

# NileNews

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## Member States agree on timely financial obligations to NBI



Outgoing Nile-COM chair, H.E. Dr Seleshi Bekele (L) receives an appreciation plaque from the incoming chair, Hon. Dr Deo-Guide Rurema . Looking on in the centre is the Deputy Executive Director of Nile-SEC, Dr Abdulkarim Seid.

**N**ile Basin Initiative Member States recently recommitted to meet their annual obligations in a timely manner so as to support NBI in meeting its core costs. This was during the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) meeting held in Bujumbura, Burundi on August 13, 2018.

“Member States committed themselves to clear within the shortest possible time.” “We need to feed the cow in order to get milk. If we don’t feed the cow, we will lose both the cow and the milk,”

**>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

**DID**  
you know?

Peatlands, a type of wetlands found in the Nile Basin region, store more carbon than all other vegetation types in the world combined

Find out more: [http://nileis.nilebasin.org/system/files/The%20Nile%20Basin%20Water%20Resources%20Atlas-Chapter%202\\_0.pdf](http://nileis.nilebasin.org/system/files/The%20Nile%20Basin%20Water%20Resources%20Atlas-Chapter%202_0.pdf)

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**M**any great things have happened since our last update. The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) meeting was successfully concluded in August 2018.

The meeting hosted by the government of Burundi in Bujumbura witnessed changes in the political leadership and management of NBI, with Burundi's Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. Dr Deo-Guide Rurema becoming the chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers and Eng Renilde Ndayishimiye, Director General of Burundian Geographic Institute assuming the position of chairperson of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC).

The changes are in keeping with the NBI tradition of annually rotating the position of chairperson of both the Nile-COM and Nile-TAC among Member States.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Nile-COM meeting agreed on how to institutionalise and regularise the Nile Basin Heads of State Summit, after the first meeting hosted by Uganda in June 2017. The Heads of State Summit is a platform that NBI will utilise to promote development in the Nile Basin.

After weeks of preparatory work, I am happy to announce that the Nile-COM accepted almost all requests for approval presented by the Secretariat,

including strategic documents as well as the annual work plan and budget for 2018/19. Read on to find out more about these.

In order to ensure the sustainability of NBI so as to continue providing the basin-wide platform for joint management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and related resources, Member States with outstanding arrears made firm commitment to clear a substantial part.

Find out about other exciting activities held during the quarter and those that are upcoming during this financial year. Key among them is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NBI, which will coincide with Nile Day commemorated annually on February 22. This is a major milestone and as such offers an opportunity for both reflection on the successes and challenges of the last 20 years of Nile cooperation as well as consolidation of Member States' commitment to the Basin cooperation agenda laid out in NBI's 10-Year Strategy. We will keep you updated on the preparations.

Last but not least, I would like to sincerely thank you all for your valued support and cooperation!

Best wishes

**Eng Innocent Ntabana**

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Burundi's Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Dr Deo-Guide Rurema, who assumed the position of chairman of the Nile-COM during the meeting, succeeding H.E. Dr Seleshi Bekele, Ethiopia's Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity.

The Republic of Burundi succeeded the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia as chairman of the Nile-COM and will be at the political leadership of the organisation for the next one year. The change in leadership is in keeping with the NBI tradition of annually rotating this position among Member States.

Speaking during a press conference held at the close of the meeting, Dr Rurema said the Ministers also agreed on how to institutionalise and regularise the Nile Basin Heads of State Summit, after the first meeting hosted by Uganda in June 2017. He noted that "the Heads of State Summit is a platform that NBI will utilise to promote the Nile Basin development agenda.

The Nile-COM offered strategic guidance and direction on key issues aimed at encouraging Member States to jointly address their common challenges including water scarcity, food and energy insecurity and climate change as well as institutional matters of the NBI including its financial sustainability.



L-R: Nile-TAC chair, Eng Ndayishimiye, Nile-COM chair Hon. Dr Rurema and Deputy Executive Director of Nile-SEC, Dr Seid during the 25<sup>th</sup> Nile-COM meeting



A cross section of the delegates



Ministers and other high level delegates take a photo with the Vice President of Tanzania, H.E Joseph Butore (centre in blue tie)



In addition, the Ministers approved the NBI Financing Strategy 2017 – 2022 and the Resource Mobilisation Action Plan 2017 – 2022, both of which are to enable NBI raise more funds for core costs, programme work as well as implementation of regional investment projects. Also approved was the Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2018 – 2023.

The Nile-COM meeting is an annual gathering of the Ministers in charge of Water Affairs from each of the NBI Member States. This year's meeting was officially

opened by Burundi's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, H.E. Joseph Butore. It was attended by ministers from Burundi, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda while DR Congo, Egypt, Sudan and Tanzania were represented by high level government officials. Kenya and Rwanda did not participate. Others who attended were Members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee, Management staff of NBI as well as representatives of development partners and civil society.



Nile Basin Solidarity Culrural group entertains delegates during the opening ceremony

**Elizabeth Agiro**  
Media Relations Expert  
Nile-SEC, ENTEBBE

# Nile Basin countries in joint preparation of State of the River Nile Basin Report 2018

Experts from the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Member States met recently in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as part of a process to develop a common understanding of the health of the Nile Basin, identify opportunities and agree on collective actions to address emerging challenges. The process, which will include consultations with relevant stakeholders at both regional and national level, as well as review, validation and finalisation workshops, will result in the State of the River Nile Basin Report 2018.

This report is a key resource for joint monitoring and management of the health of the River Nile and associated natural resources. It will as such inform decision making and provide a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of the past policies.

Participants who included members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee as well as experts on environment and water from the Member States, spent two days from August 18 – 19, 2018 to further refine and enrich the sets of proposed indicators for monitoring and reporting on the state of the Nile Basin, under each of the themes addressed by the 2018 Report. The issues are; Water Security, Energy Security, Food Security and Agricultural Development, Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Transboundary Water Governance.

Participants also took time to ensure well represented ‘authenticated’ facts and figures about the Nile Basin countries, synergy and compatibility of indicators with the relevant regional programs as well as Member States’ reporting requirements and expectations are incorporated. Participants also discussed the communication and stakeholder engagement approach to support the development and dissemination of the report.

Preparation of the State of the River Nile Basin Report 2018, the second to be published by NBI, is with support



Representatives from NBI Member States during the consultation workshop.

**The report is a key resource for joint monitoring and management of the health of the River Nile and associated natural resources. It will as such inform decision making and provide a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of the past policies.**

from GIZ, on behalf of the European Union and the German Federal Government.

The inaugural report was published in 2012 and provides information on the general health of the Nile Basin, the River Nile and its tributaries and raises awareness on the biophysical, socio-cultural and economic conditions within the Basin. It also highlights development hot spots and hope spots and emphasises that cooperation amongst the Nile Basin States is crucial for solving the Basin’s multiple environmental and socio-economic challenges as well as achieving sustainable development basin wide.

Read the State of the River Nile Basin Report 2012: <http://sob.nilebasin.org/>

**Jane K. Baitwa**

**Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe**

# Burundi hosts golden jubilee meeting of the Nile-TAC



Nile-TAC members during the meeting



L-R: Dr Abdulkarim Seid, Eng Teshome, Eng Ndayishimiye

The 50<sup>th</sup> Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) meeting was hosted by the government of Burundi in Bujumbura on August 12, 2018. The objective of the meeting was to assess progress in implementation of the institutional as well as the Secretariat's 5-year Basin Wide Programme and to provide guidance on how to move forward.

Highlights in the progress report presented by the Secretariat were major events that took place during the period July 2017 to June 2018, a case in point being the successful execution of the 5<sup>th</sup> Nile Basin Development Forum, a high level regional event held every three years. The Forum was held in October 2017 in Rwanda. The other was the annual Regional Nile Day 2018 held on February 22, in Tanzania.

Other updates included Global Environment Facility approval of USD 6.0M for a regional project on enhancing conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources in selected transboundary aquifers as well as recruitment of new staff to fill positions in line with the new management structure for the Secretariat.

Management expressed concern over the financial situation of NBI, resulting from delays or non-remittance of country contributions by Member States thus affecting the smooth operation of the institution. This is not to mention constraints in mobilising external funding due to objections by Egypt, which suspended participation in NBI activities in 2010.

Regarding the way forward, the meeting recommended for approval by the Nile Council of Ministers, the Secretariat's work plan and budget for the financial year 2018/2019 as well as the Concept Note on how to institutionalise and regularise the Nile Basin Heads of State Summit.

Also recommended for approval were strategic documents key to the successful implementation of the 10-year Strategy and the 5-year Basin Wide Programme namely; the Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2018 – 2023 and the Financing Strategy and Resource Mobilization Action Plan (2017-2022) whose ambition is to raise more funds for core costs, programme work as well as implementation of investment projects of regional significance.

During the meeting, the Republic of Burundi succeeded the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia as chairperson of Nile-TAC. Eng Renilde Ndayishimiye, is the current chairperson of the Nile-TAC for the next one year, replacing Eng Atnafie Guyo Teshome. The change in leadership is in line with the NBI's tradition of annually rotating this position among Member States.

**Tom Waako**  
Programme Officer  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe



# Wetlands Economic Valuation Study to inform Nile Basin wetlands conservation



Eng Ntabana delivers his opening remarks. Seated next to him is Dr Juan Carlos Sanchez, a GIZ official

The Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat successfully held its first Wetlands Valuation Expert Panel workshop from September 4-5, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya to initiate a platform for dialogue, communication and information-sharing on wetland ecosystem valuation, and refine the focus and methodology of the Nile Basin Wetlands TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) study.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is a global initiative focused on “making nature’s values visible”. Its principal objective is to mainstream the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making at all levels. It proposes a structured approach to valuation that helps decision-makers recognise the wide range of benefits provided by ecosystems and biodiversity, demonstrate their values in economic terms and, where appropriate, capture those values in decision-making.

The NBI Secretariat Executive Director, Eng. Innocent Ntabana, opened the meeting by recalling the importance of water related ecosystems and their significance in overall water resource management. He however deplored the fact that so far little has been done to assess the economic value of these ecosystems as a way to build a case for their conservation. He cited, among other constraints, the lack of data and explained that aim of the TEEB study is to fill this gap and to serve as a model for Nile Basin states to follow and use in advocating for ecosystem conservation.

“Ecosystem protection in the Nile Basin is not given the importance it deserves. Do we as communities give value to our ecosystems? Do we have the necessary information to give ecosystems economic value?”

Eng. Ntabana asked.



A cross section of participants during the workshop

Leonard Akwany, NBI Regional Wetlands Expert, underlined the contribution of wetland ecosystem services to the facilities and services that societies and economies require to survive, grow and prosper.

NBI has a programme of work looking at wetlands as green infrastructure, and identifying nature/ecosystem-based infrastructure, climate adaptation and disaster-risk reduction solutions in the Nile Basin. The TEEB study can play an important role in strengthening river basin planning by helping to make the case for, and promote investment in, wetlands as green water infrastructure i.e. mobilise financing, incentives and other support for wetland conservation and wise use.

The workshop ended with a great deal of excitement about the on-the-ground case studies to be carried out in key Nile Basin wetland sites.

More than 40 participants drawn from government agencies, non-governmental organisations, research institutes and universities in Nile Basin states attended the workshop. The experts represented a wide range of disciplines, including economists, biologists, ecologists, hydrologists, engineers and social scientists. Partner organisations such as IUCN, Wetlands International, Conservation International and UN Environment were also represented during the workshop.

The project on conserving biodiversity in the Nile Basin Transboundary Wetlands is funded with support from GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under the International Climate Initiative (ICI).

**Elizabeth Agiro**  
Media Relations Expert  
Nile-SEC, ENTEBBE



# Water hyacinth - a challenge to communities and ecosystem around Lake Tana

Eastern Nile Journalists exposed to transboundary risks of the challenges



A total of 19 journalists from the Eastern Nile region recently participated in a one-week media training workshop organised by NBI's Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) in collaboration with GIZ and Media in Cooperation and Transition (MiCT), on the shores of Lake Tana in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. The purpose of workshop, which was held with funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, was to engage and inform journalists from the Basin on current debates and challenges surrounding environmental issues in the Nile Basin in general, and the Eastern Nile region in particular as well as strengthen their multi-media reporting capacities.

The training held from August 14-17, 2018 on the shores of Lake Tana focused on the challenges to the lake resources and in particular the alarming spread of the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia Crassipes*) discovered on the lake in 2012, by biologist Dr Ayalew Wondie.

Lake Tana with a surface area of 3600sq. kms is of immense national, regional and international significance level and has been recognized as UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2015. Besides being the source of Ethiopia's most important transboundary river, the

Abbay (Blue Nile), Lake Tana is also the source of local livelihood and economy as well as of spiritual, cultural, historical and identity significance. The Lake and its environs accounts for 28-30 fish species and 106 species of sub-basin birds, 50 of which are wintering birds. It is also endowed with 37 islands of extremely varying sizes, 20 of which have been preserved, as well as churches or monasteries.

Among the potential impacts of the water hyacinth is excluding most light and air for submerged organisms, significant reduction of aquatic bio-diversity and increased evapo-transpiration.

The journalists had the opportunity to visit communities on the shores of Lake Tana, so as to collect affected people's experiences in coping with the environmental challenges. Information gathered from the workshop will be used to generate stories to be published in media outlets across the Nile Basin so as to inform a wide readership including decision-makers, on the environmental challenges and opportunities along Lake Tana. This is in addition to feeding into the fourth issue of 'The Niles' newspaper under the theme: "Environmental Challenges of the Eastern Nile".



Journalists from Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan as well as representatives from NBI and GIZ, who participated in the workshop

According to Dr Ayalew Wondie, Associate professor at Bahir Dar University, measures so far employed to control the spread of this invasive alien species with a high rate of proliferation potentially doubling its biomass in two weeks include “manual, biological, harvesting machines as well as use values (feed, bio-diesel)”. He noted that lack of institutional arrangement is one of the major limiting factors for effective intervention. “Lake Tana is everybody’s property, which practically means nobody’s property”, added Goraw Goshu a PhD candidate also from Bahir Dar University.

### The Basin-wide environmental challenge

A significant percentage of the Gross Domestic Product of Nile Basin States is derived from environmental services. These, however have come under significant pressure from rapid population and economic growth leading to increased alteration of the hydrology of the River Nile. Ecosystems are continuously degraded as more and more of them are converted for agriculture. Wetlands that are vital for maintaining the hydrology of many rivers are severely degraded. On the other hand, the continuous changes in flow patterns of many rivers are leading to serious degradation of wetlands that are fed by these rivers. As a result, ecosystem services on which the livelihoods of millions of basin inhabitants depend are rapidly declining. These changes unless abated on time can lead to irreversible damages to the Nile Basin environment – the very basis for livelihoods of millions of people. Other environmental concerns in the Nile Basin region, are declining water quality, deforestation, land degradation and loss of critical aquatic habitats and biodiversity as well as high sediment load in the river system with impact on dams and reservoir operation.

### NBI generated solutions options

As the only basin-wide platform, NBI is mandated to initiate and implement measures that complement national efforts to address these transboundary challenges. NBI provides a transboundary mechanism for joint policy making, capacity strengthening and ensuring water resources investment in the Basin follows the highest environmental standards. Among other things, NBI has developed a suite of regional policies, strategies and guidelines to provide a common vision for the protection and preservation of the common environmental resources. These include the [Environmental and Social Policy](#), [Wetlands Management Strategy](#), [Climate Change Strategy](#) and [Strategy for Management of Environmental Flows](#) in the Nile Basin. This is in addition to publishing, on a regular basis, the State of the River Nile Basin report.

Going forward and as clearly spelt out in its 10-year Strategy (2017 – 2027), NBI will be carrying out environmental flow assessments for critical river and lake ecosystems and assisting Member States in establishing and operating a strategic network of water quality monitoring stations on the Nile River system. This is in addition to conducting diagnostic studies and preparing inventories to promote the wise use and sustainable management of wetlands of transboundary significance.

**Jane K. Baitwa**

**Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe**

# Nile Basin States to adopt standard Environmental Flow processes

The River Nile supports diverse ecosystems and biodiversity on which the livelihoods of millions of people depend. The pressure on the Nile Basin is increasing due to increased demand for water, food and energy. Substantial increase in investments on water infrastructure is expected in the entire Nile Basin in the coming few decades, which has sizable potential to alter the flow regimes and characteristics in most parts of the Basin. Unless timely efforts are made to ensure Environmental Flows (E-Flows), which is the ‘minimum’ amount of water that is left in or released into a river, wetland or coastal zone for the specific purpose of managing the ecosystems, the risk of causing irreversible damage to them and associated biodiversity is considerably high. E-flows also need to be firmly anchored in water resources development planning and practically implemented,

Environmental flows are important for the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystems services provided by the river to sustain the human livelihoods that depend on these services. Reliable assessment of the bare ‘minimum’ amount of water in the River Nile is a key element not only in planning and use of the water resources to improve human well-being but also in ensuring the good health and continued flow of the River as well as sustain the environmental services, which are a source of livelihood for millions of Nile Basin inhabitants.

International best practices underscore that water allocation and environmental flow assessments ecological objectives should be contextual and oriented towards critical habitat conditions. Environmental flow should ensure maintenance, functionality and sustainability of ecosystems and their associated economic, social and cultural services.

As part of the Nile Basin Sustainability Framework (NBSF), which is a suite of policies, strategies and guidance documents for integrated water resource management and development across the Nile Basin states, NBI developed a robust [Environmental Flows Management Strategy and Framework \(2016\)](#) and is currently pursuing a package of interventions to strengthen water and related natural resources management basin-wide. These include strategic water resources analyses, State of the River Nile Basin report, integrated wetlands management, among others, where E-Flows have a central standing.

The Nile Basin Environmental Flows Regional Working Group met recently in Nairobi - Kenya for two days to build regional capacities and competencies on E-Flows assessment; review the Nile Basin environmental flows assessment sites, scope and limitations; as well as discuss and consider the universally acknowledged PROBFLO approach data requirements and availability. This is in addition to agreeing on expected outcomes of the study, limitations and opportunities. Furthermore, the workshop aimed at orientation and consensus building for the case studies as well as agreement on the way forward and use of outcomes of the study.

It is anticipated that the findings and outputs of this Study will not only promote environmental flows management at all hydrologic levels, strengthen the technical as well as institutional capacities of Nile Basin states, and establish E-Flows for the key transboundary ecosystems basin-wide but will also appropriately incorporate environmental aspects and elements into the Nile water resources planning and development.

**Mohsen Alrabway (PhD)**

**Senior Water and related resources Policy Specialist**

**Nil-SEC Entebbe**



# Stakeholders identify needs for River Flow Forecasting in the Nile Basin



**R**epresentatives from the hydro-meteorological agencies, members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee from the NBI Member States and staff of NBI met recently in a ‘Needs Requirement Workshop for River Flow Forecasting in the Nile Basin’. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance the relevance of the Nile Basin river flow forecasting systems through improved understanding of users’ needs/requirements.

The Nile Basin River Flow Forecasting System (NB-RFFS) will provide relevant information to planners and water resources decision makers for various purposes such as reservoir operation for hydropower, irrigation planning, water allocation to different users in complex catchments and decisions on cropping patterns for the upcoming growing season. The information can also be used to, prevent unnecessary releases from water storage facilities thereby conserving water, improving safety of water infrastructure and downstream riparian populations (due to unusually high flows) as well as providing opportunities to extract water during local flow peaks.

Development of the Nile Basin River Flow Forecasting System will undergo three phases, namely the preparatory phase until January 2019, development phase until the end of 2019 and last but not least, the operational phase. The release of the model for testing is planned for June 2019.

Involving the future users in the design of the forecast system from the very beginning will contribute towards the long term sustainability of the proposed forecasting system.

The two-day workshop held from September 8 – 9, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya was organised by the NBI Secretariat with financial support from the World Bank under Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA).

**Dr. Modathir Zaroug**  
Regional Water Resources Modeler  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

# Nile Basin States to celebrate 20 years of togetherness

The year 2019 will be an exciting one for Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Member States as they come together to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of their unprecedented institution, jointly established on February 22, 1999 to provide a platform to discuss how best to collectively take care of and use the shared Nile Basin water and related resources to maximise win-win benefits and minimise risks and costs.

This is a major and unique milestone in the history of Nile cooperation, bearing in mind that earlier initiatives specifically Hydromet from 1967 – 1992, UNDUGU from 1983 – 1992 and TECCONILE from 1993 – 1999 were faced with lack of inclusivity and a Shared Vision Objective.

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which will be celebrated with several activities will provide Nile Basin citizens and friends of the Nile the opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges of the first 20 years of NBI and for Member States to re-affirm their commitment to the Basin cooperation agenda laid out in NBI's [10-Year Strategy \(2017 – 2027\)](#).

Among the successes, it is gratifying to note that the first 20 years of NBI have resulted in higher levels of trust and confidence among the Member States, strengthened capacity and created an environment for active data and information sharing. In addition, Member States have come together in unprecedented ways to prioritise, plan and implement regionally-significant investment projects worth more than USD 6 billion. These projects are proving to be transformative in terms of energy,

**Fortunately, all NBI Member States recognise that non-cooperation is undesirable and unlikely and have reiterated their commitment to Nile Cooperation as the only way to achieve effective sustainable management and development of the Basin's shared water and related resources.**

food and water security, improving lives of millions of Nile Basin citizens.

The challenges on the other hand range from legal, institutional to non-participation of Egypt, sustaining and consolidating the gains as well as financial resources for core costs, programme work and implementation of investment projects of regional significance.

Fortunately, all NBI Member States recognise that non-cooperation is undesirable and unlikely and have reiterated their commitment to Nile Cooperation as the only way to achieve effective sustainable management and development of the Basin's shared water and related resources.

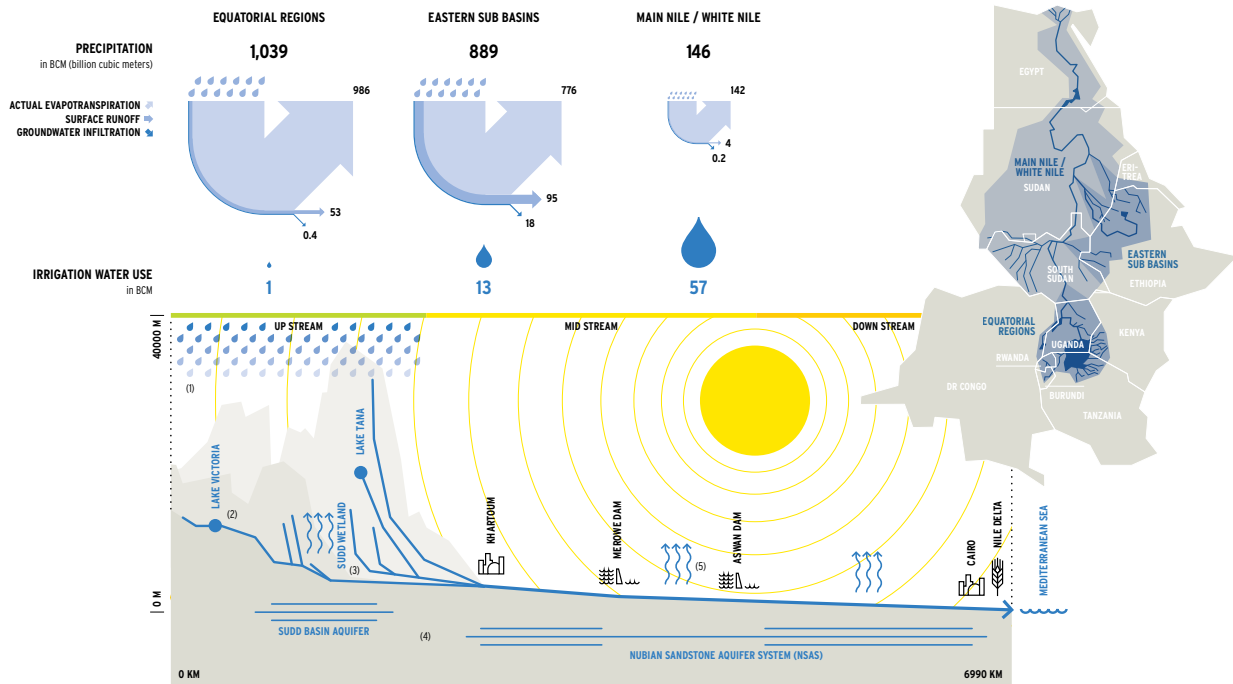
For regular updates on the upcoming celebrations and the year long campaign follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**Jane K. Baitwa**

**Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe**

# Understanding the Nile:

## Where Is The River Coming From, Where Does It Go



### (1) WATER TOWERS

Specific regions in the Nile Basin generate most of the Nile water flow. These high-altitude areas experience heavy rainfall and lower temperatures. The main water towers within the Nile Basin are the Ethiopian Highlands, Mt. Elgon, Mt. Rwenzori and the Albertine Rift.

### (2) LAKES

The Nile Basin has numerous lakes which play an essential role in regulating the flow of Nile water. Major lakes like Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, Lake Tana and Lake Kyoga significantly influence the outflow due to storage and regulation.

### (3) SUDD WETLAND

The Sudd is one of the most extensive wetlands in Africa. It plays a significant role in minimising seasonal flow variations of the White Nile - it reduces flows due to high evapotranspiration, limits floods during the wet season and supports flow during the dry season.

### (4) GROUNDWATER

The Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (NSAS) is the largest transboundary groundwater resource in the Nile Basin region. Aquifers across the basin are highly heterogeneous, ranging from shallow local ones (actively replenished by rainfall), to deep regional systems.

### (5) EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

Evapotranspiration is one of the major components of the water balance over the Nile Basin, accounting for about 87 per cent of the Basin's rainfall. It however varies from one sub-basin to another based on land use/cover and the prevailing climatic conditions.



# Announcing new publications

The NBI has continued to publish and disseminate its communication and knowledge products in order to bridge the knowledge gap among its stakeholders and to promote evidence based decision making. The Secretariat is pleased to announce its three latest knowledge products.

## The Nile Basin Wetlands Forum reports

The Nile Basin Wetlands Forum is a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform established by the NBI in 2016 for the purpose of mobilising and coordinating state and non-state actors to take appropriate action to protect and conserve wetlands of transboundary significance in the Nile River Basin.

The First Forum was held in Uganda in July 2016 while the second one took place in Rwanda in October 23-25, 2017. Besides serving as an inauguration of the Nile Basin Wetlands Forum, the first Forum was used to launch the Nile Basin transboundary wetlands project titled “Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Ecosystem Services of Wetlands of Transboundary Relevance in the Nile Basin”. Deliberations covered status of wetlands in Nile Basin countries, visioning of Nile Basin Wetlands Forum, mainstreaming wetlands in river basin investments development, transboundary wetlands planning and innovative wetlands conservation approaches.



## Monitoring the Nile Basin Using Satellite Observations Bulletin

This is a quarterly bulletin whose aim is to provide 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 basin sub-basins using satellite data observations.

This April-June 2018 issue provides an analysis of rainfall and actual evapotranspiration in the 10 major sub-basins and an analysis of water levels in some of the large lakes as well as spatial variation of soil moisture and runoff.

The Bulletin also includes a seasonal analysis of the wet season (March-April-May) for the Nile Equatorial Lakes region in comparison to the long term average.

Data used in this Bulletin is available upon request.

Similar analysis for smaller catchments of interest can be performed for you by the NBI upon request by sending an email to [mmbuliro@nilebasin.org](mailto:mmbuliro@nilebasin.org)

These and over 1800 technical reports have been published on the Nile Information System (<http://nileis.nilebasin.org/>), a web based platform.

**Juliet Nakassaga**

Librarian/Knowledge Management Officer

Nile-SEC, Entebbe

## WHAT'S ON? October - December, 2018

Dates	Activity	Venue
Oct 16 - 19	LEAF Project Joint Permanent Commission (D R Congo/Uganda)	Kampala
Oct 16-19	LEAF Bilateral Fisheries Regulation signing of agreement	Kampala
Oct 17 - 19	Climate change - Climate Services for Infrastructure workshop	Entebbe
Oct 26 - 30	NCORE CIWA/WB Implementation support mission to NELSAP	Nairobi
Nov 19	NELSAP Strategic Plan dissemination Workshop	Dar es Salaam
Nov 20	NELTAC Sub Committees Meetings	Dar es Salaam
Nov 21	29 <sup>th</sup> NELTAC Meeting	Dar es Salaam
Nov 22	21 <sup>st</sup> NELCOM Meeting	Dar es Salaam
Nov	Training in Hydro diplomacy in six NBI Member States	Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda
Nov	Inter-sector Coordination meetings in six NBI Member States	Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda
Dec 4- 5	State of the River Nile Basin Report 2018 finalization workshop	To be decided
Dec 6 - 7, 2018	Environmental flows validation workshop	To be decided
Dec 2018	Wetlands Baseline Study inception workshop	To be decided



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### NBI MEMBER STATES



Burundi



DR Congo



Egypt



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



South Sudan



The Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda

### NBI SHARED VISION OBJECTIVE

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



NILE-SEC  
**NILE BASIN INITIATIVE**  
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

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Want to know more about NBI?



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