



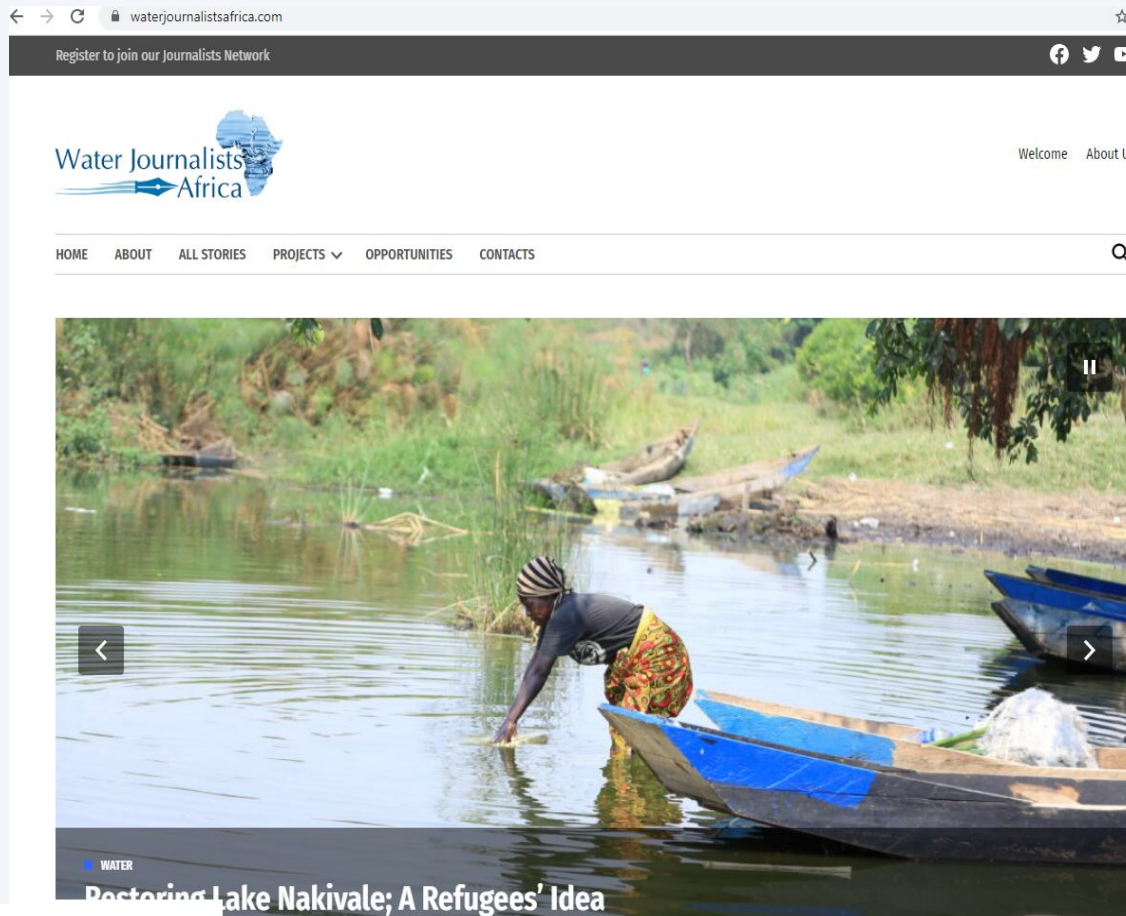
NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL



Harnessing the power of cross-border reporting for the Nile conservation and cooperation. Lessons from InfoNile project and AWJ participation in Nile Media Awards.

By Fredrick Mugira. Founder WJA/cofounder InfoNile

WJA and InfoNile: Who are we?

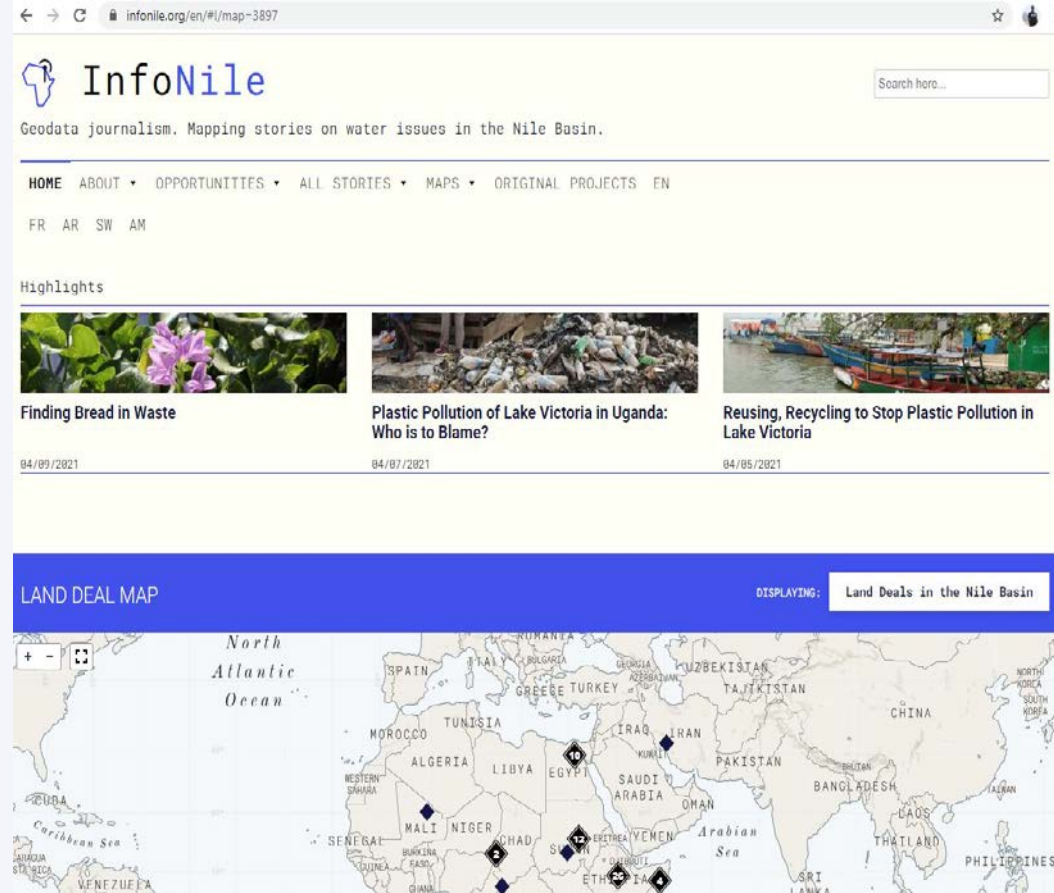


- Water Journalists Africa is a network of 700 water journalists spread across 50 countries in Africa.

InfoNile: Who are we?



- InfoNile, a flagship of WJA is a collaborative cross-border group of geojournalists with a mission to uncover critical stories on water issues in the 11 countries of the Nile River Basin through data-based multimedia storytelling.
- Nile Media Awards 2017 and 2021 partners



Our approach

Journalists and/or media organizations from different Nile basin countries work together to investigate a common topic on environmental and scientific topics in a collaborative way.

Identify a theme of common and cross-border importance

- a. *Water scarcity during Covid-19*
- b. *Climate change solutions*
- c. *Wildlife trafficking + conservation*
- d. *Biodiversity in transboundary lakes*
- e. *Foreign land deals*

Source credible data that is cross-cutting across countries

- a. *Water access data*
- b. *Rainfall and runoff*
- c. *Land acquisitions*

Our approach



3. **Call for pitches from local journalists in our network to report in-depth stories, provide funding for field reporting** (radio, TV, print, online)

4. **Mentor and train the journalists in data journalism and environmental/science reporting.** Work with them to create data visualizations for their stories.

5. **Local journalists publish in their media houses,** often in local languages

6. **Translate stories to regional languages** (Arabic, Amharic, Swahili, French) for publishing on InfoNile

7. **Create cross-border multimedia projects** combining all local stories and cross-border data analysis. **Incorporate geojournalism visualizations** like interactive maps, drone video and photography, satellite imagery and graphics.

8. **Create actionable interactive maps** published with the stories.

SUCKED DRY

Huge swaths of land acquired by foreign investors in Africa's Nile River Basin export profits, displace communities

This story was supported by the Pulitzer Center On Crisis Reporting

Principal investigators and editors: Fredrick Mugira and Annika McGinnis

Lessons Learnt

- Storytellers and media houses still choose to go it alone instead of collaborating ;
- Little or no exposure to collaborative journalism;
- Lack of networks of journalists reporting on these topics ;
- In some countries, issues on transboundary resources are not open to the public ;
- Little budgets to take on extensive projects ;
- Concentration on easy to report topics such as entertainment and politics ;
- Competition versus collaboration .



Why is this approach needed in the Nile conservation and cooperation?



- Enables journalists/media houses go far beyond what they may be able to achieve on their own;
- Partnerships and networking opportunities;
- Funding opportunities;
- Pitching skills
- Easy to links to scientific journals/academic institutions, and or experts
- Mentorship opportunities
- Cost-cutting
- Enables regional or global effects e.g. Panama papers and paradise papers investigations led by the ICIJ.

What needs to happen to facilitate better reporting partnerships

- Special cross-border journalism training
- Connections with editors and media manager in other countries
- Help locating potential reporting partners
- Formation of cross boarder networks
- Multi-language platforms
- Interest in similar topics





NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
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REGIONAL NILE MEDIA TRAINING

Date: 12 - 16 Dec 2016

Venue: Hotel Villa Portofino Kigali, Rwanda

#NileC



NBI MEMBER STATES



THANK YOU!