



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program

Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric and Multipurpose Project

PRESS RELEASE

14 September 2011

13th Project Implementation Committee (PIC) Meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda

The 13th Project Implementation Committee (PIC) meeting for the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric and Multipurpose Project was held on 14th September, 2011 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The PIC was preceded by the TAC meeting which was held from 12th - 13th September 2011. The TAC which is the Technical Advisory Committee assists the PIC in advising and supervising the preparation and implementation of the Rusumo project which is in essence a Transboundary project, cooperatively developed and run by member countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania within the Nile Basin Initiative framework. The TAC operates through the NELSAP CU/Rusumo PMU which facilitates the preparation processes, manages financial resources and builds sub-regional capacity for preparation and implementation of projects.

The PIC meeting discussed the progress made on the preparation stage made on the Rusumo project and approved recommendations made by the TAC with regards to the development of project at Intermediate Development Scheme at 1323.5 meters above sea level. On the Institutional and Financial arrangements the PIC approved the strengthening of the project management unit at NELSAP and gave a go ahead with the finalization of various project related documentation.

13th Project Implementation Committee (PIC) also announced the rotation in the chairmanship of the PIC. Burundi, which was holding the chairmanship handed over to Rwanda effective September 2011 for one year. It is a tradition within NBI to rotate this position on an annual basis among Member States in alphabetical order.

Background

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a partnership of the Nile Basin Countries - Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda (Eritrea is an Observer) - to Achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of and the benefits from the common Nile Basin water resources.

Formally launched on 22 February 1999 in Dar e salaam, Tanzania by the Council of Ministers of Water Affairs of the Nile Basin states, the Initiative provides a unique forum for the countries of the Nile to move forward a cooperative process to realize tangible benefits in the Basin and build a solid foundation of trust and confidence.

NBI has a Strategic Action Program made up of complementary programs: the basin wide Shared Vision Program (SVP) to build confidence and capacity across the basin, and two Subsidiary Action Programs (SAPs) to initiate concrete investments and action on the ground in the Eastern Nile and Nile Equatorial Lakes sub-basins. SVP focuses on building regional institutions, capacity and trust as the foundation for unlocking the development potential of the Nile, which will be realized through concrete investments carried out under the SAPs.

Among the major achievements of the NBI is the establishment of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP). The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) is one of two investment programs under the Nile Basin Initiative. NELSAP countries include: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. NELSAP promotes investments in power development, power transmission interconnection and power trade, water resources management, management of lakes and fisheries, agricultural development, and control of water hyacinth.

NELSAP has demonstrated effectiveness in the coordination of multi-country preparation of complex regional projects. Twelve projects identified under the initial track of cooperative projects are now being prepared and some have reached implementation stage.

One of the NELSAP Power Projects is the "Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric and Multipurpose Project". The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric and Multipurpose Project aims to increase power production in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania by developing a common hydropower facility of 90 MW in the Kagera River basin, along with associated transmission lines. Additionally, the project will contribute to community development near the project area through related social and environmental programs that might include, for example, watershed management or improved access to electricity.

For more information:

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