



# Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

A service brought to you by NBI Secretariat

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## **Water diplomacy curbs resource conflict**

The majestic River Nile is many things to many people. This river considered as the longest in the world evokes poetry, tales of grandeur, nationalistic fervor, mythology and much more. Its tributaries snakes their way from the Eastern African highlands covering some 10 basin countries of Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt. In all that geographical meandering the river covers a record 6,670km before it drains into the Mediterranean Sea.

<http://bit.ly/2tiCzcR>

## **Egypt: Ethiopia is yet to start filling its reservoir**

Ethiopia has not yet started storing water from the Grand Renaissance Dam, the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation announced yesterday.

Responding to several satellite images that have been circulated online showing the formation of a lake on one side of the dam, the ministry stressed that the lake was formed due to a flood.

<http://bit.ly/2v8YlNk>

## **Egypt fails to make headway as it navigates Nile River talks**

At the first Nile Basin States Summit held June 22 in Entebbe, Uganda, Cairo failed to amend the three clauses it rejects in the Entebbe Agreement. The latter, also known as the Cooperative Framework Agreement, was drafted as part of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and is aimed at regulating use of the river's waters in the 10 countries it flows through. While six of the upstream countries have signed the agreement, Egypt, Sudan and Congo maintain their position.

<http://bit.ly/2v9ugon>

## **Ethiopia asserts commitment to coordinate with Egypt through GERD negotiations**

Ethiopia parliament speaker Abadola Jamida asserted on Saturday his country's commitment to coordinate with Egypt, whether through areas of joint cooperation or negotiations of the Grand

Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), according to Egypt's state-owned broadcaster. This came during Jamida's meeting with an Egyptian delegation in Adis Ababa, headed by Egypt's Ambassador to Ethiopia Abubakar Hefni Mahmoud, during which they discussed bilateral relations.

<http://bit.ly/2uux1LM>

### **Economic benefits of the GERD to Nile riparian countries**

Ethiopia has been a force of economic integration between African countries, especially those in East Africa, over the past decade. Its economic diplomacy based foreign policy has paved the way for it to forge stronger economic ties with neighbouring countries. As a result, the level of economic interdependence and interaction between Eastern African countries has increased over the past decade.

<http://bit.ly/2v9oNqk>

### **Egypt faces water insecurity as Ethiopian mega-dam starts filling**

"The land has become very dry," observes Mahmoud Abo Khokha, a farmer from Al Monofeyya governorate, in Egypt's Nile delta. "Drought is no longer predictable; it used to hit a certain 15 winter days. The whole year's crops could be destroyed because of one week's drought." Like most farmers round here, he blames Ethiopia. They are under the impression that a massive hydropower dam being built upriver is already affecting their water supply.

<http://bit.ly/2u3zBWF>



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### **Renaissance Dam: Need for political intervention as technical negotiations get complicated**

Intense activity by several official Egyptian actors is underway as Ethiopia begins to pool water at the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam reservoir site, which Ethiopia began without providing Cairo with official notice. An Egyptian government source told Mada Masr that Addis Ababa has started what he called an "early filling" of the dam. A government source linked to the renaissance dam file told Mada Masr that vigorous governmental action had in fact started regarding the dam, the construction of which is nearing completion and would lead to a significant decline in Egypt's historical share of Nile water.

<http://bit.ly/2tArXkU>

### **New assessment identifies global hotspots for water conflict**

More than 1,400 new dams or water diversion projects are planned or already under construction and many of them are on rivers flowing through multiple nations, fuelling the potential for increased water conflict between some countries. A new analysis commissioned by the United Nations uses a comprehensive combination of social, economic, political and environmental factors to identify areas around the world most at-risk for "hydro-political" strife.

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This river basins study was part of the U.N.'s Transboundary Waters Assessment Program.

<http://bit.ly/2vv3crt>

### **Ngoma, Kirehe to benefit from \$15.5m Nile project**

Ngoma and Kirehe districts are among five districts in Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi set to benefit from a \$15.5 million development project championed by the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU), officials have said. Each of the three countries will eventually take \$5.167 million for its different economic and social development projects within their respective territories along their common border.

<http://bit.ly/2vAToxW>

### **Energy PS, Chinese in bitter fight as \$700m Kiba dam deal is terminated**

A thick cloud of unease is hovering at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development after the Permanent Secretary, Dr Stephen Isabalija, last week terminated a critical Memorandum of Understanding between Government of Uganda and China Africa Investment and Development Company (CAIDC), putting the construction of Kiba Hydro Power Project across River Nile in jeopardy. On July 3, Dr Isabalija wrote to Mr Zhao Lionel, the President, China Africa Investment and Development Company (CAIDC), "We note that after more than 25 months, no significant work has been undertaken with respect to the development of the project with key milestones of the MoU not fulfilled. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that in line with section 6.2, the MoU between



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this ministry and CAIDC regarding your development of Kiba Hydropower project is hereby terminated."

<http://bit.ly/2uBgHsH>

### **Farmers pushed off their land to save Tanzania's Ruaha River**

Gazing at the exposed, rocky bottom of the Great Ruaha River, known as the jewel of Tanzania, Rosemary Kasenza ponders what the future holds for her family now that there is no longer enough water for her crops. "I am worried because it's the dry season and I don't have enough food to feed my children," she said. Kasenza grows potatoes, maize, onions and bananas on 3 hectares (7 acres) of land in the fertile Ruaha basin in southern Tanzania. She says she used to have no problem irrigating her crops but now the river flow slows to a trickle in the dry season.

<http://reut.rs/2vAJMSa>

### **\$5m project to improve Rusumo Falls neighbourhoods**

Beyond electricity access that is changing life in their area, communities around Rusumo falls will soon start gaining more dividends from the famous hydropower plant. Rwanda has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) on Local Area Development Plan. The three year project intends to improve the living conditions of Rusumo Fall

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neighbourhoods in Kirehe and Ngoma district.

<http://bit.ly/2tJep6L>

### **Egypt faces water insecurity**

Egyptian farmers along the lower Nile have little information to guide them as upriver barrage threatens to compound the impacts of global warming. While some blame Ethiopia, which is building a hydropower dam upriver, experts point to climate change and the demands of a growing population. As reported by [Climatechangenews.com](http://Climatechangenews.com), the Nile's fresh water flow to Egypt may be cut by up to 25% over the next five or 15 years.

<http://bit.ly/2tsHxnu>

### **Chinese launch fund to protect Lake Victoria**

Save the Wild Fund, a Chinese not-for-profit environmental conservation organisation, has started operations to encourage companies to fund conservation of Lake Victoria. Speaking at the launch last week, Mr Tiang Clody Zhoo, the chairman Save the Wild Fund, said the organisation which was launched last week in Uganda, is partnering with Lake Victoria region local authorities and counties cooperation (LVRLAC) to lobby all Chinese companies operating in the country to contribute towards an environmental fund to plant trees around the lake.

<http://bit.ly/2ucZq8p>



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