NEL Member States Receive Capacity Building on Institutional Sustainability for River Basin Planning & Management through AFD Support

In March 2019, the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit, NELSAP-CU an investment arm of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) received 400,000 Euros support from the Agence de l'eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse (AERMC) through the Agence française de Développement (AFD). The AERMC received funds was additional to the initial 1 Million Euros dedicated for both NELSAP-CU (800,000 Euros) and Nile Secretariat (200,000 Euros) for capacity development of the NBI/NEL region member states on institutional sustainability for river basin planning and management.

This support was towards resource mobilization training workshops for the NEL and a twinning mission to France. Among others, the funding supported the development of the NELSAP Strategic Plan 2017-2022, NELSAP Resource Mobilization Plan, Resource Mobilization Strategy And Guidelines and Communication Strategy.

**KEY AREAS OF THE AFD / AERMC SUPPORT**

**TWINNING MISSION TO FRANCE:** NEL Region Member States Twinning Mission to France.

**NELSAP STRATEGIES DEVELOPMENT:** NELSAP Strategic Plan, Resource Mobilization Strategy And Guidelines and Communication Strategy.

**DAM SAFETY:** Training on Dam Safety Related Issues in the NEL Region Context

**ANALYTICAL TOOLS:** Procurement of Key Analytical Tools to Enhance NELSAP-CU Planning Process.
Twinning Mission to France

Strategy and Guidelines, NELSAP Communication Strategy, trainings on Dam Safety related issues in the NEL region with 36 experts benefited, and procurement of key analytical tools and software aimed at enhancing the NELSAP-CU’s capacity to handle River Basin planning processes, which was executed through the initial support. The additional funding started with implementation of the ongoing modelling to update the Multi-Sectorial Investment Opportunity Analysis (MSIOA) and assessment of NELSAP current capacity to deliver its given mandate.

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The objective of the mission was to provide an opportunity for the delegation to exchange ideas with the host team on issues related to River Basin management and planning (investment optimization) for institutional sustainability. Member States who participated in the mission to France were Burundi, D.R Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda joined by 7 NELSAP-CU senior staff led by the NELTAC Chair (Burundi). A delegation of 12 experts took part in the mission.

During the nine day experience sharing mission to Lyon, hosted by AERMC, the delegation had useful interaction with the host team deliberating on river basin management, learning from the Rhone River Basin, which is one of the major trans boundary rivers in the European Union shared between France and Switzerland. The team shared experiences on institutional arrangement of the Rhone River basin management.

AERMC shared on its mandate of overseeing the revenue collection; from penalties, water user fees and water abstraction fees across the Rhone River Basin. The river’s Board of Directors is the highest governing board of the Basin, technically supported by the Rhone River Basin Management Committee, which acts as a Parliament for the Water Users Associations (stakeholders) who discuss all technical
issues before the Board takes decisions. The key river basin management functions that are implemented across the basin are: water quality, biodiversity conservation, aquatic life, river basin water balance and assigning roles to all stakeholders (water user). During the mission, delegates visited the Campagne du Rhone (CRN) a French electricity generation company mainly supplying renewable energy from hydroelectric facilities, wind and solar farms across the Rhone River Basin. At the CRN, optimization of investments across a river basin (water-food-energy nexus) was one of the key lessons by the delegation.

The NEL Delegates visited the Comite Intersyndical por l’Assaissement du Lac du Bourget (CISALB) an inter-community syndicate for the sanitation of Lake Bourget, which is one of the drainages of the Rhone River. At CISALB, delegates visited sites at which biodiversity conservation interventions were executed around the Lake.

The team also visited the mission organizer’s (BRL Ingenierie) headquarters in Nimes City. The BRL Group Chief Executive Officer, Jean-Francoise Blanchet shared with the team key aspects of management and sharing of water resources in the context of climate change and in response to different pressures, among others the demographic growth of territories bordering large rivers and lakes.

Part of the key information shared during the visit was on technical and institutional capacity for BRLi in handling national and international infrastructure projects on water resources. After briefing on the BRLi work and portfolio, delegates visited the Regional Hydraulic Network (RHR) managed by BRLi, which supplies water to 1.5 million people and serves two thirds of irrigated areas of the Mediterranean Coast of France.

The delegates had a chance to attend the Rhone Mediterranean Basin Committee parliament session and learnt on the composition of members and how the Committee President guides the discussions. They witnessed presentation of the Master Plan for Water Development and Management in the Rhone River basin and the 2019 State of the Basin Report.

The delegates held a side meeting with AFD and AERMC just after the committee meeting was concluded, where windows for continued collaboration and support in implementation of the NELSAP program were highlighted. The interactions were positive and both AFD and AERMC indicated their openness to future engagements with NELSAP and NBI.
REPRESENTATIVES OF NEL REGION MEMBER COUNTRIES TOGETHER WITH NELSAP-CU SENIOR STAFF VISIT TO BRL INGINIERIE HEADQUARTERS IN NIMES, FRANCE

NELSAP-CU AND NEL REGION COUNTRY DELEGATES DURING THE WATER BASIN COMMITTEE PARLIAMENT SESSION IN LYON FRANCE
NEL Member Countries Resource Mobilization Training Workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

As a follow-up to the mission in France, in January 2020, representatives of the NEL region member states (two per country) from DR Congo, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda together with NELSAP-CU senior staff participated in a three-day resource mobilization training workshop, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The workshop was supported by the AERMC additional funds. A total of 15 experts participated in that important workshop that was aimed at updating the ongoing implementation of the NELSAP Strategic Plan in terms of priorities, estimating costs of projects and attracting finances to implement projects.

Other aspects covered by this training workshop were; possible funding sources for river basin organizations, available climate financing and rules and regulations of major climate funds. Also covered in the training was the role of NBI and National Governments in preparing bankable trans-boundary projects for fundraising.

The events were coordinated by NELSAP-CU with technical support from BRL Ingenierie, an international consulting firm offering specialized engineering services in areas related to water, environment and regional land-use planning.
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ONE OF THE RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TRAINING WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS COLLECTING HER CERTIFICATE AT THE END OF THE TRAINING

NELSAP STRATEGY DOCUMENTS PRODUCED THROUGH AFD SUPPORT

NELSAP COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2017-2022

NELSAP RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGY, GUIDELINES AND ACTION PLAN 2017-2022

NELSAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2022