

# NILE COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROJECT

## WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION IN THE NILE BASIN

### 1. Introduction

The Nile Basin Initiative received funds from World Bank through the Cooperation in International Waters for Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund to implement the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR). NCCR project is implemented by five agencies, namely, Eastern Nile Regional Technical Office (ENTRO), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat (Nile-SEC); and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU).

The NCCR project development objective (PDO) is to improve mechanisms for cooperation on water resources management in the Nile Basin and has five thematic areas aligned with the PDO:

- Platform for cooperation
- Flood and drought risk mitigation.
- Dam safety capacity building.
- Innovative information services for climate-resilient investment planning and
- Water quality investment planning prioritization

### 2. Key information on NCCR project

Project Approval	: February 27, 2021
Effectiveness Date	: March 25, 2021
Closing Date	: November 30, 2025
Total Project Cost	: US\$ 30 Million

### 3. Water quality investment planning and prioritization

Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat leads the water quality investment planning and prioritization thematic reas of NCCR project. This thematic area aims to cooperatively address the ever-increasing water quality and pollution control challenges in the basin and comprises three activities (Table 1)

**Table 1: The three activities of water quality investment planning and prioritization thematic area**

Activity area	Responsible agencies/centre
Enhancing availability and use of Water Quality Data	Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat
Clarifying options for Policy and Institutional Harmonization	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
Multi-Criteria analysis to prioritize investments in identified hotspots	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit

Enhancing availability and use of water quality data area supports improved water quality management at national and regional levels to address the growing threats of degradation of water resources. This activity area supports the member states:

- to improve their water quality monitoring systems and ensure effective participation in the regional water quality program;
- to improve availability of water quality data and information at national and regional levels;

- to develop a Nile Basin water quality database that can support development of measures for addressing pollution and quality degradation at national and regional levels;
- to prepare models assessing critical sections of the basins (hotspots) and providing critical information for designing intervention measures
- to prepare and disseminate information products aimed at improving awareness of countries on the water quality challenges in the basin and measures that can be taken to address them; and
- to improve capacity of key stakeholders with tools and models for designing/implementation of water quality interventions.

#### 4. Project key achievements

- Water quality team members were established in the nine Nile Basin countries and were facilitated to visit water quality monitoring stations and laboratories to benefit NCCR basic laboratory water quality equipment and sensors
- In consultation with the countries; an update design of water quality monitoring network, and technical specifications of water quality, sediment field tool kits and on laboratory equipment for each country were produced
- The development of Nile Basin water quality database was completed, deployed to NBI servers and linked to NBI Integrated knowledge portal (IKP)
- Water quality coarse maps produced, and water quality models developed in the Six hotspots of water pollution
- Two regional workshops for the NCCR regional experts working groups (REWG) on water quality were organized to discuss the project's deliverables
- An experiential study tour was organized for the participants from NBI and Nile Basin countries in Zambeze Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)

to get a better understanding in water quality management and conservation activities at both national and regional levels, which will contribute to the post project sustainability in respect to pollution control and water quality management systems in their countries.

- A training of NCCR water quality task team members on Environmental and social safeguard policies and standards was organized and coincided with the hand over of hydromet stations in Rwanda
- A NBI environmental taskteam was established, the Environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) of the project, was reviewed and publicly disclosed as well as the Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) of NCCR project: <https://nilebasin.org/nbi/disclosures>.

#### 5. Future prospects

- Training of countries water quality experts and NBI on water quality modelling and operation and maintenance of the database
- Training of laboratory technicians on installation, operation and maintenance of laboratory equipment and water quality sensors
- Supply and installation of basic laboratory equipment and water quality sensors in the Nile Basin countries
- On site training of national water quality task teams on World Bank Environmental and Social frameworks (ESF)
- Development of e-learning modules on water pollution control and conservation practices
- Facilitate the transport of national and NBI taskteam members during installation and commissioning of laboratory equipment and water quality sensors
- Development of environmental audit of NCCR project

## Annex 1: Illustrating photos



Figure 1: Country needs assessment missions started in Burundi in July 2022. These included meeting the national water quality taskteams, visit of water quality laboratory and the hydromet station on Ruvubu River at Muyinga Stations



Figure 2: Two regional workshops were organized on update design of NBI water quality network and on development of Nile Basin Database in July and December 2022



Figure 3: After ESF training in Bugesera, the participants joined the handover of the hydromet station of Akagera River at Kanzenze Bridge, in Bugesera District, Rwanda

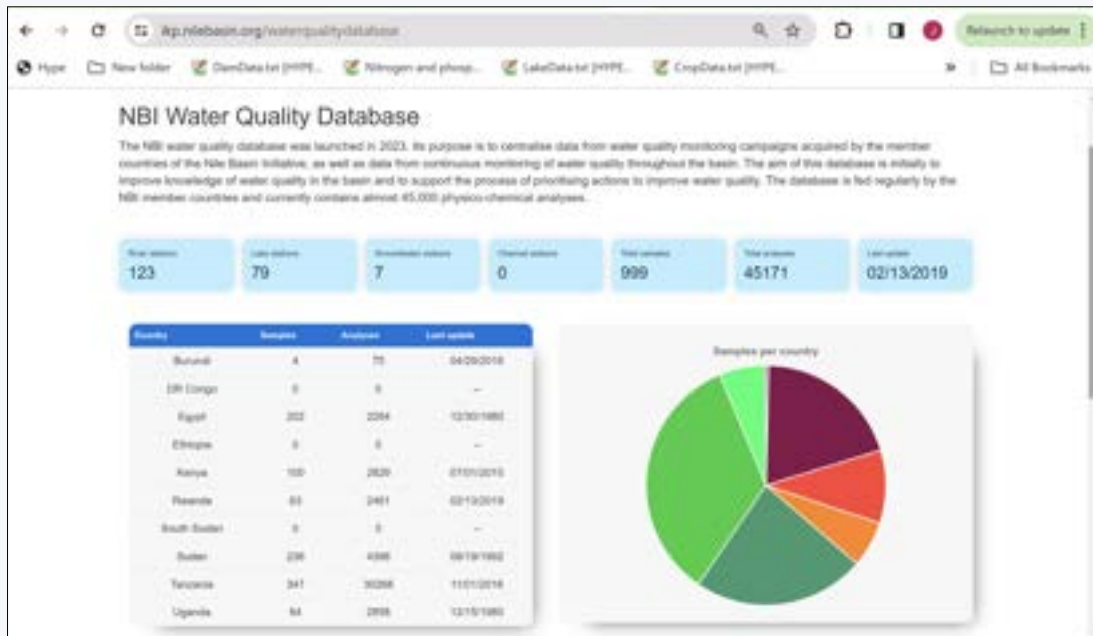


Figure 4: NBI water quality database is developed and linked to IKP (<https://ikp.nilebasin.org/waterqualitydatabase>)



Figure 5: Group photo of the participants to an experiential study tour organized at ZAMCOM, April 2023



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