



John Rao Nyaoro, HSC (Left) in bilateral talks with Hon. Frank-Walter Steinmeier (Right) in Kampala. Looking on is German Ambassador to Uganda, Dr. Peter Blomeyer.

German Foreign Affairs Minister and NBI Secretariat Executive Director discuss sustainable trans-boundary Nile cooperation

The German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Frank-Walter Steinmeier on 21st November 2015 held bilateral talks with the Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat, John Rao Nyaoro, HSC on the sidelines of a diplomatic gathering hosted by the government of Uganda in Kampala.

The talks focused on the importance of sustainable trans-boundary Nile cooperation, which has a huge potential to reduce poverty in the region, ensure environmental sustainability, avoid competition and tension and promote regional peace and security.

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DID you know...?

Since 1999, Nile Basin countries have worked together to negotiate, agree and prepare 30 projects with REGIONAL, SHARED BENEFITS

Nile Cooperation: A journey all Nile Basin countries agree to take



The Nile is one of the great rivers of the world, feeding millions and giving birth to entire civilizations. At a length of 6,695km from the farthest source of its headwaters in the Kagera Basin in Rwanda and Burundi through Lake Victoria, to its delta in Egypt on the Mediterranean Sea, the Nile is the world's longest river. It is a trans-boundary resource shared by eleven countries namely Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda with a total population of 437 million.

Nile Basin countries are today facing ever-growing challenges and pressures. Climate Change is expected to increase the likelihood of extreme events (prolonged droughts and floods) which will adversely affect the food, water and energy security of these countries. Associated with this is high demographic growth rates and the demands of faster economic growth across the basin. This is notwithstanding the fact that the Nile is relatively a water scarce river compared to major rivers of the world (volume is only 5% of the Congo River at Inga, for example).

Fortunately, the shared River Nile holds tremendous opportunities for growth, for direct and indirect win-win benefits through cooperative management and development. The Basin has significant potential for clean energy (hydropower) development and power trade; for improving and expanding both irrigated and rain-fed agricultural production and increasing water use efficiency. There is also potential for broader economic-regional integration, promotion of regional peace and security; and for jointly ensuring the continued existence of the River Nile for posterity.

It is therefore not surprising that the Basin States recognized the need for cooperation and established the unprecedented Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) on 22nd February, 1999. Up to today, all NBI Member States agree that trans-boundary cooperation is not a choice but a must; it is the best way to develop and manage the shared resource in an equitable manner, maximise benefits, ensure water security for all and minimise risks and costs. This is in addition to contributing to sustainability of the environment as well as promoting regional peace and security.

NBI and its Member States strive for and wish to ensure and sustain an all-inclusive Nile cooperation; where all Member States actively participate in the cooperation platform, share information, and plan and develop the river together. Improving cooperation and country commitment to the Nile cooperation and between the Basin States is a key strategic objective of the NBI going forward.

As we get into a new year 2016, the NBI Secretariat pledges to continue to play its catalytic and facilitator role towards sustainable and all-inclusive Nile cooperation. During the first quarter of the year, the NBI Secretariat, in collaboration with the government of Kenya, will organise the annual Nile Day, an event which provides Basin citizens with the opportunity to come together to exchange experiences, views and ideas on cooperative management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and related resources. The regional celebrations will be held on 22nd February, 2016 in Vihiga County, in Kenya and in this respect I take this opportunity to invite you to this ever colourful event.

I wish to thank all our partners for the support during 2015 and I look forward to working with you all towards an all-inclusive and sustainable trans-boundary Nile cooperation.

Happy New Year 2016!

John Rao Nyaoro, HSC



Left - Right: John Rao Nyaoro, HSC (Left), Hon. Sam Kutesa, Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Hon. Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Nyaoro appreciated the support provided by the government of Germany, which he said has been instrumental in laying the foundation for sustainable Nile cooperation. "Since 1999, the government of Germany, through GIZ, has provided financial and technical support to NBI in areas aimed at strengthening the platform for cooperation as well as developing the capacity of Member States to cooperate, among several other such gestures". He said.

This has resulted in a number of remarkable achievements including increased trust and confidence among the Basin states and citizens; improved mutual understanding and appreciation among stakeholders of the fragility, sensitivity and hydro-politics of the Nile as well as preparation of joint investment projects of regional significance worth over USD 6 billion.

Nyaoro added that despite the achievements registered, the Nile Basin still faces some challenges. He said the Basin is a water scarce region, countries are grappling with meeting the rapidly growing demands for water, food and energy; and poverty is rampant, with six of the

10 NBI Member States among the least developed in the world. This is in addition to the different and conflicting interests that could affect regional peace and security. Nevertheless, progress can only be made through cooperation.

"An all-inclusive Nile cooperation and increased country commitment to the cooperation is a key strategic objective of NBI in order to ensure that development of the shared Nile Basin water resources by one Basin state is not at the expense of another," reiterated Nyaoro.

He requested for continued support from the government of the Federal Republic of Germany towards building sustainable Nile cooperation.

By Elizabeth Agiro
Media Relations Consultant
Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

Water Affairs Ministers commend NELSAP-CU for achievements



Hon. Prof. Kamuntu (Left) hands over to Hon. Niyonkuru (Right)

The 18th ordinary Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers (NELCOM) meeting was held in Uganda on 13th October 2015. The ministers commended the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP - CU) for the remarkable achievements during the financial year 2014-2015.

In particular, NELCOM took note of the progress made in the implementation of the Interconnection of Electric Grids Project and mobilization of additional funds amounting to USD 41 million for program implementation.

The meeting emphasized the need for Member States to honor their annual country contributions in a timely manner; mainstream NELSAP facilitated investment

projects in national development plans to ensure enhanced ownership as well as to fully embrace Nile Cooperation for sustainable development in the basin. They also called for intensified resource mobilization for the smooth implementation of both pre-investment and investment phases of the NELSAP investment projects to ensure the water-energy-food nexus contributes to socio-economic development.

Projects currently under implementation under the Water Resources Management and Development sub-program include the River Basin Management projects of Kagera (Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania), Mara (Kenya and Tanzania) and Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (Kenya and Uganda) as well as Nyimur multipurpose project (Sudan) and Lake Albert and Fisheries II project (DR Congo and Uganda). Those under the

Power Development and Trade sub-component include Tanzania-Zambia power interconnector study and the Interconnection of Electric Grids of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Countries Project (Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda).

The NELCOM meeting also approved the NELSAP-CU work plan and budget for the financial year 2015/2016, and deliberated and provided strategic direction to scaling up the pipeline investment projects identified in the Nile Equatorial Lakes Region.

During the meeting, the Republic of Burundi assumed the top leadership of NBI's Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) for a one-year period, succeeding the Republic of Uganda. Hon. Emmanuel Niyonkuru, Minister of Water, Environment, Land Management and Urban Planning, Burundi is the current chairman of the NEL-COM, replacing Hon. Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu, Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda.

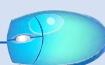
The changes in leadership are in keeping with the NBI tradition of annually rotating the position of chairman among Member States, in alphabetical order, namely; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs or their representatives from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Members of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committee (NEL-TAC), the Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, staff of NELSAP-CU, as well as representatives of Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and the media were in-attendance.

By Emmanuel Daniel Chonza
Senior Economist/Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist,
NELSAP-CU, Kigali - Rwanda



Ministers and other dignitaries who participated in the meeting



For more photos: <http://nelsap.nilebasin.org/index.php/media-center>



NBI staff and officials from GIZ during the planning meeting

NBI and GIZ agree on new EUR 4 million project

Staff of the NBI Secretariat and officials from GIZ (Germany) recently successfully concluded a one week (18th - 25th November, 2015) planning meeting, during which they identified strategic options for the next phase of GIZ support (2016 to 2019). The meeting also reviewed the strategy and results of the 4th phase running from 2013 - 2016.

The new project amounting to EUR 4 million will support NBI in a number of fields of action, namely: strengthening dialogue between key national stakeholders for cooperation in the Nile Basin region; using the NBI knowledge base to develop strategies for cooperative water resources management; and creating a joint framework for developing and managing water resources. Others are building the capacities for trans-boundary cooperation between national stakeholders and enhancing NBI's institutional sustainability and strategic planning capacity.

An earlier GIZ mission, which took place from 11th - 13th November, 2015 focused on supporting NBI in strengthening its corporate brand as well as impact, effectiveness and efficiency of its communications.

The German government has provided both technical and financial support ever since NBI was established in 1999.

By Jane K. Baitwa
Regional Communication Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

Additional Euro 2 million for regional power interconnectivity



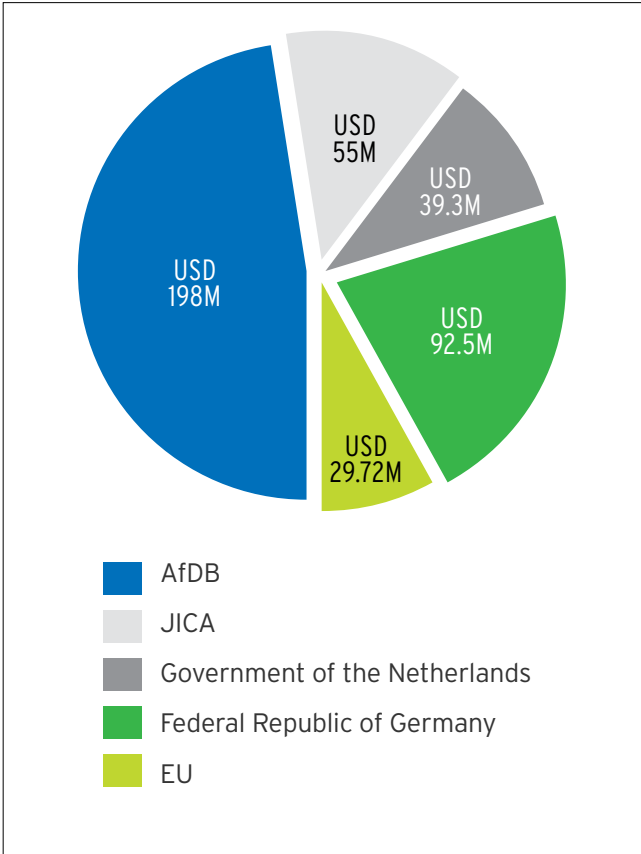
John Rao Nyaoro, HSC (left) and Mr. Makonnen Negatu upon signing the Protocol

The Regional Transmission Interconnection of Electric Grids Project facilitated by NBI's NELSAP-CU recently received addition funding of Euro 2.0 million from the African Development Bank (AfDB) mobilized from the European Union Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (EU-AITF). The funds will support consultancy services for two studies, namely the Power Network Analysis and the Regional Guidelines, both of which are crucial for the physical and commercial operationalization of the NELSAP integrated electric grid system.

John Rao Nyaoro, HSC, Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat and Mr. Makonnen Negatu, AfDB Resident Representative to Rwanda signed the Protocol Financing Agreement for the additional funds on 26th October, 2015 at the NELSAP-CU offices in Kigali, Rwanda.

The Regional Transmission Interconnection of Electric Grids Project consists of six (6) interconnectors, which are under implementation covering Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Upon completion,

Development Partners contributions to the project





Mr. Makonnen Negatu in discussion with H.E. Michael Ryan



Technical Staff from AfDB, NELSAP-CU and government of Rwanda witness the signing.

the project will deliver 946 km of 220 and 400 kilovolt transmission lines and 17 associated substations in the five countries at a total cost of USD 415 million.

The AfDB and other Development Partners including the European Union, the Government of the Netherlands, KfW (Germany) and JICA (Japan) have been instrumental in supporting this project, expected to have huge economic implication in the entire East African region.

For the first time, these countries will have the opportunity to purchase low cost surplus power from across several borders and wheel it through several countries to their national customers. An integrated electric grid system will promote regional power infrastructure planning and joint implementation of energy projects, reduce the overall production cost of energy in the region, enhance utilities operational and

management efficiencies, and encourage development of vast, and huge renewable energy resources to meet national demand in the region.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by H.E. Michael Ryan, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Rwanda, Eng. Elicad Elly Nyabeeya the NELSAP-CU Regional Coordinator and officials from the government of Rwanda.

By Emmanuel Daniel Chonza

**Senior Economist/Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist,
NELSAP-CU, Kigali - Rwanda**



For more photos: <http://nelsap.nilebasin.org/index.php/media-center>

Regional Transmission Interconnection of Electric Grids Project headed for commissioning

Commissioning of the first line of the Regional Transmission Interconnection of Electric Grids Project is scheduled to take place at the end of December 2015. The Burundi - Rwanda (Mirama-Shango) interconnector will enable power exchange and trading between the two countries effective April 2016.

The planned commissioning was confirmed during the 6th Project Steering Committee Meeting held from 24th -26th November, 2015 in Kampala, Uganda. While officially opening the meeting, Eng. Moses Murengezi from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Uganda applauded the tremendous efforts by the participating countries and consultants under the coordination of NELSAP-CU for the significant progress.

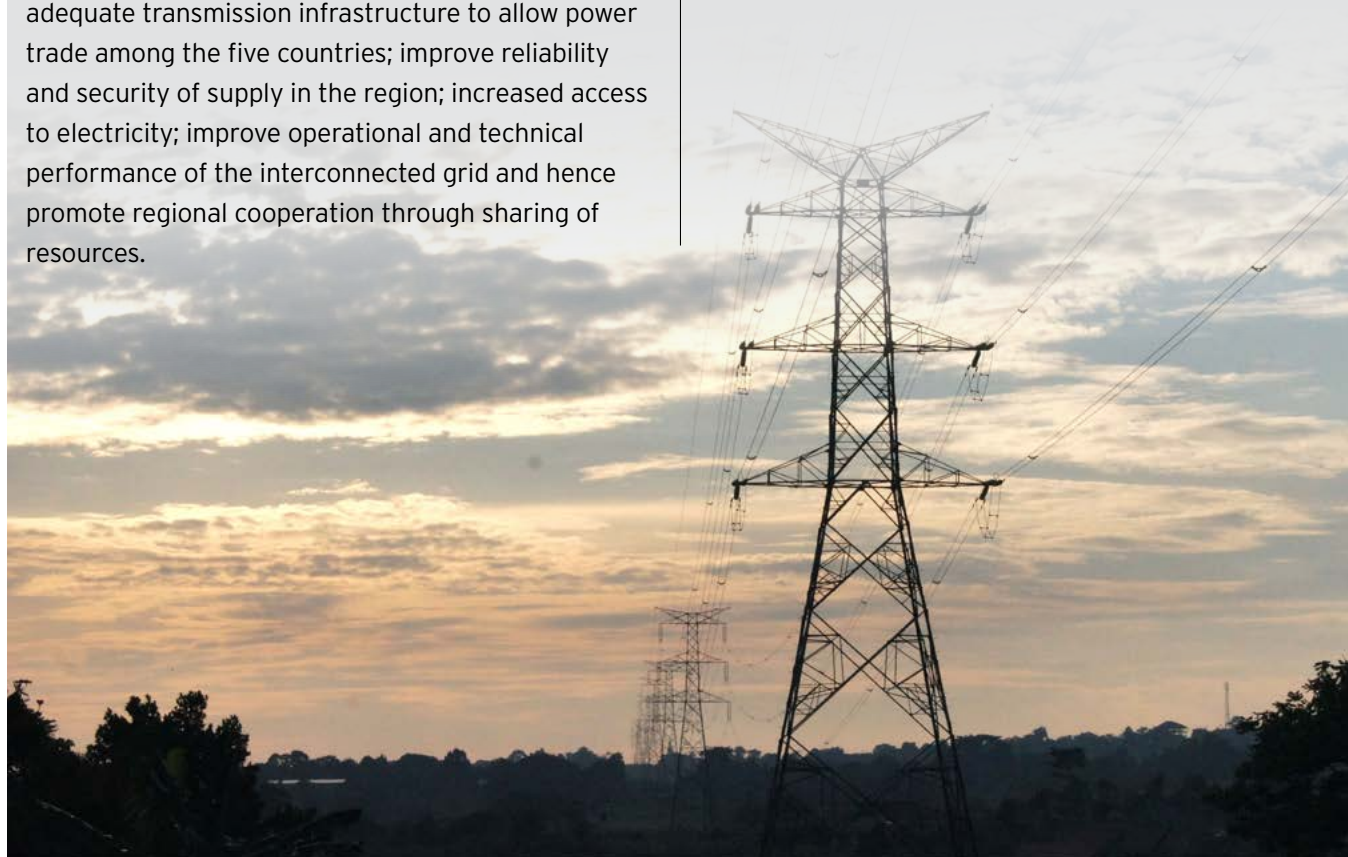
When completed, the interconnections will provide adequate transmission infrastructure to allow power trade among the five countries; improve reliability and security of supply in the region; increased access to electricity; improve operational and technical performance of the interconnected grid and hence promote regional cooperation through sharing of resources.

Eng. Murengezi also commended the project's Development Partners, namely AfDB, JICA (Japan), Government of Germany/KfW, Government of the Netherlands, European Investment Bank (EIB) and EU, for the USD 415 million provided to the Project.

NELSAP-CU is also coordinating implementation of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric project (Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania) and preparation of other interconnectors that will benefit Tanzania and interconnect with the Southern African Power Pool.

By Emmanuel Daniel Chonza

Senior Economist/Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist,
NELSAP-CU, Kigali - Rwanda





Staff from the EU delegation to Uganda and NBI Secretariat Staff in front of the Secretariat offices in Entebbe

EU earmarks funding for NBI under the 11th EDF

The European Union (EU) has earmarked support to NBI under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), which is expected to commence early 2017, upon approval by the EU Commission and the NBI governance are completed. This follows submission of a concept note by the Secretariat to the EU in January 2015, which stipulated the funding gaps and made a request for support.

The proposed areas of intervention for which support is sought are:

- ▶ Promoting basin cooperation and facilitating dialogue
- ▶ Enhancing capacity for water resources management and development
- ▶ Expanding NBI knowledge base and analysis
- ▶ Strengthening institutional capacity.

In light of this, the European Union fielded a consultant, Dr. Hartmut Krugmann, to assist in formulating a program on Transboundary Water Resources Management for the Nile Basin. The Consultant was in the region for ten weeks (September - October) during which he undertook a prefeasibility study with an overall objective to provide EU decision makers with sufficient information to justify acceptance or rejection

Since the closure of the Nile Basin Trust Fund in December 2014, NBI has enhanced its efforts of engaging Development Partners in a resource mobilization drive, to close the funding gap in its institutional and program work.

of the proposed project, or its modification for further project formulation. The study included assessment of the relevancy, identification of potential challenges and recommendation of alternative solutions to address these challenges as well as assessment of compliance to sustainability criteria.

Since the closure of the Nile Basin Trust Fund in December 2014, NBI has enhanced its efforts of engaging Development Partners in a resource mobilization drive, to close the funding gap in its institutional and program work.

By Tom Waako
 Program Officer
 Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

World Bank Team commends NBI on progress

A Team from the World Bank headquarters recently concluded a three day mission to the Secretariat as part of its 5th Implementation Support Review for the Nile Cooperation for Results (NCORE) Project. The purpose of the mission held from 2nd - 4th November, 2015 was to review planning for NBI's institutional sustainability; ensure the Bank support is coordinated with NBI priorities and other donor support; work with the new management at NELSAP-CU to better understand how the NCORE project can help advance newly identified NELSAP priorities; and agree on preparation for the official mid-term review of the project, which will take place in early 2016.

The NCORE project, financed through the Nile Basin Trust Fund (USD13.8 million) and Cooperation in International Waters (USD1.5 million) became effective in February 2013.

The mission led by Ms. Eileen Burke Task Team Leader and Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, took note of the good progress made by the Secretariat to bring Member States more

into NBI process; exciting new advancements with respect to water resources management including a request from the Nile-TAC to carry out strategic water analysis in the Nile Basin; successes in the application of the Nile Basin Decision Support System; good communication products as well as resource mobilization.

The mission advised the Secretariat led by the Executive Director, John Rao Nyaoro, HSC to better articulate NBI's strategic direction; better target major publications for technical agenda and to raise the NBI profile within the Ministries of Finance in the Member States.

The World Bank Team also visited the two other NBI Centers namely NELSAP-CU in Kigali from 9th - 11th November, 2015 and ENTRO in Addis Ababa from 12-13 November, 2015.

By Jane K. Baitwa
Regional Communication Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

Four win Nile Basin Decision Support System Application Awards 2015



Wow! Habtam Acheneff (Ethiopia) won the top prize



Mary Ogwade Adhiambo received the 1st runner up prize on behalf of George Owiti (Kenya)



Omar Munyaneza (Rwanda), 1st runner up



Davis Bugingo (Rwanda), 2nd runner up

The Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB DSS) is a comprehensive modeling and decision making software framework developed jointly by NBI and its Member States during the period 2006 to 2012. It comprises a suite of modeling tools, information management system as well as a set of analytic tools for optimization and multi-criteria design analyses. An integrated database provides the necessary repository for all raw and processed data.

In order to acknowledge, grant and support users of the NB DSS for growing applications, informative case studies and profound contribution to the sustainable management of the Nile Basin Water resources, the NBI Secretariat organized the first ever NB DSS Application Awards 2015. The objective of the annual Award is also to document and promote the use and applicability of the NB DSS as well as to strengthen its user community.

Habtam Acheneff of Abay Basin Authority in Ethiopia won the top prize for his application of NB-DSS to support development of the Lake Tana Basin Integrated Water Resources Plan. The 1st runner-up prize went to both Omar Munyaneza from Rwanda and George Owiti from Kenya. Munyaneza used the tool to model the Sebeya dam for flood control in the Sebeya River Catchment, Rwanda while Owiti applied the tool to address water management issues in the Nyando catchment, Kenya. Bugingo Davis took the 2nd runner-up prize in recognition of his application of the NB DSS for supporting water permit system in the Mukungwa catchment, Rwanda.

Sixteen submissions were received from individuals as well as groups for the 2015 edition. An expert group evaluated the submissions and selected the top four.

The award ceremony took place during the annual NB DSS User Community Workshop held in October 2015 in Entebbe, Uganda.

Since the official launch of the NB DSS in 2012, the Secretariat has provided intensive technical support to Member States to further develop their capacity to widely use the tool in water resources planning and management. This includes availing standard training modules in both digital and e-learning format, a Help Desk and User Community.

During the 2015 User Community Workshop, the NB DSS User Community Guidelines were collectively drafted and will be further developed before presenting them to governance for endorsement.

The Annual NB DSS Application Award is open to all citizens of Nile Basin countries. In order to participate in the awards, those interested should submit a fact sheet that contains a full description of their NB DSS application covering background information, location and particulars of the site and problem definition. Other information required is assumptions made, datasets used, methodology and scope, modeling results as well as interpretation and outputs.

Short-listed submissions will be requested to prepare and present their application case during the annual NB DSS User Community Regional Workshop.

By Mohsen A. (PhD)

Regional Water Resources Management Specialist

Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

The Annual NB DSS Application Award is open to all residents of Nile Basin countries. Sixteen submissions were received from individuals as well as groups for the 2015 edition. An expert group evaluated the submissions and selected the top four.

Communities receive compensation from Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project

Construction of the Dam is scheduled to start in 2016

A total of 156 households, (53 in Rwanda and 103 in Tanzania) affected by the planned construction of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project have benefited from compensation received from the project.

Among other things, the families have built new and impressive residential houses and there is noticeable improvement in the standards of living. The new residential houses have changed the entire outlook of the Rusumo Township.

One Flora Papius on the Tanzania side noted that her family house was at the brink of collapsing but they have now completed a three bed-roomed house. "Whenever it rained especially at night, we would get worried that the house will collapse on us" said Flora.

Majority of the people appreciate efforts by the project in providing the necessary guidance, training and preparing the necessary ground including awareness campaigns and education on proper use of compensation funds. "They constantly reminded us

to ensure we replace the lost asset or business before anything else" said Pasteri also on the Tanzania side in reference to staff of the project.

Compensation for Project Affected Persons (PAPs) was concluded in May 2015 in Rwanda and August 2015 in Tanzania. The affected assets and activities ranged from houses, land/plots, banana plantations and income generating activities such as fishing, brick laying, and sand quarry among others. These activities constituted the general livelihoods of people living at the Rusumo border between Rwanda and Tanzania.

Construction of the hydropower dam is envisaged to start in the third quarter of 2016. In November 2015, the World Bank provided a No-Objection for the pre-qualification list of companies that will submit bids for construction works.

By Emmanuel Daniel Chonza
Senior Economist/Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist,
NELSAP-CU, Kigali - Rwanda

Below are houses captured during the Field Visit at new PAPs area



Before: Kaitenjoka Zingiraine residential house



After: Residential house under finishing touches



Before: Flora Papius Machunkwa residential house



After: Residential house with land for cultivation



Before: Arbugast Wilbard Mababu Residential house



After: Arbugast Wilbard Mababu Residential house under construction



The team moved to the forest at the Mara River mouth to find out the activities that modified the river regime.



Using Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler for the river hydraulic profiling.



Fish are the most sensitive creatures to water quality deterioration. Their presence, wellbeing, numbers and types provide accurate information about the health of freshwater in rivers.

Environmental Flows for Dinder and Mara Rivers established

Environmental flows (E-Flows) are the quantity, timing and quality of water flows required to sustain aquatic ecosystems and the livelihoods of people who depend on ecosystems. E-Flows include the amount of water in rivers, floodplains and wetlands to maintain suitably healthy ecosystems and the benefits people derive from them.

In an effort to create general standards and norms for establishment of E-Flows in the Nile Basin, the NBI Secretariat recently initiated a scientific and participatory process to develop a trans-boundary level guidance document. A Team of scientists has been contracted to develop the guidelines with input from local and regional stakeholders of ecosystems within the Nile Basin. This is in addition to demonstrating their effective application and approach through a series of pilot case studies across the Basin. Two of the most prominent cases are the Dinder River in Sudan and Mara River in Kenya and Tanzania.

Establishing the E-Flows for the two representative rivers will guide the development of E-Flows for the Nile main course and primary river systems.

The survey carried out from October to December 2015, had two prime objectives: (i) to collect all information required to assess the “minimum” E-Flows for each of the two rivers under various planning, management and natural conditions; (ii) to provide the training needed, both theoretical and hands on experiences, to strengthen the capacity of Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and NBI staff from ENTRO and NELSAP-CU in the field of E-Flows.

The survey primarily focused on the hydraulics, ecology, water needs for basic purposes, farming on the banks and flood plains, as well as vegetation. The process involved field observations, measurements, sampling and discussions with indigenous groups, to establish the correlation between river hydrologic conditions on one hand and the quality as well as sustainability of river ecological services and status of the aquatic components on the other; under varying flow characteristics and hydraulic regimes. During the survey, a series of standard ‘typical’ environmental monitoring procedures were carried out including an assessment of the following parameters: flow conditions, local habitat diversity, biological components including fish, invertebrates, vegetations, water quality and sediment analyses.

By Mohsen A. (PhD)

Regional Water Resources Management Specialist

Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

Nile Basin countries in joint strategic analysis of the basin's water resources



Members of the National Expert Group during the first meeting

Trans-boundary cooperation in managing and developing shared water resources is not an option; it is rather the only choice. The consistently growing water demands, socio-economic development requirements, climate change impacts, catchment corrosion, water quality deterioration and maintaining the river health in order to continue to deliver for generations to come, cannot be managed by any individual country alone.

Strategic analysis plays a pivotal role in informing and guiding dialogue among the Nile Basin countries, supporting knowledge-based joint planning, and providing evidence-grounded solution space for collective decision making.

In this respect, the NBI Secretariat organised the first National Expert Group (NEG) meeting to review progress achieved so far in terms of the Nile Basin Water Resources Strategic Analysis, confirm and validate the baseline and agree on future steps as well as preliminary performance indicators. This was followed by training NEG Members on scenario techniques.

Participants agreed on a common understanding on baseline condition of the Nile Basin, developing capacities on scenario development and techniques, the process for the second part of the analysis, including selection of key parameters for the future reference scenarios.

Participants also discussed, the present water balance - water supply versus water demands - for the entire Nile Basin

The first stage of the study shall focus on enhancing the understanding on how the Nile Basin would evolve under scenarios of water resources development pursued by individual countries, i.e. understanding the implications of un-coordinated water resources development given the scarcity of water as well as climatic uncertainty. Initial focus was on establishing the baseline condition and a reference future scenario (business as usual) against which benefits of cooperation can be gauged. The reference scenario of future development is built based on available information on water resources development plans of NBI countries.

The first National Expert Group meeting was attended by Nile-TAC Members, Subject Matter Specialists from the NBI Member States, staff from the three NBI Centers (Nile-SEC, ENTRO and NELSAP-CU), GIZ representative and International Expert Team. Since the baseline status is the reference for comparative analysis, evaluation of future scenarios, assessment of effectiveness of water resources plans, and therefore

development of the most appropriate 'solution space' for decision support, it is necessary to initially agree on the methodology, assumptions and results. Furthermore, due to the fact that harmonized level of knowledge and common insight into scenario development, analysis and interpretation is vital; the workshop program included professional training on water resources scenarios- including scenario formulation, building and analyses. Experience from international and regional comparable cases was also introduced.

Participants also discussed, the present water balance - water supply versus water demands - for the entire Nile Basin including water availability (baseline hydrology), water demands and uses for key demand centres (irrigation schemes, hydropower, major cities, etc.), and water resources development infrastructure.

By Mohsen A. (PhD)

Regional Water Resources Management Specialist

Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

Inaugural Nile Water Resources Atlas underway



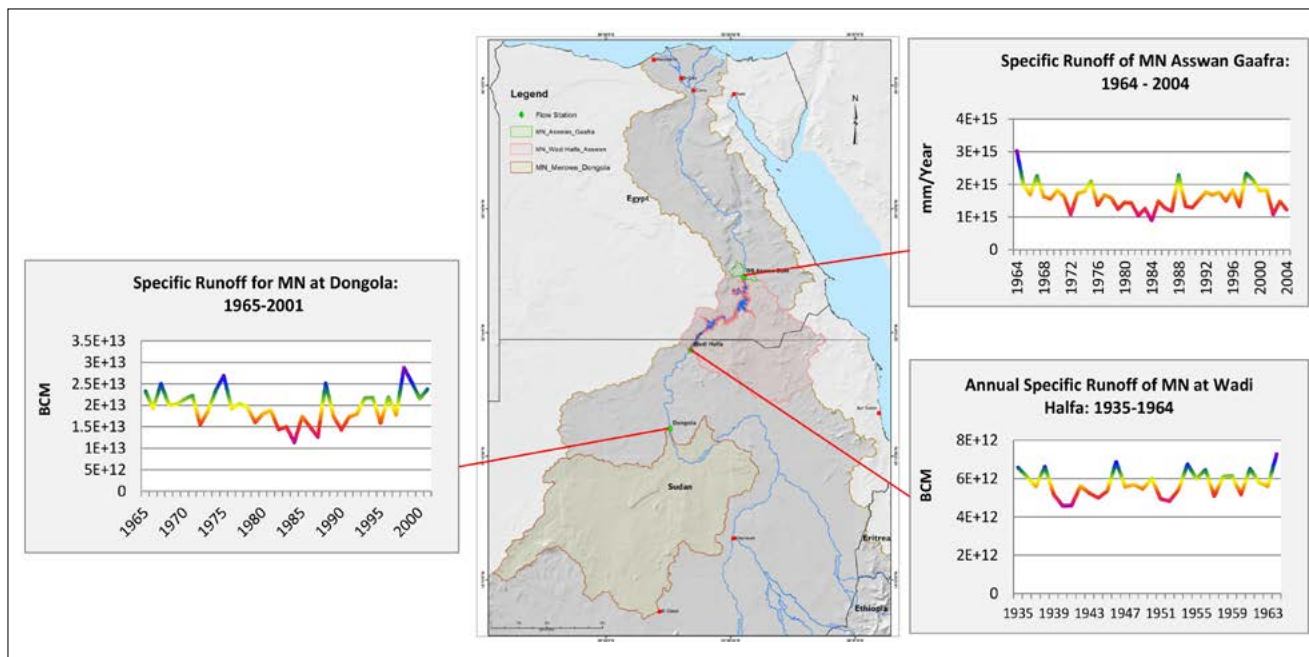
Some members of the Regional Working Group during the meeting held in Kigali

The NBI Secretariat has embarked on a process to develop a Nile Water Resources Atlas. The first of its kind, the Atlas will provide synthesized, uniform and consistent representation of information and analysis about the Nile Basin such as demography, physiography, hydrologic, meteorological, water resources, water demands, water uses and socio-economy.

The Nile Water Resources Atlas will provide 'authenticated' detailed information for water resources planning, management, development, research as well as informed decision making. It will also form the main reference and resource for the second edition of the State of the River Nile Basin Report, published by NBI every five years.

A Regional Working Group (RWG) to support development of the Atlas has been formed, comprising two experts from each NBI Member State with Hydrology and GIS background as well as NBI staff from each of the three Centers (Nile-SEC, ENTRO and NELSAP-CU). The group will, among other things, build collective consensus and shared ownership of the final product through intensive validation and verification.

As part of the development process, the Secretariat organized a regional review workshop combined with a working session attended by members of the RWG, in Kigali, Rwanda from 26th - 28th November 2015. In his opening remarks Mr. Remy Mugunga, a member of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) for Rwanda, emphasized the high expectations for the value added by the Atlas.



The Nile Water Resources Atlas will provide 'authenticated' detailed information for water resources planning, management, development, research as well as informed decision making.

Based on the outcomes of the workshop, the Secretariat will proceed with the on-going work of preparing draft final chapters and sections of the Atlas according to the agreed plan and milestones.

Suggestions and recommended enhancements of descriptive statistics, trends and patterns, explanations and annotations, charts and illustrations, were some of the outputs of the meeting. This is in addition to agreed upon data sets and the Atlas structure.

The Nile Water Resources Atlas will be launched during the 24th Annual Nile Council of Ministers meeting scheduled to take place in June 2016.

By: Mohsen Alarabawy (PhD)
Regional Water Resources Management Specialist &

Milly Mbuliro
GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

NBI signs Paris Pact on adaptation to climate change



The NBI Secretariat Executive Director, John Rao Nyaoro, HSC recently signed the Paris Pact on adaptation to Climate Change. This was during the 7th session of the meeting of parties of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on the Protection and use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes in Hungary, Budapest from 17th to 19th November, 2015. The Paris Pact enables River Basin Organizations (RBOs) to become more resilient to climate change and its adverse effects.

The purpose of the convention was to receive the report for the implementation of the convention. Known fully as the 1992 United Nations Economic Commissions for Europe Convention on Water, the convention was actually adopted in 1992 for the better management and development of rivers and lakes in Europe.

“Today, this convention has become very key and important and has provided best practices for the management and development of trans-boundary waters,” said Nyaoro. He added that due to the good implementation and success of the convention, it has been opened up to other parties (not River Basin Organizations) of the United Nations, which are not necessarily in Europe.

“So it’s also now open for other parties but not to trans-boundary river basin organizations for ratification or acceding to it. The new UN members who qualify for membership are countries or Basin States but not river basin organizations,” Nyaoro said, adding that because of the big role that RBOs play, the European Commission will facilitate them to build the capacity of the Basin States for their adaptation and resilience to climate change.

Nyaoro took the opportunity to present the Nile Basin Strategy on Climate Change.

In this respect, the European Commission asked International River Basin Organizations (IRBOs) to mobilize the world wide River Basin Organizations to participate, understand and be a party to the “Paris Pact”.

In order to ensure success and uptake of the Paris Pact, the European Commission has come up with a deadline on how to take stock of the effects of climate change and help the Basin States to come up with strategies on how to mitigate against it.

“It was against this background and after thorough consultations that the NBI Secretariat found it fitting and very important to sign the Paris Pact which was open to River Basin Organizations, in that, they will be a part of the network that is campaigning for funds for adaptation to climate change,” explained Nyaoro.

Nyaoro took the opportunity to present the Nile Basin Strategy on Climate Change. “Our strategy was well received and in this, NBI has agreed to be included in the network on climate change mitigation. This means we will receive reports on best practices and the best way forward on how to mitigate against climate change”, he added.

Climate change is today causing havoc the Nile Basin states, especially the El Nino. A good example is the flooding in Narok town, which is part of the Mara River Basin in Kenya. Despite the funds the government used to prepare the city for the heavy rains, there has been massive damage and destruction to this sub basin which is the upper head works of the Nile River Basin. Similarly, in Katakwi district in eastern Uganda, families have been relegated to one meal a day after floods destroyed crops in the farms and made roads impassable.

“So this is why it’s very important for NBI to be a part of the network because we shall be getting expert information on how to mitigate and become resilient to climate change,” concluded Nyaoro.

By Elizabeth Agiro
Media Relations Consultant
Nile-SEC, Entebbe, Uganda

Nile Basin Regional Hydromet to support adaptive management of the Basin water resources

El Niño is a phenomenon whereby sea surface temperature in the Equatorial Pacific becomes unusually high; in contrast, La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific. El Niño is an oscillation of the ocean-atmosphere system in the tropical Pacific having important consequences for weather around the globe. El-Niño occurs, on the average, once every 2 - 7 years and can be weak or strong depending on the accumulated deviation of the sea surface temperature (SST anomaly) from normal value for the time of the year.

El-niño (and La-niña) has consequences to the weather patterns of the Nile Basin region. It can lead to severe droughts or damaging floods. Both El-niño and La nina can lead to flood and drought emergencies. Therefore, having adequate preparations for monitoring the likelihood of occurrences of such emergencies, quantification of their severity and impacts are important inputs into any disaster management plans.

One of the core activities of NBI is water resources assessment aimed at monitoring the state of the water resources system of the Nile Basin. This includes monitoring meteorology and hydrology of the basin and generation of information products for better management of the water and related resources of the Nile Basin. In this context, NBI recently concluded the detailed design of a regional Nile Basin Hydro-meteorological monitoring system (the Nile Basin regional Hydromet system).

The Hydromet system comprises of a system of meteorological and hydrological monitoring networks together with automatic (near-real time) transmission of data; satellite based monitoring of selected river basin processes (such as land use changes, wetlands dynamics, soil moisture, among others); and water quality monitoring labs.



Floods in Sudan

The data that shall be collected through the monitoring system shall be used to generate information products to support management of the water resources of the Nile Basin. Examples of such information products include: seasonal stream flow forecasts; water balance estimates for major lakes, man-made reservoirs and catchments; inflow and water levels for key wetlands; water quality indicators; short-term flood forecasts; precipitation (rainfall) indicators; hydrological drought monitoring products.

Implementation of the Nile Basin Regional Hydromet System is expected to start in 2016. It will be implemented in phases in order to enable delivery of early results.

Dr. Abdulkarim Seid

Head of Water Resources Management Department
Nile-SEC, Entebbe - Uganda

Researchers benefit from the Nile Basin Regional Bibliography

As part of its activities aimed at sustainable management of the shared Nile Basin water resources, the Secretariat recently developed the Nile Basin Initiative Regional Bibliography, which is a collection of citations of reports published by NBI over the last 15 years. This is with the aim of creating awareness and making NBI knowledge products widely accessible in order to influence the dialogues on the Nile cooperation at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

To facilitate ease of use, the bibliography is organized according to important topics of regional development including Agriculture and Irrigation; Basin Cooperation; Capacity Building; Climate Change; Environment; Gender; Knowledge Management; Policies and Strategies; Socio-Economic Development; Water Resources Development and Water Resources Management.

The bibliography has been appreciated by many institutions and individuals as an invaluable tool for researchers to quickly access literature when conducting a research project.

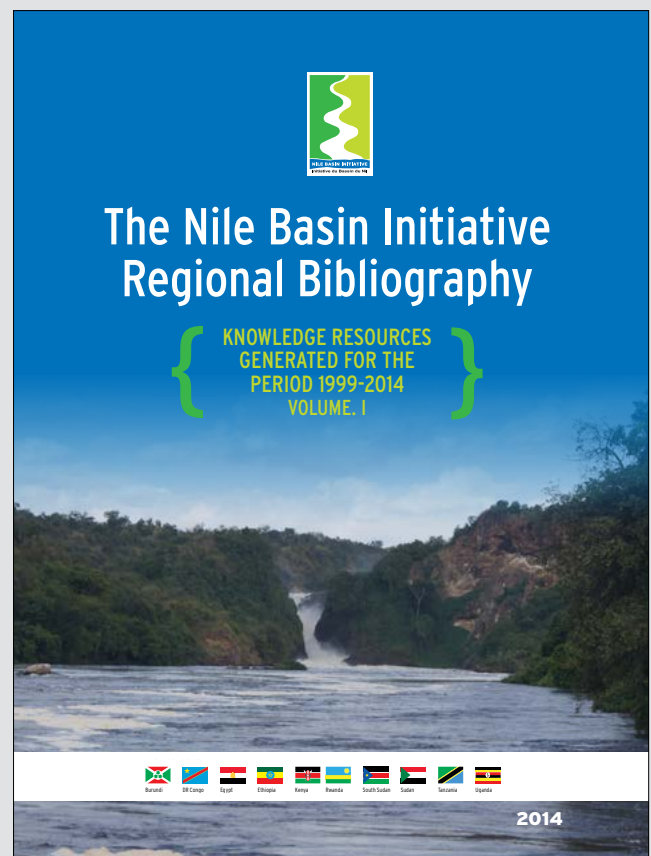
By Juliet Nakassaga

Librarian

NBI Secretariat, Entebbe - Uganda



Find out more: (link) <http://nileis.nilebasin.org/content/nile-basin-initiative-regional-bibliography-knowledge-resources-generated-period-1999-2014-v>



NBI Corporate Report 2015...

don't miss it!

The NBI Corporate Report 2015 covering the period July 2014 to June 2015 was recently published. The report highlights remarkable achievements during the one period.

Down load the report to find out how NBI continued to provide an all-inclusive regional platform for the Member States to dialogue, share information, collectively take care of and jointly use the shared Nile Basin water and related resources for win-win benefits; efforts in strengthening Member States' technical capacities and providing shared knowledge bases to support decision making as well as the different investment projects being rolled out.

Don't miss the message from the chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers, Hon. Amb. Mutaz Musa Abdalla Salim, Minister of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity, The Sudan in which he shares his experience during his one year tenure (June 2014 - June 2015). "It is my belief that... cooperation among the Nile Basin States is not a choice but a must; it is the greatest hope for a better future for every individual, every family, every community and every country", he says.

In the report, you will also meet the members of the Nile Council of Ministers, the highest decision making body of NBI.

Read NBI's Financial Report for the fiscal year 1 July, 2014 to 30 June, 2015 and so much more.



Access the report: http://www.nilebasin.org/index.php/media-center/speeches/cat_view/4-publications?orderby=dmdate_published&ascdesc=DESC



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WHAT'S ON? JANUARY - MARCH, 2016

| Dates | Activity | Venue |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| January 18 - 19 | Regional planning meeting for Desk Officers and Communication Officers | Entebbe, Uganda |
| January 26 - 28 | NBI three Centers meeting to kick-start wetlands project | Nile-SEC, Uganda |
| January - March | National Stakeholder Engagements Exercise | DR Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda |
| February 19 | NBI three Centers Coordination Meeting | Kisumu, Kenya |
| February 20 | 45 th Nile-TAC meeting | Kisumu, Kenya |
| February 21 | NBI - Development Partners Strategic Dialogue | Kisumu, Kenya |
| February 22 | Regional Nile Day celebrations 2016 | Vihiga County, Kenya |
| February 22 | National Nile Day celebrations in Member States | In-country |
| February 24 - 26 | 2 nd Regional Working Meeting for the Nile Atlas | Kisumu, Kenya |
| March - April | NCoRe Project Mid-Term Review | NBI Centres |



Access NBI knowledge and best practices in water resource management.
Share your knowledge and best practices.
Log on to <http://nileis.nilebasin.org>

NBI MEMBER STATES



NBI SHARED VISION OBJECTIVE

To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources



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