at the mapping results, high ranked key issues that emerged from D.R. Congo were:

- Vulnerable community inclusivity: The NDF has been finding it a challenge incorporating the vulnerable communities such as the pigmy people, in their activities and yet this community is very important in the conservation of the water catchment areas.
- Insecurity in the country hinders free movement of NDF CSOs limiting their scope of activities to certain geographical areas of their coverage.

## NBD browses to the new page intensifying sub-regional cooperation on the Nile.

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) are committed to bilateral efforts on development projects, programs and policies for cooperation in the NEL region. The commitment was strengthened by the signing of a 4 year Letter of Agreement (LoA), as an Annex to the NBD-NBI MoU, on 15th September 2015. Through the LoA, both parties agree to partner in improving the engagement of grassroots communities' participation in development agendas on cooperation in the NEL region. The cornerstone of the partnership is the creation of dialogue platforms at grassroots level for communication and consultations.



**NBD and NELSAP agreeing on the Understandings of the NBD-NELSAP LoA in the presence of the NBD Board Chair Habiaryemye Jean Baptiste (left, third from the foreground)**

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**NBD and NELSAP discussing the LoA in the presence of the NBD Regional Manager, Dr Hellen Natu (right, first in foreground) and NELCU Regional Coordinator Eng. Elicad Elly Nyabeeya (left, second from foreground)**

Signing the LoA led to the two organizations embarking on grassroots consultations on the NBI/NELSAP Nyimur multipurpose water resources development project, which is at its initial development stage. This is a trans-boundary project between Uganda and South Sudan. In Nyimur case, the NBD's CSOs' role is to inform and listen to the voices of grassroots communities of the two countries, on emerging issues, for vertical communication to the decision makers.

# NBD completes 10 Nile Basin Countries' Stakeholder Mapping, 2015



Participants during the presentation of the draft Stakeholder Mapping Report in Kampala, September 2015

The Nile Basin Discourse's stakeholder mapping exercise of 2015 is now complete for the ten Nile Basin countries namely: Burundi, D. R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, with issues of vulnerable communities' inclusivity, bottom-up communication, stakeholder capacity building on cooperation on the Nile, emerging with emphasis. The draft report was presented at a workshop which formed a platform of different stakeholders and development partners that took place on September 7th 2015 in Kampala, Uganda. The platform brought together participants especially CSOs from all the ten countries, the NBD board members and staff, the representatives of NBI Secretariat and its SAP centers of ENTRO and NELCU, Government representatives, IGAD, BORDA, GWP-Eastern Africa and other development partners in Nile Basin region.

Results of the mapping have led to the understanding of the networks, their membership and interrelations between stakeholders. The report brings out the need for intensified outreach communication on Nile cooperation and development agendas, as well as the opportunities and emerging issues of CSOs engagement in development on Nile water resources

A deep dive in the report shows that the exercise mapped the members both actual and potential by their expertise in relation to Nile cooperation, the geographical coverage whether local, national or international, the stakeholder areas of inclination in the

water sector and water-related sectors of agriculture, energy etc, and the inclusivity of the gender, youth and vulnerable communities.

At the September 7th 2015 workshop, participants were informed and discussed the primary findings. The same platform created a guided-discussion arena for deeper thinking and exchange of views on the findings as contributions towards finalization of the report especially on the (i) actual situation of membership; (ii) the opportunities and the emerging issues, linkages and coordination in stakeholder engagement, social and gender inclusion, and the political enabling environment.

**"...issues of vulnerable communities' inclusivity, bottom-up communication, stakeholder capacity building on cooperation on the Nile, emerged with emphasis."**

Taking opportunity of the wide spectrum of participants at the platform, the discussions benefited from thematic groups of experts present, who discussed: the road map for both vertical and horizontal communications and the linkage with stakeholders, especially to strengthen the bottom up movement of issues, and the trans-boundary element, gender inclusion, and further capacity building on climate change issues.

The following day September 8th 2015, the NBD Board followed up with a meeting held in Kampala, Uganda which agreed on milestones towards finalization of the stakeholder mapping report with policy briefs on high-ranked issues, before end of 2015.



## NBD and ENTRO Partner to Enhance Grassroots Consultations



**Dr Hellen Natu, NBD Regional Manager and Mr. Fekahmed Negash, ENTRO Executive Director signing the MoU**

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) and NBI's Eastern Nile Regional Technical Office (ENTRO) are partnering to strengthen grassroots community consultations at projects planning and implementation through an MoU signed on 31st July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The MoU strengthens the engagement of NBD civil society organizations' participation in communication and consultation of grassroots communities of the Eastern Nile member states namely Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan.

The engagement focuses on various joint commitments including the creation of dialogue platforms to promote cooperation in the region, community awareness and public participation on development process among others.

## Securing Women in Nile Basin is Essential for Enhanced Livelihood.

The Nile Basin Discourse is to promote gender balance in leadership of CSOs to increase female gender participation and inclusion in the Nile Basin development and water resources management. This is a follow up on the results emanating from the stakeholder mapping in the ten Nile riparian countries. According to the report, more than 75% of the CSOs and NGOs in the countries are led by men when both actual and potential National Discourse Forum members are considered. There is no country which has achieved 50% of gender balance in leadership; the closest being Kenya with 45% of the CSOs being led by female leaders.



**Thematic Group guided by Lesha Witmer, Senior Expert BORDA, discussing female gender inclusivity in the Nile water resources management and cooperation on the Nile, Kampala – Uganda September 2015.**

The problem of gender imbalance is most critical in Burundi where women leaders can only be found in 5% and 7% of the actual and potential member CSOs, respectively. Other critical countries are Sudan, Ethiopia

Egypt and Tanzania where women leaders are less than 26% in both cases of actual and potential members. NBD's concern is the low percentage (below 18%) of women-led organizations among the actual member CSOs in Burundi (5%), Ethiopia (8%), Egypt (17%) and Sudan (17%).

Based on the report, it was established that in Kenya, where 45% of the actual CSOs have women as leaders, 80% of the organizations are grass root community based organizations (CBOs). These organizations are easy to create since they just require registration with local government bodies. They are also easy to lead. Thus, their leadership can easily be taken up women who mainly operate near homesteads in rural areas and multi-task in other duties such as taking care of farms and small livestock, children and household chores. However, NBD is concerned with how effective such organizations are when it comes to participation on discourse platforms on Nile water resources management, or issues of cooperation on the Nile.









## In the next Issue

Activity	Venue
Final report of Stakeholder mapping report validated	Uganda
NBD participates in COP21	France
Rwanda NDF presents the report of on Community Based Climate Change adaptations (CBCCA)	Rwanda
NBD sidewalks: Tesmonies...	Rwanda
NBD in Nyimur grassroots consultations - South Sudan	Uganda
NBD at the finalization of the Baro-Akobo - Sobat communication and consultation Report	Sudan
Plan 2016	Uganda





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