



**One Nile One Family**

**REPORT ON**

**SECOND NBDF RWANDA NATIONAL FORUM, HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2011 AT HOTEL LA  
PALLISE NYANDUNGU**



**BY NATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR,  
NILE BASIN DISCOURSE FORUM IN RWANDA,**

**DATE: 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2011**

## Introduction

The Nile Basin Discourse as requirement for completion of its first year workplan emphasizing on advocacy and more dialogue on cooperation is to support its National Discourse Forums in each Nile Basin country.

The Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda, carried out its Second National Forum in Kigali on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011 at La Palisse Club Nyandungu.

The event attracted over seventy participants from government institutions, private sector, academia, civil society, media, etc and the focus area of this forum to to foster cooperation on the Nile through Clean Energy Development to Climate Change Adaptation in the Kagera Basin.

The meetings, presentations and discussion highlighted on clean energy for Climate Change Adaptation in Akagera River Basin, Alternative Energies and Regional Power Trade benefits to Rwanda as a Nile Basin State. It was stressed that nobody can ignore the importance of electricity for sustainable development, as well as the impact of climate change.



*Regional Manager, MS Abby stressing a point to participants in Kigali*

The importance of cooperation over the Nile was among the major discussions during the national forum as a factor for energy potential and furthermore was the quest for cooperation among the partners embedded in the Nile Basin body.

## **Objectives**

### **Objectives of the Workshop:**

- Explaining participants on the rural electrification benefits
- Share information on regional interconnectivity for development, trade and cooperation
- Inform members on developments in the NELSAP & Kagera Project; Rusumo Hydro Plant.
- Alternative energy sources for climate change adaptation in the Basin
- Share Kagera Governments' investment plans in the energy sector
- Review communities' involvement and benefit sharing during the Kagera Hydro Electric Power development
- And all other issues regarding the Kagera electrification and development

### **Expected Results of the Workshop**

The workshop expects to achieve the following:

- i. Identification of alternative energy sources already affordable and used by participants
- ii. Knowledge on existing challenges in the energy sector due to climate change in the Kagera Basin
- iii. Current rural electrification processes presented
- iv. Key Stakeholders for Development & Advocacy Strategies to Reach them Identified

## **Presentations**

Presenters during the national forum included:

- a) Electricity Access Rollout Program by its Coordinator (Government Institution)
- b) Cooperation on the Nile: Regional Power Development by NEL-Advocacy Officer
- c) Climate Change and Energy Development in Kagera Region by NBDF Rwanda NPC
- d) Scope of Clean Energy Investment Initiatives from CSOs in Rwanda by Mr. Sehene Chrysostome of RECORA a member NGO to NBDF Rwanda

In his presentations, Gakumba John, the Coordinator Nile Basin Discourse Forum (NBDF) said that it is high time alternative energy sources were devised in order to diversify energy. He pointed out on the importance of solar energy, biogas, and geothermal energy sources, where

he gave an example of Kenya, which has about 500 mega watts that is extracted from geothermal locally known as (*AMASHYUZA*).

Participants reiterated the need to promote clean energy, as it is a critical issue vis-à-vis development as well as a means of reversing climate change, as it emits less carbon dioxide that is widely believed to be the major factor for global warming.

The Civil Society groups were urged to work with all stakeholders and partners to support all the efforts so as to uphold the idea of clean energy through what was referred to as “ *Electricity Access Roll Out Programme*” Mr Kasumba Edward the Coordinator for (EARP) within the energy water and sanitation Authority (EWSA); a National body that is in charge of generating electricity and distribution, water and sanitation in Rwanda.

He said that it was imperative that people access electricity for the improvement of their socio economic status whether urban and rural through the above mentioned programme that started in June 2010, and the participants further observed the critical importance for electrification in order to register the economic development and poverty reduction strategy commonly known as (EDPRS), as current boosts production in various sectors, hence uplifting economic growth in general, thus acting as a precursor to the achievement of the vision 2020, as well as achieving the millennium goals as a prerequisite for development.

During the meeting it was observed that during the last 5 years, the number of people connected to electrical grid doubled, which was a tremendous increases comparing to the past electrification country wide.



*Participants making comments and additions to the presentations*

Electricity generation is expected to be increased through the establishment of various district or local hydro power dams and the use geothermal energy as well as the use of methane gas that is rampantly available in lake Kivu, this is expected to lower the prices so as to make its affordability a reality to many Rwandans whose income couldn't otherwise meet the otherwise costly electricity.

The EWSA Coordinator congratulated the Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda's effort to bring to engagement of the Civil Society in fostering the energy development in Rwanda. He also encouraged that such initiative should be supported further to promote engagement and involvement for all to benefit the energy sector in the whole regional governments with their respective civil societies.



*NBI Focal Point and Ministry of Environment and Lands representative, Ms Nyirakamana Jacqueline making some clarification on need for cooperation through energy development*

Under the electricity access roll out programme, the needy people among the spectrum within the Rwandan populace were facilitated through a subsidy for reducing costs and also increasing the pay up period for electricity connectivity.

There is also a system of providing one big lamp to the house for lighting, but with a sufficient current, so that in future if the household happens to acquire enough means more lamps and utility devices could be installed, this system is known as *RED BOAT*.

1000 mega watts are expected to be generated by 2020 such that the anticipated power sufficiency is realized.

According to an official from EWSA, most parts of the country are connected to electricity grid, where he gave an example of Nkombo, an island in lake Kivu in the western province, however, it was noted that Gatsibo district in the Eastern Province was had less connected grid, a factor he attributed to the failure of grass root leadership to meet the EWSA officials.

During the meeting participants observed the importance of living in midugudu (resettlement plans by government) as it facilitates the power distribution process and ease to development and distribution of human necessities such as schools, hospitals, roads, etc.

An official from EWSA said that a new subscriber has to pay a basic fee equivalent to US \$ 100 as way of supplementing on the power generation maintenance and to ensure the continuity. Apparently, the Rwandan population that access electricity is about 16%, which is significant compared to a less than 10% of the population that had been having during decades, moreover, the increment in power generation has been achieved within the last few years, the participants said.



*Energizing sessions during the long day's events*

However, improved housing system was also said to be one important factor for electrification, where the government policy of abolishing grass thatched houses was lauded, as a stepping stone towards the achievement of both rural and urban electrification.

It was further stressed by the representative from Ministry of Infrastructure that the government of Rwanda was keen to work with the Nile Basin Discourse Forum as regards accessing the clean energy, as a way of fighting climate change.

Efficiency in electricity use was emphasized through the use of appliances that consume less energy, as the current electricity supply is not yet sufficient to cater for all the power needs of the population.



*NBDF Rwanda NPC in glasses and NEL-Advocacy Officer with the media after the presentations*

*“People in the west are not superior to us, it is because it is because they have power, most of African countries don’t have power, that is why it was referred to as a dark continent”,*

Emmanuel Makuza Rugumire, Advocacy Officer within the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Plan (NELSAP) pointed out as he was stressing on the necessity of electricity to any one society globally.

Emmanuel Makuza Rugumire quoted Makoto Kanagawa Nakata as having said that the increment of one watt becomes the engine for development.

He further pointed out that apart from South Africa and North Africa, the middle Africa is still lacking electricity which is a major challenge, and if development is to be achieved such issues must first be addressed.

Various financial support strategies were shared as follows by the presenter from EWSA/EARP that the World Bank was to provide US\$70 million, and both Rwanda and Belgium were to contribute US\$ 35 million for the realization of electricity generation, which among others include Rusumo hydro power plus the above mentioned surrogate sources of clean energy.

An example was demonstrated as one of the consequences of not having electricity are very disastrous (a grass thatched house in Karamoja in the North Eastern part of Uganda caught fire, as a result 500 grass thatched houses consequently caught fire as well), and the necessity of

reducing use of wood as a source of energy from 90% to 10% was emphasized if sustainability was to be observed.

### **Group discussions**

Three groups were formed to discuss various scenarios



Participants formed 3 group discussions which observed the way forward, which included the stakeholders of Rusumo hydro popwer, who are both Rwanda and Burundi governments.

The groups further identified the importance of including key institutions such as:

- EWSA- the Rwandan National Energy and Water body, Rwanda Utility Regulations Authority, RTA, Rwanda Revenue Authority, Immigration, Rwanda Environment Management Authority, National Forests Authority, IRST, ISAE, KIST Tumba College of Technology.
- Private Sector Federation, Civil Society Organizations, donors, world Bank, East Africa Community and the East African Power Pool, Consultants, Central governments will put in place policies and regulation, monitoring and evaluation, funds' mobilization, etc.
- Local community, parastatal institutions implementations operation and maintenance, and finally the public were given the following message which included a follow up about the process of compensation rules, towards the beneficiaries. Make community participation meaningful to achieve sustainable water resources management in the Nile Basin.



### **Appreciation, Cocktail and Closure**

The Vice Chair NBDF Rwanda Habiyaemye Jean Baptiste expressed the consistent participations, contribution and presence of the NBD Regional Manager and a DFID Consultant for their efforts throughout the day. And further invited everyone to late evening cocktail.



*In picture (DFID Consultant Mr. Steve, NBD Regional Manager Ms Abby and NBDF Rwanda Vice Chair and NBD Regional Treasurer Ms. Jean Baptiste giving closing remarks)*

The Regional Manager Abby Onencan hailed Rwanda for being well organized as far as biomass use is concerned, she urged the participants to have an integrated approach, and further urged them to make use at least one of the approaches as it will foster the desired positive results.