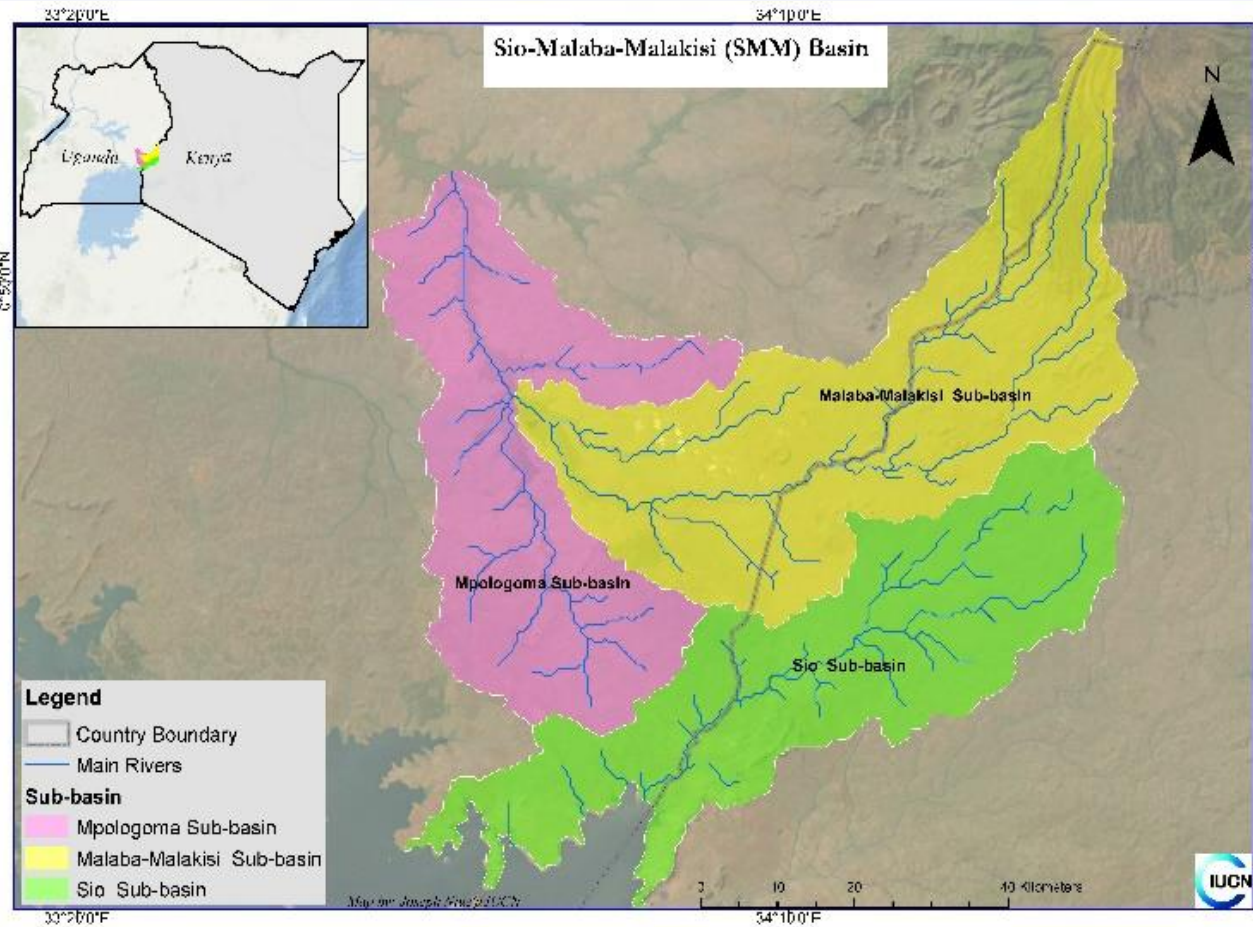




The case of Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) transboundary basin benefit sharing dialogue to promote and guide investment decisions in the basin, shared between Kenya and Uganda for enhanced cooperation

By John P. Owino, IUCN ESARO, October 3rd, 2023



- Shared by Kenya/Uganda
- Population - 4 Million
- Malaba-Malakisi and Mpologoma Catchment (3,782 km²) drains into Kyoga; and
- Sio Catchment (1,448km²) drains into Lake Victoria;
- Subsistence farming is the main economic activity;
- High poverty, population pressure, degradation of land and water resources;
- To address these issues of land and water degradation there has been cooperation among the two riparian countries managed under the NBI NELSAP framework through the SMM River Basin Management Project.

Specifically, it seeks to answer the following question:

How can joint decision-making processes for shared water resources management and development in the SMM yield better and more sustainable benefits across different scales and stakeholders?

The project is supported Ke and Ug to undertake a **Benefit Opportunities Assessment** with the aim of identifying opportunities for enhanced benefits **for stakeholders across sectors and levels**;

- Benefit sharing is an alternative (to volumetric water sharing) and is sharing benefits from water use;
- Inclusive approach to the negotiation of shared waters, which includes jointly undertaking planning, and implementation of investment opportunities in a shared transboundary basin for socio-economics and livelihood enhancement for the stakeholders as well as environmental sustainability;
- It helps facilitate cooperation through deliberate steps engaging different stakeholders at multiple levels in jointly identifying and prioritizing benefits;
- Benefits *and* costs: from national to local level



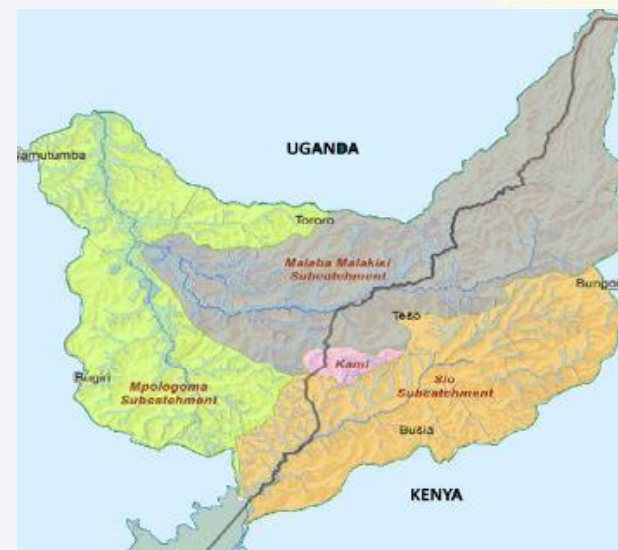
Methodology for BOAD in the SMM basin

- Structured through a 4 step-wise approach engaging multiple stakeholders at multiple levels in jointly identifying benefit enhancement scenarios:

Step 1

A situation analysis conducted:

- Identification of key stakeholders as well as entry points, building on the previous work of the *Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program*;
- Stakeholder identification, mapping interests and influence is key part in building an equitable cooperation process, as it ensures inclusion of all relevant stakeholders as well as understanding power dynamics, associated challenges and solutions to sharing benefits in the basin



SITUATION ANALYSIS AND ACTIVITIES REFINEMENT FOR STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IN THE SIO-MALABA-MALAKISI SUB-BASIN

Delivery No. 3:

Final Situation Report

Prepared by:
Dr. Nicholas Azza
Eng. Mohammed Badaza
Eng. Cosmus Muli

June 9, 2017

Step 2 – Series of Stakeholders Workshops

- The 1st SMM stakeholders' consultative workshop convened on May 15th-19th 2017, in Kisumu, Kenya:
- Improved SMM stakeholders understanding on transboundary water governance, benefits of transboundary water cooperation and benefit sharing;
- Stakeholders engaged in an SMM basin visioning process i.e. analysis of challenges and opportunities for joint basin management and development;
- Stakeholders identified different types of existing benefits as well as opportunities for additional benefits from cooperation.



The 2nd SMM basin interactive stakeholders' workshop, May 6th-9th, 2018, Mbale, Uganda:

- Stakeholders discussed the selected 12 shortlisted investment projects with transboundary relevance using a multi-criteria analysis (MCA) which was agreed upon by the stakeholders;

Project	Budget	Country	Rating
Malaba Irrigation	USD 2.2 million	Both	5.0
Eastern SMM Water Security and Development (combining six SCMPs)	USD 5.2million	Kenya	4.6
Sio-Sango Irrigation	USD 37 million	Kenya	4.4
Toloso SCMP	USD 9 million	Kenya	4.4
Lwakhakha Hotspots	USD 0.8 million	Uganda	4.2
Community-based Wetlands Management NELSAP	USD 6.7 million	Both	4.0
Angololo Dam NELSAP	USD 44 m	Both	4.0
Solid Waste NELSAP	USD 9.2 million	Both	3.8
Stormwater Drainage Master Plans NELSAP	USD 3.2 million	Both	3.4
Food Security	USD 22.7 m	Kenya	4.0
Nyabanja Irrigation NELSAP	USD 24 m	Uganda	3.6
Stormwater Drainage Master Plans NELSAP	USD 3.2 m	Both	3.4
Bulusambu Small Multi-purpose Reservoir	USD 82 million	Uganda	3.4

The 3rd SMM basin interactive stakeholders:

- Using the IUCN’s BOAT the stakeholders analyzed the 12 investment projects and arrived at preferred 4 clusters of projects that would qualitatively maximize benefits across stakeholder groups in Ke and Ug;
- These projects will each address a variety of stakeholder needs - **infrastructure development, catchment restoration, livelihoods enhancement etc;**
- Finalized the SMM Investment Plan and Financial Sustainability Strategy



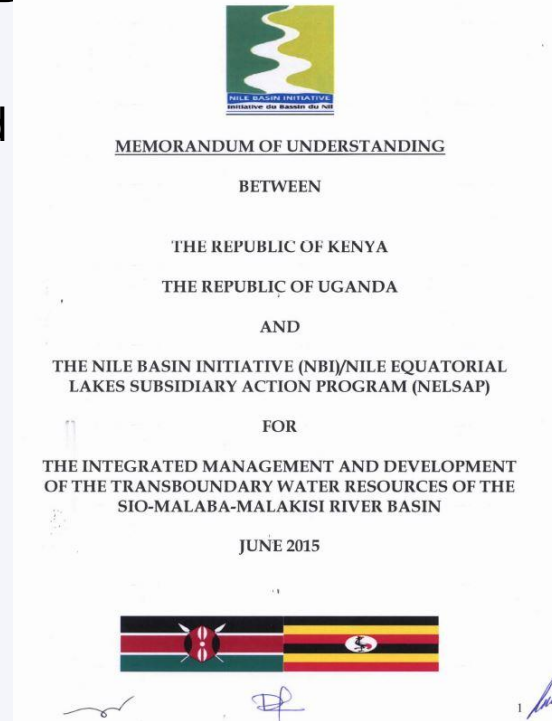


Methodology for BOAD in the SMM basin cont..

Step 3: Revision of the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint management and development of the SMM basin using the IUCN - Legal Assessment on Water Governance Opportunities Tool (LAGO) and Transboundary Instruments Development Tool (TIDE)

Step 4: Knowledge and experience sharing is considered critical in strengthening cooperation and collaboration in the management and development of transboundary water resources as well as strengthening resilience to climate change;

- **The Sava River Basin** - Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia (former Yugoslavia);
- **The Rhine River Basin** - Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Austria, Germany, France, and the Netherlands;



1. The SMM stakeholders are in the process of mobilising resources to implement the prioritized four (4) clusters of investment projects and the SMM investment plan and financial sustainability strategy;
2. The SMM MoU will provide an institutional framework for the coordination of the management and development of the SMM basin including the implementation of the prioritized investment projects and the plan;
3. Stakeholders and policy makers have strong attachment to the traditional volumetric water sharing, coupled with national interests and priorities for water resources development, changing their attitudes (through capacity building) towards embracing equity and benefit sharing principles is a slow process;
4. There is limited understanding among stakeholders on the requirement of the international treaties framing transboundary water cooperation e.g. the 1997 United Nation Watercourses Convention and the 1992 Water Convention and their fundamental principles, which are:
 - Do No Harm (to your neighbour's when using a shared water resource);
 - ensure Equity in the utilization of a shared water resource; and
 - ensure Environmental Sustainability.
5. Reconciling these principles with the reality on the ground in terms of economic development and national interest in relation to water demand, is challenging and requires a lot of hydro diplomacy processes;
6. Transboundary cooperation is only possible when there is trust among riparian states and/or stakeholders; and
7. In most cases, riparian countries are interdependent and rely on one another either through many factors including a common heritage, language, movement of people and trade.



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL



**THANK
YOU!**