



Ministry of Water and Environment
The Republic of Uganda



Nile Basin Initiative

THE SEVENTH NILE BASIN DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Deepening Nile Cooperation: Accelerating the Achievement of SDGs in a Changing Climate

18th September to 18th October 2023



Forum Report

November, 2023

Foreword



It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I introduce to you the proceedings of the seventh edition of Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF), a flagship event that stands at the intersection of science, policy, and collaborative action. The Nile Basin, a cradle of ancient civilizations and a lifeline for millions, has long been a focal point of both historical significance and contemporary challenges.

Six editions of the NBDF have taken held between 2006 and 2021. This report documents the process and outcomes of the seventh edition that has held in 2023, and hosted by the

Republic of Uganda. Starting in 2021, the NBDF has taken the form of a series of webinars ending with to climax physical conference. The seventh edition was attended by over 1,000 participants who included members of the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) and Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC), senior government officials, policy makers, researchers, academia, development partners, civil society, private sector and the media. The discussions, which took place under the overall theme of *“Deepening Nile Cooperation: Accelerating the Achievement of SDGs in a Changing Climate*, touched on a wide range of topics related to sustainable management and development of transboundary water resources.

But the NBDF is more than just a gathering of experts; it represents a unique and vital platform for the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and best practices in the pursuit of sustainable and equitable management of the transboundary water resources of the Nile Basin. As we stand on the precipice of a new era, marked by unprecedented global changes and challenges, including the devastating impacts of climate change, the importance of informed and collaborative decision-making cannot be overstated.

The rich tapestry of the Nile Basin, woven together by the multiple sources and tributaries of the Nile River, is a complex mosaic of ecosystems, cultures, and economies. The delicate balance required for the sustainable development of this shared resource necessitates a deep understanding of the intricate interplay between science and policy, and between environmental protection and socio-economic development. The NBDF serves as a crucible where leading minds from the basin and beyond, and from diverse fields, converge to illuminate the path forward toward realization of the Shared Vision Objective for the basin, which is *“to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from the shared Nile Basin water resources”*.

In this report, you will find the culmination of rigorous discussions, reflections on transformational research, and the collective wisdom of experts who have dedicated their efforts to unraveling the complexities of the Nile Basin. From hydrology to sociology, from environmental science to international relations, the NBDF encapsulates a holistic approach to addressing the challenges that confront the sustainable development of the Nile's waters.

Furthermore, the NBDF is not merely a forum for discussion but a catalyst for action. It fosters partnerships and collaborations that transcend borders, bringing together professionals,

policymakers, and stakeholders who are committed to shaping a future where the Nile's resources are managed responsibly, inclusively, and sustainably.

As we delve into the pages of this report, let us be inspired by the collective commitment to forge a path toward a Nile Basin that thrives and flourishes for generations to come. The NBDF is a beacon of hope and collaboration, and this report serves as a testament to the dedication of those who have contributed to its success.

The seventh NBDF continued the tradition of recognizing and honouring professionalism and excellence amongst journalists covering Nile issues. The seventh NBDF featured the fourth edition of the Nile Media Awards under which 17 winners in six categories were awarded cash prizes. I congratulate all the winners and all journalist who took part in the competition. I also thank the partners who sponsored their prizes. The seventh edition of the NBDF also featured the first Nile Basin Youth Competitions under which three youth won prizes for innovative ideas for addressing water resources challenges.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all participants, organizers, and contributors to the Nile Basin Development Forum. Special thanks go to the government of the Republic of Uganda for accepting to host the sixth NBDF, and for the warm hospitality extended to all foreign delegations. May the insights shared within these pages guide us toward a future where the Nile Basin stands as a testament to the power of shared knowledge, collaboration for win-win benefits, and responsible water stewardship.

Dr. Florence Adongo
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 What is the NBDF?	5
1.2 The 7 th Nile Basin Development Forum.....	5
1.3 About the report	6
2. THE SEVENTH NBDF WEBINAR SERIES	6
2.1 Overview of the Seventh NBDF Webinars.....	6
3.2 Seventh NBDF Webinar Attendance Statistics	6
3.3 Lessons Learnt	8
3.4 Outcomes of the webinars	8
3. THE PHYSICAL NBDF EVENT: OPENING CEREMONY	9
3.1 Key activities.....	9
3.2 Pre-Conference Activities	10
3.3 The Opening Ceremony of the Physical Event	10
3.3.1 Programme Overview	10
3.3.2 Keynote Paper	10
3.3.3 Speech of the Guest of Honour	10
3.4 Parallel Technical Sessions	11
3.5 Nile Basin Awards.....	12
3.5.1 The Nile Basin Media Awards 2023	12
3.5.2 Nile Basin Youth Competitions	13
3.6 High Level Panel Discussion.....	14
3.7 Closing Ceremony.....	14
3.7.1 Remarks by the Nile Secretariat Executive Director.....	14
3.7.2 Key Messages of the 7 th NBDF.....	14
3.7.3 Remarks by the Nile-COM Chairperson.....	14
3.7.4 Speech of the Guest of Honor	15
3.8 Photo collage	16
ANNEXES	28
Annex 1: Communique Of The Seventh Nile Basin Development Forum	29
Annex 2: Key Messages From the Seventh Nile Basin Development Forum Webinars	32
Annex 3: Programme of Webinars of The 7 th Nile Basin Development Forum.....	37
Annex 4: Programme for the Physical Conference of the Seventh NBDF	39

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is the NBDF?

The Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) is a high-level regional event convened every three years by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in collaboration with its Member States and in partnership with development partners. The event is a science-policy dialogue that provides an opportunity for sharing latest information, knowledge and best practices as well as building partnerships among professionals, in trans-boundary water resources management and development. The objectives of the Forum are to build common understanding on the status of the water and natural resources base of the Nile Basin among stakeholders, examine the shared complex challenges and, exchange perspectives on the solutions for addressing these challenges. Seven editions of the NBDF have taken place, with the last held through a combination of virtual webinar from 18 September to 12 October 2023, and a climax physical event from 16-18 October 2023 in Kampala, Uganda.

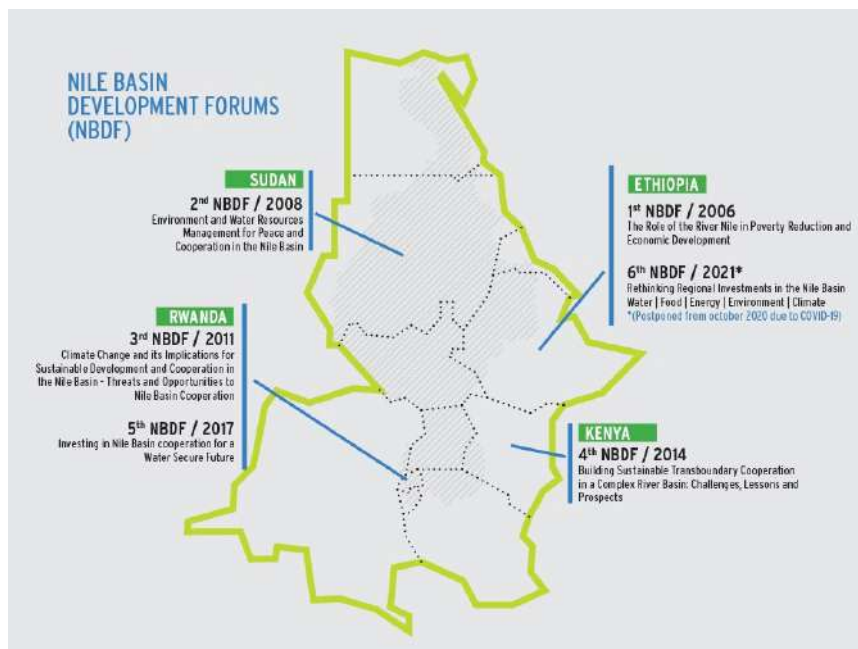


Figure 1: The host countries and themes of the previous editions of the Nile Basin Development Forum. Add the label for the 7th NBDF in Uganda

NBDF forums are attended by a broad range of stakeholders who include ministers in charge of water and foreign affairs in Nile riparian countries, other senior government officials, parliamentarians, water resource managers, river basins organizations, economists, environmentalists, development planners, academics, researchers, media practitioners, civil society, local and international NGOs, UN agencies, and private individuals and corporations.

1.2 The 7th Nile Basin Development Forum

The 7th edition of the NBDF was organized in 2023 and was hosted by the government of the Republic of Uganda. The theme of the 7th NBDF was **“Deepening Nile Cooperation: Accelerating the Achievement of SDGs in a Changing Climate”**. This theme was supported by five sub-themes covering (a) water, energy and food nexus; (b) ecosystem sustainability; (c) climate change

adaptation and mitigation; (d) financing and investment; and (e) transboundary water governance. The 7th edition of the NBDF followed the design of the 6th NBDF in commencing with a series of webinars in September-October, followed by a crowning physical event in the third week of October 2023 in Kampala, Uganda.

1.3 About the report

This document is a report of the Seventh NBDF that was held in 2023. The report explains how the Forum webinars were organised, the webinar attendance, and key outcomes from the webinars. It also presents the proceedings of the physical closing event that took place in Kampala, Uganda in October 2023.

The report is structured in three sections. The first section is this introduction which explains the background of the NBDF. This is followed by Section 2 that describes the webinars that were held and the outcome of the discussions. The last part, Section 3, describes the physical event in Kampala that comprised of the middle-level and high-level panel discussion, and other activities. Annexed to the report are the outcomes of the webinars, communique at the closure of the conference, and webinar and conference programmes.

2. THE SEVENTH NBDF WEBINAR SERIES

2.1 Overview of the Seventh NBDF Webinars

Using a combination of call for abstracts and direct solicitation of papers between February and May 2023, the NBI put together 166 papers for the NBDF, covering a wider range of topics related to transboundary water management. The 6th NBDF had mobilized 170 papers. The 166 papers mobilized for NBDF7 were used to design 25 webinars under 5 themes. The themes were: (1) basin monitoring, strategic water resources assessments and water-energy-food nexus; (2) watershed management and ecosystem sustainability; (3) climate change adaptation and mitigation; (4) finance, investment and the sustainable development goals; and (5) transboundary water governance.

The webinars ran over a period of four weeks period from 18th September to 12th October 2023. Online conferencing with the Zoom programme was the main method of the webinars. All but one of the planned webinars were successfully held. The one webinar that was not held was integrated in the programme of the physical conference event.

3.2 Seventh NBDF Webinar Attendance Statistics

The NBDF7 webinars attracted 1061 participants from 58 countries. This is a slight increase over NBDF6 webinars that were attended by 824 participants from 55 countries. More than two thirds of the participants (78%) were from within the Nile Basin while the rest were from outside the basin.

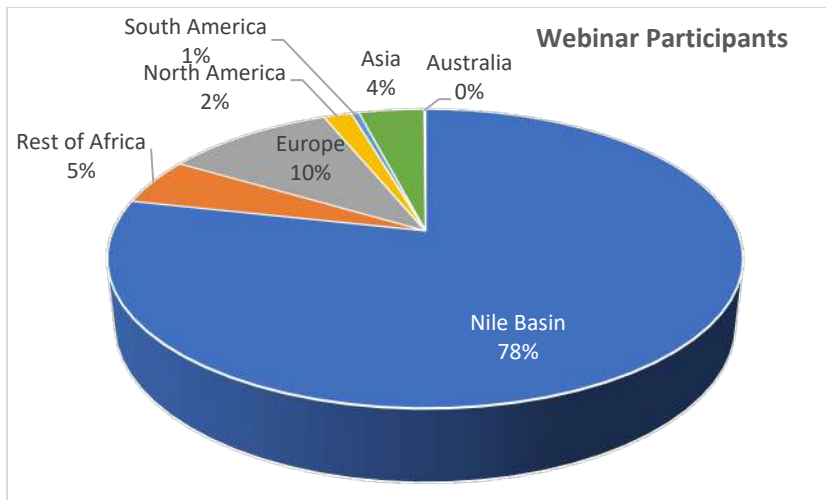


Figure 2: NBDF7 webinar participants grouped by region.

The NBDF7, like other webinars was dominated by engineers (civil engineers, river basin management engineers, sanitary engineers, irrigation and drainage engineers, and hydraulics engineers), hydrologists, climate scientists, environmentalists and nature conservationists, foreign service officers, civil society activists, and journalists and media practitioners. In terms of types of organisations, the NBDF7 was dominated by participants from academic and research institutions, and government agencies and departments managing mater-related fields.

Traditionally, within the Nile Basin, the largest number of NBDF attendees come from Uganda followed by Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan. Compared to past events, Uganda’s dominance of participation in the Seventh NBDF edition greatly increased on account of wide local publicity. On the other hand, the participation of Sudan decreased relative to its past participation due to the security situation in the country at the time.

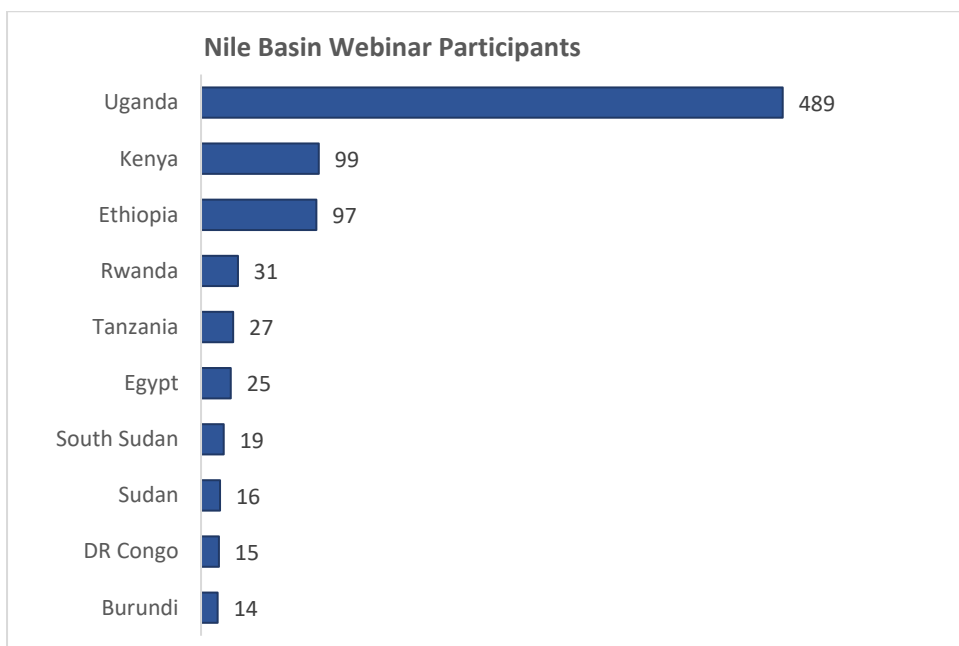


Figure 3: NBDF Webinar participants grouped by country

The average number of participants in the NBDF7 webinars was 125 persons per webinar. Generally, there were more participants in each webinar in NBDF7 as compared to NBDF6. As in 2021, internet stability was a challenge in 2023, with many participants and even presenters dropping off and struggling to reconnect during webinars. But the Forum was successful in providing a quality opportunity for sharing of knowledge, research findings, lessons and ongoing development in the basin. The Forum was highly rewarding for those that participated.

With respect to gender balance, female attendees were 329 in number, or 31% of all attendees. This is a slight improvement over NBDF6 webinars, where female attendees were 215 in number and made up 26.1% of attendees.

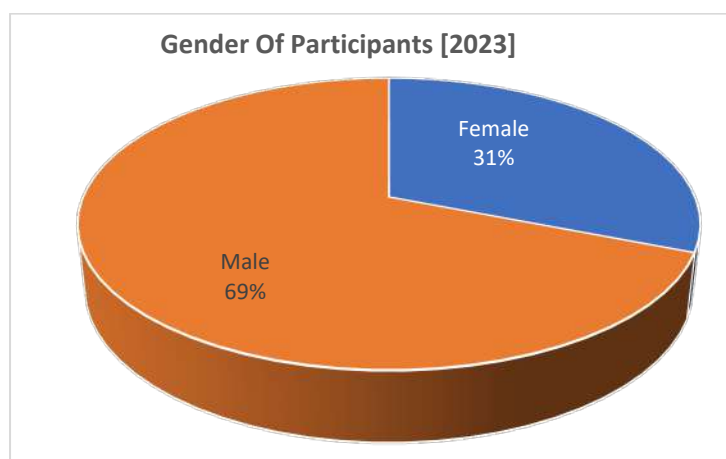


Figure 4: NBDF7 participants grouped by gender

3.3 Lessons Learnt

The 7th NBDF was the second forum event successfully completed through the hybrid format of virtual webinars and a physical conference. The large following that the NBDF webinars attracted shows continued high interest in matters concerning the sustainable management and development of the Nile River Basin. And the large number of technical papers received was an indication of the high volume of ongoing research, and development activities in the basin. The brokerage of information on management of the Nile underscored the NBDF's role as a unique mechanism through which information from multiple sources is freely exchanged, and basin stakeholders get updated on advances in management efforts in the basin. The evenly high level of participation across multiple thematic areas showed equal interest in all subjects concerning the sustainable management and development of the basin, including in cross-cutting issues such as job creation and livelihoods, civil society and private sector participation, and youth empowerment. There was a slight increase in the number of female participants, but in general, the NBDF and water sector in the Nile Basin in general, is largely male-dominated pointing to the need for intensification of efforts in gender mainstreaming in the programs within the basin.

3.4 Outcomes of the webinars

The online dialogue mode of the NBDF turned out to be highly successful, and generated rich discussions on the different themes and streams of the webinar. A summary of the key observations and messages from the webinars is presented in the Annex section (**Anne 2**) of this report.

3. THE PHYSICAL NBDF EVENT: OPENING CEREMONY

3.1 Key activities

The physical event was the climax of the NBDF. It took place at the Commonwealth Resort Munyonyo, Kampala from Monday 16th October to Wednesday 18th November 2023. The physical event had five main activities as follows:

- (a) An opening ceremony on the morning of Monday 16th October 2023;
- (b) Seven parallel technical sessions running from the afterday of Monday 16th October to mid-morning of Tuesday 17th October 2023.
- (c) A high-level panel discussion on mid-morning of Tuesday 17th October 2023.
- (d) A closing ceremony on the afternoon of Tuesday 17th October 2023.
- (e) A field trip to the Source of the Nile in Jinja, Uganda on Wednesday 18th October 2023.

The program also featured Nile Media Awards and Youth Awards. The full programme is attached as **Annex 3**. Highlights of the program are given below.

The physical event in Kampala, Uganda attracted 452 participants from 22 countries. This is a new record in the number of participants in the physical event. Close to three quarters of the participants (326 persons) were from Uganda. This high participation from the host country is due to the high effort made by the government of the Republic of Uganda to co-fund the event, and mobilize participants from all water-related sectors and agencies in the country. In terms of gender balance, female participants were only 126 (27.9%) of all participants, indicating need for intensification of efforts to reach gender parity in participation in the NBDF.

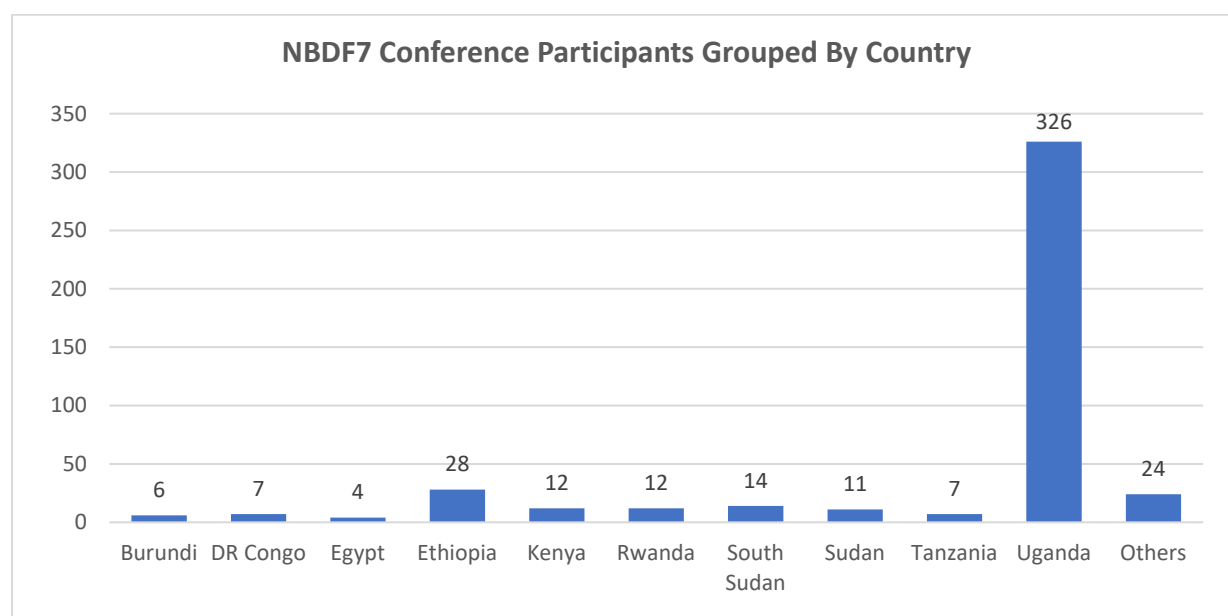


Figure xx: Participants at the NBDF Conference in Kampala grouped by country.

3.2 Pre-Conference Activities

The host country Uganda, in coordination with the NBI, organized a series of events to raise awareness about Nile issues amongst the local population, draw attention to the need to protect the Nile and its watershed from degradation, and explain why it is important for Uganda to cooperate with other Nile riparian countries to management the Nile River. The events included a 700 km walk by the Walkers Association of Uganda; tree planting by members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC), and radio and TV talk shows. In addition to the above publicity activities, a series of governance meetings of the NBI centres were held back-to-back with the NBDF.

3.3 The Opening Ceremony of the Physical Event

3.3.1 Programme Overview

The opening ceremony featured speeches from the Chairman of the National Organizing Committee of NBDF7, remarks from the Chairperson of the Nile Discourse Forum (NBD), remarks from Development Partners (European Union, Germany, the World Bank), opening of exhibitions by the Guest of Honour, receiving of the walkers arriving from Elegu, keynote paper by an eminent scholar, speech of the Nile-COM Chairperson, and opening speech by the Guest of Honour. The full programme is attached as **Annex 3**.

3.3.2 Keynote Paper

The keynote paper at the opening ceremony was delivered by Professor P.L.O. Lumumba, a Kenyan lawyer, professor, and renowned public speaker. Prof. Lumumba stressed the need for transboundary cooperation to foster regional socio-economic development. He pointed out that there were many environmental and development challenges in the basin such as low access to safe water, low rate of electrification, food insecurity, and water pollution. He urged Nile riparian countries to move from talking to taking urgent steps to address the challenges. He further stressed the importance of each country acting responsibly in the use of Nile waters, and working towards equity in access and use of the Nile resources, and prevention of harm to other countries.

The Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony was H.E. Retired Major Jessica Alupo, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda. The Guest of Honour was welcomed and introduced by Hon. Sam Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment of Uganda, and Chairman of the Nile Council of Water Ministers (Nile-COM). In his welcome remarks, Hon. Cheptoris stressed that the aim of the NBDF was not merely to provide an opportunity to converse, but to converge in ideas, resources, and ambitions of the Nile riparian countries. He further emphasized that the Sustainable Development Goals were not just benchmarks for progress, but were the very foundation upon which the future of Nile populations rests.

3.3.3 Speech of the Guest of Honour

The Guest of Honour, in her opening speech, urged countries that had signed the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework (CFA) to move to ratify it to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for Nile River Cooperation, and address shared challenges and opportunities within the basin. She called on countries to learn lessons from the challenges that had arisen along the journey to a legally binding Nile cooperation framework. She cited the example of the tensions over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and said they underscored the need for continued diplomacy and dialogue. She reiterated Uganda's commitment to host the Nile River Basin Commission and called upon countries to work together to manage the Nile in a spirit of cooperation; mutual respect and shared responsibility. While concluding, she called on participants

to ensure that the exchanges over the next few days would not only shape understanding on Nile issues, but also the destiny of the shared waters.

Before officially opening the Forum, H.E. Jessica Alupo conveyed a message from H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda. In his message, President Museveni said he had heard that Egypt was intent on promoting the Nile agreement signed many years ago in Khartoum that does not recognize the right of some countries to an equitable share of the Nile waters. The President advised Egypt that instead, they should focus on the protection of the environment so as to ensure continued flow of the Nile, and sustainability of socio-economic activities dependent on the Nile. He explained that Egypt needs to look to supporting environmental management because it will support industry which, in turn will support employment creation, and improvement of household and national incomes from the export of manufactured goods. This in turn, he explained, will improve the environment from decreased pressure on the environment, and greater investments in environment protection. Ultimately, the environment will produce more flow of the Nile for all. The president further stressed that all people of African were brothers, and therefore, had a duty to work together. He appealed to all countries present to use the waters of Africa strategically and responsibly.

3.4 Parallel Technical Sessions

In the afternoon of day one and morning of day two, there were seven parallel sessions that provided an opportunity for participants to further reflect deeper on the main outcomes of the NBDF webinar series, and generate prioritized action points for Nile stakeholders to take in addressing key development and environmental challenges within the basin.

The sessions were:

- *Parallel Session 1: Strategic Water Resources Analysis: A Tool for Equitable Benefit Sharing and Deepening Transboundary Water Cooperation*
- *Parallel Session 2: The SDGs: How Cooperative Transboundary Water Resources Development Can Support the Attainment of the SDGs*
- *Parallel Session 3: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation*
- *Parallel Session 4: Regional water infrastructure development as drivers of regional cooperation, regional peace and security, and sustainable development*
- *Parallel Session 5: Gender and Youth in Transboundary Water Management*
- *Session 6: Future changes in water and climate in transboundary river basins of East Africa (*
- *Parallel Session 7: Early Warning for All In the Nile Basin*

Participants were asked to join sessions of their choice. Each of the technical sessions had a duration of 1.5 – 2.0 hours and similar design, starting with one or two scene setting keynote papers, followed by a readout of relevant messages from the NBDF webinar series, and ending with a moderated panel discussion. Panelists for the panel discussions were a mixture of senior government officials and experts from international organisations and academic institutions.

The key discussion points of the parallel sessions were compiled and used to prepare the main messages of the NBDF after further discussion by the high-level panel discussion.

3.5 Nile Basin Awards

3.5.1 The Nile Basin Media Awards 2023

The NBDF event in Kampala featured the 4th edition of the **Nile Basin Media Awards**. This is a triennial event organized by the NBI, with technical and financial support from development partners. The Nile Basin Media Awards celebrates and rewards outstanding journalistic work on the Nile River, emphasizing the importance of responsible and constructive media coverage that nurtures understanding and cooperation within the region. The Nile Basin, endowed with a rich variety of cultures, histories, and shared resources, has always been at the centre of multifaceted narratives. The Nile Media Awards serve as a platform to amplify these stories, focusing on the basin's challenges, opportunities, and the shared experiences of its people.

Early in 2023, media practitioners in the Nile Basin countries were invited to submit technical works for evaluation. The awards covered seven aspects of journalistic work, namely print, digital, TV, radio, photo, best female entry and best collaborative story. Competitors were encouraged to submit works in more than one category.

For the 4th edition of the awards, over 160 entrants were received, underscoring the increasing interest and commitment from journalists across the basin. Entries were evaluated by a four-member jury applying a range of criteria, including relevance and impact, clear messaging, originality and enterprise, timeliness, and presentation style.

The overall organization of the 4th edition of the awards, including the evaluation and selection of winners, was supported by GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Government. Individual award categories were sponsored by six organizations, namely: Media in Cooperation and Transition (MiCT); East African Radio Service (EARS); FOTEA Foundation; Nile Basin Discourse (NBD); InfoNile, and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). The winners are shown below.

Table 1: Nile Media Awards 2023 Winners

CATEGORY	WINNERS	WORKS
Print		
Winner:	Davis Buyondo (Uganda)	<i>Algae: The Silent Killer Threatening Lake Victoria</i>
First Runner-up:	Mohammed El-Said (Egypt)	<i>Renewable Energy Could Offer a Win-Win Solution for GERD Crisis</i>
Second Runner-up:	Mactilda Mbenywe (Kenya)	<i>The Villagers Kenya Forgot</i>
Digital		
Winner:	Eman Mounir (Egypt)	<i>Death in the Lake: Fishermen Bear the Brunt of Development and Climate Change</i>
First Runner-up:	Juliet Kasirye (Uganda) & Pius Sawa (Kenya)	<i>The Angololo Project: Set to Transform Lives in Uganda and Kenya</i>
Second Runner-up:	Ayele Addis Ambelu (Ethiopia)	<i>The Role of the Riparian Countries for the Security of the Nile.</i>
Television		
Winner:	Cynthia Gichiri (Kenya)	<i>Nowhere to Run: Kenya's Climate Change Refugees</i>
First Runner-up:	Dan Kaburu (Kenya)	<i>The Mighty Tower</i>
Second Runner-up:	Adiah Nakuti (Uganda)	<i>The Nile River, Africa's Unmined Gold</i>
Radio		
Winner:	Sarah Natoolo (Uganda)	<i>Collaborating to Develop River Nile Basin</i>
First Runner-up:	Deng Ghai Deng (South Sudan)	<i>The Sudd - Source of Livelihood for Many</i>
Second Runner-up:	Sarah Mawerere (Uganda)	<i>Nile Perch Fish Rejuvenated through Law</i>

CATEGORY	WINNERS	WORKS
Photography		
Winner:	Akuot Chol Mayak (South Sudan)	<i>Home is No Longer a Home</i>
First Runner-up:	Curity Ogada & Alis Okonji (Kenya)	<i>The Plight of an Ancient River in Kenya: The Degradation, Restoration of River Kisian</i>
Second Runner-up:	Diing Ajuoi Magot Chol (South Sudan)	<i>The Drinking Trucks: In a City that Borders River Nile, Covid-19 Curbs Access to Clean Water for South Sudanese</i>
Special Prizes		
Best Female Entry:	Eman Mounir (Egypt)	<i>Death in the Lake: Fishermen Bear the Brunt of Development and Climate Change</i>
Best Collaborative Story:	Juliet Kasirye (Uganda) & Pius Sawa (Kenya)	<i>The Angololo Project: Set to Transform Lives in Uganda and Kenya</i>

The winners in the different categories were announced during the dinner on the first evening of the NBDF. The video of the awards ceremony is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/NileMediaAwards>

3.5.2 Nile Basin Youth Competitions

The Seventh Edition of the Nile Basin also featured the first ever Nile Basin Youth competitions. One of the key stakeholders of water resources management are the youth, who make up about half of the population of the Nile Basin countries. Involvement of the youth in transboundary water management is important because it can provide them with valuable skills and knowledge, and enhances their understanding of complex water issues thereby ensuring continuity of efforts and a long-term commitment to sustainable management of transboundary water resources. Moreover, engaging youth in transboundary water management can lead to injection of fresh ideas, innovation, and creativity in problem-solving that the youth are associated with. The youth competition is a demonstration of NBI's recognition of the crucial role youth play in addressing basin issues both today, and in the future. The competition was supported under the World Bank-financed Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project.

In June 2023, the NBI launched a call for applications from youth with original solutions to development challenges to join the champion. The competition aimed to identify innovative science and technology solutions, and policies, good practices and experiences for addressing water challenges. The competition was open to youth from all Nile Basin Member States between the ages of 15 and 35. NBI received over 100 entries, with entrants providing solutions to a wide range of water resources-related challenges such as water quality management, water scarcity remediation, water resources management, water conflict resolution, minimizing environmental degradation, spurring socio-economic development, climate change adaptation, water resources data collection and modeling, and agriculture and irrigation development. Criteria for assessment of proposals were focused on the relevance, innovation, sustainability, and feasibility of the ideas. Eleven finalists from nine Nile Basin countries were selected by a Panel of Judges to participate in an intensive design-thinking-training session that allowed them to further sharpen and fortify their proposed solutions.

Out of the eleven finalists, the Panel of Judges selected the following three winners:

- 1. First Place Winner:** Mr. Temesgen Tsehayneh Mihret from Ethiopia, whose idea was *"Runoff estimation in ungauged watersheds using a machine learning-based regionalization technique."*

2. **Second Place Winner:** Amro Adil Ibrahim Mohammed from Sudan, whose idea was *“Monitoring the Nile using remote sensing data acquisition.”*
3. **Third Place Winner:** Sonko Jamal from Uganda, whose idea was called *“Kyuka Ventures Innovation Hub.”*

The winners were announced and given their awards during the plenary session on Day 2 of the NBDF Conference in Kampala.

3.6 High Level Panel Discussion

The technical discussions in the NBDF climaxed with a moderated High Level Panel Discussion that was constituted of former Nile Secretariat Executive Directors, officials from other transboundary river basins in Africa, and prominent transboundary water management experts in the region. The high-level panel reflected on the key outcomes of the NBDF, the environmental and socio-economic development challenges in the Nile Basin, and prospects for establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission.

3.7 Closing Ceremony

3.7.1 Remarks by the Nile Secretariat Executive Director

The Executive Director of the Nile Secretariat, Eng. Sylvester Matemu, spoke the closing ceremony and observed that the NBDF had gone very well, and give thanks to all keynote speakers, panelists and other participants for their active participation throughout the NBDF, and their rich contributions. He went on to introduce to the Forum the incoming Executive Director, Dr. Florence Grace Adongo, the Director of Water Resources Management of the Republic of Uganda. He concluded his remarks by expressing thanks to Nile-COM and Nile-TAC, and staff of NBI for supporting him during his tenure as Executive Director at the Nile Secretariat in Entebbe, Uganda.

3.7.2 Key Messages of the 7th NBDF

Dr. Michael Kizza, Deputy Executive Director of the Nile Secretariat, read out the key messages coming out of the entire NBDF process. The messages have been incorporated in the NBDF Communique issued by the Nile-COM Chair, which is attached as **Annex 1**.

3.7.3 Remarks by the Nile-COM Chairperson

The Nile-COM Chairperson, who doubled as the host Nile-COM Member, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, expressed his gratitude at seeing that the journey of the NBDF that commenced on 18th September 2023 had come to a successful conclusion. He thanked the NBI together and the National Organizing Committee for steering the impressive project. He reflected on the theme of the NBDF, which he said was hinged on delivering the NBI's shared vision, and remarked that the SDGs that the NBDF set to promote, were are not merely goals but pledges to the environment and the prosperity of future generations. He further said that the Nile was not just a river, but was life, shared history, civilization, and legacy. For this reason, he called on the audience to treat the Nile with the respect that it deserves.

Reflecting on the events leading to the climax conference in Kampala, Hon. Cheptoris said that over the past one and a half months, Nile citizens had been exploring the intricate relationship between water resources and socio-economic development. The discussion, he said, showed that the development of the basin was based on a nexus of three pillars. These were environmental sustainability, energy security, and food security that together support social economic

development. The river, he said, was not just a water body, but an enabler of ecosystems and biodiversity that sustains livelihoods. Adaptation to climate change, he said, was not just a strategy, but dealing with daily realities. He underscored the need for modernizing agriculture through technology and finance to address food security challenges of the region.

While concluding, Hon Sam Cheptoris expressed his hope that the spirit of brotherhood that had permeated the NBDF, would continue to guide cooperation to tackle development challenges and tap opportunities within the basin. He ended by inviting the Guest of Honor to address the audience.

3.7.4 Speech of the Guest of Honor

The seventh edition of the NBDF was officially closed by the Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga. Hon. Kadaga, in her speech, said that the NBDF theme was appropriate and timely as it helped to address ongoing challenges in the Nile Basin. The discussions in the NBDF, she said, had highlighted the importance of the River Nile to the socioeconomic development of the region. She thanked the members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) for planting trees as part of the NBDF activities. She expressed her hope that the trees would be looked after, and that the planted area would be called the **Nile Basin Forest**. Hon. Kadaga went on to reflect on the challenges within the Nile Basin, which included climate change, and rapid population growth. With cooperation between the countries, she said, it was possible to solve these challenges.

While concluding, Hon. Kadaga thanked members of the Nile community for the spirit, and dedication to Nile issues, and active participation for the two days of the Forum. She also thanked Development Partners for their continued support to the Nile Basin Initiative. She invited all the foreign dignitaries to join the field trip to the Source of the Nile, and to enjoy the tourist attractions of Uganda.

With the above remarks, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga declared the 7th edition of the Nile Basin Development Forum officially closed.

**THE SEVENTH NILE BASIN DEVELOPMENT FORUM
PHOTO COLLAGE**



Photo 1: The Executive Director of the Nile Secretariat at the opening of the NBDF7.



Photo 2: Exhibitors at the 7th Nile Basin Development Forum



Photo 3: The hikers of the 700 km walker are received at the NBDF Conference.



Photo 4: The leader of the walkers, Mr. Geoffrey Walker Ayeni, recounting their experience on the 700 km journey from Elegu on the South Sudan-Uganda border to Kampala.



Photo 5: Participants at the NBDF7



Photo 7: Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana – Nile Basin Discourse Board Chairperson – addressing the NBDF7.



Photo 6: Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment and Chairperson of the National Organising Committee for the NBDF7, addressing the Forum.



Photo 12: Professor P.L.O. Lumumba delivered the keynote address at the NBDF7 Conference.



Photo 9: Ambassador Etsegenet Yimenu Bezabih, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Uganda, at the NBDF7.



Photo 8: Ambassador Mathias Schauer, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Uganda, at the NBDF7.



Photo 10: Hon. Sam Cheptoris – Chairperson of the Nile Council of Water Ministers and host Minister for the NBDF7.



Photo 11: Right Honourable Jessica Alupo, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda officially opened the NBDF7 and delivered a personal message from H.E. President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda.



Photo 13: The panelist of the High-Level Panel Discussion that concluded technical discussions at the NBDF7.



Photo 14: Ndere Toupe entertaining guest on the night of the 4th Nile Basin Media Awards.



Photo 15: Nile Media Awards: Juliet Kasirye (Uganda) and Pius Sawa (Kenya) – winners of the Best Collaborative Story category



Photo 16: Nile Media Awards: Eman Mounir (Egypt) – winner of the Digital Category and Best Female Entry.



Photo 17: Nile Media Awards: xx winner of the xx category



Photo 18: Eng. Sylvester Matemu – outgoing Nile-SEC Executive Director – presents a pen to Dr Florence Adongo – incoming Nile-SEC Executive Director – symbolizing the handover of officer of the Executive Director.



Photo 19: Dr. Michael Kizza, Deputy Executive Director of Nile-SEC reads out the NBDF7 Communique.



Photo 20: The Finalists of the Nile Youth Competition pose for a photo with the Guest of Honour, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga (centre left), Hon Sam Cheptoris, Nile-COM Chairperson (centre right) and Eng. Sylvester Matemu, Nile-SEC Executive Director (extreme left).



Photo 21: Hon Sam Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment of Uganda addresses guest at the closing of the NBDF7.



Photo 22: The Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Mrs. Rebeca Kadaga, officially closed the NBDF7 conference in Kampala.

ANNEXES

Annex 1:
Communique Of The Seventh Nile Basin Development Forum



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
Ministry of Water and Environment



KEY MESSAGES FROM THE SEVENTH NILE BASIN DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Tuesday 17th October 2023 | Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda

The 7th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) concluded successfully at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala on 17th October 2023.

Every three years, the Nile Basin Initiative, with the support of Partners and friends, holds the Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF). The event is a major gathering of the community of practice on transboundary water cooperation. It provides them with a unique opportunity to share information, knowledge and best practices, expand networks, build a common understanding of the development challenges and opportunities of the basin, and provide suggestions for a common course of action for the sustainable management and development of the basin for the benefit of all the riparians of the Basin.

The NBDF held this year, 2023 was held under the theme “**Deepening Nile Cooperation: Accelerating the Achievement of SDGs in a Changing Climate**”. Preceding this final climax event, the NBI organised 25 webinars that were attended by 1061 persons from 58 different countries around the world.

The Forum highlighted many pertinent observations on the state of water resources management and development in the basin; several recommendations for dealing with common basin challenges were made. Some of the key observations and recommendations included the following:

Water Resources Management and Development

1. The Nile riparian countries need to increase efforts to develop hydropower and promote regional power interconnection and power trade to improve regional energy security, to promote industrialization among other things that will spur job creation and catalyzing economic growth. This will also relieve pressure on the environment which in turn will improve Nile flows.

2. The Nile region is suffering from impacts of global climate change and urgently needs to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, including development of multi-purpose storage reservoirs to smooth out the projected variability in extreme flows in the Nile.
3. The Nile riparian countries need to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to regional trade in agriculture products to support efforts to attain regional food security.
4. Generating knowledge and information products and promoting their use in decision making on the preparation of investment programs and the management and development of the Nile waters resources, is important. This will show the relevance of the water resources monitoring systems, decision support tools and strategic water resources assessments, and justify more resource allocation towards their operation and maintenance of such tools.
5. The Nile riparian countries need to embark on a stepwise approach to coordinate the operation of water infrastructure. The first level is proposed to be on sharing information about extreme river flows; the second level is on sharing reservoir operation rules, and the third level is on coordinated or joint infrastructure development, and long-term operation of such infrastructure.
6. Increased efforts are needed to mobilize innovative financial resources to implement the integrated infrastructure development programs needed to alleviate poverty and reverse environmental degradation in the Nile Basin.
7. The water sector needs to better articulate its importance and relevance to key sectors of the economy to be able to attract more financing in the national budgeting processes.

Transboundary Water governance

8. Countries that have not yet ratified the CFA should do so to allow the CFA to come into force. This will allow for the establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission that will focus on deepening cooperation and expanding programs for the development and protection of the Nile water resources.
9. A spirit of brotherhood and cooperation, and duty to use the common Nile water resources responsibly and share benefits equitably needs to be nurtured among the NBI Member States.
10. Sectors continue to operate in silos. Sharing of information and coordination in programmatic activities between water-related sectoral agencies remains inadequate, thereby affecting the ability to apply the water-energy-food nexus approach and integrated approach to protection of water and environmental resources. Greater effort is needed to increase cross-sectoral collaboration at national and basin-wide levels.
11. Greater engagement is required between water and environment professionals, on the one hand, and politicians and policy makers, on the other hand, to ensure political support for water resources and environmental management and development programs.
12. There is need for continuing education to attain and maintain high levels of competency in water diplomacy, and negotiation and communication skills among the staff of the riparian countries to be able to deal effectively with the complex issues and situations concerning the sustainable management and development of the transboundary Nile water resources.

13. The NBI Member States need to deepen partnership with non-state actors as they are a critical mechanism for reaching out to, and mobilizing grassroots communities to participate in transboundary water management programs and environmental protection. Emphasis should be placed on solutions that benefit the local communities.
14. Dissemination of reliable, timely and actionable warning information is key for disaster risk reduction and resilience building. Existing tools and institutional frameworks need to be leveraged to actualize the envisioned benefits of Early Warning for All.

At the conclusion of the Forum, the Nile Council of Ministers extended their most sincere thanks and appreciation to the government and people of the Republic of Uganda for the warm welcome and hospitably accorded to them, and the delegates who travelled from other riparian countries to participate physically in the closing ceremony of the 7th Nile Basin Development Forum that included Nile Media Awards and Youth Awards 2023. The Nile-COM also extended their appreciation to the development partners who have supported the NBI over the years. Finally, the Nile-COM expressed their thanks to staff of the NBI centres and other stakeholders within and outside the basin who organised the Forum, and to people of good will from the basin and beyond who presented papers, gave keynote addresses and followed the webinars, and the physical event.

The Forum concluded with a call on all peoples of the Nile Basin to join the effort to protect the water and environment of the Nile river basin, and redouble efforts to prepare and implement water resources development programs that will support the attainment of the Shared Vision Objective, which is, *“to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from the shared Nile Basin water resources”*.

Honorable Sam Cheptoris

CHAIRPERSON OF THE NILE COUNCIL OF WATER MINISTERS

Annex 2:
Key Messages From the Seventh Nile Basin Development Forum Webinars

THEMATIC AREA 1: BASIN MONITORING, STRATEGIC WATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENTS AND WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS

Webinars:

WR1: Basin monitoring

WR2: Hydrological modelling and river flow forecasting

WR3: Strategic water resources analysis: a planning tool for meeting multisectoral water demands in transboundary river basins

BP1: Cooperation for development and operation of climate-resilient regional water infrastructure

GW1: Assessment of the potential of transboundary aquifers and their ability to support conjunctive use of transboundary surface and groundwater resources

GW2: Sharing experiences on conjunctive use of transboundary surface and groundwater resources

WS1: Water supply and sanitation

1. There are ongoing efforts by NBI and LVBC to establish and operate water resources monitoring networks to provide accurate and timely data and information to support water resources planning and decision making in water resources management and development. The involvement of countries at all stages of planning and development and operation of these water resources networks is critical for their sustainable operation.
2. Remotely sensed data and information products are providing a solution to the challenge of limited spatial and temporal coverage of in-situ monitoring data. But even with the considerable improvements in remotely sensed data, ground monitoring data is still needed, and is essential for validation of remotely sensed data, and for more reliable hydrologic and hydrodynamic modelling.
3. Generating knowledge and information products, and promoting their use in decision making on the management and development of the Nile waters is important to show the relevance of the water resources monitoring systems, and justifying more resource allocation towards their operation and maintenance.
4. Advances in sensor technology and reduction in sensor costs is making citizen science a viable option for increasing the spatial and temporal coverage of water resources monitoring networks, and reducing the operational costs and sustainability of water resources monitoring networks. NBI member states need to consider investing in leveraging citizen goodwill to monitor water resources.
5. Strategic Water Resources Assessments are showing a mismatch between projected multi-sectoral demands for water and water resources availability, which could lead to intensification of water conflicts between competing water use sectors and between riparian countries. Riparian countries need to implement several measures to improve water availability such as improving water use efficiency, especially in the agricultural sector; changing to less water-

intensive crops; engaging in virtual water trade; carry out demand management; carrying out wastewater reuse; and carrying out seawater desalination.

6. Strategic assessments are indicating that the coordinated operation of dams on the Nile tributaries leads to greater benefits for all cooperating parties and provides a mechanism for meeting increasing demands from multiple sectors in the face of climate change. Member States need to increase efforts at coordinated development and operation of water infrastructure on the Nile.
7. There is need to continue building the technical capacity of national staff on the use of the various basin monitoring, modelling and decision support tools so as to ensure their sustainability.
8. There is growing awareness in the Nile region of the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus concept, but coordination between competing water use sectors in the development of water resources remains weak, and sectors continue to operate in silos.
9. To be able to attain food security in the face of rising food demands and the disruptive impacts of climate change, countries need to complement national food production with greater engagement in regional trade in agricultural products.
10. The Nile region has considerable groundwater resources. Conjunctive use of ground and surface water resources can provide an opportunity to address climate-induced scarcity of surface water resources and support attainment of water and food security objectives.

THEMATIC AREA 2: WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY

Webinars:

WQ1: Water Quality Monitoring

WQ2: Investing in Water Quality Management

EN1: General environmental management

EN2: Aquatic ecosystems under threat from anthropogenic activities.

EN3: Watershed management

11. Deforestation, overgrazing, wetland drainage, bush burning and use of other unsustainable agricultural practices is ongoing in the basin leading to degradation of watersheds fragmentation of ecosystems, soil erosion and river siltation and water pollution. Greater investment in watershed management is critical to address this challenge. Plastic pollution is a particularly serious water pollution issue in many of the Nile riparian countries. Environmental degradation is reducing the resilience of ecosystems to impacts of climate change. Pollution is expected to increase in future from population expansion, and the need to feed, house and provide energy to the basin population.
12. NBI The management effort of the riparian countries is inadequate to deal with the level of water pollution and environmental degradation. Member States generally have weak capacity for monitoring and controlling water pollution, preventing environmental degradation, and

enforcing environmental policy, laws, standards and regulations. Greater effort is needed at environmental management and improving institutional coordination for integrated watershed management.

13. Water quality monitoring efforts in the Nile Basin are characterized by inadequate funding, and variable capacity in terms of field and laboratory equipment, laboratory infrastructure, land and water craft, and staffing.
14. The Nile riparian countries and development partners need to increase the level of investment in water pollution control and integrated watershed management so as to ensure the sustainability of the Nile Basin water and environmental resources. Protection of ecosystems and prevention of water pollution is also an important measure for adaptation to climate change.
15. Nile riparian countries need to increase general public awareness and the involvement of local communities in environmental management. For a greater likelihood of success, community engagement programs need to integrate livelihood improvement measures alongside watershed management measures.

THEMATIC AREA 3: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Webinars:

CS1: Flood forecasting science

CS2: Management of flood emergencies

CS3: Impacts of climate change on streamflow and lake and reservoir storage

CS4: Implications of climate change on sustainable development and disaster risk management in hydrological basins.

CS5: Climate change adaptation in the smallholder farming sector

CS6: Applying analytical and monitoring tools to improve climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector

CS7: Building resilience to climate change impacts

CS8: Early Warning for All In the Nile Basin

16. The Africa region is experiencing climate and weather extremes at increased frequency and with bigger socio-economic and environmental impacts. Climate change is impacting water and environmental resources through rising temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns, and more frequent droughts and floods.
17. NBI Centres, regional organizations, and some NBI Member States have made significant progress and invested in the development and operation of flood and drought forecasting and early warning tools to deal with increased frequency of extreme hydrological events in the Nile region. The persisting weakness is in timely dissemination of early warning messages, and timely mobilization of affected communities at local level to avoid damage from climate-related disasters. In general, the capacity of NBI member states to respond to climate-related disasters remains weak.

18. Significant progress has been made in the investment in an Early Warning System to support disaster risk reduction in the region and the Nile. However, more is still needed to streamline the warning information to national and local community level.
19. Analysis into future climate of the region underscores the need for NBI Member States to start to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, including development of multi-purpose storage reservoirs to smooth out the projected variability in extreme floods in the Nile tributaries.
20. There is also need to develop a rigorous risk management approach to propose, appraise and prioritize a basket of adaptation measures to address weather and climate risks to sustainable water resources management and development in the Nile Basin.
21. As more than 75% of the food production within the Nile Basin takes place on smallholder rainfed systems, it is necessary to support the promotion of climate smart agricultural technologies and practices in the smallholder sector so as to contribute to attainment of the targets of SDG2, SDG5 and SDG13.

THEMATIC AREA 4 FINANCE, INVESTMENT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Webinars:

BP2: Basin Planning and Investment Promotion

22. Despite efforts made by the partner states to provide water and sanitation services to the population, a considerable proportion of the population in the basin does not have access to safely managed water sanitation services. More investment is needed to support the attainment of the SDG6 targets.
23. Inadequate water resources infrastructure is limiting the efficient use of water resources, and ability of Member States to adapt to climate change. Greater investment in water resources infrastructure is critical for attainment of many SDGs particularly SDG3, SDG6, SDG11, SDG12 and SDG15.
24. There are ongoing efforts by regional organizations in the Nile Basin to prepare regional investment programs to support the sustainable management and development of the transboundary Nile water resources, and contribute to attainment of the SDGs.
25. Greater investment is also needed in wastewater treatment systems and pollution control measures to address the ongoing water pollution in the Nile Basin.
26. Increased efforts are needed in mobilizing of financial resources to implement the infrastructure development programs prepared by the NBI Member States and regional organizations in the Nile Basins.
27. The water sector needs to better articulate its importance in economic terms to be able to attract more financing.

THEMATIC AREA 5 TRANSBOUNDARY WATER GOVERNANCE

Webinars:

TG1: Gender dimensions in transboundary water management

TG2: Legal and institutional frameworks for transboundary water governance

TG4: The role of non-state actors in promoting transboundary water cooperation

28. To deepen transboundary water cooperation, countries need to focus more on the benefits they can derive collectively from the shared water resources and less on the legacy of unequitable use of the resources.
29. There are ongoing efforts by the Member States and regional organizations to build capacity in water diplomacy. However, more work is needed to build a critical mass of people who can engage in constructive dialogue, negotiations and mediation for cooperative water resources management for win-win outcomes
30. Furthermore, there is need for continuing education to maintain high levels of competency in negotiation and communication skills among the staff of the riparian countries to be able to deal effectively with the complex issues and situations concerning the sustainable management and development of the transboundary Nile water resources.
31. The NBI needs to deepen its partnership with non-state actors as they are a critical mechanism for reaching out to, and mobilizing grassroots communities to participate in transboundary water management programs and environmental protection.
32. There continue to be serious gender disparities in economic status, access to land and natural resources, and in the roles of men and women in the management of water and other natural resources. Women and youth are underrepresented in transboundary water management governance structures and processes at national and regional levels. Nile basin countries need to commit to addressing cultural and social norms that hinder the meaningful participation of women and youth in transboundary water management, and should increase allocation of financial and human resources to support the implementation of gender and youth-related strategies, plans and programs.
33. There is need for capacity building and continuing education to maintain high levels of competency in negotiation and communication skills among the staff of the riparian countries to be able to deal effectively with the complex issues and situations concerning the sustainable management and development of the transboundary Nile water resources.
34. Cross-sectoral coordination in water and environmental resources management continues to be weak, requiring further efforts at multi-disciplinary collaboration.
35. Greater engagement is required between water and environment professionals, on the one hand, and politicians and policy makers, on the other hand, to ensure political support for water resources and environmental management programs.

Annex 3:
Programme of Webinars of The 7th Nile Basin Development Forum

September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Webinar CS1: Flood forecasting science	19 Webinar CS3: Impacts of climate change on streamflow and lake and reservoir storage Webinar CS8: Early Warning for All In the Nile Basin	20 Webinar CS4: Implications of climate change on sustainable development and disaster risk management in hydrological basins Webinar CS2: Management of flood emergencies	21 Webinar CS5: Climate change adaptation in the smallholder farming sector. Webinar CS6: Applying analytical and monitoring tools to improve climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector.	22 Webinar CS7: Building resilience to climate change impacts	23
24	25 Webinar WS1: Water supply and sanitation	26 Webinar GW1: Assessment of the potential of transboundary aquifers and their ability to support conjunctive use of transboundary surface and groundwater resources	27 Webinar WR1: Basin monitoring	28 Webinar WR2: Hydrological modelling and river flow forecasting	29 Webinar WR3: Strategic water resources analysis: a planning tool for meeting multisectoral water demands in transboundary river basins	30

October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Webinar BP1: Basin Planning and Investment Promotion	3 Webinar BP2: Cooperation for development and operation of climate-resilient regional water infrastructure. Webinar GW2: Sharing experiences on conjunctive use of transboundary surface and groundwater resources.	4 Webinar WQ1: Water Quality Monitoring	5 Webinar WQ2: Investing in Water Quality Management Webinar EN1: General environmental management	6 Webinar EN2: Aquatic ecosystems under threat from anthropogenic activities.	7
8	9	10 Webinar EN3: Watershed Management Webinar TG1: Gender dimension in transboundary water management.	11 Webinar TG2: Legal and institutional frameworks for transboundary water governance Webinar TG4: The role of non-state actors in promoting transboundary water cooperation	12 Webinar TG3: Negotiation and conflict resolution in transboundary basins: The Case of the GERD	13	14
15	16 Physical NBDF Conference Day 1	17 Physical NBDF Conference Day 2	18 Field Excursion Day 3	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Annex 4:
Programme for the Physical Conference of the Seventh NBDF



Ministry of Water and Environment



Nile Basin Initiative

**PHYSICAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME FOR THE SEVENTH
NILE BASIN DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

Day 1: Monday 16th October 2023

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
08.00 – 09.00 am	Arrival and Registration	Host / NBI
09.00 – 10.00 am	Cultural entertainment	National Organising Committee
	OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION	
10.00 – 10.10 am	Welcome Remarks, Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat	Executive Director Nile-SEC
10.10 – 10.20 am	Welcome Remarks from Chair of the National Organising Committee (NOC)/Moderator, and highlights of the 7 th NBDF three-day Programme	Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda
10.20 – 10.30 am	Key Messages from NBDF7 Webinars (18 th September-12 th October) and impact of the 7 th NBDF webinar series	NBI
10.30 – 10.40 am	Remarks from Nile Basin Discourse (NBD)	Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana, Chairperson of the Board, NBD
10.40 – 10.50 am	Uganda's Progress in Implementing the SDGs: Focus on SDG6	SDG Secretariat Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda
10.50 – 11.20 am	C O F F E E B R E A K	
	Remarks from Development Partners of Nile Cooperation	
11.20 – 11.30 pm	Federal Republic of Germany	Germany Ambassador
10.30 – 11.40 pm	European Union	EU Representative in Uganda
11.40 – 11.50 am	United Nations Development Programme	UNDP Resident Representative
11.50 – 12.15 pm	Keynote Speech: Deepening transboundary cooperation to accelerate attainment of the SDGs	Prof. P. L. O. Lumumba
12.15 – 12.30 pm	Speech by the Chair Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) and Host Minister	Hon. Sam Cheptoris Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda
12.30 – 1.50 pm	L U N C H B R E A K	
	OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION	
1.50 – 2.00 pm	Arrival of the Guest of Honor	Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, Permanent Secretary, MoWE, Uganda
2.00 – 2.10 pm	Guest of Honour Receives the Walkers (After 700km journey along the Nile from Elegu)	Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, Permanent Secretary, MoWE, Uganda
2.10 – 2.20 pm	Tour of Exhibition by Guest of Honour	National Organising Committee

2.20 – 2.25 pm	Anthems (AU, EAC, Uganda)	National Organising Committee
2.25 – 2.30 pm	Remarks by Chair Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) and Host Minister	Hon. Sam Cheptoris Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda
2.30 – 2.45pm	Speech by Guest of Honour	H.E. The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda
2.45 – 2.50 pm	Launch of the Nile River Basin Management Plan	NBI
2.50– 2.55 pm	Group Photo (Guest of Honour with Guests)	Host / NBI
2.55 – 3.00 pm	Anthems: (Uganda, EAC, AU)	
3.00 – 3.15 pm	Press Conference	Dr Callist/ Mugisha/ Maroushka - Moderators
3.00 – 3.30 pm	C O F F E E B R E A K	
Parallel Session 1: Strategic Water Resources Analysis: A Tool for Equitable Benefit Sharing and Deepening Transboundary Water Cooperation. (2hr)		Caretaker: Vincent Ssebuggwawo
3.30 – 4.00 pm	Keynote Paper: Evolution in Analytical tools and approaches, and the requirements for such tools to support cooperation and sustainable development in the face of climate change	Mr. Oluf Z. Jessen Vice President, International Development, DHI A/S, Denmark.
4.00 – 4.20 pm	Presentation: Nile Basin Strategic Water Resources Assessment – key outcomes and next steps	Dr Michael Kizza
4.20 – 4.30 pm	Related key points from the webinar sessions	Mr. Vincent Ssebuggwawo
4.30 – 5.30 pm	Panel discussions: <i>Strategic water resources assessments: a tool for meeting multiple sectoral and multi-country water needs amidst scarcity and climate uncertainty.</i> Panellist 1: Prof Alan Jenkins (WIEH, UK) Panellist 2: Dr George Lugomela (Nile-TAC Tanzania) Panellist 3: Eng. Innocent Ntabana (for Nile-SEC ED) Panellist 4: Eng. Teferre Beyene (Nile-TAC Ethiopia; for ED) Panellist 5: Dr Malte Grossmann	Dr Abdulkarim Seid (IWMI)
Parallel Session 2: The SDGs: How Cooperative Transboundary Water Resources Development Can Support the Attainment of the SDGs (2 hrs)		Caretaker: Calvince Wara/Sami Osman
3.30 – 3.45 pm	Keynote Paper: The SDGs – is Africa on Track? What are the challenges in meeting the SDGs, how can cooperative development of transboundary water resources help?	Dr Rashid Mbazira, Executive Secretary, AMCOW
3.45 – 4.00 pm	Opportunities for transboundary investments in the Nile	Eng. Elicad Elly Nyabeya, Coordinator African Water Facility
4.00 – 4.15 pm	Mobilizing investment to support SDGs in the NEL region: key achievements and lessons.	Dr Isaac Alukwe, Regional Coordinator, NELSAP CU
4.15 – 4.30 pm	Related key points from the webinar sessions	Mr Sami Osman, Water Resources Engineer, NELSAP-CU
4.30 – 5.30 pm	Panel discussions: Unlocking the bottlenecks to investment in the Nile River Basin Panellist 1: Mr. John Rao Nyaoro (former Nile-SEC ED) Panellist 2: Dr. Zebene Lakew (Nile-TAC Ethiopia) Panellist 3: Mr Phera Ramoeli, OKACOM Panellist 4: Mr. Lansana Fofana, OMVG Panellist 5: Mr. George Sanga, GWP EA	Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner, WR Regulation and planning, Ministry of Water and environment, Uganda
Parallel Session 3: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (2hrs)		Caretaker: Dr Modathir Zaroug
3.30 – 3.45 pm	Keynote Paper: Climate change impacts on water resources availability in the Nile River Basin	Dr. Henry Kayondo Ntale, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Survey, Ndejje University
3.45 – 4.00 pm	Coordinated infrastructure development and operation for climate change adaptation	Prof. Yilma Seleshi Sen. WR Expert, ENTRO

4.00 – 4.15 pm	Potential for nature-based adaptation to climate-change impacts in the Nile River Basin	Mr. Charles Karangwa, Head, Nature Based Solutions, IUCN
4.15 – 4.30 pm	Related key points from the webinar sessions	Dr. Modathir Zaroug
4.30 – 5.30 pm	Panel discussions: <i>Transboundary water cooperation as a tool for climate change adaptation in shared river basins</i> Panellist 1: Mr. Louis Lungu Mulatshi Nile-TAC DRC Panellist 2: Mr. Thomas Jang, Nile-TAC South Sudan Panellist 3: Dr Henry Kayondo Ntale Panellist 4: Mr. Charles Karangwa Panellist 5: Prof. Yilma Seleshi	Mr. Washington Otieno (WMO)
5.30 – 6.30 pm	B R E A K	
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner by Host Country Nile Media Awards	NOC/ NBI

Day 2: Tuesday 17th October 2023

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
Parallel Session 4: Regional water infrastructure development as drivers of regional cooperation, regional peace and security, and sustainable development		Caretaker: Tom Waako
9.00 – 9.15 am	Role of regional water infrastructure in promoting regional cooperation and attainment of regional food and energy security: examples from river basins around the world.	Eng. Elicad Elly Nyabeya For Director of Water Development and Sanitation, AfDB
9.15 – 9.30 am	The Regional Rusumo Hydropower Project: an example of a regional project on transboundary cooperation for win-win benefits.	Eng. Jacob Manyon, NELSAP
9.30 – 9.45 am	The GERD: history of development, efforts at tripartite collaboration, and opportunities for win-win benefits for Eastern Nile riparian states	Eng. Gedion Asfaw
9.45 – 10.00 am	Experiences on regional infrastructure development	Mr. Christopher Chisense, ZRA
10.00 – 10.05 am	Related key points from the webinar sessions	Mr. Tom Waako
10.05 – 10.50 am	Panel discussion: <i>What are the obstacles and opportunities for joint development and operation of regional infrastructure that provide benefits to multiple riparian countries?</i> Panelist 1: Dr Elharith Mustafa Nile-TAC Sudan Panelist 2: Mr. Augustin Ngenziraboona Nile-TAC Burundi Panelist 3: Prof. Raphael Tshimanga, University of Kinshasa Panelist 4: Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana, Chairperson, NBD Panelist 5: Mr. Rapule Pule, ORASECOM	Dr Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner, WR Regulation and planning, Ministry of Water and environment, Uganda
Parallel Session 5: Gender and Youth in Transboundary Water Management (2 hrs)		Caretaker: Caroline Rukundo
9.00 – 9.10 am	Recap of key points from the webinar sessions on gender and transboundary water management by (Ms. Caroline Rukundo, GWP)	Moderator- Dr Adanech Jillo
9.10 – 9.30 am	Experience in gender mainstreaming in transboundary basins (Focus on: Opportunities, challenges, innovations, gaps, best practices, link to SDGs)	Ms Litumelo Mate-Sievers, Gender Specialist, Global Water Partnership Africa
9.30 – 9.40 am	Feedback/ question from the audience	Moderator- Dr Adanech Jillo
9.40 – 10.40 am	Panel discussions: 5min (each) followed by specific questions. <i>Qn 1. What are the challenges and opportunities for attaining gender equity in use, management, and governance of transboundary water resources?</i> Panelist 1: Firmina Acuba (MoWE- Uganda) Panelist 2: Nadia Mohamed Eisa Gofoun (Sudan) Panelist 3: Meas Sopheak (Mekong River Commission)	Moderator- Dr Adanech Jillo

	Qn 2. <i>How can we effectively harness the energy, creativity, and entrepreneurial skills of youth to promote regional integration and transboundary water management?</i> Panelist 4: Jethro Muwanguzi, GWPO Panelist 5: Elizabeth A. Koch / Ogaga Stacy Hillary (TBC)	
10.40 – 10.50 pm	Summary of key points and action points	Mary Namukose
10.50 – 11.00 pm	Group Photo and Departure	Maroushka Kanywani
Session 6: Future changes in water and climate in transboundary river basins of East Africa (Parallel Session 3)		Caretaker: Dr Abdulkarim Dr Modathir Zaroug
9.00 – 9.05 am	Welcome and introduction of session	Dr. Modathir Zaroug, NBI
9.05 – 9.11 am	CMIP6 based climate projection analysis for East Africa and the Nile basin	Dr. Meron Teferi Taye IWMI
9.11 – 9.18 pm	Projected hydrology and water resources systems of the Nile basin	Dr Yohannes Gebretsadik IWMI
9.18 – 9.25 am	Projected Hydrology and water resources systems of the Wabi Shebele, Genale-Dawa, and Omo-Turkana basin	Dr Haileyesus Belay Lakew
9.25 – 9.32 am	Climate Change interventions and evolution of Climate Service for Infrastructure Investments in the Nile Basin	Dr. Zaroug Modathir Abdalla Hassan, NBI.
9.32 – 10.12 am	<p>Panel discussion: Based on the research findings the panel members will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think are the key climate change impacts on transboundary waters? And their implications to transboundary cooperation on water? • What do you think should countries do differently to cope with hydrologic uncertainty in their shared river basins? • What ways do you recommend for enhancing regional collaboration for expanding the body of knowledge on climate change impacts on water resources of transboundary river basins? • What do you think institutions like NBI should do to make sure information/knowledge informs water resources planning and management at national levels? • What approaches do you recommend for enhancing climate resilience of water infrastructure? What do you think are roles of institutions like NBI in advancing climate-resilient water infrastructure? <p>Panelists: Dr. Callist Tindimugaya; MoWE Uganda Dr. Meron T. Taye; IWMI Eng. Alex Simalabwi GWP Africa Region (Virtual) Ms. Gladys Wekesa, Nile-TAC, Kenya (Virtual) Mr. Hastings Chibuye, ZAMCOM Dr. Romeo Sosthène Nkurunziza ACMAD</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Dr. Abdulkarim H Seid, IWMI</p>
10.12 – 10.32 am	General Discussion - an interactive session in which panel members and presenters respond to questions from the audience	Dr. Abdulkarim H Seid, IWMI
10.32 – 10.37 am	Key messages	Rapporteurs
10.37 – 10.40 am	Closing	Dr. Zaroug Modathir Abdalla Hassan, NBI.
Parallel Session 7: Early Warning for All In the Nile Basin		Caretaker: Washington Otieno, Calvince Wara
9.00 – 9.05 am	Opening remarks and background information	Dr. Florence Adongo Director, Directorate of Water Resources Management, MoWE
9.05 – 9.15 am	Key Note Speech: State of Climate of Uganda	Dr. Bob Alex Ogwang Ag. Executive Director / PR- Uganda with WMO, Uganda National Meteorological Authority

9.15 – 9.25 am	Key Note Speech: Overview of HydroSOS and HydroHub	Prof. Alan Jenkins Member of the WMO Hydrological Coordination Panel
9.25 – 9.30 am	Introduction to UN EW4All	Ms. Erica Allis Chief Planner, WMO
9.30 – 9.40 am	UN EW4All WMO activities and Projects in Nile Basin CREWS Support to the region and overview.	Mr. John Harding Head CREWS Secretariat
9.40 – 9.50 am	Water At the Heart of Climate Action EW4All Upper Nile	Ms. Grace Kyagaba, Senior WASH officer, Red Cross, Uganda
9.50 – 10.05 am	Hydrological Value Chain: HydroHub, World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS) with focus on IGAD-HYCOS Project, WMO Hydrological Observing Systems (WHOS) and HydroSOS implementation in Lake Vitoria Basin	Mr. David Kataratambi Ag. Principal Water Officer, Directorate of Water Resources Management, MoWE
10.05 – 10.10 am	Hydrometeorological Network and EWAll in NBI	Mr. Calvince Wara Regional Hydromet Expert, NBI
10.10 – 10.20 am	Water Users Interface Platform and Continental Climate Outlooks: Expected product contributions from the hydrological community.	Dr Romeo Sosthène Nkurunziza, ACMA)
10.20 – 10.27 am	Question and Answer	Prof. Alan Jenkins
10.27 – 10.42 am	Panel discussion: <i>Strengthening EW4All Initiatives</i> Panelist 1: Dr. Erinco Boldrini, Nat. Research Council of Italy Panelist 2: Dr. Modathir Abdalla Hassan Zaroug, NBI Panelist 3: Mr. Daniel Kull, WMO Panelist 4: Dr. Benon Zaake, MoWE Panelist 5: Dr. Bob Alex Ogwang, UNMA Panelist 6: Dr. Brian Kanaahe, Uganda Red Cross Panelist 7: Mr. Ramesh Tripathi, Project Officer, WMO	Moderator: Prof. Alan Jenkins Member of the WMO Hydrological Coordination Panel
10.42 – 10.45 am	Conclusions and wrapping up	Mr. Washington Otieno Scientific Officer, WMO
10.40 – 11.10 am	C O F F E E B R E A K	
Session 8: High Level Panel Discussion		
11.10 – 12.10 am	High Level Panel on Policy Lead questions: <i>Round 1:</i> Reflection on progress of Nile Basin countries towards achieving the water related SDGs. <i>Round 2:</i> Catalysts for cooperation in transboundary water management and development in the Nile Basin	Moderator: Eng. Sylvester Matemu/ Dr Callist Tindimugaya
12:10 – 13.00 pm	Nile Photo Exhibition	Info-Nile
13.00 – 2.00 pm	L U N C H B R E A K	
	OFFICIAL CLOSING SESSION	Moderator: Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi
	ANTHEMS (AU, EAC, Uganda)	
2.00 – 2.10 pm	Remarks by the Chairs, Regional Organizing Committee	ED, NBI & Nile-TAC- Uganda
2.10 – 2.20 pm	Remarks by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment	Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi
3.00 – 3.30 pm	Nile Youth Awards (Hybrid format)	NBI-Ms. Maroushka Kanywani
3.30 – 3.40 pm	7 th NBDF Resolutions	D/ED, NBI Dr. Michael Kizza
3.40 – 4.00 pm	Host Nile-COM Member - Uganda	Hon. Sam Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment
4.00 – 4.30 pm	Official Closing Remarks	The Hon. First Deputy Prime Minister - Republic of Uganda
4.30 – 4.40 pm	Group Photo (Guest of Honour with Guests)	Host / NBI

4.40 – 4.50 pm	ANTHEMS (Uganda, EAC, AU)	
4.50 - 5.00 pm	Press Conference	
5.00 – 5.30 pm	HEALTH B R E A K	

Day 3: Wednesday 18th October 2023

- Field excursion to Source of the Nile in Jinja.