WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NILE BASIN

Existing and proposed dams and main irrigation areas



About this poster

This poster presents water infrastructure in the Nile Basin. This includes established dams and those under construction, a selection of planned dam projects, and areas equipped for irrigation.

Jonglei Canal

The Jonglei Canal, stretching 360km between Bor and Malakal, is a major unfinished project in southern Sudan, aimed at reducing evaporation losses on the Sudd wetlands, while at the same time controlling floods in this area. It could also serve as an artery for navigation.

Work on the Jonglei began in 1978 but has stalled since 1984, especially due to the civil war in southern Sudan. Out of the 360km, 267 had been excavated.

Apart from the civil war, the project faced steep social and environmental criticisms. Concerns arose over its effect on the Sudd swamps, and on the

livelihood of the nomadic people of the Jonglei area.

The presence of the canal was already disrupting the traditional migratory patterns essential for the very survival of Nilotic cattle and wildlife as early as 1982¹.

It is not clear whether, or when, construction of the Jonglei will resume.

¹. R. O. Collins: History, hydropolitics, and the Nile: Nile Control: myth or reality? (The Nile: sharing a scarce resource)

Tana Beles

The Tana Beles project in Ethiopia is one of the country's major water projects. It transfers water by a 12km tunnel from Lake Tana through the Beles sub-basin. The project is planned for hydro electricity generation as well as irrigation. The hydro power component, set for completion in 2010, will produce 460MW of power.

Dams in the Nile basin; existing and those under construction

Dam name	Height (m)	Capacity (bcm)	Purpose Opera	tional since
Assiut barrage	16	NA	irrigation, navigation	1902
Esna barrage	16	NA	irrigation, navigation	1908
High Aswan dam	111	162	irrigation, flood control, hydropower	1970
Nag-Hamady barrage	16	NA	irrigation, navigation	1930
Old Aswan dam	53	5	irrigation, hydropower	1933
Lake Tana	1	3.5	hydropower	
Jebel Aulia	22	3.5	irrigation, hydropower	1937
Khashm El Gibra	35	1.3	irrigation, hydropower	1964
Roseires	60	3	irrigation, hydropower	1966
Sennar	48	1	irrigation, hydropower	1925
Bujagali		NA	hydropower	
Owen Falls	30	230	irrigation, hydropower	1954

This map is not an authority on international boundaries.

Information Products for Nile Basin Water Resources Management

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The project is intended to strengthen the ability of the governments of the Nile Riparian States to take informed decisions on water resources policy and management matters regarding the common Nile resource. It includes a major capacity building component. The project is implemented under the umbrella of the Nile Basin Initiative.



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A project sponsored by the Government of Italy