

Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program

Coordination Unit

Quarterly Newsletter



History Made:

Construction of the Regional Rusumo hydropower plant starts

Message from the Regional Coordinator

ENG. ELLY ELICAD NYABEEYA

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It is always exciting to start a new year at NELSAP especially with the new prospects and projects that are yet to be availed. We worked hard in 2016 and 2017 will for sure be an exciting year and there are a lot of expectations we are looking forward to.

he year started well at NELSAP; in February we had a Nile's Day, a great and spectacular event that was held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania and all the credit goes to the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and Tanzania's Ministry of Water and irrigation for organizing and implementing it successfully.

So far in this year, the historic ground breaking ceremony of the 80MW Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric Project on the 30th, March, 2017 was our huge pride

and a complete success. Rusumo Project is a huge project that was prepared and developed in NELSAP and shows the actual investment benefits accruing from cooperation on the Nile waters focusing on sharing benefits rather than sharing waters which is a finite source,

As an investment arm we have prepared and executed many meetings for the advancement of many projects in water and power development, we have held many workshops for capacity building we are carrying out feasibility studies and engaged stakeholders for the advancement of the region, and we are going stronger.

Our main driving force is to support national programs to expand their coverage and achieve a regional insight, encouraging the Nile Basin countries to work together to foster basin cooperation.

A lot has been achieved and so much more projects are underway and so we are moving forward with much zeal and strength to achieve more.



Our Mission

To contribute to the eradication of poverty, economic growth, and reversal of environmental degradation in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region

Message from the Communications Desk

Within NELSAP-CU, work for the betterment of the region is the order of the day. And knowing communication is essential to keeping our stakeholders, our partners and you our dear readers informed gives us the courage to note down most spectacular events to share with you.

We have managed to put together the most of our events and we can only hope they excite you as much as we were excited being part of them.

NELSAP produces regular newsletters every quarter so we hope to keep you updated every three months with our projects that are very beneficial to the whole of Nile Equatorial region.



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The historic Regional Rusumo Hydro-electric ground breaking

More than 20 years since it was first identified, the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric plant ground breaking was an excitement that couldn't be contained and this was proved with more than 1000 people attending the function.

It was on 30 March, 2017, when finally the dream of the construction of the shared Regional Rusumo Falls hydroelectric plant with lots of preparation was finally to be started in Ngara district, on the border of Rwanda and Tanzania.

With Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) being at the center of this function after reviving the project that was on standstill in 2006 by championing the

feasibility studies and undertaking resource mobilization up to finance closure, the function was a sight to behold.

NELSAP-CU, the NBI's investment arm in addition to providing a platform for regular dialogue and information exchange is credited for creating an atmosphere of trust and confidence among the three governments and building an enabling environment for joint investment, which made this project possible.

The NELSAP-CU Regional Coordinator, Eng. Elicad Elly Nyabeeya couldn't hide his excitement of the day as he said "Rusumo Project is one of the big ones prepared and developed within the NBI cooperation platform and shows actual investment

benefits accruing from cooperation on the Nile waters. The project focuses on sharing benefits rather than sharing water, which is a finite resource,"

For Hon. Prof. Sospeter Muhongo, Tanzania's Minister of Energy and Minerals who presided over the function, the project was an opening to a future of possibilities.

"This ground breaking ceremony is a significant milestone to our journey towards the production of electricity for the region and a sign of cooperation between the East African countries," he said.

After its completion in 2020, the Project is expected to generate 80 megawatts of renewable, clean

The historic Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric ground breaking

and relatively low cost power to be shared equally among Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, with each country getting an additional 26.6 megawatts directly connected to their respective national grid through the transmission lines.

The project will therefore benefit 1, 146,000 from the additional power, with 5.4% (520,000) in Burundi, 4% (467,000) in Rwanda and 0.34% (159,000) in Tanzania.

Ms. Bella Bird, World Bank Country Director for Tanzania, Burundi, Malawi and Somalia who graced the ceremony said the primary beneficiaries of the hydropower plant will be the citizens of member states.

This project is of more importance also to the region as transmission lines will form a 'backbone system' that will link the Great Lakes region for power exchange with Eastern DR Congo as well as other Nile

Equatorial Lakes countries and later to the Southern Africa Power Pool, making power trade among Member States easy and improved regional power supply reliability.

In addition to immediate benefits like providing jobs to 500 people and improved infrastructure like the roads that will be built during construction, this Project will bring about regional and political cooperation, facilitate regional integration, peace and stability among the Nile Equatorial Lakes countries through shared facilities and development of common energy and water policies.

The Construction of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric power plant will cost USD 340 million funded by the World Bank while the transmission lines will cost USD121 million funded by African Development Bank (AfDB).

These include 220kV transmission lines double circuit running 161 km from the power plant to Gitega substation in Burundi, 119km double circuit line from the Power plant to Shango sub-station



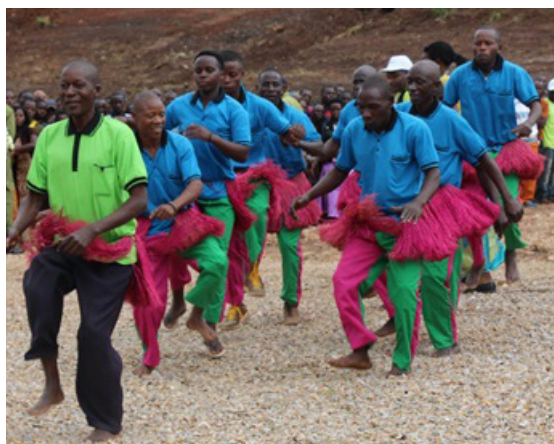
TOP RIGHT: Regional Coordinator of NELSAP welcoming the people at the ceremony;

BOTTOM RIGHT: Dignitaries who attended the function in a group photo;

LEFT: Ministers from the three member states, the representative of World Bank on ground breaking ceremony



Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric ground breaking



TOP LEFT: Some of the visitors who graced the ground breaking ceremony
TOP RIGHT: A Rwandan traditonal troupe entertaining people at the ceremony;
BOTTOM RIGHT: A Burundian troupe entertaining delegates ;
BOTTOM LEFT: A local Tanzanian traditional troupe entertaining people in Ngara at the ceremony



in Rwanda and 98.2 km double circuit line from the power plant to Nyakanazi sub-station in Tanzania. These transmission lines will be connected to national grids respectively.

The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project design is a Run-of-River (RoR) Development

Scheme with a normal operating water level of 1,320 meters above mean sea level. The Run of River Development Scheme is a great choice because it maintains the natural flow of the river and does not significantly modify the natural environment.

The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric power plant will be located on the Kagera River at the border between Rwanda (Southeast) and Tanzania (Northwest) and about 25 kilometers downstream of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania common border point.

Nile Day celebrations



School children celebrating Nile Day in Dar es Salaam



In an event organized by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and Tanzania's Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 10 member states of Nile basin Initiative Member celebrated Nile day at the Julius

Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on the 22nd, February 2017.

The celebrations that were marked with procession of participants of various ages and stature waving flags of member states was officially opened by the guest of honour, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania in a tradition of planting trees at the host venue.

An annual celebration, Nile Day commemorates the establishment of the NBI on 22 February, 1999. This day comes with an opportunity to increase

awareness about the benefits of basin-wide Nile Cooperation in mutually looking after and utilizing the shared Nile Basin water and related resources.

With the theme of day being 'Our Shared Nile – Source of Energy, Food and Water for All', it highlighted what Nile Basin water resources puts at the center.

"The theme provides us yet with another opportunity to highlight the importance of our River Nile in the quest for food, water and energy security in the Basin. Without doubt, collaboration and cooperation is the best approach for managing our precious water resources as we cope with the prevailing drought conditions," said H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan.

H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan went on to say water by its nature is not bound by manmade boundaries, which should be a reason for countries to cooperate and commended NBI's efforts in spearheading collaborative efforts of the Nile Basin countries.

The Chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, also Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment

commented on shared water resources saying, "thanks to this regional platform, there is a paradigm shift to more holistic planning, with countries realizing that there is more to gain in cooperative development than unilateral efforts."

Cheptoris encouraged NBI Member States to work together towards sustainable cooperation and ensure that the water, energy and food security are sustainably developed in the Basin through the countries' collective actions.

Eng. Innocent Ntabana, the NBI Secretariat Executive Director noted that the relationship between water, energy and food calls for the balancing of the act of exploitation with the aim of ensuring sustainability for our future generations.

The celebrations were attended by more than 500 participants including Ministers of Water Affairs 10 member states, embassies, Members of Parliament, Development Partners, Researchers, Academicians, Civil society, Elders, Youth, Media, school children and the general public.

SMM offers Community based training on water resources management and development



holders,” says Cosmus Muli, the Project Officer of Sio-Malaba-Malakisi.

Muli goes on to say facilitating cooperative activities, improving integrated water resources planning and management, identifying and preparing studies of potential investments of regional significance is the backbone of the project.

Mr. Jacob, the chairman of Toloso WRUA who gave the vote of thanks for the training said the support provided is of great importance to the interventions by national governments and offers trans-boundary solutions to national constraints.

By basing on a well-defined and agreed pre-investment program, SMM project aims at following up investment projects for sustainable economic growth in areas such as water storage, irrigation, hydropower development, watershed management and water supply & sanitation

The Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) River Basin Management Project held a Week long training with the aim of capacity building to the Middle Malakisi community WRUA members in catchment water resources management issues on the 6th – 10th of March 2017 in Toloso village, Chwele location, Bungoma County.

SMM prepares an agreed investment plan basing on the resources endowments in the basin, undertakes feasibility studies of viable investment opportunities and promotes resource management and development projects for promotion of trans-boundary cooperation.

The Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) River Basin Management Project is one of the pre-investment projects under the NELSAP which seeks to establish a sustainable framework for the joint management and development in the sub basin, within the Nile Basin cooperation.

“Our aim is to facilitate cooperative water resource management and development in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) sub basin. This can only be achieved through the provision of targeted technical assistance to countries that share the SMM sub basins and broader stake-

The Interconnection Meeting held in Nairobi

The Steering Committee of the Interconnection of Electric Grids of the NEL Countries Project held its 7th meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya on the 23rd -24th, March, 2017 with the purpose of assessing progress made in the implementation of the project, addressing the challenges that affect the project and devising mitigation measures.

“The meeting is also to receive the findings of the two Supplementary studies i.e. Power Systems Analysis and Operation and Commercialization Guidelines Development presented by the PTC,” said Eng. Elly Elicad Nyabeeya, the Regional Coordinator of NELSAP-CU which provides technical assistance and facilitation platform ensuring the regional nature of the projects is maintained.

Ms. Merci Kimani, the representative of the EU who was in this meeting highlighted the activities being funded by EU in Kenya including the Last Mile Connectivity Project, access to renewable energy resources, Lake Turkana Wind Power, preparing Electrification Program.

“I congratulate NELSAP for the work on interconnection projects and I can assure you EU will work

closely with AfDB to support the outcomes of the studies as well the power development agenda in the region,” said Ms. Merci Kimani.

The Permanent Secretary of DR Congo, José Maboya Nzalingo, thanked the Government of Kenya for their hospitality in hosting the two days meeting as well as NELSAP for organizing the meeting.

“I am also very grateful to the experts who have worked on the previous meetings and have come up with recommendations and set these projects in process. I cannot forego the role played by NELSAP in coordinating the regional projects and therefore we are required to accelerate the implementation of projects,” said PS José Maboya Nzalingo.

Dr. Stephen Robert Isabalija, the Permanent Secretary of Uganda, said Energy is the backbone of development and therefore greater efforts are needed to complete the energy projects. He advised Countries to follow up project implementation and ensure the much needed electricity in the region is



PS OF Energy ministries in Nile Equatorial, PTC Members from DRC, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, AfDB, EU, Tractebel and NELSAP in a group photo

delivered.

Just like his counterparts, Mr. Christian Rwakunda, the permanent Secretary of Rwanda, thanked the government of Kenya for hosting the event and NELSAP Secretariat for organizing the countries on these regional power interconnection projects. He highlighted the need to push harder for completion of the projects in the pipeline to facilitate power exchange within the Member States.

The Permanent Secretary of the hosting country Kenya, Dr. (Eng.) Joseph Njoroge welcomed his colleagues and participants to Kenya and stressed the need for output

based and value added meetings. He emphasized that electricity is a critical component for socio-economic development and the NELSAP project is critical for access to power through the interconnected grid. He stressed the need to fast track construction as a means to realising the regional power access and trade.

The two days meeting was attended by the Project Technical Committee (PTC) Members from DRC, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, AfDB, EU, Tractebel (consultant for Power Systems Analysis) and NELSAP.

Other events in PICTURES



In February, PMU with Rwanda Natural Resources Authority assessing automatic water level recorder at Lake Cyohoha, installed by NELSAP in 2012



A field visits to Toloso sub catchment a water stressed area in Chee within the Middle Malakisi Sub Catchment with the on 26-27 January, 2017



Hold hydro-met data refresher training for technicians (Uganda and Kenya) on data Quality Management System (QMS) (January 30, 2017 – February 03, 2017)



A stakeholder's workshop to review the draft inception report for preparation of the Middle Malakisi SCMP on February 23, 2017

About Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU)



NELSAP is one of two investment programmes under the Nile Basin Initiative. It promotes investments in power development and trade, River Basin Management and Development, Agricultural trade, productive and sustainable fisheries, and best practices in watershed management.

NELSAP projects engage countries and major stakeholders to fully consider trans-boundary environmental, social and climate change impacts, and gender issues. The NELSAP approach supports national programmes, expanding their coverage to achieve a regional perspective, and encourages the Nile Basin countries to work together to implement projects. NELSAP has demonstrated effectiveness in the preparation and coordination of complex multi-country regional projects.

The NELSAP mission is to contribute to the eradication of poverty, promote economic growth, and reverse environmental degradation in the Nile Equatorial Lakes Region. To achieve this mission, NELSAP oversees the implementation of jointly agreed projects and promotes cooperative inter-country and in-country investments related to the common use of the Nile Basin water resources. Investments include power development, trade, and water resources management.



NELSAP has two sub-programmes:

- I) Water Resources Management and Development
- II) Power Development and Trade

Through these two programmes, a total of **USD 6.3 billion worth of investment projects** have been identified and are in different stages of preparation or implementation.

The Water Resources Management and Development sub-programme aims to bring regional benefits and cooperation through improved management of the sub-basins in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region. Interventions include irrigation infrastructure development, improved upper watershed management, and fisheries management.

The Power Development and Trade sub-programme provides for investment in a coherent and coordinated regional electric power grid. In coordination with the East African Power Pool, NELSAP is supporting the Member Countries in enhancing power production and trade through hydropower and transmission line development.



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