

# NileNews

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## Nile Basin Water Ministers address strategic issues to advance Nile Cooperation



Ministers and other dignitaries take a group photo with the guest of honor, the Rt. Hon. Kirunda Kivejinja (fifth from the left).

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda, addressed strategic issues to advance Nile Cooperation as well as offered policy direction with regard to the sustainable management and development of the shared Nile Basin water resources.

Among other things, the ministers discussed the financial sustainability of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and agreed that country contributions will be made in a timely manner to support the operations of NBI. Countries with outstanding arrears

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**DID**  
you know

The daily bulletin issued by ENTRO on flood preparedness and early warning is used by 43 organizations and benefits 350,000 people directly and 1.7 million people indirectly?

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I extend heartfelt greetings to you, our valued partners!

I joined the Secretariat on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 and I am excited and proud to be part of this enthusiastic and dynamic team of professionals that is committed to inspiring a better future for the majority of the people that live in the Nile Basin region.

As some of you might be aware, joining the Secretariat for me is like coming back home, having worked as Regional Manager for one of NBI's projects, the Regional Agricultural Trade and Productivity (RATP) project from 2008 to 2012.

I have come in at a time when the NBI is embarking on its next 10 year journey; embedded in the 2017 – 2027 Strategy, an important management tool for our organisation. I wish to call for innovation in developing the new strategy in order to adjust to the changing needs of our communities as well as the new challenges.

I have high expectations in every staff of NBI and I have no doubt that, together, we can exceed the targets.

I also look forward to working closely with all our partners towards attaining our 10 year Strategy and realising transformational change in the Nile Basin.

Finally I would like to pay particular acknowledgement to my predecessor, Dr. John Rao Nyaoro, HSC for his commitment to NBI. Under his leadership, the Secretariat and indeed the entire NBI has made tremendous achievements; he leaves a good legacy for me to build on, over the next two years.

I wish you a pleasant read!

**Eng. Innocent Ntabana**

committed to clearing them within the shortest time possible.

The Nile-COM also deliberated on the issue of non-participation of Egypt in NBI activities since 2010, following the signing of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) by some NBI Member States.

“In this regard, very fruitful discussions were held regarding Egypt’s resumption of its participation in NBI activities. It was agreed that further discussions will be held to concretise on the discussions,” said Hon. Sam Cheptoris, the chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers and Uganda’s Minister of Water and Environment.

The work plan of the NBI Secretariat for the financial year 2016/17 was approved with a budget of USD4 million.

The meeting Earlier, the Guest of Honour, Hon. Alhajji Kirunda Kivejinja, Uganda’s Rt. Hon. 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Community

Affairs challenged NBI Member States to re-confirm their commitment to Nile cooperation by providing the required institutional and financial support to NBI.

“There is no doubt that Nile Basin Initiative has gone a long way in promoting cooperation among Nile riparian states as well as developing joint and multipurpose projects aimed at improving livelihoods and reducing poverty among the people of the Nile Basin”, he said.

The Nile Council of Ministers announced the host countries for the 5<sup>th</sup> biennial Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) and the 2017 Regional Nile Day. The events will be held next year in Rwanda and Tanzania, respectively.

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Nile-COM meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs or their representatives from the Nile Basin states, officials from the government of Uganda, Nile-TAC members, development partners, representatives of civil society, and management staff of NBI, among others.



Opening ceremony of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Nile-COM meeting

**By Elizabeth Agiro**  
Media Relations Expert  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda



Nile-TAC members in a discussion during coffee break



L-R: Dr. John Nyaoro, HSC, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, Rt. Hon. Kirunda Kivejinja, Hon. Eng. Gerson Lwenge and Ms. Eileen Burke (World Bank representative)



Dr. Nyaoro (right) engages representatives of development partners during the break



ENTRO staff; Mr. Fekahmed Negash - Executive Director (left) and Mr. Omer M.A. Elawad - Senior Regional Projects Coordinator



NELSAP-CU staff; Eng. Elicad Nyabeeya - Regional Coordinator (left) and Mr. Alphonse Kizihira - Finance and Administration Manager



Hon. Sam Cheptoris (right), hands over an appreciation plaque to his predecessor, Hon. Eng. Gerson Lwenge



School children entertain delegates during the official opening ceremony



The Nile-TAC chair, Ms. Florence Adongo, hands over an appreciation plaque to her predecessor, Eng. Sylvester Matemu



See more photos: <http://bit.ly/2d2QOs4>

# 46<sup>th</sup> Nile Technical Advisory Committee meeting makes key recommendations

## Uganda assumes leadership of the technical committee



Nile-TAC members during the meeting

**T**he 46<sup>th</sup> Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at Protea Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) meeting which took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at the same venue.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Nile-TAC meeting deliberated on a number of strategic issues including the progress report for the fiscal year 2015/2016, Nile-SEC's work plan and budget for the fiscal year 2016/2017. Development of the NBI 10-year strategy and continuation of activities related to strategic water resources issues were singled out as key deliverables in the current fiscal year.

Other key policy recommendations included the approval of the retouched NBI logo and the Environmental Flows Manual and Guidelines for the Nile Basin.

While officially opening the meeting, Uganda's Minister of State for Water, Hon. Ronald Kibuule reiterated the country's commitment to Nile Cooperation.

During the meeting, the leadership of Nile-TAC changed from Tanzania to Uganda. Accordingly, Ms. Florence Adongo, the Director of Water Resources Management is the current chairperson of the Nile-TAC, a position she will hold for one year before handing over to Burundi. The changes are in line with the NBI tradition of rotating this position every year among Member States following the alphabetical order of the names of the countries.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Nile-TAC meeting was preceded by the NBI 3-Centres (Nile-SEC, ENTRO and NELSAP-CU) Coordination meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2016. The latter is held regularly to prepare for governance meetings. Among other things, the meeting, the 25<sup>th</sup> in a series, reviewed the agenda and presentations for the governance meetings, and the financial sustainability of the NBI centers, more especially NELSAP-CU.

**By Tom Waako**  
Program Officer  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

# Meet the new Executive Director

**A**fter two years as Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, Dr. John Rao Nyaoro, HSC (Kenya) recently handed over the instruments of power to his successor, Eng. Innocent Ntabana (Rwanda). The official handover ceremony held on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 was presided over by Ms. Florence Adongo, chairperson of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) and Director of Water Resources Management in Uganda's Ministry of Water Affairs.

Eng. Ntabana was appointed Executive Director by the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM), with the overall responsibility for leading NBI's continuous development, strategic planning, general management, coordination and control of all its operations. He becomes the 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Director since NBI was established in 1999. It is a tradition within the organisation to rotate this top most position at the Secretariat, amongst the Member States, every two years. The rotation follows the alphabetical order of the names of the countries.

He joins the Secretariat at a time when NBI is in the process of developing the next 10-year journey, embedded in the 2017 – 2027 Strategy, an important management tool for the organisation. "I wish to call for innovation in developing the new 10-year Strategy in order to adjust to the changing needs of our communities as well as the new challenges," he said in his acceptance speech at the NBI Secretariat.

Eng. Ntabana comes with 30 years of progressive experience in the management of programs and projects in rural development, especially in agriculture, water resource management and agri-business development with different international organizations (FAO, IFAD, AFDB, WFP, World Bank, UNDP, IFDC, etc). This is in addition to the various consultancies undertaken



Eng. Ntabana

since 1998. Most recently, he was working as a Strategic Adviser in value chain development at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda.

Eng. Ntabana is not entirely new to the organisation. He previously worked as Regional Project Manager for the Regional Agricultural Trade and Productivity Project from 2008 to 2012. During this period, he successfully completed the project inception phase and managed the entire implementation phase.

An Agronomist, Eng. Ntabana holds a BSC degree in Agricultural Engineering and a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the Maastricht School of Management (Netherlands), with specialization in Project Management. He has also completed a number of courses in water resource management and climate change with UNESCO IHE.

The staff of NBI warmly welcomes Eng. Ntabana!

You can reach him at [intabana@nilebasin.org](mailto:intabana@nilebasin.org) and on Twitter @

**By Jane K. Baitwa**  
**Regional Communication Specialist**  
**Nile-SEC, Entebbe**

# NBI launches Wetlands Project, Forum to protect wetlands in the Nile Basin



L-R: Dr. Malte Grossmann, GIZ representative, Dr. Callist Tindimugaya and Dr. John Rao Nyaoro, HSC during the official launch

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 launched the Nile Basin Trans-boundary Wetlands Project and the inaugural Nile Basin Wetlands Forum. The goal of the Euro 6 million project is to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of the NBI and its 10 Member States for sustainable management of wetlands of trans-boundary significance in the Nile Basin.

The event, held in Entebbe, Uganda, was presided over by Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, who was represented by Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner of Water Resources, Planning and Regulation in the ministry. In a speech read for him, Hon. Cheptoris said wetlands are an important resource in the Nile Basin.

“They support local livelihoods, provide food such as fish, supply clean water, raw materials, medicines and are habitat for wildlife, among other multiple benefits for human beings and nature,” he said. He added that wetlands are critical in climate change adaptation especially in the Nile Basin where livelihoods are derived from natural resources.

The Executive Director (ED) of the NBI Secretariat (now Senior Advisor to ED), Dr. John Rao Nyaoro, HSC said the Nile Basin is endowed with rich and diverse wetlands crucial for the provision of multiple ecosystem services

and goods. “However, these wetlands are undergoing habitat degradation and loss due to several contributing factors such as reclamation and conversion for agricultural production, settlements and urbanization, over exploitation by the local community and climate change,” Dr. Nyaoro said.

The immediate benefits of the project include enhanced livelihoods security for largely poor local population groups who depend heavily on wetlands ecosystems, deepened and expanded knowledgebase and capacities on Nile Basin wetlands and associated institutions and improved water security through tapping on restoration and conservation of wetland ecosystem services.

Other benefits are improved adaptation of climate change through ecosystem based adaptation and enhanced climate protection through improved wetland carbon sink capacities.

The Nile Basin Wetlands Forum is aimed at mobilizing state and non-state actors for collective and coordinated collaboration on securing trans-boundary wetlands of the Nile Basin under increasing anthropogenic and climate change threats.

The five-year project (2015-2020) is supported by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and is implemented in all the 10 NBI Member States namely Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The event was attended by wetlands experts in the Nile Basin region and staff of NBI.



Access the project brief: <http://bit.ly/2d5En21>  
More meeting photos: <http://bit.ly/2d2PV2R>

**By Elizabeth Agiro**  
Media Relations Expert  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

# Nile Basin Water Resources Atlas launched



Rt. Hon. Kirunda Kivejinja (right), launches the Nile Basin Water Resources Atlas, supported by Hon. Sam Cheptoris (left)



The Atlas targets National line ministries, project planners, power utilities, technicians, decision makers, senior government officials, academia, policy makers, water resources planners, researchers, the media and the wider public .

**T**he NBI continues to build trust and confidence among Nile Basin countries and to nurture a conducive environment for cooperative management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and environmental resources by developing and disseminating knowledge products.

The Nile Basin is home to over 257 million people, which is about 54% of the total population of the 11 countries that share the Nile. The Basin has hugely diverse ecosystems and diverse climatic zones, which have been observed to determine the distribution of the population within the Basin. The riparian communities are heavily dependent on exploitation of the environment and water resources for their livelihoods.

The complexity of the large number (11) of countries in the Nile Basin, combined with the uneven distribution

of the water resources among these countries as well as population pressure, urbanization and complex hydrology of the Nile System, pose significant challenges for the sustainable management of the shared waters and for ascertaining where and how benefits can or should be generated and shared within the Nile Basin.

Without synthesized basin-wide information, identifying and devising mitigation measures for the critical threats to the sustainability of the water and related natural resources becomes a challenge.

As much as certain aspects of our environment such as topography do not change, most aspects of our physical environment change. As populations grow, effective planning for sustainable development requires dependable information about the trends in our changing environment.



In order to develop the Nile Basin resources to address urgent social and economic needs of the people while ensuring equitability in sharing of the benefits, decision makers need evidence based information to enable them make evidence based decisions.

To address this need, NBI has developed a Nile Basin Water Resources Atlas to provide factual, well synthesized, interpreted information to the stakeholders. The Atlas was officially launched on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 by Uganda's Right Honorable Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs, Al Hajji Kirunda Kivejinja. He congratulated and commended NBI for preparing such an informative knowledge product. This was during the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) meeting that took place in Entebbe, Uganda.

The Nile Basin Water Resources Atlas provides a platform to visualize the status of Nile Basin resources, their distribution in time and space, observed trends, vital statistics and water use and demand by the major sectors. It is structured in seven chapters introducing the reader to the Nile Basin location, physiography, spatial and temporal variation of major climate variables and hydrology in the major sub-basins presented at selected key stations. It provides an estimate of water demands, water use by key sectors and an overview of major hydraulic infrastructure.

The Atlas also presents the current state of basin monitoring, focusing on hydro-meteorological monitoring highlighting the identified gaps and what NBI has recommended as the most suitable monitoring network.

The Nile Basin Water Resources Atlas will also be used as source of information for the second edition of the State of the River Nile Basin Report that is planned to



be released in 2018. Both documents will significantly contribute towards monitoring the state of basin environment resources.

The Atlas targets National line ministries, project planners, power utilities, technicians, decision makers, senior government officials, academia, policy makers, water resources planners, researchers, the media and the wider public . It expected to generate

discussion on broad basin issues and trigger common policy interventions to address highlighted gaps, challenges and studies, as well as support dialogue and negotiations, new projects and water resources planning, management and development.

The Atlas was prepared by NBI in close collaboration with its Member States whose technical officials from the line ministries participated fully through a Regional Working Group. The data and statistics used were validated and in some cases provided by representatives from each Member State.

Besides disseminating it in form of hard copies and as an interactive PDF on CD Drive, the Nile Basin Water Resources Atlas can also be accessed online.

The NBI wishes to acknowledge the support from the Member States and all agencies that provided data that has been used in this key knowledge product as well as GIZ (Germany) for the technical and financial support.



Enjoy reading the publication, click:  
<http://nileis.nilebasin.org/content/nile-basin-water-resources-atlas>.  
or  
<http://www.nilebasin.org/index.php/information-hub/technical-documents>

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

# Introducing our revamped Website!



Hon. Cheptoris addressing journalists

The NBI website was recently refreshed to reflect the value that the organisation brings to its stakeholders. The new site offers quick and easy access to essential information about NBI, Nile cooperation and the Nile Basin and is part of the organization’s ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and availability of information to Member States and all other stakeholders.

The site has been re-designed, incorporating the latest web technology and based on the NBI Corporate Design manual.

Visitors might have already noticed the entirely new look of [www.nilebasin.org](http://www.nilebasin.org) – with a simple, bold and modern design that is easily compatible with smart phones, tablets, laptops or desktops display.

The revamped site boasts of improved layout and increased content density as well as easier navigation. Other significant changes include compatibility with the

latest versions of major browsers, integration to social media and a fresh looking online presence.

The re-designed website was launched on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 by Uganda’s Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, who is also the current chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM).

We think you will like the new look and feel and we are sure you will like the improved navigation and fresher information.

‘Like us’ - facebook page is Nile Basin Initiative and also follow us on Twitter - @nbiweb



Visit: [www.nilebasin.org](http://www.nilebasin.org) and enjoy the experience

**By Jane K. Baitwa**  
Regional Communication Specialist  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

## Re-designed NBI logo



**NILE BASIN INITIATIVE**  
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL



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



**NELSAP-CU**  
**NILE BASIN INITIATIVE**  
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL



**ENTRO**  
**NILE BASIN INITIATIVE**  
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

- ▶ The two banks are fitted together in order to represent unity of all the countries
- ▶ The blue river unites the logo
- ▶ Both English and French names are legible
- ▶ Balanced visual and text makes scaling possible
- ▶ Add-ons for each of the three centers

# Building on Shared Benefits

## Transforming lives in the Nile Basin

The book illustrates wide-ranging benefits of Nile Cooperation to the different communities

**T**he Nile is an iconic river of global significance. It is a symbol of the human capacity to harness water for the development and growth of civilizations, but also of the fragility of our existence and unremitting dependence on water's life-giving properties.

The Nile is also a complex river system in hydrological, environmental and climatic terms. It crosses the borders of eleven different countries namely; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda with very different social, cultural and economic realities. Sharing water resources between the 11 Nile Basin countries with very different social, cultural and economic realities is a challenge in itself, but the geopolitical and hydro political realities in the Basin make it even more complex.

The NBI has recently published a book titled '**Building on Shared Benefits - Transforming lives in the Nile Basin**'. It illustrates how, in the space of a little over 17 years, NBI has successfully established a program of work that has generated a swathe of shared benefits, transforming lives in the Nile Basin.

In the introductory part, get an overview of NBI's achievements, which have resulted in a step change in development across the Basin. The overall achievement can be summarized as a transformation in the way countries sharing the river perceive joint challenges and act to tackle them.



Discover the wide-ranging benefits to the different communities in the NBI Member States covering a range of energy, food and water needs.

Learn how capacity to jointly manage and develop shared water resources has been enhanced among individuals as a means by which, to provide a wider enabling environment for investments. Also find out the credible and impartial knowledge and information

generated and analytic tools developed in support of more robust planning and development strategies for improved livelihoods.

Read about NBI, the strong regional institutional platform for dialogue and cooperation, which is all inclusive and neutral.

Going forward, what are the future challenges? Find these in the last chapter.

“...cooperation among the Nile Basin States is not a choice but a must; it is the greatest hope for a better future for every individual, every family, every community and every country...” **Hon. Amb. Mutaz Musa Abdalla Salim, Minister of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity of The Sudan in his speech during the 23rd annual Nile-COM meeting, 4th June 2015, Dodoma, Tanzania**



Enjoy reading the publication, click:  
<http://www.nilebasin.org/index.php/our-story/95-keeping-the-nile-flowing-and-boosting-livelihoods-2>

**By Jane K. Baitwa**  
Regional Communication Specialist  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe



Members of the delegation and NBI staff take a group photo in front of the Secretariat offices

## Secretariat hosts delegation from Middle East and African River Basins



**M**embers of the Blue Peace Middle East Community and African River Basins visited the NBI Secretariat on a ‘Learning Journey’ to explore and understand water cooperation in the Nile Basin. The mission, which took place from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 was organized by Strategic Foresight Group in coordination with the NBI Secretariat.

The delegation from the Middle East included senior policy makers, academic and technical experts and leading members of the Blue Peace Media Network while African River Basins representatives were from six other African River Basins of Komati River, Gambia River, Congo River, Senegal River, Volta River and Orange-Senque Basin.

Participants learnt about the history of NBI, its mandate as well as appreciated its functioning. The delegation was also introduced to new experiences and insights regarding cooperation and efficient trans-boundary water management and development achieved by the Nile riparian countries and the other African Basins.

**By Jane K. Baitwa**  
**Regional Communication Specialist**  
**Nile-SEC, Entebbe**



## Tanzania to host Nile Day 2017 event

The Regional Nile Day 2017 event will be held in Tanzania, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017. Nile Day is an annual event organised since 2007, to commemorate the ‘birth’ of NBI on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1999. The day is special on the NBI calendar because for the first time ever, all Nile Basin countries agreed to establish an all-inclusive basin-wide institution, to provide a forum for consultation and coordination among the Basin States for the sustainable

management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and related resources for win-win benefits.

For the first time in the Basin’s history, an all-inclusive basin-wide institution was established, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1999, to provide a forum for consultation and coordination among the Basin States for the sustainable management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and related resources for win-win benefits.

Nile Day provides an opportunity for Basin citizens to come together to exchange experiences, views and ideas on topical issues related to the cooperative management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and related resources.

Nile Day 2017 is devoted to the theme: **Our shared Nile: Source of Energy, Food and Water for All.**

The links between water-food-energy nexus, livelihoods and economic development are quite visible in the Nile Basin countries. NBI will take the opportunity to enhance awareness and understanding among participants and Nile Basin citizens of the inter-relatedness as well as the importance of sustainable Nile cooperation in ensuring energy, food and water security in the region.

Nile Day provides an opportunity for Basin citizens to come together to exchange experiences, views and ideas on topical issues related to the cooperative management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and related resources. The day also serves to increase the visibility of NBI among Nile Basin citizens - including its achievements, challenges as well as benefits to Nile Basin citizens while searching for ways and means to further the cooperation. On a lighter note, the Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the rich and varied cultures which exist within the Nile Basin.

The Day is commemorated both at regional and national level. The Regional Nile Day event is spearheaded by the NBI Secretariat based in Entebbe, Uganda in close coordination with the host country and in partnership with the Nile Basin Discourse. At national level, the

event is spearheaded by the NBI National Office in the various Member States, and is held preferably on the same day to ensure that a maximum of the Nile Basin population is reached the same day.

The target audience for Nile Day includes Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in each Nile Basin country, Development Partners, officials from ministries in charge of Water Affairs, Energy, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Transport, Members of Parliament, Researchers and Academia, Civil society, Media, children as well as the general public.

#### **Venues of previous Regional Nile Day events**

Kigali, Rwanda in 2007; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2008; Bujumbura, Burundi in 2009; Kabale, Uganda in 2010; Goma, DR Congo in 2011; Jinja, Uganda in 2012; Bahir Dar, Ethiopia in 2013; Kampala, Uganda in 2014, Khartoum, The Sudan in 2015, Vihiga County, Kenya in 2016.

For regular updates:

 /Nile Basin Initiative  @nbiweb

**By Jane K. Baitwa**

**Regional Communication Specialist  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe**



Eng. Bekele explaining to journalists about the GERD.

## Promising beginnings of cooperation among Eastern Nile Media Professionals

The Swedish International Water Institute (SIWI), in partnership with NBI's Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO), organized a training workshop for Eastern Nile media professionals from 28<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2016 in Addis Ababa -Ethiopia.

The objective of the training was to enhance the ability of Eastern Nile journalists to deliver more accurate, nuanced and responsible reporting on the ongoing trans-boundary Nile cooperation processes and to increase their awareness and appreciation of the complexities, challenges, opportunities and benefits associated with the processes.

The 5-day training addressed an earlier (October 2015), request made by the NBI Secretariat to Shared Waters Partnership (SWP) to support its effort to strengthen accurate and responsible media coverage of Nile Basin cooperation.

The training program is premised on the belief that increasing regional journalists' ability to access current, quality information and sources on the technical and political tracks of Nile cooperation processes and promoting networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities will place regional journalists in a better position to deliver balanced, informed coverage within their country-specific contexts.

A total of 25 media professionals - both from print and electronic media - from Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and The Sudan -were exposed to expert presentations, which were followed by group exercises and lively question and answer facilitated sessions. Participants also benefited from the participation of the chairmen of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) Project Tripartite National Committee from The Sudan and Ethiopia respectively. Prof. Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla (The Sudan) and Eng. Gideon Asfaw (Ethiopia) presented their respective national perspectives and



L-R: Journalists from Egypt, The Sudan and Ethiopia in a discussion during the training.

how the dialogue on the GERD has been sustained despite tough negotiations.

A highlight of the training was a field study to the construction site of GERD project in Guba, some 600 kilometers from Addis Ababa. The Project Manager, Engineer Simegnaw Bekele explained how each of the three countries (Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan) would benefit from the dam and the safety measures undertaken to ensure no harm comes to downstream countries. This is in addition to taking participants on a guided tour of the dam site.

When completed, the GERD, destined to be the largest in Africa, will generate up to 6,000MW making it the 8<sup>th</sup> largest dam in the world.

Following the training, participants have since set up a common Facebook page through which more than 30 stories, which are informed, accurate, balanced, up-to-date and constructive have been shared.



See more photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nile-basin-initiative/albums/72157670640090550>



L-R: Eng Asfaw and Prof. Seifeldin during a panel discussion

**By Elizabeth Agiro**

Media Relations Expert

Nile-SEC, Entebbe

&

**Dr. Wubalem Fekade**

Head of the Social Development and Communication Unit

ENTRO, Addis Ababa



# Blended e-Learning courses commence in the last quarter of 2016



Dr. Abdulkarim H. Seid, Head of Water Resources Management Department at Nile-SEC, delivers training on the NB-DSS at the Secretariat

**W**ith the continual growth and visibility of NBI through its ongoing programs coupled with the increasing demand for knowledge sharing among citizens of Nile Basin countries, the Secretariat has introduced blended e-Learning (on-line capacity development program) that is offered free of charge to all stakeholders. This opportunity provides a unique platform for an on-line learning environment that is designed to serve as a training and education resource for whoever is interested in learning about the NBI.

The Secretariat shall start blended e-Learning courses with full time support at the start of October 2016. Currently all courses are offered on-line, free of charge and are self-paced. So far, two categories of online training courses are offered on the curriculum namely; 'Introduction to NBI' and the 'Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB DSS)'. Both courses are available through distance learning formats at <https://elearn.nilebasin.org/>

The overall objective of the two online capacity development courses is to improve the visibility of NBI and strengthen analytic capacity for water resources management and development.



Prior to the introduction of blended e-Learning, the Secretariat provided face-to-face capacity development to users of the NB DSS in all NBI Member States. The exercise was concluded with the Nile Basin Model training that was provided in July 2016. The training was attended by NB DSS focal persons in addition to one member of the NB DSS user community from each Member State. The training was organized under the strategic water resources analysis function of the Secretariat and covered aspects related to strategic water resources analysis modeling approach, hydrology, water resources systems, irrigation and climate change in the Nile Basin.

**By Sowed Wamala**  
Information Systems Specialist  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

# Governance approves Nile Basin Environmental Flow Strategy and Technical Implementation Manual

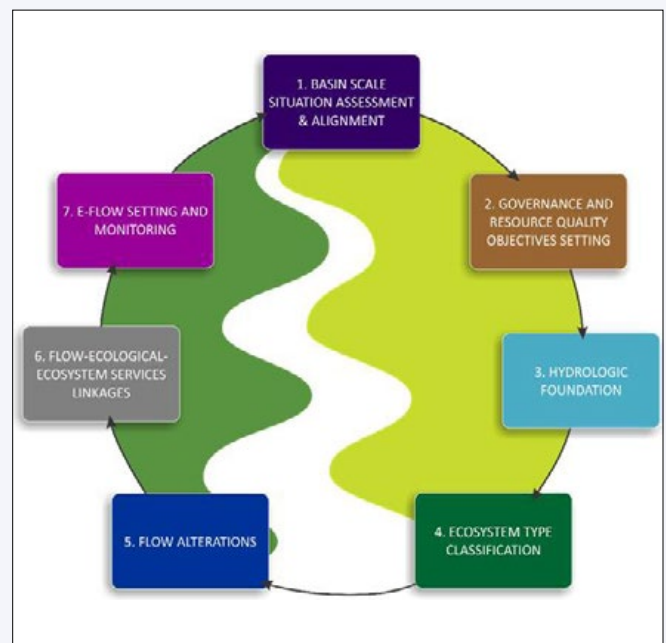


The Strategy and Manual are part of the Nile Basin Sustainability Framework (NBSF), approved by the Nile-COM in 2011. The NBSF lays down NBI's approach to developing guiding principles for water resource management and development across the Nile Basin countries.

**E**nvironmental Flow (E-Flow) 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 ecosystem.

Environmental flows are important for the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem 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.

The NBI governance recently approved the Nile Basin Environmental Flow Management Strategy and the Technical Implementation Manual. This was during the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) meeting held in July 2016, in Entebbe, Uganda. The Strategy aims to achieve sustainable water resources development through management of the Nile Basin's flows required to sustain the freshwater and estuarine ecosystems and the human livelihoods and wellbeing that depend on these ecosystems. The Strategy defines the guiding principles, strategic objectives and strategic action areas as well as, implementation arrangements and responsibilities.



The Nile E-flow management framework: A seven-phase approach

The E-Flow Strategy and Technical Implementation Manual were developed by the Secretariat, in collaboration with NBI Member States.

The Technical Implementation Manual is based on an Environmental Flow Management Framework adapted from international best practices. The Nile Environmental Flow Management Framework provides structured approaches designed to help consistent evaluation of environmental flow requirements across multiple ecosystems and scales and to guide stakeholders in the development and implementation of environmental flow standards.

Following the approval of the Strategy and Manual, the Secretariat is scheduled to establish E-Flows as a standard practice basin-wide. Operationalization of the Strategy is expected to facilitate and develop a culture of collaborative, best practice E-flow management into the water resource planning and management as well as policies of Nile Basin States, ultimately resulting in the establishment of an integrated, basin scale E-flows management system. In order to operationalize both the Strategy and the Manual, the following is required:

- ▶ Developing the Technical Manual to provide guidance on establishing e-flows for wetlands.
- ▶ Building capacity and creating awareness amongst national technical staff and policy makers.
- ▶ Supporting, upon request, efforts of NBI Member States to establish E-flow management provisions in the relevant national policies, legislation and strategies.
- ▶ Enhancing the level of experience and empirical information in the Nile Basin by increasing the number of environmental flow assessments carried out in the Basin through gradual piloting of the E-flow framework, based on Member States requests.
- ▶ Supporting a coherent regional and mutual-learning implementation process of the Nile Basin environmental flows framework across the Basin through establishment of a regional knowledge management, quality assurance and monitoring/review function at NBI.

Following the approval of the Strategy and Manual, the Secretariat is scheduled to establish E-Flows as a standard practice basin-wide.

- ▶ Mainstreaming identified strategic actions into the relevant work programs and action plans at national, sub-regional and basin-wide.
- ▶ Applying the Nile E-flow Strategy and Framework to selected sub-basins (e.g. Mara and Kagera; potential pilot sites for the Wetlands Project). This includes hydrologic analysis and water allocation plans for the selected sub-basins. Both the Strategy and Implementation Manual will greatly support the ongoing Wetlands Management Project in improving Nile Basin Wetlands Management Plans.

Immediate actions include dissemination of E-flow products and database development, baseline data collection, regional scale E-flows assessments and correlation with regional trans-boundary water resources management and development plans. Other immediate actions are E-flows as a principal component in designing investment projects and development programs in addition to developing blended/e-learning modules on NBI's approach to environmental flows management.

The E-flow Strategy and Technical Implementation Manual were developed by the Secretariat, in collaboration with NBI Member States. They are part of the Nile Basin Sustainability Framework (NBSF), which is a suite of policies, strategies, and guidance documents. Approved by the Nile-COM in 2011, the NBSF lays down NBI's approach to developing guiding principles for water resource management and development across the Nile Basin countries.

**By Mohsen Alarabawy (PhD)**  
**River Basin Management Specialist/Water Policy Expert**  
**Nile-SEC, Entebbe**

# Balancing water demand with available water in the Nile Basin

## Key to sustainable development and management

The Nile and its tributaries are a source of livelihood for over 250 million people residing within the basin boundary. Nile riparian countries are grappling with the task of meeting their population's growing needs for food, potable water, sanitation and electricity. Based on data from FAO<sup>1</sup>, a substantial proportion of the population in five Nile riparian countries is undernourished and access to electricity is very low in most countries.

While access to clean drinking water has improved as a result of the efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals<sup>2</sup>, many countries are yet to provide full coverage in terms of access to drinking water and proper sanitation. These challenges are compounded by the rapid rise of the population of the basin countries; over the period 1960 to 2010, the population grew fourfold!

Sustainable development and management of the Nile water resources to meet needs of the growing population and economies of the riparian countries require balancing water demand with available water. Without a basin-wide water availability and demand analysis, there is a risk that Nile Basin countries could possibly run into conflicts as more and more uncoordinated water resources developments could lead to water shortages somewhere in the Basin.

The NBI was established by the riparian states, among other things, to provide technical support to address trans-boundary water resources management issues. To support the dialogue among the riparian states on

A number of options were identified for addressing the growing water demands sustainably. These include: measures for enhancing water supply, such as increasing basin water yield and increasing groundwater use; improving water use efficiencies and limiting growing water intensive crops in areas with high evaporation; and optimization of reservoir operations to reduce losses.

how to address growing water demands in a sustainable manner, the Secretariat carried out the first phase of its water resources analysis. Preliminary results were presented to the Nile Council of Ministers during the 24<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

On average, the Nile Basin supports the existing water demands without appreciable shortfalls. However, this is likely to change as more and more water resource development projects are implemented across the Basin.

A number of new dams are planned in the Nile riparian states that will raise the total storage capacity basin-wide by approximately 200 BCM. Planned hydropower plants will have a total installed capacity of 21000 MW. The total projected irrigation area is going to increase by about 3.3 million hectares and the projected water demand to approximately 160 percent of current value of approximately 5.4 million hectares. If irrigation

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/hunger/en/> (accessed on 11 June 2016);

<sup>2</sup> **UN-ECA (2015): MDG Report 2015: Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals**; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Union, AfDB and UNDP, 2015; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

continues to rely on surface water alone, the Basin is likely to face serious water shortfall. This shortfall is expected to happen gradually over the coming 2 - 3 decades and, hence, measures are needed for addressing the shortages before they become critical.

A number of options were identified for addressing the growing water demands sustainably. These include: measures for enhancing water supply, such as increasing basin water yield and increasing groundwater use; improving water use efficiencies and limiting growing

water intensive crops in areas with high evaporation; and optimization of reservoir operations to reduce losses.

Subsequent phases of the strategic analysis will further refine the data and results from the first phase and deal with quantification of the contribution of the options in addressing the water shortfalls.

**By Dr. Abdulkarim H. Seid**  
**Head of Water Resources Management Department**  
**Nile-SEC, Entebbe**

## NBI participates in 2016 World Water Week

The NBI recently joined leaders and experts in the water as well as climate and development communities, in Stockholm to discuss how water can enable the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This was during the 2016 World Water Week, dedicated to the theme: **‘Water for Sustainable Growth.’**

Recognizing the importance of the shared River Nile in contributing to economic development, Nile Basin countries came together in 1999 to explore opportunities for maximizing the benefits of the river’s waters for all partners. This was the birth of the NBI.

During the 2016 World Water Week held in August the Executive Director then, Dr. John Rao Nyaoro and the Head of Water Resources Management Department, Dr. Abdulkarim H. Seid made active contributions during the different sessions. Dr. Nyaoro was a panelist during a session on the theme: *Options for water security: How should we decide?* Dr. Seid on the other hand made a presentation during the session on the theme: *Nile Basin: Land and energy investments and changing*

Recognizing the importance of the shared River Nile in contributing to economic development, Nile Basin countries came together in 1999 to explore opportunities for maximizing the benefits of the river’s waters for all partners.

*hydro-political landscapes.* This is in addition to participating as a panelist and co-presenter (with Prof. Seifeldin Abdalla, Nile-TAC member for Sudan) during the session: *Integrating climate governance and water diplomacy.*

World Water Week is an annual gathering held since 1991 where water issues are discussed among policy makers, scientists, practitioners, government representatives, the civil society and other actors. The event also provides an excellent networking opportunity with global actors.

# When threatened, nature fights back

## A case for wetlands



Children fishing in a wetland

**A**t a glance, wetlands – large expanses of swamps – seem like public nuisances, a waste of space; occupying prime land which could otherwise be turned into sprawling shopping malls, hotels or theme parks devoid of any green.

Indeed, several wetlands in the Nile Basin have undergone degradation due to multiple contributing factors; settlements and urbanization by an ever growing population, reclamation and conversion for agriculture. Other factors are upstream infrastructural development, over-exploitation by local communities and climate change.

Wetlands represent about five percent of the total basin area and are concentrated in two areas: the Equatorial Lakes region and the Sudd area in South Sudan. The Sudd wetlands – the most extensive wetland system in the Nile Basin – are highly variable in size, averaging roughly 30,000 square kilometres, but extending up to as large as 130,000 square kilometres during the wet seasons. The Nile Delta north of Egypt, once an area of lush natural wetlands, has now been almost entirely converted into agricultural land.

The majority of these transgressions have gone largely unpunished while encroachment on wetlands continues to flourish. However, this ‘honeymoon’ usually ends at the onset of the rainy seasons when nature fights back. The difference here is that the dry season is often characterised by light showers, which hardly pose a threat to populations settled in the lowlands. It is a different story when the heavy rains begin, though.

With the advent of climate change and variable weather patterns, there has been a noticeable increase in floods in the Nile Basin. Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda have all witnessed El Nino rains in recent months that swept chunks of property and lives with their deadly force. It is perhaps at such times that many people realise the advantages of wetlands in absorbing excess water in the environment.

These factors threaten the intrinsic hydrological and ecological link between these wetlands and River Nile including its overall health and life. This is exacerbated by inadequate knowledge and experience for mainstreaming wetland conservation and for making full use of ecosystem services in the planning process.

Wetlands are crucial mainly because they act as a buffer for floods. They absorb the excess water or run off in the environment and release it systematically while causing no harm to the neighbourhood. However, when these wetlands are threatened, they implode with no escape route for the large amounts of water. Hence, floods run riot and cause destruction of the surroundings. Wetlands are also valuable ecosystems that play an important role in maintaining environmental quality, sustaining livelihoods and supporting biodiversity.

The wide range of animal and plant species wetlands support, provide an ecosystem that services in the form of fisheries, fuel-wood, timber, medicines, providing high ecological, cultural and economic value through recreation and tourism. Wetlands also exert significant influence on the hydrological cycle, altering flood flows, maintaining low flows and ground water recharge.

In light of these challenges, the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat is spearheading a wetlands project and forum whose focus is on strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of the riparian States for

sustainable management of trans-boundary wetlands and wetlands of trans-boundary relevance in the Nile Basin such as the Sudd, whose extensive network affects annual flows of the Nile in downstream countries.

Interventions include building strategic and demand-driven knowledgebase on trans-boundary wetlands for informed planning and development of river basins; facilitating wetlands management planning for sustainability of the Nile Basin trans-boundary wetlands and wetlands of regional significance.

The expected benefits cannot be overemphasised; improved water security through tapping on restoration and conservation of wetlands ecosystem services; enhanced livelihoods security for largely local population groups whose livelihoods heavily depend on wetlands ecosystems. Let us all remember to save wetlands.

**Dr. Abdulkarim H. Seid**  
Head of Water Resources Management  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

## Two more complete internship at the Secretariat



L-R: Charity Kemirembe and Gloria Asimwe

**Gloria Asimwe** and **Charity Kemirembe** recently concluded two months (July – August, 2016) student internship at the Secretariat. Both are currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and Diplomacy at Nkumba University in Uganda and are in their 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year.

NBI offers internship opportunities where possible, to enable students acquire knowledge, practical skills and professional attitude of working in an organisation setting. This is also as part of the organization's efforts to develop the capacity of Nile Basin citizens in various disciplines that are of relevance to NBI and to contribute to the noble cause of formation of professionals.

The Secretariat wishes **Gloria** and **Charity** a bright future.

# Tribute



Ms. Ndombe waves to participants during NBI's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 2009.

**M**s. **Henriette Ndombe**, former Executive Director of NBI Secretariat was buried on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 in Kinshasa – DR Congo.

Ms. Ndombe was the 4<sup>th</sup> Executive Director having served from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2010. She is mostly remembered for her passion for and tireless efforts towards sustainable Nile cooperation, which culminated in the opening of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) for signature by Member States on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 in Entebbe, Uganda.

The late Ndombe was very dear to many of us who worked with her; she had a generous soul as many would testify.

May her soul rest in eternal peace!



## WHAT'S ON? October - December, 2016

Dates	Activity	Venue
Oct 17 - 19, 2016	19 <sup>th</sup> NELCOM and 27 <sup>th</sup> NELTAC Meetings	Nairobi, Kenya
Nov 3 - 4, 2016	NBI 10 Year Strategy - Regional Consultative meeting with Governance	Entebbe, Uganda
Nov 5, 2016	Nile-TAC meeting to review the revised Nile Basin Initiative Project Information Disclosure Procedure	Entebbe, Uganda
Nov 5, 2016	Nile-TAC meeting to review proposed theme and sub-themes of the 5 <sup>th</sup> NBDF	Entebbe, Uganda
Nov 14 - 18, 2016	NBI-LVBC consultation meeting	Kisumu, Kenya
Dec 3 - 5, 2016	Workshop on 'Land and Water investments in the Nile region'	Wad Medani, The Sudan
Dec 11 - 17, 2016	Regional Media training	Kigali, Rwanda
TBD	Second Regional Wetlands Working Group meeting	TBD
TBD	Kickoff meeting of the National Experts Group on the Strategic Water Resources Analysis	TBD
TBD	Kickoff meeting for NBI's Economists Forum	TBD



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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 utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources



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