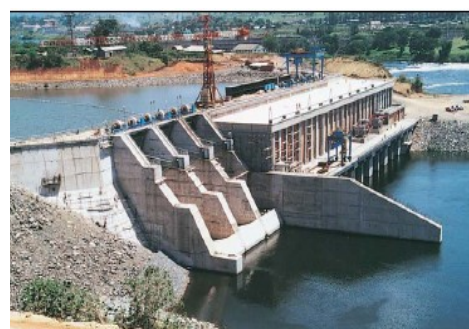


African Rivers Network



Annual Report



2006 - 2007

A word from the Secretariat

Formed in 2003, African Rivers Network has been challenged with a task of realizing its' vision – that of realizing a people centered development in Africa where;

- Participatory decision making on water and energy development, practices alternatives to large dams
- Human rights, community acceptance of decisions, and reparations of outstanding social injustices are the cornerstone
- Ecological sustainability as the legacy for the future generations.



*Frank Muramuzi
Chairman ARN*

The year 2006–2007 presented ARN with challenges in dealing with national and regional issues related to large infrastructure development including human rights, community involvement in decisions-making and reparations for outstanding social injustices that often generate a lot of debate associated with large infrastructure developments.

ARN initiated national multi-stakeholder dialogues, whose results have influenced policy frameworks in water and energy development process in Africa. ARN has not only recognized the important role played by the multi-stakeholder dialogues, but also the support from development partners out side Africa.

Participation in many international forums provided ARN with opportunity to share and present the views of the civil society organizations and their allies (the project-affected communities) regarding large infrastructure developments in Africa that do not recognize the environmental, social, and economic concerns of the communities affected by these projects. ARN also interacted and engaged financial institutions to hold high their policies and regulations regarding the projects they finance in Africa.

As ARN evolves into a strong regional organization, we are mindful of the challenges ahead of us. ARN plans to boost the secretariat with a fulltime coordinator to oversee the activities of ARN in conjunction with the chairman and the coordination committee. With a fulltime coordinator, ARN hope to perform even better in the next year – 2007/8

We extend our regards to our members across the region who have worked very hard to ensure that ARN realizes the values they stood for in this year. We thank the ARN secretariat who worked with a thin staff to push the network to what we it is today. We also pay gratitude to our development partners and donors for their unrelenting commitment. We pledge our commitment for a continued pursuit of sustainable environment and water resource management in Africa.



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Frank Muramuzi
Chairman, ARN

NARRATIVE SECTION

1.0 Introduction

This report is a synthesis of outputs and outcomes from ARN's activity implementation in the period January 2006 – June 2007.

ARN activities, focused on working towards ecological sustainability and social justice in the arena of large dams and their alternatives through working together, influencing decision-making, amplifying community voices, and rights are delivered with the framework of 4 overall objectives;

- Advocating for alternative sources of energy
- Initiation of multi-stakeholder dialogue at national levels
- Amplifying voices of the communities affected by large dam project
- Advocating for space in decision-making process regarding large infrastructure development projects in Africa.

2.0 ARN in International Foras:

a) African Ministerial Conference on Hydropower and Sustainable Development – March, 2006 - Johannesburg, South Africa

ARN participated in the African Hydropower Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa - March, 2006 with support from SSNC and other partners. ARN took 24 members to this meeting and were able to influence decision in energy and water sectors in Africa. ARN also released the first book on case studies of hydropower and dams in Africa.

b) Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) – April, 2006 - New York, USA.

Participation in the CSD meeting presented ARN with an opportunity to share experience with key players in water and energy sector and discuss possibility of getting involved in regional processes like AMCO, NEPAD etc.

c) UNEP/Dams and Developments Project Forum meeting– November, 2006 – Nairobi, Kenya

ARN participated in Dams and Development Forum in Nairobi, Kenya - November, 2006 with support from Both Ends and Swedish society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). The DDP forum is a platform for global multi-stakeholder dialogue on dam-related issues including follow-up to the WCD report, exchange of experiences and lessons learnt in the planning and management of dams. ARN had resentments to the compendium that was developed to replace the WCD document. The compendium does not reflect the interests of the affected people, but it is rather biased and promotes the interest of infrastructure consortiums that are involved in large infrastructure developments.

- d) **African Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)/ARN meeting - Kampala, Uganda & Nairobi, Kenya - January, 2007** ARN/NEW Kampala meeting, June 2006 was aimed at forging a working relationship between the two networks. The two networks agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding after identifying what they wanted to achieve in the partnership and a draft MoU developed. The Nairobi meeting further discussed the draft MoU and a mechanism to ensure smooth collaboration between the two networks. This MoU is yet to be signed.
- e) **World Social Forum (WSF) - January, 2007, Nairobi - Kenya.**
World Social Forum is a bi-annual event organized for civil society organizations, political organizations, faith based organizations and pressure groups of different social, economic and cultural orientations world wide to share their views and concerns.

This was the first time ARN come out to pronounce itself as a network of African organizations working towards the sustainable utilization of African water resources. ARN made a presentation on the **"Impacts of Large Infrastructure Developments in Africa"** and disseminated their publications. They also participated in many workshops and shared their experiences.

3.0 ARN in National and Regional meetings

- a) **Steering Committee Planning meeting - June 2006, Kampala**
In June 2006, ARN held a planning meeting to draw-up plans and strategies of how ARN will carry out its campaigns and activities for the year 2006-2007. They also developed activity calendar for ARN.
- b) **National Consultative meetings (National Dialogues - WCD)**
ARN is committed to promoting dialogue on dams and people-centered decision-making on large infrastructure development in Africa. National

dialogues in Africa are on-going; initially with support from UNEP/DDP until last April when DDP wound up its' business. The various dialogues are on-going in Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Mozambique, and Uganda. Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal have also initiated the dialogue process.

Uganda has gone many steps ahead in the dialogue process and has already launched their Scoping Report and has now developed a code of conduct/constitution for the forum. The second phase of this process will end in June 2007.

4.0 Outcomes

African Ministerial conference on Hydropower and Sustainable Development:

- (any idea)

Dams and Development Project (DDP):

- ARN and other civil society at WSF noted that there was complete omission of the relevancy of WCD in the compendium. They also noted that the whole process was not transparent, many stakeholders were not consulted and this is an insult to the affected people. Civil society was asked to make an in-put in the compendium that would be incorporated in the final document. ARN submitted it in-puts.
- Civil Society agreed that the DDP Forum should continue under a new arrangement and an NGO contact desk should be introduced at the UNEP to coordinate and ensure continuity of the process. They also agreed that the forum should be held once a year. And that DDP should disseminate CDs and other information on WCD on request.
- DDP wound-up its' business in April 2007. UNEP that has been hosting DDP has not decided to take up the activities of DDP. This poses a challenge to the dialogue process.

ARN & ANEW Partnership:

- A partnership between ANEW and ARN was formed. A MoU is yet to be signed.

World Social Forum:

From the presentation on impacts of large infrastructure projects, the following issues come up.

- Major projects in Africa are meant to serve regional interest, leaving out the local communities where these prospects are found
- There are inadequate studies done on the possible impacts (EIAs) of the mega projects.
- Civil society in Africa is still weak and lacks information on big financial institutions like the World Bank, NEPAD AfDB and EIB. This limits their engagement with these institutions
- World Bank always pushes projects forward whether they fail or not. The burden of failed projects always rests on the shoulders of the citizens of those countries with failed projects
- Civil society in Africa should form partnerships with an aim of developing a strong force for engaging their governments on pertinent issues regarding large infrastructure development.
- There is an urgent need for mobilization of communities both nationally and internationally to engage their governments and demand for their rights in regard to large infrastructure development
- There is need to build a mass movement to advocate for transparency and accountability in large infrastructure development project in Africa

National Multi-stakeholder Dialogues

Dialogue is the only way to go in large infrastructure developments. Divergent minds come together and collectively find a solution to otherwise, would be problems and resolve conflicts.

5.0 Achievements

ARN finds pride in the national dialogue processes that has resulted into;

- Civil society views accepted at national level
- Influencing decisions of financial institutions
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6.0 Challenges

- Translation in English – French as ARN comprise of both Francophone and Anglophones. There is also a challenge of sourcing funding to support national multi-stakeholder dialogues. Dams and Development Project has winded up its business, there fore, ARN has to look for alternative funding to support the dialogue process.
- Sourcing funds to support national multi-stakeholder
- Spreading the dialogue processes in the river basins of Africa.

7.0 Finances

ARN Secretariat (NAPE) received funding from Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and Both Ends to support members to attend the DDP forum meeting and World Social Forum in Nairobi – Kenya (November 2006 and January 2007). NAPE submitted an audited financial report to the funders.

Summary of financial statements:

A. Income

Funders	Amount in Euros
i. Swedish society for Nature Conservation	3,842.73
ii. Both ends	10.000

B. Expenditure

	Amount
i. Travel expenses for ARN And sponsorship to ANEW members	5,729.29
ii. Accommodation, meals, stationary and report writing	3,250.0
iii. Compiling and publishing case studies on voices from the ground on impact of dams in Africa	1,155.44
iv. Activity management cost by NAPE	<u>3,708</u>
TOTAL	<u>13,842.73</u>