

Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program

Coordination Unit

Quarterly Newsletter

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Implementation
stirs excitement**



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Message from the Regional Coordinator

ENG. ELLY ELICAD NYABEEYA

It is yet the end of fiscal year and at NELSAP that calls for applause. We are very much involved in different projects and every quarter is as important as the other but the end of a fiscal year is much more important because it gives us a chance to stand and look back at everything we have done in a period of 12 months.

This year has been a milestone in the implementation of some of our projects and we can only thank our stakeholders for all the support they have rendered to us as we look further to unveiling the best to come.

Our aim as NELSAP is to promote investments in power development, power transmission interconnection, power trade, water resources management, management of lakes and fisheries, agricultural development, control of water hyacinth and we are proud that our activities in all projects were exactly at par.

Some of the projects that were in feasibility studies last year are now in implementation period and having been a part of such important milestone gives me great joy to say the least. More projects are coming up and all I can say is Nile Equatorial Lakes Region will enjoy the benefits of being in the Nile Basin cooperation ■



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

It is always great pleasure to present to you our dear readers and partners what we have been doing in NELSAP in every quarter through our NELSAP-CU Newsletter.

As you might be well aware, NELSAP prides itself in basking through our mission which is to contribute to the eradication of poverty, to promote economic growth, and to reverse environmental degradation in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region and that's exactly what we have been up to.

Through our projects like Local Area Restoration Programs (LARP), Livelihood Restoration (LRP) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) Programs in Ru-sumo, NELSAP is committed to eradicating poverty from the people by promoting social-economic livelihoods of many households.

These programs ensure that people, who have suffered any economic or physical displacement resulting from the Project, whether permanent or temporary, will be resettled in a socially responsible manner and according to good international practice.

We have many projects running and we are proud of each one of them and we will be informing you of them through this newsletter every quarter while demonstrating our effectiveness in the coordination of multi-country preparation of complex regional projects.

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 ■

Reach out to us through

dkarakure@nilebasin.org or
nelsapcu@nilebasin.org

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The Regional Rusumo Hydro-Electric Project Implementation stirs excitement

The construction of Rusumo Hydroelectric power plant came with lots of excitement but the Livelihood Restoration Program has given yet more reasons to rejoice to thousands of Rusumo and neighbourhood dwellers.

The Regional Rusumo Falls Power Plant located on the Rwanda-Tanzania border under a Run of River (RoR) scheme is expected to

produce about 80 MW of cheap energy that will benefit three neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi with implementation of this project at a stable progress.

The construction of the dam progresses with fencing the area to protect gallery forest downstream of the Rusumo Falls, identifying borehole area for water that will

be used for construction purposes and completing the valuation of land and properties for access road to switchyard, power house and quarry site with the assessment of Carbon credit being done in accordance with the Environmental Compliance requirements as well as the Environmental and Social Health Safety Plan.

With the excitement the construc-

tion of this project is causing in the people, some 227 households surrounding the project are more than excited as they are also benefiting through the livelihood restoration programme.

Livelihood Restoration Programme (LRP) whose beneficiaries are the Project Affected People (PAPs) in Kirehe District, Rwanda and Ngara District, Tanzania was developed



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in a participatory manner, with each member getting a chance to identify what they require to develop in life. These beneficiaries were then trained on general managerial skills, community procurement and finance skills before disbursement of the first installment to their bank accounts. Most of the LRP activities focus on agricultural,

livestock and business development.

The project is meant to improve the livelihoods of PAPs; and most of the beneficiaries are involved in different projects of entrepreneurship skills, sustainable agriculture production and livestock development.

“This project has changed my life,” says Laurent Lazaro. Lazaro, a father of 2 and taxi driver and Nyagahanga Cell resident in Ngara district was enabled to construct a modern residential and breed rabbits courtesy of the project.

Lazaro is among the 22 households who chose rabbit rearing in Ngara district and they achieved exactly what they had envisioned.

“I knew of how productive and marketable rabbits are, I took the chance when I got it,” says Agnes Fred, a 29 year old mother of one from Nyagahanga village in Ngara district.

Each PAP had a choice to select an income generating activity and that’s what they did, they chose many projects that have been realized accordingly to improve their conditions of life and ensure their development.

“When I was given a choice for the project I wanted, I knew right away I will run a restaurant because I had been in business for some time and I knew all the cons and pros,” says Abdallah Rubiibi, one of the 5 people who chose to run restaurant at Rusumo border.

Among the 5 beneficiaries of LRP who chose restaurant business, they formed an association with a president, secretary, treasurer and the advisors, they used the first installment given in the project to set up a nice restaurant and buy all the requirements as they wait to start up at any time after they receive the next installment.

About 20 women in Ngara district decided to run a tailoring business and so far they are looking at the



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A man in a red shirt is smiling and holding a black rabbit. He is in a workshop or garage with a brick wall and a wooden door in the background. A sign on the wall says "GERMAN GIANT".

The Regional Rusumo Hydro-Electric Project Implementation stirs excitement



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fruits of their efforts in a nearby future as everything in terms of facilities is already delivered and operational.

"So far we haven't started getting money from our work but we can see where the project is leading us. We make uniforms of which we are selling and though not often, we get some people who need some tailoring and those who are experienced take on the job, and we are looking forward to a more

satisfying future," says Mpendo Kabala, the chairperson of the association.

Just like the team in Rwanda who chose to do tailoring, the expectations are high for what the future holds for them.

"We started together as nine women and one man, some of us had an idea about tailoring and others we were just learning from the ground but so far we are realizing

this was the right thing to invest in," says Irene Uwayezu, a 45 year old mother of 5.

The implementation of the activities of LRP started in February 2017 in both Tanzania and Rwanda and will conclude in 2020 with the expectations to positively impact its beneficiaries' socio-economic lives. The whole project is worth \$675, 000.

More projects are being developed and those include green house farming that will have tomatoes, cabbages, carrots, beans, soya beans, mushroom production on a stable rate, cattle farming, poultry farming, Piggeries, bee keeping, hair dressing saloons to mention but a few, and all are meant to elevate the livelihood of 227 beneficiaries in both countries. ■

Developing of 5 Years NELSAP Strategic Plan

For a few months now, a team from NELSAP was visiting member countries in a bid to develop the Five-Year Strategic Plan. NELSAP team visited nine (9) Nile Equatorial Region countries out of the 10 member countries discussing with each country on its priorities and expectations the Nile Basin Initiative will be doing in the next five years.

The consultative visits started in May 2017 and ran through the end of June 2017. The process involved collecting information from the said countries to draft a strategic plan for NELSAP in the next five years basing on each country's priorities. The countries visited are Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The consultation visits thoroughly reviewed what NELSAP has been doing in its

mandate and proposed the additional actions that should be undertaken over the next 5 years basing on each member state needs.

For concrete inputs from

The feedback from the consultative visits will mark what NELSAP will be doing in the next 5 year period in terms of specific activities in reference to country specific expectations

countries during consultative meetings, NELSAP presented a case for stakeholders to build a common understanding on what Nile Equatorial

Lakes sub basin offers in relation to developing the trans-boundary waters in line to country priorities.

Apart from member states, the consultations put in consideration the thoughts of Nile Basin Initiative staff, governance, development partners, regional actors in the Nile Basin, and wider NBI stakeholders like water practitioners in formulation process.

The expected 5 years strategic plan will be responsive to country needs and it will

aligned to existing priorities that countries have already put in place for implementation ■



Discussion of O&M Business Models for the RRFHP

NELSAP staff along with the Rusumo Power Company Limited, and Project Steering Committee Members held a meeting discussing Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Business Model identified in Sub-Saharan Africa with an insight about the importance of performing O&M in a good and sustainable way in general.

During the discussion, RPCL Board was then requested to further analyse on different O&M models and decide on the best model suitable for the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydro-Electric Project on due time.

The meeting was held on the 4th, May, 2017 at The African Tulip Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania. ■

The NELSAP Power Interconnection project

The Interconnection power project is one of Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) projects that interconnect the electric grids of the Nile Equatorial Lakes countries.

NELSAP Power Interconnection project with its associate substations aims at improving access to electricity in NBI countries through increased cross-border sharing of energy and power.

The project constitutes one of the regional power transmission backbones that are needed to create a regional power market. With this interconnection, the electricity networks of the NEL Countries are linked.

The Project's main goal is to improve the living conditions as well as the quality of the socio-economic development of the people in the member countries through increased availability of affordable electric energy.

Among the interconnection and the associate substations include the 220 and 400 KV Uganda (Bujagali) – Kenya

(Lessos) along with the associated substations of Toro-ro-Lessos – 400 kV, 132.5 km and Tororo-Bujagali – 220 kV, 128 km.

The 220 KV Uganda– Rwanda Interconnection –164 km and associated along with Mbarara-Mirama – 66 km, and Mirama-Shango – 98 km.

There is also Rwanda - Burundi - DRC (Eastern part) Interconnections and associated Sub Stations of Ruzizi – Bujumbura (78 km), Goma – Buhandahanda (Bukavu)(93km) and Kibuye– Gisenyi-Goma-Kigali - 193 km and that is Goma-Gisenyi 13 km and Kibuye-Gisenyi-Birembo – 180 km.

NELSAP Interconnection Project has the overall of 931.5 Km Overhead Transmission Lines and 17 Substations. So far only the five countries of NEL region are involved in the project while others are at different stages of bilateral interconnecting construction. The five countries involved are Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda ■



The Multinational Lakes Edward & Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAF II) Project

The NELSAP-CU continues to identify, prepare and implement regional and transboundary strategic projects that produce multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits to the riparian countries, such as the Multinational Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAF II) Project.

The LEAF II Project is a transboundary project shared between the DR Congo and Uganda, over their shared Lakes Edward and Albert sub-basins. The Project has a five-year period (2016 – 2021) and is financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through a US\$ 8.785 million grant to DR Congo, a US\$ 7.321 million loan to Uganda, and a US\$ 8.1 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the AfDB to NELSAP-CU.

The Project overall objective is to “sustainably utilize the fisheries and allied natural resources of the Lakes Edward and Albert Basin through harmonized legal framework and policies”, being implemented through

two main components of Fisheries resources development and management, and Integrated water resources management.

This project aims to support both Governments of Uganda and DRC in sustainable management and development of their shared resources. Some of the expected benefits of this project include: strengthening the basin's fisheries knowledge base in through increased fisheries stock assessments, research and establishing a fisheries Information Management System.

Also strengthening the basin's water and related resources through increasing monitoring and assessment of flows, water quality; enhancing land productivity and community livelihoods through sustainable land management and alternative livelihoods; strengthening water resources management through construction of strategic hydro-meteorological stations.

The LEAF II also supports pollution control efforts through procurement and operation of mobile water

quality laboratories and implementing pollution control plan actions; improving fisheries productivity through construction and rehabilitation of 9 strategic landing sites with improved fish processing facilities.

This project also strengthens the monitoring, control, surveillance and rescue operations on the Lakes through procurement and operation of patrol boats and construction of surveillance stations; strengthening technical capacities of beneficiary fishing communities, national and sub-national agencies in sustainable fishing and water resources best practices, among others.

The Project's First Regional Project Steering Committee (1st RPSC) meeting was held on 15 December 2016 in Hoima, Uganda with the second RPSC meeting slated for July 2017, to review the project's first year progress and approve the 2nd year National and Regional work plans. Within just one year since the project's commencement, various key activities are on track to achieving the intended outputs and benefits ■

TOP: 1st RPSC Meeting, Hoima, Uganda, 15 December 2016;

MIDDLE: Team discussing with the Songoro Marine technical experts in their workshop office ;

BOTTOM RIGHT: Aboard the RV Explorer research vessel of the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), in Mwanza – which operates on Lake Victoria;

BOTTOM LEFT: Team at the Songoro Marine Boatyard in Mwanza, with a marine vessel under construction in the background



NELSAP holds Dam Safety Training in Kampala, Uganda

NELSAP conducted a five day Dam Safety training that was aiming at capacity building of the Nile Equatorial Lakes regional member states for effective and efficient operations, regulation and management of Dams as well as smooth planning and management of water resources.

NELSAP in appreciation thanked the Agence Française de Développement for fully funding the workshop. the training was held at the City Royal Resort Hotel in Kampala, Uganda from May 29, 2017 to June 2, 2017.

In attendance of the workshop, Ms Virginie Leroy, the AFD Country Representative in Uganda emphasized the importance of the workshop to both NELSAP and member countries in enhancing the River Basin planning and management of water resources.

“We wish to strengthen technical capacity and ensure safety of dams that are planned and operated in the NEL region and AFD is proud to be part of it,” said Ms

Leroy.

The training was a way of paving the way for member states to effectively use acceptable engineering policies and procedures in dam site investigation, design, construction, operation and maintenance, and emergency preparedness through creating platform for networking and continued engagement and experience sharing on Dam operations among participants.

The workshop participants benefited tremendously from the facilitator Ms Ljiljana Spasic-Gril who is the Associate Director at Arup, Lead Dam Specialist with 36 years experience in designing and inspection of Dams worldwide and has inspected more than 300 Dams in 50 countries in the world.

There were 36 participants in the workshop from the seven Nile Equatorial Lakes member countries who benefitted from the training especially in water reservoir operations and risk management ■



NELSAP in PPP-PPIAF screening workshop



On 6th May 2017, NELSAP held a workshop in Arusha, Tanzania that discussed in details the results of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) screening of the 15 NELSAP identified/ prepared projects under the support by the World Bank-PPIAF (Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility).

NELSAP had prior listed 15 projects and requested the World Bank through the PPIAF to support the screening and come up with three viable candidate projects that can be fronted for PPP funding.

The findings of this process indicted that out of the 15 projects screened; only the Kakono hydropower in Tanzania and Nsongezi Hydropower shared between Tanzania and Uganda are viable candidate for PPP funding.

The screening findings were appreciated by the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries responsible for energy from Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda who were in attendance among the dignitaries. The Tanzania NELTAC members, the Rusumo Power Company Limited (RPCL) Board Chairman, NELSAP management team and technical staff together with representatives from Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and the World Bank were also in attendance ■



Events in Pictures



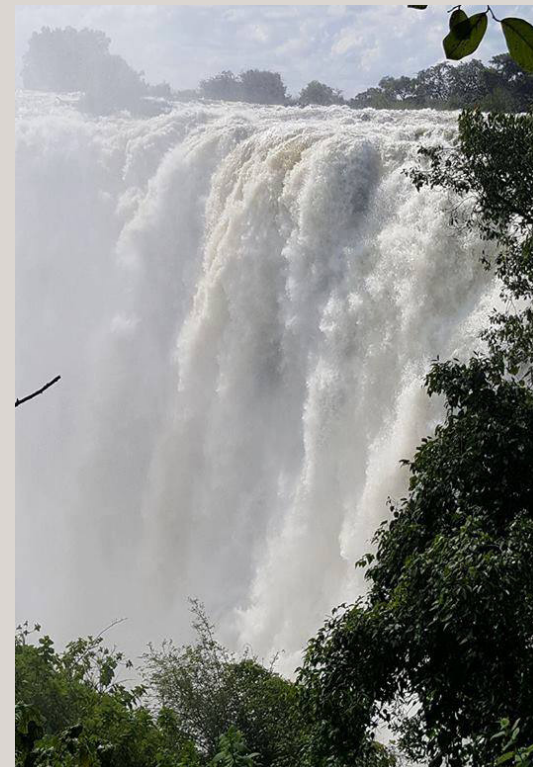
The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project of NELSAP participating in the World Bank Rwanda Open Day and Exhibition for World Bank funded projects in Rwanda in Kigali Serena Hotel on the 26th May 2016



Other events in **Pictures**



NELSAP steered a two day meeting on Kenya-Tanzania-Zambia power interconnection feasibility study at Livingstone Zambia. The meeting was attended by consultants, Zambia AfDB, EU & EIB among other respective Government dignitaries



NELSAP staff in a five days (24th- 28th, April 2017) procurement training sessions on Consultancy Selection and Contract Management with the support of World Bank



Other events in **Pictures**



NELSAP staff Members attending the 1st Sio-Malaba- Malakisi basin stakeholders five day consultative workshop for the initiation of a Benefit Opportunities Assessment Dialogue in Imperial Hotel, Kisumu in Kenya. The workshop started on May, 15th and concluded on the 19th May 2017



World Bank delegates in an appraisal mission with the NELSAP officials on 12th April 2017 discussing the sustainability of the additional funding for NCORE/CIWA (Nile Corporation for Results/Corporation for International Waters in Africa project which was to end April 2017.



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