



Egypt



Ethiopia



South Sudan



Sudan

We work to realize the shared benefit of Cooperative Water Resources Development and Management in the Eastern Nile.

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Event



Workshop



Conversation



staff news

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About the Newsletter

ENTRO produces a quarterly magazine called Nile Flow. We print 1,000 free copies per issue, which are sent to our stakeholders and partners across the world. Nile Flow features institutional information related to Nile water cooperation activities undertaken by ENTRO, EN countries and partners.

What is in the Name?

We have chosen “Nile -Flow” as the name of our Newsletter.

Nile –

Our great river!

Flow –

The flow of our great river, running through the Four sisterly Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) Countries of Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and the Sudan; connecting the people, their cultures, their histories, their livelihood, and shared destinies since time immemorial.

Flow –

In the psychological sense also symbolizes a feeling of energized focus, of total engagement, and success in the activity being undertaken– i.e., in the ENSAP cooperation process we are all engaged in. Thus, the twin message: a description of reality, on the one hand, and a statement of hope, vision, and purpose on the other.

NBI/ENTRO Project Activities.

The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) has been established by the Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM) in June 2002 in order to identify, prepare, facilitate implementation, and coordinate cooperative projects within the Eastern Nile basin. The overall purpose of ENTRO is to support ENSAPT and ENCOM in the complex task of developing, implementing, and managing the

multi-country Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP).

ENTRO is governed by ENCOM as the highest decision-making body, assisted by the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Team (ENSAPT), composed of three senior technical officials from each eastern Nile (EN) member country.

Some of the Ongoing projects

Dam Safety Management

Many of existing dams in the EN sub basin were built with limited technical investigations, inadequate design, and poor construction quality. These issues have been compounded by limited investments in operations and maintenance, as these dams are mostly financed through Government transfers, which are often insufficient. As a result, many dams, particularly medium and small dams are deteriorating, posing a substantial risk to human safety and economic security, with structural and non-structural safety measures often falling below acceptable international standards.

The deterioration of these dams, coupled with increased risk and uncertainty resulting from hydrological variability due to climate change, and uncoordinated operation in the sub basin, has placed many reservoirs at risk. Recognizing this, key issues and actions are identified to develop and implement a dam safety regulatory framework and dam safety management plans at the EN region, national and dam owner levels.



Sennar dam Sudan

ENTRO Dam Safety previous studies have produced the following important reports:

- Roadmap for Preparation of a Regional Dam Safety Framework
- Reference Dam Safety Guidelines for EN
- Dam Safety Framework for the EN
- Small Dams Safety Guidelines
- Dam Safety Training Module

The current ongoing study aimed at improving the capacity of the riparian countries to manage risks related to the safety of dams and downstream communities and address the interdependencies associated with dams in transboundary basins and the serious impacts across boundaries due to safety hazards. The study has the following sub-components:

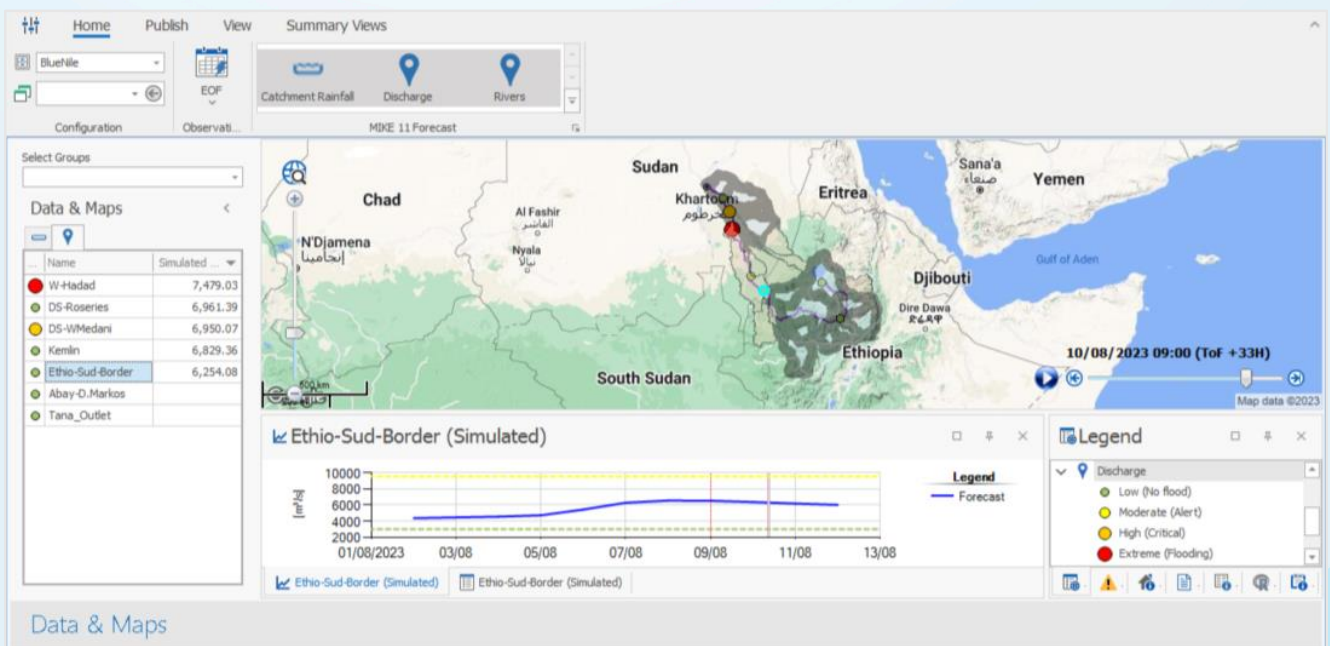
- Basin wide Reference Dam Safety Regulatory Framework and Implementation Strategy to Support Member States to develop their own National Framework.

- Establishment of a Regional Dam Safety Training Center.
- Capacity Building including strengthening of National Dam Safety Units.

The implementation of these sub-components is smoothly on going.

Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation

The overall objective of Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation project is to improve and enhance services for preparedness against flood and drought risks through provisions of flood and drought forecasting. This work will directly contribute to improved national capacities to accommodate the impact of climate variability, which is the core element of climate-resilient water resources management. The project will put in place an active Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System and a Drought Monitoring System.



Flood Forecast and Early Warning (FFEW) System

The specific objective of the Flood Risk Mitigation sub-project is the enhancement of riverine

Flood Forecast and Early Warning (FFEW) system for the EN region and the National Flood

Forecasting Centers of the EN countries and make available the forecast and early warning information for their further action.

For Drought Risk Mitigation, the objective is to develop and operationalize basin-wide seasonal drought forecasting/monitoring and make available the forecast and early warning information to relevant stakeholders. Salient features of the Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation project are given in subsequent sections.

Flood Risk Mitigation sub-project includes three Work Packages:

a) Work Package 1 - Surveying and Data Collection (topographic, infrastructure, socio-economic):

- Collect terrain datasets of flood prone areas,
- Compile historical hydro-meteorological datasets,
- Determine key characteristics of flood prone communities, and
- Stakeholders Validation workshop.

b) Work Package 2 - Enhancement of the Eastern Nile Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System and Flood Risk Mapping:

- Inception / scoping workshop,
- Flood hazard assessment and flood extent mapping,

- Flood vulnerability assessment,
- Flood risk assessment,
- Flood impact assessment capacity building at regional level, and
- Stakeholders Validation workshop.

c) Work Package 3 - Support in Establishing Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness:

- Develop flood management strategies for flood prone communities,
- Inception / scoping workshop,
- Develop flood preparedness implementation plan,
- Develop local interventions measures for flood protection,
- Flood preparedness capacity building of national institutions, and
- Stakeholders Validation workshop.

It should be mentioned that ENTRO is very keen to involve local communities at flood prone areas and listen carefully to their experience during the implementation of this project. Below are some pictures of main stakeholders (officials of localities and communities) during the field visits of ENTRO team.



Photo: ENTRO Team made consultation with Communities and local institutions at Tuti Island, Khartoum, Sudan 25 January 2023.

Drought Risk Mitigation project

Drought Monitoring and Early Warning System aimed at detecting the onset of drought conditions and facilitate timely and effective responses that enable government, organization, farming, pastoral, urban communities and individuals to respond rapidly and effectively. For example:

- Pastoral – stocking feed, early buy

livestock at fair price, positioning water,

- Rainfed – drought resistance seed; on farm water conservation, government lend cash to farmers,
- Government – early procurement of food items (nationwide).
- Reservoir operators – working out the details of water rationing and saving mechanisms.



Drought affected areas.

Drought Risk Mitigation project has the following main activities:

- a) Conducting drought forecast need and gap assessment and developing TOR for firm consultancy service on drought forecast upscaling study (completed).
- b) Firm consultancy works on drought forecast upscaling Study:
 - Developing enhanced drought monitoring, forecasting and early alert operationalized for the Nile basin,
 - Improving stakeholder awareness and preparedness for drought risk,
 - Packaging of information service for drought forecast and early warning, and
 - Developing capacity on drought forecasting at the national forecasting centers.

This project covers not only the EN sub-basin, but also the whole Nile Basin.

Implemented and planned activities under Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation sub-project include:

- Conducted 2022 Flood Forecast and Early Warning Activity; and that of the 2023 flood season is currently ongoing.
- Prepared a “Data Status and Gap Analysis Report for the Eastern Nile Flood Risk Mitigation (EN-FRM) Project.
- Conducted need and gap assessment workshop and consultancy work, and developed TOR for up scaling the drought forecasting system.

In preparation (at RFP stage) to undertake drought forecast and dashboard development for delivering drought forecast to end user for entire Nile basin. ENTRO will host the drought forecast/monitoring dashboard in 2024.

- Firm consultant almost completed Work Package (WP1) “Survey and Data Collection” work for preparation of flood modelling and strengthening FFEW in EN region.
- Will soon launch the firm consultancy work on WP2: “Enhancement of the EN-FFEWS and Flood Risk Mapping” in EN region.
- Work Package 3 “Support in Establishing Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness” sub-component will start soon with WP2 interaction during the last two months.
- Organize second round of community and institutional consultation field visits to flood prone areas and conduct study tour.

Incoming Projects

ENTRO has signed a financial agreement with the WB/IDA to implement part of the Regional Climate Resilient Program in East Africa. The Program is envisioned as a regional multi-phase engagement (Series of Projects, SOP) with the higher-level aim of strengthening the resilience of populations to climate-related shocks in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The overall Program focuses on catalytic medium to large scale investments to reduce people’s exposure to climate shocks, with a focus on high return storage and protective water infrastructure and safety nets. The first phase will be focused on strengthening systems for the proper design, implementation, and O&M of these investments for climate resilience, on increasing their readiness for implementation, on improving preparedness to manage climate risks, and on expanding the scope for adaptive safety nets to protect the most vulnerable communities. Infrastructure works will only be financed in South Sudan and Mozambique.

The Program is structured around five components, which are developed jointly by ENTRO and NELSAP on one side and the World Bank Team on the other during the period December 2022 to March 2023. These components are:

COMPONENT 1. Risk Management and Climate Financing

- 1.1. Climate and Disasters Risk Management
- 1.2. Climate Financing

COMPONENT 2. Climate Resilience Infrastructure and Asset Management

- 2.1. Enhancing institutional capacity for long term climate risk management
- 2.2. Improving governance of existing climate resilience assets
- 2.2. Closing the climate resilient infrastructure gap

COMPONENT 3. Adaptive Climate Services for Resilient Communities

- 3.1 Community outreach
- 3.1. Mainstreaming climate resilience in social protection programs

COMPONENT 4. Project Management

The project activities will be implemented by both ENTRO and NELSAP-CU with ENTRO being the Lead Implementing Entity. These components are further divided and detailed between the two implementing entities to complement each other. The project will be implemented in a 5-year period with a total cost of 4.0 million USD. The project effective date was already set as 31st July 2023, and first disbursement is expected to be during September 2023.

Internship and Young Professionals Program

ENTRO has taken the initiative to establish an internship project as part of its core activities and successfully implemented in the last 11 years. This project has proven immensely popular in fostering cooperation and allowing ENTRO to expand its professional network. The internship program started in 2011 when ENTRO worked with the World Bank to modify the implementation arrangement of the Eastern Nile Planning Model (ENPM) project. This has helped ENTRO to engage the countries through

partnership with scientific communities (EN universities). The Internship Project has proven more effective in terms of building in-house capacity and bringing a diversity of expertise and outreach opportunities to ENTRO and academia. It has made a significant contribution to ENTRO in terms of enhancing and developing new analytical tools and knowledge products. On the other hand, ENTRO also enhanced the capacity of interns through facilitating training in various areas related to ENTRO projects.



The goal of the internship project is to empower young people from the Eastern Nile countries to support the emergence of a shared understanding about the resource base – its potential, the risks it is facing and its future.

Planned activities include: ENTRO Internship and Young Professionals (I&YPs) Project evaluation and preparation of future implementation plan; and hosting 12 batches of internship program;

conduct 2022 Flood Forecast and Early Warning Activity by issue the flood early warning bulletin on daily basis during the flood season and organize training /field visits/ dissemination workshops/ conferences/ to support the interns' project.

So far ENTRO has implemented the 7th batch according to the project implementation plan.

The 5th Internship Batch (from March to June 2023)

During the Fifth batch of the NCCR Internship program three interns from three Eastern Nile countries, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and

Sudan participated. During their stay at ENTRO they conduct study on “Socioeconomic and SDG6 Indicators Mapping”.

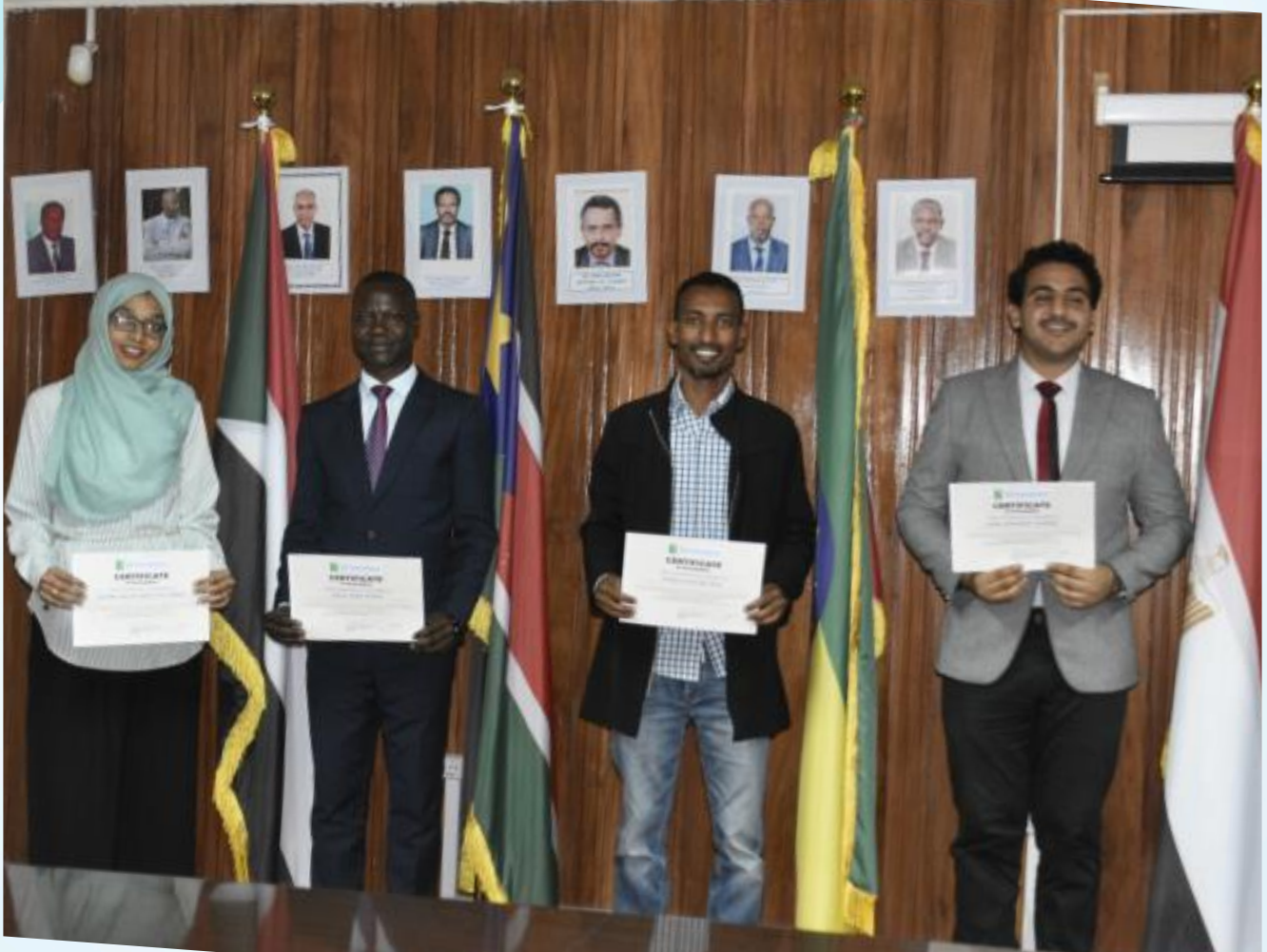


The 5th Internship Batch Field Visit to Hawassa

The main objective of the assessment was spatial data sourcing from global, regional, and country levels and mapping multiple socioeconomic and SDG6 indicators for the

EN region. Relevant data was collected, and sixteen indicator maps were developed both for the national level and the eastern Nile basin level. The method used for the analysis was the multi-criteria decision analysis using

a modified utility theory. The developed maps of all the indicators translate into unique maps to show the sensitive areas in terms of input data for the recommendation of adequate intervention mechanisms for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The governmental and non-governmental entities of the Eastern Nile Countries should focus and double their efforts to achieve the objectives of SDG6.



Presenting Certificate for Interns

For the 5th NCCR internship batch an educational field visit was organized in the Rift Valley Lake Basin of Ethiopia. During the field activities, interns were able to acquire practical knowledge related to water resources management such as: wastewater management (e.g., Hawassa Industrial Park -Zero Liquid and Dry waste technologies), wet coffee processing wastewater management, water supply, ecosystem conservation, watershed

management, storm water management, and irrigation water use in the basin.

Moreover, the 5th NCCR batch has gotten hands on training at ENTRO such as: NBI Induction training, EUMETCast Service for Earth Data Observation, and Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) techniques. In addition, NBI Induction, gender sensitization and MCDA training have been offered for this batch.

The US Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa H.E Mr M Hammer and his delegates visit ENTRO.



Welcoming US Special Envoy H.E Mr M Hammer

On Wednesday the 7th of June 2023, the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) with great pleasure welcomed the US Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa H.E Mr. M. Hammer and his delegates.

ENTRO Executive Director Dr Salih Hamad, presented ENTRO's regional activities which are aimed to bring the Eastern Nile countries together, to cooperate to manage and develop transboundary waters, to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development through equitable utilization of and benefit from the common Nile water resources.



Dr Salih Hamad, presenting ENTRO's Activities



The honorable guest commended the role of ENTRO that supports his efforts in the Horn of Africa to bring sustainable peace and development in the region. It should be

mentioned that the ENSAPT Leader for Ethiopia, and the current ENSAPT Chair Dr. Zebene Lakew, attended the meeting.

ENTRO received delegates from Research Training Institutes (RTI)



ENTRO Received two delegates from Research Training Institutes (RTI) who are preparing a project entitled “Disaster Risk Management” (DRM). The project is expected to be financed by USAID. They are seeking the cooperation of ENTRO in the preparation and implementation of projects given the vast experience of ENTRO in FFEWS.

The objective of the project is to enable timely anticipatory and early action to preempt crises and reduce the impact of shocks in Ethiopia. ENTRO presented its experience in FFEWS that extended for more than 15 years.

The meeting elaborated on the areas of possible cooperation including: -

- I. Flood Risk Management - Planning and preparedness
- II. Improving DRM Coordination
- III. Enhancing resource mobilization for effective FEWS & DRM
- IV. Strengthening gender and community capacities for FEWS & DRM
- V. Increase private sector engagement and expand organizations capacity in FEWS & DRM.

The delegates from RTI, Mohammed Abdinour and Verone L. Bernard appreciated ENTRO’s vast experience in FEWS & DRM and they express their willingness to cooperate and work with ENTRO.

2023 Regional Innovative Stakeholders Forum, Juba Republic of South Sudan, March 2-4, 2023



Regional innovative stakeholders Forum participants in Juba, South Sudan,

For effective and efficient water resources management a broad number of stakeholders need to participate, to integrate the goals of efficiency, sustainability, and equity. Whether at the local scale at a small catchment or on the regional/international transboundary scale, water users and other interested parties need to be involved to varying degrees in the planning, development, implementation, and monitoring of water management activities.

NBI defines a stakeholder as an individual or organization who is directly or indirectly

influenced by or has the potential to influence the achievement of a project, either at national and or basin-wide level. This includes those directly affected by or benefitting from NBI's projects, as their specific buy-in and support (for example, within Project Affected Communities) is essential to attaining more broader societal and political support or buy-in for NBI and its work. The Nile Basin is facing a multitude of shared challenges, including high water variability, growing water demand and climate change.



Regional innovative stakeholders Forum participants during the meeting

To adequately respond to these challenges, NBI transparently informs on these challenges and risks, to generate buy-in by the relevant stakeholders for joint action. In terms of trust and cooperation ENTRO/NBI has come a long way in the last 20 years and has brought countries together. Critical stakeholders' engagement in the EN can contribute to the creation of an amicable atmosphere of trust and confidence; making possible the exploration of new options and alternatives; they can utilize their extensive grassroots presence to disseminate positive information – to change mindsets; to shift the focus of national conversation from fear, negativism into that of collaboration and hope.

Accordingly the Regional innovative stakeholders Forum has been conducted in Juba, South Sudan March 2-3 with the objective of engaging five critical Eastern Nile Stakeholders – the Faith Community (mainly of the two predominant faiths – Christian and Muslim), Hydropower/Dam operators and Ex-Diplomats (who have good knowledge of the Nile issues), media house owners, parliamentarians to promote all-inclusive Eastern Nile Cooperation and avoid or at least minimize misunderstanding and mistrust that hinders the shared vision.

ENTRO executive Director Dr. Salih welcomed all distinguished guests and stressed the importance of this workshop with a special reference to the key role of the five categories of stakeholders (the Faith Community, Hydropower/Dam operators and Ex-Diplomats, media house owners, parliamentarians) and their engagement in the stakeholder forum.



ENTRO executive Director Dr. Salih welcoming speech

Eng. Thomas Jang Kan South Sudan ENSAPT Member Also extends a warm welcome to all participants and delegated honorable guests and expresses his enrapture about hosting the 2023 Innovative Stakeholder Forum in Juba, South Sudan. As members of the Easter Nile, we share common concerns about water development. “This problem must be solved within us because we have the ability to mobilize resources,” said Eng Thomas, who concluded his speech by wishing the meeting a fruitful deliberation.

Dr. Zebene Lake ENSAPT Chair also extends a warm welcome to all participants in the 2023 regional innovative stakeholder Forum. The primary goal of NBI/ENTRO is to bring people together to properly use the Nile. Without the participation of stakeholders, ENTRO activity cannot be successful. We can't split Egypt because we're brothers, so we're inviting them to join the family. We're here to share our knowledge and discuss how to best utilize our resources. Cooperation without people is meaningless; therefore, let us work together to eradicate poverty.

Hon. Emmanuel Ladu Parmens the Under Secretary for the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in the Republic of South Sudan, sincerely thanks ENTRO for organizing the forum, and express his expectation from the program by saying WE'VE been suffering, we are pleased to discuss and here from this meeting on how much and where to invest, to reflect and plan as country, and region. Finally, he concludes his remark by Welcoming all the participant to republic of South Sudan and declared the Forum open.

The forum continued for 2 days during which presentations by resource persons, group discussions and experience share by forum participants. The forum has deliberated in the following topics.

- I. Historical relation and cooperation between EN Countries in Political and Socio-Economic Perspectives.
- II. Global experience of TB Water resources management and development
- III. Nile/Eastern Nile Water Resources and its cooperation:
- IV. EN Hydro-Diplomacy and International Water Law

The forum brought together 44 participants representing Nile Basin countries, ENTRO, NileSEC, NELSAP-CU, and resources persons.

Consultation Workshop on Water Resources Modeling Tools Needs and Gaps Assessment March 13-15, 2023, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia



Water Resources Modeling Tools Needs and Gaps Assessment workshop Participant

Water resources modeling tools and knowledge products are key resources in water resource planning and management services. ENTRO has developed and archived the Eastern Nile Planning Models (ENPM) and Analytical Tools, Toolkits, Geodatabase, and knowledge products. The ENPM models include RiverWare, RIBASIM, MikeBasin (Mike River and Mike Basin) and NB-DSS, HEC-ResSim, and SWAT models which are used in water resources planning

and management. The analytical tools include simulation models [ENMOS, ENMCTM, EN countries Agricultural models (such as EAM for Egypt, ETAM for Ethiopia, SSAM for South Sudan and SAM for Sudan), scenario analysis tools (such as ENMOS, Agricultural Models, Multi-Commodity Trade), optimization, spatial analysis, Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) models. In addition, the toolkits include watershed management or sub-basin IMS (BAS and White

Nile, Abay-Blue Nile, Tekeze-Sitet-Atbara (TSA), and Main Nile), Power, Agriculture, and Floodplain management toolkits, and HEC-suits, Mike-suits, and GIS tools for flood forecasting system. The Geodatabase includes both the

spatial (shape files and raster), and meta database of data and information packages. The knowledge base includes GIS, Databases, Documents, Web products, Spreadsheets, and software and model packages.



Water Resources Modeling Tools Needs and Gaps Assessment workshop

Thus, this project will identify and discuss on the main gaps assessments of the ENPM and analytical tools except the flood forecasting and early warning models through evaluating the systems and assess the suitability for the Eastern Nile basin to be upscaled and the consistency of the system for future water resources planning and management systems in the EN socio-economic development strategies. The proposed activities will advance the overall effort of ENPM by developing the new modeling capabilities, data and information packages, and knowledge products and enhancing the technical capabilities of EN modeling tools and toolkits.

To this effect, ENTRO employed Dr. Georg Petersen, Water Resources expert to conduct a need assessment and gap analysis on the existing ENPM system and develop a comprehensive Firm level TOR for the proposed development of New WRP Models, Analytical Tools, Toolkits, Geodatabase, and accessibility

services. The workshop concluded by validating the assessment carried out by the Consultant and put forward constructive comments to be taken up by the Consultant to finalize the Assessment and Gap analysis Report. These comments can be categorized in the following modelling areas:

- Existing models/tools gaps and data need.
- Priority of WR Modeling tools
- Comprehensive data and information requirements for priority models
- Guidance to the consultant on preparation of the firm level TOR for the enhancement and development of New Water Resources Planning and Management Models, Analytical Tools, Toolkits, Geodatabase, and accessibility services.
- Comments on road map/ workplan for implementation of activity



Group Discussion

About 30 participants attended this workshop, representing the following categories:

- ENSAPT Chair and Leaders/ Members from EN countries
- Experts from the EN countries (Senior Water Resources Specialists, Water Resources Experts/Modelers, Decision Makers/ Policy Advisors on water resources related development issues)
- Professionals/ Experts from the NBI centers (ENTRO, Nile-SEC, NELSAP: Regional Water Resources Officers and WR Modelers, Information Systems Specialists), World Bank Task Team members (virtual), research institutes and EN Universities.

Training on gender sensitization

ENTRO organized training on gender sensitization for the 4th batch of the internship program. Out of the total 12 participants (3 interns and 9 ENTRO staff) were participated in gender sensitization training of whom 75% were women.



Dr. Emebet Mulugeta, Academic Vice President of Addis Ababa University conducting gender training at ENTRO.

Gender training was also discussed during the Innovative stakeholder’s forum which was held from 2nd-3rd March 2023 in Juba, South Sudan. Out of the 44 participants, 18% were women. In addition, five ENTRO staff members participated on gender training organized by NILE-SEC in Nairobi, Kenya in the third quarter if the budget year.

Installation of EUMETSAT-GEONET Cast Earth Observation (EO) services



Installation of Earth Observation EO receiving dish at ENTRO.

one of the importance of the Group on Earth observations (GEO) tasks is to promote sharing of Earth Observation (EO) data and products which have remarkable developments. GEONETCast delivers a wide range of EO satellite data and derived information products to a world-wide user community in near real-time with limited access to the internet.

The range of products covers applications relating to weather forecasting, atmospheric composition, water resources, and land

management. Based on these benefits, ENTRO installed EUMETCast services for satellite Earth Observation (EO) ground receiving station at ENTRO premises for different uses in the water resources management and development activities. These data and products will support expanding its data and analytics services (NB-DAS) for climate-resilient water resources management in the Nile Basin. Two days training was provided for the ENTRO Interns staff and experts in the mid of April 2023.



Training on EUMETCast Service for Earth Data Observation



Conversation with Dr. Salih.

Q. Welcome to “conversations.” Could you tell us a little bit about yourself, starting with your background, country, childhood, and academic background?

I was born in a small town called “Um Kaddada” northeast of the current North Dar Fur State in Sudan. I did my secondary school in El Fasher High Secondary School and graduated in 1984 from the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture - University of Khartoum. I have an MSc in Hydrology and a PhD in Water Management.

Q. What is your previous work experience?

I have worked in many departments in the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources of Sudan. Starting in the Hydraulics Research Center and promoted up to Associate Research Professor. I worked as Director of Abu Rakhm Barrage 1991-1998, then I worked as project Coordinator for Gezira Rehabilitation project during 2001-2007. During this time, I gained experience in international procurement of: Goods, Works, and Consultancy, in addition to

Contract Management and works supervision. Then I joined NBI/Shared Vision Program – Water Resources Planning and Management Project as the National Decision Support System (NB DSS) Specialist 2007-2012. During this period, I visited Ethiopia frequently as the project HQ are residing here at the northern part of the current ENTRO premises. Also, I visited many Nile Basin Countries and did many trainings and participated in many Transboundary Water related events.

In fact, before I joined the NBI/DSS I was part of many NBI national and regional activities. Thus, my work in the NBI/DSS has deepened my experience in transboundary water issues.

After the completion of the NBI/DSS Project, I was then worked as Director of the Nile Waters Directorate 2015-2019, then as the Chairman of the Water Resources Technical Organ responsible of Transboundary Water Issues in the Ministry and overseeing the national NBI activities. Then I was competitively selected as ENTRO ED.

Q. How did you end up joining ENTRO? Where did you find out about ENTRO/NBI? When did you start at ENTRO? What were your motivations and goals? Were those goals achieved, looking back?

As I said before I have known ENTRO since its establishment in 2002, and I have participated in many training courses conducted by ENTRO both at national and regional levels. So ENTRO is well known to me, its mandate, role, objectives, areas of focus, etc.

When I was assigned as Chairman of the Water Resources Technical Organ in Sudan, I was the one responsible of nominating Nile TAC/ENSAPT members to the three NBI Centers for approval by the Minister. In that position, all reports, and activities of the NBI three centers are submitted to my office.

Knowing the challenges that NB countries face in general and the EN Countries in particular, and my deep believe that cooperation among the EN countries is the only way out to effectively utilize our common water resources, and that there are many opportunities in different economic sectors visa-vis hydropower, irrigation, watershed, navigation, fishery,etc. it is my intention to join hands in the efforts to achieve the NBI and ENTRO vision.

I joined ENTRO on the first of January 2021. I was lucky to join such a friendly people as ENTRO staff who work as a family to achieve their objectives. I cannot say that my goals are achieved, but I can say that I have exerted positive efforts towards achieving those goals. My goals are achieved when the NBI Vision of "To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization and benefit from the common Nile Basin water resources" and ENTRO Vision of "A credible, adaptive regional institution fostering sustainable transboundary water cooperation" are achieved.

Q. Could you please tell us about your experience in ENTRO while you were working as Executive Director at ENTRO? Any challenges? If any, how did you tackle those challenges?

ENTRO is a well-recognized regional institution with experience extending more than twenty years of implementing donor financed, joint regional projects for the benefits of the people of the Eastern Nile Countries. And as such, all those who had got the chance to work at ENTRO, must have appreciated the experience and the value added to their careers. In this regard, one must acknowledge the continuous unreserved efforts exerted by all ENTRO Staff, regional as well as the national staff.

Challenges are always there for those who work to achieve their high goals. And ENTRO is not an exception. The most notable challenges are those related to the financial sustainability of the institution. ENTRO management supported by the governance ENCOM/ENSAPT, and all the staff are working hard to overcome this. Apart from the member country contributions, ENTRO current resource mobilization team is very active to diversify our financial resources under a very complex hydro-political environment.

Q. ENTRO planning work is aimed at guiding program activities towards successful implementation of ENTRO Strategic Plan, 2022-2027. The Strategic Plan will be translated into action on the ground through projects, annual work Plans (activities) and Budgets. This is the first work plan and budget to implement the 4th Strategic Plan of ENTRO, July 2022-June 2027, how do you evaluate ENTRO performance in relation to the strategic plan?

You are right, but let me say, there is no cutoff line between the previous ENTRO Strategic Plan

(2018-2022), and the current 2022-2027 one in terms of projects implementation activities. Projects implementation timeline often overlap two strategic plans. As an example, the Nile Cooperation on Climate Resilient (NCCRP) extends from 2021 to 2025.

It is too early to evaluate ENTRO performance in relation to the new Strategic Plan (2022-2027). The NCCRP implementation progress in this fiscal year 2022/23 is excellent as per the AWPB 2022-2023. The implementation progress ranges between 80% to 99% for the different NCCRP thematic areas. Thanks to all ENTRO Staff who are working as one team family to achieve this result.

ENTRO management has completed and signed the negotiation minutes for financing the new Regional Climate Resilient Project financed by the International Development Agency of the World Bank. Both the NCCRP and the RCRP are big projects ENTRO is committed to implementing during the new Strategic Plan of 2022-2027. Other small projects like the one financed by GIZ on coordinated operation of cascade dams exist, and the evaluation of ENTRO performance should consider all.

Q. I would like to bring the issue of governance to your attention, can you please explain about ENTRO governance, ENSAPT, ENCOM.

ENTRO was established in February 2002 by the Ministers of Water Affairs in Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan as a technical arm to implement the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) which was launched earlier by the three countries. Later in 2014 the Republic of South Sudan joined ENTRO. The Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM) is the highest decision governance body, and is supported by a Technical Team, namely the ENSAP Team (ENSAPT) which is delegated to follow up on the

activities of ENTRO. ENSAP Team (ENSAPT) consists of three senior technical officials drawn from Ministries of water affairs in each Member Country.

The purpose of ENSAP is to initiate concrete joint investments and action on the ground in the EN sub-basin, including but not limited to power generation, interconnection and trade; irrigation and drainage; flood preparedness and early warning; watershed management; and joint multipurpose programs. It also engages in facilitating cooperation, capacity building and development of knowledge management systems and analytical tools in support of water resources planning and development.

The ENCOM, composed of Ministers of Water Affairs in the Eastern Nile countries or their duly designated representatives. ENCOM on its own accord or on recommendation of ENSAPT, shall deliberate on policy issues, formulates and/or amend policy guidelines and Rules of Procedure and take decisions on the following matters:

- Admission of new Member Country,
- Definition of ENSAP strategies and priority themes and issues,
- ENSAP resource mobilization plans,
- Preparation and Implementation of ENSAP, its sub-programs and projects
- Approve of ENSAP annual work plans and budgets and adoption of financial, technical and administrative reports,
- Approval of recruitment of ENTRO'S Senior Management and Regional Officials,

ENCOM regular meetings are once per year, however, extraordinary meetings could be conducted if requested by ENSAPT/ENTRO. While ENSAPT meets twice a year regularly, with extra-ordinary meetings as per the request of ENTRO.

Q. Can you say something about the Cooperative Transboundary Water Resources Development in EN Countries? Also, about the cooperative framework agreement? What is the current status and challenges in its implementation?

The Nile River is the Longest River in the World, 6700 km, with basin area estimated as 3 million sq.km, 10% of Africa, shared by ten basin countries with population over 400 million, around 250 million live in the basin, rich of natural and environmental assets, and rich historical heritage. However, the Nile Basin countries have a lot of challenges: Widespread poverty, many are among the poorest countries, long history of instability, rapid population growth expected to double in 25 years, environmental degradation, climatic variability, limited water resources and increased demands. There are also huge opportunities in different economic sector awaiting to be tapped.

Cooperation is necessary for coordinated action if efficiency and effectiveness are to be achieved. Previous cooperative actions include HYDROMET 1967, and TECCONILE 1992. In February 1999, the Ministers of Water Affairs agreed on the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative as the Development approach, one side of a triangular approach for achieving the cooperation among the Nile Basin riparian countries. The other two sides being the Legal Cooperative Framework, and the Cooperation with the International Community.

The Development approach is represented by the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative with its Subsidiary Action Programs as a transitional arrangement organization. This approach is meant to foster cooperation and sustainable development of the Nile River for the benefit of the riparian countries until the Cooperative Framework Agreement is agreed upon and signed. So far, the NBI has achieved

great strides on transboundary water resources management and development. These include a lot of projects in different economic sectors: Hydropower, irrigation, watershed, navigation, flood and drought, climate change, dam safety, operation of cascade dams, capacity building, development of knowledge management systems and analytical tools in support of water resources planning and development, hydrological and meteorological data acquisition, harmonizing national policies and strategies to support regional cooperation, etc.

While Legal Cooperative Framework (CFA) is meant to arrive at the Cooperative Framework Agreement. Special committees from the riparian countries are formed to tackle the issue of the legal framework: The Panel of Experts (POE): 1997 to 2000 managed to draft an agreed upon terms with many bending issues. The Transitional Committee: 2000 to end of 2002, made some progress with bending issues like User Terms (Nile River System, Nile River Basin), Planned Measures (Prior Notification), Existing Agreements. The Negotiating Committee: 2003 to 2007, made further progress with the main bending issue of Existing Agreements (second point of the substantive part of article 14 Water Security).

The Nile Basin countries could not resolve the above point, neither at the technical, nor at the political levels, leading to the impasse on the CFA. The major difference persisted as a result of the resurfacing and hardening of the respective positions of the Nile riparian's over the colonial treaties, as well as the downstream countries claims on their acquired uses and rights of the Nile waters, and the rejection of these claims by the upper riparian's. At the end, and up to this moment, six riparian countries have signed the CFA, and four did ratify the CFA.

Q. What do you presume are the most critical and persistent obstacles/gaps to the advancement of Eastern Nile?

I think the most critical area in the Eastern Nile that needs to be resolved, is the hydro political tension. The EN countries need to urgently resolve their differences over the GERD issue and other future developments regarding the utilization of the Nile water. I think this will open a wide horizon for future cooperation among the EN countries which are endowed by huge cooperation opportunities.

Q. How did you evaluate the level of cooperation and critical gaps in meeting the NBI objective?

The cooperation among the NB countries is progressing, but not at the anticipated rate. But I am optimistic that the NB Countries will cooperate and achieve their vision as there is no other option but to cooperate. Experiences from other River Basin organizations tell us that cooperation is not an easy process, and that some river basin organizations took long periods to arrive at a legal cooperative framework. An example is the Mekong River Commission where 4 countries namely Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam spent 20 years on negotiations to sign their legal framework, bearing in mind that these countries have no problem of water availability ...the Mekong River annual flow ranges between 480 to 520 billion cubic meters. Now, if we realize that the Nile Basin countries are ten, with vast desert areas, and increased population and water demand, and sharing a river of just 84 billion cubic meters annual flow, then how complex the problem of arriving at a legal cooperative framework is obvious.

Q. What are the real challenges in the cooperation process and what is your opinion on the way forward for the coming ten-twenty years?

I think I have elaborated on this, but if one can add on what to do in the next few years, I would say, first countries need to strengthen their political will. This requires efforts to be exerted from professionals from different economic sectors, not only the water sector. Stakeholders from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance, Agriculture, NGOs and beneficiaries from grass root communities all have a role to play. This will create some sort of public pressure on politicians and other decision makers to step up and take positive actions towards regional cooperation. Second countries and regional organizations like the NBI/ENTRO need to develop technical and institutional capacities. Technical capacities should not only include water and related sectors, but also include other sectors that have their influence on the regional cooperation process. Institutional capacities should be developed at national and regional levels. Third, NBI/ENTRO should focus on projects that are really demand driven, proposed by countries. This will contribute to the visibility and sustainability of our regional institutions. Fourth, NB/ENTRO member countries should rely on their own to sustain their regional institutions, both technically and financially. Dependence on external development partners should be gradually reduced. This will enable riparian countries to prioritize and implement their joint on ground investment projects, which are the solid base for lasting regional cooperation.

Q. Can you tell me about your most notable achievements during your time at ENTRO?

I feel reluctant to speak about my achievements, I would leave this to others, but I would state that achievements in ENTRO are attributed to all ENTRO Staff, and the executive director is just one of ENTRO Staff. Despite all the surrounding challenges, ENTRO Staff have been working hard and exerting tremendous efforts to keep their institution running, to serve the NB Basin in general and the EN people in particular.

Q. If you could write a message to ENTRO staff about what needs to be done in the next 10-20 years, what would you say? Also, what is the future of ENTRO and its sustainability?

My message to ENTRO Staff is that you are entrusted by EN people to serve them, to achieve their strategic vision of cooperation, to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile water resources. This is a very ambitious vision, and I think ENTRO Staff is up to the challenge. Keep on working as a team, ENTRO has very good technical skills, with accumulated excellent experiences, that will help in the sustainability of the institution. ENTRO will achieve its vision “A credible, adaptive regional institution fostering sustainable transboundary water cooperation”.

Q. How did you evaluate Different Projects that have been implemented and the ongoing at ENTRO in relation to the benefit of EN Countries?

ENTRO has implement many projects in different economic sectors: Investment projects include Watershed, Irrigation, Hydropower, groundwater...etc. Water management include Coordinated operation of cascade dams, dam safety, floods and drought, ...etc., and furnished huge knowledge base for the benefit of the EN Countries. These projects are identified and prioritized by countries in terms of their economic feasibility and contribution to the regional cooperation. Some of them are implemented like

the Ethio-Sudan hydropower interconnection, but most of them are not yet implemented. And this is a point raised by development partners in relation to their reluctance to finance investment projects. ENTRO is mandated to prepare and facilitate implementation, but not to implement projects which remained a country issue. ENTRO governance discussed this point in their last regular meeting and agreed to consider approving implementation of investment projects by ENTRO case by case. If ENTRO managed to identify and implement a feasible investment project, then this will make ENTRO more visible to its member countries and will contribute to the financial sustainability of ENTRO. Therefore, the ball is on the ground of ENTRO Staff to work towards this.

Q. From ED perspective how do you see/ evaluate ENTRO progress throughout your working year experience?

Apart from the early years of ENTRO work and considering the difficult hydro-political environment that surround ENTRO, one can reasonably state that ENTRO is progressing well in implementing many useful projects to its member countries. However, there is still more to be done. Challenges are still ahead and ENTRO must always be ready to face those challenges to achieve its goals.

Q. Any messages to anyone?

Our people are waiting us, let work hard, on God we trust God will help...
 Thank you very much.....



STAFF NEWS

The Eastern Nile regional office (ENTRO) is pleased to welcome on board the new Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Mr. Diriba Insene Wakjira. Having his Educational Background in MBA in project Management, MSc in Rural Development and BA in Sociology and Social Anthropology

Mr. Diriba has more than 15-years of working experience in different organizations as Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Advisor in The Development Fund Norway (DFN), Knowledge Management & Stakeholders Engagement Coordinator in World Vision Ethiopia, Project Manager in Goal Ethiopia and Social and Community Engagement Manager in VERDE Beef Processing International Company etc.

Currently, he is serving the Eastern Nile Technical and Regional Office (ENTRO) under Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

Mr. Diriba at ENTRO has the duties and responsibilities of Development of results framework, result based work planning and budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation reporting, and others.

Days at ENTRO



ENTRO's

Vision:

A credible EN institution fostering sustainable transboundary cooperative water resource management and development and promoting regional integration.

Mission:

"We Work to realize shared benefits of cooperative Water Resources Development and Management in the Eastern Nile".



ENTRO Core Values Are RIGHT:

Regional Orientation, Focus on People and Environment

We are committed to regional cooperation in all our activities and relationships among ourselves and with our partners. We are committed to work for the benefit of the people and the environment of the EN countries.

Initiatives, Dynamism and Creativity

As a team and as individuals, we take the initiative and embrace new ideas for the enhancement of both our performance and our working environment. We strive for creativity to set an example and place for others.

Gender Balance, Equity and Respect Diversity

In all our work and interactions, we give equal opportunities for both genders and seek gender balance. We also do not discriminate against any individuals because of their beliefs or physical appearance. We emphasize mutual respect for individuals, recognition of their contributions, and their rights to equity in benefit sharing.

Honesty, Excellence, and professionalism

We perform all our duties in a spirit of trust, transparency, and honesty. We are committed to excellence and professionalism in all our work. We do not compromise on quality and accountability.

Teamwork, participation, and partnership

We choose to work in teams with our colleagues at ENTRO and with ENTRO'S owners and partners. We also seek to expand and intensify participation of non-governmental stakeholders, particularly from EN civil society and private sector.

We believe through participation and partnership we would achieve synergies otherwise lost. We hold ourselves individually and collectively accountable in achieving our common shared objectives.





Hawassa / Ethiopia

ONE RIVER



Burundi



DR Congo



Egypt



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



South Sudan



Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda

ONE PEOPLE

ONE VISION

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