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PRESS RELEASE

AFDB APPROVES \$1.9M FOR ELECTRICITY GRIDS

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) have signed a US\$ 1.90 million grant to finance the costs of coordination required for the implementation of the Interconnection of Electricity grids Project of the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) Countries.

The grant follows the launch of the 4-year project that will be implemented by the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NELSAP) involving Nile Equatorial Lakes Countries of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and DRC Congo. The ceremony to launch the project took place on September 12th, 2009 and was also witnessed by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development officials, AfDB, JICA and Norwegian government representatives.

The components of the project include the Construction of Power Transmission Lines; Construction of Substations; Resettlement and Compensation; and Consultancy services. The Interconnection Electricity networks is composed of; i) Uganda (Bujagali) - Kenya (Lessos) 220 kV Interconnection line of 256 km, ii) Uganda (Mbarara) - Rwanda (Kigali) 220 kV Interconnection line of 172 km, iii) Rwanda (Kigoma) - Burundi (Rwegura) 110 kV Interconnection line of 103 Km and upgrading the voltage of existing 70 kV line Ruzizi1 Hydropower Plant (DRC) to Bujumbura in 110 kV and from Ruzizi1 to Goma (DRC) in 220 kV with extensions 110 kV Bujumbura - Kiliba (DRC) and 220 kV Kibuye (Rwanda) - Goma - Mukungwa (Rwanda) - Kigali.

The project that covers more than 700 km of new transmission lines and 262 km of lines to be upgraded in the member countries, will include updating of the feasibility study of the Lessos- Olkaria line in Kenya and will benefit the member countries in their rural electrification programmes, promote increased cross-border power trade, strengthen stability and safety of the power systems, as well as flexibility of operation of the interconnected networks.

Other Interconnections in offing that will create a regional power network will include the extension of the Tanzanian grid to North West part to Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project shared among Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania and the Uganda Nkenda- Beni- Bunia to the DR Congo and the Ethiopia-Kenya interconnection that will allow the region to import power from Ethiopia up to 2000MW.

MANAGEMENT

