



**NBD Experiences and  
stakeholder views on  
benefits and cost  
sharing on the Nile**

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# The NBD

- **The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a network of civil society organizations in the Nile Basin Region with a current membership of 749.**
- **It is coordinated regionally by the Discourse Secretariat based in Entebbe, Uganda.**
- **It functions through NDFs in the 10 Nile Riparian States.**
- **It provides a non governmental pillar to the Nile Basin cooperation.**
- **It strives to influence, engage and add value to the development processes as envisaged by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).**

# Introduction

- **The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) was established in 2002 to strengthen civil society participation in the NBI developmental processes and programmes with support from CIDA until May 2004.**
- **In November 2005 -to date, DFID stepped in to support NBD enhance civil society capacity to engage in and influence Nile Basin Initiative activities.**

## **Vision**

**“A Nile Basin, where resources are equitably and sustainably developed and managed, benefiting all its inhabitants”.**

## **Mission**

**“To ensure that a fully-informed and basin-wide civil society develops and plays a key role in achieving the vision through proactive and critical influencing of projects, programs and policies of the Nile Basin Initiative and other development processes”.**

# Our key achievements

- Promoted open sharing and exchange of information on current Nile Basin developments/NBI among civil society.
- Developed a pro-active approach to CS engagement in development processes.
- Growing Capacity for civil society to craft further ideas for developments on the Nile and its waters.
- Civil Society has been involved in the monitoring and evaluation of development impacts in the Nile Basin.

# Key challenges and lessons learnt

- **Access to information (understanding has been limited)**
- **Governance and institutional capacity is not well structured (tools for engagement and channels for collaboration need formal establishment)**
- **Coherence in priorities and focus areas of engagement and collaboration with stakeholders (diversity of stakeholders requires strategic and targeted approaches)**
- **Proactive approaches versus reactive (Fast-tracking development processes has prevented consensus on proposed developments)**
- **Additional resources to support programmes of stakeholders engagement.**

## ***NBD Programme Purpose and basis for Stakeholder engagement***

**“To promote and add value to Nile cooperation and development processes that will ultimately reduce poverty in the region”.**

- Based on a perception that civil society can play a vital role by bringing the perspective of communities and the organizations of civil society to add value to the inter-governmental processes, policies and programmes of Nile Cooperation.**

## Issues NBD has identified for engagement

- **Promotion of good governance in managing shared resources**
  - institutional arrangements and policies that guarantee; accountability, transparency, Participation and involvement
  - Enhanced consultative mechanisms and feedback systems

# Issues NBD has identified for stakeholder engagement

- **Promote sustainable use and management of the shared resources**
  - promote adoption of best practices at all levels
  - advocacy for attitude change on efficient use of resources
  - Support and facilitate multi-stakeholder consultations
  - information sharing and knowledge exchange

## **Issues NBD has identified on how to establish cost and benefits**

- **Livelihoods and well being of peoples should be a priority**
  - **Developments should contribute to factors that will address basin populations' vulnerability to trends and seasonality of the River.**
  - **Climate change impact monitoring**
  - **integrating gender aspects and issues**
  - **Allow opportunities for bringing the truth beyond facts on the ground to ensure socio-economic growth**

## **Issues NBD has identified on costs and benefits**

- **Legal and institutional frameworks for Nile cooperation should be established to enable**
  - **Space for consultation, information sharing frameworks and participation platforms;**
  - **Demystifying cooperation processes to stakeholders;**
  - **Growth and security issues integrated for cooperation growth at all levels;**

## **Proposed guidelines on how to share benefits among communities and countries.**

- **Advocacy campaign on benefits of Nile cooperation (identify issues, raise awareness, communicate and consult on views and give feedback)**
- **Advocate for policy development that will support and influence the cooperation (Investigate the issues and give constructive recommendations)**
- **Media engagements to increase dissemination channels and spark relevant dialogue. (additional background on perceptions)**
- **Network development and partnerships for increased participation.**

## How can we ensure that local communities are included and get access to gains from the shared waters?

- Increased awareness of the benefits and cost of Nile cooperation,
- We need to sustain the good will and recognize the value addition from non-state actors' engagements,
- Mutual trust (among sectors, professionals, communities and decision makers) is essential for progress and capacity building at local level, national level and regional level,
- consolidation of efforts is needed as building blocks for engagement (collaboration and partnerships),
- Ensure better informed NBI policy, planning, design and implementation of programmes.



**Thank you .**