



NBD Information sheet

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Nile Basin in DRC

Only a small fraction of DRC's huge land area lies in the Nile Basin. This area on the eastern fringes of DRC is remote and difficult to access (some 2,500km from Kinshasa), and faces ongoing political insecurity. Due to the country's large size and recent political turmoil little attention has been paid to Nile Basin issues. For years eastern DRC was virtually separated from the west and it was very hard for people to organise effectively and address development issues.



Under the ongoing peace process and subsequent national elections, the DRC National Discourse Forum (DRC NDF) has now begun major efforts at involving civil society in the NBI projects and processes within the country. An early achievement has been the successful information campaigns targeting key stakeholders at a national level, including parliamentarians, media, the business sector and academia. Locally, the DRC NDF focuses on building awareness about NBD and NBI efforts at poverty reduction, and building a strong institutional base for engagement in NBI activities. Next steps will be to build stronger links to the private sector and the generation of activities that enhance capacity for policy engagement by civil society. A study on community needs in relation to poverty alleviation is also planned in the near future.

South, central and north zones

The Nile Basin in DRC is divided into 3 zones: south (Goma-Rutshuru), central (Butembo- Beni), and north (Bunia-Aru). All regions have now held public consultation workshops which aim to identify stakeholders and inform them about the NBD and NBI activities in their region. The workshop in the northern zone (the most remote) is considered a significant achievement in opening up a previously closed-off region. In future each of the three zones is expected to have its own local NDF, allowing activities to be more effectively spread throughout the region.

The north zone includes Lake Albert (shared between DRC and Uganda), and the lake's fisheries are a key source of livelihood activity in the area. The stakeholder involvement workshop held there included a representative of the NBI's Lake Edward and Albert Fisheries project (LEAF) which aims to boost fisheries, inform participants about the potential benefits of the project and begin making links between civil society and the NBI. The DRC NDF will commission a study of the impacts of the LEAF project as a basis for future engagement.

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