

one Nile - one family

THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE NILE BASIN PROJECT



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Burundi



D.R.C



Egypt



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



S. Sudan



Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda



THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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ACRONYMS

AF	Additional Financing
AGM	Annual General Meeting
CIWA	Cooperation in International Waters in Africa
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EC	Executive Committee
ENTRO	Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
EOI	Expression of Interest
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
GA	General Assembly
LADP	Local Area Development Plan
LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBD	Nile Basin Discourse
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NCCR	Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience
NEL-SAP CU	Nile Equatorial Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit
NDFs	National Nile Discourse Forums
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRMEs	National Resource Mobilization Experts
NTSEs	National Technical Support Experts
PAIA	Project Activities Implementation Agreement
PDO	Project Development Objective
POP	Project Operational Plan
RRME	Regional Resource Mobilization Expert
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWOT	Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats
ToRs	Terms of Reference
VPD	Voucher Package Documentation
WB	World Bank
WRUAs	Water Resource User Associations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the year 2021, NBD achieved promising results in the areas of resource mobilization, building Capacity of its members, revitalizing engagements with NBI, and refreshing member commitment in a bid to enhance NBD network's visibility and impact.

In effort to attain financial sustainability, NBD contracted a Regional Resource Mobilization Expert (RRME) that has drafted a funding proposal and a Resource Mobilization Strategy that has also incorporated reports on emerging issues collected from NDFs via the National Resource Mobilization Experts to enrich the final funding proposal and the financial Strategy.

Relatedly, NBD commissioned a legal study to explore the possibilities of establishing a Consultancy Firm for NBD Network to generate additional income; the final output of which is a report with recommendations to register NBD as a company limited by guarantee to contribute to the sustenance of the operations of the NBD Network.

NBD implemented capacity building training for Women and youth in the 10 member countries; the training benefitted a total of 563 people (395 Female, & 168 Male) in terms of acquiring knowledge and skills on aspects of water resource management, climate resilience, integrated flood & drought risk mitigation, and green jobs.

NBD ensured accountability to development partners and beneficiaries through a successful external audit exercise whose report was presented and adopted at the NBD's 8th General Assembly in Nairobi.

NBD organised transboundary community dialogues on Rusumo Falls Hydropower, Sio-Malaba-Malakisi, Mara River Basin, and Lakes Edward and Albert Fisheries II projects which benefitted 313 individuals (86 male and 227 female) living in communities around the project sites. The dialogues provided information and enhanced the communities' knowledge of the transboundary projects.

NBD built capacity of 61 people on the need for engaging communities in climate resilience, empowering youth on green Jobs, gender mainstreaming in water, and transboundary dialogues on the Nile River through a stakeholder engagement workshop that was run back-to-back with the 8th NBD AGM in December 2021.

NBD's knowledge and information sharing improved through gathering of monthly User Generated Content from the 10 NDFs and uploading to NBD's community blog on the website.

NBD benefited from an increased mentioning and coverage by several media outlets on its activities at national and transboundary levels; increased publicity means increased legitimacy and credibility on the works of the NBD Network.

Suffice to note, all these results were achieved amidst the COVID-19 pandemic which has largely constrained NBD's communication, physical movements, and interactions needed for project implementation. Besides, conflicts/political upheavals in Sudan, Ethiopia, and DRC also affected NBD's activity implementation at national and regional levels.



1. CONTEXT

1.1 ABOUT THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE (NBD)

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is an independent voice of grassroots people with a membership of over 600 CSOs. It links communities of the 10 Nile riparian countries with local and national governments as well as with intergovernmental organizations; informing and enriching projects, programs & policies at national and trans-boundary levels. NBD was established in 2003 as a civil society network to strengthen civil society participation in NBI's development projects, processes, program and policies. Its member organizations are local and national CSOs/NGOs working and advocating on a range of issues relevant to Nile cooperation: including climate security, environmental conservation, agriculture, energy, gender equity, livelihoods, poverty reduction, and other related fields. The CSOs/NGOs are members of chapters at national levels referred to as National Nile Discourse Forums (NDFs) established in each of the Nile riparian states namely: Burundi, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The NDFs in turn form the NBD Network, which is coordinated by a Regional Secretariat based in Entebbe, Uganda.

The NBD provides national and regional fora for dialogue on Nile issues to strengthen the influence of civil society in cooperative development and management of the water resources in the Nile Basin.



NBD Stakeholder Engagement workshop participants in partial, December 2021, Nairobi-Kenya.

NBD envisions a Nile Basin in which there is sustainable social and economic development for all peoples of the Nile Basin, free of conflict, leading to achievement of justice, human rights, good governance, poverty eradication and protection of the environment. Through its mission “To ensure that a fully informed and basin-wide civil society develops and plays a key role in achieving the vision, through proactive and critical influencing of projects, programs and policies of the Nile Basin Initiative and other development processes,” the NBD plays a critical role in ensuring that development is human centred, inclusive and sustainable.



1.2 THE NBD STRATEGY 2018 – 2022

The NBD Network has been implementing its 2018 - 2022 Strategy, titled “Inclusive Aquawareness and Empowerment,” with the three main goals of: channelling community voices in/to the Nile basin cooperation activities, capacity development and knowledge management for civil society, and providing a safe space for the Nile basin dialogue and confidence building. The five-year Strategy 2018-2022 addresses the basin’s urgent needs for building climate resilience within communities in line with relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the need for continued platforms for dialogue and advocacy for outreach in light of the basin’s increasing rate of transboundary cooperation.



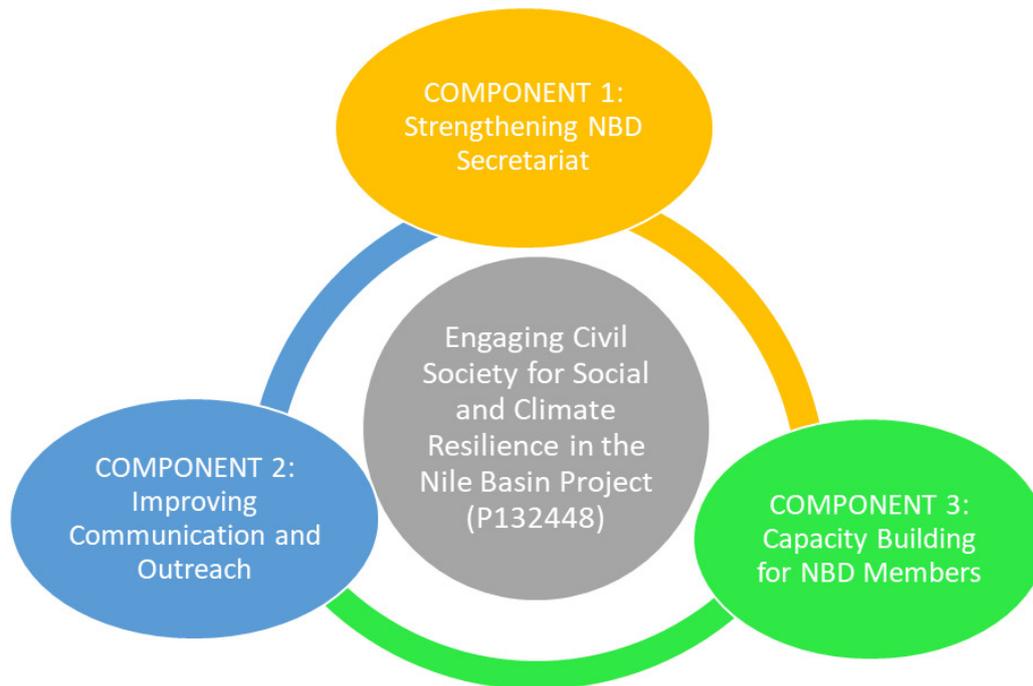
Photo: Illustration of the NBD Strategic Directions for the years 2018 - 2022

1.3 KEY INITIATIVES

Having signed an addendum to the grant agreement in December 2019 with CIWA/WB for a Second Additional Financing and Project Extension, NBD prepared a Project Operational Plan (POP) 2020-2021 where activities were prioritized in line with strategic engagements stipulated in the NBD Strategy 2018 – 2022. The POP was cascaded into a 3 months interim Work Plan with activities that can realistically be implemented in 2020 but also to use the time to prepare and roll-out the long-term plan to be implemented in 2021 - considering the adaptation to the evolving context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the period January to December 2021, progress has been realized in the project for the three components, despite the fact that it was quite challenging to conduct face-to-face activities with regard to trans-boundary dialogues as a result of the current global COVID-19 situation at hand.

2. PROJECT COMPONENTS



2.1 COMPONENT 1: STRENGTHENING NBD SECRETARIAT

This component supports NBD to develop the capacity of its NBD Secretariat to deliver on its core mandate in a more cost-effective and impactful manner through: (i) developing strategies and measures for strengthening and operationalizing the NBD network in order to create an interface between communities, governments, and intergovernmental agencies in transboundary projects; (ii) building capacity for media communications within the NBD and strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacity within the Secretariat and NDFs; and (iii) implementing an action plan to improve NBD's financial sustainability.

2.2 COMPONENT 2: IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

This component supports NBD to more effectively disseminate information across a large, culturally and politically diverse, and geographically dispersed region through: (i) improving vertical (both bottom-up and top-down) and horizontal communication pipelines among civil society organizations within the network, such as through closer partnerships with media; (ii) leveraging its enhanced web-presence for capacity building through webinars, bringing to the surface civil society concerns around Nile issues; (iii) ramping up use of social media for outreach and advocacy; (iv) expanding NBD's facilitation role in transboundary investments in the basin to ensure that benefits are shared, and sustainable, and community resilience is increased.

2.3 COMPONENT 3: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NBD MEMBERS

This component supports NBD to strengthen the capacity of its members and partners on key topics that they identify as priorities such as climate change adaptation, gender equity, empowerment of women and youth as climate change resilience champions, and general CSOs management and organizational skills through a range of mediums such as face-to-face events/training, virtual platforms, and site visits.

3. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS PER COMPONENT

3.1 STRENGTHENING THE NBD SECRETARIAT

Among the key activities implemented under this component is Resource Mobilization to ensure NBD's financial sustainability through a steady flow of funds and generating revenue for maintaining continuity of the organization's set objectives by accessing more donor support from current and new donor base, & integrating innovative income generating and sustainability principles in the on-going projects as an effective way to ensure long term impact. Strengthening the governance system of the NBD Network, both at Regional and National levels is also another key activity under this component. A capable and informed governance is a foundation for proper guidance and supervision to the operations of the NBD Network.

Key results of these efforts, so far, are that:

3.1.1 NBD prepared a funding proposal titled: "Integrated Management of Natural Resources for Resilience in the Nile Basin," for the period running, March 2022 to February 2027.

In pursuit of ensuring NBD's financial sustainability, NBD procured Resource Mobilization Experts at both Regional and National/NDFs levels.

Regional Resource Mobilization Expert (RRME): The major responsibility of the Regional Resource Mobilization Expert was to develop funding proposals and help NBD to secure funding from at least 3 new Development partners. To do this, the RRME was expected to establish a proposal writing support group within the NBD Network, train the group on proposal development skills, and develop bankable funding proposals to assist both the NDFs and the Secretariat. Further, the RRME was expected to work alongside the NBD team to create a pitch to be used in funding meetings; to guide the NBD Executive Committee, NDF Representatives, and NBD Secretariat on the use of the pitch, and then train on anticipating and tackling of potential funder questions while presenting funding proposals.

The major deliverables from the RRME were: (i) A Fundraising Strategy and Implementation Plan for NBD; (ii) At least 3 or 4 fully-developed fundraising proposals with concrete evidence of committed funding from at least 3 funding organizations; (iii) Provide capacity development on fundraising to NDFs and the Secretariat; (iv) A set of Funding Dialogues established with the top 10 potential donors, including pitching material and briefing packs for sharing; and (v) A final report produced for internal consumption on ‘pathways to financial sustainability’ for the NBD Network.

So far, the Regional Resource Mobilization Expert has prepared a funding proposal entitled: “Integrated Management of Natural Resources for Resilience in the Nile Basin,” worth 5 million USD for the period running, March 2022 to February 2027.

The Programme Goal for the proposed funding proposal is “Increased resilience of vulnerable households to climate change - related shocks through diversified livelihoods and improved natural resource management in the Nile Basin by the end of 2026.” The RRME has also worked on a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy that NBD would use in its future resource mobilization endeavours.

National Resource Mobilization Experts (NRMEs): NBD procured NRMEs – one for each NDF in order to assist the RRME in generating data and information from the grassroots, review and enrich the draft proposals from the RRME, and support NDFs in their future resource mobilization endeavours. The NRMEs were expected to work with the RRME as a team and the RRME to provide orientation and guidance to the Nine (9) NRMEs as part of the deliverables on the assignment.

The RRME developed SWOT Guidance for NRMEs to offer them helpful perspectives at any stage of their effort. The SWOT guidance were used by the NRMEs to: (i) Explore possibilities for new efforts and solutions to the joint resource mobilization and fundraising challenges; (ii) Make decisions about the best path for priority projects or initiatives at the NDFs level; (iii) Identifying opportunities for success; (iv) Determine where change is possible; (v) Develop an inventory of strengths and weaknesses at the NDFs level; and (vi) Adjust and refine plans where necessary for NBD fundraising and sustainability task.

The NRMEs made both Face to Face and virtual Consultations with the NDF members and/or key informants in each country as appropriate and prepared consultation reports on the key issues to be incorporated in the funding proposal and NBD’s Resource Mobilization Strategy.

3.1.2 NBD conducted a legal study on establishment of a consultancy firm to generate additional income for sustainability

NBD procured a consultant to undertake a legal research study on national laws/guidelines in the 10 member countries on the possibility of setting up and establishing a limited company/consultancy firm for the NBD Network.

The consultant held virtual focus-group discussions with the 10 NDF teams thereby received first-hand information for the assignment with regard to institutional, legal and governance frameworks for the NBD/NDFs. The interaction bred a number of issues that needed further clarification - leading to a

meeting with the NBD Secretariat to have the issues discussed. Some of the issues discussed included: (i) The advantage of a strong positive solid base of the NBD Network for the proposed consultancy; (ii) The challenge of legal autonomy of the NDFs versus the need for cohesion and coordination of the NBD Network; (iii) Conflict of interest and competition that may happen between the head of the CSOs and the NDF as a network concerning consultancy work, especially where individuals who are in leadership positions of NDFs are also Founders, Executive Directors or Board members of member CSOs or NGOs; (iv) Issues of Governance in the networks; (v) Subjects of consideration in determining a suitable model of consultancy firm to take on; and (vi) Adaptable models which can be considered for this consultancy firm (modes of operation-at regional and national levels).

The outcome of the assignment was a study report presented by the consultant at the NBD Annual General Meeting, held on December 11th 2021, In Nairobi-Kenya. The study recommends that NBD registers a separate legal entity - a company limited by Guarantee but with shareholding where the NBD is the sole shareholder since such is basically one of a not-for-profit nature and suits well within the structure and vision of the proposed consultancy firm for the sustenance of the NGO (NBD) whereas the alternative - a company limited by shares is legally obliged to give profits to its shareholders and this is contrary to the aims of undertaking consultancy work.

The report underscores that both the vision and the mission statements of NBD require and point to the establishment of a consultancy firm to further the purpose of NBD not only for sustainability through income generation but also for achieving further growth. It further confirms that NBD has a governance structure that enables making decisions concerning the firm and that the NBD strategy 2018-2022 is very suited for the consultancy firm as it outlines a strategic interlink of inclusive aqua awareness mentioning that “added value for NBD network is to look at and improve plans revolving around betterment of livelihoods from an inclusive, connecting, national and cross boundary perspective and implementing options.”

Another key activity under component 1 was strengthening NBD network’s governance through improved communication and information sharing, towards ensuring NBD’s institutional sustainability. Key results of this effort were:

3.1.3 Guidance and support from the Regional Board

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, the NBD Regional Board could not convene physically. Hence the Board held a virtual Meeting on the 23rd of February 2021 and discussed on: (i) Annual Work Plan 2021; (ii) Contracts for the National Technical Support Experts (NTSEs); (iii) Short-term and long-term Eligible Costs for NDFs; and (iv) The Project Activities Implementation Agreement (PAIA). The Board delegated the EC to closely work with the Secretariat in all matters raised above.

3.1.4 Support from the EC/Board for project implementation

a) The first implementation support mission

As per the delegation accorded to it, the Executive Committee (EC) of the NBD Board composed of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary General, and Treasurer carried out a supervision mission to the NBD Secretariat from 15th- 18th March 2021. During the mission, the EC discussed and resolved several matters which included: approval of the Annual Work Plan 2021, signing on NBD's registration documents, signing a subsidiary Agreement with NBI for the NCCR project, signing the PAIA for NDFs, and reviewing NBD's financial records.



EC and Secretariat Staff at work



EC & Secretariat Staff group photo

Approval of the Annual Work Plan 2021:

The EC discussed on the Annual Work Plan 2021 in detail and proposed that Regional Resources Mobilization Expert and Part-time Journalists for the NDFs should be procured using single sourcing procurement method to expedite the process. The EC also proposed that the Nile Basin Discourse Summit (NBDS) and the Annual General Assembly be held in another riparian country, aside from Uganda for inclusivity of member countries; and instructed the Secretariat to do a cost analysis and recommend a host country with relatively less cost.

It was resolved that the National Nile Day 2021 celebrations at NDFs should be commemorated within the Month of April 2021 so that the success stories and emerging issues can be summarized and presented at the concluding session of the NBDF that will take place from 29th-30th April 2021, in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia.

The EC suggested an expansion of community consultations on the Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) project to include broader Water Resources Development and Management issues including wetlands management in the Eastern Nile Basin so as to bring together the Eastern Nile Basin communities and stakeholders from Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan to discuss on common challenges and opportunities.

In order to accelerate the project implementation process within the remaining time, the activity plan was split into three (3) categories: Resources Mobilization, Transboundary, and National level Activities; assigning each category to a team and lead coordinator to spearhead the implementation process. The other activities outside the above categories including the Video documentary production on NBD's 20 Years' Journey, Training of NTSEs on Citizen Science Data, and the legal study on the possibility of establishing a Limited Company/Consultancy Firm were to be spearheaded by individual Officers at the Secretariat with support from all staff, EC and NDFs.

Facilitation of NBD's registration process:

In order to re-register NBD as a Company Limited by Guarantee as required by the Laws of the Republic of Uganda, NBD is expected to submit signed documents such as: Memorandum of Association, Articles of Association, and Form H (application for renewal of a permit to the National Bureau for NGOs in Uganda). The Board Chair and the Secretary General signed on all the documents to facilitate the registration process.

Endorsing the Project Activities Implementation Agreement (PAIA):

The EC endorsed the Project Activities Implementation Agreement (PAIAs) - an understanding between NBD Secretariat and the NDFs. The PAIA is prepared to guide continuous collaboration between NBD Secretariat and NDFs on activity implementation of the approved project. The PAIA enables the parties (NBD Secretariat and NDFs) to cooperate and work, consistent with their respective mandates and

missions and in accordance with their respective rights and obligations, to achieve the objectives of the ongoing Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in The Nile Basin Project especially in the COVID-19 pandemic times.



The Board Chair endorses the PAIA which was witnessed by the Regional Manager.

Signing of the Subsidiary Agreement on the NCCR project:

NBD signed a Subsidiary Agreement with the NBI on the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project - P172848. The NBI (the recipient), on 17th March 2021, signed a grant agreement of Thirty Million United States Dollars (USD 30,000,000) with the World Bank - acting as an administrator of the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa Trust Fund; and NBI has agreed to transfer part of the proceeds of the grant to the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) for implementation of Component 5 (Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement in the Nile Basin) of the project as defined in the Grant Agreement.

Component 5, to which NBD is the lead implementer mainly encompasses the thematic areas of Platform for Cooperation, and Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation out of the 5 thematic areas of the project (the remaining three themes being: Dam Safety Capacity Building, Innovative Information Services for Climate-Resilient Investment Planning, and Water Quality Investment Planning and Prioritization).



The NBI - Executive Director Prof. Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla (Left) and the NBD Board Chair Prof. Muawia Hamid Shaddad (Right) after signing the agreement.

In accordance with the provisions of the Grant Agreement, NBD will implement its respective part of the project with due diligence and efficiency and in accordance with sound technical, economic, financial, managerial, environmental, and social standards and practices.

On the other hand, the grant recipient (NBI) is to among other obligations transfer to NBD a total amount of Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand United States Dollars (USD 750,000), on the terms and conditions set forth in the grant Agreement. The subsidiary agreement exclusively guides on eligible expenditures required for carrying out the implementing entity's respective part of the project.

b) The Second Implementation support mission of the EC Board

The EC/Board carried out its second implementation support mission from 6th - 9th November 2021. The EC together with the Secretariat reviewed the annual work plan and identified the activities that could be accomplished in the remaining period of the year; adjusted the budget, apportioning resources to some of the activities that had previously been under budgeted.

The EC guided the Secretariat to start working on NBD Strategy 2023-2027, though this was a new activity that was initially not in the work plan. The Team agreed that the General Assembly be organized as an Extended Event to include stakeholder engagement for the first 2 days; identification of speakers for the different themes was to be done as soon as possible to allow them ample time to prepare for the event; the drafted Agenda was discussed and agreed upon.

The EC noted that in the NCCR Action Plan there was no budget for Governance Meetings; and guided the Secretariat to tag budget for governance meetings to events such as the Nile Day and others. The EC underlined the need for retaining human resource for the implementation of the NCCR project.

3.1.5 NBD held its 8th AGM, approved the 2020 external audit report and welcomed a new Board

NBD held its 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 11th December 2021, in Nairobi-Kenya. The AGM was attended by 30 delegates (3 from each NDF), 3 cluster-based Female co-opted members of the Board, and representatives of NBD's implementing and development partners.

Official opening: The AGM was opened by the NBD Board Chairperson, Professor Muawia Shaddad who in his remarks reminded the assembly that NBD is owned by NDFs that have also delegated the Board to oversee management of the organisation whereas the Secretariat implements activities on behalf of the organisation; thus, NBD is a membership organization and not a management organization.

Remarks from NBI: The NBI Deputy ED. Dr. Michael Kizza congratulated NBD upon reaching the 8th AGM; reaffirming NBI's commitment to continue working together as indicative in the MoU signed between the two organizations; reiterating that NBI stands in solidarity with NBD's cause and that NBD is NBI's most important partner working on related issues and for the fulfilment of the same vision.

Messages from the NDFs: At the 8th AGM, chairpersons of the 10 member NDFs (Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda) briefed the delegates on the achievements and challenges of their respective NDFs. From their updates: NDFs created awareness of their members during the National Nile Day 2021 celebrations; updated their governance through the National General Assembly and Board meetings; provided capacity building trainings to Women and Youth members; enabled local communities to dialogue on issues of shared transboundary River basins; and participated in the resource mobilization endeavours spearheaded by NBD Secretariat.

The COVID-19 pandemic took the centre piece as a fundamental challenge to all NDFs' work. Limited funding or lack of it thereof was cited as another paralyzing challenge for all NDF. In some NDFs (DRC, Ethiopia, Sudan) intra-state conflicts posed as yet a serious challenge for NDFs to implement their activities.

The NBD Secretariat presented a summary of the 2017 - 2022 Annual reports and activities of the upcoming NCCR Project.



The NBD RM Dr Hellen Natu presents NBD's Annual Progress Reports (2017-2022) & the up-coming NCCR Project

The delegates applauded NBD for the 2017 - 2022 accomplishments and encouraged the implementation team to lay strategy for a successful implementation of the NCCR project.

Presentation of the external audit report: The auditors made a virtual presentation of the year 2020 external audit report to the General Assembly for secondment and adoption.

The presentation highlighted NBD's overall financial performance for the year ending 31st December 2020, which included the following:

- Donor funding and forex gains increased by 2,341% to US\$ 688,555 from US\$ 28,205.
- Total expenditure by component increased by 45% to US\$ 420,695 from US\$ 291,076= US\$ 420,695.
- The resultant Surplus for the Year 2020 was therefore US\$ 267,860.

The audit also touched on NBD's overall financial position as at 31st December 2020 in terms of Current Assets, Liabilities and Net assets. Thus, it was noted that:

- Current Assets (Short term Resources that could be used to settle current obligations) were reported as US\$ 109,180.
- Current Liabilities (Short term obligations to be settled in the next 12 months) were reported as US\$ 62,429.
- Net Assets were therefore reported as US\$ 46,751.

The Auditors' report reads in part: "In our opinion, the project financial statements give a true and fair

view of the financial position of CIWA/WB Grant - Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin Project (ECSSCRNBP) as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAPs), the requirements of the financing agreements, and the organization's accounting policies.”

The GA unanimously approved the Audit report and cleared it for dissemination.

Constitution of the new NBD Board: Each of the 10 NDFs declared names of representatives to the NBD Regional board as per the elections conducted at each NDFs AGM. The names of the 10 individuals then constituted the Regional Board for the NBD Network.

Election of Office Bears (Executive Committee of the Board): The EC is basically composed of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary General, and Treasurer. They are elected out of the constituted regional Board by secret ballot. The following Board members were elected into the Executive Committee (EC):

Name of the EC member	Responsibility
Ms. Verdiane NYIRAMANA	Board chairperson
Rev. Peter Mawa Sabastian Lasu	Board Vice chairperson
Mr. Joseph Ngome	Board Secretary General
Ms. Agnes Namusiitwa Gyaviira	Board Treasurer

3.1.6 NBD strengthened its governance system at NDFs

National Board Meetings:

All the 10 NDFs held their National Board meetings that discussed and reviewed activity and budget plans, and the project implementation progress at their respective NDFs. The secretariat of each NDF led by the National Technical Support Expert received guidance and direction from the NDF Board. The NDF board meetings also set, discussed and agreed on the agenda items for the Annual General Meeting of the respective NDF.

National General Assemblies:

In 2021, all the 10 NDFs conducted their Annual General Meeting. On addition to electing new members to the NDF Board to strengthen governance, other agenda items for most NDFs were: reviewing the respective NDF's previous achievements, and strategizing on the way forward in terms of implementing the remaining activities of the year 2021, reviewing and amending internal documents (constitution & governance manuals as fitting to their national laws) and designing strategy to guide future prospects for the respective NDF. As the way forward, the General Assemblies of the NDFs almost invariably underlined that robust resource mobilization and expanding the NDF's constituency base are the only future guarantees for the NDFs and the NBD network in general.

3.2 IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

This component supported NBD's community outreach in a number of areas that facilitate NBD's active engagement in NBI's Transboundary Cooperation events and investment projects. In line with this NBD's achievements include, but not limited to the following:

3.2.1 Participation in the Regional Nile Day 2021 Celebrations

NBD reached out to hundreds of Nile citizens, families, and friends of the Nile during the 15th Regional Nile day Celebration which was commemorated virtually, under the Theme: Rethinking Regional Investments in the Nile Basin. The NBD Secretary General Mr. Donald Kasongi, delivered a speech on behalf the Board chair. NBD's message underlined the fact that civil society fosters grassroots voices and remains the key driver of change in ensuring inclusive and participatory investments that benefit all and that; Civil society is key in making constructive and reflexive stakeholder dialogue platforms which inform policy and decision-making processes of national governments and regional entities. NBD reiterated commitment to continue working hand-in-hand with NBI so that NBD-NBI strategic partnership yields benefits to the Nile Basin citizens.

The annual Nile Day provides an opportunity for Basin citizens and friends of the Nile to come together to celebrate the benefits of Nile cooperation and to exchange experiences, views and ideas on topical issues related to the cooperative management and development of the common Nile Basin water.

3.2.2 Partnership with NBI on the 6th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF)

NBD partnered with NBI during the Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF). The 6th of the triennial science-policy-practice dialogue forum was officially launched during the Nile Day 2021 celebrations. The NBDF is aimed at bringing together a broad spectrum of Nile Basin stakeholders from within and beyond the Nile Basin.

The 6th NBDF was in form of sessions organised as webinars which run through the end of April, 2021; NBD co-convened one of the webinar sessions, titled: "Participation and Inclusivity as Success Factors to Water Governance in the Nile Basin." that took place on the 12th April 2021. The NBD Regional manager hosted the webinar, and moderated all the presentations made together with the discussions that followed. The NBD Regional Monitoring & Evaluation Officer presented a paper titled: "Stakeholder partnership for inclusive transboundary water governance in the Nile: the NBI-NBD Partnership case study."

The presentation highlighted the critical challenges that the world is currently facing in managing too little, and yet extremely polluted water; with the challenges partly stemming from the failure of governing water in the face of climate change, the rapidly increasing world population, and the intensified competition for water use (among cities, farmers, industries, energy suppliers and ecosystems). The presentation further underscored that inclusive and participatory water governance

could avert water crises from bringing devastating effects on food security, poverty alleviation efforts, economic development and social stability in the Nile Basin and beyond; that the exemplary strategic partnership between NBI and NBD that cut across all structures is a cornerstone for inclusive water governance in the Nile Basin. (Watch the webinar session here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V61D6jXmELQ&t=1847s>).

3.2.3 Awarding of outstanding journalists at the 2021 NILE Media Awards

Every year, the NBI together with partners recognises journalists for balanced reporting on Nile Cooperation and Nile Basin issues. For the 2021 Nile Media awards, NBD awarded the 2nd and 3rd positions in the Radio category. A cash gift of US\$ 1,000 (One Thousand US Dollars) went to Ms. SARAH NATOULO who emerged 2nd in the Radio Category, and US\$500 (Five Hundred US Dollars) went to Mr. WAAKHE SIMON WUDU who emerged 3rd in the same category. NBD ear-marked radio media because it enhances access to grassroots communities that neither have the luxury of accessing nor reading newspapers, but only access local radio broadcasts. “The wave length of a radio in a room reaches every ear that can hear”. With these awards, NBD believes that media houses in the Nile Riparian states will play a critical role in educating and empowering communities to engage in constructive policy dialogue, and influence projects and programs.

3.2.4 NBD signed a 5 Year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NBI:

In order to strengthen collaborative partnership, NBI and NBD signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the occasion of the 15th Regional Nile Day 2021 celebrations. The MoU is effective from 2021 - 2025 and it reaffirms the collective responsibility and common goal of both parties to work towards improving the livelihoods of the people of the Nile River basin. The MoU intends to strategically stimulate and facilitate partnership on activities and projects between the two institutions. The just signed MoU builds on the previous successful MoUs that were signed between the two parties in the previous years.



The NBI Executive Director and the NBD Regional Manager exchange signed copies of the MoU

3.2.5 Organized successful National Nile day 2021 celebrations

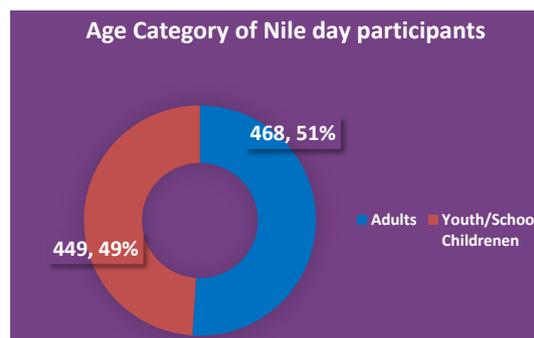
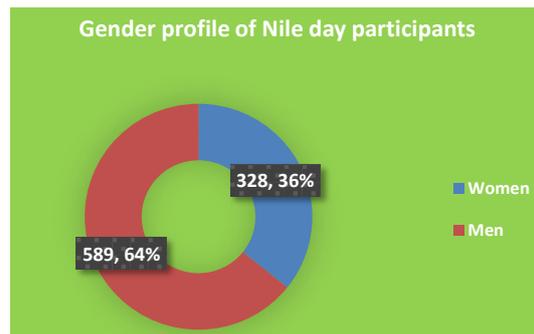
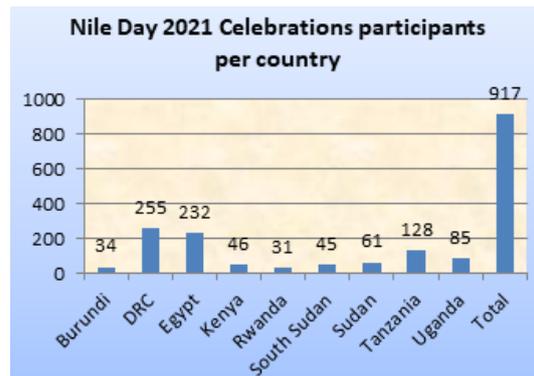
Overall summary

All National Nile Discourse Forums (NDFs) with the exception of Ethiopia NDF commemorated the 15th Annual National Nile Day 2021 in their respective countries. The celebrations took place under the regional Theme: “Re-thinking Regional investments in the Nile Basin” The Regional Theme gravitates around the Three I’s (Infrastructure Investment, Improved Data Collection Networks, and effective Institutional Mechanisms). The annual national Nile day celebrations reflected the Three I’s approach in investments.

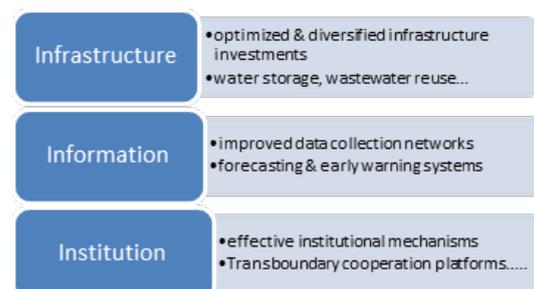
The celebrations mainly focused on the protection and wise management of the existing natural resources (water, environment, and biodiversity) through improved data and information sharing, infrastructure development and institutional capacity development. These are basic foundations for sustainable investment in the Nile Basin which would bring socio-economic transformation and prosperity to Nile Citizens and ensure regional peace and stability in the Nile Basin.

Overall, the Annual Nile Day 2021 celebrations conducted in 9 countries reached a total of 917 stakeholders, out of which 328 (36%) were women, and 589 (64%) were men. There was also huge involvement of young people, especially school children in the out-door Tree Planting and environmental advocacy/campaign activities. Out of the total 917 stakeholders reached, 449 (49%) were school children. NBD believes that the involvement of young people in water and environmental management would facilitate the inter-generational exchange of knowledge which is the cornerstone for sustainable development and management of natural resources, since the youth have the potential to become effective agents of change. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has already acknowledged a decisive role that the youth will play in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

The Annual National Nile Day celebrations also witnessed active involvement of media houses, grassroots communities (mainly social leaders), government representatives and members of the Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) of the NBI in the respective countries. The involvement of government and NBI representatives evidences the fact that country governments and regional development organizations are continuously embracing NBD into their strategic planning and operations to ensure that social concerns shape water, power, and commodity investments of trans-boundary significance.



The 15th Regional Annual Nile Day Theme: *Rethinking Regional Investment: The Three I's* (Infrastructure, Information, & institutions).



3.2.6 NBD conducted transboundary community dialogues

NBD's initial plans of holding physical trans-boundary community consultation events for Lakes Edward and Albert Fisheries project II (LEAF II), Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) project, Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) project, Mara River Basin project, and Rusumo Falls Hydro-power project have generally been hampered by the covid-19 pandemic.

This drastically slowed down NBD's pace originally set to engage the communities of the different project areas; and forced NBD to apply a two-stage framework for trans-boundary dialogues: the first stage being a country-by-country consultation platform in which project area communities in a specific country would directly and physically participate in the dialogues; and the second stage being a high-level regional virtual platform that would comprise representatives from the different countries sharing the trans-boundary river basin; and would discuss on the reports generated out of the first stage community engagements to come up with recommendations and strategies for future engagements.

To implement the two-stage framework, NBD kickstarted the Rusumo hydropower project community engagement as a pilot case and a building block to establish lessons for community engagements in the rest of the trans-boundary projects.

(a) Trans-boundary community dialogue on Rusumo Falls Hydropower project:

The Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Power Project is a joint undertaking and collaborative project between the states of Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The project represents a major milestone for transboundary cooperation in the Nile Basin. The US\$470 million project is expected to generate 80 megawatts of hydroelectric power and bring other livelihood enhancing outputs for the three Nile basin countries.

NBD implemented the in-country community consultation events in the three countries of Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The consultations focused on the implementation and benefits of: (i) the Local Area Development Program (LADP) and (ii) the Livelihood Restoration Program. Through the consultations, program implementers and policy makers were to acquaint with the views and concerns of the beneficiaries. Project awareness was to be created and community ownership of the project enhanced within the beneficiary communities of the project.

Achievements of the In-country community consultation dialogues:

The in-country community consultation dialogues on projects registered a commendable success in all the three countries in terms of engaging project implementers and enhancing community awareness and ownership of the projects. The in-country consultations benefitted a total of 86 local communities, of which 35% were Women.

In Burundi

Participants of the Burundi community consultation discussed on: (i) Stakeholder Engagement (Updates on Project Progress, Timings, and Changing employment needs, etc.); and (ii) Success of Local Area Development Plans (LADPs) - level of engagement in planning and implementation, grievance resolution and use by the community.

In Burundi, the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) signed two Memoranda of Understanding with the communes of Giteranyi and Busoni for the implementation of a LADP Program (LADP Burundi) in their communities. The purpose of the LADP is to improve the livelihoods of the communities and promote sustainable results of the intervention program in these communities.



It was learnt that although there are successes in the areas of building trade and Health centers, protecting local environment, and managing the acquired/project infrastructures, challenges still exist in terms of difficulties experienced in getting enough water for irrigation, lack of electricity for communities, and delays in the construction of houses for project affected persons.

In photo: The NTSE for Burundi NDF conducts a community follow-up visit days after the dialogue to scope more issues and concerns from the Rusumo project riparian communities of Giteranyi.

Achievements:

NELSAP agreed to: (i) distribute motor pumps to help farmers for irrigation; (ii) Provide drinking water to the community as planned; (iii) work more to protect the watersheds; and (iv) expedite the construction houses for displaced persons.

It was also agreed that the project staff needs to ensure transparency in the management of the Project outputs and reassure the sustainability of the achievements of the Project. Equally, the beneficiaries themselves were urged to strongly involve in the monitoring and ownership of the management of project infrastructure.

In Rwanda

In Rwanda, communities highlighted that while the project was nearing its end period, the implimenter had not yet addressed challenges of households in the project area whose properties were damaged by surface blasting. It was noted that for those households affected by blasting and/or back water flooding, the project should compensate and/or resettle them to safer sites away from Rusumo Hydroelectric power Plant. The local communities also expressed their discomfort on the way their issues are being handled by the project.



Photo: The Community Dialogue at Kirehe - RWANDA 21 Oct. 2022

Achievements:

NELSAP agreed to investigate the claims and establish the damages caused by blasting to the community's houses; and to address all grievances especially for people residing within 900 meters from the powerhouse based on the response measures put in place (rehabilitation or construction of at-risk structures).

It was noted that due to the delays in reconstructing/rehabilitating citizens' houses affected by blasting activities, damages have intensified and there is a need to speed up the process so that the welfare of the citizens can be safeguarded.

With regard to grievances associated with loss of crops from backwater flooding, NEL-SAP re-affirmed that the process of valuation of flood affected properties was complete and there is commitment committed to handle the cases of 441 households (around 70 houses) after the provisional plan is endorsed by the district commission.

The Local Area Development Program (LADP) and livelihood restoration projects have supported some households with cattle to boost their economic capacity while some families received cash handouts to relocate away from the project area. Unfortunately, there are also those that have waited in vain to benefit like their counterparts. NEL-SAP promised to look into this issue and see how best they can benefit such communities within acceptable project expenses.

NBD was commended for organizing the dialogue and to continue its pro-community advocacy and follow up on emerging issues in relation to the Rusumo project specifically on the issues of compensation so that households do not fall victims of unfair evaluation which could keep them stuck in high-risk areas.

It was also agreed that the community should choose representatives and present them to NELSAP so that they are part of the planning, evaluation and decision making on blasting and backwater floods damages and compensation.

In Tanzania



Photo: Group photo of participants of the Community Dialogue in Biharamulo – TANZANIA, 22nd October 2021

The Tanzania National Nile Discourse Forum (TNDF) conducted the in-country community consultation platform at Biharamulo township in Kagera on the 22nd October 2021. The main objective was to discuss on the LADP and the Livelihood Restoration projects, with communities/beneficiaries and stakeholders of the Rusumo Project in Tanzania.

Presentations were made by NBD's TNDF, NELSAP and the District Council Representatives for Biharamulo and Ngara. NBD highlighted the objective of the consultation which was to enable stakeholders on the Tanzanian side to discuss about the progress and challenges relating to the Rusumo Hydropower project, and how to mitigate/resolve them with minimum negative impact; stressing the need for all stakeholders to regularly meet and agree on equitable use of the Nile resources without compromising their conservation.

NELSAP presented the project implementation progress, indicating that the 80 megawatts power project is currently at 81% completion and is expected to be completed by December 2021.

District Council Representatives on their part assured participants that NELSAP was responsible for resolving any complaints arising from project implementation; and indicated that the government and communities work in unison to mutually resolve any grievances through continuous dialogue. From the explanations of district representatives, it was learnt that NELSAP had thus far identified over 300 people affected by rock blasting and 22 houses were rebuilt/renovated. A further assessment of other buildings affected by blasting was done and NELSAP would soon give feedback on the way forward.

Unsatisfied claimants were advised to follow a four-level due diligence mechanism already put in place to deal with appeals. These included: (i) a community conflict resolution committee, (ii) NELSAP Office, (iii) District Commissioner's office, and (iv) Courts of law.

Positive progress made in Biharamulo District: Out of the planned livelihood projects worth USD 383,000, eight of these were in progress including: (i) Dairy farming - 22 heifers were purchased and given to farmers, (ii) 82 goats given to interested farmers, (iii) Sunflower farming (though with challenges but progressing), (iv) Improved banana shoots (60 shoots given to each household), (v) Greenhouse for avocados production, (vi) Piggery, and (vii) Embroidery whereby sewing machines were purchased and training conducted to beneficiaries.

Positive progress made in Ngara District: Ngara District Council reported that the LADP of the Rusumo project was progressing well in addressing the complaints of project victims. A total of USD 5 million was given to Ngara District Council to fund the Ngara Local Area Development Plan. Activities carried out using the money included: (i) Improving pastures, (ii) Improved livestock (through artificial insemination – trained extension workers, provided tools and equipment including a motorcycle), (iii) Agriculture integrated pest management program – includes avocado farming and a greenhouse that is ongoing), (iv) Beekeeping - 6 villages have benefited through provision of modern beehives and honey harvesting equipment, (v) Infrastructure construction – includes renovation of several primary and secondary schools, construction of a health center at Rusumo, and a Farmers' Development Center at Remela, and (vi) Water supply - 4 villages were supplied with safe water and the new Rusumo water supply project is currently 51% complete.

Challenges identified during the dialogue: Stakeholders pointed out the following: (i) delays in decision making regarding compensation (ii) some households exaggerated demands for compensation, (iii) lack of a designated project focal person/expert in the Districts to follow-up the implementation of the LADPs, and (iv) lack of a concerted effort/plan to conserving the watershed to enable natural flow of the river to ensure a sustainable Rusumo Hydroelectric project.

Achievements of the in-country community dialogue: NELSAP admitted that some challenges presented at the meeting were genuine, and therefore agreed to convene community meetings in the near future to clarify on the grey areas, and also come up with solutions to the issues at hand.

NELSAP reiterated its commitment to support NBD/TNDF activities on environmental conservation/ water source protection in the area and also underscored that the agreement between Rusumo communities and NELSAP shall be reviewed for a win-win situation for both parties.

NELSAP promised that all complaints raised at the dialogue will be dealt with noting that a Public Relations Officer had been put in place for all stakeholders to channel their concerns for immediate attention.

Regional debrief for the Rusumo community dialogues: NBD organized a virtual Debrief on the outcomes of Rusumo in-country physical Dialogues that took place in the three countries of Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The Virtual debrief took place on November 2nd 2021; attended by representatives from NBD Secretariat, the three NDFs (Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania), NBI/NELSAP, and the CIWA/WB team. A Summary report on the outcomes of the three in-country community consultations was presented and discussed; questions and concerns from all stakeholders were addressed by the implementing partner.

(b) Trans-boundary community dialogue on Mara River basin shared by Kenya and Tanzania:

The Mara River has its source in the South Western Mau forests of Kenya draining into Lake Victoria at Musoma in Tanzania. This River Basin is about 13,750 km², of which 65% is located in Kenya and the rest of it in Tanzania. It runs through the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya and the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania; the latter being a World Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve. Both the Mara and Serengeti are of global conservation significance, and of great economic importance at the local, national and regional levels.

Users of the Mara River Basin are increasingly faced with water shortages, poor water quality and environmental degradation. Sustainable management of the Mara River basin is therefore critical to poverty alleviation, improving health, and food security. It is also critical for economic development and conservation of the natural resources in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.

The key threats to the Mara River basin include loss of forest cover in the upper catchment and along river tributaries, unsustainable agricultural expansion and intensification including irrigation, population growth, poorly planned tourist facilities, water pollution and unregulated water abstraction by urban settlements, large-scale commercial farming and industrial activities, coupled with failures of local, national and regional legislation and institutional structures.

The Mara River Basin Management project is transboundary to states of Kenya and Tanzania; its being implemented by Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) with secretariat its Musoma Tanzania. It aims at providing the communities living in the Mara River Basin with alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on the environment along the Mara River Basin. The project aims at addressing both medium and long-term objectives namely: (i) improve water resources development through development of multipurpose storage reservoirs for Irrigation, water supplies and Small Hydro Electric Power; and (ii) improve River Basin management through Integrated Watershed Management towards environmental protection and the alternative livelihoods of stakeholders/communities. Geographically,

the project covers three counties in Kenya namely: Nakuru, Narok and Bomet, and four districts in Tanzania namely Tarime, Serengeti, Butiama and Rorya.

The livelihood projects in both Kenya and Tanzania include; provision of dairy goats for milk, skills training on making energy saving cooking stoves, making of beehives for beekeeping, encourage seedlings propagation like hass avocado and pumping water to the villages to control pollution of the river through direct usage of the water from the river for bathing and washing by the communities.

In Kenya



Photo: community dialogue on the Mara River, Bomet Town, 24th November, 2021

The Kenya National Nile Discourse Forum (KNDF) in collaboration with the NBD Secretariat organized the in-country community consultation workshop on the Mara Transboundary River Basin Project on 24th November 2021. The in-country consultation covered: (i) conservation and protection of tributaries for Mara river including rivers Nyangores, Enkarengito and Amala; (ii) replication of alternative livelihood sources to other areas of the Nile Basin; (iii) successes/achievements of the Mara River Basin project; (iv) up-scaling goat rearing, hass avocado seedlings production, and beehive manufacturing within the Mara basin; (v) the plight and role of women in environmental conservation efforts; and (vi) involvement of Mara Water resource Users Association (WRUA) in the conservation efforts.

Results achieved

Participants from different counties located within the Mara River catchment benefitted from cross-learning and peer-to-peer experience sharing. The success stories of the economic activities initiated by the project were well shared by the Mara WRUA group. Networking amongst different community groups and organizations was enhanced. NELSAP was able to capture community/beneficiary voices and promised to address them.

All parties present (communities, local authorities, NELSAP, and Civil Society) agreed on the need to: establish environment champions for Mara river basin, intensify conservation efforts through afforestation and mitigating of competing land-use and population growth, institute a sound data and information system for the purposes of conservation, involving more women since they have proved to be effective in managing projects on alternative livelihoods like keeping goats and making liners for energy saving cook stoves, and to support WRUAs so that they play a critical role in management and conservation of the resources and improving the environment.



In Tanzania



Photo: Participants of the community dialogue on the Mara River basin project, Tarime, 2nd December 2021

The in-country community consultation on the transboundary Mara River Basin Management Project for Tanzania was held at Tarime, on 2nd December 2021. Participants included community representatives from districts of Tarime, Serengeti, Butiama and Rorya; representatives of local and central governments of Tanzania, TNDF, and NELSAP.

At the meeting, NBD through the TNDF chairperson highlighted on the objective of the meeting - to discuss the development and management of the Mara River Basin, further noting three important points: 1) NBD advocates for inclusivity and mutual benefit of all parties on the Nile River Resource; 2) Realization of inclusivity and mutual benefit for all stakeholders; 3) Continued stakeholder engagement and collaboration as a foundation for project success and institutional sustainability. Thus, regular stakeholder dialogues on River Mara Basin management are critical for urgent action on resources management in the basin.

NELSAP through Eng. Terry Ngoda committed to addressing inclusivity to water resource use and mutual benefit for all stating that NELSAP aims to contribute to the eradication of poverty, promoting economic growth, and reversing environmental degradation in the NEL region through WRM (assessment, Design, and Installation of Hydrometric network, Basin-wide Integrated Watershed Management Program, Project preparation for conservation, Sub Catchment Management Plan) and development (undertook pre-feasibility study of potential dam sites in the basin, feasibility study and preliminary designs of multipurpose reservoirs, pre-feasibility study of irrigation potentials, feasibility studies, detailed designs, preparation of tender documents for WRD Projects).

Challenges raised and Resolutions made: Upon discussions on the challenges identified, participants suggested the following resolutions:

Securing water for people: It was pointed out that Water from the Mara River is not safe for human consumption because of pollution caused by small scale gold mining activity, unsafe use of insecticides particularly in irrigation, and use of poison in fishing. Resolutions to avert challenge: (a) Demarcation of 60 meters distance from the river banks (Serengeti District); (b) Protection of existing trees within the basin; (c) Use of alternative chemicals (cyanide) instead of mercury for small scale gold extraction; (d) Water quality testing for safe human and animal consumption; and (e) Tree planting and energy saving stoves.

Securing water for food production and other uses such as hydropower production: The Mara River Basin is highly deforested and most of the trees planted in the catchments are not environment friendly. Resolutions to avert challenge: (a) Creation of regular awareness to communities in the basin; (b) Use of energy-saving cooking technologies; (c) enforcement of 60 meters restriction of human activities from the river banks; (d) protection of planted trees; and establishing of other friendly income generating activities such as beekeeping.

Protecting vital ecosystem: There's environmental degradation in and around water sources such as deforestation, pollution, overgrazing, and human activities which are risking the basin's vital eco-system. Resolutions to avert the challenge: (a) environmental protection and protection of water sources; (b) raising community awareness on environmental protection; (c) environmental law enforcement in the community.

Gender Disparities: Discrimination of women in decision making and limited women awareness on environmental protection compared to men created gender disparity in the basin. Resolutions to avert the challenge: (a) advocacy for deliberate inclusion of women in decision making mechanisms; and (b) awareness creation especially for women on environmental conservation.

Water pollution: Mara River basin is affected by heavy pollution due to economic activities in the river vicinity such as gold extraction, pastoralism and use of agro-chemicals in irrigation. Resolutions to avert the challenge: (a) Awareness raising on environmental conservation to communities taking into account the environment law on restriction of human activity within 60 meters of water sources; (b) preservation of natural vegetation and planting of environment friendly tree species; (c) identifying special areas for safe disposal of gold and other minerals extraction residues; and (d) promotion of modern pastoralism.

Addendum to the above resolutions, NELSAP committed to embark on the preparation of Small-Scale Investment Projects on Irrigation, hydropower generation, Domestic and livestock water supply, Fishing, and Flood control to communities living in the lower Mara River Basin areas.

Possible solutions recommended to this challenge were: (a) community awareness on environmental conservation taking into account the environment law on restriction of human activity within 60 meters of water sources; (b) preservation of natural vegetation and planting of environment friendly tree

species; (c) identifying special areas for safe disposal of gold extraction residues; and (d) promotion of modern pastoralism.

On top of the above, NELSAP agreed to embark on the preparation of Small Scale Investment Projects on Irrigation, hydropower generation, Domestic and livestock water supply, Fishing, and Flood control to communities living in the lower Mara River Basin areas.

(c) Trans-boundary community dialogue on the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi River Basin:

The Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) is a transboundary basin of the Nile River shared between Kenya and Uganda. With a population of approximately four million, the SMM consists of a variety of ecosystems including lakes, rivers, forests, game reserves and national parks which are home to a rich variety of flora and fauna.

The basin's natural wealth provides opportunities and potential for socio-economic development in the region. Currently, agriculture is the major socio-economic activity in the SMM, employing close to 85% of people in the basin. However, poor agricultural practices, intensive land cultivation and sand mining have resulted in extensive landscape degradation and loss of water quality in the basin. Addressing these challenges requires joint action and investment by both Uganda and Kenya in order to improve the health of the transboundary basin.

The Angololo Water Project is the official name of the SMM transboundary basin project which is being implemented by Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP), a centre of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), to establish Joint action mechanisms such as establishment of joint gauging stations, riverbank stabilization, exchange of information, and promotion of cross border trade. It aims at eradicating poverty, promoting economic growth, and to reverse environmental degradation in the SMM sub-basin through establishment of a sustainable framework for the joint management of the water resources of the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi basin.

The planned project intends to construct a dam that will provide the beneficiaries with water for domestic use and for irrigation. A proposed total of 33,000 ha of land will be under irrigation in both Kenya and Uganda. The project also aims to enhance the social wellbeing of the beneficiaries by providing social amenities like hospitals, schools and create employment. A bridge will also be constructed connecting Kenya and Uganda. For the better part of implementation, the focus has been on the project design and feasibility study. Geotechnical drilling to study soil structure is ongoing at the site. The feasibility study is projected to take up to about six months and if the results are positive and the project proves to be beneficial to the community, and cost effective to the donors, the implementation will then take approximately 3 years.

In Kenya



Photo: Community Consultation on the SMM River Basin Project, 30th November 2021, Teso, Busia County, Kenya

The Kenya Nile National Discourse Forum, in collaboration with the NBD Secretariat, organized the in-country community consultation on the Angololo water project at Teso - Busia County, Kenya from the 28th to 30th November 2021. The consultation meeting was aimed at creating a platform for dialogue between the project implementers and the community/beneficiaries, with a view of improving the grey areas that might adversely affect project implementation and sustainability. Prior to the consultation event, KNDF conducted interviews with stakeholders living within the project area to establish the community's voices on their understanding of the project, their expectations, and any other issues they deem important in relation to the project.

On 30th November, stakeholders composed of government representatives (both County & Central government), NELSAP representatives, and representatives of local communities convened and exchanged views, opinions and ideas that could help improve implementation of the project. The dialogue highlighted that the proposed project would bring benefits to the local community, such as: provision of safe water for drinking, construction of a bridge to ease transportation, construction of social amenities like schools and hospitals, creation of employment, and improvement of infrastructure.

Participants also got first-hand information about the compensation plan though still in development since the community engagement on the social and economic issues was just beginning. Information was also shared with regard to the land area that would be affected by the project on the Kenyan side of the river basin. It was noted that those living within the project site will be resettled elsewhere. Further, an overview of the project implementation status was shared with the community. It was said that if the project is found to be expensive and without value for money, the project will be terminated.

Consultation outcomes:

The in-country community dialogue platform brought on board the issues of concern from the target beneficiaries, which got the attention of the project managers and the evaluation consultant. Besides, the community got to know about NELSAP as the implementing agency of the project; some beneficiaries knew about the Angololo water project but were not aware of who was implementing it. The households residing near the project site and are most likely to be resettled were keen to know where they will be relocated to, whether the place is as fertile as their land, and the amount of compensation that they will be given. It was clarified that a study will be conducted for social and economic issues that will produce a report for decision making.

Agreements reached and recommendations made:

The following recommendations were made at the end of the consultation: (i) the communities should be effectively involved in the project, inclusive of both the upstream and downstream areas; (ii) the involvement of women and youth should be given special attention; (iii) Working committees of elders should be created to work with project consultants on cultural related matters such as the issue of grave yards/cemeteries; (iv) communities should be given priority on employment during the project construction activities as either labourers or skilled workers to benefit from the project; (v) Communities shall get regular updates on the project progress and benefits so that they get to appreciate the importance of the project; (vi) the compensation process should consider women participation because when compensation is done, most times women are left behind since men own the property in most cases. Some men disappear with the compensation package leaving their families stranded with the women to taking care; and (vii) the WRUAs should be involved in the watershed management plan which is a requirement before any water project is implemented.

In Uganda



Photo: Community dialogue on the SMM, Naboko - Uganda 30th November 2021,

The Uganda Nile Discourse Forum (UNDF) in collaboration with the NBD Secretariat conducted an in-country community consultation workshop in order to enhance the dialogue on the transboundary shared rivers of SMM project. The meeting was held on the 30th November 2021, in Naboko sub-county, Namisindwa district. The consultation brought together a total of 68 people (13 Females, 55

Males) composed of community representatives from Namisindwa, and Manafwa districts, CSOs, NELSAP representatives, and local and central government representatives.

The aims of the in-country community consultation event were to: (i) analyse the different achievements of the project, (ii) discuss the problems encountered in the implementation of the project, and (iii) establish a stakeholder engagement mechanism for the sustainability of the project's achievements.

General findings and resolutions:

Findings:

The project is in its initial stage of development and studies are being done by NELSAP. By the time this meeting was held, communities were not fully engaged. The Resettlement and compensation plans are not yet in place. A social expert was hired and would be discussing the resettlement possibilities with communities by end of the year 2021.

Therefore, it was unveiled that communities and local government officials alike were not well informed about the project itself. Communities were seriously concerned about appropriation of their land, displacement/relocation of their ancestors' cemeteries, and relinquishing the activities of sand mining especially for the youth whose livelihood is dependent on the river for sand mining.

Resolutions:

NELSAP promised to do thorough compensation plans with full involvement of the affected communities using standard Government rates, and the removal of burial grounds will equally be paid for. NELSAP and the District representatives underlined that alternative livelihoods will be introduced where youth and other people along the project area will receive better and more sustainable livelihoods like irrigation agriculture.

It was agreed that community expectations should be managed through the provision of timely and accurate information to the communities about what to expect and what not to expect from the project; there will be elements of over expectation but the implementers shall at the same time need to listen to what people want and include it within the project design. NELSAP promised to always engage communities at all levels of the project (from design to implementation) provided that NBD/ UNDF spearheads the task of community mobilization.

Further, communities tabled their concern with regard to water borne diseases like malaria, and requested NELSAP to make risk assessment with the involvement of communities themselves as major contributors. They also reminded NELSAP that both climate change mitigation and adaptation measures should be part of the design of the project in order to combat effects of drought in the area. The concerns of communities received positive nods from NELSAP. The NELSAP team affirmed that planning for compensation of the would-be-affected people shall start before the end of 2021 and the process would engage affected households.

(d) Trans-boundary Community Dialogue on the Lakes Edward and Albert Fisheries II (LEAF II) Project

In Uganda



Photo: Community dialogue on the LEAF II project, 3rd December 2021

LEAF II project is an NBI investment project designed to help DRC and Uganda to consolidate their collaboration for the sustainable development and rational management of shared waters of Lakes Edward and Albert by adopting measures for the joint management of water and fisheries resource. It aims to forge bilateral cooperation and peace for neighbouring communities.

The UNDF in collaboration with the NBD Secretariat organized an in-country community consultation workshop that run from 2nd to 3rd December 2021.

A total of 88 participants (22 Female, 66 Male) attended the community consultation whose objectives were to: review and analyse the different achievements of the project, discuss problems encountered in the implementation process, and establish a stakeholder engagement mechanism for the sustainability of the project achievements.

Benefits of the project to local communities:

During the consultation events, project site communities attested that they are benefiting a lot from the project in terms of: improved livelihoods, improved sanitation due to eco-san toilets, fish handling facility, and clean drinking water. Women appreciated the project so much since more women benefitted from the project as fish traders, owners of boats, beneficiaries from capacity building trainings, and recipients of goats, brokers and support service providers of food, bars, and mobile money.

However, community representatives requested for more eco-san latrines, more livelihood improvement projects, schools from primary to secondary, health centres, and road upgrades among others, to benefit more Women and youth. Communities expressed the need to expand, consolidate and sustain project gains. In order to sustain project gains, the project needs to create and put in place a community management structure that works with already existing Government structures.

Gaps identified

The discussion disclosed that many young girls have been lured into prostitution because men now get better income as compared to women. On issues of public health, communities are still facing floods leading to wash away of homesteads including the project's fish smoking kiln that was abandoned. It was noted that there is a need for specific interventions to mitigate flood hazards which are appalling to the communities concerned.

Further, communities noted some gaps in decision making regarding technology choice and site selection due to inadequate involvement/consultation of communities during the planning process (E.g. the site & technology selected for the fish kiln was said to be in appropriate). Communities also raised issues of instability on the waters, water accidents, Game Park, and water animals' attacks on humans that lead to many deaths.

Resolutions made:

Government officials and NELSAP representatives promised to involve communities at all levels during technology choice, site selection, flood mitigation actions and schemes, and proposed remedies to water instabilities such as use of water ambulance, among others.

3.2.7 NBD successfully Engaged Nile Transboundary Stakeholders back-to-back with the GA



Group Photo of participants at the Stakeholder Engagement Workshop, Nairobi – Kenya. December 2021

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Kenya Nile National Discourse Forum (KNDF), organized a stakeholders engagement workshop that was held on 9th and 10th December 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya with a theme **‘ENHANCING NBD’S STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE NILE BASIN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF MEMBERS AND PARTNERS.’**

A total of 61 participants (36% Female) drawn from CSOs of the 10 Nile riparian states, representatives from NBI’s 3 centres, Government representatives from the host country, and several Media Houses attended the workshop. Topics covered at the Two-days’ workshop included: (i) Engaging communities in Climate Resilience in the Nile; (ii) Women and Water in Communities for Development; (iii) The Dialogues of Trans-boundary Shared Waters of the Nile; and (iv) Youth Empowerment on Green jobs as a mechanism for Sustainable Development.

Comprehensive research papers were presented by professionals and discussed by the participants. Participants obtained real time information and knowledge on: climate resilience, the need for the involvement of Women in water decision-making, the importance of dialogues on the transboundary shared waters of the Nile, and youth empowerment and green Jobs.

From the presentations and discussions, a wide range of useful issues which are to shape NBD’s future engagements emerged. The emerging issues are being used as foundation blocks for NBD’s Strategy 2023-2027 which is under preparation.



Photo: Prof. Woldeamlak Bewket presenting on the topic: Engaging communities in climate resilience in the Nile Basin

Prof. Woldeamlak Bewket made a presentation on ‘Engaging Communities in Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin.’ In his presentation he elaborated about: Climate change vulnerability in the Nile basin induced by rainfall distribution, which could make majority of the region face chronic water scarcity by 2025; Climate Resilience in terms of meaning & measurement whereby climate resilience means the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate.

The presentation highlighted that building resilient communities is about enhancing their absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities using Climate Risk Management (CRM) approach which provides a suitable framework for resilience building. Emphasis was put on the importance of engaging communities for climate resilience through a two-way process by which concerns, needs and values of citizens and communities are incorporated at all levels and in all sectors in policy development, planning, decision making, service delivery and assessment; community engagement in climate resilience is important because: (i) Climate change impacts and responses are location-specific; (ii) It integrates local knowledge and perceptions of climate change and risk management strategies; (iii) It enables shared decision-making processes and ownership; (iv) It ensures that actions are consistent with community priorities and needs; (v) Community has the right to participate (rights-based approach); (vi) It ensures that actions are consistent with community priorities and needs; (vii) Resilience building requires collective action, which is attained only by a highest level of participation that is Community engaging.

The presentation emphasized key principles for effective community engagement as: understand the importance of action at appropriate scope and scale, acknowledge and understand the context and profiles of different members of communities, respect and promote local knowledge, identify and work with leaders who are well-respected and in good positions to influence, communicate accessible and reliable information, devote time-effort-resources to develop trust and respect, encourage reflection, learning and sharing of best/ promising practices, and go to places where people feel comfortable.

Prof. Bewket concluded his presentation noting that the Nile basin is highly vulnerable to climate change which necessitates building community resilience to contribute to achievement of climate-resilient development at a larger scale within the 3 parameter capacities mentioned earlier. CRM offers a suitable framework for climate mainstreaming approach to building resilience, and engaging communities for effective, efficient, and sustainable resilience building. This requires effective communication during engagements and identification of gaps that should be addressed in national policies and institutions.

Ms. Francoise Ingabire made a Presentation on ‘Women and Water in Communities for Development’ where she enlightened about: the connection between water quality and quantity as a matter of development for women all over the world; the importance of acknowledging the role of women in water resources management in the Nile Basin during any programming and project design; the need for empowering Women to enhance water resources management since women are highly and directly connected with water in their day-to-day activities as farmers and/or care-takers of their households. As per the presenter, when women influence water management, their communities get measurably better outcomes, including better-functioning water systems, expanded access to water, and positive economic and environmental benefits.



Photo: Ms. Francoise Ingabire presenting the topic: ‘Women and Water in Communities for Development’

Research shows that water stress is a factor for driving social instability and conflict around the world. A community's risk of water stress depends not only on droughts and floods, but also on its ability to govern available water fairly and be resilient in the face of natural hazards. The presentation remarked that there is a correlation that in countries where women are empowered, they experience stable economies - women play a key role in building peace and reducing conflict; governments and other stakeholders should acknowledge the roles of women in water resource management; break tradition that forces women to stay home just to perform domestic roles.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Ingabire stated that from history the role of women in community development was denied. With modernization, women themselves worked hard and their effort in community development is clear and measureable. She called on Women to take a leading position in fighting against activities and policies detrimental to water resource management right from homes to the global level.



Photo: Mr. Donald Kasongi presenting the topic: 'Dialogues of Transboundary shared waters in the Nile basin'

Presentation on: *'Dialogues of Transboundary shared waters in the Nile basin,'* was made by Mr. Donald Kasongi who emphasized on the need for continuous dialogues on the shared resource of the Nile, not as an end by themselves but as means to provide solutions for issues of discord; and as a critical pillar for inclusive management of the transboundary shared waters of the Nile.

The presentation highlighted that NBI and NBD, by virtue of being Transboundary water governance organizations, have been serving as platforms for facilitating water diplomacy for building trust and cooperation, focusing on cooperative and sustainable resources management in the Nile basin. The presentation observed that transboundary waters present an opportunity for cooperation across sovereign states and riparian communities. Nevertheless, experience has shown that dialogues aligned to the fluidity of water require special consideration, especially in the distribution of transboundary benefits as well costs that would flow outside of national borders into sub-basin and basin levels.

Dialogue on the Nile River should be guided by legal and institutional frameworks like the CFA since institutional structures and cross-institutional mechanisms are needed to incentivize consolidated planning and better coordination of discussions. Transboundary dialogues also necessitate communication strategies at a higher level devoted to modelling, quantification, and scenario development of river flows.

Some of the challenges facing dialogues in the Nile basin include: govern-mentality in the design of dialogues, weak planning and analysis of complex socio economic issues and systems, competing value systems, evidence in communications, ambiguous terminology and language, spatial and temporal interdependency, lack of clear & agreed approaches to solutions, lack or limited space for more fluid ways of thinking in the light of uncertainty, participation /inclusion/exclusion, understanding intersectionality of issues, and procedural aspects.

The presenter called on NBI and NBD to double their effort to continue facilitating adaptive multi-stakeholder dialogues on the Nile in the face surging population growth, climate change, industrialization, urbanization, policy incoherencies and geopolitical polarization. NBD and NBI should listen to, and act on, stakeholders' interests, needs, and benefits.

The presenter made recommendations to consider in future dialogue frameworks. These include: (i) comprehensive and progressive stakeholder inclusion vs selective targeting; (ii) efficient mechanisms for cross-sectoral information and data exchange; (iii) deeper integration of citizen data into formal information systems at all governance levels; (iv) popularization of guidance provided by the UN Convention on Non-Navigational Waters into the dialogues; (v) ensure stronger alignments to Social contracts in riparian states; (vi) address the challenges of multiple scales of impact and decision making for different resource systems (water is more local, energy is more broad in scale, Climate change is macro); (vii) the nexus and Intersectional analysis of Issues-Gender, Youth, Vulnerability (water-energy-food); and (viii) quantify and communicate trade-offs between alternative interventions (i.e. use network analysis to inform the decision making process); (ix) media should be involved in the dialogue and not just on coverage; train them on thematic agendas so that they are part of the discussion and also enable them to have a continuation on awareness creating to generate grassroots dialogues.



Photo: Ms. Nisreen Elsaim presenting the topic 'Youth empowerment on Green Jobs as a mechanism for sustainable Development'

Presentation on: ***'Youth empowerment on Green Jobs as a mechanism for sustainable Development,'***
by Ms. Nisreen Elsaim

The presentation highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the concept of green jobs and their relevance to youth, misconceptions about green jobs, and the need for knowledge generation and youth capacity building on green jobs.

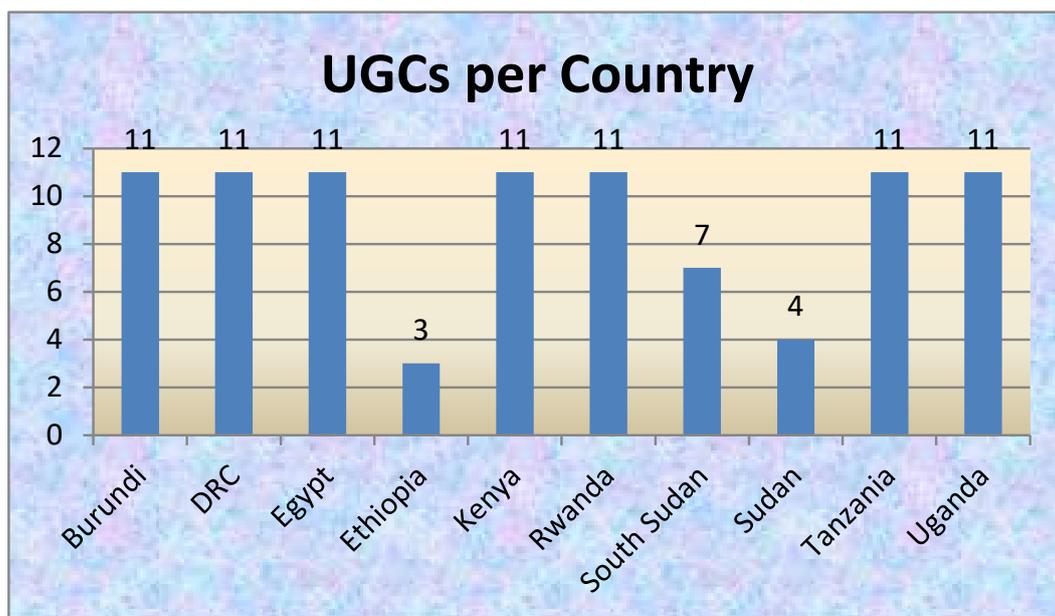
The presenter remarked that the idea of Green Jobs is embedded in most of the SDGs (SDG 1,2,4,7, 8,11,12,16, & 17). However, to achieve the green economy goal, countries need strategic partners in every aspect; adding that there are jobs that are environmentally friendly and sustainable; jobs that contribute to reducing the negative impacts of multiple stressors, including climate change, on ecosystems and societies; and jobs that do not produce greenhouse gases. Thus, green jobs not only bring green income but also contribute to conserve the environment. Green jobs should therefore share 3 aspects: income, conservation and development.

The presentation highlighted that the concept of green jobs is misinterpreted to only mean working on geothermal and farming, and that it is laborious. On the contrary, green jobs have evolved to include greening of the entire economy, with long-term objectives of sustainable development, and promotion of social justice and decent work. Thus, green jobs include broader dimensions of energy and resource efficiency, poverty eradication, social equity, and human wellbeing. Therefore, countries should have a policy-shift towards a green and sustainable economy.

The presentation emphasised the need for knowledge creation and youth capacity building on basics of green jobs would feed advocacy at both national and international levels; to promote green economy as a new approach to solving interconnected problems. The UN is already mainstreaming youth agenda into the green economy with initiatives such as: creation of youth working groups to focus on the various aspects of youth, having Youth advisors, and youth awareness creation activities to have perspectives on COPs. The call therefore is to involve young people in all aspects of development including climate advocacy as any development that excludes youth has no future.

3.2.8 NBD diversified knowledge and information through User Generated Contents (UGCs)

NDFs routinely submitted monthly User Generated Content from February to December 2021; and NBD Secretariat reviewed and uploaded them on the NBD website for knowledge and information sharing. Overall, ninety-one (91) UGCs, on various and diverse issues of relevance to the Nile basin were received; This accounts for 83% which is far beyond the set target of 75% for the project.



3.2.9 Increased citation of NBD's activities in the Media; a sign of progress in communication and outreach

In the year 2021 NBD was cited by 36 media sources (Tv, Radio, and online blogs). NBD received a boost in media mentions during the National Nile day celebrations (March – May 2021), followed by the NBD Stakeholder Engagement Workshop and the General Assembly (Dec 2021). Media coverage was mandatory to all activities implemented at NDFs and this generated a wholesome of media mentions. NBD's citation in mainstream media for the year 2021 is thus, a record far beyond the planned target of 15 for the year 2021.

Similarly, the hits across the NBD website steadily increased with a record of 7,387,204 hits for the period starting March 2016 and ending December 2021. The accumulated hits are far beyond the set target of 65,000 for the project period. NBD also boosted its Social Media interactions. NBD's Twitter account had by the end of Dec 2021 accumulated 983 followers; 578 tweets; and 144,949 impressions on content posted between the years 2015 and 2021. At the same interval, NBD's Facebook Page had reached 825 followers, and 785 Likes.

3.2.10 Production of a Video Documentary to showcase NBD's work

The video in production is to be a 30 minutes documentary about NBD's work and its contribution to the enhancement of the Nile Riparian communities' livelihoods, and the Nile cooperation and development for all the years of NBD's existence. The documentary is to highlight NBD's achievements, challenges, and opportunities; it is intended for corporate identity promotion and resource mobilization purposes. The production was delayed a bit due to late submission of video footage from some NDFs but is currently at almost 80%, with the first draft video already out for review.

2.1.11 NBD enhanced its mobility to project sites and partner Offices



Photo: NBD's new car – a 2021 Mitsubishi L200 DC Pick-Up

In order to facilitate NBD's mobility in the implementation of project activities, NBD with support from CIWA/WB procured a Double Cabin Pickup - a 2021 Mitsubishi L200 DC with both road and offroad capability.

3.3 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NBD MEMBERS

This component is intended to strengthen the capacity of NBD's Board on Corporate Governance so that the Board ably guides the future running of the Network. The component also supports NBD/ NDFs to facilitate training and capacity building initiatives to members in climate change, conflict and migration, gender, youth, and women. Several milestones have been reached under this component:

3.3.1 Training of NBD's National Technical Support Experts on Citizen Science Data

NBD conducted a training workshop to build capacity of National Technical Support Experts (NTSEs) on citizen science data collection, analysis, synthesis, and incorporation into planning and decision making of development projects, programmes and policies. The training workshop took place between 3rd and 8th August 2021 in Arusha – Tanzania, bringing together 9 NTSEs (4 female and 5 male) from 9 member NDFs.



Photo: Group photo of citizen Science Data trainees with the EC and Secretariat Staff

The 6 days training was opened by the NBD Chairperson, Prof. Muawia Shaddad, who emphasized the role of NBD as an impartial problem solver. The chairperson underlined that the NTSEs' work is a continuous effort, and should not end with the end of the current project. He hoped that the training would open up new areas where NBD Network would continue to be relevant and practical in problem identification and solution seeking.



NBD Board Chairperson delivering his opening remarks

The NBD Secretary General, Mr. Donald Kasongi, reminded the NDFs of their unique position on the ground and legitimacy that they should use to further solution seeking for problems in the Nile basin by having credible data availed through grass roots participation.



NBD Board SG briefing the Trainees about the NBD Network

The NBD Regional Manager, Dr. Hellen Natu emphasized the fact that NDFs' effectiveness heavily depends on the type of information they would be passing on to the stakeholders. She reminded NTSEs of their roles to play in mobilizing and sensitizing communities across the Nile basin especially where trans-boundary projects are concerned.



Burundi NDF NTSE receives his Training Certificate

The training covered seven Modules, including: Definition and conceptualization of key terms and concepts; Sampling design and sample size determination; Citizen Data collection methods, approaches and tools; Citizen Data analyses and synthesis; Roles of citizen data in policy formulation; Application and use of Citizen data for income generation, planning, implementation and influencing decision making at all levels; and Data monitoring and evaluation.

Combinations of methods were used to stimulate active participation of the trainees, including: brainstorming, use of power point presentations, group discussions, sharing of experiences from each participant, and a field excursion along a river stream, which helped the participants to have hands on experience in generating appropriate variables for the issues, such as River pollution, river bank encroachments and uncontrolled access to water and associated resources.



Group discussion



The Consultant training participants



Field excursion



Field excursion

The Training Achievements:

The training contributed to the creation of an expert-group specialized in Citizen Science Data collection, analysis, synthesis and pricing which is projected to contribute to additional income generation for NBD and to the enhancement of planning, implementation and decision making of governments, the intergovernmental organizations, and development partners in the Nile Basin. The NTSEs were targeted for this training because of their position as entry points to the NDFs and their membership that reaches the grass root communities in the 10 Nile Basin countries.

Questionnaires were distributed to the trainees before and after the training in order to measure training achievements. A pre-training assessment showed that only 30% of the trainees had heard about Citizen Science but never applied it while 70% of the trainees admitted that this was their first opportunity to hear about Citizen Science. Similarly, 30% of the participants have had no exposure to statistics in one way or the other. Remarkably, 50% of the participants had never been involved in research. By the end of the training, they all became conversant with Citizen Science and confidently expressed that they could ably apply the principles and methodologies, including what to consider when setting a sampling design, designing of data collection tools, data analysis, synthesis, and application of citizen data in policy formulation.

In conclusion, Citizen Science training was a timely undertaking to equip the coordinators with required knowledge and skills, given the fact that it helps to collect data from hard-to-reach places, with inadequate technical manpower, and the ever increasing need to involve grass root communities in the quest to address governance in resource management and service delivery.

3.3.2 NBD built capacity of Women and youth from member NDFs

NBD through the 10 National Discourse Forums (NDFs), conducted capacity building trainings for Women and youth, most of whom are members of the NBD Network. A total of 563 participants (395 Female and 168 Male) from across the 10 Nile Basin countries benefited from these trainings consisting of knowledge and skills transfer on water resource management, climate resilience, integrated flood & drought risk mitigation, and green jobs.

Capacity building for Women:

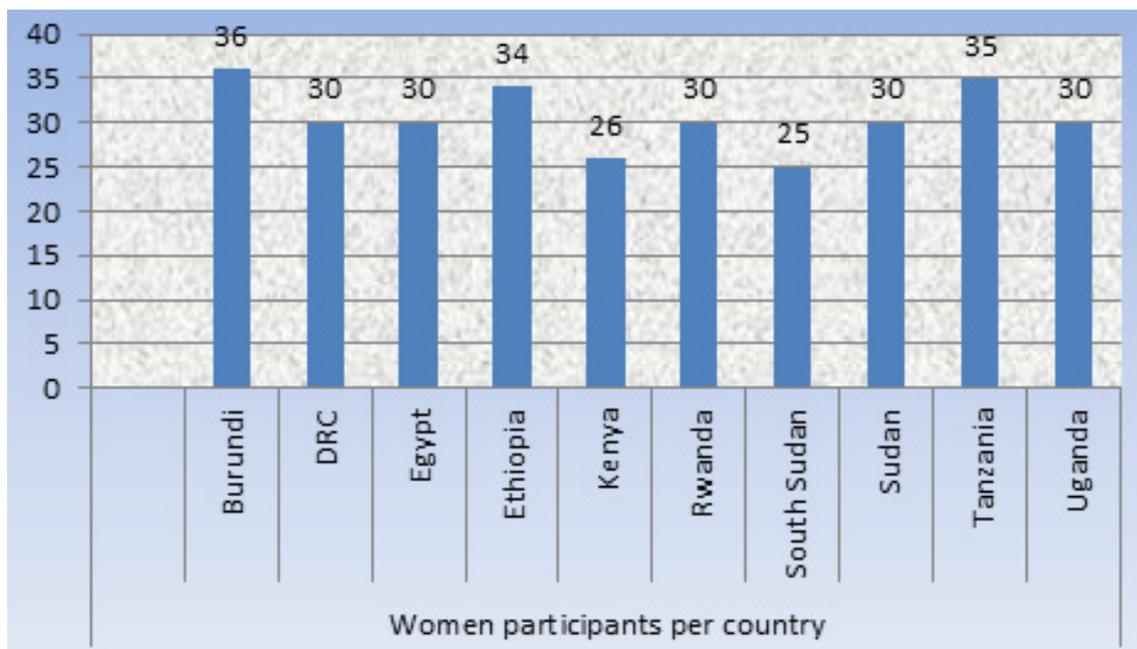
The objectives of the capacity building were to: (i) Identify and analyse roles and responsibilities of gender (both female and male) in water resources management and climate resilience; (ii) Increase women's awareness on combating social barriers for gender inequality so as bring women into the central decision-making roles in water; (iii) provide women with knowledge and skills that will help them engage in climate smart green jobs; and (iv) Create/strengthen network of women climate resilience champions who will advocate not only for their rights but also for climate resilient production and consumption in the Nile basin.

The expected outcomes, consistent with the specific objectives were to: (i) Build capacity of women members and stakeholders on water for environmental sustainability and climate change resilience; (ii) Make participants understand the roles and responsibilities of gender (both female and male) in water resources management and climate resilience; (iii) Increase women's awareness on combating social barriers for gender inequality and decision-making in water; and (iv) Develop knowledge and skills of women on the creation of green jobs; and (v) Creating a network of women climate resilience champions to advocate for women's rights and climate resilient production and consumption.

The training covered the following topics: (i) Water for Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience: covering the crucial role of water in environmental sustainability and in enhancing the

climate resilience of social and ecological systems. (ii) Water for Health: the critical role of water supply and sanitation in improving public health and thereby reducing health burdens from water-borne, water-washed, water-based, and water-related diseases. (iii) Water Resource Governance and Conflict over Water Resources: the political, social, economic and administrative system issues that influence water use and management. The concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), issues of international and local water conflicts, conflict resolution mechanisms, and conflict transformation. (iv) The DRM cycle, Drought Risk Management, and Flood Risk Management: the general concept of DRM cycle, drought and flood as major climate-related hazards and their multidimensional impacts in the event of disasters, and options and strategies for the management of drought and flood risks. (v) Women, Water and Adaptation: the gender dimensions of water management and adaptation to climate change, with emphasis on the particular roles of women in food and water security of families in the challenging context of the ongoing climate change.

Overall, NBD trained a total of 271 women across the 10 NBD member countries as indicated on the graph.



Achievements: The training workshops were timely and successful in terms of achieving the specific objectives and expected outcomes; gauged by comparing responses of participants to pre-training assessment and post-training evaluation questionnaires. Each participant responded to pre- and post-training questionnaires with a 5-point Likert scale (1: very poor, 2: poor, 3: Average, 4: Above Average, & 5: outstanding).

The pre-training evaluation checked participant's level of understanding on the topics of study and drew a benchmark for post evaluation whereas post-training evaluation questionnaires enabled comparison of changes that were reported by the participants after the training.

The analysis of the pre- and post-evaluation questionnaire shows that prior to the training, majority of participants had limited knowledge on the topics; at the end of the training, it is noticeable that the same participants rated their knowledge with scores of 4 and 5 (Above average and outstanding), which shows that they had acquired sufficient knowledge from the training.

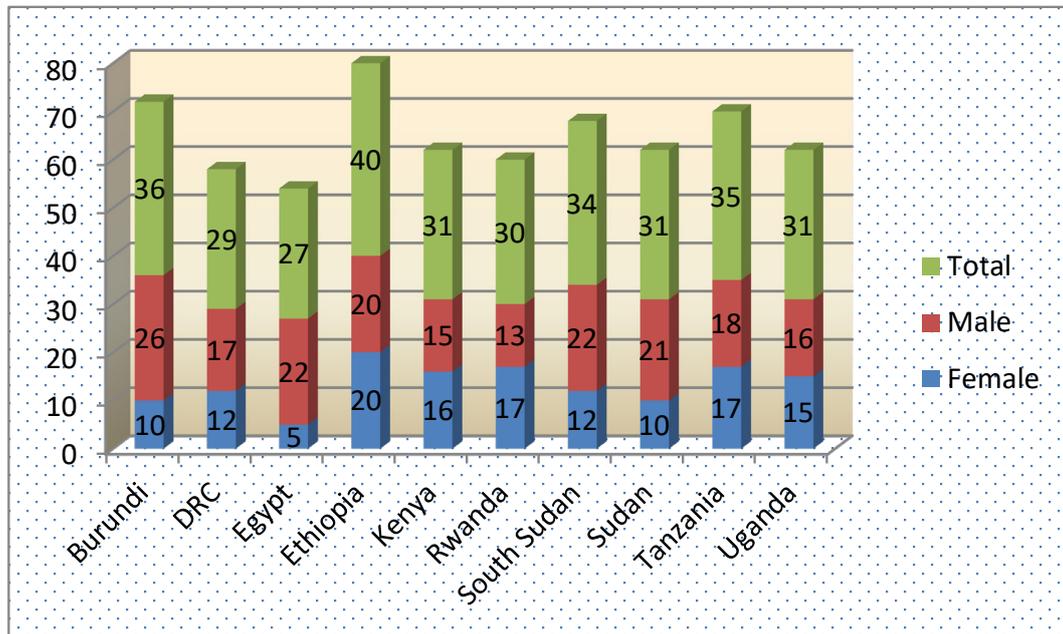
Across all NDFs, nearly all participants expressed high satisfaction with the topics covered, the quality of instruction and the facilitators/trainers and the venues of the training.

Capacity Building for Youth:

NBD conducted capacity-building training for youths (male and female below the age of 35) from the NBD/NDF network. The objectives of the trainings were to: (i) build the capacity of youth on water for environmental sustainability and climate change resilience; (ii) identify and analyse roles and responsibilities of youth in WRM and climate resilience; (iii) increase awareness of the youth on their roles and responsibilities in combating climate change through green development, which has implications for youth engagement in green jobs, use of green technologies and contribution to green innovations; and (v) Create/strengthen networks of youth climate resilience champions who will advocate for youth rights and climate resilient production and consumption in the Nile basin.

The topics covered include: (i) Water for Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience: discussed the crucial role of water in environmental sustainability and in enhancing the climate resilience of social and ecological systems. (ii) Water for Health: the critical role of water supply and sanitation in improving public health and thereby reducing health burdens from water-borne, water-washed, water-based, and water-related diseases. (iii) Water Resource Governance and Conflict over Water Resources: the political, social, economic and administrative systems issues that influence water use and management. (iv) The DRM cycle, Drought Risk Management, and Flood Risk Management: the general concept of DRM cycle, drought and flood as major climate-related hazards and their multidimensional impacts in the event of disasters, and options and strategies for the management of drought and flood risks. (v) Youth, Climate Change and Green Development: current and potential impacts and implications of climate change on the youth as a large group and the future of society. It also covered the significant roles the youth can play in tackling climate change by engaging in green jobs, use of green technologies, innovating green technologies and promoting green development.

Overall, NBD trained a total of 292 youths (124 female and 168 male) across the 10 NDFs as reflected in the graph below: Number of participants at the Youth Training per country



Achievements of the Training:

The youth training workshops are rated to have achieved the objectives; by comparison of responses of participants to both the pre- and the post-training evaluation questionnaire. With use of the 5 point Likert scale (1: very poor, 2: poor, 3: Average, 4: Above Average, & 5: outstanding), majority of participants rated with score 4 and 5 (Above average and outstanding), implying that they had actually benefitted from the training.

The youth expressed a high level of satisfaction with the topics covered, the quality of instruction and the venue of the training. The knowledge gap that existed at the beginning of the training was bridged and participants expressed this in their responses. However, they needed more practice in the field with real life situations within respective countries.

3.3.3 NBD built the capacity of its Board on Corporate Governance



Photo: The New Board attending the corporate governance training session in Nairobi – Kenya. December 2021

NBD trained the new Board on Corporate governance facilitated by Rose Lumumba, a corporate governance specialist of the WB. The trainer intensively and extensively discussed the foundations for the role and functioning of a corporate Board using Six (6) simple words: (i) drive, (ii) content, (iii) presence, (iv) acceptance, (v) contribution, and (vi) commitment.

Drive: Drive is about understanding the mind set of oneself and fellow Board members. The facilitator requested the participants to ask themselves as to what motivated them to become board members; and understand the mindset of the collective board they are joining and also set priorities since people expect so many things from them. She further requested participants to ask themselves the question: “what do I expect from this Board? What do other Board members expect of me?” She stressed that the Board functioning is both personal and collective and thus members should take both personal and collective responsibility.

Content: She stated that the Board are people with different thinking and perspectives; People of different experiences and skills form the board. She appealed to the board members to appreciate the unique individual skills sets and to align themselves with this diversity; the board chairperson should find a way to take advantage of the different experiences, skills and competencies to run the roles and responsibilities of the board as a team.

Presence: Ask yourself how do I want to be seen by others? What would be your credibility? How do you want people to credit your work? She underlined that a successful Board is one that has presence (emotional intelligence, physical) and maturity in decision-making.

Acceptance: This is centred on respect of Board members to each other, develop trust and mutual acceptance, create relationships, work on issues not on personalities, understand the challenges and strategies of the organization, and look at the impacts of board decisions on the organization, staff, and communities. She hinted that for a successful board, networking is important internally and externally.

Contribution: The Board has two sets: the individual person and the collective Board together. She advised each Board member to be confident and have something to bring to the entire Board; each Board member is expected to have confidence in their skills, networking, & knowledge so that they participate/contribute effectively. “Ask yourself what are my contributions? How much do I know about the industry/organization I am working for?”

Commitment: Even though the Board is collective, each individual member is accountable for every decision and is boss for him/herself. She encouraged each Board member to ask how effective his/her contribution was, and whether they prepared and ready for the Board meeting; she remarked that good attendance is important - both physical and mental. Each Board member should do self-evaluation after the meeting by asking questions such as: “What was my contribution? Did I help my boss and my colleagues?”

The training emphasized that life and leadership is a continuous process. Board members must stay ahead of the organization/management. The Board that is ahead of the management is ready to give direction, strategic thinking, and guidance to the management. The power in the Board is the power

of relationships; the chair should regularly check on the skills and competence of the Board members and build their capacity and team work. To stay ahead of the management, the Board must know about the industry, the organization and the strategy of the organization they are guiding. To segregate the functions of management and the Board, management must give information while the board should come up with strategic guidance and directions.

Overview of the Board's Role:

As per the training, any Board has three main roles to play: These include: Oversight, creating value, and building Team spirit/ work.

Oversight- keen scrutiny of the strategy, foreseeing risks of the organization, financial management, approval of HR policies and implementation plans, membership issues, etc.

Creating value: Developing succession plans, resource mobilization, protection of stakeholder rights, etc.

Team work: Teamwork is intentional, it is about leadership, contain your emotions and focus on the achievements.

Induction of the new Board and hand over:

As part of the capacity building process, the new Board members were inducted by the outgoing chairperson Prof. Muawia Shaddad, and the outgoing SG., Mr. Donald Kasongi.

In their remarks: Prof. Shaddad requested the new board to keenly note that NBD has a long history and it is very important to draw back on the past to plan for the future. Advancement in technology has enabled virtual meetings therefore the new board should take advantage of this technology to manage the small financial base available; NDFs need to be strengthened further; and communication needs to be fast and timely.

Mr. Donald Kasongi, encouraged the new board to understand NBD's governance Structure, understand its reason for existence, set objectives and targets, establish and monitor systems-level metrics, change policies and culture-under the new normal (COVID-19), learn from others and from each other, establish executive accountability, and evaluate themselves regularly. He also urged the incoming board to follow key instruments of the organisation to guide their decision making; and these are: the NBD constitution, NBD Strategic plan, and NBD Policy manuals.



PHOTO: The New NBD Board with the Secretariat Staff

Formation of Board sub-committees

Following the induction exercise, the new board nominated members to sub-committees to handle specific functions on behalf of the board. The following members were nominated to the subcommittees:

- (i) Finance, Admin, HR and Audit Sub committees were merged into one (composed of Ms. Aynalem Ashebir, Ms. Ahmadein Ghada, Mr. Gerard Nizigiyimana, Rev. Peter Mawa Sebastian, Mr. Christian Byamungu, Ms Faith Balaba, Ms. Agnes Namusiitwa, Mr Joseph Ngome, and Ms. Baranyizigiye Jeanne d’Arc); and
- (ii) Development committee (Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana, Ms. Therese Katungu, Ms. Nazik Dafalla, and Ms. Mai Elshafei).

It was suggested that NBD needs to establish special committees on Gender and Youth.

3 CHALLENGES FACED DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN THE YEAR 2021

The COVID-19 global pandemic posed a serious challenge to NBD and affected its activity implementation pace and modality. NBD was forced to adjust its initial plans of holding physical trans-boundary community consultation events for LEAF II, BAS, SMM, Mara, and Rusumo Falls Hydro-power projects. The Pandemic not only drastically slowed down NBD's pace originally set to engage communities of the different transboundary project areas, but also forced NBD to apply a two-stage framework of these dialogues: a country-by-country consultation platform to directly/physically involve project area communities; and a high-level regional virtual platform that would comprise representatives from the different countries sharing the trans-boundary river basin.

Conflicts/political upheavals in Sudan, Ethiopia, and DRC also affected NBD's activity implementation at national and regional levels. For instance, the political upheaval in Sudan severely delayed SNDF's national trainings, resource mobilization activities, video documentation, and the national AGM. In DRC, conflicts affected the NDF's national trainings (delayed implementation, less numbers mobilized than expected); th NDF was also forced to cancel community dialogue on the LEAF II project. Similarly, the conflict in Ethiopia and the resultant state of emergency declared by the government forced the NDF to either delay or cancel some activities (like National Nile Day celebrations, community dialogue in BAS project).

4 LESSONS LEARNT

In the year 2021, the NBD Secretariat has been working more closely with the EC/Board than ever before. The strong involvement of the EC/Board and all the NDFs in project management and decision-making processes enhances transparency and member engagement.

Although this is seen as a positive development in adding value and quality to the project management, strong involvement of the EC, Board and NDFs in the project management and decision-making process coupled with challenges of communication amidst COVID-19 pandemic instituted delays in project implementation.

Therefore, it is important that the roles and responsibilities of the different parties in the management of project implementation be clearly and distinctly defined to expedite project implementation.



Nile Basin Discourse

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