

Energy Ministers Appreciate Construction Progress of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project, which as of July 2019 had Reached 50%



ONGOING CONSTRUCTION AT THE REGIONAL RUSUMO FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (RRFHP) SITE

Ministers responsible for energy affairs from Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania expressed their appreciation for the good progress of the ongoing construction of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP). Hon. Come Manirakiza, the Burundi Minister for Hydraulic, Energy and Mines, Hon. Amb. Claver Gatete the Rwanda Minister for Infrastructure, and Hon. Dr. Medard Kalemani the Tanzania Minister for Energy, who together constitute the Council of Ministers (CoM) for the project made the statements while visiting the project on 21st June 2019.

Briefing the press during the site visit, Hon. Amb. Claver Gatete said the progress they have witnessed was impressive, as so much work had been done on site compared to their last visit to the project site in February 2019. “We have seen tremendous progress

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NELSAP-CU Regional Coordinator Briefs South Sudan Vice President on Nyimur-Limur Project

The NELSAP Regional Coordinator Eng. Elicad Elly Nyabeeya held a meeting with His Excellency Dr. James Wani Igga, the Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan in Juba on the Nyimur/Limur multipurpose Water Resource Project. While delivering his remarks, the Regional Coordinator informed His Excellency the Vice President of the progress made so far on preparation of the trans-boundary Limur/Nyimur Multipurpose Water Resources Project feasibility studies. The project is being prepared in the framework of NBI/NELSAP, and NELSAP-CU is coordinating the process.

The project comprises of two dams with an irrigation command area of about 4,200 ha (1,150 ha in South Sudan and 3,080 ha in Uganda).

The Vice President was updated on the resource mobilization efforts for the project. He was informed that among others, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has expressed interest to finance the South Sudan side of the project while the World Bank has expressed interest to finance the Ugandan side.

In attendance at the meeting were Hon. Sophia Pal Gai, the Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation, Dr. Margaret Itto, the Deputy Governor of Torit State, Hon John Gatnyai Chairperson of the Water Resources and Irrigation Committee of the National

Assembly, Hon. Eng. Langoya Tito Lazarus the Minister of Physical Infrastructure of Torit State, Eng. Alier Bullen Oka, the Undersecretary Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and Ambassador Michael Nyang the Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committee (NELTAC) Member from the South Sudan as well as representatives from the Acholi and Wadi Communities and the NELSAP-CU senior staff accompanying the Regional Coordinator. This meeting was held on 14th March 2019 at the Vice President's Office.

The South Sudan Vice President (VP) was also informed of the other ongoing projects in South Sudan coordinated by NELSAP-CU. These includes the Uganda (Olwiyo) – South Sudan (Juba) Power Interconnection Project, the South Sudan – Ethiopia Power Interconnection and the Jebel Aweil Renk – Malakal Fisheries and Water Resources Project.

The meeting with the VP was preceded by a consultative meeting on the best way to fast track implementation of the project especially on the South Sudan side. NELSAP-CU shared progress of the feasibility studies, which encompassed the environmental social impact assessment and resettlement action plan, technical investigation into project viability, dam design and estimated project costs.



DR. JAMES WANI IGGA S. SUDAN VICE PRESIDENT (3RD RIGHT) WITH HON. SOPHIA PAL GAI, THE MINISTER FOR WATER, DR. MARGARET ITTO, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF TORIT STATE, HON JOHN GATNYAI CHAIR, WATER RESOURCES AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND ENG. ELICAD ELLY NYABEEYA THE NELSAP REGIONAL COORDINATOR AMONG OTHERS



MR. ALFRED OKOT OKIDI, THE PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT AND MS. FLORENCE GRACE ADONGO THE DIRECTOR OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, UGANDA RECEIVE THE MOBILE WATER QUALITY LABORATORY

LEAF II Project Hands Over Mobile Water Quality Laboratories to Uganda

The Multinational Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAF II) project, which at regional level is coordinated by NELSAP-CU, procured and delivered and officially handed over mobile water quality laboratories to the Government of Uganda on 28th June 2019 at Fort Portal Uganda. The LEAF II Project Coordinator Mr. Godfrey Sengendo handed over the equipments to Government through the Permanent Secretary (PS) Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi and the Director of Directorate of Water Resources Management (MWE) Ms. Florence Grace Adongo. Ms Adongo is also the chair of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committee (NELTAC).

At the event, the PS Mr. Okot Okidi appreciated the timely financial support of Global Environment facility (GEF) through the African Development Bank (AfDB) and NELSAP-CU/NBI for smooth coordination towards achieving every planned project results on time and at required quality and standards. He said that the mobile water quality laboratory van will be of great benefit to the 25 districts around Lakes Albert and Lake Edward that it will serve.

While addressing journalists at the sidelines of the

event, Ms. Florence Grace Adongo elaborated on how the ministry will utilize the mobile water quality laboratory van saying that the van is already equipped, and set with relevant technical personnel trained ready for the water quality assesment activities.

“Firstly, this mobile water quality van is equipped to among other be able to tow a boat into the lake and take samples. The van has fridges that can store samples, which are then delivered to the regional water quality laboratory which is also being constructed through the LEAF II project arrangement. The mobile van can analyze up to 20 different descriptive characteristics of water out in the field and immediately generate results which would then enable the Ministry to make real time decisions. The van will be linked to the national water quality database such that through a mobile phone, results can be immediately transmitted to the office of the head of department in Entebbe,” said Ms Adongo.

The Director further explained that the van will be deployed during flood emergencies. “The mobile water treatment plant available at the ministry can now effectively provide the intended service

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HON. COME MANIRAKIZA THE BURUNDI MINISTER FOR HYDRAULIC, ENERGY AND MINES, HON. AMB. CLAVER GATETE THE RWANDA MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE, AND HON.DR. MEDARD KALEMANI THE TANZANIA MINISTER FOR ENERGY, VISIT THE SITE OF THE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF THE REGIONAL RUSUMO FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (RRFHP)

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so far and witnessed that the works on the dam have progressed well when compared to how it was last time," Hon. Minister Amb. Gatete said. "We have noted that they have managed to overcome the challenges that had occurred at a water intake tunnel that will lead water to turbines. We also noted that the excavation works at the powerhouse have already been finished and that the electro-mechanical activities are in good progress," he added. While appreciating the progress so far, the Ministers directed the contractors to speed up the work in order to complete the project on time.

"We understand that key project construction components have made good strides." Hon. Dr. Minister Kalemani, the Tanzania Minister who is also the project Council of Minister (CoM) chair stated in his interview. "The dam spillway, dam power intake, inlet chamber and penstock are all advancing well. The tunnel, 700-metre long beneath a Tanzanian hill, that will lead the river into three turbines, transforming it into electricity, is also in progress," he added.

The Burundi Minister, Hon. Come Manirakiza also expressed his appreciation of the project. "This project is an example of good partnership by the three East African countries," he said.

Overall construction of this trans-boundary project had reached 50% overall level of completion as of July 2019.

About the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP)

The Governments of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania agreed to build a joint development project and established a special purpose vehicle (SPV), the Rusumo Power Company Limited (RPCL) with the primary objective of generating 80MW hydroelectric project that will be shared equally among the three countries.

RPCL delegated and authorized the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU), which is the one of the two Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) investment programs to implement the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP) handing over the USD 340 million funding from the World Bank for the construction of the 80 MW Hydropower Plant and other corporate social responsibility (CSR) for implementation of the Local Area Development Projects (LADP).

Countries mobilized another USD 120 million fund from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for construction of the Transmission Lines from the RRFHP switchyard to national grids of the three countries.

The RRFHP project has so far employed 294 Rwandans, 268 Tanzanians and more than 100 Burundian casual labourers, many of them from the neighbouring districts.

LEAF II hands over water laboratories to UG ...ctd from p.3

of treating flood water making it portable to the people affected by floods, as it will take shorter time to have the water samples tested on site by the mobile laboratory,” she added. The mobile water quality van will also be used to assess performance of the LEAF II project as it will be able to provide water quality baseline for future comparison, and then after LEAF II has made some interventions, for example river bank protection, or catchment management. Through it, it will be known if the water quality has improved as a result of interventions. The mobile laboratory is equipped to test for water pollution including that of oil and gas since the Lake Albert Region is an oil and gas exploration zone.

“We are so grateful that we have received this mobile laboratory and my staff are very happy, their capacity has been enhanced and in one month I want to see results. The next phase is to furnish the physical laboratory, and this will be done based on the characteristics and problems that the mobile van laboratories will have confirmed out in the field,” Ms. Adongo said. The Permanent Secretary Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi on his part appreciated the support and funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) Global Environment facility (GEF) and NBI/NELSAP-CU and reaffirmed commitment

of his ministry towards effective implementation of LEAF II project. These activities took place as part of the LEAF II National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) meeting held in Fort Portal, Uganda on 24th -28th June 2019.

About the LEAF II Project

The multinational Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAF II) project is a trans boundary project shared between the DR Congo and Uganda, with regional coordination by the Nile Equatorial lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU).

The project is financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through a USD 8.75 million grant to DR Congo and USD 7.321 million loan to Uganda, and a USD 8.1 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the AfDB to the NELSAP-CU. This project is implemented through two core components (i) Fisheries Resources Development and Management, and (ii) Integrated Water Resources Management. It is being implemented at national level by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in the DR Congo, and the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda, and at regional level by NELSAP-CU.





H.E THE GOVERNOR OF BUSIA, KENYA HON. SOSPETER OJAAMONG AND THE DIRECTOR OF WATER RESOURCES OF UGANDA MS FLORENCE ADONGO (FRONT SEATED) DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE ANGOLOLO WATER RESOURCES PROJECT

NELSAP-CU Launches Angololo Irrigation Development and Watershed Project

NELSAP-CU together with its project national stakeholders from Kenya and Uganda recently officially launched the USD 1.65 million Angololo Water Resources Development Project that is being funded by the African Development Bank – AfDB to the tune of USD 1.5 million while the Republics of Kenya and Uganda equally contributed USD 150,000. The event was held on 17th July 2019. In attendance were H.E the Governor of Busia, Kenya Hon. Sospeter Ojaamong and the Director of Water Resources of Uganda Ms Florence Adongo, representing the Minister for Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris.

The Angololo project will contribute towards increased irrigated agriculture. It is targeting to irrigate 3,300 ha of land (1,180 ha in Kenya and 2,120 ha in Uganda) when fully developed, supply water to 20,000 people and generate 1.75MW of hydro power. The project also includes an upstream integrated watershed management of about 430 km². The project is expected to benefit at least 127,300 people from Tororo, Manafwa, and Namisindwa districts in Eastern Uganda and Busia and Bungoma Counties in Kenya through employment creation, irrigated agriculture, piped water supply, hydro power generation, and livestock and fisheries production. Angololo project is one of the trans-boundary projects identified under the NELSAP-CU Sio-Malaba/Malakisi River Basin Management Project and approved during the 18th Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers (NELCOM) meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda on 13th October 2015 and was

included into the African Development Bank (AfDB) pipeline (IOP) for the year 2016 - 18 to seek possible funding support. Kenya and Uganda formally requested NELSAP-CU to integrate it into its pipeline of a number of natural resources projects for further appraising and development. NELSAP-CU/NBI was mandated in the signed MOU between Uganda and Kenya to support in mobilization of resources for preparation of the investment project. NELSAP-CU approached AfDB Eastern Africa Regional Centre (EARC) for funding to undertake preparation studies.

NELSAP-CU is now undertaking preparatory work, which involves conducting full feasibility study, conceptual and detailed designs, preparing tender documents, conducting social and environmental impact assessment (ESIA) developing a resettlement and compensation action plan (RCAP) and project implementation preparation, in order to secure the financing required to implement the project. The project has been rated as a priority in the AfDB– NEPAD IPPF indicative project pipeline (2016- 2020) and the countries ADF-14 Programming Cycle. This phase of the project will be implemented over a duration of 24 months and it will enhance cooperation between Kenya and Uganda as they jointly develop water resources of Malaba River. Prior to this stage, NELSAP-CU with grant from the Royal Government of Sweden and the Royal Government of Norway undertook the Angololo pre-feasibility in 2010.



DAM SAFETY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINEES FROM KENYA, UGANDA AND TANZANIA VISIT TO THE BUJAGALI POWER STATION IN JINJA, UGANDA

NELSAP-CU Undertakes Dam Safety Trainings for the Nile Equatorial Lakes Countries

Currently there are over a thousand dams in the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) countries, with some 130 large dams planned for construction in the near future. This is according to a 2017 study by NELSAP-CU. Despite the growing number of dams, there is inadequate skilled manpower for maintenance and operations of the dams.

According to Eng. Mumo Musyoki, assistant Manager, Water Resources Authorities of Kenya, the last inspection of Kenyan dams was done in May 2018 (a few days after a dam tragedy in Solai region of the Rift Valley that killed 46 people). The inspection showed that only 47 large dams were safe with the majority categorized as medium and high risk. The report noted that apart from the 47, the remaining dams had no effective monitoring facilities to monitor structural displacements and other deformities.

Tanzania introduced dam management in 2009 and gazetted dam safety regulations in 2013. Despite this by 2019, 52 dams had failed because of different reasons. Uganda has a 'cascade arrangement' of dams on the River Nile, with a series of dams lined up from upstream to downstream. "A failure of one dam, for example Nalubaale Dam on the Victoria Nile, can have immediate negative impact on Kira Dam, Bujagali Dam as well as Isimba dam all on the Victoria Nile," explained Eng. Kadapawo Gerald

Opolot a Civil Maintenance Engineer from Global Power Group (CPG). Eng. Gerald works at the Bujagali dam in Jinja. Reasons for the current unsafe state of dams in the NEL region varies. Eng. Mumo Musyoki from Kenya says that many dams in Kenya were originally constructed according to 'low risk criteria' in areas with little downstream development. With residential and commercial growth downstream, dams that were properly constructed have become high risk. In realization of the challenge posed by unsafe dams, NELSAP-CU with support from the World Bank NCORE-CIWA has begun comprehensive dam safety capacity building to ensure the safety of dams that are build and operated in the NEL region member states.

This three phase training is focusing on engineers, technicians and dam operators (phase 1), national regulatory authorities (phase 2) and policy makers and civil society (phase 3). A total of 60 people are estimated to receive the training. The first phase of this training took place May 2019 in Jinja, coupled with a practical site training at the Bujagali hydropower dam site, a 255 MW capacity plant. The trainings are being facilitated by Eng. Louis Christiaan Hattingh a Dam Safety Specialist from South Africa. He is the Chair of the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) where he is in charge of dam surveillance and dam safety issues.

DRC Constructing Fish Landing Sites, Water Quality Monitoring Stations through LEAF II

The DR Congo Minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Hon. Paluku Kisaka Yereyere expressed gratitude to the LEAF II project for supporting DR Congo to among others construct water quality monitoring stations, a fisheries research station, mobile water quality lab and fish landing sites. The Minister, through Mr. Gaspard Nzita, Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, delivered his message at the 4th Regional Project Steering Committee meeting that was held on 3rd and 4th July 2019 in Kinshasa. The Minister stressed on the importance of the Bilateral Lakes Edward and Albert Agreement signed between DR Congo and Uganda on 20th October 2018 at Munyonyo, in Kampala for harmonization of management of the two lakes. He commended the technical and financial support LEAF II project partners, AfDB, and GEF have provided and the smooth coordination NBI/NELSAP-CU continues to provide for the countries to deliver the project results.

During the event, the NELSAP Regional Coordinator Eng. Elicad Elly Nyabeeya also commended DR Congo and Uganda for signing the Bilateral Fisheries Agreement for joint management of the Lakes Edward and Albert and noted that it has provided a

framework for the two countries to better optimize the fishing practice in sustaining the fisheries resources. Speaking prior to the conference, during the validation of the basin management plans of Lakes Edward and Albert (July 2019-June 2020) Mr Georges Koshi, the Secretary General to Ministry of Rural Development of DR Congo and also chair of the Regional Project Steering Committee expressed confidence that the two countries are building consensus and harmonized view on the management plans for the two lakes as a priority.

LEAF II Project Benefits to DR Congo

DR Congo is constructing four fish landing sites at Tchomia and Mahagi ports on Lake Albert and at Kyavinyonge and Vitshumbi on Lake Edward through the LEAF II project. DRC is also constructing two surveillance stations at Vitshumbi and Kasenyi on Lake Albert and fisheries research station at Kasenyi. Project also delivered two (2) equipped patrol boats to DR Congo to support surveillance and enforcement on lakes Edward and Albert, and a fully equipped mobile water quality laboratory van to support water quality monitoring and management and is also conducting studies on catchment management and aquaculture potential on the two lakes.



MR. GASPARD NZITA, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK WELCOMES HEADS OF UGANDA DELEGATION DURING THE REGIONAL PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING THAT WAS HELD IN KINSHASA

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