



Nile Basin Capacity Building Network

Annual E-News

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NBCBN in Transition Towards Sustainability

Happy New Year for All NBCBN Members and Partners!

NBCBN-SEC team sends warm greetings and best wishes for the New Year 2016. With sincere hopes that the New Year brings us more success and progress at all levels. The team wishes to see all NBCBN members both professional and life goals being met in 2016. And we look forward to a successful transition phase where we can all collaborate to bring NBCBN to a sustainable and independent network that supports capacity development in all the Nile Basin Countries.



Kick off - NBCBN Transition Phase Towards Sustainability 2016-2018

NBCBN-Sec and Management team announces to all its members and partners the official kick off of the Network transition phase towards a legal independent and sustainable network, to start by January 2016. The transition phase is supported by the Dutch Government through the UNESCO-IHE DUPC2 funds which is officially announced to be available by early 2016. NBCBN in the transition phase aims towards becoming a financially sustainable, registered regional Nile Basin knowledge network of water professionals and institutions firmly rooted in the academic and applied research world with a demand driven research and knowledge agenda with special reference to trans-boundary water related issues. NBCBN is expected to fulfill the legal status within the three years of transition phase. Our next phase key words includes; *collaboration, partnerships, legal status, sustainability*. Further details on the transition phase activities and work plan will be shared soon with all NBCBN members and partners.

NBCBN Legal Registration is to Start 2016



For the future of NBCBN it is crucial at this stage to have an independent legal status where the network can have opportunities to link directly to donors and funding resources and to be able to enter into contracts for funding for network sustainability. **Therefore** the best choice for NBCBN governance and institutional transition is to be a more formal network with an independent legal status. This choice can give NBCBN the opportunity to be more recognizable, transparent, and more effective to serve all the Nile basin countries. In order to start this process NBCBN Organised its 7th Steering Committee Meeting in June 2015 to discuss with all SC members the possible legal scenarios for the network registration and to get the agreement of the members on the applicable legal option for NBCBN. After analysis of the most suitable selected scenarios, a common agreement from the NBCBN member countries was ***reached to register the NBCBN as a Regional Independent Network in Egypt***. NBCBN-SEC will start the implementation process and steps of the selected legal option by beginning of 2016.

NILE-
ECO-
VWU

NBCBN and Partners Launches the Nile Eco-VWU Project, Funded by CGIAR/IWMI-WLE

NBCBN started the activities of the *Nile Ecosystems valuation for Wise Use (Nile Eco-VWU) project* in February 2015. This project is funded by CGIAR/IWMI-WLE. It involves 10 international and regional consortium member institutions and partners (*NBCBN, Makerere University, Egerton University, UNESCO-Chair for water Resources of Sudan, Ain shams university, UNESCO-IHE, Delft, ITC- University of Twente, Netherlands, SzentIstván University-Hungary and Water-Cap/Kenya.*). The Nile-Eco-VWU aims to develop and to test the integrated tools for wetlands ecosystems services, valuation, and assessment that can be applied at local and regional scales within the Nile Basin. ***For more information about the project, visit the website developed by NBCBN-SEC: (<http://www.nile-eco-vwu.net/home>)***

NBCBN in the World Water Week, Stockholm, August 2015



NBCBN in collaboration with UNESCO-IHE and other partners under the activities of the wetlands forum jointly convened a session on: ***"Wetlands for Food Security, Solutions Or Illusion"*** during ***the World Water Week, August 2015***. NBCBN participated in this session through Mr. BENARD OPAA, National Environment Management Authority (Kenya) and Mrs. Teddy TINDAMANYIRE, Ministry of Water & Environment (Uganda), who are part of the stakeholders linked to NBCBN Nile-Eco-VWU project and who were selected as session panelists. In an open dialogue with the audience they shared the voices of the stakeholders from Africa and the Nile basin countries involved in the wetlands management. The session showed the contrast and integrated different perspectives on the role of wetlands for food production, water management, disaster prevention, climate resilience and biodiversity, as well as giving insights on social tensions and land tenure. It also highlighted the conflicts between policies and views that make wetland management a balancing act between short-term benefits and long-term systemic risks. *The session was live-streamed and the video can be followed on this URL: <http://bit.ly/1TJu2kC>.*

NBCBN Represented in CapNet-UNDP Board (2016-2017)

NBCBN has a historical collaboration with CapNet which started early in 2002 by the beginning of CapNet and the emergence of NBCBN as a regional network in the Nile Basin. Since the official establishment of CapNet, NBCBN was one of the first affiliated member networks under the umbrella of CapNet. The intensive, close collaboration and joint activities with CapNet started to flourish by the year 2011 where many successful training activities of NBCBN were organized jointly with the support of CapNet. During the annual networks managers meeting of CapNet, December 2015, Elections for the CapNet Board membership took place and NBCBN manager Dr. Amel Azab was nominated and elected by member networks representatives who attended this meeting (23 networks representatives) as one of the board member for the period 2016-2017. This nomination is considered an added value for NBCBN to represent all the member networks of CapNet including the representation of NBCBN as one of the active member networks in Africa and the Nile Basin. In its transition phase and future, NBCBN is looking for further collaboration with CapNet and extended cooperation and joint activities with all its member networks from different regions of the world.

Welcome to New NBCBN Partners and Members



In its future, NBCBN is focusing on consolidating its existing strong partnerships and on developing new and effective partnerships which will bring more expertise to the NBCBN members family. Partnerships are considered the key catalyst for NBCBN future sustainability; therefore it was a great opportunity to bring on board new member institutes and their research teams through the Nile Eco-VWU project consortium. NBCBN-SEC would like to welcome on board two new partner institutions: Egerton University, Kenya, represented by Prof. Dr. Kitaka Nzula, and Saint Istvan University of Hungary represented by Dr. Istvan Walter.

NBCBN New Knowledge Dissemination Tools

NBCBN-SEC is progressing to develop new versions of the different knowledge dissemination and communication tools to support the new NBCBN strategy and future objectives. The three websites of NBCBN (*public website, Knowledge Map and Stakeholders Platform, Nile Basin Water Science and Engineering Journal*) will be launched with new design and tools that supports better communication and access to existing knowledge. The websites will be launched soon by early 2016!