



## STORIES OF CHANGE

In collaboration with the CBSI the **Burundi** NDF has helped to sensitize decision makers to civil society involvement in Nile Basin development issues. This includes Members of Parliament, Senators and government officials. The BNDF has also been influential in the creation of a ministry in charge of water for the first time in Burundi. As a result of activities undertaken, the Ministry of Tourism has given the BNDF the responsibility to rehabilitate sites at the source of the Nile as well as other tourist areas where there is a clear need for environmental protection.

The **Egypt** National Discourse Forum, in collaboration with the NBI Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement project (CBSI), has organized a workshop to discuss ways of promoting private sector involvement and community participation in confidence building under Nile basin development programmes, particularly in the agriculture, trade and environment sectors. At this workshop, participants from 16 governorates, the business community and trade unions enhanced their partnership with civil society organizations in order to strengthen cooperation between Egypt and other Nile basin countries.



In **Ethiopia**, the NDF has inspired the public to think about and debate Nile issues. These lively discussions have been undertaken during a number of EtNDF regional and national consultative workshops, and have prompted the receipt of many emails from youth groups around the country keen to get involved in the issues. After a national conference with youth associations, a National Nile Youth Network was launched. This youth network will feed into the regional Nile youth network with the objective of influencing NBI projects as well as government water-related policies.

The media has also taken more interest in reporting Nile Basin developments. This has, in part, been due to a NDF-organized National Workshop on mainstreaming the Nile in media, academia, and research institutions in 2007. The workshop aimed at enhancing awareness and bringing Nile issues into different media networks, schools, and research institutions. One of the main outcomes was the incorporation of the course: History of the Nile Basin into curricula to be offered to all history students majoring at universities in Ethiopia from September 2008. This will go a long way to enhancing the knowledge base of the public and the EtNDF believes will help to 'demystify' many issues related to the river and its development.

The **Rwanda** NDF has had success in generating government awareness of the role civil society can play in Nile Basin development. The government now urges civil society in Rwanda to harness the benefits of the River Nile waters through the NBI and has emphasized that any development project on the Nile must involve consultation with civil society to add value to the effectiveness and success of the project at the grassroots level. The government has promised both technical and financial support to efforts being made and urged communities to take advantage of the micro grants projects being initiated under the NBI.

In **Sudan** the NDF achieved major success in co-convening with the Ministry of Water a workshop on dams and development, the outcome of which was a joint statement on future development of large dams on the Nile endorsed by representatives of Nile basin civil society, the private sector, NBI institutions and governments, and other international organizations. This statement emphasized the careful selection of future dams according to internationally-accepted criteria and procedures in order to maximize benefits and opportunities for benefit sharing. It further highlighted that the criteria for selection of large dams should be based on principles including sustainable development, good governance and upholding the economic and social rights of affected peoples. In addition major consideration should be taken of present and future climate change scenarios. The statement is due to be presented at the next Nile Council of Ministers meeting.