



NBD Information sheet

Eritrea

The Nile Basin in Eritrea

The main objective of the Eritrea NDF (ErNDF) is to act as a forum bringing together CBOs, local and international NGOs and community members. This will create a strong network that can enhance sustainable development, poverty reduction and food security. The ErNDF seeks to raise awareness about Nile basin issues, and to develop ways to engage closely with the NBI and Eritrean Government on the use of water resources in the Nile basin and other related social development topics.

Public Debate

In September 2007 the ErNDF organised a public debate on Nile issues and how management of Nile basin water resources could contribute to poverty reduction. The debate brought together experts and civil society in a constructive discussion of resource management and environmental issues in the basin. This led to a greater resolve for joint working, and for experience-sharing activities such as field visits. It was recommended that socio-economic studies be carried out to build knowledge on the effective use of resources and links with food security.



Community awareness raising

The ErNDF has also organised awareness raising workshops with farmers to discuss a range of issues including the availability, management and utilisation of water resources, the state of forest in the country and ways to conserve it, as well as wildlife management. Farmers shared their experiences of undertaking soil and water conservation activities and livestock and rangeland improvements. Possible ways to scale up community capacity building were also explored.

Some practical recommendations emerged including forest conservation (to prevent soil erosion, promote agricultural and livestock production, and protect wildlife), and crop rotation (to conserve soil nutrients and moisture). It was agreed that there is a need for more integrated land and water planning and use. The River Setit was used as an example. Its many tributaries with different uses must all be considered, alongside the need to maintain a wildlife corridor for movement of wild animals.

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