



UNDERSTANDING THE NILE: WHERE IS THE RIVER COMING FROM, WHERE DOES IT GO

(1) WATER TOWERS

Specific regions in the Nile Basin generate most of the Nile water flow. These high-altitude areas experience heavy rainfall and lower temperatures. The main water towers within the Nile Basin are the Ethiopian Highlands, Mt. Elgon, Mt. Rwenzori and the Albertine Rift.

(2) LAKES

The Nile Basin has numerous lakes which play an essential role in regulating the flow of Nile water. Major lakes like Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, Lake Tana and Lake Kyoga significantly influence the outflow due to storage and regulation.

(3) SUDD WETLAND

The Sudd is one of the most extensive wetlands in Africa. It plays a significant role in minimising seasonal flow variations of the White Nile - it reduces flows due to high evapotranspiration, limits floods during the wet season and supports flow during the dry season.

(4) GROUNDWATER

The Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (NSAS) is the largest transboundary groundwater resource in the Nile Basin region. Aquifers across the basin are highly heterogeneous, ranging from shallow local ones (actively replenished by rainfall), to deep regional systems.

(5) EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

Evapotranspiration is one of the major components of the water balance over the Nile Basin, accounting for about 87 per cent of the Basin's rainfall. It however varies from one sub-basin to another based on land use/cover and the prevailing climatic conditions.