



Nile Voices

4th QUARTER: October - December 2015

Message to Readers

Dear Readers,

Quarter four of 2015, saw the Nile Basin Discourse and the member National Discourse Forums of Nile Basin Riparian states, focused more and more on issues of collaborative communication and consultation of grassroots communities.

In collaboration with others, the NBD embarked on community consultations on the Nyimur Trans-boundary Project, which is shared between Lamwo District - Uganda and Magwi County, Eastern Equatorial State - South Sudan. The discourse focused on informing communities about the project and further consultation on any likely issues regarding the project. A number of issues emerged from the communities that needed to be addressed from the onset and throughout the project process.

In the same period, the NBD contributed to discussions towards the finalization of the Communication and Consultation Plan of the Baro-Akobo-Sobat Project. This was at a meeting held in Khartoum Sudan. At the meeting, NBD's pivotal role in the communication and consultations at different levels was emphasized.

At the beginning of November 2015, the NBD benefitted from the guidance on Project technical and financial management by a CIWA/World Bank mission team.



Dr. Hellen NATU

In the same quarter, the Rwanda National Discourse Forum, one of the NDF members of NBD presented the results of a concluded EU project that had run for two years. Its focus had been on climate change adaptation to enhance livelihood of communities. With guidance from the NDF and its CSOs members, and by using assets that communities possessed to adapt to climate change, their livelihoods were enhanced.

Enjoy reading!

Quote of the quarter

“When seeking truth, consider the other view” Hellen Natu

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NBD Engaging Communities Consultations NYIMUR Project



Communities in Lamwo District at consultations on the Access Road to Project Area of NYIMUR project/ Photo Courtesy Herbert Wairugala-NBD

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) and the Governments of Uganda and South Sudan start community consultations on the Nyimur Trans-boundary Project. The project is shared between two countries, in Lamwo District - Uganda and Magwi County, Eastern Equatorial State -South Sudan.

It is supposed to provide a community based irrigation scheme, water reservoir, water supply system, small hydropower, and water and soil conservation components. With the support of NBD and the Government of Uganda and South Sudan, and NELSAP a series of meetings took place creating dialogue to promote the cooperation and public participation in the initial studies and the actual implementation of the Nyimur Project.

Both countries commended the initiative highlighting the enabling environment to be provided for the success of the project. The joint team had the meetings at two levels. The first level meetings were held with government officers at national, district/county and local authorities. Two issues emerged.

Issues:

(i) The two countries committed to easing the way for the initial studies and during implementation, with in-country security

(ii) The possible provision of the Project study required country-related technical data and information.

Because, the support and facilitation that was expected from the governments was in terms of provision of information/data, security for the consultants, an enabling environment for the community and consultation engagement, access to project sites, and availing technical staff for knowledge transfer and review of project documents.

As a follow-up, progress is being made to address crossborder conflict between the communities of both South Sudan and Uganda with a two pronged approach being adopted:

(i) at national level, an agreement is being reached between the ministries of Foreign Affairs of South Sudan and Uganda regarding border demarcation and a committee set up to demarcate the border and resolve border issues.

(ii) at local level, cross border dialogue has been initiated between the communities involving political, traditional leaders, local authorities and Civil Society Organizations.

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The second level of meetings focused on informing grassroots communities about the project and further consulting on any likely issues regarding the project. At these meetings, a number of issues emerged that needed to be addressed from the onset and throughout the project process.

Issues:

- (i) The social aspects of a continued team of governments, NBD and NELSAP in the grassroots community engagement.
- (ii) the possibility of a trans-boundary access road to facilitate trade between the two countries.

- (ii) the possibility of conflict resolution and the removal of the land mines before start of the project
- (iii) the possibility of looking into the mitigation of land grabbing and resettlement challenges.

Herbert WAIRUGALA
F&A NBD Secretariat, Entebbe

Contributing to the Finalization of the Communication and Consultation Plan of the Baro - Akobo - Sobat



NDF Board Members and NBD-RM at Discussions of the BAS Communication and Consultation Plan/ Photo Courtesy Jackson Elisoma-ENTRO

There is mutual commitment of NBD to collaborate in creating dialogue platforms that enhance community participation in the BAS Project of the Eastern Nile.

This is to involve on-the-ground consultations and the vertical and horizontal communication, stipulated in a community outreach program on BAS, in the Communication and Consultation Plan that was discussed in November 2015. It was envisaged through understandings, that the BAS project studies and implementation process would be successful with collaborative community outreach efforts of the Nile Basin Discourse and its National Discourse Forums in the key riparian states of the Project.

The Khartoum meeting therefore, was an invited dialogue space to participants including the NBD Board Members of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan.

At the meeting, the issues that emerged included: (i) agreeing on NBD's position in the communication and consultation process of the BAS Project.

- (i) Prioritizing the consultations and communication, especially with communities in the BAS Project area.
- (ii) Putting forward livestock communities especially of South Sudan, and reduction of possible trans-boundary spread of livestock diseases and (iii) the question of what happens to the wild life migration corridor in the proposed BAS project area.

Hellen NATU
RM - NBD Secretariat, Entebbe

Rwanda National Discourse Forum – Project Benefits 3, 500 People



Participants at the CBCCA conference and exhibition in Kigali, 2015/Photo Courtesy NDF - Rwanda

The Rwanda National Discourse Forum (RNDF) has benefited 700 households with approximately 3500 people through the Community Based Climate Change Adaptation (CBCCA), as presented at the conference and exhibition of 26th -27th November 2015 in Kigali-Rwanda.

About 100 participants drawn from community representatives, government officials, civil societies, NBD, NBI/NELSAP representatives, and development partners attended the conference. It was the conclusion of a climate change adaptation project that was implemented for two years (2013-2015) in four districts in the Kagera river basin, Eastern Province of Rwanda namely: BUGESERA, GATSIBO, KIREHE, and NYAGATARE. The final report indicates that the project benefited the poor and vulnerable to adapt to the impacts of climate change and its variability. The CBCCA project was implemented by the Rwanda NDF, in partnership with its member CSO called, RECOR (Rwanda Environmental Conservation Organization) with the support of a half million Euro fund from the European Union.

This pilot project was designed to bring about changes in empowering community groups and non-state actors to mitigate climate change risks through appropriate climate change adaptation activities for sustainable development. The project emphasized support to target communities in accessing clean water, energy, their food security, the land and forest management, in addition to environmental protection.

Some of the project activities and achievements include: teaching on improved organic compost making for smallholder agriculture to ensure land fertility for enhanced productivity and food Security, supporting households with kitchen gardens for household vegetables and fruits grown for domestic consumption

and communal/village markets, applying practice of agro-forestry system for soil erosion control, protected transplants of fruit trees by community beneficiaries, provision of goats, provision of solar equipment, improved energy saving stoves, and construction of ponds and cisterns for ground and rain water harvesting and storage.

The project had a component on community capacity building, results documentation, and dissemination. This component was meant to ensure project sustainability and scaling up once the pilot project ended.

The Rwandan NDF experience provides a lesson learned that the NDFs ought to have real life changing model projects on the ground to be implemented in partnership with their member CSOs/CBOs.

The physical investments on the ground indicate immediate and tangible benefits to communities.

(i) Firstly, by bringing NDFs closer to their grassroots members. (ii) Secondly, by enhancing the first-hand evidence of NDFs efforts at policy advocacy in the areas of water, environment, climate change, and food and energy security at national and regional levels. (iii) Thirdly, enhancing the NDFs resource mobilization in physical investments than pure advocacy, in addition to sustainability of the organizations.

Ayenew TESERA

M&E NBD Secretariat, Entebbe

CIWA /World Bank Supervision Mission

At the beginning of November 2015, NBD benefitted from a CIWA/World Bank mission team led by the TTL Ms Habab Taifour, for the NBD Project of three years on "Engaging Civil Society for Social and climate resilience in the Nile Basin"

The NBD recieved guidance on both technical and financial management of the Project.

To be highlighted were: (i) the team's guidance on the appropriate planning of activities to be implemented and their costing in the NBD Plan 2016, to cover a Bridge Period of up to December 2016, and (ii) the team's guidance of the NBD Communication, ICT and Media Department towards enhancement of outreach in the Nile Basin countries.

Hellen NATU
RM - NBD Secretariat, Entebbe

In the Next Issue

Activity

NBD presents CIWA/World Bank Project Results
Civil Society Organizati ons at Nile Day celebrati ons
NBD at the UNEP/WCMC/ARCOS Workshop
NBD and GWP-EA sign a Memorandum of Understanding to a deeper Stakeholeder Engagement on Development Agendas on Nile Resources
NBD Further Community consultati on on NYIMUR

Venue and Date

Kenya, February 2016
Vihiga - Kenya, February 2016
Kampala - Uganda, March 2016
Entebbe - Uganda, March 2016
Magwi - South Sudan, March 2016





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South Sudan - NDF	Juba, South Sudan
Sudan - NDF	Khartoum, Sudan
Tanzania - NDF	Mwanza, Tanzania
Uganda - NDF	Kampala, Uganda

Funding Development Partners

CIWA/World Bank

Implementing Development Partners

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ENTRO Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
GWP -EA Entebbe, Uganda