



Nile Basin Discourse

Civil Society Engagement in Nile Cooperation and Development

3 YEARS PROGRAMME

2010–2013



NBD members at the Uganda Nile Discourse Forum in Kampala.



Dr. M. Shadaad, from Sudan, takes members on a tour of a dam on the White Nile in Sudan.



The Rusumo Falls and bridge on Rwanda– Tanzania border where a power dam will soon be constructed.

NBD establishment

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a network of civil society organizations coordinated regionally by the NBD Secretariat based in Entebbe, Uganda. NBD functions through National Discourse Forums in the 10 Nile riparian states (Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan Tanzania and Uganda). NBD therefore provides a non governmental pillar to the Nile Basin cooperation while striving to influence and engage development processes as envisaged by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

Why NBD?

Civil society plays a vital role by bringing the perspective of communities and civil society organisations to add value to the inter-governmental processes, policies and programmes of Nile Cooperation. Involvement of the Civil Society in Nile cooperation and development facilitates engagement and participation of different stakeholders to contribute constructively in planning and implementation of NBI's projects and programmes and subsequently secure ownership and legitimacy of developments at all levels.

Vision

A Nile Basin where 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.

Mission

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, programmes and policies of the Nile Basin Initiative and other development processes.

What we do

NBD enables the civil society organizations working on Nile Basin Cooperation and Development issues to add value to the inter-governmental programmes and processes. NBD is a network of civil society organizations with its secretariat base in Entebbe, Uganda. NBD works with national partners, its membership understand national issues, and provide NBD with the skills and support to help it set up and manage practical and sustainable projects that meet the real needs of the communities. The national members are the National Discourse Forums in the ten riparian states (Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda). NBD also works regionally and internationally to change policy and practice and ensure that issues of Nile Cooperation and Development are brought to fore and play a vital role in reducing poverty in the Nile Basin. Together with a growing number of development NGOs, NBD is committed to carrying out advocacy work in order to maximize the impact of its programme activities and to meet regional Nile Cooperation and Development needs. NBD therefore aims to influence the policies and practice of the main decision-makers, donors and public, to gain their commitment to Cooperation and Development of the Nile Basin.

NBD strategic Plan (2008-2013)

It is a 5-year strategic plan with the following strategic objectives:

1. Develop organizational capacity for a functional, efficient, effective and dynamic NBD.
2. Improved communication, knowledge and information management among civil society organizations in the Nile basin to strengthen civil society perspectives in development processes
3. Support initiatives for sustainable integrated river basin management at all levels for livelihood improvement & development in the basin.
4. Influence policy development for equitable utilization and sustainable management of the Nile basin resources.

BURUNDI | DR CONGO | EGYPT | ERITREA | ETHIOPIA | KENYA | RWANDA | SUDAN | TANZANIA | UGANDA



To partly implement the NBD strategic plan, NBD formulated a 3 year programme on Civil Society Engagement in Nile Cooperation and Development.

The 3 year programme

NBD's 3-year (2010-2013) programme is supported by Department For International Development (DFID) for 2 years from 2010 to 2012. This programme focuses on awareness and advocacy for policy development and change for Nile cooperation. This programme was developed due to an urgent need to establish strategic involvement by civil society in the Nile Cooperation and Development programmes and processes.

Programme goal

'A Nile Basin where resources are equitably and sustainably developed and managed, benefiting all its inhabitants.'

Programme Purpose

"To promote and add value to Nile cooperation and development processes that will ultimately reduce poverty in the region".

It is essentially a programme of influencing national, regional and international level bodies engaged in Nile Basin Programmes and Processes with far-reaching consequences for the entire Nile Basin and involving programme investments, which will cost billions of dollars.

Programme Outputs

The NBD programme has two outputs:

Programme Output 1

This output refers to the broad area of Nile Cooperation and the changes and role of civil society in promoting it in a context where it is sometimes seen as politically contentious and difficult for governments to take up in a concrete fashion. The programme seeks to ensure that civil society itself and the different stakeholders understand and see the benefits and cost of regional cooperation and then play a role in promoting the concept of Nile cooperation to the public, politicians, private sector, the government and other relevant stakeholders (media, affected communities, youth, women etc). Ultimately the longer term intention here is to facilitate progress towards realising the ideas embodied by the proposed Cooperative Framework Agreement – that is a formal region-wide recognition that countries commit and cooperate over the usage of the Nile resources to their mutual benefit.

Programme Output 2

Arising from the broad process of Nile Cooperation are the very substantial programmes of the Nile Basin Initiative which cost billions of dollars. The NBD plays a key role here in ensuring that the policies of the NBI are sound and that the programmes are well designed and properly implemented. The NBD plays a crucial role here in bringing the perspective of communities, ensuring more participatory approaches, suggesting constructive alternative approaches which better meet the priorities of local people. The NBD with its linkages at the local level can also raise awareness at the community level, explaining what is occurring and promoting community support for well designed NBI programmes.

Programme activities

Under the Output 1, the activities are:

Conducting advocacy campaigns on benefits of Nile Cooperation, Conducting multi-stakeholder forums, Media engagement, maintaining a web-based information centre, Promoting awareness of Nile Cooperation through NBD member activities and Network development.

Under the Output 2, the activities are:

Conducting advocacy campaign for policy development and influence NBI and member governments, Conducting an influencing strategy for key selected issues in SAPs, and Representing NBD Membership by attending and providing feedback at NBI official meetings including Nile-TAC/COM meetings and NBTf meetings.

NBD's future advocacy work will be guided by the following principles:

- ◆ NBD recognizes that achieving policy change is a long-term process, requiring coordinated programme, advocacy, communications and fundraising work over many years.
- ◆ Advocacy work will be based on clear evidence and knowledge, supported by thorough research and analysis.
- ◆ Advocacy activities and audiences will be clearly defined; advocacy messages will be accurate and delivered through appropriate media
- ◆ NBD will engage in constructive dialogue with advocacy audiences on priority issues identified within the organization.
- ◆ NBD will work in collaboration with like-minded organizations to achieve its advocacy objectives, including networks and alliances at the national, regional and international level.
- ◆ NBD's advocacy work will contribute to building solidarity between NBD secretariat and the National Discourse Forums, to raise awareness about key issues and to increase stakeholder involvement in campaigning and other advocacy activities
- ◆ New mechanisms for greater co-ordination and integration between different departments of NBD and between different regions will be needed to increase the effectiveness of advocacy activities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT

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