



Stories of Change

How NBD/NDFs have influenced NBI in some ways!

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a network of civil society organizations from the 10 countries of the Nile Basin. This network seeks to achieve positive influence over the development of projects and programmes under the Nile basin Initiative (NBI) and other Nile-related programmes.

The objective of the NBD is to promote sustainable and equitable development, poverty reduction, and cooperation between all stakeholders in the Nile Basin. Working at the level of civil society engagement, the NBD seeks to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits available to poor people within Nile countries and to ensure that there is a more equitable distribution of these benefits across the Nile basin as a whole through its National forums (NDFs).

TNDF is engaging with NBI in its programmes to ensure that the NBI planned programmes/activities are known by the communities surrounding the said programmes in Tanzania and that they are of benefit to communities in the Nile Basin area. The relationship is to see that the communities are involved in the planned and envisaged programmes by NBI for both Shared Vision programs and subsidiary action programs eg The Mara and Kagera River Projects.

The said NBI programmes include among others, power projects, sustainable use of rivers that are source of the Nile, to be benefit communities surrounding them while conserving the environment. In implementing the programmes, NBI is working closely with the NBD/TNDF in the following area:

- Awareness raising campaigns to the communities and other stakeholders
- Planning of implementation of the envisaged projects
- Conducting studies/assessments on NBI projects to ensure that the planned programmes are / will be of benefit to all stakeholders
- Marking special days such as Nile Day whereby more stakeholders especially Civil Societies Organizations are invited.

TNDF has been taking part in different committees in planning and handling the above-mentioned activities in collaboration with NBI. This shows that NBI appreciates the role played NBD/NDFs in its implementation of its activities. TNDF has been involved in:

- Through challenge fund activities under NBD, a training workshop was organised by TNDF whereby a number of participants from NBI and NDFs

were invited to attend. One of the key deliverable was the agreement to foster the process of engagement between TNDF and Mara and Kagera River Projects and engagement between the NBD and NBI. For the later, the MoU has been signed between the two parties. TNDF has also been recognised by NBI-Tanzania part to be one of the key networks that bring together CSO in the basin.

- Through the Power options project and particularly the Rusumo Power Project, TNDF was fully involved in the dialogue on which is the best option among many on how best this project will be implemented. For example the need for undertaking both EIA and SEA in the area and to ensure that a multipurpose dam is constructed that will also address local community needs.
- Involvement of TNDF members in the planning processes of implementation of Kagera and Mara River projects at early stages through meetings organized by the project management.
- Offering its expertise by presenting technical papers and results of studies done by experts in TNDF and its stakeholders. Recently TNDF was represented at the Nile Basin Development Forum (NBTF) which took place in Mwanza Tanzania.
- Running awareness programmes as part of TNDF activities which in many cases talk about NBI and its programmes/projects and involve the participation of NBI officials to give details of their endeavours. These workshops involve various stakeholders and they on their part have shown their appreciation on having them because they have opened their eyes in what NBI is doing.
- Running of special sessions with the media who are also appreciative of the information they gather out of these sessions.
- Being a Government entity, NBI has been able to open more to the public than it's normally the case, and stakeholders can make their contributions and feel more involved.

In general, the number of stakeholders reached through TNDF in creating awareness on NBI projects/programs/activities.