

## THE NILE RIVER BASIN INVESTMENT PROGRAM: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO BASIN WIDE INVESTMENTS

**T**he Nile River Basin Investment Program (NR-BIP) is a high-visibility flagship regional program of jointly identified transformative investment projects that are aimed at driving climate-resilient, socio-economic development of the Nile River Basin, while reversing environmental degradation within the basin watershed.



Figure 1: Watershed Management Project, Megnagna Gully.

The NR-BIP is a mechanism for coordinating the water-related investment activities of regional organizations so as to reduce duplication and overlaps, increase efficiency in resource use, and maximize benefits to the one million people residing within the Nile Basin. The goal of the NR-BIP is to contribute to the Shared Vision Objective, which is: *“to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile water resources.”*



Figure 2: Radial Gates at Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric Project

## The Roots of the Nile River Basin Investment Program

The roots of the Nile River Basin Investment Program can be traced to the 2017 Summit of Heads of State and Government which was held in June 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. The NBI was directed to *“facilitate the preparation of investment projects aimed at supporting Nile riparian countries to drive and attain socio-economic development, while reversing environmental degradation in the Nile Basin.”*

« The goal of the NR-BIP is to contribute to the Shared Vision Objective, which is: *“to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile water resources.”* »



Figure 3: The Heads of State and Government during the first summit hosted by the president of Uganda H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni (centre-right of photo).

At the 30<sup>th</sup> Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) Meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the Nile-COM approved the NR-BIP Program Document, which provides guidelines on the development of the NR-BIP Program. The development of the NR-BIP program commenced in September 2023.

## Objectives of the Nile River Basin Investment Program

1. To attain a state of water security in the Nile countries characterized by reliable availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, and economic production.
2. To improve energy security through increased production of hydropower and other renewable energy sources and increased regional power trade in the Nile region.
3. To improve food security through increased food crop production from rainfed and irrigated farming systems and regional trade in food products.
4. To protect and conserve the watersheds and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of the Nile Basin and promote their sustainable utilization for poverty reduction and socio-economic development by basin communities.
5. To strengthen the resilience of basin communities to impacts of global climate change, and manage risks arising from water-related natural disasters.

## The NR-BIP Thematic Areas

The NR-BIP will make interventions in a broad range of fields grouped under three thematic areas, namely: (1) Water Security and Climate Resilient Water Resource Management; (2) Food Security and Agricultural Water Management; and (3) Energy Security: Regional Power Trade; Hydropower Generation, Other Renewable Energy Sources.

**« The NR-BIP Program will help to move projects along the project cycle, particularly marketing them and securing investment finance for their mobilization. »**



a)b)c) **Figure 4:** a) Rukungiri Fish Landing Sites one of 9 modern landing sites constructed by NELSAP LEAF II on lakes Edward and Albert in Ug and DRC, b) Local Area Development Project at Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric power Project, and c) The First Jointly Agreed Integrated Watershed Management Project in the Eastern Nile.

There are two sources of projects into the NR-BIP: (a) existing projects of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), River/Lake Basin Organizations (RBOs) and countries that meet NR-BIP criteria; and (b) projects identified and developed under the NR-BIP project.

With its vast experience across Africa in water infrastructure project preparation and implementation including in the Nile Basin, in addition to being a major player in the water-food-energy-transport-trade sectors in the region, the **African Development Bank (AfDB)** is proposed to take the lead in resource mobilization for the NR-BIP. Furthermore, it is proposed to serve as a convenor for other donors supporting the NR-BIP. The NR-BIP Program will help to move projects along the project cycle, particularly marketing them and securing investment finance for their mobilization.



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