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NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

Nile Basin Discourse is a network of Civil Society Organizations that work with communities in the ten riparian countries of the Nile River Basin. The Discourse is cooperating and interacting with the Nile Basin Initiative to ensure that there is a voice for the voiceless. Its secretariat is currently located at Entebbe in Uganda.

The Nile Basin Discourse was conceived to respond to the challenges facing poverty reduction as one of the millennium development goals and it has engaged a number of partners in Africa to come together and achieve this, especially for those countries along the Nile Basin. The countries that are members of the Nile Basin Discourse are

Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, **To Page 3**

NILE BASIN DISCOURSE FORUM IN RWANDA

The Nile Basin Discourse Forum-Rwanda (NBDF) is an Umbrella organization of CSO's dealing in water, Environment and Rural development. It is a country program under the INTERNATIONAL NILE BASIN DISCOURSE-NBD, having its headquarters in Entebbe Uganda.

NBDF-Rwanda's head Office is located in Remera opposite Amahoro National Stadium, in Nyabisindu Cell, on the main road going to the Heroes Resting place.

It is facilitating the involvement of civil society in the planning development processes in the Nile Basin as envisaged by the Nile Basin Initiative-NBI. **To Page 3**

COUNTRY COORDINATING INSTITUTION

ARECO-RWANDA NZIZA was chosen as the Country Coordinating Institution-CCI of NBDF- Rwanda. A contract was signed by ARECO and IUCN on behalf of NBDF as regards the implementation of the DFID funding. The contract is per Milestone of six months, the first one was finished and we are now in the Second Milestone.

The CCI is the one that manages NBDF funding and is also charged with making financial reports and technical reports to IUCN, the current contract will expire on 31st April 2007. Now that NBDF Rwanda has attained legality from the government, it will sign the remaining contracts.

The National Coordinator of ARECO Rwanda Nziza and its Financial Administrator are the ones charged with those duties in collaboration with their National Executive Committee.

They work collaboratively with the National Coordination Office of NBDF under the same roof.

Details of the contract are available on request.

BACKGROUND OF ARECO

ARECO is a non-governmental organisation founded in 1991 by about thirty people concerned with degradation of environment in Rwanda characterised mainly by soil erosion, deforestation, water pollution, drainage of swamps, silting up of lakes and rivers, industrial and domestic pollution, etc. **To Page 2**



Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda members attending a National Workshop on Strategic Plan on the 26/09/2006 at Hotel Ninzi in Kigali.

MISSION OF NBDF Rwanda

The main mission of the NBDF is to bring the Civil Society Organisations to a level of fully playing their role in the Nile Basin development designed by the Nile Basin Initiative through competence development, capacity building, setting up networks and solid links on all the levels of the Civil Society and the Government.

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The CCI Coordinator
Dancilla Mukakamari, e-mail: arecorwa@yahoo.fr, Tel (250) 08521732.

THE NBDF-RWANDA STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2010

This Strategic Plan is the first of its kind since the creation of NBDF in 2003. In fact, it is the result of NBD's setting up process that started in 2001 from the Geneva Conference, during the International Cooperation Consortium on the Nile followed by other local NGO meetings, especially the one held in Cairo in 2002 with support and facilitation of the International Union for Nature Conservation, the World Wildlife Fund and the World Bank. During those meetings, the Civil Society organisations adopted a plan of action and set up a permanent office for the International Forum on the Nile Basin in Entebbe/Uganda.

STRATEGIC PLAN ELABORATION FRAMEWORK

The NBDF in Rwanda is a group of Civil Society Organisations working in the field of water, environment and rural development. It is a national programme supervised by the Nile Basin Discourse Desk in Entebbe in Uganda. The NBDF has its head office in Nyabisindu Cell, Remera Sector, Gasabo District in Kigali City, opposite Amahoro National Stadium, on the street leading to the National Heroes grave yard. The Forum carries out its activities on the national level.

The NBDF main task is to facilitate the commitment and involvement of the civil society within the Nile Basin development planning process as contemplated by the Nile Basin Initiative.

Taking into account its mission of always trying to fully involve the Civil Society in playing their role in Nile Basin development designed by the Nile Basin Initiative through competence development, capacity building, setting up networks and solid links on all the levels of the Civil Society and the Government. The NBDF has received a financial support from the DFID and it has chosen to develop an inclusive national strategic plan for a five-year period.

However, the NBDF strategic plan covers the period from May 2006 to May 2010. It is aimed at guiding the NBDF within its own development towards a modern and an outstanding Organisation. For the NDBF, this plan presents a means to concretely translate its vision, its mission, and its objectives in terms of mobilising resources for capacity building in favour of Civil Society organisations of the Nile Basin; to promote the straightforward dialogue and views exchanges between various parties involved in the Nile Basin Initiative. This is actually a dynamic document, worthy to be regularly assessed in order to determine the fulfilment level of fixed



NBDF-Rwanda members attending a National Workshop on the Strategic Plan, at Ninzi Hotel on the 23rd of September, 2006.

ARECO RWANDA NZIZA.....From Pg 1

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

ARECO seeks to promote a sound and pleasant environment for a sustainable social and economic development. The main objectives include:

- To sensitise the population to the conservation and to sustainable environment management;
- To protect and preserve the natural resources and environment;
- To develop eco tourism

NILE BASIN DISCOURSE FORUM IN RWANDA

.....from Page 1

It was launched by the Minister of State for Water and Mines, in September 2003. Though it was formally started at that time, not many tangible activities were achieved, this was due to the scarcity of financial resources, in April 2006, it received support from DFID and has seriously resumed its activities and is committed to become a sustainable Umbrella Water organization in Rwanda .

The Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda (NBDF-Rwanda) is facilitating the involvement of civil society in the planning development processes in the Nile Basin as envisaged by the Nile Basin Initiative-NBI..

MISION

The Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda seeks to ensure that its development goals are achieved by assisting the constructive engagement of civil society in the NBI through development of knowledge, greater capacity, better networking and stronger linkages at all levels of civil society and the government.

OBJECTIVES

- To establish a national consultative dialogue on the Nile with members of the government, civil society and other concerned stakeholders
- To raise awareness on the Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda and as well as the Nile Basin Initiative programs for Rwanda
- To elicit support and involvement in the Nile Basin development programs and civil society engagement in these programs.
- To find out ways of cooperation with Nile Basin Projects and programs in Rwanda, like NELSAP, CBSI, NTEAP and other projects.
- To strengthen Rwanda's NBD membership and seek legal recognition.

NILE BASIN DISCOURSE ...from Page 1

Tanzania and Uganda. NBD brings together the civil society organizations' involvement in the NBI because it is critical and essential when there is need to address fundamental development concerns like poverty reduction, livelihood security and environmental protection. This cohesion and long term social-economical development will bring direct benefits to local communities as well as to national government. With the history of the civil society lagging behind in the Nile Basin Initiative process and how to influence the major development process unfolding, there is the urgent need to engage it through research and outreach within local communities in project areas, establishing long term capacity building and training activities, effective knowledge development and dissemination, and establishing channels of detailed consultation to ensure that civil society can effectively monitor and evaluate impact at all levels.

Thus, the main objective of the formation of the NBD is to promote sustainable and equitable development, poverty reduction and cooperation among all stakeholders in the Nile Basin.

With the intent to provide legitimacy and accountability to the civil society within each participating country, National Discourse Forums were established in the riparian countries in October 2003, which comprised of civil society sectors and individuals.

Each NBDF has a national coordinator and is hosted by an institution. These have a wide range of interests; such as development, poverty, environment, peace and security, human rights, etc.

The NBDF's elected 3 key people to represent their interests at the Regional General Assembly of which one of them from each member state is a member of the steering committee and NBD management board.

The steering committee comprises of 10 members while the General Assembly has a composition of 30 members.

Rwanda Activity Plan for the Past Milestone One

I. Establish the Rwanda NDF

This activity led to an operational RNDF Coordinating Unit hosted by ARECO Rwanda Nziza, which had been identified as the Country Coordinating Institution (CCI). It also involved the legalization of the Rwanda NDF, to give it power and legitimacy to engage effectively with NBI at a national level.

Rent office space

The CCI premises were not sufficient to accommodate the NDF secretariat. Hence, more office space was rented in the same building to accommodate the NDF Coordinator and a small information centre, which was needed to keep all the documentation and information useful to achieve the overall objective of information sharing.

Recruit staff

The National Coordinator was recruited through a competitive process. The post was advertised in two main newspapers in Rwanda: *The New Times* and *Imvaho Nshya* to ensure awareness creation about the post. In the selection process, some members of the SC were appointed to compose the recruitment panel, facilitated by an external observer. The National Coordinator works closely with the management of the CCI as far as financial management and administrative works are concerned.

Procure equipment

Equipment were procured to ensure the smooth running of activities. One laptop and desktop computer and accessories, a printer, office equipment and office utilities were bought and managed by the National Coordinator.

Registration of NDF Rwanda

The National Coordinator was to compile the dossier on registration of the RNDF as a local NGO. S/He was to be assisted by organizational members of the RNDF in ensuring the requisite documents are provided. S/He was also to follow-up the process from local level to the Ministry of Local Governance, and from provisional registration through to final legal status with the Ministry of Justice.

2. Develop a framework and plan which leads to effective M&E of processes of engagement with the NBI and impacts achieved

Under that activity, the CCI was to assist the RNDF to identify the most critical themes emerging from NBI development and key institutional points of linkage in country. With the support of the CCI and the SC, the National Coordinator organized consultative meetings and workshop with different CSOs to assess levels of awareness of the NBI and to identify options for civil society involvement in NBI development and activities. Those consultations also were undertaken by the National Coordinator by visiting key NBI institutions in the country including the projects coordinating units, as well as NELSAP and TAC members. This led to the elaboration of a comprehensive National Work Plan which was discussed during workshops and consultative meetings, and will be disseminated and posted on the NBD website. The level of involvement will be gauged through involvement of the NDF in NBI meetings at national level, the feedback received from different stakeholders on the Work Plan and different meetings/workshop reports.

Conduct consultative meetings with NBI officials at national level

The National Coordinator paid courtesy visits to NBI officials including the NELSAP coordinating unit and other national project coordinating units to establish effective working relationships with those bodies. The NDF also convened a consultative workshop involving the CSOs in Rwanda and different NBI bodies to raise awareness of NBI development and projects. CSOs provided inputs on how to engage local beneficiaries in the development of those projects.

Develop and launch the NDF two-year work plan including the M&E system

A two year work plan for RNDF was developed and it included an M&E system. This was a must before disbursing other funds

The NDF General Assembly meeting

The Rwanda NDF convened a GA Meeting to evaluate improvements and propose the way forward for better involvement of CSOs in NBI development, and also to amend and adopt the National two-year work plan. The National Coordinator and the CCI provided technical inputs to organize and assured the smooth running of the GA.

Steering Committee meetings

The SC meetings were convened several times during that period to prepare the consultative workshops, the GA and to work on the proposed work plan and M&E system before submission to the General Assembly.

However, the current work plan milestone for Rwanda will be in our next issue for the month of February.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NBDF

NBDF is composed of three main bodies namely:

(a) General Assembly:

This is the Supreme body of the forum and currently made up of 28 registered civil society organizations among whom they are four other umbrella organizations and it has other member organizations which are still in the process of registration, it has opened its membership to ensure that every one gets involved.

Its roles and responsibilities are detailed in Statute of the organisation. Among other duties it is also charged with approving the work plans, budgets, reports and electing the Steering Committee members.

(b) Executive Committee (Steering Committee-SC): *Currently chaired by Ms Albertine Uwimana*

Is the implementing organ of the forum and is composed of eight members. It is composed of 8 members:

The President,

The Vice President,

the General Secretary,

the Treasurer,

The adviser in charge of gender,

The technical adviser,

The adviser in charge of Law;

The adviser in Charge of Communication and Public Relations

The SC is the organ which follows the day to day management of NDF Rwanda. With the technical support of the National Coordination office, the SC prepares work plans, budgets, recruits and dismisses staff of the Coordination office and mobilises funding for the sustainability of the Organisation.

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OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

The strategic objectives of the **Forum** were drawn from the **Forum** Statutes Document, from the National Work-plan of NBDF and were enriched with information drawn from strategic plan documents of other member Associations of the NBDF. This approach allows consolidating the objectives of the Forum with contributions from the members and it will facilitate the allotment of tasks between members and the implementation of the strategic plan. The following are the strategic objectives of the **Forum** for the next five years:

1. To set up a consultation and dialogue framework on the Nile together with Governmental institutions, Civil Society and other involved parties through Nile Basin Development.
2. To make people aware of NBDF **activities** in Rwanda, programmes of the Nile Basin Initiative in Rwanda, durable conservation and management of natural resources and the environment.
3. **Involving member NGOs of the Forum** in the Nile Basin Initiative development programmes, which are protection and management of natural resources and the environment.
4. Reinforcing cooperation means/mechanisms with projects and programmes of the Nile Basin Initiative in Rwanda such as NEL-SAP, CBSI, NTEAP and other projects, and to develop the multi-player partnership for a durable management of natural resources and environment.
5. Contributing to the reinforcement of a society/community that can equitably and durably improve the living quality of its population according to policies and practices that consider the woman , etc.

(c) The National Coordination Office (Secretariat):

.....**From page 5**

This is in charge of coordinating all the activities of the Forum on the National Level and as well as running day to day management of the Forums activities. It is headed by the National Coordinator who is recruited on a competitive basis. Other members of the staff are recruited according to the needs and availability of funding. The support employees for the coordination office include -but not limited to- the secretary-receptionist, ICT Consultant and the guard. The National Coordination office is headed by the National Coordinator **Mr. HABINEZA Frank.**

All the support employees report to the National Coordinator and are recruited on a competitive basis by the National Coordinator with the approval of the SC members.

Part time employees/consultants can also be recruited on a competitive basis. They perform tasks assigned to them and are supervised by the National Coordinator. Their reports/findings/ and performance of their work are approved by the Steering Committee members.

All the recruitments are advertised in at least two famous newspapers, 15 days before the exams/interviews.

The coordination office ensures the day to day activities of NDF Rwanda, according to the annual work plan and its activity plan approved by the SC.

However, after getting DFID Funding, NBDF chose one of its members to host it, since it has not yet got Civil Personality and a contract was signed

between that member and IUCN in the interim Period.

STRETCH OF THE NILE BASIN IN RWANDA.

The Rwandan Nile Basin:

- It includes all the Eastern Province with six Districts, out of seven, along the riverside of Nile (Nyabarongo and Akagera)
- It includes the entire Kigali City whose two Districts are bordered with Nyabarongo river.
- It includes all the Southern Province where all districts are meandered by either Mwogo (Source of Nile), Akanyaru, the main tributary of Nyabarongo-Akagera in the South and Nyabarongo.
- All the Northern Province whose three Districts out of five are skirted by Nyabarongo and Mukungwa the main tributary of Nyabarongo from the North.
- Three districts of Western Province are skirted by Nyabarongo (Karongi, Ngororero and Nyabihu).

STAGES OF WORKING OUT THE STRATEGIC PLAN

While working out the Strategic plan the following stages were considered:

- Organising visits within the Nile Basin Districts of the Southern, Northern and Eastern Provinces in order to identify active Civil Society organisations on the spot, to understand their activities and the way they collaborate with District Authorities.
- Collecting information on activities, challenges and capacity building means of the Civil Society organisations.
- Collecting and analysing plans of action of the Civil Society organisation members of the NBDF carrying out their activities in Kigali.
- Presenting the document in a consultative workshop in order to enrich the draft.

**International Training Programme in
Transboundary Water Management (TWM)
in the Lake Victoria Region 2006/7**

Planning and Development of the Forum.

The National Coordinator attended an International Training Program on Transboundary Water Management for the Lake Victoria Region, this training was held in November last year in both Kenya and Kigali, it will also continue in February this year in Sweden. It is organized by RAMBOLL Natura AB, in collaboration with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

He has made the following Individual Project (IP) which will be presented in Sweden.

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: CASE OF KAGERA BASSIN AREA IN RWANDA.

Purpose of IP

The purpose of the Individual Project –IP is to find out the role of Civil Society in Transboundary Water Resources Management. The IP will take Kagera River basin area in Rwanda as its case study. It will find out to what extent is the Civil Society involved by the Nile Basin Initiative (NELSAP/Kagera Transboundary Integrated Water Resources Management Project) in its activities, so Kagera TIWRMP will be its main correspondent and will also propose possible areas of collaboration and involvement.

The examples of collaboration would aim at the following desires:

- Raising awareness on the KAGERA Transboundary IWRM projects to Rwandese
- Involvement of the Civil society in the implementation of the KAGERA Transboundary development projects
- Sharing of information on the projects development and updating it on our national Resource Centre.

Planning is a key programme for every Organisation. It allows making available a coordination framework for daily activities of the organisation and those of partners. Through this occasion, it draws the objectives and awaited results by prioritising them in the long term and defining performance measurement tools. Planning organises rigorously the work done on a collective level and allows defining tasks of various players involved in the work according to objectives discussed and established well before, for each programme and activity to be executed.

However, during the preparation of this Strategic Plan, we realised that there was no strategic planning that would conduct actions carried out either on the level of the Forum or on the level of the majority of its members. Only the annual or triennial work plans were worked out for the purposes of requesting funds in a bid to allow justifying budgets requested from various sponsors.

ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY

The civil society is obliged to play a role of implementation of activities related to IWRM in the Kagera Basin Area in Rwanda.

These activities would mainly be aimed at improving the water quality especially the water colour Kagera River has, thus these activities would lead to control of soil and water erosion. These activities should also fight water hyacinth which has become a menace in the river basin.

The Civil Society is also expected to play a role of advocacy on the protection of the basin, this will put emphasis on policy reforms and interpretation, issues like soil erosion, pollution and others will be identified and the strategies to be used shall be meetings, workshops, conferences; press releases, radio and TV public talks and Parliamentary public forums.

The Civil society umbrella organisation shall also mobilise finances and support member NGO's and CBO's in implementing environmental and water conservation activities.

The Civil Society will also raise awareness of the NBI's activities to people and can also play a role of monitoring and evaluation of the NBI's activities in the Kagera Basin, then give recommendations for improvement.

MEMBERS OF NBDF RWANDA

| N° | ORGANISATION | CONTACT PERSON | ADDRESS | Headquarters | MAIN INTERVENTION FOCUS |
|----|--|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | ARECO-RWANDA NZIZA | MUKAKAMARI Dancilla | e-mail : arecorwa@yahoo.fr | Kigali City | Environmental Protection |
| 2 | ARJE | UWIMANA Albertine | rwejass@yahoo.com | Kigali City | Promotion of Environmental Reporting in different media in Rwanda |
| 3 | (RECOR) | SEHENE Jean Chry-sostome | rwc@planet-save.com | Kigali City | Conservation, Agroforestry, eco-tourism and Environmental education |
| 4 | SERUKA ASBL | KAYITEGEYE Athanasie | seruka@rwanda.l.com | Kigali City | Gender Environmental Protection |
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| 17 | CLADHO | UWANYIRIGIRA Agnes | 572740 | Kigali City | Human rights umbrella organisation |
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| 19 | UGAMA/CSC | SIMPUNGA Innocent | simpunga@yahoo.com | Southern Province | Capacity building for local CSOs, training |
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| 22 | COSYLI | TWAYIGIRA Jean Léonard | Tél : 522585, 08479390 | Kigali City | Workers Union |
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| 26 | ARJ | SEMUKANYA Martin | msemukanya@yahoo.fr | Kigali City | Promotion of professional Journalism in Rwanda |
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| 29 | CAURWA | SEBISHWI Juvénal | juvesebi@yahoo.fr | Kigali City | Promotion of Indigenous People |