

# NileNews

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## Nile Basin States to boost cooperation for water security



Some of the dignitaries pose for a group photo after the opening remarks

The 5<sup>th</sup> Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF), which attracted more than 400 participants from the Nile Basin and beyond, in Kigali, Rwanda, was a gathering of brilliant minds from diverse scientific and related fields. Participants discussed and engaged on issues affecting the Nile Basin and shared experiences from other river basins. This is in addition to networking and brainstorming on solutions to challenges facing the Nile Basin.

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### DID you know?

By 2050, the population of the Nile Basin countries is projected to more than double from around 400 million to one billion.

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The period September - December 2017 has been full of activity and as we look forward to the end of the year, I would like to look back and reflect on how much we accomplished during the last quarter.

Our new Strategy with a 10-year horizon (2017 – 2017) was approved by the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) in October, during their 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting which also saw a change in the political leadership of NBI from Uganda to Ethiopia. The 10-year Strategy is inspired by and provides a tool for implementing, the Shared Vision Objective of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), which is ‘to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from the shared Nile Basin water resources’. Among other things, the Strategy provides clear linkages between the key development goals of water, energy, food and environment and focusses on win-win harnessing of these natural resources.

The NBI 10-year Strategy will be implemented through 5 - Year Programs prepared by each of the three NBI Centers namely the Secretariat in Uganda, the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office in Ethiopia and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit in Rwanda.

To effectively implement the 5-year Basin wide program for the Secretariat, the Nile-COM approved a new management structure, which will contribute to enhancing leadership stability and strengthening program integration and coordination as well as strengthening planning and monitoring.

I look forward to working with all of you our valued partners towards the successful implementation of the various activities, which aim at addressing the key Basin challenges identified by the Nile riparians.



The Nile-COM meeting also approved the Procedures for Investment Project Information Disclosure, which will guide the sharing and exchange of NBI projects information among the Member States.

We were very delighted to see many of you at the very well-attended and productive 5<sup>th</sup> Nile Basin Development Forum held in October in Kigali, Rwanda on the topical theme: ‘**Investing in Nile Cooperation for a Water Secure Future**’. Among other things, NBI Member States committed to continued cooperation to ensure that all people living in the Basin have water security.

Within the confines of the 5<sup>th</sup> NBDF, we took the opportunity to recognize and award Nile Basin journalists for excellent reporting on Nile cooperation issues.

In terms of resource mobilization, the European Commission has provided 10 million Euro to support a programme on transboundary water management in the River Nile Basin while the Board for Global Environment Facility recently approved funding to the tune of USD 6 million for a regional project on enhancing conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources in selected transboundary aquifers. A 1.2 million Euro project on enhancing Climate Services for Infrastructure was launched in September, 2017. The project funded by GIZ and World Bank (CIWA) is aimed at enhancing climate services for improved resilience of infrastructure to climate change.

I thank NBI Member States for closely working with and guiding us, our partners for supporting the NBI cause and the staff of NBI for their dedication and hard work.

**I wish you all a happy end of 2017 and a successful new year 2018.**

**Eng. Innocent Ntabana**

## >> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The NBDF is a high level regional science-policy dialogue on how Nile cooperation can contribute to sustainable development in the Nile Basin.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Forum saw robust, insightful and productive conversations between representatives of the ten NBI Member States and other stakeholders. Participants noted that the Nile Basin is a water scarce region and that it is facing and will continue to face unprecedented pressures. The risk of over-utilisation needs to be considered to ensure current and future generations can deal with any adverse consequences.

It was also noted that by 2050, the population of the Nile Basin countries is projected to more than double from around 400 million to one billion. This, along with changes in the climate and the desired socio-economic transformation, will put even greater pressure on the shared Nile Basin water resources.

There was broad consensus that while the challenges being faced in the Basin are multifaceted, they can be solved through cooperation and shared solutions.

Member States agreed to ensure water plays its rightful role as a foundation for development in the Nile Basin - as an input for increased food and energy production as well as industrial and domestic use. They also committed to continued cooperation to ensure that all people living in the Basin have water security.

Closing the Forum, Rwanda's Minister of Environment, Hon. Vincent Biruta, said: "The recommendations agreed here in Kigali will certainly inform the regional and national agendas for water resources management and development for the coming years. I am also glad that the recommendations mirror NBI's 10-year Strategy and its aspirations."

Eng. Innocent Ntabana, the Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat noted that the technical solutions are available to achieve the objective of water security in the Basin. "I urge Member States to take advantage of the solution pathways that have emerged from this Forum and build on the networks established. We all have a role to play in ensuring a water secure future in the Nile

Basin region and making it a better place for all living beings," he said.

Earlier, the German Special Envoy for Nile Cooperation Affairs, H.E. Rolf Welberts said: "From our own experience in the four major rivers we share with our neighbors - the Rhine, Danube, Elbe and Odra, we firmly believe that a broad basin wide dialogue - not only between governments, but between the various water stakeholders and between those that are knowledgeable about the basin's water issues - the water user stakeholders and the scientific communities - is key to building a consensus on a shared vision ... and ... what may be even more challenging ... about how to get there."

**There was broad consensus that while the challenges being faced in the Basin are multifaceted, they can be solved through cooperation and shared solutions.**

The World Bank representative, Mr. William Rex, said: "[...] It is also a reminder of why the theme of this Forum: 'Investing in Nile Cooperation for a Water Secure Future' is so important. If we want a water secure future, we must invest. We must invest in the information to guide our decisions. We must invest in the institutions that enable our cooperation. And we must invest in the infrastructure - both natural and built - that secures our water for generations to come."

The 5<sup>th</sup> NBDF was held from October 23 - 25, 2017 in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and with support from the Federal Republic of Germany, the World Bank and Cooperation in International Waters in Africa.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Nile Basin Development Forum will take place in Ethiopia.

**Elizabeth Agiro**  
**Media Relations Expert**  
**Nile-SEC, Entebbe**

## NBDF 2017 PICTORIAL



L-R : H.E. Rolf Welbers, Eileen Burke from the World Bank and Hon. Vincent Biruta



Communication Officer of the Rusumo project Louise Ndayizeye, explaining about the project



Children performing a poem about the importance of Nile Cooperation



A cross section of participants during the Forum



Participants contribute to the discussions



See more picture: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nile-basin-initiative/albums/72157688351237464>

# NBI curves out strategy to address Basin development challenges



Consultations with key stakeholders in Ethiopia

**F**or the first time, NBI has developed a 10-year Strategy covering the period 2017-2027. Approved by the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) in October 2017, the Strategy provides the strategic direction for NBI, defines the goals the institution will work towards and expounds on its contribution. Furthermore, the Strategy elaborates how NBI will be strengthened to efficiently and effectively deliver on its mandate.

All six goals of the Strategy contribute to addressing key development challenges in the Nile Basin, hence increasing hydropower development, interconnectivity of electric grids and power trade; improving food security as well as protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems. Other goals are improving basin resilience to climate change impact; strengthening governance and last but not least, enhancing availability and sustainable management of transboundary water resources of the Nile Basin.

The goals are in line with the key priorities highlighted by the first Nile Basin Heads of State Summit held in June 2017 in Uganda in order to achieve social transformation of the Nile Basin citizens as the ultimate guarantor of the Nile's security.

The 10-year Strategy will be realized through 5-year programs implemented by the three NBI Centers namely Nile-SEC, ENTRO and NELSAP-CU, respectively together with the NBI Member States.

The Strategy is fully owned by the Member States and is a product of processes and consultations undertaken over the years with various stakeholders. It is also well aligned to global and regional processes as well as commitments Member States are party to.

**Dorothy Kaggwa**  
Head of Strategic Planning and Management  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

# Governance approves NBI strategic documents

Ethiopia assumes top leadership of the intergovernmental organisation



Governance members, management staff of NBIU and development partners take a group photo



Hon. Dr. Seleshi Bekele,  
Nile-COM chair



Mr. Teshome Atnafie Guyo,  
Nile-TAC chair

The meeting witnessed the expected change in the top leadership of NBI, which is held on a one year rotational basis, with Ethiopia succeeding Uganda.

basis, with Ethiopia succeeding Uganda. Accordingly, H.E. Dr. Sileshi Bekele, Ethiopia's Minister for Water, Irrigation and Electricity is the new chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers, replacing Hon. Sam Cheptoris Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment . The new chairman of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) on the other hand is Mr. Teshome Atnafie Guyo, Director of the Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Affairs in Ethiopia's Ministry in charge of Water Affairs. He succeeded Ms. Florence Grace Adongo, the Director of Water Resources Management in Uganda's Ministry in charge of Water Affairs.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Nile-COM meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs or their representatives in the NBI Member States, Members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee, Management staff of NBI as well as representatives of development partners, civil society and the media.

**Tom Waako**  
Program Officer  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Nile Council of Ministers' (Nile-COM) meeting held in Uganda in October 2017 saw the ministers approve NBI's strategic documents. Besides the 10 - year Strategy, the meeting approved the Secretariat's 5-year Basin wide Program. This is in addition to the National NBI Coordination Strategy that will guide its operations at national level as well as the Procedures for Investment Project Information Disclosure, which will guide the sharing and exchange of NBI projects information among the Member States.

The Ministers were briefed about progress in institutional management and program implementation during the year that ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. A physical achievement of 82% of planned results against a budget burn rate of 76% was registered.

The meeting witnessed the expected change in the top leadership of NBI, which is held on a one year rotational

# Role of Nile cooperation in sustainability of water resources reiterated

The Strategic Dialogue is an annual high level and forward-looking meeting between NBI Member States, development partners and NBI senior management. The purpose of the meeting was to provide strategic inputs and further guidance into the development of the NBI program and the overall Nile cooperation process. This is an addition to offering an opportunity to reflect on the overall Nile cooperation process, progress of implementation of the NBI program and emerging issues.

This year, the Strategic Dialogue, the 10<sup>th</sup> in its series, was held in October in Kigali, under the theme: **'Strengthening Nile Cooperation in a difficult Political Environment'**.

Issues discussed ranged from the NBI 10-year Strategy, the current political environment in which NBI is operating, moving the NBI investment agenda forward and financing the NBI program.

Participants reiterated the significance of Nile cooperation for sustainable management and development of the shared Nile Basin water resources and called on all Member States to fully participate in the dialogue.

On moving the investment agenda forward, Member States were encouraged to prioritize inclusion of the bankable investment projects prepared by NBI in their national development plans.

Development partners pledged their continued support to Nile cooperation and the NBI program and urged Member States to step up and honor in a timely manner, their financial obligations to the NBI institutions.

They also took note of the ambitious yet comprehensive 10-year Strategy and strategic directions and advised on a phased out implementation especially given the uncertainty in funding.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Strategic Dialogue was attended by Nile-COM members from Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan and Sudan as well as Nile-TAC members. Others were senior management staff of the three NBI Centers (Nile-SEC, ENTRO and NELSAP-CU), representatives from Egypt, and of development partners namely African Development Bank, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Department for International Development (DFID-UK), EU delegation to Uganda, GIZ, Germany, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Swedish Development Agency (Sida), World Bank-Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) and United States State Department.

**Dorothy Kaggwa**  
Head of Strategic Planning and Management  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe



Participants during the Strategic dialogue

# Journalists recognised for excellent reporting on Nile issues



Congratulations! Journalists who were recognized during the Nile Media Awards 2017

After months of preparation and anxiety as they awaited the verdict on their entries into the Nile Media Awards 2017 competition, on October 23, 2017, twelve journalists received prizes for excellent reporting on Nile cooperation and Nile Basin issues. This was during a dinner ceremony held in Kigali, Rwanda within the confines of the 5<sup>th</sup> Nile Basin Development Forum.

Winners were awarded in four categories; print, digital, radio and television. Entries in the fifth category – photography – did not abide by the submission guidelines. This is an upgrade from two years ago, when the NBI launched the inaugural competition involving only two categories; print and radio.

This year's chapter brought in more than 50 entries surrounding the theme '**Cooperation in the Nile Basin**' in languages including English, French, Arabic, Kiswahili, Amharic and Kinyarwanda, all of which demonstrated a keen interest among the Nile Basin media to report on Nile cooperation.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Guest of Honour, who is also Rwanda's Minister of Environment, Hon. Vincent Biruta, commended the media for the good job they are doing in highlighting issues that affect the Nile Basin. "As a community, we need to work hard to involve citizens in the decisions that affect their lives. This means ensuring people from all walks of life are part of our efforts to protect, develop and sustain the Nile Basin. Achieving this would not be possible without effective communication with the people who call the basin home," he said.

**Nile Media Awards is a biennial event organised by the Nile Basin Initiative with support from the German government.**

Prizes included research grants, training opportunities, media gadgets as well as made-in-Rwanda gift baskets.

## Winners in the different categories:

### Print

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Frederic Musisi (Uganda)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sylvester Domasa (Tanzania)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Solomon Goshu (Ethiopia)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kevin Ogutu (Kenya)

### Digital

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bassem Abo Alabass (Egypt)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mabiior Philip Nuer (South Sudan)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Henry Lutaaya (Uganda)

### Radio

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Michael Wambi (Uganda)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Claver Hakizimana (Burundi)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jean Paul Mbarushimana (Rwanda)

### Television

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Simon Mugisha (Uganda)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fabien Niyonizigiye (Burundi)

Nile Media Awards is a biennial event organised by the Nile Basin Initiative with support from the German government.

The 2017 edition was organised in partnership with GIZ, Nile Basin Discourse, Media in Cooperation and Transition, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Deutsche Welle, Africa Water Journalists and Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa.

The night was made even more memorable by performances from The Nile Project, an amalgamation of musicians from the Nile Basin countries. The Nile Project is about inspiring, informing and connecting Nile citizens to help them collaborate on cultivating the sustainability of the River Nile.

### Elizabeth Agiro

Media Reations Expert

Nile-SEC, Entebbe



German Special Envoy for Nile Cooperation Affairs, H.E. Rolf Welberts



Guest of Honor, Hon. Vincent Biruta



Members of the Nile Project entertain guest during the Awards ceremony

See more pictures: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nile-basin-initiative/albums/72157686572360212>

# Journalists capacity to report on technical issues enhanced



Journalists from the Nile Basin countries during the workshop

**T**wenty two journalists from the Nile Basin recently participated in a two-day skills enhancement workshop organised in Kigali, Rwanda. The workshop was held ahead of the 5<sup>th</sup> NBDF, a regional high level science policy dialogue on the theme ‘**Investing in Nile Cooperation for a Water Secure Future.**’

The objective of the workshop was to explain to participants, who included the 12 winners of the Nile Media Awards 2017, the complex scientific and other issues that would be presented and discussed during the 5<sup>th</sup> NBDF so as to enable them produce more factual, balanced, objective and professional reports. One of the topics included how to turn technical and scientific content into news.

Other objectives of the workshop were to identify special areas of interest to journalists; facilitate networking of journalists across the region and to enhance the NBI database of journalists knowledgeable in Nile cooperation issues.

Speaking during the workshop, the NBI Secretariat Executive Director, Eng. Innocent Ntabana, said: “This workshop is a continuation of our efforts to engage the media, who are one of our Strategic partners, in order to keep you informed so you can, in turn, raise awareness about the opportunities and benefits of Nile Cooperation and the need for the Nile Basin States to work together to address shared challenges, risks and threats.”

The workshop held in Kigali, Rwanda was organized with support from the German government.

**Elizabeth Agiro**  
Media Relations Expert  
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# Ethiopia to host Regional Nile Day 2018 event

This will be the third time for Ethiopia to host the annual event



Celebrants during Nile Day 2013 held in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

**E**thiopia will host the Regional Nile Day event in 2018 under the theme; **‘The Nile: Shared River, Collective Action’**. Nile Day is held annually on February 22, to commemorate the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in 1999. This day marked a major milestone in the history of Nile Cooperation, as prior efforts such as the Hydromet of the 1960s and the TECCONILE of the 1970s, were beset with lack of inclusivity and absence of an institutional framework.

Among other things, Nile Day provides an opportunity for Basin citizens and friends of the Nile to come together to exchange experiences, views and ideas on topical issues related to the cooperative management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and related resources. This is in addition to enhancing stakeholders’ appreciation of the benefits of Nile Cooperation while at the same time enhancing awareness of the results and visibility of NBI.

On a lighter note, the Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the rich and varied cultures, which exist within the Nile Basin.

The inaugural event was held in 2007 and has since continued to attract Nile Basin Ministers in charge of Water Affairs, Members of Parliament, development partners, officials from ministries in charge of Water Energy, Agriculture, Environment and Foreign Affairs respectively. Others are researchers, academia, civil society, private sector, media, youth, children and the general public.

## Venues of previous Regional events

Kigali, Rwanda in 2007; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2008; Bujumbura, Burundi in 2009; Kabale, Uganda in 2010; Goma, DR Congo in 2011; Jinja, Uganda in 2012; Bahir Dar, Ethiopia in 2013; Kampala, Uganda in 2014, Khartoum, The Sudan in 2015; Kisumu, Kenya in 2016; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 2017.

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

# NBI and Nile Basin Discourse commit to continued cooperation

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the Nile Basin Discourse recently signed another Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), extending the cooperation between the two organisations for yet another three years.

This was during the inaugural Nile Basin Discourse Summit held in Entebbe – Uganda on November 29-30, 2017.

In his remarks during the opening ceremony of the Summit, Eng. Innocent Ntabana, the Executive Director of NBI Secretariat noted that “cooperation with the Nile Basin Discourse dates back to the year 2000 and it is based on the recognition that for the NBI Shared Vision Objective to be achieved, it is essential that coherent regional civil society perspectives are sought, heard and incorporated to add value to the Nile cooperation and development processes in an open and structured manner”.



Eng. Innocent Ntabana (R) and Prof. Muawia Hamid Shaddad, NBD Chairperson (L) upon signing the MoU

The MOU outlines the general principles and specific obligations upon which the relationship of the Parties will be based. Among other things, the Parties shall cooperate in all fields related to developments in the Nile Basin in order to enhance equitable and mutual benefits of the peoples of the Basin from its resources.

**Jane K. Baitwa**

**Regional Communication Specialist**

**Nile-SEC, Entebbe**

## Afghan delegation on study tour to NBI

The Secretariat recently hosted a delegation from Afghanistan for a one-day study tour on cooperation and transboundary water management. “We have come here to learn and share experiences with you. It will be great to share our ideas on constructive cooperation on transboundary river basins and to learn from the unique experience of the Nile Basin”, said Mohamed Ibrahim Barakzai, Head of the Afghan Delegation. The study tour was jointly organised by the World Bank and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).



Afghan delegation and staff of NBI Secretariat

## WHAT'S ON? January - March 2018

| Dates                  | Activity  | Venue                 |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| January 2018           | Climate Service for Infrastructure Week                           |                       |
| February 02, 2018      | World Wetlands Day  |                       |
| February 19 - 20, 2018 | Regional Expert Group (Strategic Analysis)                        | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia |
| February 20, 2018      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nile Day Regional Organising Committee meeting    | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia |
| February 23, 2018      | 49 <sup>th</sup> Nile-TAC meeting                                 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia |
| February 24 -25, 2018  | NBI Finance Thematic team Meeting to discuss Accrual IPSAS/IFMIS) | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia |
| February 22, 2018      | Commemoration of Nile Day   | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia |
| March 22, 2018         | World Water Day   |                       |
| March 23, 2018         | World Meteorological Day  |                       |
| March 18 - 23, 2018    | 8 <sup>th</sup> World Water Forum                                 | Brasilia, Brazil      |



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### NBI MEMBER STATES



Burundi



DR Congo



Egypt



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



South Sudan



The Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda

### 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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