



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL



STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP FOR INCLUSIVE TRANS-BOUNDARY WATER GOVERNANCE IN THE NILE: THE NBI-NBD PARTNERSHIP CASE STUDY

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Presentation outlines

- Why inclusive Water Governance?
- Establishment of NBI & NBD
- NBD-NBI strategic partnership: Towards inclusive transboundary water governance
- Results obtained so far: laying foundations for sustainable water resources management in the NB
- Challenges faced & lessons Learnt
- Conclusion and recommendations

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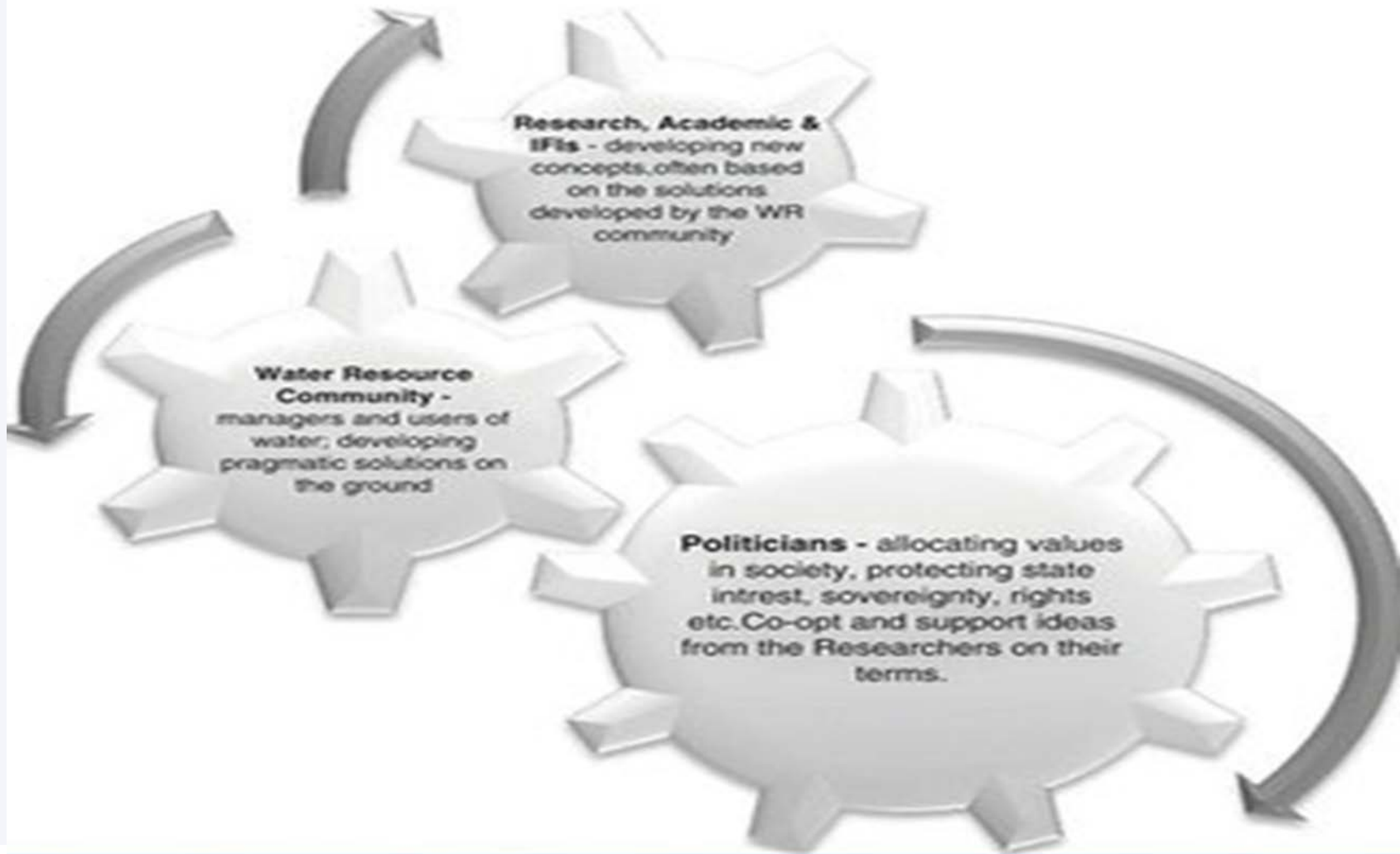
Why inclusive Water Governance?

- The world is facing critical water challenges in managing too little, too much and too polluted water, both today and in the future.
- The challenges stem mainly from the failure of governing water in the face of emerging issues.
- The basin is likely to experience severe water insecurity due to lack of effective governance and equitable access.

Why inclusive Water Governance?

- Water governance in the Nile basin faces technical, social, environmental, economic, and political challenges manifested in food insecurity, climate hazards, shortage of energy, and environmental degradation.
- Thus an all-inclusive Transboundary Water governance based on partnerships is not an option.

Why inclusive Water Governance?



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The cogs within the organizational scale of transboundary water governance (Earle et al. 2010)

Establishment of the NBI and the NBD

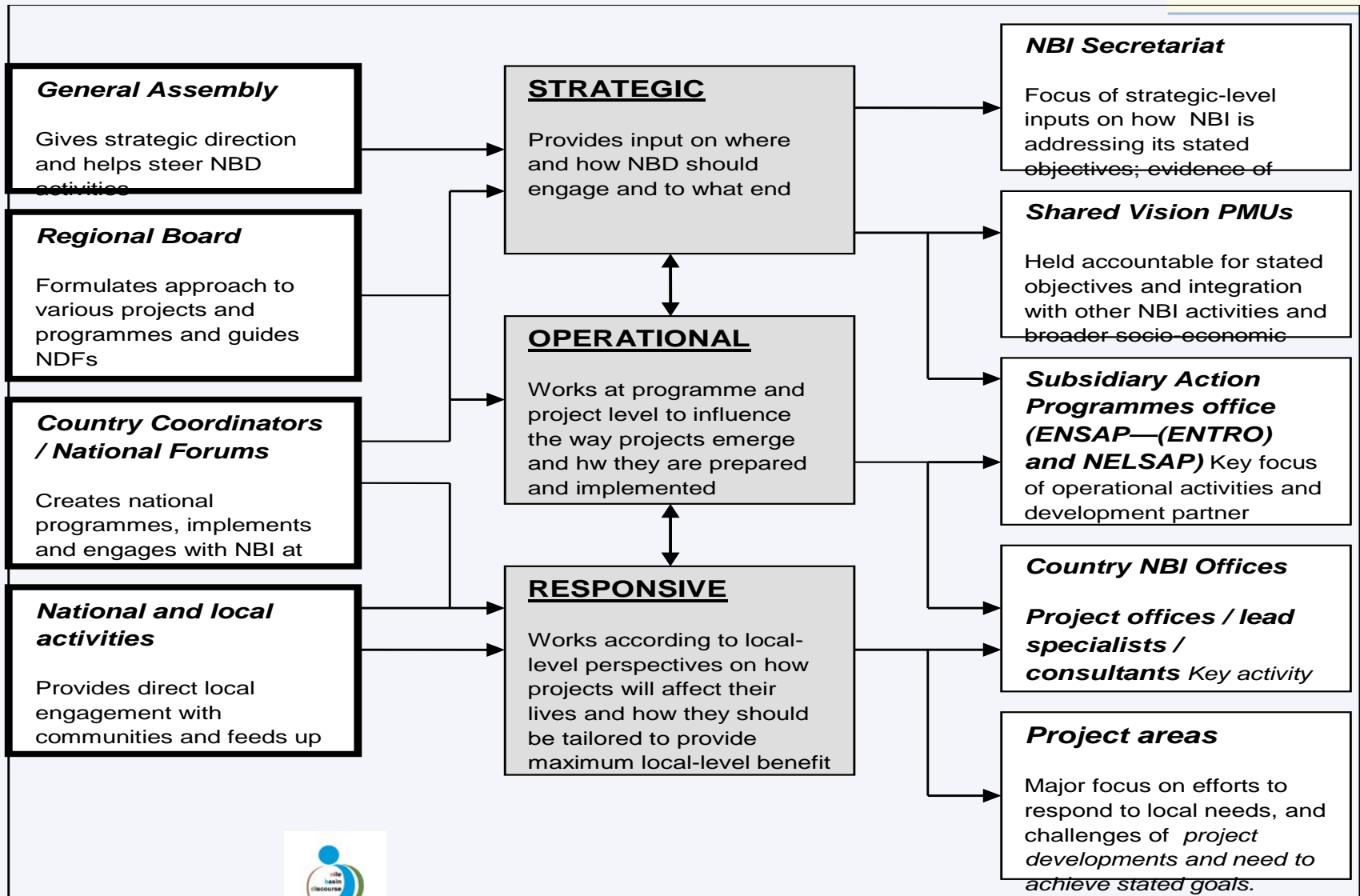


- Riparian states reached consensus to establish NBI in 1999, as the existing status quo on the mgt & utilization of the Nile waters can no longer continue.
- Out of the need for stakeholder engagement in Nile dev't. & mgt. the Nile Basin Discourse was established in 2003 as after a process that started in 2001.
- NBD as a strategic, operational, and responsive approach by civil society provides a non-governmental pillar to the Nile Basin cooperation processes and dialogues.

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NBI-NBD partnership 2006-



Results obtained: laying foundations for sustainable water resources mgt.

- A culture of 'Nile Dialogue' has been created & developed
- Discontent/differences among the parties can be voiced through the NBI or NBD platforms.
- There increased level of trust and confidence in cooperation.
- There is move to design regional Joint Multipurpose Projects unlike nationalistic ones.

Results obtained:...

- The regional power trade transmission interconnection (Sudan-Ethiopia, Rwanda-Burundi-Tanzania),
- Flood protection (Ethiopia, Sudan),
- Training of experts (MA and PhD levels);
- Several commissioned studies & publications;
- Established knowledge hubs both in NBD and NBI for researchers and public readers;
- Policies on gender, climate, environment and social sustainability developed to guide best practices.
- The exemplary partnership between NBD-NBI needs to be emulated by others and expanded.

Challenges faced

- Resources limitation.
- Stringent/ hostile legal environment for CSOs.
- Intra- and inter-state conflicts in the Basin.
- High expectations of local communities from Nile cooperation for quick and tangible benefits.
- Member CSOs' expectations of the NBD as their resource mobilizer and/or funder.
- Pre-conceived notions on the part of the NBI of perceiving NBD as 'Watch-Dog' instead of as collaborative partner.

Lessons learnt

- The Need for time and a continuous funding.
- Civil society advocacy positions are to be based on positive recommendations, not just negative criticisms.
- Avoiding political discussions and focusing on people-to-people interactions.
- The need for managing expectations.
- In partnership, the time needed to build trust & confidence should not be underestimated.

Conclusion and recommendations

CONCLUSION:

- The River Nile has been the life line for the population inhabiting the basin.
- The NBI and NBD need to continue exerting efforts to underline the fact that there is no viable alternative to upstream-downstream cooperation for equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile river resources.
- NBD and NBI needs to continue generating new and innovative approaches for dialogue in the basin to enhance trust and confidence among the riparian states until Nile cooperation holds its solid ground.

Conclusion and recommendations

Recommendations:

- To build sustainable trust and confidence among basin citizens, regular use of water diplomacy and people-to-people exchange visits are pivotal so that the Nile citizens themselves promote equitable and reasonable use of the shared water resources.
- NBD needs to focus on adding value to Nile cooperation-complementing to but not repeating-what NBI does so as to forge collaboration and partnership.



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