Nile Basin Initiative NBI Secretariat

Project position Vacancy

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<th>Position: Groundwater Project Technical Lead</th>
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<td>Category: Regional</td>
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<td>Organizational Unit: Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat, Entebbe, Uganda</td>
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<td>Duty Station: Entebbe Uganda</td>
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<td>Approx. Contract period: 1 February 2020 – 31 Jan 2022;</td>
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<td>Reports to: Deputy Executive Director/Head of the Basin-Wide Program and Water Resources Management</td>
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A. Background

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a cooperative arrangement initiated and led by the Nile riparian countries to promote joint development, protection and management of the common Nile Basin water resources. NBI has a Shared Vision, namely: 'to promote sustainable socioeconomic development through the equitable utilization and, benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources'. A wide range of programs and projects are currently under varying stages of identification, preparation and implementation under NBI designed to contribute towards the realization of the NBI Shared Vision.

The Nile-Sec has embarked on its five year Basin Wide Program 2017 – 2022 (BWP) implementation with substantial component on transboundary water resources management. The BWP covers work streams on water security, agricultural water management, environmental sustainability, climate change and transboundary water governance.

One of the key result areas NBI Secretariat implemented Basin Wide Program focuses on transboundary groundwater aquifers. With the financial support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Nile-SEC will implement its first groundwater study project.

The NBI groundwater study project is described briefly as follows:

**Project title:** enhancing conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources in selected transboundary aquifers: case study for selected shared groundwater bodies in the Nile basin.

Project objective: to enhance knowledge and capacity for sustainable use and management of transboundary aquifers and aquifers of regional significance in the Nile Basin.
### Specific Objectives

- Improve knowledge and understanding of groundwater resources in Nile Basin;
- Strengthen overall water resources management nationally and basin-wide;
- Respond to climate change impacts through effective risk-reduction adaptation measures - e.g.: conjunctive use and management of surface water and groundwater;
- Ensure a healthy ecosystem and strengthened livelihood.

### Project components:

**Component 1:** Furthering knowledge and understanding about availability of groundwater resources in the selected aquifers underlying watersheds in the sub-basins of the Eastern Nile and the Nile Equatorial Lakes.

**Component 2:** Development of action plans on groundwater resources governance, management, and protection for inclusion in national, sub-basin frameworks: – also including consideration of surface water/groundwater resources conjunctive use.

**Component 3:** Targeted pilot projects to explore conjunctive use of surface and ground waters, and links to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

**Component 4:** Further strengthening capacity to address groundwater issues at the national and regional levels.

**Component 5:** Communications and awareness raising.

The Nile-Sec is interested to hire a suitable qualified expert, the Project Technical Lead (PTL), to support the implementation of the project.

### B. Overall scope of service

The Project Technical Lead (PTL) has a dual role. Primarily the PTL is responsible to provide technical leadership during conceptualization, planning, design, and implementation of all project components (80% of staff time). In addition to being the senior technical lead, the PTL will be responsible for the overall management of the Project, including the mobilisation of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors (20% of staff time).

The PTL will report to the Nile-SEC Executive Director (Project Director (PD)) or his designate and works in close consultation with the assigned UNDP Programme Manager for all of the Project’s substantive and administrative issues. From the strategic point of view of the Project, the PTL will report on a periodic basis to the Project Board, based on the PD’s instruction. Generally, the PTL will support the PD who will be responsible for meeting NBI’s obligations under the Project. The PTL will perform a liaison role with the government, UNDP and other UN agencies, CSOs and project partners, and maintain close collaboration with other donor agencies providing co-financing.

### C. Key responsibilities

**A. Technical execution of the project related duties:**
a) Provide technical expertise and oversight in the execution of the project components;

b) Liaise with national focal point institutions in participating countries to source data on the shared aquifers;

c) Provide guidance and technical oversight in the execution of the shared aquifer diagnostic analysis, including, quality control and validation of technical content of the study report, mobilization of stakeholder inputs from the participating countries;

d) Provide technical oversight in the preparation of the aquifer water balance models and projection of groundwater availability in the selected aquifers under climate change and projected socio-economic scenarios;

e) Supervise the creation of the Nile Basin groundwater knowledgebase that covers all collected data under the project – covering ground based as well as remote sensing based;

f) Provide expertise and supervision in the preparation of shared aquifers integrated management action plans; present and defend the final actions plans to solicit their approval by participating countries;

g) Working closely with NBI’s technical staff, oversee the integration of groundwater data collected and model developed in the project into the Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB DSS)

h) Plan, initiate, and oversee the development of the project website and its integration within the NBI integrated knowledge portal (IKP);

i) Working closely with NBI’s Subsidiary Action Programs (SAPs), identify key activities of the SAPs into which groundwater aspects need to be integrated; supervise the formulation of technical guide for integration of groundwater aspects into these activities of the SAPs;

j) Provide technical oversight and expertise in the detailed design of pilot projects;

k) Identify relevant regional and international experiences in areas of selected pilot projects and organize cross-learning events (exchange visits, workshops with invited speakers from other regions, etc) for relevant stakeholders from participating countries;

l) Supervise the implementation of pilot projects;

m) Prepare scaling-up and mainstreaming strategy to ensure the interventions in the pilot projects are taken up by government agencies in the participating countries;

n) With the support of consultants as needed, carry out training needs assessment and supervise the preparation of training modules targeting various categories of stakeholders

o) Supervise the preparation for and conduct of trainings through various channels/media

p) Develop concept notes, policy briefs, factsheets and other write-ups to communicate key findings of the project with stakeholders in the participating countries and NBI governance;

q) Prepare briefing materials and presentations to update NBI governance on project progress, findings and implications in integrated management and utilization of surface and groundwater resources in the Nile Basin;

r) Oversee the preparation of communication products and effective use of communication channels to reach out to relevant stakeholders within the Nile Basin and beyond;

s) Oversee the exchange and sharing of experiences and lessons learned with relevant community based integrated conservation and development projects nationally and internationally.

t) Build partnership with relevant regional/international agencies (e.g. IGAD, the SADC Groundwater Management Institute, the International Groundwater Research Center) to enhance learning collaboration

B. Project management related duties

a) Supervise and coordinate the work of all project staff, consultants and sub-contractors ensuring timing and quality of outputs.

b) Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the approved work-plan.

c) Develop terms of reference for and lead the procurement of consultants and service providers

a) Coordinate all project inputs and ensure that they are adhere to UNDP procedures for nationally executed projects.
b) Coordinate the recruitment and selection of project personnel, consultants and sub-contracts, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications and overseeing all contractors’ work.
c) Manage requests for the provision of financial resources by UNDP, through advance of funds, direct payments, or reimbursement using the UNDP provided format.
d) Prepare, revise and submit project work and financial plans, as required by Project Board and UNDP.
e) Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports, submitted on a quarterly basis.
f) Manage and monitor the project risks initially identified and submit new risks to the project board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log.
g) Liaise with UNDP, Project Board, relevant government agencies, and all project partners, including donor organisations and CSOs for effective coordination of all project activities.
h) Facilitate administrative support to subcontractors and training activities supported by the Project.
i) Oversee and ensure timely submission of the Inception Report, Project Implementation Report, Technical reports, quarterly financial reports, and other reports as may be required by UNDP, GEF and other oversight agencies.
j) Disseminate project reports and respond to queries from concerned stakeholders.
k) Report progress of project to the steering committees, and ensure the fulfilment of PSC directives.
l) Assist community groups, municipalities, CSOs, staff, students and others with development of essential skills through training workshops and on the job training thereby increasing their institutional capabilities.
m) Encourage staff, partners and consultants such that strategic, intentional and demonstrable efforts are made to actively include women in the project, including activity design and planning, budgeting, staff and consultant hiring, subcontracting, purchasing, formal community governance and advocacy, outreach to social organizations, training, participation in meetings; and access to program benefits.
n) Assists and advises the Project Implementation Units responsible for activity implementation in the target sites.
o) Carry regular, announced and unannounced inspections of all sites and the activities of the Project Implementation Units.

D. Qualifications and experiences

- A advanced university degree (Masters or PhD) in hydro-geology, groundwater management or closely related fields.
- At least 10 years of experience (7 of which are post Masters) in groundwater management, groundwater exploration or development;
- At least 5 years of demonstrable project/programme management experience.
- At least 5 years of experience working with ministries, national or provincial institutions that are concerned with natural resource and/or environmental management.
- Experience implementing regional or transboundary projects shall be added advantage.

Competencies

- Strong leadership, managerial and coordination skills, with a demonstrated ability to effectively coordinate the implementation of large multi-stakeholder projects, including financial and technical aspects.
• Ability to effectively manage technical and administrative teams, work with a wide range of stakeholders across various sectors and at all levels, to develop durable partnerships with collaborating agencies.
• Ability to administer budgets, train and work effectively with counterpart staff at all levels and with all groups involved in the project.
• Ability to coordinate and supervise multiple Project Implementation Units in their implementation of technical activities in partnership with a variety of subnational stakeholder groups, including community and government.
• Strong drafting, presentation and reporting skills.
• Strong communication skills, especially in timely and accurate responses to emails.
• Strong computer skills, in particular mastery of all applications of the MS Office package and internet search.
• Strong knowledge about the political and socio-economic context related to the Indonesian protected area system, biodiversity conservation and law enforcement at national and subnational levels.
• Excellent command of English and local languages.

E. Implementation setup

The PTL shall be stationed at the Nile-Sec, Entebbe during the contract period, and work closely with water resources team under the overall operational supervision of the DED-HBWP/WRM of the Nile-Sec.

F. Duration

The initial contract period shall extend from about 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021 with a six month probation period. The contract can be extended through the project duration subject to satisfactory performance, need for service and availability of funds.

G. How to apply:

Interested applicants are advised to submit applications electronically to the Executive Director through groundwater@nilebasin.org. Application/cover letter indicating the title of the assignment accompanied by detailed curriculum vitae should reach the Executive Director not later than 12:00 pm (Local Time in Entebbe, Uganda) 21st January 2020. Please clearly indicate a minimum of three referees and two former employers excluding the current employer with their full contacts. Women candidates are encouraged to apply.