



NILE BASIN DISCOURSE FORUM IN RWANDA

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION A KEY IN CONFIDENCE BUILDING

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A Declaration by participants of a regional Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) workshop on the policy and practice of public consultation and stakeholder participation which was attended by key NBI project heads, Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), National Discourse Forums (NDF) from nine countries of the Nile basin save Eritrea, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Country Water Partnerships (CWP) from the nine countries of the basin, was adopted at the end of a workshop held at Safari Club Hotel, Nairobi on date between 6th – 8th, June 2007. With the recognition that public consultation and stakeholders involvement in the development process is an indispensable pre-condition for poverty eradication and generating social development, there was a unanimous approval by all the stake holders' commitments by their governments, to ensure full non governmental stakeholder involvement in NBI operations as essential.

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In picture: Participants of the NBI Confidence Building and Stakeholders Involvement Workshop held at Safari Club Hotel, Nairobi.

6th ORDINARY SESSION OF AMCOW Brazzaville – 28 - 30 MAY 2007.



In picture: Mr. HABINEZA Frank, during the 6th Ordinary Session of AMCOW in Brazzaville.

On the eve of the 6th Ordinary Session of African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Media from different parts of Africa met in Brazzaville, Congo from 28th to 29th May 2007.

The aim of the meeting was to foster policy advocacy and dissemination of relevant and actual information on water issues by using appropriate civil society networks and Media channels. This will be initiated through national and regional initiatives which contribute towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to water particularly improved access to clean water and sanitation, improved water availability and mitigation of water borne disasters.

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NYABUGOGO RIVER IS CRYING OUT

Nyabugogo River is crying out to be saved; it has become a huge rubbish dump for people staying and working around it.

People pour all kinds of waste into it from industrial, agricultural or sanitary sources on top of sewage and solid wastes of every kind.

Factories, Auto-mobile garages and other businesses in the area are dumping their garbage into the nearby River, something that is causing severe damage to the environment and threatening the livelihoods and health of people who live and work in the area.

One Hassan Mugabo a resident in Nyabugogo said that waste from the industries, restaurants and factories is released untreated directly into the River which has caused the water in it to change color to a very dirty brown.

The Pollution is even endangering the existence of the River itself since it causes the water to be flushed out.

According to environmentalists, the main issues of concern within the Nyabugogo River basin are worsening water quality, land degradation, destruction of biodiversity and misuse of natural resources.



The Water has turned black and stagnant in some parts due to severe pollution. Lack of a centralized sewage system in Kigali also means that domestic waste is dumped directly into the River.

Residents of Nyabugogo can not use the river as a source of water. If the River was kept clean, it could also serve as a most important source of water for domestic and industrial purpose around Kigali city.

By Helen Mwhoreze (Focus Newspaper).



TECHNOLOGY AND HYGIENE IN THE NILE CONSERVATIONBy John W. Gakumba

Along the River Nile Basin in Rwanda, a lot of development is taking place. On the 22nd June, 2007, the NBDF-Rwanda National Coordinator

and the Information and Communication Officer visited one of the Organization's members in Gahanga-Bugesera to make a follow up on the activities done in that region of the basin. Mr. HABIYAREMYE J.B and Mr. Rutikanga Jean MV. were there to receive them and took them around the site explaining their activities. The two gentlemen are in charge of ISUKU ASBL, and they have been involved in community activities such as environmental protection, conservation, water harvesting and soil protection. Their activities' efforts and practices are well witnessed on the site as some pictures may portray. In an interview with the Contact Fm journalist, they elaborated that the Gahanga region was a dumping site for all the wastes from Kigali city and there was a lot of land abuse because a lot of components were dumped in this place and they had no

treatment which rendered the region unworthy for settlement and any human activities. ISUKU ASBL's activities have benefited the communities around in many ways such as; the hired agronomist supervises most of the agro-development activities that are used in composting and treating the waste for which manure which is used in adding fertility to the soil for agro-production, designing of the ter-

aces to show to local farmers how soil erosion can be controlled, also seed samples that seem good for the regions' agriculture are also tested and hence distributed to farmers around the region once approved good. On the same site, a water harvesting system was designed to collect water during the rainy season. We also learnt from the two gentlemen that the water is used in dry the seasons during the manure composting. The site also has appropriate technology activities that it carries out to train and encourage local members to conserve forests. A locally made wood stove that uses atleast one peace of firewood to boil beans ,hence, meaning that less wood is used after all the society survives by using wood for their cooking activities. According to Mr. Jean Marie Vianney, the local members are trained on how to manufacture the stove and how to use it.

Further, some of the workers on site (mostly widows of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide victims) told us that they have acquired employment and a lot of skills from the activities on the site and hence can adapt to living a better and normal life standard. There is also a goat giving and distribution activities among the members, as told by Mr. HABIYAREMYE, this project is encourage diversity and income generation for the local members and the same also encourages interaction among the members of the community, hence, a further tool of cooperation.



During workshops held in November 2004 in Entebbe, Uganda, and in February 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, over 60 Media and water professionals from more than 10 countries concluded that:

- Environmental stories do not "sell" hence Media coverage is dominated by stories involving high profile political elite. Furthermore, technically oriented organizations like those in water and sanitation do not prepare information appropriate for use by the wider public, yet journalists have no time nor training to sift through the Water and sanitation jargon.
- Environment and natural resources institutions rarely have Media and communication strategies and action plans, no public relation units that would provide for linkages to the public and facilitate information exchange

In 2004, the CSO and Media made recommendations during the 5th Ordinary Session of AMCOW which was held in Uganda. Over the last two years, the CSO and Media have been involved in a process of reviewing the progress of those recommendations.

Based on that review and the deliberations during the current 6th Ordinary Session in Brazzaville, the CSO and Media now make the following recommendations.

CSO and Media commit themselves to:

- To support government policies and strategy implementation through research, information dissemination and advocacy.
- Supporting countries in the development and implementation of national Integrated Water Resources Management Plans.
- Sharing experiences from pilots and demonstrations in water supply and sanitation.

Avail and share capacity building and promotional materials on appropriate technologies that enhance water policy implementation.

Institutional Issues

For effective contributions and engagements:

AMCOW ensures inclusive participation of all stakeholders – government, private sector, civil society, research and training centres, and development partners. To that extent, CSO and the Media look forward to the formalization of their relationship with AMCOW through modalities of engagements in the work of the respective AMCOW sub-regional entities, AMCOW TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) and EXCO (Executive Committee) as well as the Ordinary Session of the Council,

AMCOW nominates a CSO and a Media representative at both Africa and Regional Technical Advisory Committees who shall then monitor closely water and sanitation issues requiring advocacy and Media coverage.

Financial mechanisms

AMCOW to facilitate allocations of funds in its tri-annual work programme for CSO, Media and womens groups,

AMCOW undertakes to support and raise funds for activities of CSOs and the Media that aim to achieve MDG,

AMCOW to facilitate CSO and Media to access funds from AfDB, micro-finance institutions, private sector, and other development cooperation partners.

Community empowerment

AMCOW to provide endorsement and support for the efforts of CSO and Media in awareness raising, information sharing and exchange, and capacity building of the respective target groups,

AMCOW to facilitate WSS policy formulation and development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation taking into account existing CSO and Media mechanisms,

AMCOW to facilitate and support the participation of the CSO and Media representatives in regional and international WSS events, e.g. Africa Water Week, World Water Week, Stockholm Water Week etc,

Recognizing that 2008 is the international year of sanitation during which many events will be held in and outside Africa, AMCOW to provide the necessary facilitation and support for the involvement of African CSO and Media in related events.

Partnership building for achievement of MDGs

AMCOW to support the efforts of CSO and Media to develop and sustain partnerships toward the achievement of MDG 7 in Africa,

AMCOW to partner with CSO and Media in providing education, information and creating awareness conducive to the achievement of MDG 7.

Promote gender equality and empower women (MDG 3)

- CSOs and Media to partner with AMCOW to raise and support a special fund to promote programmes and projects for women/children and water
- AMCOW to collaborate with CSOs and Media to advocate for specific national sub-regional, regional policies/programme targeting women and children

Implementation plan for this proposal

- CSO and the Media engage and partner with AMCOW in the implementation of AMCOW activities.
- CSO and the Media undertake to monitor progress of the actors engagement in progress made in the sector.
- The Media undertakes to increase coverage on water sector issues and to work closely with CSO and AMCOW to realize issues the MDGs.

“ENVIRONMENTAL FIGHTS IS LIKE OTHER STRUGGLES” - KAGAME



In his message on The Environmental Day, President Paul Kagame called for critical reflection on the role and responsibility of African governments, private sector and media practitioners in addressing the continent’s environmental challenges. While addressing participants at the International Conference for East and Central African Journalists at Kigali Serena Hotel, the President pointed out that building capacity in all three sectors was critical for planning and effective environmental management.

The conference whose theme was **Sharing Environmental Information to Tackle Key Regional Challenges of Africa**, brought together journalists from around Africa, policy makers and development partners involved in the field.

Citing the recently released report on the environment by the IPCC, with its alarming predictions for the future on worsening food security and destruction of ecosystems caused by climate change, President Kagame asserted that although industrialized countries were primarily to blame for the declined state of the environment - effects of which are felt most in Africa - Africa also had a role in the continuing deterioration of our planet.

Kagame said that, in the same way that Africa has struggled and prevailed against other ills, with the right actions, the continent had the ability to reverse damage to the environment and become a credible contributor to the global effort. “Our continent has fought and won key battles - including those against bad governance and authoritarian dispensation...We must therefore take the environmental challenge in the same stride, for it is part and parcel of socioeconomic development,” he said.

He also called on the African Union and regional economic blocs to take on the challenge.

He pointed out journalists as agents of change, saying that they have a vital role in educating and informing the society on environmental protection and helping to change mindsets.

He urged them to partner with government and other stakeholders in order to confront the environmental challenge. “In order to make real progress towards environmental protection in Africa, we must forge meaningful partnerships with key national, regional and continental stakeholders, including governments, business, civil society and development partners.

Let me assure you that we in Rwanda will play our role - indeed the entire continent must be mobilized even more urgently to this cause,” he added.

Journalists attending the three-day conference came from Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Others came from Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Gabon, Chad, Central Africa, Congo Brazzaville, Mauritania. They are all members of Africa Network of Environmental Journalists, which operates in all African countries.

The New Times

HARI UDUCE TW’U RWANDA TWUGARIJE N’ UBUTAYU

Tariki ya 17 Nyakanga ya buri mwaka, Isi yose yizihiza umunsi mpuzamahanga wo kurwanya ubutayu. Uwo munsi ukaba warizihijwe mu Rwanda ku cyumweru cya gatatu cy’ukwezi nk’ibindi bihugu ku Isi. Ariko kubera inama mpuzamahanga yabereye mu Rwanda, uwo munsi ukaba utarizihijwe nk’uko bikwiye. Mu ijamba rya Nyakubahwa Minisitiri w’ubutaka, ibidukikije, amashyamba, amazi n’umutungo kamere Christoph Bazivamo yagejeje ku baturarwanda kuri uwo munsi, yatangaje ko u Rwanda narwo rwifatanyije n’ibindi bihugu by’Isi mu kurwanya ububi bw’ubutayu, no kubukumira abaturage barwo batera ibiti aho bishoboka hose, kugira ngo bambike icyatsi igihugu cyose. Yanabijeje kandi ko bishoboka.

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RWANDA ACTIVITY PLAN FOR THE REMAINING MILESTONES

The Rwanda Nile Basin Discourse Forum (RNBDF) is a network of civil society organizations composed of three main bodies:

- The General Assembly (GA), which is the supreme body of the forum;
- The Steering Committee (SC), which is the implementing body of the forum and which follows the forum's overall management (composed of nine members from different CSO; and
- The secretariat which ensures the day-to-day activities of the forum.

RNBDF is a member of the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), and was legally registered by the Ministry of Local Government in December 2006.

This work plan covers a period of twelve months, from May 2007 to April 2008. It is covering different activities on Research and dissemination as well as capacity building for NDF members.

Objectives

- ◆ The major objective of RNBDF is to be the “voice of the voiceless”, through the involvement of civil society organizations in the Nile Basin Initiative's overall development.
- ◆ The objective of this action plan is to strengthen the RNBDF in order to provide the basis for an effective dialogue between all stakeholders in Rwanda and to provide a conduit for dissemination to and engagement with the NBI at all levels.
- ◆ This action plan also contains the activities required in the remaining two milestones which are Research and Dissemination as well as Capacity Building for NDF members.

Activity plan

a) Research and Dissemination

1. Commission a study on the Impacts of Efficient Water use in Agriculture Production and Water harvesting Project (NBI-EWUAP) and assess its impacts on Poverty Reduction and community livelihoods in drylands areas of Rwanda, where also Nile passes. This study will be done in Gitarama, Bugesera and Gatsibo District. It will also involve a launching workshop to approve the study report.
2. Commission a study on Communities Involvement in the Power Development and Trade on Rusomo and Rusizi, interconnections between DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda and developing guidelines for CSO Involvement. A launching workshop will also be held.
3. Commission a study on stakeholders' participation in NBI Projects and Programs in Rwanda this will take about 5 projects of NBI as the case study. It will also involve a launching workshop.
4. These activities will also require dissemination in both print and electronic media, posters and brochures will also be made. A monthly newsletter will be made and a website will be maintained to contain the postings of the research results.

b) Capacity Building for NDF Members

- A Training on project development, Sustainability, Management and Community needs assessment for members will be conducted
- Capacity building workshop on the Viability of hydro power dams and alternatives sources of power/energy will be conducted
- A Training on Environment, Social and Economic Impact Assessment for members will be conducted
- A Training on IWRM and Restoration of the watersheds for members

c) Project Management

Rent office space

Office space will be needed to host NBDF Rwanda so that these activities will be achieved. It is imperative to note that this office space will also host the Knowledge and Resource Center which was established in the Second Milestone. Communication will also be needed to make the secretariat work.

Staff Maintenance

Salaries have been budgeted to maintain the NBDF Staff, who are the National Coordinator, Secretary/Librarian, Night Guard, ICT and Information Officer, and a Finance and Administrative Officer (who will be recruited soon, since the services of CCI's Finance officer will not be used again and it was realized that there is need to decentralize administrative matters so that the National Coordinator would have ample time to work on developing project proposals in order to fundraise for sustainability). The budget is for twelve months starting from May 2007-April 2008. But due to some delays, activities whose schedule has been changed will hopefully start in July.

Key outputs

The key outputs for all these activities will be:

- i. Three different research activities will be carried out and reports will be made and publicized ;
- ii. Four different Trainings will be provided and reports will be made available
- iii. Relationship between the RNBDF and NBI at national levels promoted;
- iv. Publications will be done: Newsletters , posters, brochures and website hosted.

By Frank Habineza (National Coordinator)

BANANA GROWING SUCCESS

KAMPALA- Uganda's roving "banana" ambassador Florence Isabirye Muranga of Makerere University Department of Food Science and Technology and her team have some good news.

The team says their breakthrough research on turning banana, a staple diet in the central region, to flour makes it more desirable than wheat for confectionaries. The news is already exciting palates in Europe, they say.

Dr Muranga has been globetrotting presenting the "banana flour" in far flung places in the world such as Germany, a leading producer of chocolate and other baked products.

At her exhibitions, Dr Muranga shows that raw banana is 85 per cent starch and when transformed into flour is 90 per cent starch. This makes banana flour easily digestible.

She has turned the flour into bread, cakes and biscuits, even chapati. Processed matooke, Dr Muranga says, is a perfect substitute for wheat and can fetch lots of dollars.

Dr Muranga says the European Union, the Germans in particular, are interested in the product. The good news for local consumers is that a bunch of matooke turned into flour lasts longer on the shelf than in the storeroom.

Dr Muranga's research was supported by a grant from the Presidential Initiative on Banana Industrial Development (PIBID), a pilot project.

The project aims at increasing the number of products made out of bananas and therefore their value. Dr Muranga who grew up eating bananas as a staple on the family menu, says she is struck by the lack of a serious study of this foodstuff and others even at university.

Dr Muranga's interest in matooke was stimulated after a visit to China where she observed that communities living on small holdings were linked to the area industries which processed their produce into better products.

She came back home and isolated starch from 12 banana varieties which she later furthered by studies in Germany and the USA.

The PIBID work shows that contrary to the belief that matooke is largely water and non-nutritious, it is starchy. It can also be preserved and fortified and consumed in a variety of palatable forms including bread and cakes. Uganda now intends to patent this research.

Indeed a unique aspect of the work PIBID does is that it is primarily aimed at improving the conditions of banana growing communities. A lot of bananas go to waste during periods of glut.

The future of matooke confectionaries may therefore follow products like rice. Today one can find rice cakes, biscuits and crackers on the shelf. If successfully marketed, matooke too could span a variety of products.

It is possible too in a world that is constantly looking for new and exciting products. In western Uganda, Bushenyi district farm institute is expected to partner with PIBID to give out educational material and train trainers on how to set up processing facilities for banana flour. Nothing is wasted; even the peels are targeted for generating energy. It's even dreamed that banana flour will be useful in providing fast food relief in situations of conflict or make a snack for hungry pupils in Uganda's UPE schools.

In the meantime, the idea of banana biscuits or chapatis in western cafes and confectionaries is bound to excite many from a country often called a banana republic.

In fact, the only thing standing in the way of banana confectionaries is low production of bananas.

The Daily Monitor



Importance of banana crop in Rwanda.

Banana is the top crop in Rwanda grown exclusively by small-scale farmers and occupying 35% of country cultivated land. It is considered as the first cash crop across the country and cash income from banana can be as important as 60-80% with remaining 20-40% for the rest of crops. Banana is also an important food crop, especially, between harvests of annual crops and during the dry season. Consumption of banana in the country is one of the highest in the world (250g per capita per day). Brewing banana (highland AAA -EA) and ABB (Pisang Awak), being a dominant banana type, are grown almost everywhere across the country, and play an important role for food security. It can be consumed cooked in time of famine, otherwise, cash income from banana beer sale is used to purchase cheaper sources of food, available on the market.

Banana production zones.

Mild Rwandan climate is suitable for banana production and bananas are found from the lowest country's areas (800 masl) up to the highland zones (2000 masl). However, current banana production zones are concentrated between 1300 and 1800 masl. Kivu Lake border, Cyan-gugu, Kibungo and Kigali-Butare axis were traditional banana growing areas (fig.1). However, the first zones benefit from optimal rainfall conditions (1300 -1600mm/year), that diminish up to 1100-1200mm/year at central part and drops to the minimum of 800-1000mm/year at eastern country-side, where Kibungo, the most important banana production zone is located.



www.isar.cgiar.org

POLYTHENE RECYCLING PLANT TO START IN RWANDA

The problem of polythene bags is most likely to get solution as the deal to recycle them nears approval phase. A Kigali-based company, Soimex, has already expressed interest to establish a recycling plant of polythene bags to turn them into environmental friendly products.



“We have accepted Soimex to go-ahead with plans to recycle polythene bags,” said Dr Rose Mukankomeje, the director general of Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA).

The remaining step is for Soimex to enter into an agreement with the government regarding the required products to be recycled from these unwanted plastic materials she added.

The long-awaited recycling plant is considered an appropriate measure to end the ongoing battle between government and public over the ban on use of plastic bags.

Most of shoppers have since 2005 been caught up in a state of disarray following the ban of polythene bags. The policy to ban polythene is also unpopular with traders.

The government has always been looking for suitable solution, Mukankomeje told The New Times recently from her office at Kacyiru.

She said that REMA has on several occasions undertaken number of attempts to scale down the problem. She said that in April REMA contracted a private firm called Great Lakes Property Protection and Reinforcement Company (GLPPRC) to inspect shops and companies that breach the ban on polythene bags.

Shops and companies have since then been banned from giving/selling any more plastic bags to their customers.

GLPPRC and police are reportedly to conduct the crackdown.

Unfortunately, some companies like Sonafruit in Rusizi District, Southern Province, and Inyange Industries of Kicukiro District, Kigali City have continued to pack mineral water in polythene materials, officials said.

Meanwhile, on June 8, police in collaboration with REMA and GLPPRC staged a crackdown on traders that sell water in polythene bags around Kigali.

Shoppers accused their suppliers for hoodwinking them that the deadline has not come yet. But REMA boss rejected the claims saying that the time limit elapsed long time.

“We need an overall cultural shift in society regarding total ban on use of polythene bags. And, as retailers are at the heart of every community, we feel this will be a very effective partnership for communicating this,” said Peter Murejuru, head of GLPPRC.

The government insists that polythene bags are still prohibited to use until their recycling starts.

“We need an overall cultural shift in society regarding total ban on use of polythene bags. And, as retailers are at the heart of every community, we feel this will be a very effective partnership for communicating this,” said Peter Murejuru, head of GLPPRC.

The New Times

Solving the energy crisis Rwanda’s strive of the decade

The search for alternative energy production has taken a very important step with the installation of 250kw solar energy plant at Jali hill in Gasabo District, north of Kigali City. The solar plant is funded by the German state through Stadtwerke Mainz and Rhineland Palatinate citizens investing over Euro 1m (approx. Frw700million). This step brings hope of future energy surplus to scale down the heavy reliance on hydropower and firewood for both industrial and domestic use.

“This comes at a time when the world is facing environmental degradation and this infrastructure we are witnessing sends a positive signal towards preserving the environment,” said Kurt Beck, President for Rhineland Palatinate at the launch. Beck said that the people in his state (German) are proud of Rwanda having this biggest plant on the continent.

The existing power generating plants in the country are hydro-electric which involve the use of diesel or petrol that are expensive and pose threats to the environment further, affecting the ecosystems.

There are various methods of alternative energy production under trial in the country, depending on the available resources and technology that can be utilized.

www.rwandagateway.org

Dangerous Abroad

I left the shores of my own safe home,
To wander far and wide,
A ship adrift in foreign storms
In search of new adventure
Out of the blue from winding queue,
I alone am called
“Yes you, madam just follow me,”
“We want a word or two,”
“We won’t be long” the woman said
She smiled her mouth stretched wide,
I stepped aside and followed swift with no commo-
tion
Quite curious now to play this game
To see where it would lead
And soon enough with little fuss the two start
interrogation,
A sharp barrage of questions, to maximize intimi-
dation
“Where are you going Madam!”
“Where have you come from Madam!”
“What were you doing there Madam!”
“And why Madam!”
I looked at those two and chose my attack
I decided to purr like a cat
And hid my claws for grand effect,
I must confess, I was going to play
“Giving a Keynote address at a conference”
I spoke with divine composure
“What do you mean Madam?”
“I was the guest of honour,”
I followed kindly enough with two new questions
“Are you surprised?
Don’t I fit your bill?”
I now spoke motherly sweet,
“Is it my height, or perhaps my weight?
Or maybe my hair or rather that it’s not there?”
“I know,”
I explained some more
“I cut it off, first in girlish pride
Only to expose a pleasing shaped head,
I chose to keep it,
See it in profile, at its very best
I urged them both,
But don’t touch!,

That’s out of bounds, I will not abide your hands on
my head.”
The woman spoke up,
“In these days you can’t be too careful,
The pattern has changed,
The world is upside down,
Women have joined men in their criminal ways,
They are shooting and killing and robbing some banks!
Now, we make no assumptions”
She blinked in rapid succession
“Don’t take it like that,
We are doing our job,
This is how we were trained,” Said the man.
“And what job is that?”
I growled down low,
“Is that work, to lay in wait for me,
Oh lucky me, oh, what joy,
My very own welcoming committee!
How did you know I was passing through?
When this is but my very first time with you?”
The innocent man spoke up some more,
Unaware of the threat in my molten voice
“Oh madam, we don’t mean to offend,
I am employed to guard the nation
We are highly trained in detection
We have to be alert to stop all intrusions
You know these days there are dangers and more,
Alkidah, and other terrorists afoot,
Spreading dread and fear from state to state
And ours is no exception”
I looked at him who had just spoke
With honest aplomb and certain clear tones
So sure of his words
And I started to snarl
The cat became lioness hunting her prey
“Oh thank you kind sir for that wise explanation
I see your point in its full summation
Those terrorists are truly exasperating
Endangering lives of innocent victims
I just wanted to know,
How many of them have been like me?
Beautiful and brown I mean
A woman, that is, from Africa?

Take your time, do not haste, and
make a mistake
I am sure you have facts from the
internet
Of scary insurgent women
From the Dark Continent,
Who have blown themselves up for
a peculiar cause?
Do let me in on your special re-
port”
I watched for awhile with the grip of
my eye
Slowly I resumed my speaking
“So it is I with terrorist look, I alone
in this colourful crowd?
I see a flaw in this deduction, that
could cost you a nation
I offer you aid for no special reward,
Look at that man he has squinting
eyes
To me he is doubtful don’t you
think?
That other one, and that one as
well,
I count a dozen, more hostile than
me,
Why not call them as well,
Really, I could do with the company,
So alone am I here all by myself”
And this last I speak for all to hear
The two are taken aback,
They turn to exchange incredulous
looks,
Abruptly they send me away
“OK Madam, you can go!”
They say, as if dispensing a favour,
But the feline in me, won’t leave,
not so soon, not yet,
I hold my look and watch them
some more,
And when I am done, turn slowly to
go.

**BY Betty Wamalwa
Muragori**

NBI-CBSI NAIROBI DECLARATION BY NILE BASIN COUNTRY WATER PARTNERSHIPS AND NATIONAL DISCOURSE FORUMSFrom Pg 1

Major commitments agreed on were improving communication and information sharing in the Nile Basin between NBI, NBD and GWP, improving on the capacity to follow up and through on previous workshops and Declarations, promoting interaction with Subsidiary Action Programs, and, formulating the Nile Basin Initiative public consultations framework strategy with the composition of Regional and national task forces to be completed by November 2007.

The workshop was attended by participants from Egypt, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, DRC, Burundi, Tanzania and Ethiopia with each country presenting their experiences and various issues relating to effective stakeholder involvement in the NBI.

Recognizing further the need to promote more effective engagement of non-governmental stakeholders in NBI processes, the following were agreed upon:

◆ Improving mutual communication and information sharing

- There will be sharing and exchanging of respective reports and workplans at all levels
- Communication Specialists of CBSI, GWP and NBD together with Nile-SEC Information Management Specialist will under the guidance of their respective leaders look into strategies for synchronization, coordination and synergization. Part of the TOR for this Task Force is to review and repackage existing material and draw plans for production of communication material in the future. This process to be done by the beginning of August 2007.
- NDFs will spearhead efforts to streamline civil society activities under the NBI efforts to promote more effective national NBI coordination

◆ On capacity to follow-up on previous workshops' resolutions and declaration

Sharing of workshop recommendations-

- Recommendations and resolutions of all previous workshops by CBSI to be compiled and forwarded by end of July 2007.
- NDFs to spearhead the task of information dissemination at national and local levels.
- CBSI National coordinators to organise regular meetings with NDFs and CWP for updating and follow-up to strengthen advocacy for the implementation of agreed activities.

◆ On promoting direct interaction between non-governmental stakeholders and SAPS

- CBSI and SAPs will avail documentation of the investment projects and organize forums for interface with non-governmental stakeholders.
- NDFs to form expert thematic groups to engage effectively in project-specific issues

◆ On formulating the NBI public consultation framework (PCF)

- On the Concepts and levels of PCF, it is proposed that it should be based on the international principles and best practices, NBI principles, overriding objectives of the NBI and emerging issues.
- PCF is to ensure that all diverse issues are consulted on and consensus reached by all authorities and parties.
- The PCF must ensure substantive involvement of the different levels applying different methodologies /approach for decision makers, policy makers and stakeholders, (including; Governments, non- governments, communities (Traditional leaders/cultural leaders)
- The PCF must ensure substantive involvement of the different levels applying different methodologies /approach for decision makers, policy makers and stakeholders, (including; Governments, non- governments, communities (Traditional leaders/cultural leaders)
- PCF Shall be adaptive to the needs at the different levels (Governments, Non –governments and community)
- PCF Shall be adaptive to the needs at the different levels (Governments, Non –governments and community)
- Three spatial levels have been identified; Regional, National and local. For effective PC, the process at each level shall be defined and guided by the concepts and content.
- Three issue levels have been identified: policy, program and project.
- Rigorous stakeholder analysis is to inform the process of consultation.

On The Process to Formulate PCF:

The Workshop participants to comprise a Regional Task Force for the formulation of the PCF.

At national level, CBSI NPC, NDF and CWP will work in cooperation with NBI National Office.

By end of July CBSI to forward Draft Concept based on agreement.

Consultations at national levels to be resourced by CBSI and facilitated by CWPs. To be completed by end of September 2007.

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

"A plant takes from the soil only what it needs. In the same way, we too should only take from the earth what we need to flourish."



This simple thought, if put into practice, would generate a revolution in our economy and society.

While the major problems of climate change remain in the hands of governments, there is something that each of us can do to make a difference. The little known *Common Declaration on Environmental Ethics*²

signed by Christian leaders in 2002 ahead of the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, points to some practical ways in which churches can work together to change attitudes and policies). The Charter calls on everyone, from governments to institutions, to churches and communities, to families and individuals, to think about their relationship with the environment—and how this affects others. It reminds us that our existence on earth is only temporary—and that we need to think of our children and our children's children when we make decisions.



However, for many living in the developed world, climate change so far is at worst an inconvenience. What we cannot see is that climate change is happening within a world that is already under stress from poverty, injustice and environmental mismanagement. The critical challenge in terms of climate change in Africa in particular is the "way in which multiple stressors—such as the spread of HIV/AIDS, the effects of economic globalization, the privatization of resources and conflict—converge with climate change," Siri Eriksen reported in *Fields*. The consequences of overgrazed land, deforested mountainsides, and denuded agricultural soils means that nature will be more vulnerable than previously to changes in climate.



Those most vulnerable are those who lack the resources and the mobility to adapt through migration. Millions live in dangerous places such as floodplains or in shantytowns on exposed hillsides around the enormous cities of the developing world. Often they are literally "trapped" in poverty—there is nowhere else for them to go.

Climate change is likely to "accelerate social stratification" in Africa, meaning that "those who don't have sufficient wealth to buffer the effects of climate vulnerability will plunge deeper into poverty."

The social and economic injustice of climate change is striking. The industrialized countries and corporations are responsible for the vast bulk of past and current greenhouse-gas emissions. Arguably, these emissions are a debt unwittingly incurred for the high standards of living enjoyed by a minority of the world's

population.

By **GAKUMBA John B Walter**

World Environment Day Celebrations

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

"BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITY ACTION: A MESSAGE FOR OUR FUTURE": 5 JUNE 2007

On the occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June 2007, a series of events took place worldwide, while in Rwanda, the events were officially held at SHORONGI addressing the theme "Biodiversity, Climate Change and Community Action: A Message for Our Future." The events focused on the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity conservation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) target to achieve a significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The **WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY**: Commemorated each year on 5 June, World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. It was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

Internationally, the event was hosted by UNDP, the Equator Initiative, the CBD Secretariat, IUCN and Countdown 2010. It was financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and organized by the BIODIV programme of the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), UNDP, the Equator Initiative and GeoMedia. Participants from governments, business, communities and civil society attended the following events: a press conference presenting a statement for World Environment Day and conveying a message to the G8 Summit (held from 6-8 June 2007 in Heiligendamm, Germany); a policy dialogue focusing on strategic opportunities and priority actions for G8 members and global leaders to build upon synergies between the climate change and biodiversity agendas; and the 2006 Equator Prize award ceremony and dinner.

The message for World Environment Day calls on the G8 to take leadership for renewed commitments to climate change and biodiversity conservation. Recommendations for action from the Equator Initiative and Countdown 2010 include: global leadership in financing for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; adopting a clear mandate for a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol; and integrating biodiversity and climate change concerns into all relevant sectors. The policy dialogue addressed key policies, such as compensation for avoided deforestation and a review of the economic impacts of biodiversity loss; and implementation measures, such as ensuring coherent development and environmental programmes and developing innovative funding mechanisms.

Participants then attended the opening of a new photo exhibition to be housed at the Museum entitled: "Nature – Our Precious Net", prepared by GTZ, GEO Magazine, Countdown 2010, IUCN and UNDP. In the evening, participants attended the Equator Prize Award Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of five communities in diminishing poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Madagascar, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Kenya and Ecuador.

U RWANDA RWIFATANYIJE N'IBINDI BIHUGU KWIZIHIZA UMUNSI MPUZAMAHANGA WO KURWANYA UBUTAYU.

Muri ubwo butumwa yatangaje kandi ko muri iki gihe umuryango mpuzamahanga uhangayikishijwe n'ikibazo cy'ubutayu, kuko butera ingaruka zikomeye ku buzima bw'abatuye Isi, cyane cyane ku byerekeye ubukungu, imibereho myiza y'abaturage, n'imirungire y'ibidukikije muri rusange.

Ubutayu buterwa n'uko ubutaka buba bwangiritse bitewe n'impamvu zitandukanye ziri mu byiciro bibiri : Hari impamvu zikoreshwa n'imikoresha mibi y'ubutaka, n'impamvu ziterwa n'imihindagurikire y'ikirere. Muw'1991 nibwo ishamba ry'umuryango w'abibumbye ryita ku bidukikije ryafashe umwanzuro wo kwerekana ko uturere twajajwe n'ubushyuhe, ndetse n'ubutayu, ubutaka bwaho bwangiritse bikomeye. Nibwo inteko rusange y'umuryango w'abibumbye, yasabye gushyiraho komite ihuriweho na za Guverinoma z'ibihugu, ishinzwe gutegura amasezerano mpuzamahanga yo kurwanya ubutayu. U Rwanda rukaba rwemeje ayo masezerano burundu ku itariki 22 Ukwakira 1998.

U Rwanda narwo ruri mu bihugu byugarijwe n'ubutayu

Ku birebana n'u Rwanda Nyakubahwa Minisitiri yatangaje ko ubutayu bwugarijwe ibice bimwe nabimwe by'igihugu, kandi bukaba buterwa n'impamvu zikurikira :

1. Imikoreshereze mibi y'ubutaka, kandi n'ubutaka u Rwanda rufite budahagije abaturage, cyane cyane abatanzwe n'umwuga w'ubuhinzi n'ubworozi. Ikibabaje ni uko n'ubwo butaka buto batabasha kuburengera baburinda isuri.
2. Isuri ikabijwe aho usanga buri mwaka hafi toni 500 kuri hegitari imwe, igenda ijanywe n'isuri.
3. Imirungire mibi y'amashyamba n'itemwa ryayo rikorwa mu kagari, ku buryo usanga ibiti bitemwa buri mwaka biruta kure ibiti biterwa.

Imikoreshereze mibi y'ibishanga n'inkengero z'ibiyaga, ndetse n'imigezi, ku buryo usanga abantu bahinga kugeza mu mazi, noneho ugasanga itaka rigenda ryirunda muri ayo mazi.

Ibyo byose rero usanga bigira ingaruka zikomeye mu kugabanya ubushobozi bw'ubutaka, bityo ntibugire umusaruro uhagije, bikanagira uruhare rukomeye mu kugabanuka no mu ikendera ry'urusobe rw'ibinyabuzima, ndetse no kugabanuka kw'amazi yaba ayo mu biyaga, cyangwa imigezi, kubera impamvu nyamukuru ikomeye y'isuri itwara ubutaka bwinshi kandi bwakagiriye abaturage akamaro.

Igukurikira ibyo byose ni uko usanga ahantu henshi hatangiye kugaragaza isura y'ubutayu, ari byo bituma abaturage batangira gusonza, noneho hagakurikiraho gusuhuka. Ikindi kibabaje kandi ni uko n'aho basuhukiye usanga imigenzo ikomeza kuba imwe n'imikorere ikaba imwe, ndetse na bya bikorwa byangiza bigakomeza kuganisha igihugu mu butayu. Ibyo birumvikana rero ko haramutse hadafashwe ingamba zikomeye igihugu cyazahinduka ubutayu. Tumwe mu duce tw'igihugu twugarijwe n'ubutayu, tukaba tuboneka cyane cyane mu Ntara y'Iburasira zuba, ndetse no mu Mayaga. Ahandi ni mu misozi miremire nk'ahagerereye ishyamba rya Gishwati, kuko usanga kubera itemwa ry'ibiti isuri igenda itwara ubutaka cyane, ku buryo naho hugarijwe n'ubwo butayu n'ubwo ari mu misozi miremire.

Hari ingamba zafashwe haba ku rwego rw'igihugu, no ku rwego mpuzamahanga zo kurwanya ubutayu

Niyo mpamvu rero kubera ibyo byose leta y'u Rwanda yafashe ingamba, ishira n'amategeko bigamije gukoresha neza ubutaka, haba mu miturire, n'ubundi buryo ubwo ari bwo bwose bwo gukoresha ubutaka, ndetse n'ibindi bikorwa byita cyane cyane kurinda isuri hakoreshejwe by'umwihariko amaterase y'indinganire kubera akamaro afite. Hanashyizweho amategeko n'amabwiriza agenga ubucukuzi mu rwego rwo gufata neza ubutaka, abakora uwo mwuga, bakaba basabwa kuyubahiriza nk'uko bikwiye. Hanashyizweho gahunda yo gutera ibiti ku mihanda yose yo mu gihugu yaba iminini cyangwa imitoya, no ku misozi. Haranakangurirwa abaturage ku byerekeranye n'amategeko ku mirimo yo gutema ibiti, no guha agaciro ibikomoka kuri ibyo bito.

Ku bijyanye no gufata neza inkengero z'ibiyaga, ibishanga n'imigezi, hashyizweho naho amategeko n'ingamba, bijyanye no kurinda izo nkengero, ku buryo urwo rusobe rw'ibinyabuzima byinshi bibonekamo bibashe nabyo kuba byarengerwa.

Ku rwego mpuzamahanga u Rwanda rwifatanyije n'ibindi bihugu mu rwego rwo kurwanya ubutayu, kandi ubwo bufatanye burakomeza. Akaba ariyo mpamvu u Rwanda rwemeje burundu amasezerano mpuzamahanga yo kurwanya ubutayu, kandi igakomeza na gahunda yo kuyashyira mu bikorwa, ndetse no muri uyu mwaka mu kwezi gutaha kwa karindwi kuva kuya 09 kugeza kuya 13 hateganyijwe inama muri urwo rwego rwo kurwanya ubutayu, na none kandi u Rwanda rwemeje burundu amasezerano mpuzamahanga ku byerekeranye n'imihindagurikire y'ibihe, no kurwanya ubutayu.

Nyakubahwa Minisitiri yatangaje kandi ko kurwanya ubutayu bisaba uruhare rwa buri wese, kandi bikazashoboka.

Ubwo akaba ari bumwe mu butumwa Nyakubahwa Minisitiri w'ubutaka, ibidukikije, amashyamba, amazi n'umutungo kamere Christoph Bazivamo yagejeje ku baturarwanda ku munsu mpuzamahanga wo kurwanya ubutayu.

Byateguwe na Patrick KAMBALE (Journal UBUMWE)

MEDIA COMMUNICATION

NBDF-Rwanda has already established a website (www.nbdfwanda.org.rw) from which all general and detailed information on our activities, achievements, future and past developmental plans can be accessed. The website also comprises public and membership forums as well as chatroom, anyone however, has the chance to register or access subscription to our activities and involvement. We also have a well equipped resource center from which various publications on Nile Basin, development and environment issues can be accessible to users.

MEMBERS OF NBDF-RWANDA

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2	ARJE (Association Rwandaise des Journalistes Environnemen- taux)	UWIMANA Albertine	rwejass@yahoo.com	Promotion of Environmental Reporting in different media in Rwanda
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16	ARDHO (Association Rwandaise pour la Defense des droits de l Homme)	SAFARI Emmanuel	manusafari@yahoo.com	Human Rights
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21	AREDI (Association Rwandaise pour l Environnement et le Developpement Intégré)	SIKUBWABO Adélar	aredi@rwanda.l.com tekesik@hotmail.com	Environmental protection and Integrated Development
22	COSYLI (Conseil des Syndicats Libres au Rwanda)	TWAYIGIRA Jean Léonard	Tél : 522585, 08479390	Workers Union
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26	ARJ (Association Rwandaise des Journalistes)	SEMUKANYA Martin	msemukanya@yahoo.fr	Promotion of professional Journalism in Rwanda
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29 12	CAURWA (Conseil des Autoctones au Rwanda)	SEBISHWI Juvénal	juvesebi@yahoo.fr	Promotion of Indigenous People

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