The Nile Basin Initiative

Example of Transboundary Water Governance

Dr. Nicholas Azza
The Nile DSS

- Given history of deep mistrust, countries will be suspicious of any arguments on water resources potential and impacts of any Nile project put forth by any riparian country
- The Nile DSS has been developed to provide a common credible planning tool accessible to all cooperating parties
- Also meant to nurture a culture of knowledge-based water resources management in the basin
- Being used to develop future projections of water demand in the Nile Basin under different climate change scenarios and advise on how to reconcile between water demand and resource availability
Screen shot from the Nile DSS
Nile Basin Sustainability Framework

- The NBI develops policies, strategies and guidelines to guide its work
- These are organised under the Nile Basin Sustainability Framework
- The policies and guidelines are only applicable to NBI centres and NBI activities
- Includes – Environment and Social Policy, ESIA guidelines, Social Assessment guidelines, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Gender Policy, Stakeholder Participation Policy, Communication Strategy, Data Sharing and Exchange Guidelines
Information sharing and data exchange

- Interim arrangements made for data sharing and exchange:
  - Nile Basin data and information sharing and exchange interim procedures 2011
- The data and information are with respect to requirements for preparation of investment projects under a transboundary framework
Subsidiarity principle

- The subsidiarity principle is one of the normative rules of cooperation in the NBI.
- Under this principle, two sub-basin organisations have set up in the Nile Basin:
  - One in the Eastern Nile sub-basin and
  - Other in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region
- Each sub-basin organisation has a parallel governance structure similar to the parent organisation
**Basin-Wide Governance System**

**Nile Equatorial Lakes Sub-Basin**
- NEL-COM
- NEL-TAC
- NELSAP-CU

**Nile-SEC**
- Nile-SEC [Nile Secretariat]
  - Provides secretariat function to Nile-COM and Nile-TAC; manages day-to-day activities of NBI

**Nile-TAC**
- Nile-TAC [Technical Advisory Committee]
  - Provides technical advice to Nile-COM and oversight over Nile-SEC

**Nile-COM**
- Nile-COM [Council of Ministers]
  - Highest decision-making body

**Eastern Nile Sub-Basin**
- EN-COM
- ENSAPT
- ENTRO

**National NBI Offices**
- Coordinates national-level activities related to NBI at national level
Dialogue fora - The Nile 2002 Conferences

- These conferences were organised under TECCONILE back-to-back with ministerial meetings.
- Attended by a wide range of stakeholders, mainly technical and academics.
- Facilitated information exchanges which made it possible for more candid and direct discussions than would have occurred under formal structures.
- Contributed to building consensus on the desirability of regional cooperation on the Nile Basin and fostered genuine mutual learning and the evolution of previously entrenched positions, thereby helping to create an environment that allowed for the emergence of the NBI.
The Nile Basin Development Forum

- Replaced the Nile 2002 Conference
- Attracts a wide audience including CSOs from the countries, International NGOs, researchers and scholars, business community, politicians, and government officials
- Looks at topical issues related to protection of the ecosystem of the Nile and the sustainable development of water and related natural resources to address development challenges in the region
Nile Basin Discourse

- In the early years of establishment of the Nile Basin, donors recognised that the shared vision of the NBI and desired ‘win-win’ development objectives could only be achieved if the NBI successfully addressed the views and concerns of civil society within the basin.

- At the same time, it was recognised that there was a need for civil society to organise themselves at a basin level in order to establish more strategic and long-term inputs into the NBI.

- These needs led to creation of the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) by development partners of the NBI.
Nile Basin Discourse

- The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a civil society regional umbrella organization created to strengthen civil society participation in NBI developmental processes and programmes.
- The NBD was formally established in 2002 by the IUCN, World Bank and WWF.
- The NBD has a presence in all 11 of the riparian countries of the Nile Basin through national level Nile Discourse Forums.
Nile Basin Discourse

The primary purpose of the NBD is to engage in, and influence, all NBI activities. In its work, the NBD seeks and strives to:

- Maximise the basket of social, economic and environmental benefits available to poor people within the Nile Basin
- Ensure that the NBI lives to its stated objective of reducing poverty
- Make the NBI accountable to the people of the Nile Basin
- Link the processes of project preparation, development under the NBI to the Millennium Development Goals/SDGs and national development objectives
Nile Basin Discourse

- NBD program activities over the years have been in four main areas:
  1. Promoting the open sharing and exchange of information on Nile Basin development processes and programs
  2. Developing the capacity of civil society to effectively engage in development processes under the NBI, especially the planning of large scale investment projects
  3. Building the capacity of civil society to craft ideas for socio-economic development based on utilisation of the Nile water resources with a focus on poverty reduction
  4. Fostering the involvement of civil society in monitoring and evaluating the impacts of NBI projects and processes on local communities throughout the basin.
CSO meeting in Rwanda
Football match in Burundi
NBD Officials meeting NELSAP Staff
Tree planting in Kenya
The Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement Project

- Was one of the projects of the NBI Shared Vision Programme (SVP) implemented from 2004 to 2009

- Objectives:
  - increase public awareness and stakeholder involvement in the Nile Basin process;
  - broaden understanding, increase confidence, and foster basin-wide ownership of the NBI and its programmes;
  - increase basin-wide trust and confidence in regional cooperation
CBSI Comp. 1: Public information component

- To provide accurate, understandable and trusted information to the general public across the NBI region

Activities:
- Compiling and preparing information with appropriate content for different stakeholder groups
- Developing Nile-focused theatre and story formats appropriate for stage, TV and radio
- Disseminating information on NBI through newspaper, radio and TV
- Producing NBI information kits in five major languages of the region (English, French, Arabic, Amharic and Kiswahili)
- Developing and operating and maintaining an NBI/CBSI website
- Launching and making regular publications of the NBI newsletter
- Training stakeholders in communication and public information
CBSI Comp. 2: Stakeholder Involvement Component

- Facilitated effective participatory processes with the aim of deepening collaborative social learning and easing the process of reaching agreement on key social, technical and political issues on the Nile.

- Activities
  - Strengthening participation of key Ministries in the countries
  - Establishing formal participation mechanisms in the countries – National stakeholders’ forum
  - Supporting stakeholder groups (decision-makers, opinion leaders and local riparians) to identify and clarify their NBI constituency concerns
  - Assisting the NBI to understand concerns and possible impacts of constituency issues through participatory interaction and social analysis
  - Establishing and expanding stakeholder networks within NBI countries
  - Strengthening linkages between regional CSOs and NBI programmes.
CBSI Comp. 3: Confidence Building Component

- Aimed at building trust across national borders so that partnerships can be created, and can prosper and endure.

- Activities:
  - Sub-regional exchange visits among different groups including parliamentarians, local leaders, women leaders, journalists, university professors, university students and school children
  - Sub-regional forums and networks to discuss issues of poverty eradication and equitable development - NBDF
  - Implementation of confidence building activities for particular stakeholder groups, particularly those linked to NBI investment programmes
  - Widely disseminating results and achievements of the NBI
After CBSI

- CBSI Project ended and activities have reduced significantly due to budget constraints
- Stakeholder involvement in investment activities is being continued by the SAP Projects
- Exchange visits are being continued by SAP Projects
- Communication and information dissemination continued by all NBI Centres
- NBD has stepped up on some awareness activities
Market clean-up in Jinja Uganda
Nile-COM chair hands over dustbins to market vendors
School children mobilised by NBD participate in Nile Day Celebrations
NELSAP Booth at NDBF
NBI-sponsored training for regional media practitioners
Media engaged to cover NBI events
Nile Day still used for awareness raising and dialogue
NBI Executive Director hands out medals to winning football team
Nile artists making their contribution to dialogue