Rusumo Substation and Transmission Lines Near Completion as Countries set to Finalize Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

As construction of the 80MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP) reached 95% in August 2022, Rusumo substation and associated Transmission Lines to the power grids of the three beneficiary countries (Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania) were also nearing completion. This was revealed to the Rusumo Project Council of Ministers (CoM) during their visit to the project site on 20th August 2022. The Council of Ministers (CoM) comprises the Rwanda Minister of Infrastructure Hon. Dr. Eng. Ernest Nsabimana, the Burundi Minister for Hydraulics, Energy and Mines Hon. Eng. Ibrahim Uwizeye and Tanzania Minister of Energy Hon. January Makamba. The Tanzania Overhead Transmission Lines (OHTL) which will distribute power from Rusumo to Nyakanazi substation was 81% complete by August 2022 and is expected to be fully complete in October 2022. ... continued p.2

Fishers Find Alternative Livelihood from Commercial Production of School Chalk, Liquid Soap, and Shampoo

“Because of our dwindling fish catch, when we heard about the LEAF II Project, we approached them and they offered us training as well as starter kits to enable us begin commercial production of school chalks, hair shampoo, and liquid soap to complement our fishing income,” says Godfrey Dunia, chairperson of the Joint Effort for Economic Development (JID Company), an amalgamation of three community groups from Mahyoro Landing site, Kitagwenda district, southwestern Uganda. The LEAF II trained the group in 2018 to make soap, chalk and shampoo and in labeling and marketing. ... continued p.2
Rusumo Substation and Transmission Lines Near Completion

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For Rwanda, the Rusumo-Bugesera-Shango OHTL was 82% complete and is also expected to complete fully in October 2022. While for Burundi, the Rusumo-Muyinga–Gitega OHTL were 98.5% complete and end-to-end testing was ongoing by August 2022. The power utilities executing the Transmission Lines and the Power Purchase Agreement (PPAs) are the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO), Régie de Distribution d’Eau (REGIDESO) of Burundi and Rwanda Energy Group (REG-EUCL).

“With the substation and three associated Transmission Lines almost complete the Rusumo Project and three power utilities are holding discussions to sign the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) before the end of October 2022,” said Eng. Alloyce Oduor, the Rusumo Project Manager. A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is a contractual agreement between energy buyers and sellers and through it the parties come together and agree how they will buy and sell energy generated by the project. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has provided USD 120 million for the Rusumo substation and Overhead Transmission Lines (OHTL) to evacuate power to the grids of the three countries. NELSAP-PIU is implementing construction of the 80MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP) on the Kagera river on behalf of Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania through a USD 340 million funding from the World Bank that includes implementation of benefit sharing component called Local Area Development (LADF) Projects.

Fishers Find Alternative Livelihood in Soap, Shampoo and Chalk Making

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“Although we were confident that our products were of high quality, we did several random tests to prove that. We for example, bought several boxes of chalk from big established companies and replaced the chalk inside with ours and gave them out free to schools to get feedback, and they all said our chalk was great! So presently our main challenge is to convince people to buy chalk branded with our company name, and that is still work in progress,” says Dalaus Sseluyima, the group secretary.

The group says their biggest challenge came when schools closed for a year and half because of Covid-19. This left them with over 500 boxes of chalk in stock and several containers of liquid soap. The say the market is however slowly recovering. The second challenge they cite is access to raw materials.

“We get our raw materials from Kampala, 345 kilometres away, and this eats into our profit margin. However, our trainer, who is based in in Kampala, has supported us by buying raw materials on our behalf and sending them to us,” Godfrey Dunia the group chair explains. The group collected savings from members, bought cameras and laptops and diversified into photography and videography for weddings and birthday celebrations. They also got a loan from the Gender Ministry and bought a motorcycle (boda-boda) for transporting their produce. According to the group secretary, these side businesses have held the group together. He explains that fishers prefer quick money, and any delay of income could have demoralized them and made them exit.

“I am very impressed with them because they are doing something unique, and I encourage them to market their produce in bulk directly to schools to penetrate the market and compete with established brands. I also encourage them to train their women members on use of computers,” said Eng. Sowed Sewagudde, the Acting Commissioner for Transboundary Waters of Uganda, who was part of the team that visited this group early 2022.

The Multinational Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources (LEAF II) was a project of NELSAP/NBI funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). NELSAP-CU implemented the project in collaboration with the Governments of the D.R Congo and Uganda. The project ended on 31st March 2022.
Installation of Hydromet Stations in the Nile Basin Countries Begins

NBI begun installation of 60 hydrological monitoring (hydromet) stations in rivers across nine Nile Basin countries on the third week of September 2022 and was expected to conclude by October 2022. The stations will support water level monitoring in several rivers that fall within the basin. The countries are Burundi, D.R Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan Republic, Tanzania, and Uganda.

“The nine countries received equipment for hydromet stations in July 2022 and by September 18th, 2022, were assembling, installing and testing the stations,” said Dr. Mohsen Alarabawy, the Regional Project Manager for the NBI European Union (EU-BMZ) funded Hydromet Project.

“These hydromet stations will provide real time data and reliable information to improve water resources planning and management both at national and regional levels. They will enable better flood and drought disaster preparedness, monitoring of surface water quality and sediment transport, coordinated management of water storage dams, navigation, and improved adaptation to climate change,” said Mrs. Jacqueline Nyirakamana the Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist at the Ministry of Environment, Rwanda / TAC Member. She spoke while officially receiving equipment for installation of six hydromet stations on behalf of Rwanda.

As part of the hydromet package, each country has received the following: Water level and rainfall sensors connected to data loggers with necessary accessories. A telemetric system with dual data transmission technology (GPRS and satellite) that will enable transmission of data from regional stations to the national data centres. This dual transmission system provides the highest reliability while giving each country the option to switch to either method (GPRS or satellite) in compliance with the national policy and country limitations. Countries’ national data centres are also being upgraded through among others, acquisition of computers (hardware and software), rehabilitation/construction of selected regional stations, and training of national staff to ensure member states have the necessary skilled staff to install, operate and maintain modern hydro-meteorological monitoring systems. Upon completion, the stations will be handed over to the member countries for operation and maintenance.

“The Nile Basin Regional hydromet system shall provide data and information required to facilitate implementation of various projects and programs and will significantly contribute to conflict prevention and regional integration,” said Eng. Dr. Isaac Alukwe, the NELSAP Regional Coordinator.

Background to the Hydromet Project

The critical gap in data in the Nile Basin was recognized during preparation of the first set of cooperative projects under NBI. To address this data scarcity, NBI is establishing the first regional hydromet system for the basin. The initial design of the project proposed a regional hydromet system comprising of 79 hydrological monitoring stations, 323 meteorological monitoring stations, 52 water quality monitoring sites, 43 sediment monitoring locations together with the data management systems in nine Nile Basin Countries. NBI is currently undertaking implementation of the first phase of this Hydromet system focusing on hydrological monitoring network.
Kenya Takes Over Leadership of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers (NELCOM) From D.R Congo

Kenya has taken over rotational leadership of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers (NELCOM) after one-year tenure of D.R Congo elapsed. The handing over ceremony was held on 19th August 2022 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania during the annual Council of Ministers (CoM) meeting of the 10 countries that share the Nile River basin.

Speaking on behalf of the incoming NELCOM Chair and Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation of Kenya, Hon. Alice Muthoni Wahome, Mr. Rabson Wanjala, a representative of the Kenya High Commission in Tanzania, stated that the country welcomed the decision to hand over leadership to it. He stated that transboundary investment projects with regional significance that NELSAP-CU is undertaking are critical for the development of the Nile basin. He added that, Kenya is aware that, whereas substantial technical and financial resources have been invested in preparation of these investment projects, their prioritization and uptake in national programming has not been commensurate, effectively denying citizens of the basin tangible benefits of cooperation. He therefore appealed to member states to prioritize and mainstream them in the respective national plans.

The outgoing NELCOM Chair Her Excellency Madame. Eve Bazaiba Masudi, the vice Prime Minister of the D.R Congo and Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, thanked the Council of Ministers of the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) region for their support to the outgoing leadership and for entrusting D.R Congo with the mandate to lead NELSAP-CU for the previous one year. She wished the incoming leadership great success, noting that NELSAP-CU had made significant progress during D.R Congo’s term of office.

Speaking earlier during the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, Mrs. Gladys Wekesa, the Director of Transboundary Waters of Kenya who is taking over as the new chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (NELTAC), said she was looking forward to supporting her Minister to steer NELSAP-CU to greater heights. The NELSAP Regional Coordinator Dr. Eng. Isaac Alukwe, on his part thanked the outgoing Council of Ministers (CoM) chair H.E Madame. Eve Bazaiba Masudi and outgoing Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) chair, Director Lungu Mulutshi of D.R Congo for their support to NELSAP.

“There are some people who doubted whether NELSAP-CU/NBI can deliver major projects to the region, but with the support of the Council of Ministers and Technical Advisors, we have properly managed our investment projects including the flagship 80MW Regional Rusumo Hydropower Project, and through these developments, we are proving that benefits of cooperation in the basin is possible through NELSAP-CU/NBI,” Eng. Dr. Alukwe said.

NELSAP-CU is one of the two investment arms of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), which is the first and only all-inclusive platform for the Nile basin states to discuss with trust and confidence, how to collectively take care of and jointly invest in the shared Nile basin water resources to maximize win-win benefits for the current and future generations of the basin.
Ministers Responsible for Energy Affairs of the three member states that share the 80MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania) and who together compose the project’s Council of Ministers (CoM) visited the project on 20th August 2022 and expressed their satisfaction with the pace of construction. The visit was led by the Rwanda Minister of Infrastructure Hon. Dr. Eng. Ernest Nsabimana, accompanied by the Burundi Minister for Hydraulics, Energy and Mines Hon. Eng. Ibrahim Uwizeye and Tanzania Minister of Energy Hon. January Makamba. The CoM members were accompanied by the Rusumo Power Company (RPCL) board members, NELSAP-PIU, and the heads of the power utility companies of the three countries namely Tanzania’s TANESCO, REGIDESO of Burundi and REG-EUCL of Rwanda.

“We are supporting NELSAP-PIU, the project implementers, to ensure that the three countries start using power from the project in the first quarter of 2023,” said Hon. January Makamba, the incoming chair of the project CoM. He added that during his tenure, he will facilitate quick implementation of the remaining works to ensure the project is completed faster. The outgoing chair Hon. Dr. Eng. Ernest Nsabimana said, “We greatly appreciate the progress recorded so far and we are encouraging the implementors to increase pace of construction to ensure that the project in completed on time.”

The Burundi Minister Hon. Eng. Ibrahim Uwizeye on his part said that the three countries urgently needed electricity from Rusumo for their development and for the greater good of the life of their citizens.

“The overall project implementation status is at 95% with hydro mechanical (civil) works at 97% and electromechanical works at 92.5%,” the Rusumo Project Manager, Eng. Alloyce Oduor said as he guided the CoM members through the visit to various sites including the Power intake, and Switchyard which are on the Rwanda side. The ministerial delegation also visited the powerhouse, where the Project Manager explained that three penstock units are completely installed including back-filling and installation of cable trenches. He said that rails installation activities at transformer yard will be completed by October 2022 and installation of transformers and connection to substation take-off electrical equipment will end in November 2022.

After the site visit, the ministers proceeded to hold their 14th Council of Ministers (CoM) meeting at the Rusumo Power Company (RPCL) residential campsite located in Tanzania, five kilometres from the Rusumo Border.

About the 80MW Regional Rusumo Project
NELSAP-PIU is implementing construction of the 80MW Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric Project on the Kagera river on behalf of the Governments of Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The World Bank has provided USD 340 million for construction of this run-of-the-river hydropower project, including implementation of benefit sharing component, LADPs. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has provided USD 120 million for the Rusumo substation and Overhead Transmission Lines (OHTL) to evacuate power to the grids of the three countries.
Nile Basin Countries Reaffirm Their Commitment to Basin Cooperation

The Nile Basin Council of Ministers (CoM) comprising Ministers Responsible for Water Affairs of all Nile Basin Countries, is the highest political and decision-making body of NELSAP/NBI. This organ meets every year to approve the organization’s annual workplan and budget to ensure smooth implementation of the organization’s activities. The Council of Ministers takes all policy and political decisions of the organization providing it with strategic direction. The CoM ensures country contributions from member states is received and responsible for appointment to the senior-most positions.

This year’s the CoM was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in August 2022. During this meeting countries reaffirmed their commitment to Nile Basin Cooperation. Below are summaries of the Country Statements delivered as part of the Opening Session. Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is the first and only all-inclusive platform for the Nile Basin States to discuss with trust and confidence, how to collectively take care of and jointly invest in the shared Nile Basin water resources to maximize win-win benefits for the current and future generations of the basin.

**NBI is a crucial pillar and framework for cooperation between the basin member countries. There is still a lot to be done through Nile cooperation and we therefore wish the cooperation to go on forever. We thank development partners for supporting the basin on several investment projects which are improving the people’s social economic and living standards.**

*Hon. Dr. Rurema Deo-Guide  
Minister for Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Burundi*

**Water is critical not only for social economic development but also stabilizing peace and security in the region. Water is like blood flowing through our veins therefore, we have a mandate to protect the Nile waters for sustainable development in the region. DRC therefore appreciates the present spirit of cooperation in the Nile basin on water affairs.**

*Her Excellency Madame. Eve Bazaiba Masudi  
Vice Prime Minister of the D.R Congo and Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development*
The process of ratification of the CFA needs to be urgently completed so that strategic and transformative basin development and management priorities which NBI, as a transitional mechanism cannot undertake now, can be accomplished. Until it becomes a Permanent Commission, NBI is not mandated to formulate basin-wide policies or undertake such programs that are binding on the Member States.

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**Hon. Dr. Eng. Habtamu Itefa**  
*Ethiopia Minister for Water and Energy*

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Pressure on Nile Basin countries to provide food, water and energy will soon be complicated by climate change impacts. This Council is a good opportunity for countries to reflect on this and other achievements of cooperation and discuss what is hindering this cooperation from maximizing benefits and prosperity of the people of the basin. Making Nile Basin cooperation sustainable is a task that member states can and must undertake.

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**Hon. Eng. Daw Albait Abdurahman Mansour**  
*Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources, Sudan Republic*

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We thank God for giving us this resource called the Nile River, which presents many development opportunities. We have the task to protect and use it in a sustainable manner. The Nile has been a unifying factor to countries in the basin and therefore all member states must honour their pledges towards the submission of their country contributions to support smooth implementation of the NBI mandate.

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**Hon. Jumaa H. Aweso**  
*Minister for Water, Tanzania*

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As a sign of our unwavering commitment, Uganda has given NBI a prime piece of land for construction of NBI Headquarters and therefore urges countries to start resource mobilization towards development of this land in Entebbe.

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**Hon. Sam Cheptoris**  
*Minister of Water and Environment · Uganda*

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Representative of the Hon. Minister Prof. Dr. Hani Sewilam

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Egypt is committed to work together with other countries going forward on technical issues related to water resources management without hurting any party. Egypt recognizes that cooperation unites our people for present and future benefits and will continue to engage in bilateral cooperation in all technical developments to achieve win-win benefit for all.

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**Dr. Mamdouh Antar**  
*Representative of Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation · Egypt*
NELSAP-CU Welcomes Three Senior Staff

NELSAP-CU is pleased to welcome on board three new Staff: Eng. Jacob Manyuon Deng from South Sudan - the new Regional Power Program Officer. Mr. Zimulinda Godfrey from Rwanda - the new Finance and Administration Manager, and Ms. Milly Mbuliro from Uganda - the new Water Resources Officer / GIS Modeller.

Eng. Jacob Manyuon Deng holds a Master of Science Degree in Energy from the University of Nairobi, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering also from the University of Nairobi and an Advanced Certificate in Electricity Distribution Management from Malmo University, Sweden. Eng. Manyuon has 17 years of international experience working on Technical and General Management in the Energy Sector. He previously worked with the World Bank as an Energy Consultant and supported the implementation of Pathway to Energy Access a project on energy expansion in South Sudan. He was the head of the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP), a regional technical cluster that Coordinated 400kV (Nimule – Juba) Transmission Line. He was the Project Coordinator of the Juba Power Distribution and Expansion Programs (JESREP). He worked for the South Sudan Electricity Corporation (SSE) and with Gibb Africa Ltd where he handled regional infrastructure projects and was also a lecturer at the University of Juba. Eng. Manyuon replaced Eng. Alloyme Odour whose six years term at NELSAP-CU elapsed.

Mr. Zimulinda Godfrey holds an MBA from Hanze University Groningen in the Netherlands, a MSc in Project Management from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, and a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA Accounting) from the University of Rwanda. Godfrey is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) registered with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Rwanda (ICPAR). He brings over 20 years of working experience in both public and NGO sectors. His recent position was Finance Director for the Africa Region at Compassion International, which is an international NGO based in the USA and having field offices across 28 countries including nine (9) in Africa. Mr. Godfrey replaced Mr. Alphonse Kizihira, whose six years term at NELSAP-CU elapsed.

Ms. Milly Mbuliro holds a Master of Science Degree in Integrated Water Resources Management (MSc IWRM) from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, a Bachelor of Science degree in Botany and Zoology from Makerere University, Uganda, and various certificates in use of earth observation data for water resources management. Ms. Mbuliro has 16 years of working experience in Spatial data management, analysis, and modelling for water resources management. She previously worked with the Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP), a World Bank project under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Uganda, as the GIS Specialist to integrate use of GIS technologies for data collection, visualization, early warning, generation of agro-climatic advisories to farmers and led the development of two web based geo-tagged Management Information Systems. Before that, Ms. Mbuliro worked with the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat for almost 10 years as GIS and remote sensing specialist taking lead in development of a spatial data repository for the Nile Basin countries and led the preparation of the Nile Basin Water Resources Atlas, the Quarterly Basin monitoring bulletin, generation of a customized Evapotranspiration gridded product over the Nile Basin countries and was a key contributor to the first ever State of Basin Report. Ms. Mbuliro replaced Ms. Mwasiti Ally Rashid who was promoted to lead the Natural Resources / Water Sub Program.

Mr. Zimulinda Godfrey
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Eng. Jacob Manyuon Deng
REGIONAL POWER PROGRAM OFFICER

Ms. Milly Mbuliro
WATER RESOURCES OFFICER / GIS MODELLER

ONE RIVER ONE PEOPLE ONE VISION

CONTACTS
Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP CU) Kigali City Tower, 5th Floor, P. O. Box 6759, KN 81 Street Kigali, Rwanda Tel: (250) 788 307 334. Email nelsapcu@nilebasin.org Twitter:NelsapCU Facebook:NelsapCu/ Website: http://nelsap.nilebasin.org

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