

NileNews

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Establishment of the Regional Nile Basin Hydromet System in the offing

At least 53 hydrological monitoring stations in Nile Basin countries targeted



Capacity of National staff will be further developed in river flow measurements, sediment monitoring, water quality sampling, among others.

Establishment of the Regional Nile Basin Hydromet System will provide real time data on river flows, water levels, water quality and sediment transport as well as reservoir/lake levels, will soon be underway. This follows funding of approximately USD 5.85 million mobilised by NBI under the ‘European Union-BMZ Nile Basin Transboundary Water Cooperation Project’.

The Regional Nile Basin Hydromet System Design was approved by the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) in 2015. It is part

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DID
you know?

There are 17 Ramsar sites in the Nile Basin
Find out more: <http://atlas.nilebasin.org/treatise/wetlands-in-the-nile-basin/>

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This June issue coincides with the end of our financial year and as such, one of the key activities during the quarter has been preparing the work plan and budget for the new financial year, July 2018 – June 2019. The work plan and budget will be presented to our governance during the upcoming annual meeting.

This issue also happens to be my last opportunity to address you through our quarterly Nile News, as my two-year tenure as Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat will come to an end on August 31, 2018.

I feel highly privileged to have served this unprecedented organisation, which provides the only basin-wide platform for cooperative management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and related resources.

Allow me to highlight some of the key milestones since I joined the Secretariat in September 2016. These include the approval by governance of the NBI 10-year Strategy for the period 2017 – 2027. The Strategy whose implementation is under way through the three NBI Centres' specific 5-year strategic plans, provides clear linkages between the key development goals of water, energy, food and environment and focusses on win-win harnessing of these natural resources.

Other key strategy documents developed include the overarching NBI Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2018 – 2023; the NBI Financing

Strategy 2017-2022 and the Resource Mobilisation Action Plan 2017-2022.

In order to enhance leadership stability and strengthen programme integration and coordination as well as reinforce planning and monitoring, the Nile Council of Ministers approved a new management structure for the Secretariat that introduced the position of Deputy Executive Director/Head of the Basin Wide Programme.

Through enormous efforts exerted by Management with support from our governance, we secured a total of USD 30.26 million from our development partners, towards implementation of NBI's programme so as to contribute to better livelihoods in the Nile Basin. This includes USD 14.85 million from the European Union and the German government for the 'Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin Project', USD 415,395 from the German Government Foreign Office for the Hydro-Diplomacy Project and USD 275,897 from the German Government Ministry of Environment for the project on, 'Enhancing Climate Services for Infrastructure. Other money received is USD 8.5 million from the World Bank for the Nile Cooperation for Results (NCORE) project, USD 220,000 from the French Development Agency and USD 6.0 million from Global Environment Facility for a regional project on enhancing conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources in selected transboundary aquifers.

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Regarding financial support from Member States and in terms of country contributions, Nile-SEC had by 30th June 2018 received USD 1.3 million out of the expected USD 3.1 million (USD 1.3 million for the financial year 2016/2017 and USD 1.8 million for 2017/2018). This shortfall has seriously affected the effectiveness of the Secretariat, which situation could put our organisation in a dire financial situation if the arrears are not paid.

The Secretariat continued to support efforts by Member States aimed at bringing back Egypt to participate in NBI activities. These efforts culminated in the first ever Nile Basin Heads of State Summit, convened and hosted by the Government of Uganda in June, 2017. Among other things, the Summit succeeded in bringing to the highest political level important issues surrounding Nile cooperation. It provided the Heads of State the opportunity to jointly appreciate progress made in Nile Cooperation and to provide policy and strategic guidance on how the cooperation can be enhanced so as to promote socio-economic growth in the Nile Basin States.

In October, 2017 we held the 5th Nile Basin Development Forum, one of our key high-level regional events that brings together various stakeholders to dialogue on Nile

cooperation and Nile Basin issues. The successful three-day Forum was held under the overall theme: 'Investing in Nile Cooperation for a Water Secure Future.' More than 400 delegates participated in the Forum and also witnessed the award giving ceremony of 12 journalists recognised for excellent reporting on Nile cooperation issues. The event was hosted by the Government of Rwanda and sponsored by the German government, World Bank and Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA).

In order to enhance coordination and avoid duplication of resources in similar regional interventions, we identified Strategic Partners with whom we have established or plan to establish MoUs. These strategic partners include the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Nile Basin Discourse, East African Community/Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa, Inter University Council for East Africa as well as International Water Management Institute.

As I come towards the end of my tenure, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government of Rwanda and the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) for the trust and confidence entrusted in me as well as the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) for the technical support and guidance. I would also like to thank all the staff of NBI for the great team work and all partners for your ongoing relationship with NBI. All this has abundantly enabled the remarkable progress over the period.

Best wishes!

Eng Innocent Ntabana

Establishment of Regional Nile Basin Hydromet System...

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of NBI's efforts to support collaborative Nile water resources planning, management and development.

The Regional Nile Basin Hydromet System promotes knowledge-based water resources planning; supports efficient water resources management and contributes to harnessing water resources potentials. It further contributes to creating viable socio-economic development opportunities and enhances capacity to achieve environmental sustainability.

At least 53 hydrological monitoring stations in the NBI Member States will be rehabilitated, installed, and commissioned during the period 2018 – 2021.

Besides taking the lead in the implementation, NBI will provide the technical support and capacity development needed for each Member State. It will also avail international, regional and national experts and contractors to support the rehabilitation/establishment of stations, data management systems, as well as capacity building.

Together with the Regional Hydromet Expert Working Group, NBI will undertake the following main tasks:

- ▶ **Put in place project execution setup:** define roles and responsibilities and develop collaboration arrangements (under existing MoU) with Lake Victoria Basin Commission for synergising basin monitoring.
- ▶ **Finalise the Hydromet implementation approach:** the concept and procedure for deploying the Hydromet Facility, implementation modalities for each Member State; training needs, procedure for making data available by each Member State (in line with the Interim Procedure for Data Sharing and Exchange), etc. As required, carry out consultation visits to countries to determine priorities/interests and identification of key issues.
- ▶ **Prepare updated design specifications and tender documents:** update baseline information on national hydrological stations; update design specifications, tender documents, schedule for implementation and the associated cost estimates; define the regional database management system (data processing workflow, quality control and quality assurance fundamentally in line with the implementation of the NBI Integrated Knowledge Portal); and develop a handbook of the Nile Basin regional hydromet system.



Traditional Stations will be equipped with state of the art technologies and modern data loggers



Rehabilitation and renovation of existing stations will ensure protection against vandalism and unauthorised access

- ▶ **Prepare agreed detailed specifications of information products**, principles for common basin monitoring information products, principles on data standards, etc.
- ▶ **Form and organise the NBI Basin Monitoring Forum**: to agree on implementation approach/procedure, final specifications of equipment and tender documents for each country, equipment procurement, custom clearance, storage, implementation arrangements, etc.
- ▶ **Initiate the procurement process (through a framework contract)**: the vendors will provide the equipment in accordance with the request for each country for installation and commissioning.

Intensive consultations, engagement and involvement of the key national actors and stakeholders will be consistently ensured throughout the entire process to guarantee countries' ownership and capacity to operate and maintain the hydrometric network, undertake field work and administer national as well as regional data management systems.

The NBI supported its Member States to develop the concept, detailed design specifications and a phased implementation plan for the Regional Nile Basin Hydromet System during 2014-2016.

Design of the Regional Hydromet System is based on the following facts and criteria:

- ▶ Assessment of existing national networks and technological as well as institutional development needs.

The NBI supported its Member States to develop the concept, detailed design specifications and a phased implementation plan for the Regional Nile Basin Hydromet System during 2014-2016.

- ▶ Maximum use of and compatibility with existing network; connected to regional data management system. Data acquisition and transmission using satellite based secure technology.
- ▶ Enhancing collaborative monitoring of the Nile Basin and ensuring long-term sustainability.
- ▶ Flexible implementation setup and capacity development integral to the implementation process.
- ▶ Making available to Member States information products generated from shared and validated data from the basin-wide hydro-meteorological system.

Elizabeth Agiro

Media Relations Expert

Nile-SEC, Entebbe

&

Mohsen Alarabawy (PhD)

River Basin Management Specialist - Water Policy Expert

Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Improving resilience of water infrastructure projects in the face of climate change



Following the launch of the project on enhancing Climate Services for Infrastructure in 2017, the Secretariat has embarked on implementing the different activities under the project. One such activity is the forum held recently with the aim of developing the capacity of key actors on climate services for infrastructure investments and infrastructure risk assessment; awareness raising and taking stock of existing climate services and their institutional structures, as well as their use in the Nile Basin context.

This is in addition to facilitating networking between providers (NMHS) and users (infrastructure owners, operators, designers and planners) of climate services to instigate debate about how to increase climate resilience of water related infrastructures in the Nile Basin; as well as discussion of future cooperation in the context of the climate services for infrastructure investment project.

Forum participants drawn from the Nile Basin countries generated input to an ongoing baseline assessment on available climate information and its use to improve water infrastructure projects in the face of climate change. This information is crucial for developing a

capacity-building process that will allow countries to better streamline climate change data into regional planning processes.

Participants noted that there is limited capacity and experience with regard to climate risk assessment of water related infrastructure. Also noted was that the water storage infrastructure and the services they provide should be climate proofed in order to get sustainable water services.

The Forum called for increased dialogue between engineers or operators and climate scientists, in order to make climate information more easily available, accessible and relevant to its users, and ensure its integration into the planning and operation of infrastructure projects.

Moving forward, NBI and its partners will facilitate the implementation of two climate risk assessments for infrastructure projects in the Basin, in order to generate best practice examples among Member States, which will guide NBI in its further support to Member States on issues surrounding climate change.

The aim of the USD 585,000 project funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) is to enable decision-makers and their technical support structures in the NBI to use Climate Services in planning and climate risk assessment of infrastructure investment. Two major activities will be carried out through the project; namely; climate risk assessment of selected planned or existing water infrastructure in the Nile Equatorial Lakes and the Eastern Nile region as well as the development of climate proofing guidelines to be used by NBI Member States.

NBI has a long-standing record of supporting its Member States in preparing for and dealing with the effects of climate change, both through its Secretariat as well as its investment programmes (ENSAP AND

The Forum called for increased dialogue between engineers or operators and climate scientists, in order to make climate information more easily available, accessible and relevant to its users, and ensure its integration into the planning and operation of infrastructure projects.

NELSAP). For more information, please view the basin-wide Climate Change Strategy: <https://bit.ly/2jvKoFB>

The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety provided funding for the activity under the International Climate Initiative, while the World Bank offered support through the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) programme.

Following the Forum was a half day workshop on the 'State of Knowledge Assessment on Climate Change Projections over the Nile Basin countries and the impact on hydrology'. The workshop was the first building block towards a Nile Basin Climate Change Forum, which will reinforce the entire process.

Among other things, the workshop provided participants with the opportunity to share the state of climate change knowledge and evidence of their countries.

Michael Girma Menker

Senior Regional Climate Advisor to NBI

GIZ - Kampala

&

Modathir Zaroug

Regional Water Resources Modeler

Nile-SEC, Entebbe

All aboard the Nile Basin! Why only collective action will enable us to reach our destination



You need to get home but the bus keeps breaking down. If all passengers on the bus combine efforts and push, they can successfully reach their destination – safe and sound. However, instead, some prefer to remain on board and not contribute to the collective effort. Eventually those pushing become exhausted and the destination is not reached. The bus is left abandoned by the side of the road. No destination and a broken bus – and confused passengers.

Now imagine that instead everyone agrees to contribute their energies for a collective cause. Definitely, they will be able to jointly work out the best route to reduce their combined efforts and they will ensure a garage is reached to fix the engine. Quickly the bus is up and running again and they continue their commutes day after day, prospering from an efficient and reliable

transport service. Life goes on and everyone benefits and recognises it.

Now turn the bus into the Nile Basin and its ecosystems, a source of livelihoods for over 250 million people in the 11 riparian countries, but now facing enormous challenges of different natures. The passengers are the Nile countries sharing the Basin, traversing ecological and hydrological boundaries characterised by diversity. We all in principle benefit from this shared system, but we are concerned about flooding, wetland degradation, climate change, water pollution, drought, food insecurity and unreliable access to electricity. We need to ensure the Basin keeps on delivering the services we need for our common health, wealth and growth. As pressure on the system rises, a major breakdown would be a catastrophe for all people sharing this key resource. Our task as ‘basin passengers’ on this long journey is to

figure out how to care for and nurture the system that has a great potential to provide multiple benefits at many different levels for all peoples and countries sharing this Basin. But the potential needs to be transformed into tangible benefits that reach wider levels of societies.

If, say, the 10 Nile Basin Initiative Member States each decided to work disconnected of their neighbours' plans, as the system starts to break down, soon we will face the realisation that only genuine collective approaches will help us continue to reach our respective destinations – the many services and securities provided by this shared resource. The Nile Basin Initiative, an intergovernmental cooperative platform established on February 22, 1999, provides such a collective umbrella – a 'passenger union' if you will – with the capacity to enable countries sharing the Basin to cooperate in identifying and carrying out joint approaches.

The NBI Strategy – the focus of the collective effort - identifies six strategic priorities to emphasise in the coming 10 years (2017 - 2027). 1) Enhancing availability and sustainable management of the transboundary Nile water resources; 2) Enhancing hydropower development

The Nile Basin Initiative, an intergovernmental cooperative platform established on February 22, 1999, provides such a collective umbrella

and increasing interconnectivity of electric grids and power trade in the Basin; 3) Introducing and promoting, through analytical work, an approach that examines and proposes options for addressing the water-food nexus; 4) Conducting diagnostic studies and preparing inventories to promote the wise use and sustainable management of wetlands of transboundary significance; 5) Improving Basin resilience to climate change impacts; 6) Addressing the issue of transboundary water governance.

Our Strategy is central to ensuring that we – the passengers sharing this key resource – continue to work collectively and treat the Nile Basin as a shared resource that will help all of us reach our destination and achieve our goals – together!



Wetlands in the Nile Basin are a major source of livelihood for the fishing communities

Eng Innocent Ntabana
Executive Director
NBI Secretariat

More national stakeholders to be engaged on Nile Cooperation issues



Silas Mutia, a Desk Officer from Kenya contributes during the workshop

The NBI Secretariat held a two-day workshop on stakeholder mapping exercise for National Desk Officers and interns from Member States from May 29-30, 2018 in Entebbe, Uganda.

The objective of the workshop was to orient Desk Officers and interns to the stakeholders mapping exercise and tools in order to allow participants have a better understanding of the stakeholder mapping exercise and data collection form with the aim of creating and maintaining a database of NBI stakeholders in each of the Member States. This is as part of efforts by the Secretariat to facilitate in-country stakeholder engagement so as to enhance awareness of Nile cooperation and Nile Basin issues.

The workshop was presided over by the Deputy Executive Director who is also the Head of the Basin wide programme, Dr Abdulkarim Seid. He reiterated the need for NBI to conduct the mapping exercise in order to identify and address the needs of stakeholders

at national level in particular. He emphasised the need to regularly update the database.

In his presentation, Dr Seid gave an overview of the NBI and its programmes to enable the participants have a common understanding. He highlighted NBI's Governance structure, the core functions of the organisation, its Strategy for the next 10 years (2017 – 2027), the Basin-wide programme 2017-2022 and the political track.

The results from the national stakeholder mapping exercise will contribute to the successful implementation of the over arching NBI Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy for the period 2018 – 2023.

Elizabeth Agiro
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NBI's Regional Dam Safety Coordinator elected at the International Commission on Large Dams



Eng Michael Abebe

Eng Michael Abebe, Regional Dam Safety Coordinator at NBI's Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) in Addis Ababa, was recently elected Vice President of the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD), for the next three years. Besides new ideas he put forth at the Assembly held in Vienna, Austria, to promote Africa's dam development activity, Eng. Abebe's election is in recognition of his efforts in the promotion of responsible development of dams, particularly in Africa.

Eng Abebe is also the current Chairman of the Ethiopian Committee on Large Dams (ETCOLD).

As a member of ICOLD/Ethiopian chapter, Eng. Abebe had been promoting dam safety and coordinated cascade operation within the Eastern Nile, even before he joined ENTRO.

Eng Abebe has succeeded in persuading ICOLD to adopt ENTRO-prepared 'Dam Safety Reference Guideline for Eastern Nile' as a working document, as well as the 'Dam Safety Training Modules'.

Eng Abebe has succeeded in persuading ICOLD to adopt ENTRO-prepared 'Dam Safety Reference Guideline' as a working document (ICOLD Bulletin). ICOLD is reviewing the said ENTRO Document. Currently he is promoting coordination of the operation of cascade dams in the Eastern Nile, a priority task for all Eastern Nile countries, their disagreements over the Cooperative Framework Agreement notwithstanding.

ICOLD is a 90-year old technical non-governmental International Organisation, which provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in dam engineering. It is based in Paris, France with membership of 100 countries.

Wubalem Fekade (PhD)

Head of Social Development and Communication Unit

ENTRO - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

GIZ and NBI sign implementation agreements for three projects

The GIZ Country Director for Uganda, Mr Christian Schnurre and the NBI Executive Director, Eng Innocent Ntabana on June 12, 2018 signed an implementation agreement to enable the implementation of three projects.

These include the USD 7 million Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Ecosystem Services of Wetlands of Transboundary Relevance in the Nile Basin; ‘Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin, worth USD 14.85 million (from the European Union and German government) as well as the Euro 0.5 million project on ‘Enhancing Climate Services for Infrastructure Investments.



L-R: Eng Ntabana, Mr Schnurre, Dr Malte Grossmann (GIZ representative) and Dr Abdulkarim Seid (Deputy ED, NBI Secretariat) during the signing ceremony held at the NBI Secretariat

Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Nile Basin Initiative to enhance cooperation



Dr Matano (left) receives a copy of the Nile Basin Resources Atlas from Eng Ntabana.

The Executive Secretary of Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Dr Ali Said Matano, recently visited the NBI Secretariat to discuss how the two institutions can collaborate on the management and development of the Lake Victoria Basin. The latter is a sub-basin of the River Nile Basin.

Dr Matano and the Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, Eng Innocent Ntabana, agreed to fast track the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and the joint collaboration plan between the two institutions. They also agreed on immediate areas for collaboration including implementation of the Regional Hydromet plan; preparation of the River Nile State of Basin report as well as application of the Nile Basin Decision Support System.

Among other things, the purpose of the LVBC-NBI Cooperation is to prevent a fragmented approach to regional water resources management and reduce overlaps and duplication of water resources management and development interventions in the region. This is with the goal to “improve socio-economic conditions and enhance protection and conservation of aquatic ecosystems in the Lake Victoria and River Nile Basins”.

By Jane K. Baitwa

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WHAT'S ON? July - Sept, 2018

Dates	Activity	Venue
2 - 7 July	2 nd Regional Wetlands Experts Group Meeting	Entebbe
11 - 13 August	26 th Nile-COM and 50 th Nile-TAC Meetings	Bujumbura
18 - 19 August	State of the River Nile Basin Report 2018	Addis Ababa
26 - 31 August	World Water Week (Consultations with Development Partners)	Stockholm
4 - 5 Sept	First Wetlands Valuation Panel of Experts Workshop	Nairobi
6 - 7 Sept	Environmental Flows Experts Working Group	Nairobi
8-9 Sept	Experts working group on River flow forecasting Workshop	Entebbe
18 - 20 Sept	Climate change - Climate Services for Infrastructure workshop	Entebbe



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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.



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