

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) Coordination Unit



# NELSAP News

Issue No 005 - January - March 2018

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River Basin  
Management  
Projects and  
their anchor-  
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NELSAP News

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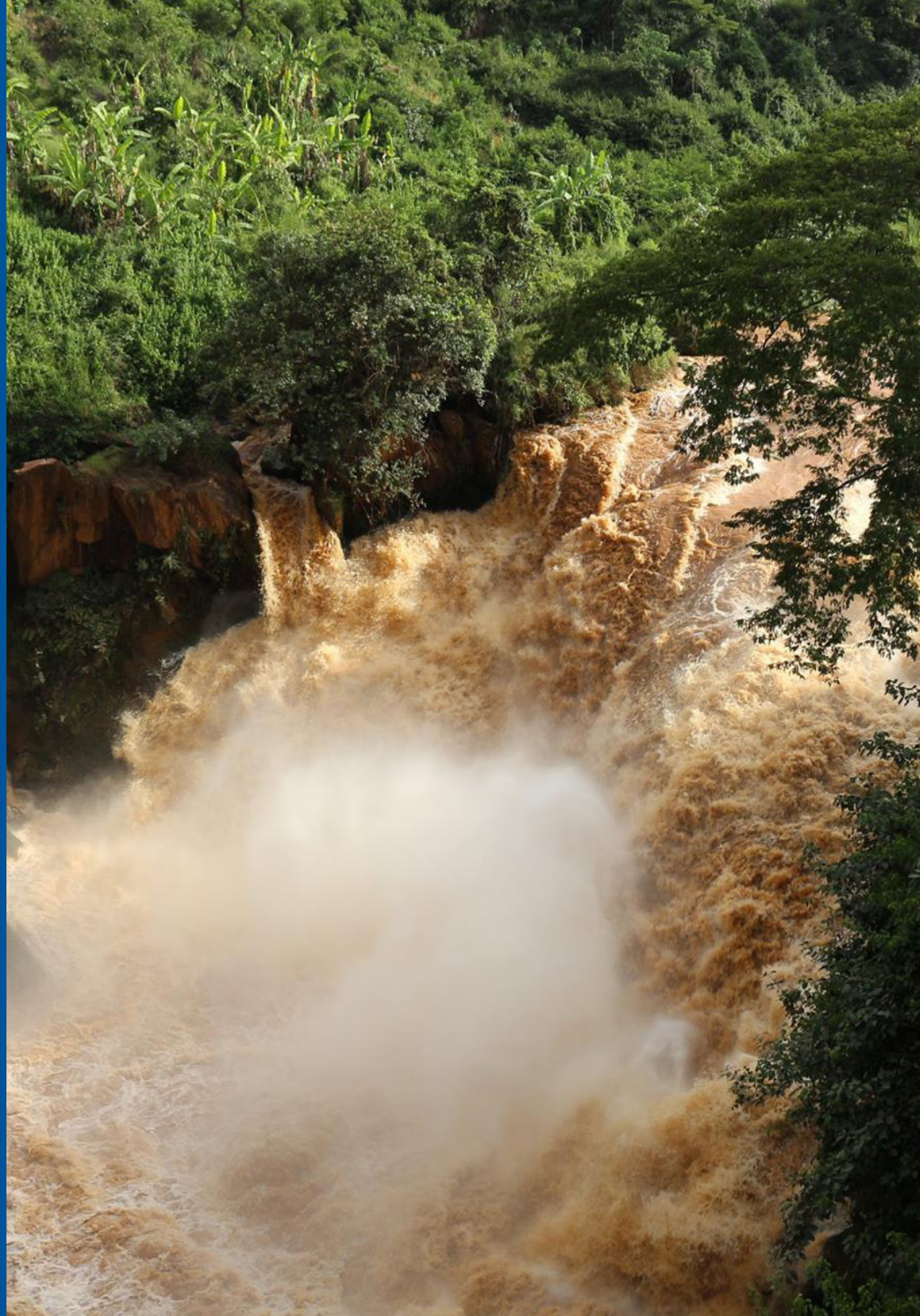
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## Our Mission

*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

*By Doreen NAKURE*

The beginning of 2018 was a time for us at NELSAP to mark our calendars and get to work as it is expected of us and in this quarter, many events and activities were realized.

The Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric Power project finished a year since implementation phase started with the ground breaking ceremony of March 2017. The civil constructions of the project are on a stable progress and the social development projects taking the lead in improving the lives of the Project Affected Persons. The Local Area Development Program in the neighbouring districts of the three member states and the Livelihood Restoration Program are both exciting the beneficiaries with great benefits.

NELSAP through the Mara River Basin Management Project handed over the draft detailed designs reports and tender documents of Mara Valley and Ngono water resources development projects and the other same projects are expected to be handed over to the government of Kenya and Uganda in the next quarter.

The projects under Mara RBM just like the Kagera River Basin Management Project and Sio Malaba Malakisi RBM project were developed as the three pre-investment projects to bring out different outcomes as you will find the detailed information in this newsletter.

With the aim of fulfilling our mandate, many activities in different projects happened and we will keep informing you more of our actions and projects through the quarterly newsletters and our social media platforms regularly.

Have a great read, until next issue ■

### Reach out to us through

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After recognizing the need to take concrete steps towards realization of the development of the Nile potential while the dialogue on a permanent legal and institutional framework continued, the Nile riparian states took a historic step towards cooperation in the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in 1999 by the Council of Ministers in the region.

After the establishment of the NBI, a strategic action programme was launched to translate the NBI's shared vision into action. The strategic action programme consisted of two complementary sub-programmes; the Shared Vision Programme (SVP) of technical assistance and capacity building projects to be implemented basin-wide creating an enabling environment for cooperative development, and Subsidiary Action Programmes (SAPs) carried out by smaller groups of Nile riparian states, comprising of physical investment at sub-basin level.

A set of guiding principles were then adopted for the SAPs with the main guideline being; "Action on the ground needs to be planned at the lowest appropriate level (the principle of subsidiarity). Given the hydrological conditions of the Nile Basin, action on the ground will mainly be planned and implemented at sub-basin level."

In line with this guideline, two SAPs were formed; i.e. the Eastern Nile SAP with member-



## Creation of the River Basin Management Projects and their anchorage to NELSAP

ship of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia then (includes South Sudan now) ENSAP, and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Region SAP with membership of six countries (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) on the White Nile as well as Sudan and Egypt and South Sudan now (NELSAP).

NELSAP was established in December 1999, with the aim of complimenting the shared vision program and fostering realization of the

NBI shared vision. Within the framework of the NBI, NELSAP seeks to achieve joint action on the ground, promote poverty alleviation, economic growth, and the reversal of the environmental degradation in the Nile Equatorial Lakes Sub-Basin.

At the inception of NELSAP, the NEL riparian states identified and prioritised seven projects based on the agreed criteria for selecting NELSAP projects which includes:



# Creation of the River Basin Management Projects and their anchorage to NELSAP

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1. Enhanced agricultural productivity in five East African countries and the DR Congo;
2. Management of fisheries and environments of Lakes Albert and Edward;
3. Watershed management of the Kagera, Mara, and Sio-Malaba-Malakisi River Basins;
4. Water hyacinth and water weed control in the Kagera;
5. Hydropower (Rusumo Falls, ranking and undertaking feasibility studies of 50+MW hydroelectric power projects);
6. Power transmission connections Kenya-Uganda-Rwanda-Burundi-DRC; and
7. Support to the NELSAP Coordination Unit.

It is in this context that three transboundary River Basin Management (RBM) Projects were established respectively for Kagera Basin which is shared between the four countries of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda; the Mara Basin which is shared between Kenya and Tanzania; and the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Basin which is shared between Kenya and Uganda. The Kagera RBM PMU (Project Management

Unit) is for some reasons located in Kigali/Rwanda, the Mara RBM PMU in Musoma/Tanzania, and the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi RBM PMU in Kakamega/Kenya.

The main objective of the three projects is “to develop tools and permanent cooperation mechanisms for the joint sustainable management of the water resources in the Kagera,

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For the time being, there is much evidence to show that progress on cooperation between the respective riparian countries has exceeded expectations. The first documented evidence is the bilateral agreements under the River Basin Management programme, which were signed in accordance with the planned time lines.

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Mara, and Sio-Malaba-Malakisi River Basins in order to prepare for sustainable development-oriented investments to improve the living conditions of the people and to protect the environment.”

The intended outcomes of the three pre-investment projects as designed included (i) appropriate institutional cooperative frameworks for the three basins; (ii) baseline natural and social information; (iii) agreed investment plans and financial resources mobilized for downstream investment; and (iv) small scale investment projects for ensuring that direct returns from cooperation reach the beneficiaries.

For the time being, there is much evidence to show that progress on cooperation between the respective riparian countries has exceeded expectations. The first documented evidence is the bilateral agreements under the River Basin Management projects, which were signed in accordance with the planned time lines. Furthermore, countries cooperated in drafting the Basin Monographs and in the selection of projects. While these aspects are the most tangible, other examples of cooperation tell much more about the embedded nature of bilateral and regional cooperation like the data sharing (through the hydromet programme), study tours and community exchange visits.

# Mara RBM Project hands over the detailed design reports of Ngono and Mara to the Tanzania Government



On the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, Mara River Basin Management Project under NELSAP Project Implementation Unit presented the draft detailed designs reports and tender documents of Mara Valley and Ngono water resources development projects to the United Republic of Tanzania, in Dodoma.

The Mara RBM Project aims at promoting sustainable utilization of water resources of the Mara River Basin which connects Tanzania and Kenya.

The Mara Valley and Ngono water resources development projects are expected to enhance sub catchment development, provide water for Irrigation, hydropower and increase water supply to the beneficiaries once they are implemented.



The handover ceremony of the detailed designs and tender documents of Mara and Ngono projects was attended by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Water and Irrigation of Tanzania Eng. Emmanuel Kalebero accompanied by representative of Permanent Secretaries from key ministries (Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Finance and Planning, the Regional Administration and Government Authorities and National Planning Commission).

The handover ceremony was also attended by the Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committee (NELTAC) chair Dr. George Lugomela, NELSAP representatives and the consultants who working on the mentioned projects.

The disclosure session of the two projects that were conducted by NELSAP aims at cementing the buy-in and ownership of the projects by the government of Tanzania for immediate implementation of the prepared projects.

# NELSAP develops a Catchment Management Planning Manual for practitioners

NELSAP staff were in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, March 2018 in a working workshop preparing a Catchment Management Planning (CMP) Manual for practitioners. The CMP Manual for practitioners has been developed out of a series of discussions from NELSAP staff who are fully involved in catchment management planning activities in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region over the past years.

As its mandate, NELSAP has done significant work in the area of water resources development and management especially in Catchment Planning and Management of which a lot of challenges like lack of practitioner guidelines and the trans-boundary shared catchments with different guidelines from member states were identified. This CMP Manual is aimed at addressing these challenges among others once it is completed.

After discussing the importance and the need of having a Catchment Management Planning guidelines, NELSAP decided to develop a manual by putting together a practical set of approaches based on the collective wisdom of catchment, River Basins and water resources. This Manual is open to use by anyone who is considering developing a Catchment Management Plan.

Once the manual is complete and has been presented to the governance, NELSAP intends to disseminate the manual which will be used by the Catchment Management practitioners that are dealing with catchment management planning process, Government officers, consultants, private sectors among others. The Manual provides key expected output from a planning process, main content of a CM plan report and expected elements.



# The Livelihood Restoration Program: Madina's Story



Louise-Andree **NDAYIZEYE**  
Communications Specialist  
(RRFHP)



Madina Karere is a woman of substance, a single mother of 6 children and an entrepreneur who had been struggling for long to make ends meet for her family; she lives in Kiyanzi Sector, Kirehe District, Rwanda. Madina is among the 354 community members whose livelihoods were affected and have been thereafter improved by the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP) which aims to increase supply of electricity to the three national grids of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania by generating 80 megawatts of renewable, clean, relatively low cost power to be shared equally.

Until 2014, Madina was running a bar-restaurant providing catering services near the Rusumo Border on the Rwandan side. Madina was economically affected by the project when her business was displaced from the Rusumo area prior to the beginning of construction. The Project then compensated Madina along with other people who were going to be impacted by the project. But Madina received more than financial compensation.

Like the others who were impacted by the project, Madina received

training in financial practices and budgeting before she was paid the cash compensation. This additional support, provided under the Livelihood Restoration Program, helped ensure that Madina was able to make the best possible use of her compensation for livelihood improvement. Participants in the training program were also sensitized on the benefits of working together. Madina shares her experience with the Livelihood Restoration Program.

Madina told us that the training on finance management was an opportunity for her to use new skills and learn how to manage her money better. She used her compensation fund to revamp her business, to trade and supply fresh crops, especially cassava bread to neighboring markets bordering Rwanda, in Ngara, Tanzania and in Mirama, Uganda.

"I have been a member of other women's development groups, but I have never experienced quality support like this. We learnt how to work together and how to manage the payments we received. I cannot thank the Rusumo Project Livelihood Program and our local leadership enough," she says.

# The Livelihood Restoration Program: Madina's Story

In order to put these new skills to work for the benefit of the larger community, a Community of Project Affected People was established to promote the well-being of the members through livestock, agriculture and business projects, to promote the culture of saving and working with financial institutions and promote the culture of working as a group cooperative.

Kirehe District played a key role in the establishment of the Community of Project Affected People which now has an office, a chairperson, secretary, accountant and procurement specialists. The accountant on the team is Madina Karere. On top of volunteering to work as CPAP accountant, Madina chose to do poultry farming with 8 other beneficiaries. Madina volunteered to donate a piece of her land for 5 years to the poultry group and was elected by the group members to serve as their Chair, putting her financial and business training to work.

"As an entrepreneur, I decided to invest in knowledge of poultry farming and I am excited by the development of our activity so far as ", she says.

In September 2017, the poultry house was built and 1000 chicks arrived from Belgium with the support of the Community of Project Affected People Procurement committee.

The Poultry group is using the business skills they learned in the training sessions and is considering expanding to a second poultry business. They are planning to offer services to build capacity in poultry farming for their village neighbors.

The training Madina and her colleagues received under the Livelihood Restoration Program has taught them to collaborate in business development and manage their poultry business wisely.

"My son now has an interest in poultry farming," said Madina. "He helps me after school and is eager to learn more about the business."

Through the livelihoods program, Madina and others in her community are learning new skills, developing their professional interests, and working together across the local community.





## The Regional Bilateral draft Agreement of LEAFII project reviewed

The Lakes Edwards and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAFII) project that is implemented by NELSAP held a regional workshop to review the draft bilateral fisheries agreement and the harmonization of Aquaculture policies and legislation in the Lakes Edward and Albert Basin that is shared between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

The workshop that was attended by technical

people in the field of fishing and water resources management from two countries was held at Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel Entebbe, Uganda from 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, March 2018.

The workshop discussed the commitment of both countries towards fisheries management with the aim of avoiding adverse impacts on the aquatic environment and preserving biodiversity. The team also discussed maintaining the integrity of aquatic ecosystems and minimizing

the risk of long term and irreversible effects of illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing in both Lake Edward and Lake Albert.

The bilateral fisheries agreement upon satisfactory review and consequent discussions will be used by LEAFII project to ensure the two countries to cooperate effectively and eliminate the threats to the fisheries resources and the ecosystems on the shared Lakes.



## NELSAP meets African Development Bank Representative

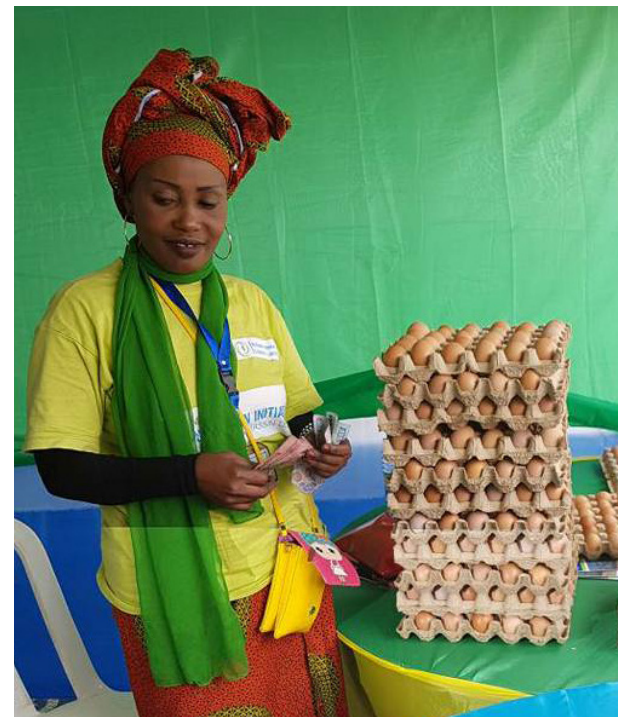
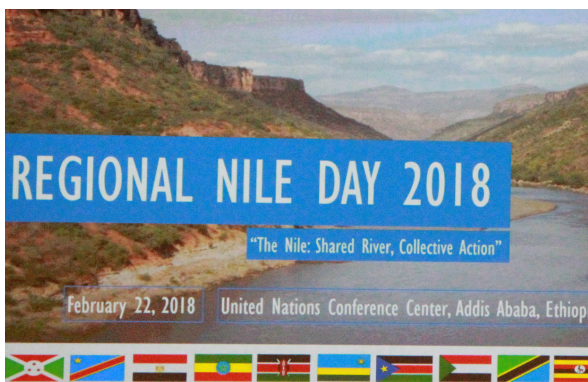
NELSAP senior management with the Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers (NELCOM) chair representative Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committee (NELTAC) chair Mr. George Lugomela on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 held a meeting with Mr. Amadou Hott the Vice President of African Development Bank in charge of Power, Energy, climate change and Green Growth in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire.

They in particular discussed financing of high impact Regional Power Projects that are spearheaded by NELSAP towards Regional Development and Integration especially in the Nile Equatorial Lakes countries.

## NELSAP celebrates Regional Nile Day

NELSAP joined the Nile Basin fraternity along with the three centers of Nile Basin Initiative; the Nile Secretariat (NILESEC) and the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) to celebrate the Regional Nile Day 2018.

Nile day which is celebrated on February 22<sup>nd</sup> each year was this year celebrated at the UN Conference Center hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme of "The Nile: Shared River, Collective Action."



## Livelihood Restoration Program under limelight at Rusumo Produce Exhibition

Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) of The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project beneficiaries on Rwandan side participated in the exhibition in Kirehe Open Day on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 organized by Kirehe District at the Taxi Park (Nyakarambi).

LRP Rwanda beneficiaries exhibited some of their produces (tomatoes, mushrooms, eggs) through the support of LRP.



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