



NileNews

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More than 500 to attend 5th Nile Basin Development Forum



At least 500 stakeholders and friends of the Nile are expected to attend this year's 5th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) due to take place October 23 – 25, 2017, at the Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Center, Kigali. The event is organized by Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment in Rwanda and with support from development partners.

The aim of the biennial high level event, which was first held in 2006, is to create communities of people who are well informed,

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DID you know? The entire Nile River Delta is estimated to drain an area of 1,293,000 square miles. This area is so vast that it has a number of different climate areas.

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This just concluded quarter – July to September, 2017 – has been such a busy one. An extraordinary Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) meeting held September 3-4, 2017, finalization of the NBI 10-year Strategy and 5-year NBI Basin-Wide Program, preparations for the 5th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) as well as the Nile Media Awards 2017. Last but not least, preparations for our governance meetings (48th Nile-TAC meeting and 25th Nile Council of Ministers meeting)!

One of the key upcoming events in the next quarter is the 5th NBDF scheduled to take place from October 23 – 25, 2017 at the Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Centre, Kigali. The Forum is a science – policy dialogue for setting the cooperation agenda for sustainable development in the Nile Basin. More than 500 stakeholders and friends of the Nile are expected to participate in this high level regional event, dedicated to the theme: **‘Investing in Nile Cooperation for a Water Secure Future.’**

This year’s Forum is organized in collaboration with the government of Rwanda and is mainly funded by German government. Other funders are the World Bank, Cooperation in International Waters in Africa and the government of Rwanda. I really do look forward to seeing each of you at this exciting biennial event.

And as a participant to the 5th NBDF, be sure to attend the Nile Media Awards 2017 ceremony, during which NBI and Nile Media Awards 2017 partners will recognise journalists for excellent reporting on Nile cooperation issues. This will take place on October 23, 2017 in the evening.



Apart from preparations for the upcoming key events, we have been busy with other activities as you will read in this issue. Key among them is that the Secretariat together with GIZ (Germany) launched a project on enhancing Climate Services for Infrastructure (CSI). The project, which is funded by GIZ, is aimed at enhancing climate services in participating countries for improved resilience of infrastructure to climate change.

The NBI is one of the four partners of the project globally – others are Brazil, Costa Rica and Vietnam. Through the project, current climate services in the Nile Basin countries will be assessed and needs for enhancing climate services will be identified. Further, in collaboration with Engineers Canada, users from Nile Basin countries will be trained on climate vulnerability of water infrastructure, applying the Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) protocol developed by Engineers Canada. The objective of the protocol is to assess vulnerabilities of infrastructure to extreme weather events and future changes in climate.

The CSI project will be implemented in collaboration with GIZ (Germany), Engineers Canada and the German Weather Service.

Going forward, we have planned very interesting activities, which you might want to follow up. Check out the calendar of key events for the next quarter.

I trust you will find this particular issue informative and interesting!

Best regards,

Eng. Innocent Ntabana

actively engaged in and promoting sustainable Nile cooperation as the only means of achieving sustainable management and development of the shared Nile Basin water resources.

This year's edition is dedicated to the topical theme: **Investing in Nile Cooperation for a Water Secure Future.** The Forum will feature presentations and discussions around eight sub- themes, subdivided into several sessions covering keynote speeches by renowned experts from the Nile Basin region and beyond; scientific paper presentation sessions; panel discussions on legal, technical, socio-economic and environmental issues as well as a high level panel of policy makers.

The Forum will also include an exhibition, which is an important component of the NBDF in as far as it offers a unique opportunity to show case products, communicate findings and expand networking possibilities between professionals.

The objectives of the 5th Forum are to:

- ▶ Build a common understanding on shared risks, opportunities and prospects of Nile Basin water resources
- ▶ Set NBI's agenda and priorities
- ▶ Gather support and galvanize consensus on key actions for NBI programs
- ▶ Showcase NBI's achievements and make a compelling case for NBI
- ▶ Harvest new ideas, insights, and innovations

The 5th NBDF is designed to focus on key NBI processes as follows:

i. Advancing a regional investment program for the Nile Basin: secure preliminary consensus on a regional investment program for the Nile Basin; explore available options for program components, its processes and targets; explore options for regional coordination among key actors in the Nile Basin region (IGAD, EAPP, LVBC, PIDA, etc)

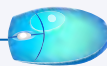
ii. Strengthening coordinated management of the Nile Basin water resources: identifying common ground for coordinated management of Nile Basin water resources; explore building blocks for a basin water resources management plan; explore policy frameworks; identify synergy opportunities and collaboration mechanisms with main regional actors

iii. Towards more effective transboundary water governance: explore options for enhancing NBI's impact at national level; strengthen NBI inclusivity; strengthen institutions; options for higher level country representation in NBI affairs (Heads of State Summit; Permanent Secretaries track and national inter-sectoral committees)

Participants will include Ministers in charge of Water Affairs and other government officials in Nile Basin countries, Members of Parliament, water resource managers, environmentalists, world renowned economists, development planners, lawyers, academia and researchers. Other stakeholders are representatives of regional, international and river basins organizations, civil society, private sector as well as media practitioners.

This year's Forum is mainly supported by German government. Other supporters are World Bank, Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) and the government of Rwanda.

This will be the second time for Rwanda to host this regional event. The first was in October 2011 when the country hosted the 3rd NBDF.



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

Programme for Transboundary Water Management in the Nile River Basin adopted

The European Commission recently adopted a decision to support a programme on transboundary water management in the Nile River Basin with € 10 million from the 11th European Development Fund.

Among others the Programme adopted in August 2017 will provide support for confidence building among all riparian countries and support country-led processes to address current differences around NBI and basin-wide cooperation in line with international law.

The EU impartially supports the ongoing political discussions and expects that the Programme for Transboundary Water Management in the Nile River Basin contributes to deliver further incentives for agreement and collaboration and to be a first step in a confidence-building process.

According to a statement published on the European Commission (International Cooperation and Development) website on August 8, 2017, the Programme for Transboundary Water Management in the Nile River

Basin is a continuation to a process started more than 10 years ago; it highlights the EU commitment to support a pacific and effective management of the Nile River Basin.

“The Nile Basin Initiative is the only existing institutional framework for collaboration between the riparian countries along the Nile and therefore it is also the main vehicle for the EU to promote water diplomacy in the region”, the statement added.

The Programme will be managed by the German Cooperation Agency-GIZ and includes an advisory committee co-chaired by the EU and Germany.

« “The Nile Basin Initiative is the only existing institutional framework for collaboration between the riparian countries along the Nile and therefore it is also the main vehicle for the EU to promote water diplomacy in the region”, the statement added. »



Nile-TAC holds extra-ordinary meeting



Nile-TAC members (front row) and NBI Management staff (back row) during the meeting

« The meeting agreed on a provisional approval for the institution to continue operating in line with its 2017/2018 first quarter workplan and budget. »

An extra ordinary Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) Meeting was held on 4th September 2017 at Nairobi Safari Club Hotel, in Kenya, to provide direction and guidance to the management of the NBI Secretariat. The meeting was as a result of delays in convening the regular Nile-TAC and Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) meetings respectively to consider, among other things, the reports and plans for the future.

The meeting agreed on a provisional approval for the institution to continue operating in line with its 2017/2018 first quarter workplan and budget.

The Secretariat also received inputs into the strategic and programmatic documents, which will be presented for approval during the 48th Nile-TAC and 25th Nile-COM meetings in October 2017, in addition to progress of the institution. Key among the documents is the annual work plan and budget 2017/2018, NBI's 10-year Strategy, and the NBI 5 year Basin wide Program.

The meeting was attended by Nile-TAC Members from Burundi, D R Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. Tanzania sent apologies. Others who attended were the Management staff of NBI.

Tom Waako
Program Manager
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Field appraisal of wetlands to inform NBI interventions



Nile Basin is endowed with diverse transboundary wetlands and wetlands of regional significance some of which are designated as wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention and as World Heritage Sites. These include Sudd Wetlands in South Sudan and wetlands of Mara, Sio-Malaba-Malakisi, Semuliki (including Lakes George, Edward and Albert), as well as Kagera and Aswa Sub-Basins Wetlands.

The NBI Secretariat recently undertook a rapid field appraisal of Nile Equatorial Lakes wetlands to gather up-to-date information on target wetlands for developing demand-driven interventions. The exercise involved assessing the status of wetlands, identifying stakeholders, as well as past and ongoing interventions. Others were information on indicative list of candidate

wetlands and requisite interventions for improvement of the status of wetlands and associate ecosystem services and biodiversity.

The rapid field mission resulted into mapping of state and non-state actors working on the sub-basins in areas of watershed and wetlands conservation, climate change adaptation, water resources development, water and sanitation and livelihoods support.

The study also recorded indicative wetlands status in terms of biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and associated ecosystem services indicating prevailing threats to the wetlands and potential in provision of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. This is in addition to gathering existing sub-basins watershed, biodiversity and wetlands plans and strategies developed by state and non-state actors that

can be instrumental in informing NBI Transboundary Wetlands work Interventions.

The following insights from the field appraisal will inform NBI work on wetlands.

Increasing dependence on wetlands for agricultural based livelihoods necessitating the need for sound land use planning and greening of agricultural based livelihoods undertakings.

Increasing infrastructural development in associated sub-basins and wetlands in terms of multi-purpose dams and irrigation schemes that has the potential of impacting negatively the water requirements of wetlands critical for their desired ecological characteristics and sustainability. This therefore calls for rigorous strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment and measuring of environmental flows along with sound holistic water allocation planning to inform such infrastructural development.

Inadequate baseline information on multiple aspects of wetlands critical for sound and integrated planning for wise-use of wetlands.

Existing enormous potential for development of wetlands-based livelihoods such as tourism, fisheries, green agriculture and cultural materials crafts industry, all crucial for positive impact on human wellbeing and provision of much needed incentives for wetlands conservation.

Existing healthy wetlands in the midst of increasing human pressure, which is crucial for biodiversity conservation, River Nile basal flow and green infrastructure for climate change adaptation and related services such as water purification, floods control and drought water supply.

Minimal transboundary wetlands governance collaboration among countries sharing the wetlands resource and conflicting transboundary wetlands use and management regimes among impacting national jurisdictions.

Existing impactful innovative wetlands conservation initiatives in Nile Basin Region worth replicating and scaling for greater impact.

Uncoordinated and to some extent duplication of interventions by state and non-state actors worth coordinating, linking and learning from, for greater impact in Nile Basin region.

« The rapid field mission resulted into mapping of state and non-state actors working on the sub-basins in areas of watershed and wetlands conservation, climate change adaptation, water resources development, water and sanitation and livelihoods support. »

Ongoing use of peatlands for energy generation, necessitating need for sustainable peatlands utilization, measuring carbon emissions associated with peatlands extraction to determine carbon footprint and associated impacts of peatlands-wetlands ecosystem degradation due to ongoing extraction.

By Leonard Akwany
Regional Wetlands Expert
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Twelve winners to be recognised at Nile Media Awards 2017

The Nile Basin Initiative is set to recognise 12 winners in the 2017 edition of the Nile Media Awards competition. The awards ceremony, scheduled to take place on October 23, 2017 at Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Centre, Kigali - Rwanda, is a result of a highly competitive process that saw more than 50 journalists submit entries in five categories: print, digital, radio, television and photography. However, the submissions in the latter category did not adhere to the rules of entry.

The awards, organised to recognise excellent reporting and coverage of Nile Cooperation and issues affecting the Nile Basin, are supported by the German government. This year's edition, the second in its series, attracted eight partner organisers namely GIZ, Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa, Nile Basin Discourse, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Media in Cooperation and Transition, Africa Water Journalists and Deutsche Welle.

This year's theme 'Cooperation in the Nile Basin' was meant to highlight the benefits communities and countries within the Nile Basin are enjoying from jointly addressing common challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation while maximising socio-economic benefits, minimising risks and costs of development projects, and promoting regional peace and security through the cooperative management and use of the shared Nile Basin water resources.

Speaking about the concluded selection process and upcoming awards, NBI Secretariat Executive Director,

Eng. Innocent Ntabana, said: "We were delighted to receive over 50 entries surrounding this year's theme 'Cooperation in the Nile Basin' – in languages including English, French, Arabic Kinyarwanda, Kiswahili and Kirundi, –, all of which demonstrate a keen interest among the Nile Basin media to report on cooperation in the region – on the issues that bring us together, rather than divide us. We hope that these awards will serve as a reminder that accurate and constructive reporting can play a key role in fostering positive relationships among the countries and people that share the River Nile."

The awards selection process was successfully conducted by a jury made up of representatives from each partner organisation:

- ▶ Sarah Bebb, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)*
- ▶ Hilke Fischer, *Deutsche Welle*
- ▶ Fidele Niyigaba, *Nile Basin Discourse*
- ▶ Camille Karangwa, *Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa*
- ▶ Annika McGinnis, *Africa Water Journalists*
- ▶ Mahamed Abdillahi, *Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)*
- ▶ Sven Recker, *Media in Cooperation and Transition (MiCT)*
- ▶ Eugene Anangwe, *Independent Media Consultant*

Elizabeth Agiro

Media Relations Expert

Nile-SEC, Entebbe



Rusumo Project develops its upstream area



Ngara district officials and NELSAP Project Implementation Unit Staff after signing an MoU on LADP Ngara

While construction of the 80MW Rusumo Power Plant may have led to the displacement of some communities, the Project Affected Persons have been resettled through the Livelihood Restoration Project. Funds have been made available for Local Area Development Plans (LADP) for Busoni (Kirundo province) and Giteranyi (Muyinga province) communes of Burundi; Kirehe and Ngoma districts of Rwanda; and Ngara district of the of Tanzania.

Developed through a participatory process with each district identifying respective priority actions, LADP is a USD 15 million benefit-sharing program between Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. Each country's local area development will cost about USD 5 million. The program is designed to enhance economic and social development in the Rusumo area as an extended program to the construction of the Rusumo Power Plant.

In Rwanda, Kirehe district will rehabilitate 30 kms of feeder road in Kigarama and Musaza sectors in Cyagasenyi-Gasarabwayi-Nganda Road as well as construction of Kigina Health Center. Ngoma district will construct 28,7 km of mixed water pipeline supplying 10,500 people of Gatonde-Gahima cells.

In Tanzania, the funds will be used for livestock intensification and cattle milk production, bee keeping project to increase honey production, as well as increased agricultural production for key crops namely cassava,

sunflower, banana and horticulture. Other priority activities identified are rehabilitation of water systems in four villages of Mshikamano, Kasharazi, Kasulo and Rwakalemela; construction of water systems in Rusumo village and support to Remela Vocational Training Centre.

Burundi on the other hand will rehabilitate and extend water systems in Busoni and Giteranyi. This is in addition to improving agricultural production for key crops like cassava, beans and maize; intensifying livestock; water conservation as well as constructing and supporting a Youth Training Centre.

Management of LADP is executed by respective communes and districts under the supervision of NBI's Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) through the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project.

Construction of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project was officially launched on March 30, 2017 and is expected to be commissioned in February, 2020. The project is a joint undertaking by three of the NBI Member States namely Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania.

By Louise-Andree Ndayizeye

Communication Officer

Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project, Rwanda

Welcome!



Modathir Zaroug joined the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat as a Regional Water Resources Modeler effective September 2017. He is familiar with different hydrological models and regional climate modelling and brings with him 14 years of experience in hydrology. This is in addition to his great interest in the Nile Basin climate and hydrology.

Prior to joining NBI, Modathir worked with Sudan's Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity.

He possesses a PhD from the University of Khartoum and International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy and a Mater of Science in Hydroinformatics from UNESCO IHE for Water Education, Delft, Netherlands.

The staff of the Secretariat and the entire NBI family warmly welcomes Modathir.

WHAT'S ON? October - December, 2017

Dates	Activity	Venue
October 10 - 11, 2017	48 th Nile-TAC Meeting	Entebbe, Uganda
October 10-13, 2017	NELTAC/COM	Entebbe, Uganda
October 12, 2017	25 th Nile-COM Meeting	Entebbe, Uganda
October 21, 2017	28 th NBI Coordination Meeting	Kigali, Rwanda
October 22, 2017	49 th Nile-TAC Meeting	Kigali, Rwanda
October 22 - 23	Regional Nile Media Training	Kigali, Rwanda
October 23 - 25	5 th Nile Basin Development Forum	Kigali, Rwanda
October 23, 2017	Nile Media Awards ceremony	Kigali, Rwanda
October 26, 2017	Strategic Dialogue 2017	Kigali, Rwanda
October 31 - Nov 2, 2017	3 rd RPCL Board Meeting 2017	Arusha, Tanzania
Nov. 29-30, 2017	Nyimur MPP Donor Round Table	Kampala, Uganda
Dec. 13-14, 2017	4 th RPCL Boar Meeting 2017	Arusha, Arusha



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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.



NILE-SEC
NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat
P. O. Box 192 Entebbe - Uganda
Tel: +256 417 705 000, +256 414 321 329
+256 414 321 424
Email: nbisec@nilebasin.org
Website: www.nilebasin.org

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