



NileNews

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Nile Day 2017

A celebration of the shared water resource



A brass band-led procession of participants of various ages and stature waved flags of 10 Nile basin Initiative Member States as they weaved their way from the Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, through streets teeming with curious onlookers, until they arrived at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre.

Here, they were entertained by a cultural troupe of dancing men and women, performers on stilts and thundering drums in commemoration of the annual Nile Day event. The regional event was organised by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and Tanzania's Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

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DID
you know?

NBI helps Member States better understand and manage changes in the River Nile, including floods and droughts.

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Welcome back to a new year with the Nile Basin Initiative!

We started off 2017 with preparations leading up to the celebration of the birth of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), an event held annually on 22 February. Those of you who participated will agree with me that it was an awesome occasion. A lot of credit goes to Tanzania's Ministry of Water and Irrigation and in particular the National Organizing Committee for organizing such a colorful event. Among other things, the event and its coverage in the major media outlets no doubt enhanced awareness of NBI and Nile Basin issues among stakeholders and the general public in Tanzania in particular.

Besides the celebrations, the Secretariat was engaged in a number of other activities. Key among them is that we facilitated the process led by NBI's governing body to engage Egypt to resume full participation in NBI's activities. This process culminated into an extra-ordinary Nile Council of Ministers meeting, which took place on 27 March, 2017 in Entebbe, Uganda.

Before the end of March, we witnessed the historic groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the 80MW Regional Rusumo Falls hydro-electric power plant coordinated by one of NBI's investment arms, the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit.

In a bid to fundraise for NBI's program of work, we continued engagement with different donors. To this end, we received funding of Euro 3.5 million from Germany through GIZ and BMZ for four years. This is in addition to a pledge of Euro 10 million from the European Union for a five-year project support and additional funding of USD 8.5 million from the World Bank, for the Nile Cooperation for Results (NCORE) Project.

As part of efforts to promote the use of science-evidence-based information in basin planning, decision making and joint management to ensure resource sustainability and better productivity, NBI has embarked on the process to develop the second edition of the State of the River Nile Basin report. This edition will focus on six thematic areas namely; water security, livelihoods and food security, energy access and security. Others are the Nile Basin environment as well as transboundary governance and climate change.

Going forward, the process of developing NBI's overarching 10-year Strategy is nearing completion,

with national consultations underway to ensure that Member States' priorities and needs are well addressed and that the Strategy is well understood and owned by all stakeholders. The Strategy focusses on six goals: Enhancing availability and sustainable management of trans-boundary water resources of the Nile Basin; Increasing hydropower development and power trade; Improving food security across the basin; Protecting and restoring of water related ecosystems across the basin; Improving basin resilience to climate change impacts as well as Strengthening trans boundary water governance in the Nile Basin.

At the same time, we are developing center specific Strategic Plans. Our aim is to have both the overarching 10-year NBI Strategy and the five-year Strategic Plan for the Secretariat launched during the annual Nile Council of Ministers meeting in July this year.

Let me also inform you about two key major regional events that we organize every two years. Nile Basin Development Forum, the 5th in a series and Nile Media Awards 2017 will take place in October in Kigali. I sincerely hope that you will spare time to participate in these very informative and interesting events.

I look forward to continued engagement with all our partners during this year.

Wishing you good reading!

Innocent Ntabana (Eng.)

On arrival at the international conference centre, the guest of honour, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, officially opened the celebrations with a tradition of planting trees at the host venue. She was followed by Ministers of Water Affairs from the NBI Member States each planting a tree as well.

Nile Day, which is held annually, is a day that commemorates the establishment of the NBI on 22 February, 1999. It provides an opportunity to increase awareness about the benefits of basin-wide Nile Cooperation in mutually looking after and utilising the shared Nile Basin water and related resources.

Addressing the celebrants, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, noted that cooperation in managing the shared Nile Basin water resources is one of the key elements that need to be in place in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal Number Six on Water.

H.E. Suluhu commended the choice of theme ‘Our Shared Nile – Source of Energy, Food and Water for All’ saying that it augured well with the current conditions in the Nile Basin countries.

“The theme provides us yet with another opportunity to highlight the importance of our River Nile in the quest for food, water and energy security in the Basin. This theme is timely and relevant given the prevailing drought conditions affecting most of the Nile Basin countries where hydropower, food and water availability has been drastically affected. There is no doubt that collaboration and cooperation is the best approach for managing our precious water resources as we cope with the prevailing drought conditions.”

She added that water, by its nature, is not bound by man-made boundaries, which should be reason for countries to cooperate and commended NBI’s efforts in spearheading collaborative efforts of the Nile Basin countries.

The Chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, also Uganda’s Minister of Water and Environment, stated that before NBI’s formation, riparian countries were pursuing social economic developments based on unilateral aspirations on shared water resources.



H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan plants a tree

“Today, thanks to this regional platform, there is a paradigm shift to more holistic planning, with countries realising that there is more to gain in cooperative development than unilateral efforts.”

Hon. Cheptoris called on the NBI Member States to work together towards sustainable basin-wide cooperation to ensure that the water, energy and food security that are inextricably linked are sustainably developed in the Basin through the countries’ deliberate collective actions.

On his part, the NBI Secretariat Executive Director, Eng. Innocent Ntabana, said that the close interrelationships between water, energy and food calls for “our balancing of the act of exploitation to ensure sustainability for our future generations”.

This year’s regional event was attended by more than 500 participants who included Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries (Nile Council of Ministers); representatives from NBI Member States embassies and officials from Ministries whose activities touch on the management and development of the shared water resources. Others were Members of Parliament, Development Partners, Researchers, Academia, Civil society, Elders, Youth, Media, school children and the general public.

Elizabeth Agiro
Media Relations Expert
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Nile Basin water ministers meet to facilitate resumption of Egypt's participation in NBI activities



Nile Council of Ministers during the extra-ordinary meeting

The Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM), the supreme policy organ of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) held an extraordinary meeting on 27 March 2017 in Entebbe, Uganda. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate the resumption of Egypt's full participation in NBI activities that had been frozen since 2010, following the signing of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) by six NBI Member States.

The meeting chaired by Hon. Sam Cheptoris, Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment and Chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers received a report on the concerns of Egypt and accordingly responded to those concerns.

Egypt took note of the report on the responses and asked for more time to study, consult and report back to Nile-COM on their formal position. This was agreed upon by all ministers.

The extra-ordinary Nile-COM meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs from Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan and Sudan. The Republic of Kenya was represented by the Principal Secretary for Water and Irrigation, while United Republic of Tanzania was represented by the Deputy High Commissioner to Uganda. DR Congo did not participate.

The meeting was preceded by the extra-ordinary meeting of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee held in preparation for the extra ordinary Nile-COM meeting.



H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan (front row in the center) takes a photo with NBI staff (back row)



L-R: Hon. Sam Cheptoris, Eng. Innocent Ntabana and H.E. Rolf Welberts



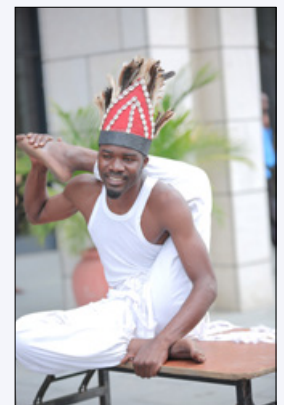
H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan hands over an appreciation plaque to Hon. Prof. Mark Mwandosya, on delivering a keynote speech



H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan and other guests going through the exhibition.



School children were part of the invited guests to the celebrations



Entertaining celebrants



The Nile: A source of energy, food and water for all

*In this article, **Hon. Sam Cheptoris**, Chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers and also Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment, highlights the importance of sustainable Nile cooperation in the quest for food, water and energy security in the Nile Basin.*

River Nile is a transboundary resource shared by 11 countries in the Nile Basin, each with different and, sometimes, conflicting interests. This scarce resource is a source of water, energy and food, all of which are essential to human well-being, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Projections in the Nile Basin region, however, indicate that demand for energy, food and water for domestic and industrial use will increase significantly over the next decades under the pressure of population growth and mobility, economic development, urbanisation and climate change among others. Agriculture in the Nile Basin consumes more water than any other sector and the demand for water for agriculture rises as the demand for feeding the increasing basin population also increases.

At the same time, water is needed for energy generation, particularly for hydro power, which is the preferred source of energy for various reasons; key among them the low production cost, which makes power affordable to the urban and rural poor. On the other hand, energy is needed to produce, transport, treat and distribute water; the more energy we need, the more water we use, and vice versa.

The water, energy and food security nexus reflects the fact that the three sectors are inextricably linked and that actions in one area more often than not have impacts in one or both of the others. This calls for a balancing of the act of exploitation to ensure sustainability for our future generations, for we are, but only stewards of these resources. These linkages have always been present, but as the Nile Basin population races towards 600 million, there is need for more cooperation and conscious stewardship of the Basin's water resources for wise and sustainable use of resources.

In addition to shared challenges in the Nile Basin such as climate change, environmental degradation, rising populations, the countries also share access to mechanisms that can help them to mitigate some of these challenges. One of these is a 10-Member organisation called the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). Members are Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Established in 1999, NBI provides the only basin-wide platform to the Member States to discuss with trust and confidence and understand interests, positions and expectations of individual countries and chart ways forward to ensure the efficient and sustainable management and use

of the Nile Basin's water and related resources. Given the increasing challenges countries face today, this cooperation is paramount and needs support by everybody.

It is under this vision that, on February 22, 2017, NBI Member States gathered in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania to commemorate the establishment of the unprecedented Nile Basin Initiative. The day this year was dedicated to the theme '**Our Shared Nile - Source of Energy, Food and Water for All**', which provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of continued cooperation by the River Nile Basin States in the quest for food, water and energy security in the Nile Basin and to consolidate and build upon previous efforts.

Therefore, as water becomes scarce, and competition is growing between the energy and agricultural sectors, there is need for reliable and policy-relevant data and information to guide water allocation choices. Effective cross-sectoral consultation mechanisms across the NBI Member States are needed to ensure the development of concerted efforts to address this problem as part of an integrated, long-term strategy.

Let us all join hands and work towards sustaining Nile cooperation to ensure sustainable water resources in River Nile Basin for the current and future generation!

Rusumo Falls hydroelectric project finally comes to life



Hon. Prof. Sospeter M. Muhongo Tanzania's Minister of Energy and Minerals breaks the ground for the construction of the dam

The day was Thursday 30 March, 2017. It started off with a heavy downpour but this did not in any way dampen the excitement that engulfed at least 1000 people including 300 invited guests who gathered in Rusumo village – Tanzania (close to the Rwanda-

Tanzania border), to witness the colorful ground breaking ceremony marking the beginning of the construction of the shared Regional Rusumo Falls hydroelectric plant.

After more than 20 years since it was first identified, this was a historic day for the three partner

states of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, their communities, the Nile Basin Initiative as well as friends of the Nile. The project was revived in 2006 when the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU), NBI's investment arm, championed the feasibility studies and undertook resource mobilization up to finance closure. This is in addition to providing a platform for regular dialogue and information exchange, creating an atmosphere of trust and confidence among the three governments and building an enabling environment for joint investments.

The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric power plant will be located on the Kagera River at the border between Rwanda (Southeast) and Tanzania (Northwest) and about 25 kilometers downstream of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania common border point.

“I see this ground breaking ceremony as a significant milestone to our journey towards the production of electricity for our region and a strong sign of cooperation between the East African countries,” said Hon. Prof. Sospeter Muhongo, Tanzania's Minister of Energy and Minerals who was the guest of honor.



Some of the dignitaries who attended the historical event take a group photo



A cross section of members of the community who witnessed the ground breaking ceremony



L-R: Hon. Prof. Sospeter M. Muhongo - Tanzania's Minister of Energy and Minerals, Hon. Côme Manirakiza - Burundi's Minister of Energy and Mines, Hon. James Musoni, Rwanda's Minister of Infrastructure, Eng. Elicad Nyabeeya, Regional Coordinator of NELSAP-CU and Ms. Bella Bird, World Bank representative, during the ground breaking ceremony.

Project benefits

When completed in February 2020, the project will generate 80 megawatts of renewable, clean, relatively low cost power to be shared equally among Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, with each getting an additional 26.6 megawatts directly connected to their respective national grid through the transmission lines. At least 1, 146,000 people will benefit from the additional power. Of these, 5.4% (520,000) will be in Burundi, 4% (467,000) in Rwanda and 0.34% (159,000) in Tanzania.

“The primary beneficiaries of the hydropower plant will be the citizens and business who are the customers of the utilities in Burundi and Rwanda, as well as households in north-western Tanzania who are not currently connected to the grid. We are therefore delighted as the World Bank Group to be associated with this important regional project”, said Ms. Bella Bird, World Bank Country Director for Tanzania, Burundi, Malawi and Somalia.

Besides leading to an increase in economic activity, improved access to renewable clean energy will have positive effects on the environment, while the relatively inexpensive electricity will contribute to foreign exchange savings and improved balance of payments since the power generated will replace imported petroleum products.

At the regional level, the transmission lines will form a ‘backbone system’ that will link the Great Lakes region allowing power exchange with Eastern DR Congo as well as other Nile Equatorial Lakes countries and later to the Southern Africa Power Pool, thus facilitating power trade among Member States and beyond and improving regional power supply reliability.

Other benefits are support to regional and political cooperation, enhancing regional integration, as well as peace and stability among the Nile Equatorial Lakes countries through shared facilities and development of common energy and water policies.

This is in addition to immediate benefits particularly jobs for 500 people as well as improved access roads, to be built during construction.

Funding

The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric power plant and associated transmission lines will cost USD471. Construction of the power plant will cost USD 340 million funded by the World Bank while the transmission lines

will cost USD121 million funded by African Development Bank (AfDB). These include 220kV transmission lines double circuit running 161 km from the power plant to Gitega substation in Burundi, 119km double circuit line from the Power plant to Shango sub-station in Rwanda and 98.2 km double circuit line from the power plant to Nyakanazi sub-station in Tanzania. These transmission lines will be connected to national grids respectively.

Project Ownership and Implementation Agency

The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project is owned by the three countries (Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania) through a Special Purpose Vehicle, the Rusumo Power Company Ltd (RPCL). The countries mandated NELSAP-CU to implement the project on their behalf.

During the operation, the Rusumo Power Company Ltd (RPCL) that owns the power plant will hire a private company to manage and operate the power plant. The three power transmission lines to the respective three countries are coordinated and will be constructed and operated by the three respective national electricity utilities.

Project design

The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project design is a Run-of-River (RoR) Development Scheme with a normal operating water level of 1,320 meters above mean sea level. The Run of River Development Scheme was selected by the governments of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania because it maintains the natural flow of the river and does not significantly modify the natural environment. In addition, it minimizes environmental and social impacts of the project and provides for the least cost implementation for environmental management and resettlement.

Contractors

The project is constructed by two contractors namely: CGCOC Group & JWHC JV from China for Civil Works and ANDRITZ Hydro from Germany/India for Electro-Mechanical works.



Cultural troupes from Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania entertain guests during the ground breaking ceremony

“Rusumo Project is one of the big ones prepared and developed within the NBI cooperation platform and shows actual investment benefits accruing from cooperation on the Nile waters. The project focuses on sharing benefits rather than sharing water, which is a finite resource.”

– Eng. Elicad Elly Nyabeeya, NELSAP-CU Regional Coordinator.

Jane K. Baitwa
Regional Communications Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

National stakeholder consultations on NBI Strategy underway



Stakeholders consultations in Ethiopia

The process to develop the overarching 10 year Strategy and the Nile-SEC Strategic Plan continued with national stakeholder consultations on the draft 10-year Strategy so far held in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan. The aim of the national consultations is to ensure that Member States' priorities and needs are well addressed and that the Strategy is well understood and owned by all stakeholders.

The 10-year Strategy focusses on six goals: Enhancing availability and sustainable management of trans-boundary water resources of the Nile Basin; Increasing hydropower development and power trade; Improving food security across the basin; Protecting and restoring

of water related ecosystems across the basin; Improving basin resilience to climate change impacts as well as Strengthening trans boundary water governance in the Nile Basin.

National stakeholders consultations will continue in the Nile Equatorial Lakes countries before both the overarching 10-year NBI Strategy and the five-year Strategic Plan for the Secretariat are finalized for approval and launch during the annual Nile Council of Ministers meeting in July this year.

Jane K. Baitwa
Regional Communications Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

47th Nile-TAC meeting reviews and approves annual work plan



Nile-TAC members and NBI senior management staff during the meeting

The 47th Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) meeting was held in Dar es Salaam on 23rd February 2017. The meeting reviewed the status of implementation as well as approve the revised annual work plan and budget for the Secretariat. This is in addition to providing strategic guidance and direction going forward.

Also approved was the additional financing of USD 8.5 million from the World Bank for the Nile Cooperation for Results (NCORE) project and preparation of a project proposal on groundwater to be financed through Global Environmental Facility.

Besides the approvals, the meeting considered the different challenges facing NBI, which include inadequate funding for implementation of the NBI program as well as arrears in remittance of country contributions. Related to this is the delay in approval of the proposed Transboundary Water Management Project to be supported by the European Union. Nile-TAC members noted with concern that delivery of the work plan was hinged on this funding.

The 47th Nile-TAC meeting was attended by members from Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda; Management staff of NBI and representatives of GIZ.

By Tom Waako
Program Officer
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Member States undergo training on climate change scenario simulation and analysis of historical hydrologic variability



Participants during the training at the Secretariat

Under its Water Resources Management Program, the NBI Secretariat (Nile-SEC) developed a Nile Basin model with the objective to analyze effects of climate change on projected water availability and water demand in the Nile Basin. Three models; the White Nile Model, Blue Nile and the Egypt model were linked to generate an integrated Nile Basin Model. The analysis was done using the Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB DSS).

Nile-SEC organized a two-day (27-28 March, 2017) regional training for NB DSS national focal team to familiarize them with the model and climate change projections, analysis of water availability and water demand. Further, training was given on analysis of historical hydrologic variability using the NB DSS. The newly developed prototype of wetlands-river system interaction model was also introduced to the participants.

Each Member State was represented by two participants. NBI's investment arms, ENTRO and NELSAP CU also participated in the training, which attracted a total of 21 participants, among them four females.

By Sowed Wamala
Information Systems Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

NBI engages editors in Kampala



Eng. Innocent Ntabana makes a presentation during the meeting

As part of efforts to engage and keep the media informed about the Nile Basin Initiative and Nile cooperation and in turn enhance awareness of these issues among the general public, the NBI Secretariat organized a breakfast meeting with editors from top media houses in Uganda, on March 22, 2017.

The purpose of the meeting that attracted 21 editors was to interact with participants, share key information and get to know the Ugandan media.

Leading the team from the Secretariat, Executive Director Eng. Innocent Ntabana presented the story of the Nile cooperation to the editors. He highlighted the journey of cooperation, which culminated into all Nile Basin countries partnering for the first time to establish the Nile Basin Initiative. He also explained the various



An editor contributes to the discussions

development challenges the countries face and the role of Nile cooperation in addressing some of the challenges. Eng. Ntabana also stressed to the editors what Member States stand to lose if they did not cooperate.

Elizabeth Agiro
Media Relations Expert
Nile-SEC, Entebbe



5th NBDF to focus on a water secure future

The 5th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) is planned to take place from 22 to 25 October, 2017 in Kigali - Rwanda. Preparations leading up to the event are underway, with the call for abstract already out. More than 100 abstracts have so far been received before the deadline of 30 April, 2017.

The 5th NBDF is dedicated to the theme: **Investing in Nile Cooperation for a Water Secure Future.** Participants will discuss how best to deepen trans-boundary cooperation among the Nile Basin countries for a water secure future in a river basin that is facing growing pressures in the midst of climate change impacts. The Forum is organized under the following eight sub-themes:

- ▶ Energy access
- ▶ Financing
- ▶ Food Security
- ▶ Knowledge assets
- ▶ Water Ecosystems
- ▶ Water Governance
- ▶ Water Security
- ▶ Water-Food-Energy

The NBDF is a biennial regional event organized by NBI, intended to provide a platform for science-policy dialogue on cooperative management and development of the shared Nile Basin water resources.



Find out more: <http://nbdn.nilebasin.org/>



Participants contribute to the discussion during the 4th NBDF held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2014

Nile Media Awards 2017 set for October

Following a successful inaugural Nile Media Awards in Dodoma, Tanzania in 2015, the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat is organising another edition, scheduled to take place October 23-25, 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda. This will be during the 5th Nile Basin Development Forum, a biennial high level regional event convened by the NBI in collaboration with its Member States and in partnership with development partners.

The goal of the awards is to promote increased, factual and accurate reporting on Nile cooperation and Nile Basin issues.

As a result of our sustained media engagement, NBI has witnessed increased media coverage of issues surrounding Nile Cooperation and the Nile basin. However, there is still limited knowledge and awareness among the public about these issues. The Nile Media Awards 2017 will therefore recognise and reward excellence in reporting on issues related to Nile Cooperation as well as inspire journalists in the region to report more on these issues.



Enrol and participate in the exciting courses to widen your knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), and Nile Basin issues.

NBI Blended learning entails a mix of face to face as well as e-learning services specifically designed to benefit NBI stakeholder at a least cost and within minimum time bounds.

Journalists from all the 10 NBI Member States namely; Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda are eligible to participate in the awards. News reports and features or documentaries published, broadcast or uploaded between **July 2015** and **June 2017** will be considered.

Entries will be in the following languages; English, French, Arabic, Kiswahili. However, entries in French, Arabic, and Kiswahili should be sent along with a compulsory translation in English.



Look out for the official announcement and future updates from the NBI facebook page (www.facebook.com/NileBasinInitiative), twitter (@nbiweb) and website www.nilebasin.org/mediaawards (effective 15 May 2017)

Elizabeth Agiro,
Media Relations Expert
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Invitation to participate in NBI Blended Learning courses

So far two courses have been designed namely; Induction to NBI and the Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB- DSS) respectively. Induction to NBI is a 15 hour course while the NB-DSS is a 55 hour course. At the end of each of these courses, a certificate is provided.



Get on board: <https://elearn.nilebasin.org>

By Tom Waako
Program Officer
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Development of second State of River Nile Basin Report underway

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) has embarked on a process leading up to the publishing of the second State of the Nile River Basin Report (SOB-2) in June 2018. The first report was published in 2012.

The primary purpose of the report is to enhance shared understanding among riparian countries on the status of the basin, appreciate shared risks and challenges, and also draw riparians' attention to policy instruments and priority strategic actions for adequately addressing and mitigating emerging issues.

The State of the Nile River Basin Report is a monitoring and learning tool that presents **current** status of the Nile Basin with respect to key river basin biophysical and socio-economic aspects, emerging trends and future projections; **challenges** faced by the basin and its inhabitants and that need urgent action as well as **opportunities** that can be harnessed to support basin growth and address the challenges. In this regard, the report will serve the purpose of prioritizing actions for NBI's five year strategic plans.

The State of River Nile Basin report targets decision makers, planners, academia, researchers, civil society organizations, and media, among others.

As part of the process, the NBI (all three centers) met for two days from 30-31 January, 2017 and agreed on six thematic areas. The main theme is water security. The others are livelihoods and food security; energy access and security; Nile Basin environment; transboundary governance and climate change.

The themes are primarily aligned with the goals of the NBI 10-year Strategy (2017 -2027) and in line with national reporting requirements.

NBI Member States will be fully engaged in the entire process through a Regional Working Group.

The State of River Nile Basin report targets decision makers, planners, academia, researchers, civil society organizations, and media, among others.

Mohsen Alarabawy (PhD)

River Basin Management Specialist/Water Policy Expert
Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

Dates	Activity	Venue
April 10 - 11, 2017	Nile Cooperation for Results (NCORE) Project Implementation support Mission by World Bank	Nile-SEC, Entebbe
April 10-14, 2017	CIWA/Kagera RBM: Kabuyanda detailed design review workshop	Kampala, Uganda
April 12, 2017	CIWA/MARA RBM Project: Workshop on development of OI Chorro Lemek SCMP	Narok, Kenya
April 13-14, 2017	CIWA/SMM RBM: Technical Review meeting of detailed design and documentation study reports of Sio-Sango Project.	Bungoma, Kenya
April 20-21, 2017	CIWA/SMM RBM: Stakeholder meeting to review draft final report for middle Malakisi (Toloso) SCMP.	Malaba/Amagoro, Uganda
April 21, 2017	CIWA/MARA RBM Project: Working group to review final report on feasibility study on detailed designs and tender documents for Mara Valley and Ngono WRD Projects	Mwanza, Tanzania
April 27, 2017	Nyimur ESIA Draft Final Report Workshop	Kampala, Uganda
May 6-7, 2017	World Bank supervision mission	Kigali, Rwanda
May 9 - 10, 2017	Kick off workshop of ICI Climate service program	
May 11 - 12, 2017	First Regional Working Group Meeting on the second State of the Basin report	Entebbe, Uganda
May 15, 2017	Official announcement of Nile Media Awards 2017	NBI social media platforms and website
May 16 - 17, 2017	Nile Basin Economists Forum Integrating economics aspects in river basin planning and management, stocktaking and future options	Entebbe
May 29 - 30/31	Joint Work planning meeting of NBI centers on KM and River Flow Forecasting	TBD
May	2 nd Wetlands working group meeting	
May	NBI Strategy National consultations NEL Region	NEL Region
May	Extra Ordinary Nile Council of Ministers Meeting	Entebbe, Uganda
June 28 - 30 (TBC)	Scenario construction workshop	TBD



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NBI MEMBER STATES



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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