



Supporting Journalists of the Eastern Nile

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SIWI Supporting Journalists Since 2016

- SIWI supporting journalists in the Eastern Nile since 2016 through the Shared Waters Partnership (SWP) programme
- Initially implemented as a 1-time event a workshop has developed into a network
- 2016 Ethiopia
- 2018 Egypt
- 2019 Ethiopia
- The entry point is always strengthened cooperation



Media Plays a Role in Water Diplomacy



Water diplomacy recognizes that there are many different actors that have the ability to create solution spaces for conflicts over water and that can create windows of opportunity for cooperation over water. These actors are inclusive of government officials (state and local level), non-state/government actors, private sector, civil society, media, and others.

Where **water diplomacy** supports **transboundary water cooperation**- journalists may play a critical role in highlighting and contextualizing the numerous benefits to cooperation



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Partnership Programme for Water and Development

m'CT





Nile Basin Initiative

NILE COOPERATION

Opportunities & Challenges



Understanding the Benefits of Cooperation

- 1) Increased benefits
- 2) Decreased impacts
- 3) Reduced costs
- 4) Optimisation of resources
- 4) Optimisation of planning/management
- 5) Easier access to financing
- 6) Fostering of good relations between neighbours
- 7) Increased intra-regional trade



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Partnership Programme for Water and Development



Nile Journalists Wear Many Hats

- TB Cooperation in large river basins like the Nile involves:
 - Hydrology
 - Meteorology
 - Political Economy
 - Regional economics and integration
 - The list goes on...



SIWI supports journalists through

- 1) Making connections to experts in diverse fields
- 2) Linking cutting-edge academic work on issues relevant to cooperation
- 3) Providing opportunities for journalists to develop their own stories (study tours, field visits, etc.)
- 4) Strengthening the role of journalists in the “new media” landscape
- 5) Platform for journalists to network amongst themselves



Lessons Learned

- Many issues central to cooperation in the Nile are sensitive amongst countries but good balanced journalism can inform without encroachment (strengthening the enabling environment for cooperation)
- Journalists face diverse challenges outside of the complicated story of cooperation-support must be creative and reflective
- Journalists and decision makers need each other- cooperation in demand across the board
- Fake news and targeted disinformation campaigns are only becoming more frequent-supporting good journalists and providing more opportunity for their reflection helps cut through (Real recognizes real)



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL



THANK YOU!

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