

DRC Minister and Governor Preside over Hand-over of Fish Landing Sites, Inspects Water and Fish Research Stations and Fish Cold Rooms



THE DRC MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, HON. BYALOSUKA WATA (L) AND THE GOVERNOR OF ITURI PROVINCE, H.E. JEAN BAMANISA SAIDI (3RD FROM L) INSIDE A FISH COOLD ROOM AT TCHOMYA PORT



THE DRC MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, HON. BYALOSUKA WATA (C) AND THE GOVERNOR OF ITURI PROVINCE, H.E. JEAN BAMANISA SAIDI (2ND FROM R) CUTTING THE RIBBON TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE FISH COLD ROOM AT TCHOMYA PORT

The Minister responsible for Fisheries Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Hon. Jonathan Byalosuka Wata, together with the Governor of Ituri Province, H.E. Jean Bamanisa Saidi, officiated over the technical handover of modern integrated fish landing sites on 12th October 2020. The landing sites will facilitate processing of about 6,480 tons of fish annually, and serve around 14,528 fishers on the trans boundary Lakes Edward and Albert shared by D.R Congo and Uganda. The delegation also visited the almost complete fish research and water quality monitoring stations and a multipurpose meeting hall for fishers' committees at Kasenyi on Lake Albert and fish cold rooms at Tchomya and Kyavinyonge.

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Burundi Minister for Energy Commends Progress of Rusumo Community Projects as Construction of two health centres and water supply for 28,000 people nears completion

While construction at the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project progressed beyond the 71% mark, bringing Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania ever closer to realizing the 80 MW power generation goal, communities are also witnessing progress on the Local Area Development Plan (LADPs) initiated through the Project. On 15th August 2020, the Burundi Minister for Energy Affairs Hon. Eng. Ibrahim Uwizeye, who is also the Chairperson of Rusumo Power Company Limited's Council of Ministers, visited the LADPs in Giteranyi and Busoni Communes of Burundi where he commended the progress made.

"I am delighted that surrounding communities will soon benefit from better health care and youth skills and have access to potable water," the Hon. Minister said.

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PROGRESS OF THE REGIONAL RUSUMO FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AFTER THE 1ST RIVER DIVERSION WAS COMPLETED



A FARMER AT PROPOSED ANGOLOLO DAM SITE IRRIGATING TOBACCO SEEDLINGS. THE FARMER IS AMONG THOSE THAT ARE EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM THE ANGOLOLO IRRIGATION PROJECT WITH BETTER IRRIGATION TECHNIQUES THAT WILL ENABLE THEM DIVERSIFY TO OTHER CASH AND FOOD CROPS

Angololo Irrigation and Water Project Reaches Important Phase as Community and Governments of Kenya and Uganda Approve Ongoing Full Feasibility Study

The Angololo Irrigation and Water Resources Development project on the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi River that targets to irrigate about 3,300 ha, supply water to around 20,000 people and generate 1.75 MW hydropower and in total benefit at least 127,000 people, is well on course after community members and key stakeholders from Kenya and Uganda approved the ongoing full feasibility inception report.

As part of the feasibility validation process, a technical peer review team comprising technocrats from five key ministries of water, environment, energy, agriculture, irrigation, and finance from both countries met and approved the project documents early October 2020. A stakeholders' validation forum comprising of community and government officials also endorsed the project, and so did the Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) that held its sittings on 9th October 2020 in Busia County of Kenya. The three organs confirmed that the project was being prepared in accordance with the development objectives of Kenya and Uganda, was technically and environmentally sound, and had high potential to be economically and financially viable and therefore gave their blessing to NELSAP-CU and the contractors to proceed with the full feasibility, detailed design and tender documents preparation.

“This project fits into both countries’ development agenda, and stakeholders are ready to take the project forward,” said Mr. Chrispine Omondi Juma, the Director of Water Resources of Kenya. Mr. Juma was delivering his remarks during the second RPSC. He thanked NELSAP-CU for resource mobilizing for the project and supporting regional cooperation. The Commissioner for Trans boundary Water Resources of Uganda, Mr Jackson Twinomujoni, through his representative, Mr. Sowed Sewagudde, said

that Uganda is ready to work with NELSAP-CU to ensure smooth preparation of the project. He noted the high turn-out, at project forums, by several key stakeholders from all districts of Uganda, saying that this was testament that communities were looking forward to benefit from the project.

“Busia, the host County Government fully supports this project, the president of Kenya also supports it as one of his flagship projects, that is why he often the Devolution Minister to check on its progress,” the Governor of Busia Hon. Sospeter Ojaamong claimed. The Governor said that he had personally visited the proposed dam sites together with his county Government and was fully aware that the project will be beneficial to the people.

The Angololo Project is financed by the African Development Bank – AfDB (NEPAD-IPPF) to the tune of USD 1.5 million. Kenya and Uganda are each contributing USD 75,000 whereas NELSAP staff time contribution is valued at USD 180,000. Total project cost is USD. 1.83 million.

KEY PROJECT DATES

2010	NELSAP, Kenya & Uganda identify project, NELSAP conducts prefeasibility
OCT. 2015	18th NELCOM Approves the project in Entebbe Uganda
MAR 2019	Project Grant Letter Signed between NELSAP & AfDB (NEPAD-IPPF)
JUL 2019	Project Launched in Entebbe Uganda
MAR 2020	Independent International Dam Safety Panel of Experts formed
MAR 2020	Community sensitization at Angololo dam site in the two countries
DEC. 2021	Completion of Feasibility Phase of the project



THE DRC MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, HON. BYALOSUKA WATA RECEIVING THE KEYS TO THE MOBILE WATER QUALITY LABORATORY DURING ITS UNVEILING AT THE LEAF II PROJECT OFFICES IN BUNIA

DRC Fisheries Minister Pays Courtesy Visit to LEAF II in Bunia, Reaffirms Commitment to 3rd Phase of LEAF Project as he Unveils Mobile Water Quality Laboratory

On 14th October 2020, LEAF II project was privileged to host the Minister Responsible for Fisheries Affairs of the D.R Congo, Hon. Jonathan Byalosuka Wata, at the project offices in Bunia. During the visit, the Hon. Minister officially unveiled the Mobile Water Quality Laboratory from the LEAF II project to D.R Congo and gave an address to staff. At the side-lines of this event the Hon. Minister granted LEAF II an in-depth interview. Below are excerpts from the Q and A with the NELSAP Communication Specialist.

Question 1: D.R Congo and Uganda have jointly participated in implementing LEAF II. What are some of the benefits that your country has seen through this trans boundary collaboration?

Hon. Byalosuka Wata: The provision of working tools by the LEAF II project to DRC and Uganda was a major asset. The two countries share Lakes Albert and Edward, but have always had a few conflict related issues. However through the LEAF II project, we were able to harmonize many things. We have a framework for dealing with the challenge of water delimitation, dealing with pollution of fishery resources, moreover we are in a process of formalizing an agreement to have a structure like ALT (a commission of Lake Tanganyika) and this will allow us to resolve many conflicts related to water management.

Question 2: D.R Congo and Uganda have been discussing third phase of LEAF project. Based on experience from LEAF II, what do you think should be taken into consideration when you will be implementing LEAF III?

Hon. Byalosuka Wata: Thank you for this very important question. LEAF II has been under implementation for several years now. D.R Congo wants and is prepared to start LEAF III. My presence here in Bunia, allowed me to see what was missing in LEAF II and what can be covered in LEAF III.

In particular, a research vessel, which was planned but was not realized due to financial constraints. Secondly there is the delimitation of breeding/spawning areas for which we need support from this project, in order to protect those areas and allow fish to reproduce. We would like LEAF III to enhance aquaculture and fish farming. This is important because even as we put fishing regulations into place, we do not want our fishermen to go into temporary unemployment, and our fish supply to the population to reduce and alternative solutions like aquaculture and fish farming will help. We are going to ask that in LEAF III, we integrate stores to supply correct fishing gears because, use of prohibited nets is largely due to lack of stores to supply appropriate gears and other fishing inputs.

Question 3: D.R Congo and Uganda both received patrol boats and mobile water quality monitoring laboratories, how do you think these are going to impact your country?

Hon. Byalosuka Wata: The patrol boats are being used to eradicate insecurity and illegal fishing on the two lakes while the mobile research laboratory when fully equipped and operational, will help us study the quality of the water that we need for the reproduction of fish. These tools provided by LEAF II are the most important for success of our fishery and the protection of D.R Congo fishery resources.

Nile Basin Countries and Development Partners Affirm their Commitment to Trans boundary Cooperation during the 23rd NELCOM Meeting

During the 23rd Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers (NELCOM) Meeting held on 12th November 2020, Ministers responsible for Water Affairs in the Nile Basin and development partners affirmed their commitment to ideals of trans boundary cooperation and pledged to support NBI to deliver on its mandate to countries.

Republic of South Sudan: Hon. Peter Manawa Gatkuoth the Minister responsible for Water Affairs thanked the development partners for their support to NBI to enable it provide much needed development for the people of the basin. He stated that South Sudan is and will remain committed in promoting basin wide cooperation agenda and said this position is reflected in an agreement that South Sudan signed in 2018 which dedicates a complete article for collective sustainable management of the Nile River basin for the benefit of its people. Hon. Gatkuoth assured of his country's commitment to fulfil its obligations and pay its membership arrears, adding that the process of ratification of the Comprehensive Framework Agreement (CFA) by South Sudan is already underway.

Republic of Rwanda: Hon. Dr. Jeanne D'arc Mujawamariya, the Minister responsible for Water Affairs noted that the NBI platform is of high importance and has helped to advance cooperation and promote joint water related investment projects that are of great interest to the countries. She stated that Rwanda, as the host country of one of the three NBI centres (NELSAP-CU) will continue to provide the necessary support for the smooth running of the program. The Hon. Minister noted that although NBI had surpassed the 20 year mark, cooperation remained stronger than ever with investment worth over USD 6.5 billion, of which over 1.3 billion were under implementation through various programs and projects. Rwanda observed that whereas upstream and downstream water users may have different needs, perspectives and interests, such diversity was the best ground and reason for strong cooperation.

Republic of the Sudan: The Minister responsible for Water Affairs Hon. Prof. Yasir Abbas Mohamed in his statement, delivered by Dr. Salih Hamad Hamid, stated that Sudan has been at the centre of the history of cooperation among the Nile Basin countries which paved the way, through political commitment and confidence building, to the successful initiation of the Nile Basin Cooperation with commendable support of development partners. The Hon. Minister reiterated the commitment of the transition government of Sudan to strengthen and promote cooperation among the Nile Basin countries for the welfare and aspirations of the people of the basin, saying that Sudan believes that inclusive Nile Basin Cooperation will result into an conducive environment that will pave the way to develop and use the basin resources in an optimal and sustainable manner for the benefit of not only Sudan. He added that Sudan believes that equitable sharing of benefits in good faith, patience, wisdom and responsibility on the part of everyone is a major principle and foundation of future cooperation in the Nile River basin.

Republic of Uganda: The Minister responsible for Water Affairs Hon. Sam Cheptoris who was represented by Dr. Florence Grace Adongo, pledged Uganda's unwavering support to NBI noting that the country attaches great importance to the cooperative management of trans boundary resources of the Nile Waters as provided in the Comprehensive Framework Agreement (CFA). He said Uganda is happy to participate in the ongoing trans boundary projects specifically with D.R Congo on management of Lakes Edward and Albert, with Kenya on the Angololo Multipurpose Project, with Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania on the Kagera basin projects and with South Sudan on the Nyimur/Limur on river Aswa.

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NELSAP Welcomes the New Hon. Water Ministers who attended NELCOM for the first time



Hon. Peter Manawa Gatkuoth



Hon. Dr. Jeanne D'arc
Mujawamariya



Hon. Sicily Kariuki



THE DRC MINISTER FOR FISHERIES HON. BYALOSUKA WATA AND THE GOVERNOR OF ITURI PROVINCE HE. JEAN BAMANISA SAIDI ADDRESS A SECTION OF THE MEDIA AFTER INSPECTING THE WATER AND FISH RESEARCH STATIONS AT KASENYI.

NBI Affirm their Commitment to Trans boundary Cooperation.. ... continued from p.4

He revealed that he has been informed of yet greater progress in the neighboring countries, specifically on the Rusumo project and added that such projects clearly show that NBI was steadily transiting from pre-investment phase to more concrete action on the ground so that the people on the basin can begin to enjoy the benefits of cooperation.

Kenya: Hon. Sicily Kariuki the Minister responsible for Water Affairs stated that although Kenya was not able to conclude the agenda of convening the NBI Heads of State Summit during its term of leadership of the Secretariat, the country hopes that this agenda will be taken up by the incoming leadership. She appealed to NBI member states to prioritize projects with regional significance that have been prepared by NBI, put them into their country's respective national planning to make better use of substantial technical resources that have been used in preparation of the projects so that Nile Basin citizens can enjoy tangible benefits from their implementation.

World Bank: Speaking on Behalf of the Development Partners, Ms Catherine Tovey, program leader at the World Bank Group said, "By working together, sharing information, jointly prioritizing and planning, by forging strong professional relationships, by investing in joint infrastructure that benefits more than one actor; NBI countries had shown that a win-win future is possible." She said development partners have noted that NBI processes have led to an impressive pipeline of investment projects and that NBI provides a key platform on which countries can achieve a secure future for all. She added the Development Partners were looking forward to new support to NBI with a focus on climate resilience in the basin.

DRC Minister and Governor Preside over Hand-over of Fish Landing Sites.. ... continued from p.1

The facilities were constructed by D.R Congo under the Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management (LEAF II) project of NELSAP-CU that is funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through a grant and loan to Uganda and D.R Congo respectively and a grant to NELSAP-CU from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Speaking after the event, the Hon. Minister thanked NELSAP-CU and the funders of the project AfDB and GEF for the support they have accorded to D.R Congo and said that his country had witnessed immense benefits from the LEAF II project.

"The patrol boats from LEAF II are being used to do surveillance and eradicate insecurity on the two lakes, while the mobile research laboratory, when fully equipped and operational, will help us to monitor the lakes' quality of water," the Hon. Minister said. He added that these tools are the most important for protection of D.R Congo fishery resources on Lakes Edward and Albert.

"I greatly appreciate the investments that LEAF II project has made in the Eastern D.R Congo and my office will always be ready to support and ensure that completed projects serve the people of Ituri Province and the D.R Congo in general," said the Governor H.E Jean Bamanisa Saidi. Also present at the event was the Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Mr. Guerhole Dramani and LEAF II Project Coordinator for DRC Mr. Jeff Matunguru.

Through the LEAF II project, D.R Congo has constructed four modern integrated fish landing sites at Tchomya and Mahagi Ports on Lake Albert, and at Vitshumbi and Kyavinyonge on Lake Edward. Each of the sites comprises of fish handling and processing facilities, administration block, staff house, sanitation facilities, and landscaping, paving and fencing. There are cold rooms at Tchomya and Kyavinyonge and a surveillance research station at Kasenyi.



OUTPATIENTS WAITING TO SEE A DOCTOR AT KIGINA HEALTH CENTRE, ONE OF THE HEALTH FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED THROUGH THE RUSUMO PROJECT



A COMMUNITY MEMBER FETCHES WATER FROM ONE OF THE WATER COLLECTION POINTS IN RUSUMO AREA CONSTRUCTED AS AN EXTENDED BENEFIT THROUGH THE REGIONAL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Burundi Minister Commends Progress of Rusumo Community Projects

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“I urge the project to speedily equip these infrastructures so that they become operational and serve the communities,” the Hon. Minister added. In Burundi, Rusumo Project has constructed two health centres - Bugoma and Mugano. Jeanine Uwizeyimana, a community member of Mugano Colline in Giteranyi Commune shared her excitement about healthcare facilities brought to their neighborhood.

“We are happy that Mugano health facility is in our neighborhood and we hope it will be affordable and of good quality, because development of our area depends on health of our community members,” she said.

In Tanzania, Rusumo Project LADP constructed Kyenda dispensary and two health centres for Rusumo and Lukole villages. Those health amenities are fully equipped and have medication blocks, convenient toilets, mortuaries, theaters and labor wards, incinerators as well as accommodation for health centre staff. In Rwanda, LADP built Kigina Health Centre that serves over 10,000 people in Kirehe District. Kigina, the pioneer health project, was launched in June 2019 and has been operational from that date. It has improved quality of lives of Rusumo communities and prevented death from treatable diseases.

Improving Hygiene and Access to Potable Water

In July 2020, Ngoma District inaugurated 28.7 km of mixed water pipeline in Gatonde-Gahima Cells that will benefit about 10,000 people and 33km of Gituku-Murama water supply system accessed by 18,000 people in Rukira and Murama Sectors.

Empowering youth, building an educated generation in Tanzania

The LADP project has built two youth vocational training centres in Tanzania with the objective of strengthening youth capacity and also constructed

classrooms, dormitories, administration blocks, and dining halls for two secondary schools (Kyenda and Ngoma) and two primary schools (Minterama and Rusumo).

“Ngara district prioritized access to quality education as a social investment that will reap long term benefits and positive change,” said Mr. Aidan Bahama, Ngara Director of Education (DED).

“The district wants every child to develop knowledge and values and will facilitate them to enroll at the nearest school, as this will increase academic success particularly among female students,” he added.

The Local Area Development Plan (LADP) is a USD 15 million benefit-sharing program designed to enhance economic and social development in Rusumo area. The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP) is being implemented on the Rusumo River by NELSAP-PIU on behalf of the Rusumo Power Company Limited (RPCL) established by the governments of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. The project is funded by the World Bank for USD 340 million. Transmission lines connecting electric grids of the three countries to the Rusumo project switchyard are funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) for USD 128 Million.



BURUNDI MINISTER FOR HYDRAULICS, ENERGY AND MINES HON. ENG. IBRAHIM UWIZEYE, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PROJECT'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, SPEAKING AFTER INSPECTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Ethiopia Takes over Leadership of NBI Investment Arm, NELSAP, will Support NELSAP to Deliver Investment to all NBI Countries

Ethiopia officially took over the rotating leadership of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers (NELCOM) and the technical arm (NELTAC) from Burundi, with a promise to support NELSAP-CU to deliver investment to all Nile Basin Countries. The change of guard took place during the virtual 23rd NELCOM meeting held on 12th November 2020.

H.E Dr. Eng. Seleshi Bekele, the Minister responsible for Water Affairs of Ethiopia who is also the incoming NELCOM Chair noted that due to the urgent development needs of the countries within the Nile River Basin and the serious effects of climate change, the Basin is in great need of investment in water infrastructure.

“The Nile Basin Countries cannot speak of water, energy and food security while they are handicapped in water infrastructure investments,” the Hon. Minister said. He added that several studies had conclusively found that the Nile Basin will be affected by climate change in the form of periodic floods and droughts and that for them to be adequately prepared, they need infrastructure development.

“I take note of the impressive performance made by NELSAP-CU in the implementation of the investment projects, and attaining a performance level of 66% over the past one year, despite the Covid-19 restrictions, this is a commendable performance,” the Hon. Minister said. He added that he also took note of the large number of useful projects underway under NELSAP-CU and promised to support those that are in the pipeline and in need of urgent follow-up.

The Hon. Minister specifically mentioned the AfDB NEPAD-IPPF funded project between Kenya and Uganda (Angololo) where the two countries are required to avail their contributions. He also mentioned the interconnection of power between Ethiopia and South Sudan, for which he committed to work with his counterpart from South Sudan to avail to the secretariat the MOU that was signed to enable NELSAP-CU do resource mobilization and implementation. He also promised to support follow-up with D.R Congo to confirm its commitment to the D.R Congo-Uganda power interconnection.

The Hon. Minister asked NELSAP-CU to prepare a new pipeline of projects that will benefit all NBI countries including those in the Eastern Nile and assured of Ethiopia’s support.

“So far NEL secretariat has been working very efficiently and I assure the NELCOM members that Ethiopia will support and steer NELSAP-CU in order for it to continue to deliver investment results to the countries and ensure that it is strengthened during my term,” he added.



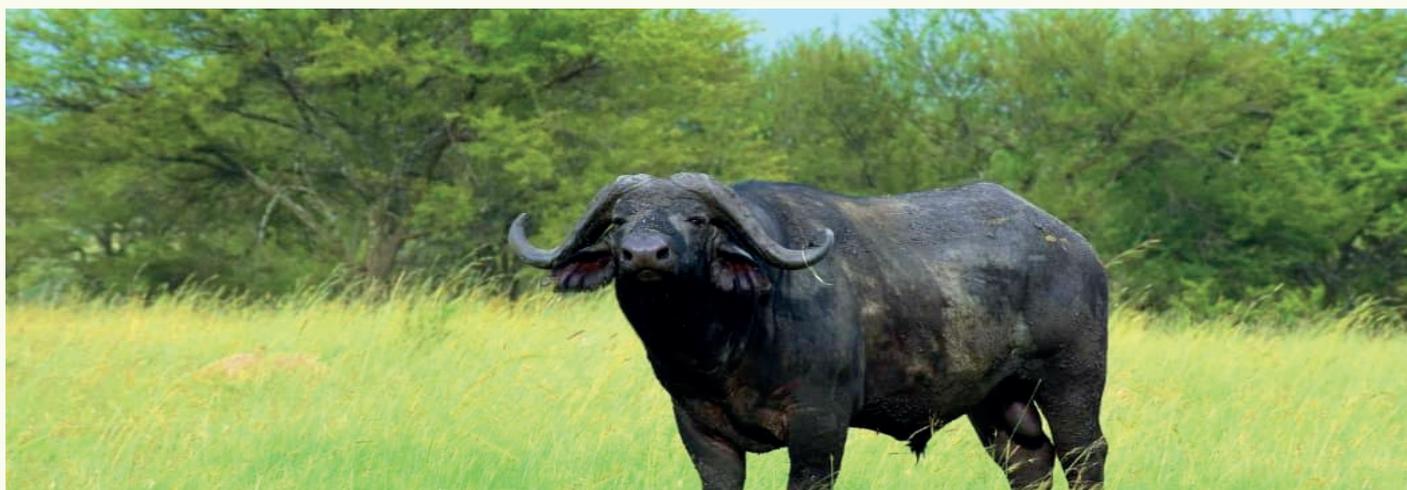
H.E DR. ENG. SELESHI BEKELE, THE ETHIOPIA MINISTER FOR WATER, IRRIGATION AND ELECTRICITY AND ALSO THE INCOMING CHAIR OF THE NILE EQUATORIAL LAKES COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (NELCOM)

The Hon. Minister also called on few remaining countries yet to ratify the Comprehensive Framework Agreement (CFA) to do so in order to put into force a cooperative mechanism that promotes mutual benefits for all the people in the Nile River basin.

Hon. Eng. Seleshi Bekele will lead NELSAP for the next one year, with support from the Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committee (NELTAC) chair, Dr. Yared Adanech, who is the Director General of Basins Development Authority of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.



DR. YARED ADANECH, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF BASINS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND ALSO THE INCOMING NILE EQUATORIAL LAKES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NELTAC) CHAIR.



Council of Ministers Approve proposed USD 221 Mln. 10 Year Trans boundary Wetlands Management & Investment Plan to Cover 3 Wetlands Shared by DRC, Kenya, Tanzania & Uganda

The Council of Ministers responsible for Water Affairs of the Nile River Basin have approved the proposed USD 221 million 10 year trans boundary Wetlands Investment and Management Plan developed by NELSAP-CU with support from the German Agency GIZ. The approval was given during the 23rd NELCOM held virtually on 12th November 2020. The Investment plan covers three shared wetlands of Semliki Delta (DRC-Uganda) Sango-Bay Minziro (Uganda-Tanzania) and Sio-Siteko (Kenya-Uganda) and focuses on environmental protection, livelihood and food security improvement through fisheries development, irrigated agriculture, market value chain development for key agricultural and fisheries products from the basins and trans boundary cooperation.

The Management plans developed in line with the Ramsar Guidelines, have been validated and approved at country level and will form the basis for resources mobilization. The plans will be implemented alongside the Nile Equatorial Lakes Investment Project (NELIP) a basin-wide investment project led by NELSAP-CU and whose fundraising is presently ongoing.

Background to the Project

Considering the vital role wetlands play in water quality and stabilising Nile River flow, NELSAP-CU decided to proactively establish a strategy to prevent further encroachment and reverse the degradation of wetlands in the NEL region through a Wetland Management Strategy that had earlier been approved by the Nile Council of Ministers in 2013. To implement

this strategy, NELSAP-CU, with support from GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under the International Climate Initiative, commissioned a diagnostic analysis of the three wetlands to identify drivers, threats and impacts on the wetlands, and develop concrete trans boundary management and Investment Project Plans (IPPs) that will incentivise stakeholders to conserve the wetlands while simultaneously promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Countries collectively under NELCOM and individually have so far supported related initiatives by NELSAP-CU. In 2017, Tanzania and Uganda signed an MOU on cooperation in development and management of the shared water and natural resources. Kenya and Uganda both signed in 2015, an MOU for the joint management of the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi River Basin, an agreement that was facilitated by NELSAP-CU. D.R Congo and Uganda on their part signed a bilateral agreement on October 20, 2018 on Fisheries Management and Development, which was facilitated by the LEAF II Project of NELSAP-CU.

During development of the plans, stakeholders made valuable contributions through field campaigns and consultative stakeholder workshops, national, provincial, district and local level consultations at wards and villages. Those consulted include wetland dependent communities, experts, national and district government officials and non-state actors in the four countries together with the Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committees (NELTAC) from the four countries

ONE RIVER ONE PEOPLE ONE VISION



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