ENTRO
NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

VOLUME 11

Nile-Flow

We work to realize shared benefit of cooperative water reources Development and management in the Eastern Nile.



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Did You Know?

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About the News Letter

ENTRO produces a Monthly magazine called Nile Flow. We print 1,000 free copies per issue, which is sent to our counterparts across the world. Nile Flow features institutional information related to Nile water cooperation activities undertaken by ENTRO, EN countries and partners.

What is in the Name?

We have chosen "Nile -Flow" as the name of our Newsletter.

Nile – Our great river!

Flow –

The flow of our great river, running through the three sisterly Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) Countries of Egypt, Ethiopia, Republic of South Sudan and the Sudan; connecting the people, their cultures, their histories and shared destinies since time immemorial.

Flow –

In the psychological sense also symbolizes a feeling of energized focus, of total engagement, and success in the activity being undertaken- i.e in the ENSAP cooperation process we are all engaged in. Thus the twin message: a description of reality, on the one hand, and a statement of hope, vision and purpose on the other.

Photo

Michael Abebe

Rebecca Tayachew

A Newsletter of the Easter Nile Technical Regional Office ENTRO
NILE - FLOW
Mar. 2022

ENTRO
NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

ENTRO News and Events

Interns at ENTRO

In complex basins like the Nile, where historical perceptions, culture and politics often overshadow facts on the ground, technical understanding and solutions to transboundary river-related development issues need to be devised. Further, reaching out to the next generation of professionals who may help riparian countries move beyond inter-generational conflicts to a new era of cooperation is equally important.

ENTRO has thus taken the initiative to establish Internship program as part of its core activities and successfully implemented in the last 10 years. This program has proven immensely popular in fostering cooperation and allowing ENTRO to enhance and its professional network. The program started in 2011 when ENTRO engaged the countries through partnership with scientific communities (EN universities).

Eastern Nile countries have acknowledged the contribution of the Internship program and even instructed its sustenance and expansion. As a result, the Program has extended its reach outside academia, to include Young Professionals practicing their trade in the private sector, other government ministries, civil society, etc.

These internships encouraged collaboration among students from different countries who knew little of each other's culture, knowledge,and perspectives in spite of being intricately linked through the shared resource of the Eastern Nile River system.

Up to now 19 different batches of the Internhsip program (with nearly 200 interns) have been implemented in the last ten years. This program run through different Categories: Regular Internship Program, Flood Management and Forecasting, Young Professional Program and Joint Studies. Over 80 capacity building trainings, sharing sessions, field visits, workshops, online sessions have been implemented under this program so far.

The interns have delivered more than 100 various water resources related technical knowledge products (analytic tools, toolkits, models, data, Remote Sensing Applications, analyses and study reports) that support ENTRO projects in many areas, including (Flood and Drought Management; Dam Safety; Hydrological Analysis; Agriculture; Irrigation; Climate Change; Environmental; Groundwater; Hydropower; Rainwater Harvesting; Remote Sensing; Watershed Management; Water Resources Modelling; Sedimentation Management; Water Quality; Water Diplomacy; Transboundary Water Management as well as other activities such as: Web Portal Information Management System, E- Library Development, Database Packaging, Communication, etc.

SADD-EL-KAFARA, EGYPT

Source: Democratic underground

The 1st NCCR Internship batch (Flood Forecasting and Early Warning

The first NCCR Internship batch took place between July and September 2021. ENTRO invited the Flood Management team to conduct 2021 flood season forecast and early warning activity. This batch has done many activities under this year flood season some of them are listed below.

Enhancement and consolidation of the rainfall forecast system on the Cloud by improving the WRF forecast with different climate products and verify the WRF forecast results.

Assessment of flood impacts of the 2020 flood season per each EN countries was done which indicates extreme events and thresholds recoded during the 2020 flood season.

In Sudan, for instance, the historical maximum river levels/-flood flows for many river gauging stations are registered in 2020 flood season.

As a result, the assessment showed that the 2020 flood impacts different sectors and socio-economic aspects and the environment, etc.

Determine threshold levels (risk level, warning levels or alert levels etc.), the magnitude at which flood is experienced to happen or starts to happen for key river gaging stations and flood affected locations and/or fatalities in 2020 flood season. These helps to improve the FFEW forecast products among others.

Daily forecast bulletins were produced and disseminated to users in the EN region in daily basins.

2021 Flood Preparedness and Early Warning Seasonal Report is submitted

Dam Safety

Water is not always available exactly where and when we need it. Precipitation or rain is also not evenly distributed over the world by season and location. Some parts of the world such as Africa and Asia have severe droughts making water a scarce and precious commodity. The demand for water in the midst of unfolding climate change/variability, population and economic growth has increased the need to build dams for storing large amounts of water.

A dam is defined as a barrier or structure across a stream, river or waterway to confine and then control the flow of water for domestic water supply, irrigation, navigation, recreation, sedimentation control, flood control or hydropower. Dams vary in size - from small earth embankments often for farm use - to high massive concrete structures generally used for water supply, hydropower and irrigation.

The earliest recorded dam is believed to have been on the Nile River at Kosheish, where a 49-foot- (15-metre-) high masonry structure was built about 2900 BC to supply water to King Menes' capital at Memphis. Evidence also exists of a masonry-faced earthen dam built about 2700 BC at Sadd-el-Kafara, about 19 miles (30 kilometers) south of Cairo.

One of the oldest dams that is still in use today is an earth and rock fill about 20 feet high on the Orontes in Syria, built about 1300 BC.

The most recent edition of the World Register of Dams of ICOLD (2019), contains information on 57,985 large dams, higher than 15 m and / or storing more than 3 million m3 of water.

The safety of dams can be affected by natural phenomenon such as flooding, landslide, earthquake, and deterioration of heterogonous foundations and construction materials.

KOKA DAM, ETHIOPIA (Photo MA)

Proper dam safety programs are basically preventive, designed and managed to provide the earliest possible detection of any flaws which may lead to failure.

Dam safety in Eastern Nile

As elsewhere, the over-arching objective of dam safety in Eastern is the protection of people, property, and the environment from the effects of dam failure without unduly limiting the benefits created by operation of dams and reservoirs. Hence, putting in place appropriate institutions and the state-of-the-art in dam safety is critical for Eastern Nile countries. The major concerns regarding large dams in the Eastern Nile is not their number, but their transboundary nature, complexity and size as well as the possible consequences of a failure.

Currently Eastern Nile hosts more than 30 large dams with a combined total storage capacity of about 210BM3. These include dams with large water storage reservoirs; such as High Aswan, Merowe and Tekeze Dams on Main Nile, Blue Nile and Tekeze Rivers respectively. Additional four large dams are being constructed, three in Ethiopia, including GERD (Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam) and one in Sudan.

Most Eastern Nile large dams provide multiple benefits that have significantly contributed to the countries' economic development. These dams provide flood protection, irrigatation, to generate electricity; and are major sources of water supply.

NORHED-II Eastern Nile Dam Safety Capacity building

It was designed to develop skills and technical competencies of policy makers, dam owners, operators, regulators, technicians, etc. of Eastern Nile sub basin countries and ensure safe design, construction, operation and safety management of dams to protect loss of lives, properties and environmental damage to downstream areas.

The training was conducted from 28th-30th March 2022. A total of 16 participants attended the training. Of whom, 13% were women participants. Koka Dam was visited to complement the theoretical classroom training with the practical aspects.

KOKA DAM ETHIOPIA (Photo MA)

The specific objectives were: to introduce basic concepts of dam safety management, historical incidents, actual problems and challenges related to dam safety and possible potential solutions to these problems; To bring together experts of the Eastern Nile countries for dialogue, experience sharing and networking for mutual benefit.

By doing so the trainees will advance their knowledge of dam safety; and to create a platform for knowledge transfer and skills development on procedures for dam risk identification, analysis and management techniques in the region.

Coordinated Operation of Cascade Dams Workshop

Consultation workshop for coordinated operation of cascade dams: It was held from 26th-29th January 2022, in Kampala, Uganda. A total of 25 participants attended the workshop (including participants from Nil Sec, NELSAP-CU ENTRO and Uganda). Of whom , 16% were women participants.

Its objectives were to ensure that dam operation rules are well captured in NBI Strategic Water Resources Analysis; discuss the contents and methodologies used in the Eastern Nile Design Flood Guideline; make progress in the data collection efforts for the Eastern Nile Design Flood Guideline; provide capacity building for national dam operations modelers with regard to modelling, data management, operational dam management and the utilization of forecasts; and to chart the way forward for the EN dam operations project.

CAPACITY OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED

National consultation workshop on coordinated operation of Cascade dams

National consultation workshop on coordinated operation of Cascade dams was held in Ethiopia and Sudan. The workshop took place from 12-13 Feb 2022 In Ethiopia.A total of 25, three of them were females, attended the meeting.

For Sudan, consultation workshop was held from 10-11 March, 2022 In Jiad, Sudan. A total of 21, four of them were females, attended the meeting.

The objectives were:

- Brainstorming on overall water resource development and challenges in the Basin;
- To ensure that all sub sectors data and information are well captured in the SWRA;
- To discuss on the contents and the methodologies used in the Strategic Water Resources Analysis and coordinated operation of cascade dams;
- To discuss on the contents and the methodologies used in the Strategic Water Resources Analysis and coordinated operation of cascade dams.

PARTICIPANTS' ATTENDED THE VIRTUAL PRESENTATION ON COCD (SUDAN)

The 1st regional workshop for the water quality conducted

The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) is one of the two investment programs under the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) established in December 1999 by the Council of Ministers for Water Affairs of six upstream riparian states of Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The mission of NELSAP is to "contribute to the eradication of poverty, promote economic growth, and reverse environmental degradation in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region.

The Nile Basin countries continue to face challenges with their water quality data management programs. The program is proposed for supporting riparian countries to cooperatively address the ever increasing water quality and pollution control challenges in the basin.

NELSAP has previously conducted a virtual meeting on the 13th of December, 2021 kickstarting the NCCR Water Quality Thematic Area where the four Centers (NileSEC, ENTRO, LVBC and NELSAP) presented an introduction to the NCCR Water Quality Investment Planning and Prioritization Thematic Area, the roles and responsibilities of the WQ-TWG and the way forward. A Literature review was also conducted be tween the centers and the Water Quality Technical Working group on the period from 15th December, 2021 to 22nd of March, 2022 where several water quality hotspots were identified.

The 1st Regional Workshop for the Multi-criteria Options Analysis to prioritize investments in identified water quality hotspots was conducted from 12th to 13th April 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

the objectives were:-

• To review and enhance the list the water quality hotspots that were identified from the Literature Review.

• To Develop and Agree on the Water Quality Hotspot Screening Criteria to come up with two water quality hotspots (one in the NEL region and one in the EN region) for further studies.

Nile Basin Water Quality Database

The Nile Basin Water Quality Database has been developed by NBI to the support basin states to take joint actions to address and reverse the impacts of deteriorating water quality in different parts of the basin.

Goal 4 of the NBI Strategy 2017-2027 aims at protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of water related ecosystems across the basin. The Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat (Nile-SEC) and NELSAP CU have embarked on their five year Basin Wide Program 2017 – 2022 (BWP) and NELSAP Strategic Plan 2017-2022 to implement with substantial component on trans-boundary water resources management Among the specific objectives of these plans are:

(i) to strengthen and apply the evidence basis and policy instruments for protection, restoration and sustainable utilization of wetland, river and lake ecosystems, and

(ii) Improve water security through evidence-based catchment-based planning, enhanced storage, more efficient (management) use of water resources, increased investment and better protection of the natural resource base respectively.

Challenges of Nile Basin countries with their water quality data management programs

• Limited or non-existent national water quality or sediment monitoring programs e.g. limited capacity of water quality laboratories to effectively execute their mandate

• Nonexistent stations for monitoring water quality at key hotspots or stations that are outdated and out of service due to lack of funding and personnel for operations, maintenance, and upgrades (including for equipment calibration).

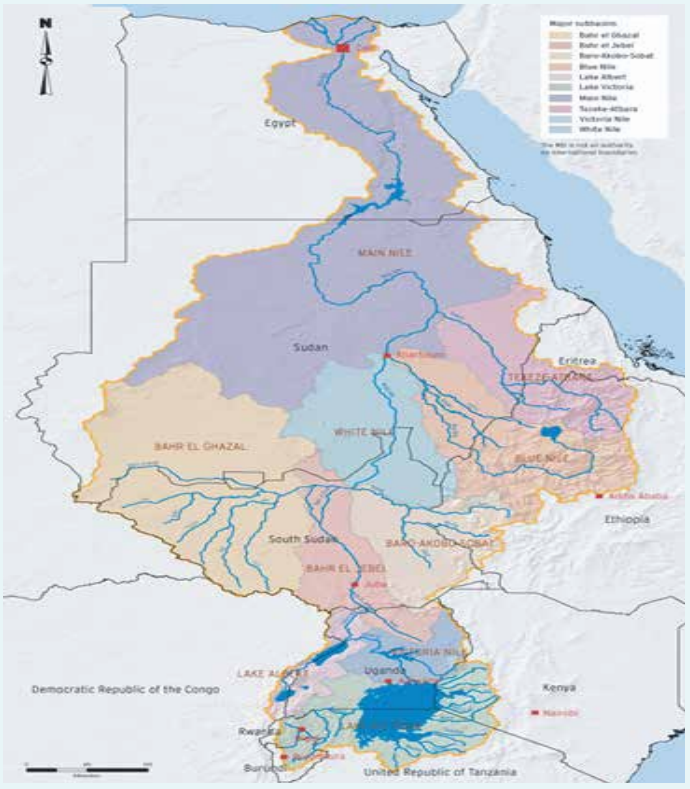
• Limited or non-existent telemetry systems for timely availability of data for operational use and for automated processing as part of a regional network.

• Lack of adequate or modern data acquisition and management systems for receiving, processing, storing, disseminating, and transmitting water resources data and information.

• Insufficient number and qualifications/training of staff for field measurement, field equipment maintenance, and data management system operation.

• Limited institutional funding for operation and maintenance of current and future systems

• Lack of demonstrated practices and procedures for trans-boundary sharing of operational water resources observations.



THE MAP OF NILE BASIN

Water Quality Management Issues in the Nile River Basin

• Lack of Data and Monitoring

• Modelling.

• Policies and Institutional Framework

•Level of Awareness

THE DROUGHT GAP AND NEED ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION WORKSHOP BISHOFTU ETHIOPIA

Drought Gap and Need Assessment

The Drought Gap and Need Assessment Consultation Workshop was held from 25th-26th July 2022, Bishoftu, Ethiopia.

The Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) Project is planned to be implemented by NBI centers and other stakeholders with the support of the World Bank. NCCR Project components implemented by ENTRO will support ENTRO in promoting cooperation among Eastern Nile (EN) riparian countries by focusing primarily on providing flood and drought risk services, strengthening dam safety, and continuing to strengthen the network of youth and professionals in the sub-basin.

It builds on ENTRO's achievements in flood forecasting and dam safety capacity building and seeks to deepen activities where information tools are regionally relevant. The Flood and Drought risk mitigation component support will enhance flood forecast models for the EN region, joint development of Basin-wide drought monitoring and forecasting models, information dissemination platforms and capacity building for flood risk mitigation investment planning.

The work implemented by ENTRO and supported under this component will include: (i) enhancement of riverine Flood Forecast and Early Warning (FFEW) System for the EN region; and (ii) development and operationalization of a basin-wide drought early warning system (DEWS) that includes both monitoring and forecasting components (the focus of the workshop).

These tools will be developed with the aim of enhancing the robustness of existing models and expanding the geographical coverage.

The drought early warning system will leverage the existing drought monitoring system and prototype seasonal forecasting tool developed under NCORE, with the aim of scaling up and/or improving a model (or models) to establish a basin-wide drought early warning system. ENTRO in close collaboration with Nile-Sec, NELSAP-CU and NBD will conduct a need assessment and gap analysis to expand the drought early warning system to cover the entire Nile basin.

The consultation workshop was held from 25th-26th July 2022 in Bishoftu, Ethiopia. A total of 21 participants attended the workshop (4 female - 19 % were women participants). They were drawn from the NBI member countries (from Ministry of Water affairs), NELSAP-CU, NBD and ENTRO. NCCR project TTL from World Bank attended virtually.

The consultation workshop was facilitated jointly by the Regional Drought and Flood Coordinator of ENTRO and the individual consultant.

The overall objective of the workshop is to introduce the Nile-wide Drought Risk Mitigation sub-project to the Nile Basin Flood and Drought Technical Working Group (NB-F&D-TWG),

the three centers of Nile-Sec, ENTRO, NELSAP-CU, and NBD. It will cover project activities, including the needs assessment, that are intended to strengthen the Nile basin regional offices' and Nile basin countries' capacity in drought monitoring and forecasting and provide information that is useful for decision-makers at the central government and local levels.

The specific objectives of the workshop include the following:
1) Determine the primary policy problem(s) NBI centers are attempting to solve through the development of a drought early warning system.

2) Assess the most important characteristics of such a drought early warning system (in relation to policy issues and technical characteristics);

3) Collect information on existing drought monitoring and forecast information dissemination tools at national level (success, gapsimprovement areas)

4) Collect initial information on national DRM activities (drought monitoring, forecast, and policy preparedness, mitigation, and response components) and existing intra-governmental relationships (particularly between ministries with remits in meteorology, agriculture, and water management) as presented by the D&F- TWG

5) Assess existing capacity at NBI centers to operate drought monitoring and forecasting modelling systems.

6) Discuss intra-governmental needs versus regional Nile Basin needs.

Some of the key issues discussed during the Drought Gap and Need Assessment Consultation Workshop was held from 25th-26th July 2022, Bishoftu, Ethiopia were

- NCCR Drought risk mitigation project background and objectives
- Objective and methodology of the drought gap and need assessment,
- Country specific presentations: Drought early warning dissemination, preparedness, and risk mitiga-tion practice,
- Identification of common needs, major differences among countries regarding drought (fore-cast, early warning, preparedness and risk mitigation) practices, gaps and further need assess-ment,

Facts about Drought

A "drought" is an extended period of deficient rainfall relative to the statistical multi-year average for a region. But because of the various ways it is measured, an objective drought definition has yet to be produced upon which everyone can agree.

The four types are: meteorological (lack of precipitation), agricultural, (lack of moisture in the soil where crops grow), hydrological (low levels of water in lakes and reservoirs), and socioeconomic (water shortages in drinking and running water).

Only .003% of water on Earth is freshwater available for human consumption. Save water by challenging friends to only use 13 gallons of water in a day. (It's harder than it sounds!) Sign up for 13 Gallon Challenge.

Meteorologists predict drought based on precipitation patterns, stream flow, and moisture of soil over long periods of time.

The effects of drought make it difficult to support food crops. A prolonged drought could lead to famine.

In the Horn of Africa, the 1984-1985 drought led to a famine, which killed 750,000 people.

As the climate heats up, droughts are expected to become more frequent and severe in some locations. [1]

1. https:// www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-droughts

WUBALEM FEKADE, PH.D.

Conversation

In this Issue we feature Wubalem Fekade, PH.D former Head, Social Development and Communication

Q. Welcome to "conversations." Could you tell us a little bit about yourself, starting with your background, country, childhood, and academic background?

I was born in a small town called Debarek, some 800 kms up north from Addis in Northern Gondar. It falls in the Tekeze-Atbara Sub-basin of Eastern Nile. When I was a child there was no electricity and running water in the town. The town has grown much bigger now and has much better amenities. My childhood, like that of my generation's, was plain simple – more connected to people and nature. We spent our weekends going to the nearby forests around Limalimo - a breathtaking watershed scenery straddling the eastern escarpments of the Semen mountains. I completed my elementary school in Debarek, then had to move 100 km south to Gondar for high school because there was no high school in that small town then.

In the last year of my high school I moved to Addis having won a scholarship to a preparatory school then commonly referred to as Lab School and formally Prince Bede Mariam Preparatory School. From there I went to College. My first degree is in Agricultural Economics, second degree in Development Planning and Management and my Ph.D. in Spatial Planning.

I also have had several trainings in conflict management, communication, social development, rural development, Project management, etc.

Q. What is your previous work experience?

Well, by and large, I worked in the field of international development. I include my experience at NBI/ENTRO in this domain. My graduate work in the development field made me acutely aware of and appreciate the intricacies of attempting to steer developing countries toward economic growth, social development and human progress while at the same time navigating the complexities emanating from ever-evolving dynamics of international relations, geopolitics, hydropolitics, super power rivalry, you name it.

I have had to exchange several hats during my professional life. I worked in agricultural, rural development projects, spatial planning and academia (teaching-research, mentoring) and my last station has been with the NBI/ENTRO.

Way back, prior to leaving Ethiopia in 1986 I had worked as economist and Planning Expert/Head with a Livestock Development and Marketing Enterprise under the Ministry of State Farms here in Ethiopia. I had worked in an EU inter university research consortium in Germany, in the US (University of Maryland, College Park) at the intersection of international

development and conflict management, and consultancy-research work too me to several African countries, including Ghana, Gambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Lesotho, etc.

Q. It's like a year since you left ENTRO, but How did you end up joining ENTRO? Where did you find out about ENTRO/NBI? When did you start at ENTRO? What were your motivations and goals? Were those goals achieved, looking back?

Immediately prior to coming to ENTRO, I was working at the University of Maryland, US, where a post-conflict electoral political transition assistance Project I was coordinating used to take me back and forth between the US and Lesotho, Southern Africa. A conflict data base I used to pay attention to always flagged Ethiopia's transition a dangerous red – and this spurred me to seek opportunities to come back and help in any way I can.

Friends who knew of my interest suggested I join a new program being set up called the NBI and pointed to me that would give me broader opportunity to make a difference. I never knew what NBI stood for. I googled and found out UNOPS advertising to hire Lead Specialists for an NBI Shared Vision Program Project under NBI (Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement Project-CBSI).

I was selected and seconded to ENTRO as CBSI Lead Specialist and Social Development Officer in 2006. It was the heyday of Nile Basin cooperation then. Everything was starting then. The atmosphere was filled with energy, enthusiasm, hope and genuine camaraderie among professionals – Egyptians, Sudanese, Ethiopians, and colleagues from the NEL region. ENTRO then was being for the first time led by a competitively hired professional manager, Engineer Mekuria.

The caliber of the professionals staffing ENTRO and NBI then was astounding. The IDEN Project implementation was in full swing. We were all busy bees. Dedicated Development Partners from the World Bank, DIFID, Finland, CIDA, etc. were providing critical technical and advisory support. Honestly, one can not then help feeling that he or she is taking part in a monumental, transformative undertaking in the Nile Basin, more so in Eastern Nile! To come back to myself, I was carried away by the enthusiasm and my enthusiasm was contagious enough to convince my better half to bear the separation, pay sacrifice on her part and let me shuttle between here and the US for such a long time.

Looking back over almost a decade and a half I spent here I confidently state that the experience I gained, the lessons I learnt was worth the effort. I feel like having done another Ph.D.! I also must admit I feel a little disappointed at the turn of events since 2010 when the initial enthusiasm was steadily scaled down. All the same, the momentum of the processes that have started is not lost and believe will yield results eventually. Foundational work has been done.

I believe successive generation of young people will realize the dream of Nile Citizenship and the creation of a prosperous Eastern Nile [integrated] Economic Community.

The experience, the knowledge (tacit as well as explicit) ENTRO has engendered has left a permanent mark. That is, there is growing realization, more so among the younger generation, of the fact that the hydrologic linkages, the cultural linkages, the geographical linkages, historical linkages connecting Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan are givens and nobody can change them.

The potentials are there. I trust a younger, a bolder, a more positive, a more audacious, a more forward-looking generation will build on what has been and is being built here and realize the huge potential ENSAP Vision 2020 foresaw. Well, I got carried away, I am afraid.

Q. When you come back to ENTRO to work with the strategic plan, how did you get it? How about its achievements after 20 years?

Yes, I came back now for a short consultancy to prepare the Terminal Evaluation of the preceding Strategic Plan (2018-22) and inputting the results thereof to prepare the forthcoming Plan (2022-27). I am working on both documents. I cannot yet the findings here.

As regards the achievements you asked about, actually, right before I left, we produced a publication (I was co-lead with Jane Baitwa of Nile-Sec), Our Nile - Our Benefits", where we extensively documented what NBI in general has delivered to each Nile Basin country in terms of benefits. We also described in detail about the basin-wide achievements. ENTRO's contribution has been included there. There is also publication on a similar theme on the NBI 20th Anniversary.

Q. Could you please tell us about your experience in ENTRO while you were working as Regional Social Development and Communication Head?

I alluded to this earlier. The experience is, simply put, invaluable. My responsibility included undertaking both functions i.e. social development and communication. Social development is closely tied with ENTRRO's mission of ultimately addressing

poverty, gender equality, social inclusion, stakeholder participation thru cooperative water resources development. When it comes to project preparation work it means undertaking social safeguards work to inform project preparation - after all you do not want people, more so rural people, to be worse off because of your projects, even inadvertently.

I had to do read virtually almost all Consultant technical reports to understand the issues better, which took tons of my time.

At the same time I learnt a lot. All sorts of activities are included – here- upstream in the project cycle social assessment and stakeholder studies, downstream in the implementation phase things like Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA).

Development communication as an umbrella term included many activities: Program Communication to educate about what ENTRO is, create awareness and build stakeholder support and facilitate participation; Internal Communication to build internal team cohesion within ENTRO, Corporate Communication to promote ENTRO to external stakeholders and build image, networks and visibility. Whatever type of communication you do it is critical to know the substance of each issue, each theme you want to inform the public out. Communication without substantive knowledge is hollow and even dangerous. Most people equate development communication with PR work, which is wrong. For this reason, it is important to attend each workshop when consultants submit reports, to interrogate the Regional Project Coordinators and Management Team about their work. We did a lot of outreach and media training. After 2010, we intensified this work thanks to EU-GIZ support and we did a lot of hydro-diplomacy training.

Earlier when the IDEN was in full swing a lot of time was devoted to the social development work to inform project preparation work. We prepared Social Assessment Manuals, Social Guidance Manual, Environment Guidance Manual, the Stakeholder Involvement and Communication Strategy for JMP, etc. Then we had communication and environment specialists as well so that we operated as a team. Later in the last ten or so years I had to juggle the three tasks alone, which was challenging, but all the same interesting.

Q. If you are given the opportunity to lead the SDCU, what will you do differently?

What a hypothetical! Simply put, I would recalibrate and adjust the work to fit the current manpower, financing and management environment. In so long as the ENTRO mandate remains the same, and there is going to be investment work with the potential to affect people – i.e., stakeholders that need to take part in the decision-making process; in so long as Eastern Nile cooperation needs a lot of media support; in so long as public diplomacy needs to support and encourage leaders to make bold decision, the essentials and imperatives of of SDCU work will remain relevant and unaltered.

Of course, I would update following the state-of-the art in communication, stakeholder participation, environment management and safeguards related material.

Q. What do you presume are the most critical and persistent obstacles to the advancement of Eastern Nile?

Well, I presume you are asking about the state of EN cooperation. Notwithstanding the disappointments, EN cooperation has advanced in the last two decades. Remember attempts to cooperate began from a baseline of almost zero. The countries are keeping engaged despite all the ups and downs. When countries keep communicating, that is good. I do not think there is deliberate effort by any country to undermine cooperation per se.

The problem is how countries frame Eastern Nile water related transboundary issues – and this framing is colored by perceptions, institutional set ups, culture, history, memories, etc. It does not mean that these things cannot improve as time goes by and generations change. There is also an overlay of geopolitics making things needlessly complex, about which ENTRO has no leverage. But over the years I notice change toward more complex behavior that enables navigating differences and disagreements toward compromise and finding workable solutions. I think this is good.

Q. What were the real challenges in the cooperation process and what is your opinion on the way forward for coming ten-twenty years?

I talked about the challenges. As for the future, I would venture to guess that the cooperation process that has began haltingly will be resuscitated and perhaps strengthened simply because:
(a) countries are realizing the obvious – they are geographically contiguous neighbors and have to learn to live as good neighbors;
(b) they share a common resource – the Nile water and related resources - as neighbors. They therefore have to learn to utilize this resource responsibly, equitably and justly for the benefit of all – and nobody has monopoly power on this common pool resource;
(c) this shared resources is being threatened by a myriad of pressures – growing demand,

pollution, climate change, etc. and unless they cooperate the will kill the proverbial goose that lays the golden eggs;

(d) over the last twenty years there has been critical mass of Eastern Nile professionals that have worked together, negotiated with each other, managed projects together, organized conferences together, interned together, trained together – they know each other much better than before;

(e) a new generation is emerging in all countries that is more technical oriented, technical savvy and solution-seeking and they might break free from unproductive legacies of the past in their respective countries – and seek break through solutions. I am optimist. Twenty years down the road, perhaps we might even have an Eastern Nile Economic Community.

I came here almost twenty years ago dreaming – dream half realized, so to speak. I dream the other half will be realized in two decades.

Q. Can you tell me about your most notable achievements during your time at ENTRO?
I do not have any achievement to speak of personally. If there is any, then it is a team product and I might have played a role as a member.

The SDCU has achieved a lot over the years. Thanks to World Bank support, Social and environment safeguarding has been mainstreamed as an overarching function of ENTRO. We have been producing different communication products.

Thanks to GIZ/EU support I am happy with the Media Training and the Hydro diplomacy work we did in these difficult years to facilitate amicable relationship and understating among the countries. I am above all proud of the team work and collaboration culture we created in ENTRO and hope will be maintained.

Q. If you could write a message to ENTRO about what needs to be done in the next 10-20 years, what would you say?

This is a tall order. ENTRO might not be there in its present form in twenty years. All what I can say for sure is that there will be change. Change is the only consent. I hope ENTRO will evolve into a formidable organization – being harbinger of Eastern Nile economic integration beyond water!

Q. Thank you for your time.

Did You KNow?

A single tree will move 70 gallons of water per day from the ground into the atmosphere. [1]

Less than 1% of the water supply on earth can be used as drinking water.

About 6,800 gallons (25,700 liters) of water is required to grow a day's food for a family of four.

Human bones are 31% water. [2]

1 aquarionwater.com/education/water-facts
2 Espwaterproducts

ENTRO Welcomes New Hydrologist/ Water Resource Modeling and Knowledge Management (MKM) and Communication Officer

Mr. Surafel Mamo

The Eastern Nile Technical Regiona Offfice (ENTRO) is pleased to welcome on board the new Hydrologist/ Water Resource Modeling and Knowledge Management (MKM) Mr. Surafel Mamo, working as Hydrologist/ Water Resource Modeling and Knowledge Management Officer for the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO). Having his educational background in Master of Science in Water Science and Engineering - specialization in Hydro informatics in Modeling and Information Systems for Water Management from UNSESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, the Netherlands (2011).Umpteen years of working experiences in the water sector, especially in hydrological processes, water resources modeling, flood forecasting and analyses among others.

Here at ENTRO he is working as Hydrologist/ Water Resource Modeling and Knowledge Management Officer. Main activities are Conduct basin-wide water resource analysis; Developing water resource Modelling tool and produce knowledge products; coordinating and quality assuring the modeling tools and knowledge products and making information decision for future investment in the Eastern Nile; Supervise and support interns assigned to assist ENTROs' different activities and generate knowledge product at end of the internship program; Responsible for supervision consultants and ensuring they work together in planning and executing the work; Development and training of country specialists on modeling tools among others.

Mrs. Rebecca Tayachew

The Eastern Nile Technical Regiona Offfice (ENTRO) is pleased to welcome on board the new Communication Officer Mrs. Rebecca Tayachew working as Communication Officer for the Eastern Nile technical Regional Office (ENTRO). Having her educational background in Masters of Art in Developmental studies from EGST, as well as a BA in Journalism and Communication (Broadcast Journalism) from Addis Ababa Univiersity.
With a Journalism background work as Radio program producer, host and reporter in providing a regular sound bites in national media for many years both in radio and Television. on the other hand while working as communication officer prepare multiple publication and video products , Write, edit, and distribute content, including publications, press releases, Different Communication Products and website content. plus work as Public Relations and promotions as well as Organize and facilitate various advocacy events and Conduct trainings.
Here at Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) she i working as Communication Officer. The main activities are working as Advocacy Communication, Corporate Communication, Internal Communication, Media Monitoring, Social Media and Program Communication among others.

ENTRO Vision:

A credible EN institution fostering sustainable transboundary cooperative water resource management and development and promoting regional integration.

Mission:

We work for the shared benefits cooperation

ENTRO's Headquarter
Addis Ababa-Ethiopia

Nile Basin Initiative

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ENTRO Core Values Are **RIGHT:**

Regional Orientation, Focus on People and Environment

We are committed to regional cooperation in all our activities and relationships among ourselves and with our partners. We are committed to work for the benefit of the people and the environment of the EN countries.

Initiatives, Dynamism and Creativity

As a team and as individuals, we take initiative and embrace new ideas for the enhancement of both our performance and our working environment. We strive for creativity to set the example and place for others.

Gender Balance, Equity and Respect Diversity

In all our work and interactions, we give equal opportunities for both genders and seek gender balance. We also do not discriminate any individuals because of their beliefs or physical appearance. We emphasize mutual respect for individuals, recognition of their contributions, and their rights to equity in benefit sharing.

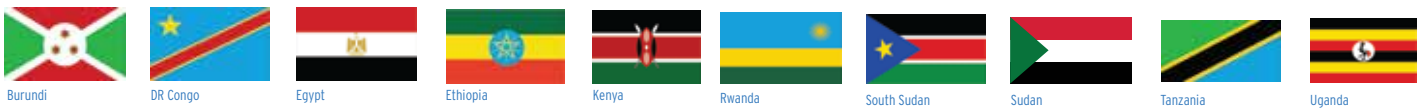
Honesty, Excellence, and professionalism

We perform all our duties in a spirit of trust, transparency and honesty.
We are committed to excellence and professionalism in all our work.
We do not compromise on quality and accountability.

Teamwork, participation and partnership

We choose to work in teams with our colleagues at ENTRO and with ENTRO'S owners and partners. We also seek to expand and intensify participation of non-governmental stakeholders, particularly from EN civil society and private sector.
We believe through participation and partnership we would achieve synergies otherwise lost. We hold ourselves individually and collectively accountable in achieving our commonly shared objectives.

ONE RIVER ONE PEOPLE ONE VISION



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We work to realize the shared benefit of cooperative water resources Development and Management in the Eastern Nile