

NileNews

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'Embed Nile Cooperation within broader regional integration', urge Nile Day 2018 participants



Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries, together with Special German Envoy on Nile Affairs, march from Meskel Square to the UNECA Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, to mark Regional Nile Day 2018 event

Three females, each brandishing a mace, which they alternately threw up into the air and swung around, led the brass band as it snaked its way along a 1.8-kilometre stretch from the Meskel Square to the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Following closely behind the band, were school children, Ministers of Water Affairs from the Nile Basin countries, NBI staff, development partners, civil society, media and members of the public, all marching to beautiful sounds from the band.

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DID
you know?

There are 10 major sub basins in the Nile Basin.
See map on page 16

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Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2018.

It is a New Year, often a time for renewed energy to get things done.

This first quarter marked the beginning of effective implementation of the NBI 10-year Strategy for the period 2017 - 2027 and five-year Basin wide Programme 2017- 2022.

In particular, the program work for the Secretariat was packaged into work streams aligned to five out of the six goals envisaged in the 10-year Strategy. The five goals are water security; food security; environmental sustainability; climate change adaptation; transboundary water governance. The sixth, which is spearheaded by NBI's investment programmes (ENSAP and NELSAP), is energy security. The implementation is also supported by cross cutting functions of providing secretariat services; program management; communication and corporate services.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the 10-year Strategy and the five-year Basin wide programme, the Secretariat adopted a new staff structure, which among other things includes a new position of Deputy Executive Director. The latter will ensure leadership continuity given that the position of Executive Director is held on a two-year rotational basis among the Member States.

This is in addition to introducing staff performance contracts.

In terms of activity implementation during this quarter, I would like to highlight the Regional Nile Day 2018 held on February 22. This year's annual event was hosted by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and was attended by at least 500 Nile Basin citizens and friends of the Nile. Earlier, we held the first NBI Forum on Climate Services for Infrastructure and the Expert Working Group workshop on Strategic Water Resources Analysis.

As we continue to work towards achieving NBI's Shared Vision Objective and to make the institution stronger, it is crucial that we strengthen our existing partnerships while at the same time find new ones. Finding the resources necessary to implement our 10-year Strategy and programs is the only way we can contribute to the desired socio-economic growth and improved livelihoods in the Nile Basin.

I look forward to keeping you updated on the progress of implementation of our program and for your sustained support.

Eng. Innocent Ntabana

The annual Regional Nile Day event is a time-old tradition of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in commemoration of the day the umbrella body was established on February 22, 1999. Nineteen years later and Ethiopia was hosting the event for the third time under the theme - **The Nile: Shared River, Collective Action.**

In addition to speeches by representatives of the 10 NBI Member States, the event included a symposium during which, Nile cooperation related pertinent issues were deliberated upon, salient issues raised and some innovative recommendations made. A lively panel discussion focused the deliberation around the issues of deepening Nile cooperation, political engagement and emerging challenges.

Speaking as Guest of Honour during the celebrations held at the UN Conference Centre, the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr Mulatu Teshome, said that one of the common challenges within the Nile Basin is that the majority of its inhabitants live under extreme poverty.

The president noted that the upstream Nile Basin countries' agricultural systems are of limited productivity, based on subsistence farming vulnerable to climate change effects and frequent famines.

H.E. Teshome emphasised that the River Nile is the only natural resource that all Nile Basin countries are tapping into for socio-economic development and noted that while it is the longest river in the world, the Nile is also one of the most water scarce. He reiterated the need for Nile Basin countries to “work together on how to use the water cooperatively, effectively and responsibly in order to overcome challenges in the Basin”.

Dr. Eng. Seleshi Bekele, Ethiopia's Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity and Chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM), which is NBI's highest decision making body, called on Egypt to consider resuming full participation in NBI.

“I encourage the remaining NBI Member States to expedite the ratification of the Cooperative Framework Agreement so as to enable the formation of the Nile River Basin Commission,” he said.

The Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, Eng. Innocent Ntabana, noted that the institution has achieved a lot in its 19 years of existence. He cited the continued engagement among countries through the NBI platform, scientific tools developed and impartial knowledge generated as well as USD 6.5 billion-worth joint investment projects of regional significance prepared.

Participants concurred on the imperative and indispensability of Basin wide Nile cooperation and on the need to embed and expand Nile Cooperation within broader regional integration.

Nile Day 2018 was attended by at least 500 Nile Basin citizens and friends of the Nile, including Ministers of Water Affairs from Nile Basin Countries, senior government officials from Ethiopia, representatives of UN agencies and embassies of Nile Basin countries based in Addis Ababa. Others were Members of Parliament, media, civil society, school children and researchers.

The annual Nile Day event provides an opportunity to increase awareness of the importance of basin-wide Nile Cooperation in jointly taking good care of and utilising the shared Nile Basin water and related resources for win-win benefits. This is in addition to enhancing awareness about the consequences of non-cooperation as well as the challenges of Nile cooperation. On a lighter note, the day serves to expose participants to the rich and varied cultures, which exist within the Nile Basin.

Elizabeth Agiro
Media Relations Expert
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

NILE DAY 2018 PICTORIAL



A brass band leads the procession from Meskel Square to the UNECA Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, to mark Regional Nile Day 2018 event



President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Mulatu Teshome (back row, 4th left), addresses participants at the UNECA Conference Centre in Addis Ababa



Pupils of Assay Primary School prepare to join the brass band-led procession from Meskel Square to the UNECA Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, to mark Regional Nile Day 2018 event



An Ethiopian Cultural Group entertains participants during the Nile Day celebrations at the UNECA Conference Centre in Addis Ababa



Children sing during the Nile Day celebrations at the UNECA Conference Centre in Addis Ababa



Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin listen to a presentation about how NBI is managing the river's water resources



Delegates at the UNECA Conference Centre in Addis Ababa

Nile journalists benefit from training in multimedia skills enhancement



Journalists who attended the 3rd Regional Nile Media workshop from 20 to 23 February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

On the sidelines of the Regional Nile Day 2018 event held on February 22, in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, the NBI Secretariat convened 18 journalists from across the NBI Member States for a Regional Media workshop, with two missions: To spread the messages and spirit of Nile Day across the Basin; and to continue developing coverage on Nile Basin issues that inform and engage their readers, viewers or listeners – and thereby offer a factual and constructive input to the public debate surrounding the Nile.

The workshop, held from February 20-23, 2018 had the specific focus of strengthening journalists' multi-media reporting capacities – skills that nine of the journalists immediately put to the test by developing the first ever collaborative multi-media story surrounding Nile Day, including written stories, videos, pictures and interactive features. Read the captivating story at https://theniles.atavist.com/nileday2018_infocus.

The media workshop formed part of the ongoing efforts of the NBI to build strategic relationships with journalists from across the Basin, keep them engaged on the current debates in the region and build reporting capacities that allow for increasingly factual and constructive reporting



Correspondents Estella Turukoyo from South Sudan (left) and Elzahraa Jadallah from Sudan (right) share experiences and story ideas during the Nile Media workshop and editorial conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

on Nile Basin and Nile cooperation issues. Since 2016, this is the third Regional Media workshop organised by the Secretariat with the support from GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office.

The workshop was facilitated by Media in Cooperation and Transition gGmbH (MiCT), a German non-profit organisation whose services include training of journalists and media producers.

Elizabeth Agiro
Media Relations Expert
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Governance meets to review performance of the Secretariat



Members of Nile-TAC during the 49th meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The 49th Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) meeting was held on February 21, 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objective of the meeting was to assess progress in implementation of the institutional as well as the NBI Basin Wide Programme and provide guidance on how to move forward.

Highlights in the progress report by management included major milestones during the period October 2017 to February 2018. These included approval of the work plan for the year 2017/2018 that guided business at the Secretariat. The successful execution of the 5th Nile Basin Development Forum was another milestone. Others were the Strategic dialogue between NBI governance and development partners during which both parties reiterated their commitment to Nile cooperation as well as the 2nd edition of the Nile Media Awards 2017. The Secretariat also reported the approval of GEF funding for the Nile Ground Water project.

On the staffing side, selection of staff to fill positions in the new approved structure of the Secretariat is expected to be completed in April 2018

A major outcome of the 49th Nile-TAC meeting was the formation of a Special Committee whose task is to further develop a concept note on the institutionalization of the Heads of State Summit. The Special Committee will present its report during the July 2018 governance meetings.

Management also took the opportunity to inform the Nile-TAC of the key challenges encountered in the overall institutional management. Key among these is delays in remittance of country contributions by some Member States, which has a bearing on the financial situation of the Secretariat.

Tom Waako
Programme Officer
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

National experts discuss phase two of strategic water resources analysis



Fishermen on River Nile, a major water resource shared by the Nile Basin countries

The 3rd National Experts Group workshop on strategic water resources analysis took place February 19 – 20, 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participants discussed and enriched the main building blocks and finalized the roadmap for the second phase of the analysis.

The strategic water resources analysis was initiated following a directive of the Nile Council of Ministers in June 2015, to assess the current and projected future water demand in the Nile Basin and hence support the dialogue among the riparian states on how to address growing water demands in a sustainable manner.

The second phase will focus on refinement of water demands projections, including environmental flows, hydro-economic analysis of tradeoffs between water uses and location and optimization of water allocation efficiency as well as evaluation of strategic options.

Participants also discussed the terms of reference for hydro-economic analysis, projection of future water demands for municipal and industrial uses as well as irrigation benchmarking and projection of future irrigation water demands.

The work on dam cascade coordinated operation, one of the building blocks currently undertaken together

with ENTRO was also reviewed. The Experts agreed to extend the analytic work on dam cascade operation to the Nile Equatorial Lakes sub-basins (Lake Victoria to White Nile).

The Secretariat completed the first phase of the analysis in June 2016, focusing on water demand, water use and water availability as well as preliminary projection of water demands based on water resources plans by the Member States.

The main components of the strategic water resources analysis are: collaborative water demand and water supply assessment; hydro-economic analysis of tradeoffs between water uses and allocations and optimization of water allocation efficiency; as well as generation of strategic options for reducing any projected water shortfall. These options will cover infrastructure and water resources management measures that can be implemented individually by NBI Member States or through regional investment and basin management plans.

Modathir Zaroug
Regional Water Resources Modeler
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

East African Universities to operationalise the Nile Basin Decision Support System



Eng. Innocent Ntabana (R) and Prof. Mike Kuria (L) during the signing ceremony

The NBI Secretariat and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) have agreed to operationalise the Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB DSS) in East African countries. A key step towards enforcing the campaign was the signing of a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding by the Executive Director of the Secretariat, Eng. Innocent Ntabana and the IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Mike Kuria on February 27, 2018 at the IUCEA offices in Kampala.

The NB DSS is a set of analytical and scenario evaluation tools jointly developed by NBI and the Member States to help them better understand the River Nile system so as to make informed water resources planning decisions to ensure optimal use of the Basin's shared water resources and to address common challenges. Find out more about the tool: <http://bit.ly/2I9klhN>

The Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework of cooperation and understanding to facilitate collaboration between NBI and IUCEA to further their shared goals and objectives relating to the enhancement of understanding and research in

management and utilisation of shared water resources in the Nile Basin.

Specifically the two institutions will collaborate to;

1. Strengthen the capacity of universities and departments that engage in water resources management and utilisation.
2. Promote and strengthen the harmonisation of studies and research in water resources management and utilisation in the universities and NBI.
3. Conduct joint studies with universities and implement appropriate water scarcity responses.
4. Organise workshops, seminars, symposia and training programmes for enhancing the capacity of leaders in water resources management and utilisation.
5. Carry out the process of resource mapping at participating universities and research centres including human resources and physical infrastructure.
6. Support review of Bachelors, Masters and PhD, curricula for water resources management and utilisation; environment management and law courses at participating universities.

University students also have the opportunity to apply the NB DSS in their final academic research.

A 3-year master plan outlining the key milestones for the operationalisation of the Decision Support System (NB DSS) will be developed. The Secretariat is scheduled to present the NB DSS in a number of fora such as the curriculum benchmarking workshop, forum on quality assurance in teaching tools, subject cluster meetings and the annual forum for vice chancellors.

Sowed Wamala

Information Systems Specialist

Nile-SEC, Entebbe

New knowledge products to support evidence-based decision making released

The Nile Basin region is a land of increasing population and rapidly changing land-use patterns; changes that have profound local, regional and global environmental significance. In addition, the Nile cuts across diverse climatic zones with its sources in the humid regions and encountering arid conditions as it flows downstream across the arid regions in the desert of Sudan and Egypt with changes in annual and seasonal flows.

To achieve sustainable utilisation and management of water resources in a region which is undergoing rapid changes in its economic development and ecosystems demands for a dynamic and credible information base that provides a transboundary synthesis of on-going processes in the region.

As part of its aim to promote evidence-based decision making, NBI recently prepared two knowledge products in form of bulletins namely; 'Monitoring the Nile Basin using Satellite Observations' and 'Climate Change Prediction', respectively.

Monitoring the Nile Basin Using Satellite Observations

is a quarterly bulletin which aims at providing a shared understanding of spatial distribution of seasonal patterns of some of the components of the water cycle such as rainfall and actual evapotranspiration in the Nile sub-basins in 2017 in comparison to historical long term averages and seasonal anomalies. The bulletin also includes changes in water levels for some of the large lakes in the Nile Basin region such as Lake Victoria, Lake Kyoga and Lake Tana. These basin monitoring bulletins will be prepared every quarter.

Estimates of water cycle parameters provide insights on available opportunities for water use, water conservation and thereby enhance water resources management.

Climate Change Predictions Bulletins were prepared for each NBI Member State with the aim of providing an understanding of the geographical distribution of climate change risks and what a global average temperature rise of 1.5 and 2 degrees means for the Nile Basin countries.

Each bulletin presents an analysis of historical and projected temperature and rainfall changes in each Member State. In particular, the bulletins present results on the historical spatial trend of rainfall and temperature, timing of global mean warming of 1.5 and 2.0 degrees over pre-industrial temperatures, ranking



Each bulletin presents an analysis of historical and projected temperature and rainfall changes in each Member State.

of models from the wettest to driest, and from the coldest to hottest for each country and changes in mean annual spatial temperature and precipitation changes over each country.

The NBI Secretariat has planned a series of bulletins from studies in order to answer different scientific

questions such as effect of climate change on rainfall and temperature, effect on water resources, analysis of extreme events, effect of climate change on agriculture, land cover change and seasonal prediction applications.

Understanding effects of climate change on water resources in the Nile Basin will equip water managers and planners in managing current and developing future water resources projects.

You can access these knowledge products from <http://nileis.nilebasin.org/>



Climate bulletins per NBI Member State

Milly Mbuliro
GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Managing wetlands in the Nile Basin

Wetlands occur extensively across the Nile Basin and support the livelihoods of millions of people. They represent at least four percent of the total area. More than 70 major wetlands of relevance for the Nile system have been identified by the NBI Member States and these are ‘concentrated’ in two major areas: the Equatorial Lakes region and the Sudd area in South Sudan.

Currently, 17 Nile Basin wetlands are designated as “Ramsar wetlands of international importance”,

providing wintering grounds for migratory birds and important biodiversity hot spots as well as other ecosystem services for the population. Despite their importance, there are big gaps in the knowledge about the current status of these ecosystems and how populations in the Nile Basin use them. **Elizabeth Agiro, Media Relations Expert** at the NBI Secretariat had a chat with two colleagues working on the Transboundary Wetlands Project within NBI’s Basin-wide programme about the organisation’s plans to manage wetlands in the Nile Basin region.



Juan Carlos Sanchez

1. What is your role in NBI’s Transboundary Wetlands Project?

I work for the German Development Cooperation – GIZ. I serve as an external advisor to the NBI Transboundary Wetlands Project on issues, which range from developing and updating basin and sub-basin specific data and information on transboundary wetlands within the Nile Basin to establishing and supporting cooperation mechanisms between countries sharing these critical ecosystems.

2. The Nile Basin is experiencing tremendous urban development, which impacts on the health of wetlands. How can we achieve a balance between wetland conservation and socio-economic development?

Within the wetland community, we work very close to the term ‘wise use’. In fact, our objective is to ensure ‘wise use’ of transboundary wetlands, which was and still is a pioneering term of the Ramsar Convention signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. Wise use of wetlands refers to the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development. Now, where and how to start implementing approaches for achieving wise use of these critical ecosystems depends on a multiplicity of factors ranging from the socio-economic relevance of the wetland, geographic location as well as protection status among others.

Understanding the balance between conservation and development is at the core of our current project; which

aims towards a regional dialogue on mainstreaming biodiversity into sector planning and wetlands into river basin planning. Also, there is a need to share national success stories for regional replication and scaling up, a role which we can support.

3. What other threats are wetlands in the Nile Basin facing and how can NBI support countries to manage these threats?

Wetlands are some of the most important ecosystems in the Nile Basin and in the rest of the world. They provide critical ecosystem services that are indispensable to human beings and biodiversity's survival.

Nevertheless, wetlands in the Basin are rapidly degrading. Multiple developments and pressures alter their adaptive capacity and threaten the overall resilience of the Basin's hydrological system. Rapid population growth, urbanization and economic development (under a business as usual model) are among the most significant pressure on water resources in the Basin. The Nile Basin countries have some of the highest population growth rates in the world. The majority of the population still resides in rural areas, their livelihoods heavily depending on the provision and services of wetlands. As demands on wetlands is a base to support this growth, the threats to wetlands include large-scale conversion, drainage, land-use changes, pollution through municipal and industrial effluents, agriculture, overfishing and water related infrastructure development. Consequently, the Nile Basin is losing its rich biodiversity, decreasing buffering capacity, which will lead to an increase in flooding and raising sediment loads.

Increasing pollution from agriculture, municipal waste and sewage, but also poor management practices and deforestation in upper parts of the Basin are also major threats to wetlands in the Basin.

How to address these challenges, without compromising the countries' development paths remains a key question.

4. What are the major challenges to wetlands management?

Understanding the value of wetlands for people and mainstreaming those values among the Nile Basin citizens.

In the Nile region, wetlands perform crucial basin-wide functions, including providing food, water, livelihood sources, improving water quality, providing resilience against drought and flooding, and sustaining biodiversity. Many of these benefits – such as water quality and biodiversity – do not only reach the populations living near them, but also produce positive effects for communities in the Basin that live well outside the wetland area.

We also have to better understand the high level of interdependence and positive transboundary effects of wetlands well beyond national borders, and the urgent need to protect them. This should be a matter of regional and international interest, which demands an integral perspective on the benefits and opportunities that these ecosystems present – efforts which are being spearheaded by the Nile Basin Initiative in tandem with the country partners.

5. What positive examples of wetland conservation can we learn from?

Within the region there are many examples of good practices that are taking place and which we should learn from if we want to achieve sustainable wise use of wetlands. Here are just some few examples, which I can think of. However, we have to remind ourselves that there are many more.

Economic Valuations of Wetland and Biodiversity Ecosystem Services: More and more we are starting to understand the monetary and non-monetary values of the different ecosystem services from wetlands. An economic valuation tool that is envisaged will enable policy makers to take the best and most rational course of action, based on a full-picture understanding of the net gains of sustainability as opposed to the potential costs of sacrificing wetlands' ecosystem services. This approach will also enable civil society to learn

more about the importance of wetlands and to hold authorities accountable. *Water Allocation Planning*: In the Mara Transboundary River Basin, we are witnessing how working and coordinating across national borders for conservation of wetlands is possible. Both Kenya and Tanzania are part of the process of allocating the available water resources, which includes providing a 'water reserve' or 'environmental flow' for the river and for the wetlands. The development of a 'Transboundary Water Allocation Plan' that will facilitate this process is under way.

Environmental Flows (Strategy for Management of Environmental Flows in the Nile Basin): Very few international organizations have developed their joint environmental flows strategy to guide party members in the difficult, political and technical affair of setting aside sufficient water in quantity and quality for freshwater and wetlands ecosystems. This is of course to the benefit of human livelihoods depending of the wetlands.

Therefore, positive change is coming around in the Nile Basin and it is our task and responsibility to capitalize on the good practices in our region and mainstream them across the Nile Basin.



Leonard O. Akwany

1. Briefly talk about your role at the NBI Secretariat

My designation is Regional Wetlands Expert within the Nile Basin Transboundary Wetlands Project. My role involves working on the sustainability of Nile Basin transboundary wetlands and wetlands of regional significance for the benefit of Nile Basin citizens and nature. Thus pushing for environmental sustainability agenda as captured in NBI's 10-year Strategy (2017-2027), which aims at ensuring that environment, biodiversity, wetlands and other water-related ecosystems are protected and conserved for the continued sustainability of the River Nile. This is done in collaboration with state actors and non-state actors.

2. For better understanding, explain what wetlands are and why they are so important in the overall scheme of river basin management?

The Ramsar definition of wetlands will suffice; "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water, the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters." Examples of wetlands in the Nile Basin Region include; Sudd Wetlands in South Sudan, Mara Wetlands in Kenya and Tanzania, Peatlands in Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo, Sio-Siteko Wetlands in Kenya and Uganda, Burullus Wetland in Egypt, Kagera Wetlands Complex in Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda.

Nile Basin wetlands and other water related ecosystems are very critical for the River Nile and dependent communities in numerous ways; biodiversity conservation, supply of water, storage of carbon, floods buffering, source of livelihoods and food among others.

We need to understand that wetlands are both source and consumer of water, hence need to ensure their water requirements as they guarantee basal flow of water in the River Nile for numerous benefits. Thus wetlands are an integral part of Nile River system and river basin planning and management must ensure their sustainability. Water related infrastructure development such as multi-purpose dams and hydropower plants must mitigate interruption of water requirements of wetlands and associated biodiversity. Water flow or flooding regime is the heartbeat of wetlands and downstream livelihoods and any engineering intervention must not be blind to this.

3. What is NBI doing to improve the status of wetlands in the Nile Basin?

NBI is working with state and non-state actors to deliver on the sustainability of transboundary wetlands and wetlands of regional significance. These wetlands require cooperation of more than one state or non-state actor for full protection and conservation so as to offer benefits to the people as well as nature. Among other things, NBI ensures there are collaborative platforms or agreements for joint protection of the wetlands, building knowledge base to inform wetlands planning and

conservation, developing multi-stakeholders wetlands integrated plans for informed investment on wetlands conservation and developing the capacity of state and non-state actors for protection and conservation of wetlands. All these are fundamental to mainstreaming wetlands into development planning and for respective countries to meet their obligations under the Ramsar Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity.

4. What can we as individuals do to protect our wetlands?

Protection and conservation of wetlands requires both individual and collective efforts to ensure their sustainability. Governments, private sector, civil society and communities must green their value chain or activities and offer stewardship for wetlands conservation. The ongoing governance devolution and co-management in Nile Basin countries as epitomized by quasi natural resources governance legal entities such as Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs), Beach Management Units (BMUs), Marine Park Associations (MPAs), Community Forest Associations (CFAs) must be empowered to offer local stewardship for livelihoods and wetlands ecosystem conservation. So interventions such as wetlands habitat restoration, wetlands conservation education and awareness, greening of our wetlands-dependent livelihoods and monitoring of wetlands through citizen science will help in the protection of our wetlands for human and nature benefits.

NBI co-trains on Decision Support Systems and Water Diplomacy



Workshop participants and trainers in Istanbul, Turkey

The NBI Secretariat took part as co-trainer in a workshop on Decision Support Systems and Water Diplomacy organized by UNESCO-IHE Delft – The Netherlands. The objective of the workshop was to enhance capacity on combined use of Decision Support Systems and Water Diplomacy techniques in addressing water conflicts.

The Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB DSS), a tool for water resources planning and management, was selected to be used during the workshop, which took place March 25 – 29, 2018 in Istanbul - Turkey.

The NB DSS provides a suite of models, analytical and scenario evaluation tools to support complex water resources decisions. It was developed by Nile Basin states through the NBI. It serves as their joint tool to help them better understand the River Nile system

The Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB DSS), a tool for water resources planning and management, was selected to be used during the workshop, which took place March 25 - 29, 2018 in Istanbul - Turkey.

so as to make informed water resources planning decisions to ensure optimal use of the Basin's shared water resources and to address common challenges.

The workshop combined introduction of theoretical concepts on Decision Support Systems and water diplomacy, the potential for their combined usage as well as demonstration of the NB DSS. A case study prepared by the NBI was used in a role play exercise to demonstrate how decision tools such as the NB DSS facilitate negotiations on water.

The training was attended by participants from Jordan, Yemen, Iraq, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Morocco, Tunisia and Mexico.

The training workshop was organized within the CONNECT project of IHE Delft, under its DUPC2 Programme supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Find out more about the NB DSS: <http://bit.ly/2I9klhN>

Modathir Zaroug
Regional Water Resources Modeler
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

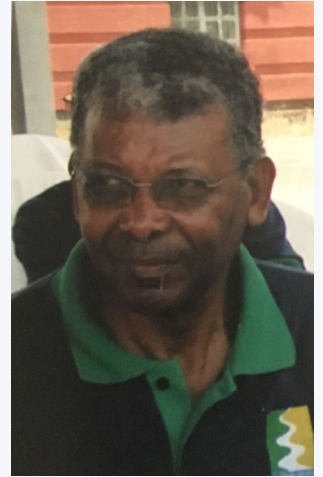
Tribute to our fallen colleagues



Eng. Widad Mutwakil Saadalla



Dr. Solomon Abate



Dr. Tadelle Gebreselassie

We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our departed colleagues, **Eng. Widad Mutwakil Saadalla, Dr. Solomon Abate** and **Dr. Tadelle Gebreselassie.**

Eng. Widad passed away on March 31, 2018. She was the NBI Desk Officer for Sudan, the Ministry of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity. Eng. Widad will be remembered for her hard work, dedication and passion towards realising Nile Cooperation.

Dr. Abate passed away on March 5, 2018. He was the Coordinator of the Eastern Nile Watershed Management Project at NBI's Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) where he worked from, 2005 to 2015. He was one of NBI's long-serving professionals who left a remarkable legacy towards protecting the watersheds of the Nile Basin.

Dr. Tadelle who passed away on February 25, 2018 headed the four-year (July 2005 to June 2009) Efficient Water Use for Agricultural Production (EWUAP) Project under the Shared Vision Programme. The project, which was based in Nairobi - Kenya, became a precursor to the Regional Agricultural Trade and Productivity (RATP) project and several follow-on agri-water models.

Eng. Widad, Dr. Abate and Dr. Tadelle will all be greatly missed by the entire NBI family and beyond, for their valued service.

May their souls rest in eternal peace!

WHAT'S ON? April - June, 2018

Dates	Activity	Venue
April 4-5	Regional Rusumo Falls Hydropower Power Project Steering Committee Meeting	Rusumo site
April 9-10	Power Interconnection Project - Ministers and Permanent Secretaries meeting	Nairobi
April 10-11	Kabuyanda Water Development Project, ESIA/RAP Stakeholders' Workshop	Entebbe, Uganda
April 10 - 12	LEAF II: Workshop to review the draft Thematic Plans for the Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Basin Management Plan	Gisenyi, Rwanda
April 12	Catchment Management Planning Manual Consultative Workshop	Entebbe, Uganda
April 13	NELTAC Meeting	Entebbe, Uganda
April 19 - 22	Scenario construction workshop as part of Strategic Analysis	Entebbe
April 24 - 27	LEAF II: Workshop to review and adopt Bilateral Agreement and Legislative Template for Harmonization of the Lakes Edward and Albert fisheries and aquaculture policies and legislation	Goma, DRC
May 2	NCORE-CIWA Implementation Mission	Nairobi, Kenya
May 3 - 4	NELIP Development Consultative Workshop	Nairobi, Kenya
May 2 - 11	LEAF II: Receive and evaluate best Technical Proposals for preparation of Semliki, Nkusi and Muzizi Catchment Management Plans	Kigali, Rwanda
May 2 - 11	LEAF II: Receive and evaluate best Technical Proposals for Cage aquaculture potential assessment and Fish breeding area identification	Kigali, Rwanda
May 28 - 31	LEAF II: Hand over mobile water quality laboratory vehicles and equipment to DR Congo and Uganda	Bunia (DR Congo) and Fort Portal (Uganda)
May	Catchment Management Practitioners' Manual Implementation Kick-off Workshop	Nyagatare, Rwanda
May 28-June 1	Resource Mobilization visit to WB Headquarters with NELCOM & NELTAC Chair	Washington DC, USA
June 4 - 8	Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project Coordination/Steering Committee Meeting	Ngara, Tanzania
June 11-14	NYIMUR PROJECT: Donors Round table	Kampala, Uganda
June 19-20	3 rd joint RPSC meeting for LEAF II Project	Entebbe, Uganda
June 27-28	Wetlands Regional Working Group & Forum meeting	Entebbe
July 4-6	26 th Nile-COM and 50 th Nile-TAC Meetings	Bujumbura, Burundi
Date TBD	State of Basin Report inception Workshop	Entebbe
Date TBD	Workshop of Experts working group on River flow forecasting	Entebbe



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NBI MEMBER STATES



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DR Congo



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Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



South Sudan



The Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda

NBI SHARED VISION OBJECTIVE

To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources.



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