



NBD Information sheet

Uganda

The Nile Basin in Uganda

The Uganda National Discourse Forum (UNDF) was launched in 2003 to support civil society participation in developing the Nile Basin. The UNDF aims to promote dialogue on sustainable and equitable development, fostering peace and mutual understanding. Specifically, the UNDF also provides support to civil society and carries out advocacy, particularly around NBI projects and programs, focusing in particular on the Lake Victoria basin, the largest of the freshwater lakes forming the headwaters of the river Nile.

Research

The UNDF has conducted a baseline survey of water resources and use in the Sio Malaba sub-catchment of the Nile basin. This sub-catchment rises in Kenya and covers a range of environments including agricultural land, savannah and large settlements. Levels of knowledge and practice were assessed in three areas – water access and harvesting, water and sanitation, and water for agriculture, as a basis for future work in the sub-catchment.



Engagement with the NBI

UNDF attends NBI coordination meetings and has been recognised as a key stakeholder by the NBI. There is increasing interest in contributions from the UNDF to NBI discussions and in sharing experiences, workplans and research findings. Such engagement enables policymakers to take on board the concerns of civil society, a principle goal of the UNDF.

Awareness raising

The UNDF has visited schools in different regions of Uganda to raise awareness of Nile Basin issues and carry out hands-on environmental actions with school children, including tree-planting. Many of these schools have taken up the issue and formed schools clubs; materials are now being planned to enable teachers to organise further Nile-related activities. Awareness raising has also been achieved through events such as a public debate on the ecology and importance of fisheries in Lake Victoria. This debate led to plans to study the subject further, particularly how recent developments have affected the livelihoods of fishing communities.

The UNDF has its own website at www.undf.or.ug

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