

NileNews

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NILE DAY 2012 Uganda's Vice President calls for cooperation

Vice President H.E. Edward Sekandi planting a tree in commemoration of Nile Day. Looking on is Uganda's Minister of State for Water, Hon. Betty Bigombe (left)

>> Nile Day is celebrated each year on 22 February by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Member States. The Day which is held both at regional and national level is a celebration of the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in 1999 by the Nile Council of Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries namely Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea (observer), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

This year's Nile Day celebrations were organised under the theme: "Water, Energy, Food - Importance of Nile Cooperation." The regional event was hosted by Uganda in Jinja district, from 21st to 22nd February 2012.

Addressing celebrants who gathered at the Busoga District Square, the chief guest H.E. Edward Sekandi, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, underscored the importance of cooperative management and development of the water resources of the

Nile basin in view of increased pressures particularly climate change.

H.E. Sekandi noted that Uganda's participation in international and regional basin-wide cooperation such as the Nile Basin Initiative confirms its policy of international cooperation with regard to shared water resources. "I wish therefore to urge those countries that are yet to sign the Cooperative Framework Agreement to do so as soon as possible so that all basin states can move forward together as they have done before,"

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2 MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is yet another exciting time to welcome our readership to our quarterly release of Nile News for the period January to March 2012. The start of the year 2012 has been a busy period on the NBI calendar with a series of activities ranging from strategic planning and management to implementation, coordination of NBI activities basin-wide, and to participation in the 6th World Water Forum. The period was characterized with implementation of the current NBI activity plan as well as continued preparation of a new generation of the NBI programs and projects that would operationalize the newly prepared NBI Strategic Plan 2012 to 2017.

During the period the NBI Management team comprised of representation from the three centres, (the Secretariat, ENTRO and NELSAP-CU) together with the World Bank and GIZ representation, began on a process for conceptualizing the new NBI “climate resilient growth program” currently under preparation. This activity is part of the overall program framework NBI is adopting in implementing the five year strategic plan slated to begin July 2012 as we move towards consolidation of the NBI gains of the 12 years of its existence. The level of professionalism and diligence demonstrated by the NBI cadre of staff is testimony that NBI has come of age in shaping and defining its destiny with a main target to improve the socio-economic and livelihood conditions of the Basin population.

Another hallmark in this period was the organization of the regional as well as the national Nile Day celebrations basin wide. The Regional Nile Day was celebrated in Jinja Uganda on 22 February and graced by a high political profile comprising of the Vice President Uganda, and Nile-COM Members from Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan. Messages from the political leadership underscored the importance of cooperation in the management and development of the shared water resources of the Nile. Besides the formal

engagement of the participants, the occasion presented an opportunity for the riparian citizens to informally interact, share, bond, exchange and network on matters of the Nile cooperation at individual levels.

The NBI Governance has continued to explore ways of sustaining the Nile Cooperation albeit the challenging period characterized by the impending closure of its Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP) at the end of 2012. The 35th Nile-TAC meeting held from February 24th to 25th provided strategic guidance and direction on how NBI should move forward with respect to implementation of the viable cooperative regional management and development projects.

NBI has established itself as a credible institution and its visibility has been growing as a model of contemporary transboundary river basin management organization. NBI has continued its efforts in promoting visibility on the world scene. NBI visibility was raised as it actively participated in the 6th World Water Forum held in Marseille, France under the theme “Time for solutions”. NBI was represented by a high delegation comprising of two Nile-COM members including the Nile-COM Chair, NEL-COM Chair, Nile-TAC Chair, two Nile-TAC Ethiopia and NBI Senior Management Team from Nile-Secretariat, ENTRO, and NELSAP-CU. An NBI exhibition stand was hosted, being the only African river basin organization that showcased its achievements and experiences as well as exchanged its success stories at the venue in the areas of power development, agriculture, and river basin management. Many high profile personalities worldwide visited the NBI stand, expressed appreciation to benefits NBI has added and will continue to add in the Nile Basin.


The 6th informal Nile Basin Trust Fund Committee meeting was also held in Paris, France. During this meeting, Development Partners were briefed on progress made in

implementation of NBI activities and formidable advice provided in regard to means of moving forward the NBI agenda. As well the Nile Basin Trust Fund Committee (NBTF-C) meeting discussed the following: the main funding sources for the NBI program work, approaches and plans to reach successful closure of the ISP, NBI financing strategy aiming at ensuring institutional and financial sustainability, and the proposal of the new CIWA-World Bank Program which NBI will pursue to achieve Climate Resilience Growth in the Nile Basin.

The Regional Power Trade Project, one of the last projects of the Shared Vision Program (SVP) came to a final close at the end of the quarter. The project closed after successfully concluding the Comprehensive Basin Wide Study of Power development Options and Trade opportunities in the region. The products of that project will greatly inform about power development and investment trends in the region.

Moving forward, NBI is bracing for successful closure of the Institutional Strengthening Project as well as comprehensive preparation of the Nile Basin Climate Resilient Growth Program (2013-2018). NBI will continue with consolidation of the gains made over the years as it also gears for the delivery phase of the investment projects prepared to-date. This is a critical phase where the concerted effort of all NBI key stakeholders is required to leverage implementation of the regional investment projects.

I wish to thank the NBI Member States for the continued commitment to the Nile cooperation, as well as friends of the Nile, our Development Partners for the unwavering support extended to the Nile Basin Initiative. I wish you good reading.


Wael Khairy (DR.)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Ministers in charge of Water Affairs, Dr. Hisham Kandil of Egypt, Alemayahu Tegenu of Ethiopia and Prof. Dr. Seifeldin H Abdalla of Sudan plant trees as part of activities to commemorate Nile Day



Left to right: Dr Khairy, Sudan Minister, Egypt Minister, Hon Bigombe listen to an official from Jinja local government during the celebrations



School children took part in the celebrations

he added.

Focusing on the theme for the celebrations, **'Water Energy, Food: Importance of Nile Cooperation'**, the Vice President challenged NBI Member States to reflect on the opportunities that the R. Nile offers and the extent to which the countries can harness this potential to improve water, energy and food security while mindful of the fact that the R. Nile is a shared resource.

The chairperson of the Nile Council of Ministers (NBI's governing body), was represented by Mr. Fred Mwango, Chairperson of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee. He said NBI Member States envisage far reaching benefits from the cooperation including peace and stability emanating from increased common understating of the region.

Uganda's Minister of State for Water, Hon. Betty Bigombe highlighted some of the benefits of the Nile cooperation to Uganda. These she said include several power grid interconnections that have been put into operation such as the Bujagali-Tororo transmission line covering a distance of 127.7

kms, Mbarara-Mirama transmission line covering 66 kms and extension of transformer substations at Tororo and Bujagali. On the side of food security and water, Hon. Bigombe said "Uganda has benefitted from the construction of nine large community fish ponds in Bunyandeti and Bunyideti in Busia district as well as water supply schemes for Katuna border town in Kabale district and Mella water supply in Tororo district.

Dr. Wael Khairy, the Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat said NBI has assisted Member States to raise more than USD1.2 billion to implement a number of projects in the area of power transmission, generation and trade; watershed and river basin management as well as agriculture, thus improving the livelihoods of Nile basin citizens. "Each of the projects benefits at least two countries with no harm to other NBI Member States, which is a key principle of NBI," he noted.

A number of awareness raising activities about the theme and about NBI were organized, including a field trip to the Bujagali hydro power Dam, tree planting, which saw H. E. the Vice President plant a "Nile Day Tree" at the Busoga District Square as well as cleaning of Lubas Market and an awareness-raising session. Other activities were a football match between two Senior Secondary Schools in Jinja and a brass-band led procession.

The function was attended by several

dignitaries including Ministers in charge of Water Affairs from Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda; former managers of the completed Shared Vision Program projects; Jinja District leaders, ambassadors, development partners, water specialists, environmentalists, agriculturalists, economists, researchers, civil society, media, school children as well as the general public.

Jinja district was selected by the government of Uganda due to its historic reference as the source of the River Nile. It is also the location for the new Bujagali hydro power Dam being constructed along the River Nile by the Government of Uganda.

The two day event was organized by the NBI in collaboration with the Government of Uganda (Ministry of Water and Environment), Jinja district authorities and the Nile Basin Discourse.

Among other things, Nile Day affords Nile Basin governments and citizens the opportunity to focus on stimulating region-wide awareness regarding the development, protection, conservation and sustainable management of the River Nile Basin and its resources for the benefit of more than 230 million people that live within the Nile basin and expect benefits from the management and utilization of its shared water resources. In Uganda, 33.6 million people out of a total population of 33.8 million, live within the Nile basin.

BY DANIEL MASSAMBA MEBOYA
REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST,
NILE-SEC - ENTEBBE



The NBI booth clearly stood out

NBI PARTICIPATES IN 2012 World Water Forum in France

➤➤ Visibility of NBI enhanced during this year's World Water Forum as Ministers and heads of delegations call for speedy action that provides the poor with access to clean water and sanitation and fixes worsening problems of water scarcity and pollution

The visibility of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was no doubt enhanced during the recently concluded 6th World Water Forum (WWF). The NBI was the only river basin organization from Africa which exhibited during the Forum that took place from 12 - 17 March 2012 in Marseille, France. The NBI exhibition booth attracted more than 900 visitors who included development partners, investors, researchers, university students, consultants, environmentalists, Nile-COM members as well as senior government officials and other high profile citizens from Nile Basin countries.

But the exhibition was not the only reason for the enhancement of the NBI visibility. The delegation that comprised of the Nile-COM chair, Nile-TAC Chair, Nile-TAC members from Ethiopia, the three NBI center heads, as well as other staff, actively contributed to the sessions and also made presentations during some meetings.

The 6th WWF also provided an opportunity for NBI to share its experience while learning best practices from the rest of the world. The Forum was also beneficial in as far as it enabled NBI to meet with current and potential donors in a bid to mobilize resources for investment projects and activities currently funded under the soon closing Institutional Strengthening Project.

Ministers issue declaration

At the end of the Forum, Ministers and heads of delegations from 130 countries issued a declaration urging the upcoming UN Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development (20 - 22 June 2012) to speed action that provides the poor with access to clean water and sanitation and fixes worsening problems of water scarcity and pollution.

The ministerial declaration focuses on the acceleration of the implementation of human right obligations relating to access to safe drinking water and sanitation for everyone's well-being and health, in particular for the most vulnerable, and improving wastewater. The declaration emphasizes the "inter-linkages between water, energy and food security," calling for "full policy coherence and well-functioning water-related ecosystems" as a basis for sustainable growth and job creation. It is worth noting that emphasis of the inter-linkages is also in line with the theme for the 2012 Nile Day celebrations which was 'Water, Energy, Food: Importance of Nile Cooperation.'

The declaration urges "the incorporation of water in all its economic, social and environmental dimensions in a framework of governance, financing and cooperation," taking into account the progress achieved towards the Millennium Development Goals by

2015 and beyond. Full text of the declaration can be downloaded from the Forum website <http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/> The World Water Forum which is held once every three years since 1997 is the largest water event in the world. Over 25,000 participants took part this year's Forum in some 250 sessions and panels and about 100 grassroots and citizenship events.

The goal of the Forum was to tackle the challenges the world is facing and to bring water high on all political agendas.

The World Water Forum developed 12 priorities and three conditions for success that organizers said are essential to accomplishing the goal.

The priorities include access to clean water for all, harmonizing water and energy, contributing to food security by optimal usage of water, responding to climate changes and adjusting pressure of human footprints on water resources.

The conditions for success are: good governance; financing water for all; and creating enabling environments.

BY JANE KYOMUHENDO BAITWA
REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
NILE-SEC, ENTEBBE



Nile-COM chair Hon. Charity K. Ngilu (Kenya's Minister of Water and Irrigation) talks to fellow Nile-COM members and ministers Dr. Hisham Kandil of Egypt and Prof. Dr. Seifeldin H Abdalla of Sudan.



Visitors to the NBI booth



Dr. Wael Khairy (2nd left) and Dr. Ahmed Khalid (right) meet with World Bank officials Mr. Jonathan Kamkwala (left) and Mr. Gustavo Saltiel (2nd right)



NBI team (left to right): Dr. Wael Khairy (Nile-Sec Executive Director), Mr. Fred Mwango (Nile-TAC Chair) and Dr. Ahmed Khalid (ENTRO Executive Director) during one of the sessions



“The benefits of NBI's participation in the Forum were many. We learnt how other river basin organizations and countries finance water programs. The Forum also provided another opportunity for Nile-COM members to discuss issues pertinent to the Nile Cooperation.”
Mr. Fred Mwango, Chairperson of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee

“We utilized all opportunities for resource mobilization and NBI visibility. NBI was the only River Basin Organization from Africa that exhibited. We also contributed in the different sessions and Nile-COM members who attended the Forum were part of the Ministerial declaration.” **Dr. Wael Khairy, Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat**



“NBI recognition and visibility by the international community was the most important benefit of our participation in the Forum.” **Dr. Ahmed Khalid, Executive Director of the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO)**



“Our participation as NBI was very important in three ways. We were able to learn from others, explore avenues for resource mobilization as well as display NBI and market our investment projects.” **Mr. Antoine Sendama, Regional Coordinator of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Office (NELSAP-CU)**



Dr. Khairy (left) and Mr. Ir. Jan Luijendijk (right) Head of informatics and Knowledge Management Dept. at UNESCO-IHE sign the MOU. Looking on is the NBI team

NBI SIGNS MOU WITH THE Nile Basin Capacity Building Network

The NBI recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nile Basin Capacity Building Network (NBCBN). The MoU aims at enhancing cooperation between the NBI and the NBCBN to make global, regional and local knowledge, information and experience available, and developing the capacities of both individuals and organisations working in and for the water sectors in the NBI institutions and all its member countries. The focus will be on establishing a framework for cooperation and the implementation of a sustainable strategy for a variety of capacity building and development activities (Research, Training and Education).

The MoU takes into consideration the fact that the need for building professional and institutional capacity is still considerable and that limited capacity is one of the most serious obstacles for further development of the water sector in the Nile Basin as a whole and for the individual riparian countries in particular.

It also considers the importance of creating a collaborative environment through which professionals from the water sector can exchange ideas, best practices and lessons learned and the successful role NBCBN has

been able to play in this respect in the last ten years.

The MoU was therefore signed to confirm the mutual missions and ambitions to further strengthen and intensify the cooperation and to promote, initiate and co-ordinate all possible joint activities in building the capacity of the water sector of the Nile region.

Cooperation may include, but not be limited to:

- i) Establishing effective linkages and coordination mechanisms between the two parties,
- ii) Water related capacity development including knowledge networking and the creation of dedicated Communities of Professionals, focusing on priority water issues and thematic topics including Climate Change Adaptation, Wetlands and Ecosystem Management, IWRM, Decision Support Systems, and others.
- iii) Development and implementation of a joint strategy for the areas of cooperation including prioritization of activities.

The NBCBN network was initiated in the year 2000 under The Netherlands Government funding through a partnership between the Hydraulics Research Institute (HRI) in Egypt and UNESCO-IHE of the International Institute

for Water Education, Delft, The Netherlands, who both - for the time being - legally represent NBCBN.

The aim of the Network is to strengthen the human and institutional capacity of the riparian countries through building strategic partnerships among water professionals and education, training and research institutions and government authorities.

Establishment of the NBCBN network was endorsed by the Nile Council of Ministers (NILE-COM) in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries in its meeting of March 2002. The Nile-COM also placed the Network under the umbrella of the NBI.

The same MoU was also signed with UNESCO-IHE. The main role of the latter is supporting NBCBN in achieving its mission, objectives and goals; providing overall management and coordination advise; providing scientific input and backstopping to the different collaborative research, training and education activities; and transferring the knowledge and experiences of networking and knowledge sharing to the NBI and its Member States.

BY JANE KYOMUHENDO BAITWA
REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
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NBI Management discusses progress of activities and refines priority actions after 2012

The NBI Coordination meeting brings together management of the three NBI centres (the Secretariat, Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office and Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit) to reflect on the NBI progress with regard to implementation of activities, harmonize approaches and agree on the priorities to focus on.

The recent Coordination meeting, the 12th in a series, was hosted by the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office, in Addis Ababa, from 5th to 6th March, 2012. The Coordination meeting is held once every six months.

The 12th Coordination meeting was crucial for NBI's future as it came during a challenging time when the Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP) will close at the end of 2012 as well as the uncertainty surrounding the sustainability of NBI programs beyond the ISP. Management took the opportunity of the Coordination meeting to plan for effective participation in upcoming donor meetings such as the informal NBTF-C in March 2012, aimed at securing funding for NBI programs particularly through the Nile Basin Climate Resilience Growth Program as well as bilateral sources.

Management also further developed and

refined programs for operationalization of the newly formulated Strategic Plans 2012 - 2017 for each of the three centres.

Reflecting on the ongoing NBTF funded activities and the level of achievement, the updated NBI portfolio monitoring tool was presented to the management, generally showing progress in implementation of the various NBI activities.

BY TOM WAAKO
PROJECTS OFFICER
NILE-SEC, ENTEBBE

The NBI library continues to attract more visitors

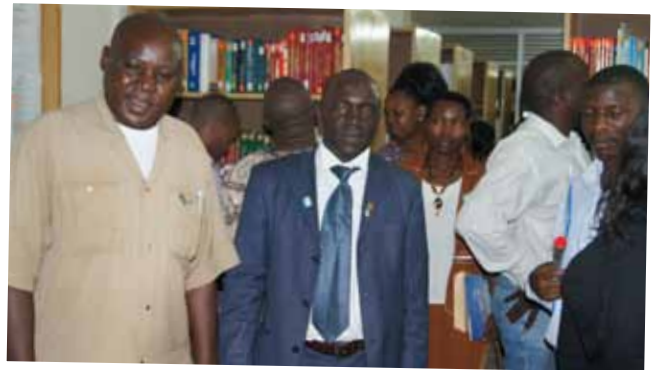
The library at the NBI Secretariat has continued to attract more users over the past four years. The library has been remodelled to meet a wide range of users' needs and is now equipped with advanced technologies ranging from digitizers to networked computers with fast internet access. The new equipment has made it possible for the library to offer its users with e-books and scientific journals since June 2011.

With this new look and feel the library now hosts an average of 25 users daily, both physical and on-line. The users are mostly researchers and students from higher institutions of learning.

Some of the key stakeholders that have visited and appreciated the services of the library include the leadership of Entebbe Municipality, ambassadors, members of the Nile Council of Ministers, members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee, international universities as well as officials from other river basin organisations.

The physical library which is located at the NBI Secretariat in Entebbe can be accessed by the public from Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays in Uganda) but it can also be accessed daily from any part of the world, through its website at <http://library.nilebasin.org/>

JULIET NAKASSAGA
LIBRARIAN
NILE-SEC, ENTEBBE



The Mayor of Entebbe Municipality, His Worship Vincent de Paul Kayanja (Center) and his team at the Nile-SEC library



Delegation from IUCN - Asia at the Nile-Sec library in 2011



Ministers in charge of Electricity Affairs upon signing the Tripartite Agreement (L-R) Hon. William Ngeleja (Tanzania), Hon. Emma Francoise Isumbingabo (Rwanda) and Hon. Come Manirakiza (Burundi)

Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania sign Tripartite Agreement for the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project

>> The countries reaffirmed their commitment to jointly develop, finance, own and operate the project

Ministers in charge of electricity affairs in three of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Member States namely Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania signed a Tripartite Agreement on 16th February 2012, to record the progress in preparation of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project and to reaffirm their intention to continue pursuing its financing and implementation.

Preparation of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project had been earlier endorsed by the Nile Council of Ministers in charge of Water Affairs, in March 2005. During the same period, Ministers in charge of electricity affairs in each of the three countries committed to jointly develop the project and accompanied activities within the framework of the broader Kagera Basin Multi-Purpose Development Program.

In signing the Tripartite Agreement, the Parties reaffirmed and recorded their commitment to jointly develop, finance, own and operate the project in accordance with the principles of the Agreement. They also temporarily designated NBI, acting through

the NELSAP PMU, as the project preparation entity with powers to act on behalf of each of the parties or some or all of them, jointly or collectively, in respect of their interest in the project in so far as committed under the Agreement, until such time as the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) shall have been legally established with the power to act on the Parties' behalf in such respects instead.

The interim role of NBI, acting through the NELSAP PMU will include soliciting and obtaining financing from relevant international financial institutions and entities, coordinating the establishment of the SPV and making all payments for any administrative and operational costs incurred in connection with the project until registration of the SPV.

THE SCOPE OF REGIONAL RUSUMO FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Resettlement and/or compensation (as the case may be of the Project Affected Persons pursuant to any Resettlement Action Plan (RAP).
- Construction of the Dam, the Power

>> PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Feasibility Studies completion: April 2012
- Setting up for implementation and financing: 2012
- Project implementation: 2013-2017
- Commissioning: 2017

Station, the main Substation, the Transmission Lines and the Terminal Substations.

- Transfer of individual Transmission Lines and individual Terminal Substations to the relevant national utility or utilities as subsequently agreed by the Parties.
- On-going operation and maintenance of the power Station and the Main Substation.

When completed, the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project will have an installed capacity of 80 MW (Run of River Scheme at 1320masl) to be shared among Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. The power generation infrastructure will be located at Rusumo Falls on the border between Tanzania and Rwanda.

BY JANE KYOMUHENDO BAITWA
REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
NILE-SEC, ENTEBBE

THE EASTERN NILE REGION REGISTERS PROGRESS IN Flood Preparedness and Early Warning

The entire Eastern Nile region is characterized by highly variable river flows, making it prone to extreme flood and drought events. Flooding affects major urban centers such as Khartoum and rural settlements riparian to the Blue Nile and Main Nile particularly during high rainfall periods (July-September), with devastating effect on lives and property. Flooding is also experienced in the tributaries of the Baro-Akobo-Sobat River.

Before NBI, there were acute imbalances among the Eastern Nile countries, namely Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan with regard to rainfall forecasting and managing floods. Egypt employed a workable system for rainfall forecasting and numerical modelling of changes in flows in the Nile. But Ethiopia had no national forecasting centre at all and neither Ethiopia nor Sudan made use of numerical modelling systems. Any communication, if at all, among Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan during flooding episodes was haphazard since there were no tools or norms for information exchange during these critical times.

Governments were also unwilling to discuss the details of flood control problems together, let alone design joint major flood control measures such as water storage infrastructure. Among others, the coordinated, inter-riparian management of these shared challenges related to flood control, were the impetus for the emergence of the NBI.

The three countries eventually recognized that to lower flood-related losses, a regional approach to flood management would be necessary. Accordingly, they committed to work together to track weather patterns and river flows. Through the NBI's Eastern Nile Flood Preparedness and Early Warning Project (FPEW), regular meetings between the countries on flooding and information exchanges on weather patterns or river levels were established.

Today, thanks to the NBI, the Eastern Nile region has seen marked improvement in timely and frequent exchanges within and among governments about river flows and weather patterns; and more effective actions at the community level to prepare for floods

and minimize loss of life and damage of property through flood management.

The Flood Preparedness and Early Warning Project focuses on flood plain management and mitigation planning; flood forecasting and warning as well as emergency response and preparedness at regional, national and community levels. The project is coordinated by NBI's Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The objectives of the project are to establish a regional institutional basis; to strengthen the existing capacities of Eastern Nile countries in flood forecasting, mitigation and management; to promote regional cooperation and last but not least, to enhance the readiness of Eastern Nile countries for implementation of the subsequent phases of the project.

Among other things, the NBI, via FPEW Project, is responsible for providing a political and technical platform for consultation among the three countries, establishing a network of river gauging and rain gauge stations as well as conducting community education and training. The NBI is also piloting flood protection works and carrying out land management planning for identified pilot areas.

Through the FPEW project, the NBI is enabling: the sustenance of information flows; the convening of government, university and local leaders involved in flood preparedness within a country; establishing common processes and systems for predicting and issuing warnings about flooding as well as establishing regular meetings between the countries on flooding and information exchanges on weather patterns or river levels. The project supported Ethiopia to create its first National Forecasting Centre, while helping both Egypt and Sudan to strengthen and harmonize the work of centres each had already established. This is in addition to installing a total of 18 manual rain gauges on the headwaters of Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile.

Further more, the FPEW project funded a number of flood-related activities at the national level, including flood risk mapping studies, development of technical flood

embankment manuals and guidance on voluntary resettlement policies. All three countries went into the year 2011 with compatible forecasting systems and workable flood risk maps. The three countries have the same modeling systems, making it easier to share and interpret information regarding heavy rain falls and flooding.

The flood-mapping work in the pilot areas created critical information/data sets that can be used to protect lives and livelihoods in Sudan and Ethiopia. Flood risk maps cover the Girma, Megech, Ribb and Gumera catchments around Lake Tana in Ethiopia and the entire reach of the Blue Nile from El Deim to Khartoum in Sudan. The maps include details related to flood extents, depth, and velocity in relation to assets vulnerable to damage for different flood return periods. This information can be incorporated in countries' early warning and flood response plans.

Within the three countries, the project contributed to improved linkages among disparate government structures. Water resources departments began to interact more with disaster risk management offices, meteorological services and universities. Communication between national, district and local organizations improved as well. Observed and forecasted rainfall data is publicly posted on meteorological authorities' websites and available for viewing and comparison.

National flood coordinators have been trained to run models and send alerts to district leaders, who would in turn inform communities. A critical component piloted under the project involved communities which were trained and organized to better prepare for and respond to episodes of flooding. Local leaders were trained to designate escape routes and to identify safe locations to move people, livestock and grain and to report back to national level about evolving flood conditions and observed rainfall.

BY JANE KYOMUHENDO BAITWA
REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
NILE-SEC, ENTEBBE

Investment phase of the Kagera River Basin Management Project to commence in 2013



Investment phase of the Kagera River Basin Management Project is expected to start in January 2013 following completion of the project preparation phase. The total potential investment of the project to be jointly implemented by four NBI Member States namely Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda is estimated at USD 500 million.

The Kagera Basin has insufficient water for household use and for grazing despite the abundant water sources found in the area. Wetlands have been exploited and degraded and there are cross border migrations of pastoralists which cause conflict. Cooperative water resources management offers unique opportunities as catalysts for greater regional integration, both social-economic and political with potential benefits exceeding those derived from the river itself.

The aim of the Kagera River Basin Management Project is to develop tools and a permanent cooperative framework for the joint management of the water resources in the Kagera River Basin and prepare for sustainable development oriented investments in order to improve the living conditions of the people and to protect the environment.

The Project is coordinated under NELSAP-CU and the Project Management Unit is located in Kigali, Rwanda.

Project objectives include the following:

- Establish a sustainable cooperative framework for joint management of the shared water resources of the Kagera River Basin.
- Develop an investment strategy and conclude pre-feasibility studies.
- Build capacity at all levels for sustainable management and development of the Kagera River Basin.
- Implement small scale investment projects that provide early tangible benefits to the population and promote confidence in the cooperation on the Nile.
- Facilitate Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project II (LVEMP II) preparatory activities for Rwanda and Burundi.

Before NBI, there was no legal and policy framework between the four Kagera riparian countries for joint and trans-boundary development and implementation of shared water resources, neither was there adequate capacity in water resources planning and development. The NBI has to date prepared a policy and legal framework for enhanced cooperation in the basin in addition to the Kagera Basin Management Strategy. Furthermore, Kagera basin officers and decision makers' capacity in Intergrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) has been built through training and study tours.

BY GERTRUDE NGABIRANO
PROJECT MANAGER

PROJECT BENEFITS

- A framework where joint planning and management of the Kagera River water resources will take place for improved socio-economic development of the basin and reduced/minimized potential water related conflicts provided.
- Data and information for basin-wide planning and development made available.
- Provision of IWRM basin wide plan that will facilitate water resources planning for sustainable management of the Kagera Basin.
- Rehabilitation of hydrometric network that will allow better water resources monitoring and planning.
- Increased capacity in water resources planning and development in the Kagera region at all levels.
- Multipurpose dams feasibility studies prepared. These studies are expected to result in bankable investment projects in watershed management and multipurpose dam infrastructure. Their further development will provide water for food production through irrigated agriculture, livestock and domestic use in addition to electricity to rural towns thus reducing the consumption of wood and hence deforestation.
- Reduced soil erosion and loss of vegetation cover through community environmental projects.
- Increased climate change adaptation preparedness through appropriate adaptive mechanisms.
- Better environmental protection of the Lake Victoria Basin through LVEMP II.
- Safe drinking water supplied to communities in Butihinda in Burundi, Nyagatare district in Rwanda, Ngara in Tanzania and Katuna (Kabale district) in Uganda.
- Afforestation carried out in Busoni, Kabarole and Kayanza in Burundi; Kirehe, Gicumbi and Nyamagabe districts in Rwanda; Ngara in Tanzania; and the districts of Rakai and Ntungamo in Uganda.

PROJECT OPERATIONAL AREAS PER COUNTRY

- Burundi: 11 provinces of Gitega, Muramvya, Mwaro, Karuzi, Ruyigi, Kayanza, Ngozi, Muyinga, Cankuzo, Rutana, Kirundo.
- Rwanda: 25 districts of Rwamagana, Kayanza, Ngoma, Kirehe, Gatsibo, Nyagatare, Bugesera, Muhanga, Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza, Huye, Gisagara, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Gicumbi, Rulindo, Musanze, Gakenke, Burera, Karongi, Ngororero, Kicukiro, Gasabo and Nyarugenge.
- Tanzania: 2 districts of Ngara and Kyaka.
- Uganda: 4 districts of Kabale, Isingiro, Ntungamo and Rakai.



Cattle in trans-boundary movement. Water and feeds availability en route and appropriate transport infrastructure are vital for high returns

NILE BASIN LIVESTOCK COUNCIL to be launched in August

➤➤ Among other things, the Nile Basin Livestock Council (NBLC) will coordinate and lobby for improved livelihood of the livestock communities as well as promote collaboration with other organizations within and outside the region that have similar work objectives.

The NBLC whose main task is to incorporate water resource planning and management into livestock sector-related investments will be launched in August 2012. The NBLC is a private sector arm that will collaborate with the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Member States, the African Union-Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the East African Community (EAC).

A workshop to initiate the formation of the NBLC was held in Arusha-Tanzania, under the auspices of NBI's Regional Agricultural Trade & Productivity Project (RATP), AU-IBAR and the EAC. The workshop that took place from 14th to 17th March, 2012 brought together Livestock Marketing Associations and Institutions from Nile Basin Countries.

The initial task of the NBLC is to collaboratively uptake for sustainability, the regional investment potentials resulting from the on-going 'Cross Border Trade-Corridor (CBT-Corridor) study on live livestock of the Nile Basin Countries', undertaken by RATP. Among the intervention areas under water

resource management, the study identified the investment potentials of Trans-boundary Water Earth Dams along the trans-boundary trade corridors.

The rationale of the NBLC is to coordinate and lobby for improved livelihood of the livestock communities as well as promote collaboration with other organizations within and outside the region that have similar work objectives. The NBLC will also lobby for a better environment for regional and international livestock marketing and safe trade for enhanced livelihood with positive gender dimensions. Furthermore, it will lobby and coordinate the mainstreaming of pastoralist development policy on water infrastructure and rehabilitation of corridors' transport and storage infrastructure. More importantly, the NBLC will enhance the mainstreaming of water resource management in livestock sector-related investments.

The NBLC will be anchored and housed within AU - IBAR's Pan African Forum of Livestock Exporting Countries (PAFLEC) continental forum. Its membership/representation should

be gender inclusive and will be composed of one representation for each member country from

- i) Livestock Traders Association
- ii) Livestock Producers' Organizations
- iii) Processors -where existing
- iv) Transporters
- v) Government Livestock Officer - as observers/advisors
- vi) Government Water Officer -as observers/ advisors; a representative of the NBI Secretariat as well as any other relevant livestock stakeholders.

Expected outcomes of the NBLC include the following:

- Harnessing and efficient uses of water resources to reduce water stress of livestock production and trade.
- Regional integration of livestock issues that enhance cooperation.
- Potential for food insecurity and poverty reduction.

DR. HELLEN OMMEH-NATU
NBI/NELSAP/RATP PROJECT TRADE &
POLICY OFFICER

What's on?

April - June 2012

Dates	Activity	Venue
23 - 27 April, 2012	World Bank Procurement training	Gisenyi, Rwanda
2 - 15 May	Nile Basin Climate Resilience Growth (NBCRG) Mission: 2 nd - 4 th : NELSAP-CU 7 th - 9 th : Nile-SEC 10 th - 15 th : ENTRO	Kigali Entebbe Addis Ababa
11 - 13 May	Africa Water Week	Cairo
June	Senior Management Team Meeting with World Bank Team for the Nile Basin Climate Resilience Growth (NBCRG) Project Appraisal	Entebbe
June	20 th Nile-COM and 36 th Nile-TAC Meetings	Kigali
June	13 th NBI Coordination Meeting	Kigali

MEMBER STATES



Burundi



D.R. Congo



Egypt



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda

SHARED VISION

To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile basin water resources

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS AND VIEWS



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