



NBD Information sheet

Burundi

The Nile Basin in Burundi

Some 60% of Burundi's area lies in the Nile basin, so how the basin's water resources are managed is of critical importance. Burundi faces many challenges including a rapidly growing population, soil and ecosystem degradation, poverty, food insecurity and an uncontrolled mining sector. The Burundi National Discourse Forum (BNDF) seeks to strengthen water resource management in ways which also contribute to poverty reduction and livelihood improvements. The BNDF is actively raising awareness of these issues, lobbying for change and engaging with NBI programmes. In future it will carry out capacity building activities with NDF members, including training in environmental impact evaluation and communications techniques.



Awareness raising

The BNDF recently produced a documentary film highlighting major environmental challenges in the Nile basin. These include deforestation, poor watershed management, soil degradation, the demographic explosion and aquatic ecosystem degradation. The film was distributed to civil society organisations in Burundi and to UN organisations (DVDs are available on request); it was also shown on national TV during World Water Week in 2007.

Building public debate

In 2007, in conjunction with the NBI's Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement Project (CBSI) the BNDF held debates between the public and MPs on protection and sustainable management of water resources. Recommendations produced included the establishment of a single ministry to regulate and coordinate all water resources management in Burundi, and stronger policy and law to govern it.

Political lobbying and creation of the Ministry of Water

Subsequently, the BNDF worked with the NBI's Nile Trans-boundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) to lobby through the media for the creation of a Water Ministry. This finally led to the establishment of the ministry.

Engagement with the NBI

The BNDF regularly meets with representatives of NBI projects. Studies are planned to back up engagement including a pro-poor audit of NBI programmes and an assessment of stakeholder involvement in NBI projects. A study is also planned on the advantages of using different energy sources to mitigate the impacts of massive deforestation for fuel wood which leads to negative impacts on watersheds.

Burundi Contact

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