



one Nile - one family

Nile Basin Discourse
DISCOURS SUR LE BASSIN DU NIL

ANNUAL REPORT

January - December 2023





Nile Basin Discourse
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OUR MANDATE

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a regional civil society network established to promote meaningful engagement of non-state actors in the planning, implementation, and oversight of cooperative development initiatives across the Nile Basin Region. NBD serves as a platform for advocacy, policy dialogue, and knowledge sharing, with the aim of strengthening participatory governance and fostering equitable, sustainable social, environmental, and economic development for all communities that depend on the Nile Basin's shared resources.

The network is organized through 10 National Discourse Forums (NDFs), which are further linked to Local Discourse Forums (LDFs) and a broad membership of NGOs, CSOs, and community-based organizations. This multi-tiered structure enables NBD to effectively bridge grassroots perspectives with national and regional policy processes, ensuring that local voices inform decision-making at higher levels. Through this inclusive and decentralized approach, NBD enhances coordination, amplifies civil society influence, and contributes to cooperative solutions for shared water and development challenges in the Nile Basin.

VISION:

A Nile Basin where sustainable social and economic development benefits all people, with justice, human rights, good governance, poverty reduction, and environmental protection.

MISSION:

To ensure a fully informed, basin-wide civil society actively influences Nile cooperation and development processes through advocacy, dialogue, and equitable use of Nile water resources.

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ACRONYMS

CIWA	Cooperation in International Waters in Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ENTRO	Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
EOIs	Expression Of Interest
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
GA	General Assembly
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 Program 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
ToRs	Terms of Reference
WB	World Bank

Executive Summary

In the year 2023, NBD achieved promising results in the areas of leveraging platforms, engaging young professionals, mobilizing flood prone grassroots communities, strengthening the Regional Nile Women's Network, and engaging the National Discourse Forums.

Leveraging platforms and Forums: In a bid to communicate benefits of Nile cooperation and risks of non-cooperation, NBD leveraged various platforms and Forums such as the Nile Day 2023 celebrations, the high-level Stakeholder engagement on transboundary water resources management in Africa, the Nile – TAC and Nile-COM meetings, the Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF), and the World Water Week to mention a few among many.

Engaging young professionals contributed to expediting NBD's outreach and knowledge sharing programmes in the Eastern Nile Basin Countries of: Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan in terms of collecting real-time data and information on the priorities and concerns of grassroots youth and women on the NBD-NCCR thematic area 2.

Mobilizing flood prone grassroots communities contributed to bringing the voices of flood affected grassroots communities into the policy-making processes by national governments and inter-governmental agencies such as NBI. NBD in collaboration with NELSAP-CU, mobilized flood prone grassroots communities in all the Nile Basin Countries except Egypt, and enabled experts from NELSAP-CU to collect data and information required for developing Flood Early Warning System in the Nile Basin.

With regard to strengthening the Regional Nile Women's Network, NBD finalized the formation of the Regional Nile Women's Network, developed ToRs and Action Plan with the aim to establish fit-for-purpose networks at national and regional levels that will play key roles in sustainable and effective uptake of the NCCR project outcomes, and serve as a regional Task Force working with NBD and NBI on issues related to water and Women in line with the NBI Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.

During the fiscal year, NBD effectively engaged National Discourse Forums (NDFs) in mobilizing grassroots stakeholders to inform the NCCR project, especially flood - prone communities, recruiting young interns, mobilizing grassroots women, and in preparing and submitting monthly User Generated Contents (UGC).

Out of the NCCR project thematic areas, NBD registered two achievements: (i) NBD joined the membership of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Global Partnership; and (ii) NBD secured Additional Financing from the WB/ CIWA to ensure its sustainability.

This report covers the period from January – December 2023, and it covers the following sections, including:

1. ABOUT THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE (NBD)

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is an independent voice of grassroots people with over 600 CSO members. It links communities in 10 countries along the Nile with local and national governments as well as with intergovernmental organizations, informing and enriching projects, programs & policies at national and trans-boundary levels.

NBD as a civil society network established in 2003 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 water resource management, climate security, environmental conservation, agriculture, energy, gender equity and equality, 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 constitute the NBD Network, which is coordinated by a Regional Secretariat based in Entebbe, Uganda.

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

The NBD network 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 which is "to ensure that a fully informed and basin-wide civil society develops and plays a key role in achieving the vision, through pro-active and critical influencing of projects, programs and policies of the Nile Basin Initiative and other development processes," NBD plays a critical role in warranting that development in the Nile Basin is human centred, inclusive and sustainable.

KEY INITIATIVES

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) received US\$750,000 (Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand USD) from the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA), a Trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB) under the project titled: "Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) (P172848)." The NBD commenced the NCCR project in 2022 with the aim of strengthening stakeholder engagement to improve cooperation on and understanding of water resource management, specifically on the two thematic areas (*flood and drought risk mitigation and leveraging platform for cooperation*), and the two crosscutting issues (*Gender and communicating Benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation*).

Since the grant allocated to NBD (US\$750,000) was exhausted in August 2023, during the project Mid-Term Review in May 2023, it was agreed by the WB and NBI Centres to provide funds to NBD worth US\$466,000 (US\$ 250,000.00 from Nile Sec, US\$ 150,000.00 from ENTRO, and US\$ 66,000.00 from NELSAP-CU).

The commitments of Nile Sec and NELSAP-CU are clearly stipulated in the Mid-Term Review (MTR) *Aide Memoire* while ENTRO has communicated its commitment through an Official email written by its Executive Director. The Nile Sec has already remitted USD 112,500 to NBD. Using the contributions from NELSAP-CU, NBD has already started implementation of activities related to community mobilization and consultation in Water Quality (WQ) hotspot areas in Rwanda. Finally, NBD has submitted a concept note and budget to ENTRO on the two activities that ENTRO has agreed to fund. The activities are related to riverine flood prone communities' mobilization and consultation to enable ENTRO to collect real-time data and information on flood occurrences, impacts, community preparedness and mitigation measures.

This 2023 annual report presents the activities implemented in the year as per the approved Work Plan and budget.

2. NCCR PROJECT THEMATIC AREAS AND NBD'S ROLE

The Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) is a Five-Year (2021-2025) project that aims to improve mechanisms for cooperation on water resources management and development in the Nile Basin. The project is jointly implemented by the Nile-Sec, ENTRO, NELSAP-CU, LVBC, and NBD.

2.1. Project Components and Thematic Areas

The project has 5 components, 5 Thematic Areas, and 2 cross cutting issues.

Project components	Thematic Areas	Cross cutting issues
Component1: Advancing Nile Basin-wide Cooperation (Nile-Sec)	Thematic Area 1: Platform for cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Communicating benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation
Component2: Improving Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Equatorial Lakes (NELSAP)	Thematic Area 2: Flood and drought risk mitigation	
Component3: Improving Mechanisms for Cooperation In the eastern Nile (ENTRO)	Thematic Area 3: Dam safety capacity building	
Component4: Water Quality in the Lake Victoria sub-basin	Thematic Area 4: Innovative information services for climate-resilient investment planning	
Component5: Strengthening stakeholder engagement in the Nile Basin	Thematic Area 5: Water quality investment planning and prioritization	

2.2. NBD's Role in the NCCR Project

NBD is responsible for Component 5 (Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement in the Nile Basin) across Thematic Areas 1 and 2 as well as cross cutting issues of involving gender in the NCCR and communicating benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation.

2.2.1. *Thematic Area 1: Leveraging platforms and forums:*

Under this thematic area, NBD is to organize and/or use existing ranges of platforms for facilitating inclusive stakeholder dialogue for communicating benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation which would increase understanding of stakeholders for enhanced transboundary cooperation in the Nile Basin. Specifically, NBD is to leverage on Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) and Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) platforms, Annual Nile Days and other Platforms to contribute to dialogue towards supporting right decision-making on key water management challenges of the Nile Basin by bringing civil society perspectives, approaches and experiences from the ground in climate resilient water resources management.

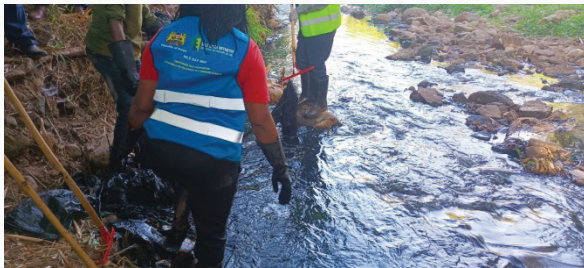
Key achievements under this thematic area in the year 2023:

i) NBD leveraged the 17th Regional Nile Day Celebrations 2023

Nairobi River cleaning: As a precursor to the Nile Day 2023, NBD participated in a community cleaning of Nairobi River on the 21st February 2023. NBD together with the NBI, Ministry of water Resources - Kenya, local council leadership, students from Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) and the Nairobi University, participated in the cleaning of Nairobi River. The activity was a curtain-raiser for the Nile Day event but specifically aimed at raising awareness for protection of water sources and promoting environmental protection within the Nairobi community.



Participants assemble for a briefing ahead of the cleaning exercise



Participants actively involved in cleaning the River

The 17th Regional Nile Day celebrations 2023: NBD leveraged the 17th Regional Nile Day 2023 event in Nairobi, Kenya, on the 22nd of February 2023, where NBD through its Board Chairperson Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana, delivered a statement that reached out approximately 300 people that attended the event; highlighting the reason for NBD's establishment and why NBD traditionally joins the NBI to celebrate Nile Day.



Part of the NBD Team at Regional Nile Day 2023, Nairobi - Kenya

The 17th Regional Nile Day 2023 was held under the theme **“Deepening Nile Cooperation: Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate”** with the Guest of Honour H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary of the Republic of Kenya.

The event was attended by among other categories, Ambassadors and high commissioners of NBI member states, Diplomatic corps, representatives of Development partners, the Nile-COMs, Nile-TACs, Former NBI EDs, NBI staff, Civil Society under leadership of the NBD, and school-going children.

Nile Day is an opportunity for Basin citizens to convene and celebrate the benefits of Nile cooperation and exchange experiences, views, and ideas on topical issues related to the cooperative management and development of the common Nile Basin water and related resources; it also provides member States with a timely occasion to re-affirm their commitment to Nile Cooperation; enhancing stakeholders’ appreciation of the importance of and commitment to Nile Cooperation while at the same time raising awareness on the benefits of Nile Cooperation to both the governments and the people of the Nile.

To the NBD Network, the Nile Day event is an important platform for awareness-raising and advocacy to draw attention of NBI project implementers, the Nile Basin governments, and development partners to emerging issues from the grassroot communities on projects, programs, and policies affecting water, environment, and climate change in the region.



The NBD network was represented by 15 people. 6 male and 9 (60%) female; including Board members from eight (8) countries of (Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda), four (4) from the NBD Secretariat, and three (3) EC members of the Regional Nile Women Network.

The NBD Network exhibited roll-up banners carrying messages related to the issues that the NBD work touches on including: Climate Change, Transboundary Community Engagement platforms on NBI Projects, Women and Youth Empowerment in Water Decision Making, and mentoring the young generation in environment conservation.



Some of NBD's Roll-up Banners at the Exhibition

During the Nile day celebrations, it was noted that the spirit of Nile Cooperation is still alive and there is a warm feeling and overwhelming support, enthusiasm, and commitment from all the 10 member states, including the Egyptian Government, civil society, and the development partners.

While expanding space for communities at the Regional Nile Day, NBD ought to equally put emphasis for the National Nile Day events by NDFs so that communities can experience and learn better, own and domesticate the same messages shared at the Regional Nile day. This further disseminates the message of the benefits of Nile Cooperation and the risks of non-cooperation deeper to the grassroots.

NBD Board Meeting: On the 21st February 2023, NBD held its Board Meeting back-to-back with the Nile day celebrations, which discussed and approved the: (i) Annual Report (narrative and fiscal) 2022; (ii) Annual Plan 2023; and (iii) NBD Strategy 2023-2027. The Board also agreed on retaining the existing Staff until the end of the NCCR project period (August 2023).



The NBD Regional Board listens-in to the fiscal report presentation during the board meeting

ii) NBD leveraged the MTR platform of the NCCR (P172848) Project:

A World Bank team carried out the Mid Term Review mission for the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience Project (P172848) between May 15th and 19th, 2023 with the objectives to: (i) assess and document progress made since the inception of the project towards achieving the project Development Objective (PDO); (ii) assess the likelihood of the project achieving its PDO and identify obstacles and bottlenecks; and (iii) agree on improvement or adjustment actions, as may be deemed necessary.

The mission assessed the on-going and planned activities with a focus on technical aspects, procurement, financial management and disbursements, project management, M&E including the results indicators, coordination between implementing agencies, safeguards, and gender. The mission held discussions with all the five implementing agencies (IAs), namely, Eastern Nile Regional Technical Office (ENTRO), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat (Nile-SEC); and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NEL-SAP-CU) gathered in Nile-SEC headquarters in Entebbe, Uganda.

NBD's accomplishments on Component 5 and thematic areas 1 and 2 together with 2 crosscutting issues (Gender and communication) were presented and reviewed.

NBD reported that it has achieved all of the activities planned for Thematic Area 1 Platform for Cooperation and the Cross-Cutting Theme on Gender except some of the activities related to the development of flood management strategy and flood mitigation plan and basin-wide identification of flood prone communities for consultation meetings which were aligned with the ENTRO's implementation schedule. NBD reported that it has fully met the target for Intermediate Results (IR) Indicator 3 (# of fit-for-purpose networks created or strengthened) while the target for IR Indicator 6 (# of community level stakeholders consulted for usability of flood warning notifications) is on track. Thus, according to MTR Aide Memoire, **NBD' implementation Progress was rated Satisfactory as elaborated in the table below:**

SUMMARY OF MISSION FINDINGS

Key Highlights Project Ratings	Previous	Current
Progress towards achievement of PDO	S	S
Overall Implementation Progress	MS	MS
Component 1: Advancing Nile Basin-Wide Cooperation	MS	MS
Component 2: Improving Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) Region	S	S
Component 3: Improving Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Eastern Nile	MS	MU
Component 4: Water Quality in the Lake Victoria Sub-Basin	MS	MS
Component 5: Enhancing stakeholder engagement in the Nile Basin	S	S
Procurement	MS	MS
Financial Management	S	S
Environmental safeguards	MS	S

Key: S: Satisfactory MS: Moderately Satisfactory MU: Moderately Unsatisfactory

Using the platform, NBD flagged that sustainability of the network and results achieved under the NCCR Project are at risk as the funding for NBD has been exhausted. The World Bank team confirmed that they were working to secure additional funding to NBD to enable its financial sustainability. Besides, the World Bank team encouraged NBI Centers to contribute funding to support NBD activities and basic functions for one more year. Accordingly, Nile-SEC and NELSAP provided support with indicative funding figures of US\$250,000 and US\$66,000 respectively, ENTRO came up with the figure at a later date (US\$150,000).

iii) NBD leveraged the high-level River/Lake Basin Organisations Meeting, 23rd - 26th May 2023, Kampala, Uganda:

Over 50 Representatives drawn from the African Union Commission, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the African Regional Communities, the African Network of Basin Organisation (ANBO), the African Development Bank, GIZ, WB/CIWA, and other development partners attended the 4-days High-level meeting where NBD was represented by, Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana, the Board Chairperson and Mr. Ayenew Tessera Fenta, the Acting Regional Manager.

The purpose of the high-level meeting was to set the agenda and launch the continental campaign to assure the effective implementation of the *Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development of the 9th World Water Forum*; and the UN 2023 Water Action Commitments.

Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana, NBD Chairperson, was a panellist in one of the panel discussions focussed on water infrastructure. In her remarks, the NBD chairperson emphasised the need for more investment in the water sector which considers the priorities and interests of local communities.



NBD's Chairperson sharing NBD's views at the High-level panel

Finally, the meeting issued The Kampala Declaration on Transboundary Water Resources Management in Africa where NBD is one of the signatories of the Declaration.

iv) NBD leveraged the World Water Week platform in Stockholm (20th - 24th August 2023)

Stockholm World Water Week is the leading conference on global water issues, held every year since 1991; attracting diverse mix of participants from many professional backgrounds and every corner of the world in an attempt to develop solutions to the world's greatest water-related challenges.

In the 2023 World Water Week, NBD was represented by Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana, Board Chairperson, who interacted with various donors to showcase and brand NBD's achievements on the ground.



The NBD Chairperson making presentations

The chairperson attended key Donor Roundtable meetings with the African Development Bank, WB/CIWA, and GIZ representatives.



Photo after donor roundtable meeting with the WB/CIWA senior management

v) NBD leveraged the NILE-TAC and Nile-COM MEETING, October 2023, Munyonyo, Kampala-Uganda

NBD made presentations at the Nile-TAC meeting focusing on its contributions to Nile Cooperation with practical examples at country and transboundary levels.



Group photo of the participants at the Nile-TAC meeting at Munyonyo Hotel.

vi) NBD leveraged the 7th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF)

NBD as key partner of NBI, participated in the National Organizing Committee (NOC) for the 7th Nile Basin Development Forum, following the invitation from the Ministry of Water and Environment-Republic of Uganda; and also involved in the Regional Organizing Committee (ROC) following invitation from the NBI Secretariat, and contributed to the preparations for the Forum.

NBD was assigned to be a caretaker and co-convenor for one of the webinars on: **“The Role of Non-State Actors in Promoting Transboundary Water Cooperation.”** NBD invited Professor Oweyegha-Afuanaduula, the former Chairperson of NBD (2008 to 2010) as keynote speaker.



NBD, through its chairperson delivered a speech at the opening session (plenary) addressed to over 500 participants; bringing the story of a climate hazard victim woman from the grassroots in the Nile Basin.



NBD Chairperson delivering her speech at the opening session of the NBD

NBD, through its chairperson was at the high-level panel that discussed the “Regional Water Infrastructure as drivers of regional cooperation, regional peace and security, and sustainable development.” NBD emphasized the involvement of local communities in the water infrastructure development processes to get their buy-in so as to ensure the quality and sustainability of those infrastructures.



NBD chairperson at a high-level panel

NBD Participated in the Nile Media Award, & Awarded the 1st and 2nd runner up in the Radio category.



NBD mobilized its Board members to represent CSOs at the NBDF from the 10 Nile Basin countries for awareness raising, networking, and experience sharing. Using the opportunity, NBD held its Board meeting back-to-back with the NBDF (16th and 17th October 2023) and discussed and resolved on: (i) recruitment of NBD's Regional Manager, (ii) renewal of Staff contract, and (iii) NBD's financial standing and the way forward.



NBD Board Meeting at Munyonyo Hotel.

vii) NBD leveraged the 6th Implementation Support Mission (ISM) of the WB



Participants at the 6th ISM in part

A World Bank team carried out the 6th implementation support mission for the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience Project (P172848) from 13th -15th November, 2023. The objective of the mission was to review the progress of activities that were agreed upon during the previous mission in May 2023 and to provide support to the implementing agencies to ensure timely and quality delivery of the project. The mission held discussions with all the five implementing agencies (IAs) who gathered in Kigali, Rwanda.

NBD presented its progress updates for the period and plans for the next 6 months on Component 5. Enhancing stakeholder engagement in the Nile Basin. NBD's Progress for Component 5 was rated as **Satisfactory (S)**. NBD's leveraging on the platform resulted in the World Bank team announcement of WB/CIWA additional funds to NBD for 2024 and 2025.

viii) NBD engaged Young Professionals from the Eastern Nile Countries under the pilot internship programme

Under the NCCR project, NBD initiated a Pilot Internship programme for Eastern Nile Countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan) and had brought 4 interns (all young girls) on board for six months. The goal of the internship program was to enhance NBD's outreach programme by linking young university graduates to the youth and Women at grassroots.

The specific objectives of the internship program were to: (i) Enhance the intern’s understanding of how civil society engages with grassroots communities, intergovernmental organizations, governments, and other stakeholders. (ii) Gather real-time evidence from grassroots women and youth on flood and drought risks and mitigation approaches. (iii) Promote communication of the benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation to the grassroots communities. (iv) Contribute to NBD’s overall activities in the NCCR Project by supporting and networking with National Technical Support Experts of the NDFs and NBD member CSOs/NGOs.

Achievements of the Internship Program include: (i) benefiting local Communities, especially women and youth through awareness creation and information sharing on WASH and Climate change impacts; (ii) benefiting National Discourse Forums by strengthening their engagement with grassroots communities; (iii) benefiting Interns themselves by enhancing their exposure and experience in engaging with grassroots communities, and local government authorities; and (iv) benefiting the NBD Network at large by enhancing interaction with grassroots women and youth participation.



The 4 interns from Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Egypt (from left to the right)

2.2.2. Thematic Area 2: Flood and Drought Thematic area:

Under this thematic area, NBD mobilized stakeholders to input ideas on the current utilization of the existing early warning system, identify gaps, and establish two-way communication for enhanced service delivery between communities and providers to improve stakeholder awareness of hydro meteorological hazard preparedness in the Nile Basin.

Key achievements under this Thematic Area:

i) Flash flood prone grassroots communities’ consultation, Mwanza, Tanzania:

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) Network and Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP –CU), in collaboration with the government of Tanzania and National Discourse Forum (NDF) Tanzania mapped out flash flood prone sites and consulted flash flood affected local communities in Mwanza Municipality in Tanzania in a bid to develop a Nile Basin Flash Flood Early Warning System (FFEWS) that aims to support national meteorological and hydrological services in the Nile Basin member states in

disseminating reliable and effective flash flood early warning information for flash flood prone communities.

The activities on flash flood prone communities' consultations and site visits (31st January to 3rd February 2023) included a series of meetings with government entities in Tanzania (Lake Victoria Basin Water Board-LVBWB, and the Tanzania Meteorological Agency-TMA) and site visits to Mirango Ward, Pamba Ward, Mabatini Ward, and Mbugani Ward.

MEETING OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS AT THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN WATER BOARD (LVBWB)



The LVBWB is a government institution responsible for assessing and monitoring sustainability of water resource through the application of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) principles, including mainstreaming of gender in the water resource management. The team drawn from NELSAP-CU, and NBD/TNDF discussed with LVBWB Officials and technical staff on the purpose the field visit and intended results.



Discussion at the LVBWB Office

The purposes of the meeting at the LVBWB were:

- i. To clarify the purpose of the field visit to Tanzania that is to understand about flood vulnerability, impacts, and community preparedness to respond to and prevent the flood occurrence and minimize impacts.
- ii. To discuss and agree on the timetable for the planned field visits to the selected 4 flash flood prone sites in Mwanza Municipality.

Site visit to Mirango Ward: Mirango River runs through the center of Mwanza city North Western Tanzania, draining into Lake Victoria.

Mirango river catchment is one of the most flood affected areas in the Mwanza Municipality. The area is congested market place; full of socio-economic interactions on daily basis, and hence highly susceptible to flooding, which is combination of flash and riverine flood.



Mirango Ward Market place

The Team conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with designated community members at the Ward Office in the presence of the Ward Executive Officer, Ward Staff, and experts from the Lake Victoria Basin Water Board.



Focus Group Discussion at the Mirango Ward

Community members explained about their vulnerability to flash floods, impacts, their preparedness and response, and proposed sustainable solutions for the flood challenges.

Communities' vulnerability to Flash floods: the area is highly vulnerable to flash floods. The flooding reaches communities within 20-30 minutes after the rain drops, giving little preparation time to get rescued. Communities receive no early warning information from anywhere. But they try to rescue themselves just by looking at the sky when the rain is coming. The flooding is exacerbated by soil erosion that brings siltation into the Mirango River, causing river overflow.

Impacts floods: during the 2000 flooding alone, for instance: (i) 12 people lost their lives, (ii) Several houses demolished, (iii) Properties (cars, crops, business centres, etc.) damaged, and (iv) Infrastructure (bridges, electric poles, telecom facilities) damaged.

Flood response/preparedness: It is owners' risk to rescue; everyone rescues himself/herself and properties; no organized response/support from government or any other body. However, it was noted that during the 2000 flooding, the government evacuated the victims and settled them in another area; allocated them with plots of land for free for constructing homes; but after 3 months, the victims sold the plots and came back to their original place due to the fact that they were taken far away from their economic activities and livelihood centres.

Communities' own initiatives to protect and prevent the flooding hazards, include:

Planting trees and grasses on river banks



Upgrading old bridges which were very short for the flood to overflow, risking mobility and shortening the life of the bridges themselves



Upgraded bridge



Old bridge

Embarking on cleaning the river from sands and other debris by involving the youth as income generating activities



Sand removing practice

Protecting the wetlands so that they filter debris to allow clean water to flow into the river and then to their farmlands



Sustainable solutions proposed by communities: The communities proposed the following solutions as sustainable: (i) Cleaning the river regularly to remove the debris so that the water doesn't overflow the river banks; (ii) Enhance catchment management through strengthening environmental committees (providing them with working tools-gabion, Public address speakers to announce the risk to the people ahead of the hazards-early warning information); (iii) Improvement of infrastructure such as: upgrading bridges, construction of diversion channels, dykes, etc.; and (iv) Early warning system provided that it provides timely and accurate information commensurate with the flood lead time.

Site visit to Pamba Ward:



Focus Group Discussion with designated communities at the Pamba Ward

Communities' vulnerability to Flash floods: Pamba Ward is the upper side to the Mirango Ward, and found in the same flash flood route as Mirango. The Floods occurs every year but the intensities vary. The floods are abrupt and stay only for a maximum of 2 hours; it reaches communities within a very short period of time after rain pours, giving little or no time for communities to prepare to rescue themselves and their properties.

Impacts: (i) According to the communities, because of floods, three (3) children lost their lives in 2015; (ii) Several houses were demolished; (iii) Infrastructures were damaged; and (iv) Container shops of residents were washed away

Preparedness and response: Communities tried to clean Mirango River by removing sands and other debris to boost the capacity of the river's volume to accommodate floods. An NGO supported communities to construct terraces using gabion but the project was phased out earlier with no continuity. The Municipality tried to disseminate the early warning information to communities using local radio but the coverage was said to be limited

Proposed solutions: (i) Permanently re-locating communities settled around river banks (flood risk zones) to other safe settlements through discussion and persuasion; (ii) Enhance the volume of the river by removing silts and debris from the river; and (iii) Providing early warning information to communities through text messages using cell phones; communities informed us that the government is using this technique for health campaigns, and this needs to be replicated into the flood early warning system.

Site visit to Mabatini and Mbugani Wards:



Focus Group Discussion of designated community members from Mabatini and Mbugani Wards

Community vulnerabilities to flash floods: People around the river banks are more vulnerable and severely affected each time flood comes than those away from flood routes.

Impacts: according to communities, due to flooding, there were: (i) Destruction of houses and loss of properties, including livestock, and businesses; (ii) Destruction of crops from communities' gardens; and (iii) Damages to infrastructure (roads, electric poles, telecom facilities).

Preparedness and responses: (i) communities get alerted when heavy rain is coming by looking at the clouds in the sky, but the floods quickly collect momentum from the upper catchments (hills) and reach communities within 20-30 minutes; (ii) There is no organized and systematic response to the flood hazards from the government; it is just owner's risk to rescue him/herself; (iii) Water User Associations (WUAs) in the area have been making efforts to clean the river from sands and other debris, planted trees along the river banks, and sensitized people living along the river banks to take caution; (iv) Local government in collaboration with the WUAs and Environmental Committees also organizes meetings

to sensitize flood vulnerable communities, blow whistle to alert the public when heavy rain is to come; and (v) communities in the downstream receive individual phone calls from the upstream communities and get prepared.

Sustainable solutions: (i) Communities welcomed the idea of early warning system if it is quick and accessible to all, but the sustainable solution in their views is constructing diversion walls, dykes, and terraces using gabions; and (ii) Upgrading the old and short bridges to a standard commensurate to the intensity and magnitude of the floods is also considered as sustainable solution.

Issues to follow-up by NBD: NBD needs to forward the voices of communities to relevant government authorities to build the capacities of Water User Association (WUAs) and Environmental Committees that are making tremendous efforts to create awareness and sensitize flood vulnerable communities. The WUAs and Environmental Committees need additional knowledge and skills on community mobilization; they also need necessary working tools needed to alarm communities such as public address speakers; and other supports like gabion to protect landslides and soil erosion caused by floods.

Flood vulnerable communities are mostly those settled around Mirango River banks. One of the sustainable solutions proposed by the communities during FGD was to re-locate them to safer places. However, this dissociates them from their livelihood centres. NBD recommends that the government provides flood prone communities with alternative livelihood options for the to-be- dislocated people so that they stay away from flood routes.

ii) Flash flood prone grassroots communities' consultation: Mbale and Sironko Districts, Uganda:

NBD Secretariat and Uganda National Discourse Forum (UNDF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda mobilized flood prone grassroot communities in Mbale and Sironko districts to enable NELSAP-CU to collect data and information required for developing Flash-Flood Early Warning System for the Nile Basin countries.

The activity implemented (from 7th-10th March 2023) in Uganda included: (i) a series of meetings with government offices in the Ministry of Water and Environment, Kyoga Water Management Zone and Sironko District Local Government; and (ii) visits to the flash-flood prone grassroot communities in Nabuyoga River – Mulembe Cell, Mbale City and Bukiise Sub- County, Sironko District.

Meeting with officials at the Ministry of Water and Environment: The meeting, hosted by Mr. Tumwebaze Wycliffe, Principal Water Officer, mainly discussed the vulnerability of Mbale and Sironko districts to flash-floods most recently in 2022 being the worst period.



Meeting Participants at the Ministry of Water and Environment Office

Meeting with officials at Kyoga Water Management Zone office: This meeting disclosed the degradation of water resources in the catchments of Eastern Uganda as one of the biggest challenges leading to Climate Change in the region. The meeting also underlined that the Flash floods in the area have caused several losses of lives and property, water supply system greatly affected and people displaced. Thus, there is need to build capacity of structures and early warning systems put in place for management of floods.



Meeting with KWMZ officials and Ministry of Water and Environment Officials in Mbale

Meeting with Mbale City Clerk: highlighted that Mbale was identified as a flood prone area especially with the scenic existence of Mount Elgon. Human activities as well as population density in Mbale are destroying nature especially on the mountain slopes whose effects are now being felt. In July and August 2022, Namatala, Nashibiso and Nabuyonga rivers burst their banks after heavy rainfall and swept through the city of Mbale, submerging homes, shops and roads, and uprooting water pipes. According to Mbale City Clerk, the floods caused approximately 400,000 people to remain without clean water; and damage to crops from more than 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres).

It was suggested that short-term relief works are not sustainable and thus the need for rehabilitating the environment through planting trees married with awareness raising of local communities on the severe impacts of floods.



Meeting with Mbale City Clerk and other Government Environment Officials

Dialogue with flash-flood prone Communities of Nabuyoga River – Mulembe Cell, Northern Division, Mbale District: This highlighted that Floods have been occurring in Mbale since 1997 of which the peak of floods happened in 2019 and 2022. Once it rains for more than three (3) hours, there is a high likelihood of floods to occur. The community opts to relocate to stay with relatives and only return when the floods have subsided. The floods are exacerbated by agricultural encroachment along the slopes of the mountain, coupled with deforestation.

For emergency evacuation, communities do get information about the looming disaster from media (radio/TV), phone calls from the neighbouring villages, and through door-to-door communication from the neighbours.

As a long-term solution, communities requested for National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to sensitize the community on the effects of destruction of the environment, to evacuate people who have constructed along the banks of the rivers, to plant more trees along the banks of the rivers and also to enlarge the river banks. The community also encouraged the introduction of gazetted areas for garbage disposal and dumping of plastics to avoid blockage in water channels.



Meeting with the Nabuyoga River – Mulembe Cell community in Mbale District

Meeting with officials at Sironko District Local Government: This meeting disclosed that, flash floods have been common occurrences in Bukise and Bukhulo sub-counties and areas around Sironko town. The heavy rains leading to floods, in the past, have caused life-threatening risks such as cracks in buildings, destruction of food crops, buildings and sanitation facilities. The floods have led to loss of lives and property with thousands of people displaced from their original homes and left homeless.



Some of the buildings constructed that are already destroyed by floods

The District Officials underlined that there is need to construct valley dams/tanks in order to control the flow of water; whose trapped water could be used for livestock and agriculture at the same time. Additionally, there is need to sensitize people in the community about the floods and its effects.



Meeting with Sironko District Local Government Officials

Meeting with the flash-flood prone Community representatives from Nalugugu Trading Centre/ Village, Nalugugu Parish, Butandiga Sub- County, Sironko District: This enabled the NELSAP and NBD team to learn that from 2016, floods brought about by heavy rains happened twice a year (April and August); once it rains for more than two (2) hours, there is a high likelihood of floods to occur. The individual homesteads dig deep gutters to divert the fast-flowing water filled with silt. Other homesteads opt to relocate to the neighbouring villages to stay with relatives and only return when the floods have subsided. The community was informed of the upcoming disaster by observing the streams of the nearby hills, streams carrying rubbish, heavy rains flowing for more than 2-3 hours. On the other hand, intermittent rains falling continuously for 3-4 days will most certainly cause flooding to the surface on the 4th day (this is riverine flood). They also inform the neighbours by phone call from the neighbouring villages when the floods are coming and also door-to-door arrangement. For the heavy rainfall that causes flash flooding instantly, the most reliable means is by phone call although it doesn't provide ample time to save both property and lives.



Streams of Water in Nalugugu Parish from the nearby hills carrying silt and rubbish

Flood Preparedness from the affected communities is done using local knowledge of flood management by heaping and compacting soil to cause an elevation tall enough to affect the free flow of fast running water. They also constructed local dams by piling barriers for flood control to mitigate flooding into their homesteads. Other households reconstruct elevated beds in the houses to keep the young ones from being washed away by the floods. Communities wish to create a local climate management team amongst themselves in order to be responsible for informing the community in case disaster strikes, and wish to have local boats to evacuate the victims in case of disaster.

As a sustainable solution, communities requested for well-constructed drainage system to direct water to the river, construction of valley dams to be used for irrigation, and control of plastics to avoid blockage in water channels.



Meeting with the Grassroots Community of Nalugugu Trading Centre/Village



Roads leading to a primary school in Nalugugu parish relentlessly destroyed as a result of floods disaster

There is a call for a concerted effort in engaging short and long-term solutions as pointed out by the communities but most importantly sound calls for sensitization of all communities in Mbale and Sironko districts about the environment and the need for its protection.

iii) Flash flood prone grassroot communities' consultation in Rwanda:

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) Secretariat, in collaboration with Rwanda National Discourse Forum and the Ministry of Environment in Rwanda, conducted flood prone communities' consultations (from 04th - 06th April 2023) to contribute to the data collection by NELSAP-CU for the creation of a Flash-Flood Early Warning System for the Nile Basin countries.

Team of experts from NELSAP-CU, NBD/NDF discussed with officials in the Ministry of Environment, and the Rwanda Water Resources Board before travelling to visit flash-flood prone communities in Muganza cell – Runda Sector, Nyagacyamu village in Kamonyi district and Cyome cell, Nyakagezi village, Gatumba Sector in Ngororero district.

Meeting with officials from Ministry of Environment and the Rwanda Water Resources Board: This meeting highlighted that flash floods are one of the major disasters in Rwanda because of its topography. The idea of a flash-floods early warning system based on real-time data from citizens was welcomed as it will end up providing a blue print of scaling up such systems in the country and the Nile Basin at large.



Meeting with Participants at the NELSAP-CU Offices in Kigali, Rwanda

Flash-flood prone community meeting at Muganza cell – Runda sector, Nyagacyamu village, Kamonyi district: This meeting revealed that the region is prone to natural disasters such as landslides and flooding, which can be a threat to the safety and livelihoods of the residents. Top of Form

The environment has been destroyed and floods have occurred due to unplanned constructions on the slopes by the community. Canal construction was halted mainly due to limited resources, leaving the community at risk of floods and property damage. There is a community-led initiative to instead construct local channels so as to direct water downstream in areas that lack properly constructed channels.

The last disaster in this part of the country’s province happened in January 2020 that destroyed infrastructure (roads and a bridge) and also agricultural crops in the process. Communication was also cut off between communities. The government has constructed some channels to guide the fast-moving water downstream with a lot of sediments from the slopes. The government established a program for agricultural crops insurance, which has certain requirements for participation. Its purpose is to assist those farmers who have been impacted by floods caused by excessive rainfall and who have consistently paid into the program. However, the compensation offered is not significant enough to have a major effect.



A run off from the hilly slopes in Nyagacyamu village

The community is alerted about potential heavy rains through radio and also the Ministry of Environment, whose messages are majorly sent through phones of heads of homes, to keep them informed and prepared. There is a community-led labour-intensive process of creating terraces aimed at preventing soil erosion by slowing down the rate of water flow, and increasing the amount of arable land available for cultivation.



A community-led initiative of terracing on the slopes in Nyagacyamu village

As a sustainable solution, it was recommended that the community builds water harvesting tanks as a means of minimizing the amount of water flowing downhill. The community welcomed the use of technological advancement for the early warning system to support in overcoming the disasters.



Meeting with the Community of Nyagacyamu village in Kamonyi district

Flash-flood prone community meeting at Nyakagezi Village, Gatumba sector, Ngororero District: This unveiled that the topography of Nyakagezi village is marked by steep, rocky hills and narrow, deep valleys which presents flooding challenge for the residing community. The Rwanda Meteorology Agency (Met Rwanda) only provides general weather information to the community such as potential rainfall but there is no further information received about possible floods. Once the ministry announces general weather information, the local leaders organize meetings to inform the rest of the community. Due to heavy floods, infrastructure, especially roads, and farmers' agricultural crops were destroyed. Particularly, community members, who constructed by the river bank of Nyabarongo river lost property (houses, livestock, and agricultural crops).

Due to intense rainfall, the water flow downstream of Nyabarongo River has been rapidly increasing, and the river has become contaminated due to agricultural runoff and wastewater discharge, washing chemicals into the river, causing water pollution. Consequently, the river, which was previously deep, has become shallow due to the build-up of sediments.



Nyabarongo River polluted by agricultural runoff and wastewater discharge

Communities, welcomed the technological initiative for the early warning system and requested to be given the opportunity to input data since they are at the grassroots. The acceleration of flooding in the area has mainly been caused by deforestation in Rwanda for decades, with large areas of forest being cleared for agriculture, housing, and other purposes. This has led to soil erosion and a reduction in the ability of the land to absorb water. Other causes that have accelerated floods include poor infrastructure (*lack of adequate drainage systems*) to manage heavy rainfall and prevent flooding; and also, rapid urbanization that has led to construction of buildings and other structures in areas that are prone to flooding.

As part **of preparedness**, community has embarked on creation of community-led terracing aimed at preventing soil erosion. Bamboo is planted along the river bank, and its extensive root system used to hold the soil in place and prevent it from being washed away by the flowing water. Because of uncoordinated weather pattern and the likelihood of flooding, the community engages in agricultural crops with a very short life span. The community engages in water harvesting for all household serves to mitigate effects of storm water although they are aware that this is not a lasting solution for floods.

As **sustainable solution**, community members urged the central government to construct or repair infrastructures like bridges and water channels.



Meeting with the Grassroots Community of Nyakagezi Village in Ngororero district

iv) Flash flood prone grassroot communities' consultation in Burundi:

The NBD Secretariat, in collaboration with the Burundi National Discourse Forum and the Ministry of Environment in Burundi organized consultations with flash flood prone communities to enable experts from NELSAP-CU to collect real-time data on flash floods.

The communities' consultations (11th – 15th April 2023) were preceded with the meetings with different officials from relevant offices (Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Interior, Community Development and Public Security, and Directorate of the Geographic Institute of Burundi).

Meetings with officials at the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, general directorate of water resources and sanitation: Enabled the team to learn that the mapping of flood-prone areas is not yet well identified due to lack of resource and the watersheds and their data are not identified due to financial problems to carry out the mapping of watersheds in Burundi.



Left: Meeting with the Officials at the Ministry of Environment-Burundi

Right: Meeting with General Directorate of civil protection

Meeting with officials in the Ministry of Interior, Community Development and Public Security- General Directorate of civil protection:

This highlighted the collaboration of the Directorate with the local community in relation to early warning information that allows to save communities' lives and livelihoods before floods occur. The Directorate has a permanent team of police trained on rapid intervention in case of disasters in collaboration with the national platform for disaster risk reduction and other partners such as the RED CROSS and IOM. Regarding weather information, the local communities receive information through radio - television of Burundi via IGEBU, newspapers and through social networks.

Meeting with the officials in the Directorate of the Geographic Institute of Burundi: revealed that most of the rivers have rainfall stations though the flood zones are not yet identified, and the Institute receives weather data from Kenya.



Meeting with the Officials at the Directorate of Geographic Institute-Burundi

Visit to Ruvyironza site in the community of Gitega and Mubarazi: This helped the team to learn the fact that rainfall in the area is more intense in the month of April than in other rainy months, which often causes floods that damage plantation fields and disrupt the economy of local communities, the environment and the development of the country. The floods affecting the communities along the Ruvyironza River and the Mubarazi River have generally damaged rice fields and made some land impossible for farming because of the water that has occupied the surface, and some farmers will not even go to the field to harvest the crops they have grown due to floods.

The communities are making efforts for protection but with difficulty because some activities require funding.



Participants of the field visits



The **causes** of these floods are often due to climate change, torrential rains, rising groundwater, rivers as well as unprotected hills, mountains and watersheds. These coupled with bad topography, poor infrastructure, and environmental degradation have made local communities vulnerable to flash floods, which damaged plantation fields, causing further environmental degradation, causing hunger in the communities, bringing diseases related to malnutrition, and diseases caused by stagnant water such as malaria, disruptions in the family economy, and family disintegration.

With regard to support to the victims, it was reported by the communities that the floods caused no human casualties. However, the local communities requested the government to intervene in strengthening protection activities that would reduce flooding and prevent future casualties. The local communities revealed that they receive early warning information that can enable them to save themselves before the floods through SMS, radio and television, social networks and newspapers but the problem is how many communities have radios, televisions, and/or android phones. Despite the fact that the Geographic Institute of Burundi publishes daily weather information, the communities have a problem of accessing this information; hence they needed other means that facilitate them to receive this information easily.

As part of preparedness, communities have taken measures to protect themselves from floods, through tracing the contour lines and exchanging information between themselves, developing watersheds and hills by planting trees to fix the land though these activities are limited due to lack of resources.

Sustainable solutions proposed by the communities include drawing contour lines, respecting buffer

zones, planting of ground fixing trees, making sure that the weather information reaches them in time, establishing hill groups that would raise awareness of weather information at the local community level, and carry out actions aimed at reducing flooding (cleaning of Rivers, marshes, protecting watersheds and hills and mountains).



Members of local communities at the two sites

v) Flash-flood prone Communities’ consultations in Kenya:

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) Secretariat, in collaboration with Kenya National Discourse Forum and the Ministry of Water Resource in Kenya, mobilized flash flood prone communities and held consultations in Kenya from 16th -20th April, 2023.

Before going to the field, team of experts from NELSAP-CU, Water Resource Authority-Kenya, Kenya National Discourse Forum, and the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation-Kenya, had briefing meetings with relevant government Offices.

Meeting with the Transboundary Waters Directorate in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation: This meeting helped to set the stage for the activity and clearly map the sites expected to be visited.



NELSAP team making presentations on the NCCR Project and objectives of the field visits

The meeting also helped to understand the roles of government in early warning and response to flash floods; that Kenya did not have a flash flood early warning system, and would therefore greatly benefit from the NELSAP initiative; and that Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) issued weekly weather forecasts on their website and also sends alerts to the Ministry and other stakeholders such as the Red Cross; and the water Resources Authority (WRA) had weather stations across the country, some of which were automated, and shared data with KMD.

The national government used the provincial administration (Chiefs and Sub-chiefs) to help evacuate victims of flash floods who were usually taken to safe higher grounds in institutions such as schools and places of worship. In urban areas, most flash floods were due to blocked drainage systems, as well as settlement along waterways. The county governments had in place Disaster Risk Response committees, but most of them were not effective or efficient in terms of response to flash floods, mainly due to lack of policy and limited resources.

The meeting with the officials of the Water Resources Authority (WRA) Narok county office: This unveiled that degradation of the Mau ecosystem complex was the main contributor to flash floods in Narok town. Massive deforestation had reduced water infiltration in the highlands, hence increased surface run-off. The county WRA office was working closely with WRUAs to help address issues of flash floods by educating the community on, among other things, proper land use methods. Blocked drainage systems due to poor physical planning in Narok town also contributed to flash floods whenever heavy rains were experienced. Poor management of solid wastes (especially plastics) was a major contributor to this.



Team members pose for a group photo with the WRA Regional Manager

Community vulnerability and response to flash floods:

In order to assess the vulnerability of local communities to flash floods, 4 sites that had a history of occurrence were selected for team visits. These were in Narok (2 sites) and Bomet (2 sites) counties. KNDF had mobilized community members from the affected sites for interaction with the team. The following are some highlights from each of the sites.

Sites Visited in Narok County: London and Olopito sites.

The visit to **London Site** highlighted that Narok town shot in the limelight with respect to flash floods in 2015, with 15 people losing their lives, and 15 vehicles being destroyed and swept away. According to community informants, the worst floods were experienced here in 2019, when at least 28 people lost their lives, more than 51 heads of cattle drowned, 28 vehicles swept away, and other property worth millions of shillings was destroyed. Deep gullies were evident here, as a result of previous flash floods experienced every year, but with varying intensities.

Deforestation in the upstream sections of Ewaso - Nyiro River for illegal logging and charcoal burning; unsustainable land use methods accompanied by clearing bushes, opening up drenches through ploughing with tractors, ploughing up-and-down the slope, and cultivation on steep slopes without soil control measures; nature of Topography; and settlement along waterways have all been aggravating factors for floods.



Some developing gullies from flash floods in April 2023 in Narok



Some flood channels blocked by debris

The visit to **Olopito Site** underlined that Flash floods occurred every long rain season, but at varying intensities; the last severe ones having been experienced in April 2022, causing floods within 1-2 hours of heavy rains, and this time was too short for evacuation or salvaging of property.

As a rescue mechanism, in most cases, individual households migrated to their relatives upstream and would not return to their homes until about 2 weeks. Those who did not have any relatives upstream were rescued to schools and churches situated on higher grounds, where they were supported with basic needs by the county government.



FGD in progress in Olopito site – Narok County & right: Site Visits in the Bomet County

Site Visits in the Bomet County

The Visit to Mulot Site and discussions with communities highlighted that most severe flash floods were experienced in April 2020, when over 1000 heads of cattle were killed. There was no history of severe floods in this locality in the earlier years. Community members indicated that destruction of the Mua complex for agriculture in the last decade has had negative effects, including increased run-off.



FFGD on-going in Mulot

The Visit to Tuyabei Site informed the team that, the site being the confluence of 2 rivers - Malo and Nyangores, marking the starting point of Mara River, is prone to floodings. The latest most severe flash floods were experienced in April 2020, and lasted about 2 weeks. The last such floods remembered by the elderly were in 1961 and 1998.

Community members attributed the recent severe floods to settlement and farming activities on low lands-traditionally left for grazing, destruction of forest, and topography.



Focus Group Discussions in Tuyabei



Some eroded flash flood water ways in Tuyabei

Impact of flash floods to the local communities were described as: destruction of grazing lands and animals were collected at rescue centers; farmlands were destroyed; houses and business structures destroyed; transport disrupted due to damaged road system; and prevalence of waterborne diseases, among Others. Since rescue missions arrived late, due to poor road networks, evacuation missions were left to affected victims and their families – which exposed children and women to greater danger.

Dissemination of alert messages and response to Floods use different mechanisms which include: motorbikes and moving within the villages at the downstream, local FM radio stations that used local languages, community health volunteers who communicated with Kenya Red Cross through a toll-free line, the Red Cross sent random bulk SMS alerts (through mobile phone providers, WRUA members and local administration/local chiefs).

Long-term Mitigation Measures suggested by community members were construction of **Check dams, Concrete water channels, Foot-bridges, River bank protection, and implementation of On-farm water and soil conservation techniques.** Permanent relocation of communities to higher safer grounds, with compensation from the government for their land was also suggested as a sustainable solution.

vi) Community consultations in flash-flood prone areas in South Sudan



The NBD Secretariat, in collaboration with South Sudan National Discourse Forum and the Ministry of Water Resource and Irrigation in South Sudan, organized consultations with flash flood prone grassroot communities from 24th - 28th April 2023.

Ahead of consultations with flash flood prone grassroot communities, NBD together with other invited guests attended country consultation meeting that discussed about revitalizing Nyimur/Limur Multi-purpose Water Resource Development project, progress updates on Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation and Dam Safety Capacity Building of the NCCR project, and the upcoming Regional Climate Resilience Programme in the Southern and Eastern Africa.

Country consultation on the Regional Climate Resilience Programme (RCRP), Nyimur/limur, Dam Safety, and Flood and Drought mitigation projects:

The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NELSAP) and the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resource and Irrigation-Republic of South Sudan organized a one-day country consultation meeting held on the 24th April 2023 in Juba Land Mark Hotel.



Participants of the meeting in part

About 18 stakeholders drawn from the Ministry of water Resource and irrigation, South Sudan Meteorology Agency, ENTRO and NELSAP staff, NBD/NDF Staff, Nile-TAC South Sudan and ENSAP-TAC South Sudan attended the consultation meeting.

The Regional Climate Resilience Programme (RCRP): This is a World Bank funded upcoming project with the grant amount of US\$ 4 Million (Four Million USD) to be implemented in Southern and Eastern Africa where South Sudan is selected as a target country from the Nile Basin region. The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) is the lead Implementing Agency to be partnered with NELSAP.

The RCRP mainly aims to reduce flooding in South Sudan where out of 10 States, 7 are affected by floods. The proposed project has 4 components: (i) Risk management and climate financing, (ii) Climate resilience infrastructure and Asset Management, (iii) Adaptive Climate Services for resilient communities, and (iv) Project management.

It was learnt that NBD will be involved in the first 3 components to mobilize communities and thus, detailed activities with the budge of US\$118,000 has been submitted to ENTRO with copies to NELSAP and the World Bank.

The Nyimur/Limur Multipurpose Water Resource Development Project: This project, initiated some-time back with the funding support from African Development Bank, is currently being revitalized under the leadership of NELSAP-CU. This project initially envisaged two dams for Uganda and South Sudan, but located within the territory of Uganda. However, the government of South Sudan proposed that one of the dams should be located within the territory of South Sudan. That is why NELSAP is currently assigned to do feasibility study for re-locating one of the dams to the South Sudan side.

Similar to the RCRP, NBD will be involved in this project to mobilize and sensitize local communities in Uganda and South Sudan about the benefits and risks of the project.

Dam Safety Capacity Building: Dams are considered as sustainable solutions to mitigate drought and floods if properly designed, constructed and operated. Apart from technical designing and construction, siltation is said to be one of the challenges that threatens the life span of most dams. The aim of the discussion on the dam safety was thus to promote public awareness at the governmental and technical levels on dam safety.

Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation:

The Mission of field visit to flash flood prone sites in South Sudan was to:

- Discuss with the key stakeholders regarding flash flood vulnerability, management and response in South Sudan.
- Establish contacts with the custodians of the flash flood data in South Sudan.
- Interact with selected flash flood prone grassroots communities in the country.

The field visit mission started with briefing meeting at different government offices. These included:

The meeting with the officials of the Meteorological Directorate in South Sudan: This highlighted roles of the Meteorological Authority in generating forecasting information and disseminating the same to the end users. However, out of the 5 met weather forecast stations that South Sudan inherited from Sudan upon Independence, 2 were already damaged by war in 2013; and One (1) lacks necessary equipment. Thus, only two (2) are functional.



Participants attending the meeting at the Office of Meteorological Directorate in South Sudan.

The Directorate makes daily (24 hours), weekly, and monthly seasonal weather forecasts which are usually done locally; the Directorate also gets seasonal forecasts from partners such as IGAD and ICAB (Intelligent Community Alerts Beacon). Daily and weekly weather forecasts are mainly used for aviation services while monthly forecasts are given to interested entities on request; and seasonal forecasts (every 3 months) are disseminated in hard copies to line Ministries (Agriculture, Health, Water, Humanitarian Affairs, Livestock and Fisheries, Petroleum Companies, etc.). The services are very limited; communities are not receiving early warning information; no adequate equipment and tools; and the Directorate also lacks hydrological section to take care of water related information.

Due to lack of timely information, people find themselves in flooding in a night. Although there is a national early warning team established in January 2023, still information does not reach local commu-

nities in time due to: lack of a functioning channel reaching down to the grassroots, lack of dissemination tools (like smart phones to use social media for dissemination), and due to language problem (TVs, Radios, Newspapers, & Met website only use Arabic and English).

The Consultation with the flash flood prone grassroots communities in Munuki Poma site: highlighted that the site is a low land located beneath the mountain, fed by three (3) rivers that originate from the mountain and flow down to the area (the poma site we visited).



Local communities participating FGD with NELSAP/NBD Experts

It was noted that, heavy flooding started to occur in the area since 2012; since then, flash flood devastated the area 3 times every year mostly from April to October. The flood occurrence since 2012 might be due to many constructions (buildings) upstream that blocked flood routes and changed the course of the streams/rivers; especially bridges constructed upstream are low in height and have small culverts which don't allow the flood and debris to pass freely. That flood comes instantly and stays for over 5 hours submerging houses, house equipment, utilities, food stuff, etc. Families are evacuated to their relatives living in highlands until the flood recedes leaving all their properties behind, and only few strong men stay in the flooding in order to keep their houses and properties from thieves. Women, children, and disabled suffer a lot from flooding due to their physical making to evacuate themselves from flooding hazards, and no early warning messages reaching communities in time.



Floods expanding and risking residents

Communities suggested clearing the drainages; building concrete structures; embankment dykes, and upgrading the heights of bridges and culverts are appropriate solutions for the problem.

The consultations with the flash flood prone grassroots communities in Gudele west, Luri pom: transpired several issues including: absence of flooding in the area until the heavy flooding devastated the village in this site in 2014 when new road was constructed which is too low in height with small culverts which blocked by wastes/debris causing the water to flash back to the homesteads and submerge houses.



Flood halting transport movement



Communities at FGD

Since 2014 floods occur every year from April to October (for 7 months) and stays for One day (24 hours); the flood raises up to 1 meter, thus destroying houses which are built from local materials (wood and muds), food stuff, utilities, and halt movement of people, including children to school; exposing people to waterborne diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, and others.

Floods also destroyed infrastructure facilities such as water supply facilities, and roads. Women, children and the disabled are suffering the most from the recurrent floods especially as the floods halt people's movement, and resulted in food and drinking water shortages. Communities in the area don't receive any early warning messages from anywhere; the rains are not predictable; previously the rain used to start in March, but this year it started in April. They watch the clouds and know that heavy rains are coming, Communities' self-rescue mechanisms such as constructing dykes around their houses, and waste collection and disposal activities should continue, though not adequate to protect them from floods.



Fence damaged by flood

In summary, floods are common and recurrent phenomena in South Sudan, especially in urban and semi-urban areas. During infrastructure constructions, there is a huge gap in marrying indigenous and conventional scientific knowledge in the country; local knowledge is often ignored by engineers.



Culverts filled by wastes

There is huge challenge of waste collection and disposal in South Sudan. The wastes (especially plastic bottles) from homes, municipalities and industrial complexes are being thrown on the streets. These are blocking river and stream channels and causing flooding.

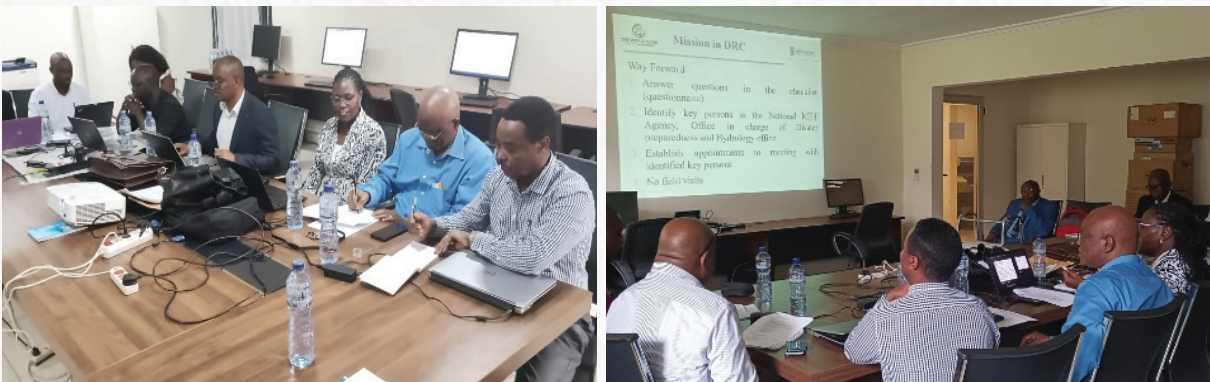


Short bridges with small culverts

vii)NBD leveraged Stakeholders consultations in the Democratic Republic of Congo

NBD participated in the stakeholders’ consultation in the D. R. Congo as the continuation of the activities implemented earlier in Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, and South Sudan. In the D. R. Congo, NBD joined NELSAP-CU and met and discussed with the NELTAC members, the Technical Working Group members at Ministry of Water offices, the Office in charge of Disaster Preparedness and risk response, and the National Meteorology Agency.

The meeting with officials at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Directorate of Water Resources as seen in the photo below was focused on clarifying the objectives of the country consultations which were to: a) discuss flood risk vulnerability, management, and preparedness in D. R. Congo; b) discuss dissemination tools at national level; c) establish contacts with custodians of available data; and d) collect flash flood location and catchment characteristics information.



The meeting also discussed the Nile basin part of the D. R. Congo which is much vulnerable to floods, that is Kasenyi-Bunia route. The last flash flood occurred in Kasenyi-Bunia area was in December 2022, and in Ituri it occurred in 2023. It was learnt that the Directorate runs the Model but does not disseminate information due to lack of internet connection. However, it has signed an MoU with the Met Agency who is responsible for disseminating weather information to the public.

The meeting with officials at the Ministry of Interior, Civil Protection Affairs responsible for Disaster Risk Management as shown in the photos below helped the team to understand that the disaster response mechanisms in the country are new and are very poor (inadequate and untimely) due to resource limitations.



Participants of the meeting

The discussion also disclosed that the last flood with disasters happened in May 2023 in Bukavu, a city in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, lying at the extreme south-western edge of Lake Kivu which was catastrophic that resulted in the deaths of 400 people and where additional 5 million people disappeared (no accounts for their whereabouts) forcing the government to mark the area as a risk zone.

It was learnt that the early warning information to the Office comes from the National Meteorological Agency. But there is no established system to take the early warning information down to the local communities, signifying the importance of the idea on establishing Early Warning System in the Nile Basin region.

The meeting with the officials at the National Meteorological Agency mainly centered around the availability of weather stations in the D. R. Congo, the Models being used for forecasting, forecast resolutions/spatial scale, and dissemination of weather information to the end users.



The Team discussing with the DG and his team of experts

It was learnt that the Met Agency does not run a model for forecasting, it uses the already forecasted data from Global Satellite stations. The country has 5 automatic weather Stations. However, they are not used for predictions; they are used only for observations. The Met Agency sends/disseminates weather information to the Disaster Response Office in big towns every Day via email.

ix) NBD mobilized grassroots communities' consultations in selected water quality hotspot sites in Rwanda

After the Mid-Term Review Mission of the NCCR Project in May 2023, NELSAP-CU realized the importance of engaging Civil Societies in the Water Quality Investment planning and prioritization activities. Thus, NBD has taken the role of mobilizing grassroots communities in Water Quality hotspot areas to enable NELSAP-CU collect data and information from the field, and NELSAP-CU to cover all expenses related to community mobilization and consultation.

Against this background, NELSAP-CU requested NBD to mobilize local communities in Kirehe District to enable NELSAP experts and consultants to collect real-time data on the challenges of water quality in the Akagera River Basin.

NBD spearheaded the field visit activities that started with site visits to: (i) Akagera River at Kanzenze Bridge, (ii) Mugesera Lake, (iii) Rice Farmers Cooperatives (COOPRIKI-CYUNUZI); (iv) Akagera River at Rusumo; and (v) Kirehe District Office.

Akagera River at Kanzenze



The team of 16 people drawn from NBD (4), NELSAP (6), Ministry of Environment and RWB (3), LVBC (1), and Consultants (2) first visited Akagera head water immediately after the confluence of Akanyaru and Nyabarongo Rivers. Water Quality at Akagera river is generally poor due to sedimentation and siltation. Soil erosion in highland and upstream areas of the river is the main trigger of water pollution in the Akagera river. The river is being affected by water hyacinth as well.

In the Akagera river site visited, there is sugar cane plantation, a commercial farm owned by an Indian company. Heavy tracks also frequently visit the area for loading the sugar cane to sugar processing factory.

It is anticipated that the silts in the river might contain some metals which would risk the lives of human beings and the natural environment. The heavy sediment transported by the river during the rainy will also pose a challenge in the Rusumo Hydropower plant, risking the life span of the dam.

Visit to the Mugesera Lake



The lake is the site where Karege Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is located. The WTP takes water pumped from the lake and 70% of the water treated serves Kigali City. The lake is fed by underground water; no rivers entering into the lake and the lake drains to nowhere. The lake is clean and the catchments surrounding the lake are well treated and conserved with 50 meters buffer zone.

The Lake is challenged with: (i) Algae boom in the lake during the dry season which also lowers the level of the lake; and (ii) Increased turbidity entering the lake during the rainy season, probably due to the spillover of the Akagera river into the lake. This has affected the WTP pumping stations.

Visit to Rice Farmers Cooperatives (COOPRIKI-CYUNUZI)



The Team visited Rice Farmers Cooperatives and discussed with selected farmers representatives. 34 farmer representatives of the Rice Farmers cooperatives (22 -65% Men and 12 -35% Women) attended the discussion.

The discussion mainly focused on understanding community experiences in water pollution and solutions to improve WQ in the Akagera River basin, especially to understand the impacts of farming on water quality.

The Rice Farmers Cooperatives currently cultivates 500 hectares of land using the 2 dams. But they have a plan to add 200 more hectares of land provided that they get resource to build additional dams since the 2 dams wouldn't be adequate enough to irrigate 500+200 more hectares of land.

It was learnt that the farmers use 2 types of fertilizers: Chemical and home-made organic fertilizers. Although the farmers are aware of Water Pollution and its impacts, they don't have the measurement on the existence of pollutants in the water due to agricultural activities.

For the protection of Water Resource, the cooperative has water users committee responsible for monitoring the irrigation schemes of the 2 existing dams serving the farming activities of cooperatives. The committee manages the irrigation infrastructure, monitors water levels in the dams, and checks the operations of the irrigation canals. Since the distance of farming activities to the river is 30kms, the WQ of river may not be directly impacted by farming practices of the cooperatives. It was also noted that each household has sanitation facilities (toilets, washing utilities) to avoid open defecation.

Visit to Akagera River at Rusumo



The team visited Akagera river at Rusumo dam area and noted that the WQ in the area is poor due to siltation and water hyacinth. This will have impacts on the dam as water hyacinth and silts can clog the cooling system and finally affecting power generation.

Visit to Kirehe District Office



The team met the Director of Agriculture, WASH Officer, and Forest and Natural Resource management experts from the district, and held discussions on such issues as: the coverage for access to clean water which is reported to have reached 73% while sanitation coverage is 90%; and Agricultural practices that disturb the soil being the main source of water pollution in the district.

In order to offset water pollution challenges, the district has planned to adopt conservation agriculture; it has also planned to resettle people who established their homes around river banks during the Ru-sumo dam construction. This will help implement river bank restoration activities along Akagera river.

Although the government uses Agri-chemicals in order to increase agricultural productivity without compromising the health of the natural environment, there is lack of updated data on how much impacts the use of Agrichemicals have on WQ of the Akagera river.

Field Visit to Local Area Development Programme (LADP) sites at Kirehe and Ngoma Districts.

Kigina Health Center at Kirehe District



The team visited the health center that was constructed by NELSAP as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Rusumo hydropower project.

The health center serves 80 patients per day with the admission capacity of 46 beds for a maximum of 3 days. In total 28,735 people from the surrounding area benefit from the health center.

Challenges: water doesn't reach rooms may due to installation problems. Water-borne diseases such as diarrhea and amebiasis tops the number especially during rainy seasons. This indicates that WQ and Sanitation in the area is poor, and needs attention.

Visit to Clean Water Supply in Ngoma Districts



As part of the LADP under the Rusumo project, Ngoma DISRICT inaugurated 28.7km of mixed water pipelines in Gaonde-Gahima cells that benefits about 10,000 persons and 33kms of Gituku-Murama water supply system are accessed by 18,000 persons in Rukira and Murama Sectors in July 2020.

Challenges: Sedimentation and soil erosion is still a challenge in the District but the government has embarked on Forest restoration and catchment management programmes to offset soil erosion and sedimentation.

x) NBD held Virtual Extraordinary General Assembly (GA) meeting

NBD held its virtual extraordinary GA meeting on the 19th December 2023. The main agenda item was to extend the tenure of the current Board for another 12 months.

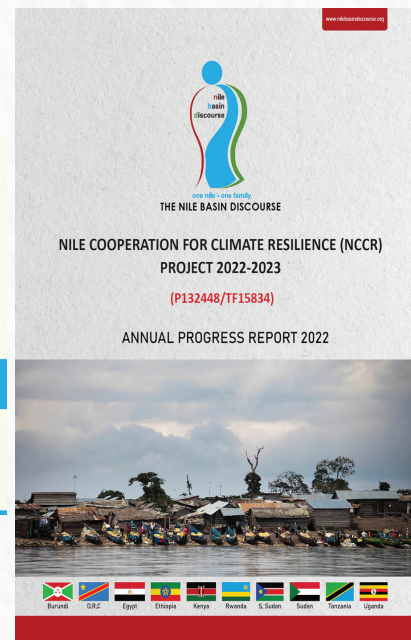
As per its constitution, NBD should hold its GA meeting every two years. However, due to resource limitation, NBD could not hold its GA planned to be held in December 2023. As a result of this, the tenure of the current Board has been expired. This would create a huge gap in the governance of the NBD Network.

The GA delegates from the 10 Nile Basin countries virtually assembled; appreciated the challenges of resource limitation and discussed the importance of extending the tenure of the current Board.

Accordingly, the GA delegates unanimously extended the tenure of the current Board for another 12 months, effective from 19th December 2023 until 18th December 2024.

2.2.3. CROSS CUTTING ISSUES:

- 1) **Communicate benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation:** under this cross-cutting issue NBD uses various platforms and forums to advocate for emerging issues related to benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation. NBD packaged its messages through knowledge products such as Banners, Annual Report 2022, FAQs, Speeches, and NBD in the NCCR briefs.



NBD exhibited its products and achievements to enhance visibility and expand networking.



2) **Gender aspect of the NCCR project:** Under this crosscutting issue NBD mobilized grass-root Women to form Networks to interact with NBD and NBI programmes as a new platform to contribute towards realizing flood and drought early warning systems.

Achievements under this cross-cutting issue:

i) NBD Finalized the formation of the Regional Nile Women's network

The second Regional Nile Women's Network Workshop was held on the 20th February 2023, at SWISS LENANA MOUNT HOTEL, Nairobi - Kenya.

The **overall objective** of the workshop was to discuss and agree on the ToRs and the sustainability strategy for the Regional Network in synergy with the activities of the National Nile Women's Networks and other strategic partners.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to: (i) discuss and approve the Terms of Reference defining the roles, duties, and responsibilities of the Regional Nile Women's Network; (ii) discuss and approve the sustainability strategy and plan that defines strategic directions (mission, vision, theory of change, approaches) and key activities that the Network should perform; and (iii) define the relations and synergies between the actions of the Regional Nile Women's Network and the 10 National Nile Women's Networks as well as other strategic partners in the Nile Basin and beyond.

Thus, the workshop approved the ToRs and Strategic Objectives of the Regional Nile Women's Network along with action plan synchronized with the activities of the National Nile Women's Networks and those of other strategic partners.



Participants of the 2nd Regional Nile Women's Network Workshop in photos

ii) NBD launched digital webinar series for the Regional Nile Women's Network

The Executive Committee of the Regional Nile Women's Network (RNWN), in its meeting held in February 2023 in Nairobi-Kenya, passed a resolution to launch a monthly digital webinar for the RNWN. Following the resolution, NBD Secretariat embarked on collecting CVs of volunteer speakers together with topics of their interest. Two CVs from each National Nile Women's Network, which are the constituent members of the RNWN, were collected along with the topics of their interest. In addition, the NBD Secretariat requested the RNWN members to discuss and agree on the main theme of the webinar. The members agreed on "**WATERING WOMEN**" to be the main theme for the monthly webinar series.

The main objectives of webinar were; (i) knowledge and information sharing among the members; (ii) building the profile of the Network; (iii) generating ideas for future resource mobilization and project planning.

Digital Webinar Episode 1

The first episode of the digital webinar was conducted on 6th July 2023. The webinar discussed on the “Role of Women in Implementing SDG6 of the UN Agenda 2030 (Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All,” and on “Recognizing the Role of Gender in Water Resource management and water Policy formulation.” The discussions were moderated by Ms. Ghada Ahmedien, Chairperson of the RNWN. The webinar provided 39 participants an opportunity to gain information and knowledge on the topics presented.

Digital Webinar Episode 2

The 2nd Episode of the Digital webinar series was conducted on 16th August 2023. Thirty (30) participants drawn from Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Sudan, and Uganda attended the webinar and gained knowledge and information on the of roles of Women in Water Governance and Sustainable Environmental Management in the Nile Basin. Discussions were moderated by Ms. Ghada Ahmedien, the chairperson of the RNWN.

Digital webinar series: 3rd episode

The 3rd episode of the digital webinar series was conducted on the 14th September 2023 where participants discussed about Gender and Climate Justice, and Solutions of Local Communities and Indigenous Women to Enhance participation in Climate Policy and Action. 41 participants drawn from Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, UAE, and Uganda attended the webinar where discussions were moderated by Ms. Ghada.

Digital Webinar: Episode 4

The 4th episode of the digital webinar was conducted on 20th November 2023 and participants discussed about Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action Policy and Practice: experience from the World Vision International on environment and climate action such as Climate empowerment through environment and climate change education; Natural Resource Management; Agroforestry and FMNR/Regreening Communities; Waste management; Climate smart agriculture; Community based disaster risk management; Integrated water resource management; and Energy efficient technologies.

The Regional Nile Women's Network
Invites you to Episode 4 of the

"WATERING WOMEN"
WEBINAR SERIES

SUB THEME: Women and Climate Actions

SPEAKERS

- Ms. Keivina Power
World Vision International
Topic: GENDER & CLIMATE ACTION
- Ms. Belinda Okungu
Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance
Topic: PREP FOR COP28- SNWA POSITION PAPER

MODERATOR

- Ms. Ghada Ahmedin
Chairperson, Regional Nile Women's Network

DATE: Mon, 20th Nov, 2023 | **TIME:** 3:00 pm [Ethiopia/Kenya/Tanzania/Uganda]
2:00 pm [Burundi/DRC/Egypt/Rwanda/S. Sudan/Sudan]

Join us on ZOOM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89678016470?pwd=bkR1b1djellWSFJzRkV2Ukg3R29BQT09> Meeting Id: 896 7801 6470
 Pass Code: 444395

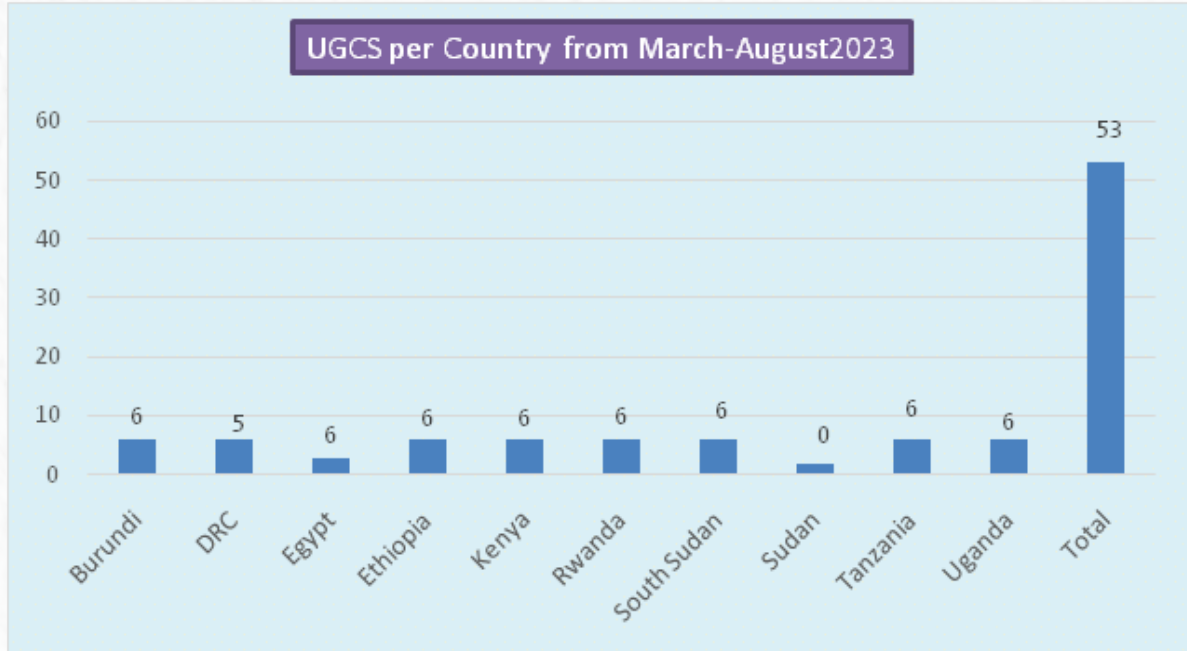
Participants also reflected on ideas for COP28 position paper guided by Gender Advisor at PACJA who underlined that climate justice lens seeks to address the climate injustice of climate change in Africa. Water is connected to all aspects of economic and social development, and adaptation measures are linked to water, a key enabler of climate action. Women and water are inseparable. Water has remained an elusive discussion topic at COPs. Attention has focused on mitigating rising temperatures. Adaptation, which involves water in nearly every aspect, has only grown in importance in discussions in recent years (COP 26 and COP 27).

3. ENGAGING THE NATIONAL DISCOURSE FORUMS (NDFS)

NBD recruited the National Technical Support Experts (NTSEs) for the 10 NDFS to serve as the focal persons for engaging NBD Network members in the NCCR project, and facilitating knowledge generation, management and sharing through monthly User Generated Content (UGCs).

NTSEs submitted monthly User Generated Contents (March to August 2023) and mobilized members and stakeholders for different activities. Up to the end of August 2023, we have received 53 UGCs (Burundi 6; DRC 5; Egypt 6; Ethiopia 6; Kenya 6; Rwanda 6; South Sudan 6; Sudan 0; Tanzania 6; and Uganda 6).

4. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: NBD EXTERNAL AUDIT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES



NBD organized a virtual Board scoping meeting that discussed on the commencement of external auditing for the fiscal year 2022. Members of the NBD Board, NBD Secretariat Staff and team of auditors from PKF Uganda discussed on the preparations for auditing based on previous experience, on the due date to start field inspection, and on the expectations from each party and intended outcomes of the auditing process.

The PKF Uganda team started their field inspection to the NBD Secretariat Office in May 2023 after which they submitted a draft audited report and draft Management letter later in June 2023.

The NBD Secretariat organized an exit meeting on the 23rd June 2023 where the team from PKF Uganda presented the draft reports to the NBD Board for comments and endorsement.

The signed audited financial statements were shared with the Donor (WB/CIWA) for uploading onto World Bank's Client Connection portal.

5. NBD Joined Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Global Partnership: Empowering Collective Climate Action

In the year 2023, NBD joined the NDC Global partnership. The NDC partnership brings together more than 200 members, to empower a transformative response to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and driving sustainable development. The NDC Partnership is open to countries and international

institutions that are committed to ambitious implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

By joining this coalition, NBD will have the opportunity to benefit from accessing to Finance, enhancing Knowledge sharing and Learning. The NDC Partnership's Knowledge Portal helps members to accelerate climate action by providing quick and easy access to data, tools, guidance, best practices, and funding opportunities.

6. CHALLENGES FACED DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN 2022

Coordination: since NBD has been implementing activities in the NCCR project with other Implementing Entities (IEs), synchronizing implementation timelines, especially for activities under thematic area 2 (Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation) has been a challenge. As a result, some of NBD's activities in that thematic area are forced to delay.

Manpower: The position vacuum created by the resignation of the regional communication and media officer and the recent passing on of the RM has impacted on NBD's activity. The existing Secretariat staff, especially in the programmatic and communication area has been overstretched with the likely effect on the pace and quality of NBD's work.

Financial Sustainability: Resources mobilization has remained to be a critical challenge for NBD network, and hence need for enhancing collective capacities for effective resources mobilization for the network. NBD needs to practically enhance its resources mobilization capacity at Board, Secretariat and NDFs levels. Policy influencing, awareness raising, and capacity building works take time and therefore need continuous and sustainable funding base beyond project duration to ensure that the work is not interrupted. NBD's sustainability has been a major challenge that needs utmost attention by all concerned (NBD management, members, basin governments, and development partners alike).

7. LESSONS LEARNT

In the year 2023, NBD has been working more closely with the Nile-Sec, ENTRO, NELSAP, and LVBC. It was learnt that joint project implementation enhances synergy, efficiency, and opportunity for knowledge and resource sharing.

Although this is seen as a positive development in adding value and quality to the project achievements, weak coordination exhibited some delays in project implementation.

Therefore, it is learnt that coordination among IEs needs to be strengthened to expedite project implementation and reporting process.

We observed that strengthened NDFs in terms finance and manpower will enhance NBD's and NBI's impacts and visibilities at the grassroot levels.



one Nile - one family

Nile Basin Discourse

DISCOURS SUR LE BASSIN DU NIL

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