

Nile – Flow

Newsletter Volume 19

July – November 2025



Disclaimer: the views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of NBI, its members states, or development partners.

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ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

ENTRO produces a magazine called Nile – Flow. We print free copies, which are sent to our governance members, line ministries, stakeholders in the eastern Nile Region, NBI Centers, our Development Partners and counterparts across the world.

Nile – Flow features institutional and technical information related to Nile water cooperation activities undertaken by Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO), Eastern Nile 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, Republic of South Sudan, and the Sudan; connecting the people, their cultures, their histories, their livelihood, and shared destinies since time immemorial.

In the psychological sense it 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.



MESSAGE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) was established by the Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM) in June 2002 to identify, prepare, and facilitate the implementation of 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. ENTRO country members are Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

In this Nile Flow newsletter, a variety of topics are covered, which relate to the main recent ENTRO activities that have taken place over the past six months. ENTRO believes that cooperation among the Nile Basin countries, in general, and the Eastern Nile in particular, can only be achieved through the strong engagement of stakeholders in the various ENTRO activities. This is clearly reflected in the topics covered in this edition of the Newsletter. These include ENTRO Governance meetings, workshops/ events discussions with our Development Partners, staff news, upcoming initiatives, and engaging conversations.

ENTRO would like to inform our esteemed readers that our newsletter and other documents, including valuable reports on our projects, can be found on our website <http://entro.nilebasin.org/>, ikp.nilebasin.org.

We encourage our readers to stay updated on the latest activities at ENTRO by continuing to read our materials.

Thank you for staying connected with us.

Acting Executive Director and Senior Regional Project Coordinator, Eng. Teshome Atnafie.

PROJECT

NBI/ENTRO PROJECT ACTIVITIES.

The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) was established by the Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM) in June 2002 to identify, prepare, facilitate implementation, and coordinate cooperative projects within the Eastern Nile basin. 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.

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).



ENSAPT Members,



ONGOING PROJECTS

1. Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience Project (NCCR)

Thematic areas:

- 1: Platform for cooperation.
- 2: Flood and Drought risk mitigation.
- 3: Dam safety capacity building.
- 4: Innovative information services for climate-resilient investment planning.
- 5: Water quality investment planning and prioritization.

2. Regional Climate Resilient Project (RCRP)

Components:

- 1: Risk Management and Climate Financing
- 2: Infrastructure Investments and Sustainable Asset Management for Climate Resilience
- 3: Adaptive Climate Services for Resilient Communities
- 4: Project Management

3. Coordinated Operation of Cascade Dams (COCD)

ONGOING PROJECTS

PLATFORM FOR COOPERATION.

INTERNSHIP AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS:



12th batch of Interns during the Graduation ceremony.

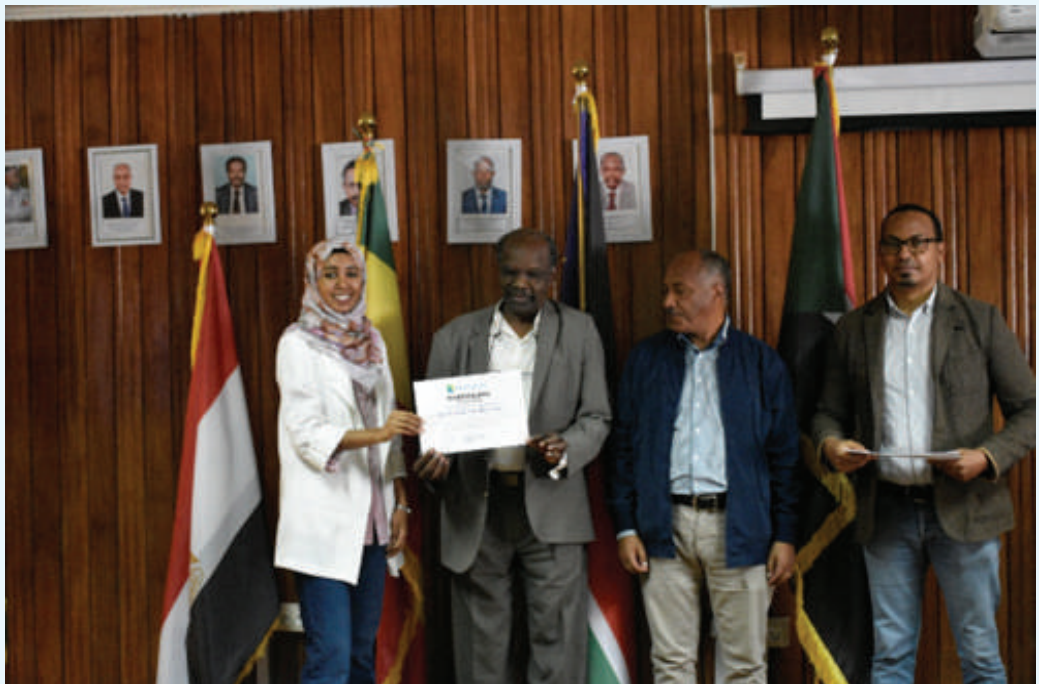
ENTRO has taken the initiative to establish an internship program as part of its core activities and successfully implemented it in the last 14 years. This program has proven immensely popular in fostering cooperation and allowing ENTRO to expand its professional network. The internship program started 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 and academia (EN universities).





Interns @class in ENTRO 11th NCCR Internship Batch

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.

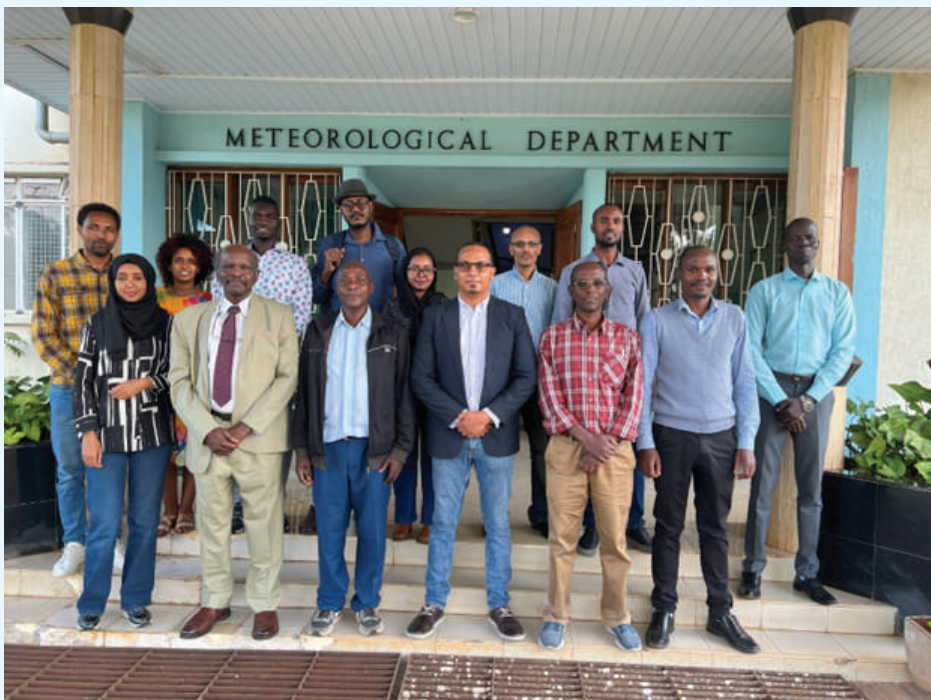


GOAL

The goal of the internship program 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. So far, ENTRO has implemented the 12th NCCR internship batch according to the project implementation plan.



Interns during presentation at ENTRO Head office, 12th Batch.



7th batch Interns during Kenya field visit



FLOOD AND DROUGHT RISK MITIGATION

The flood and drought risk mitigation project contributes to improving mechanisms for cooperation in the Eastern Niles riparian countries & saving lives and properties in a challenging hydro-political environment by focusing primarily on provision of flood and drought risk mitigation services built on ENTRO's achievements. Flood early warning services has been provided since 2010, and through enhanced flood forecast models since 2024; whereas Nile wide drought monitoring and early warning has been issued since early 2025.

A. FLOOD RISK MITIGATION (FRM)



South Gonder, flood protection

WP1: SURVEYING AND DATA COLLECTION

- Topographic surveys were done for Atbara, Humera, Malakal, Akobo, Nassir, Pibor, Gambela, and Itang. Asset maps for all 9 sites developed and used in Flood Risk map development.
- Database conceptualization, data categorization (TS and Spatial datasets), Software development, reviewed at workshop and tested and implemented at ENTRO and operational.
- Community field survey completed, and report produced for flood prone communities at Akobo, Malakal, Pibor, Nasir, Gambela and Itang. These data were shared to WP2 and WP3 consultants.



Kelafo Woreda Bridge collapsed (Picture from ENTRO & MOW flood forecast group)

WP2:EN-FFEWS enhancement and Flood Risk Mapping:



- Flood vulnerability and risk maps for 16 flood prone areas.
- Capacity building training conducted on the enhanced EN-FFEWS for the national FFC experts of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan. The advanced trainings were recorded for future re-use.

WP 3: Support in Establishing Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness (ongoing).

Support in Establishing Flood Community Awareness and Preparedness WP3 contract signed with MetaMeta and HKV on 15 Feb 2024; and inception workshop conducted on 4-5 April 2024 in Ethiopia and delivered the following products which was validated through physical regional workshop:.

- Developed Community specific flood action bulletin (17 sites) with Amharic and Arabic translation and also printed for dissemination.
- Six National level community flood preparedness workshops were conducted.
- Flood community awareness, preparedness plans; and implementation plan developed (17 sites)
- Flood protection and investment Guide (Flood Protection Report for 17 sites).
- National flood preparedness training sessions and Its report completed.
- Consultation and validation workshops conducted.
- Conducted six community level flood awareness & preparedness training with NBD for Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan flood prone areas.

B. DROUGHT RISK MITIGATION

Development and implementation of Nile Drought Early Warning System (Nile DEWS) through firm consultancy with RMSI has been undergoing since 11th October 2023 based on the Nile basin early warning need, and data / knowledge gap assessment conducted by ENTRO in 2022.

Nile Drought Early Warning System developed and implemented and now is in public domain which provides:

- Meteorological and agricultural drought monitoring and forecasting system.
- Hydrological drought based on developed Nile basin Hydrological models for 84 sub-basins.
- Surface water body identification and change detection.
- Data systems for information sharing / user engagement.
- Nile DEWS dashboard: <https://dews.nilebasin.org/dews>
 - o username: dews_admin password: Rmsi@123.



downtoearth.org.in

ENTRO Consultation, capacity building, flood prone area field visit and other activities

ENTRO strengthened capacities of the EN national forecasting centers; and conducted community level flood awareness and preparedness training for Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan including.

- FFC Ethiopia expert training conducted at Hawassa from November 27 – 29, 2023.
- FFC experts training for South Sudan and Sudan experts conducted in Juba from: 16–18 Jan 2024, and 10–14 March 2025.
- Community level awareness training South Sudan and Sudan conducted in Juba from: 19–20 Jan 2024 & 10–14 March 2025
- Community level awareness training for Ethiopia was done 16–17 May 2024 in Hawassa, Ethiopia.

BENEFITS TO THE EN COUNTRIES SO FAR:

- The Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation project created a collaborative platform for the EN countries to work together through physical workshops, some data sharing, on working groups meeting and joint approval ENTRO products.
- Flood Forecast Information provided by the enhanced EN-FFEWS (through WP2 work) has been utilized by the three countries and other stakeholders to save lives and their assets, and the 2024 forecast generation and dissemination are going on. The EN-FFEWS has a potential to benefit - about 2 million people residing in the flood prone areas in the EN. The FFC national experts every year are hosted at ENTRO for training and to issue FFEW with ENTRO experts. ENTRO regularly disseminates 3-day ahead forecast
- flood forecasts to the three countries' Water Affair Ministries and to > 200 other stakeholders. The EN-FFEWS services are also online for the public. The Water Affair Ministry uses it as one input for their decisions to issue warnings for the flood prone areas. This year Amhara RS South Gondar DRMC has been utilizing ENTRO forecast as one input for their local decision (Gumara flood case was ahead forecasted by ENTRO, Rib River overflowing the Bahir Dar-Gondar bridge near Adis Zemen, on 06 Aug 2024). WhatsApp based communication set by Ethiopia Flood intern facilitated the dissemination of forecast and receiving ground condition to and from the Zonal level flood managers in Lake Tana.



- Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan acquired the latest floodplain topographic map (DEM) and asset maps through (WP1 work), which were shared to the countries and the countries can also be used for other engineering works.
- The Flood Risk Mitigation project activities have strengthened national offices (equipment and training) in terms of capacity and overall reduced the risk of flood devastation for ~100,000 million people in the flood prone areas Lake Tana, Atbara, Blue Nile and Baro-Akobo subbasin



DAM SAFETY MANAGEMENT



Many of existing dams in the EN sub basin, particularly small dams, 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 the public sector dams are mostly financed through Government transfers, which are often insufficient and neglected. 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 often falling below acceptable international standards. The deterioration of these dams, coupled with increased risk and uncertainty resulting from hydro-logical 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.



EASTERN NILE DAM SAFETY FRAMEWORK



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

- Road map 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 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.

- (i) Establishment of a Regional Dam Safety Training Center.
 - (ii) Capacity Building including strengthening of National Dam Safety Units.
- The implementation of these sub-components is going smoothly.

EVENTS

Eastern Nile Cooperation:

The 39 th Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program Team (ENSAPT) Meeting.



39th ENSAPT meeting Participants. (ENSAPT's 39th Meeting Addresses Funding and Future Strategy)

The Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program Team (ENSAPT) 39th meeting took place from 16th -17th of July 2025 in Kampala, Uganda, brings together leaders and participants from the Eastern Nile countries.

The primary objective of this governance meeting is to review overall plan and performance of the organization, which includes both technical and financial performances, audit reports, and human resources matters within ENTRO for the period spanning from July 2024 to June 2025 aiming to identify areas for improvement to meet the office strategic goals. The meeting brought together ENSAPT Leaders, NBI management, GIZ, ENTRO management and technical staff.

During the opening remarks **ENTRO Acting Executive Director, Eng. Teshome Atenafie** welcomed all participant to the 39th ENSAPT Meeting and extended gratitude to the Government of Uganda and the Ministry of Water and Environment for hosting and supporting the event. Acting ED Emphasize the importance of this meeting which is crucial for setting ENTRO's direction over the next six months, following the previous meeting in February 2025 in Addis Ababa and urges the meeting to focus on strategies to address funding challenges and review key agenda items including performance reports, work plans, audit outcomes and the status of Eastern Nile Basin Investment Program (BIP).



ENTRO Acting Executive Director, Eng. Teshome Atenafie.

Eng. Teshome thank all ENTRO staff and management who devoted themselves day and night for the last six months and worked hard to achieve this commendable performance and sustain the organization. He calls on member countries and development partners to strengthen their commitment to cooperative water resource management in the Eastern Nile Basin and Invited NBI Executive Director to deliver a speech at her capacity and representing the host TAC.



The NBI Executive Director, Dr. Florence Grace Adongo

The NBI Executive Director Dr. Florence Grace Adongo during her opening remarks, warmly welcomed delegates on behalf of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Uganda, and the NBI, marking the first official engagement of Dr. Abraham, the newly appointed deputy Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, the NBI ED Encouraged participants to feel at home, for the Secretariat and Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment remain available to provide full support during the meeting.

Dr. Adongo praised recent successes, including the well-attended Nile Day hosted in Ethiopia—graced by the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia—as well as the positive outcomes of the World Bank supervision mission and the growing performance of the NCCR project. Despite financial constraints and the end of several donor-funded projects, the ED expressed optimism about improving conditions and emphasized the importance of timely country contributions. she acknowledged Ethiopia for its recent financial support and urged other member states to follow suit.

Dr. Florence Adango Grace state that “The future of Nile cooperation lies in your hands as governance representatives. Your leadership and commitment are vital to sustaining progress and realizing our shared vision,” the ED emphasized.

Following the ED Remark, **South Sudan ENSAPT lead Eng. Thomas Jank** highlights ongoing challenges in the region, such as the low functionality of their operations due to countries' contributions and resource mobilization issues. The situation in South Sudan and Sudan is particularly concerning, with ongoing crises affecting stability.

Eng. Thomas emphasizes the importance of commitment from all three Eastern Nile countries, as their cooperation is vital for the success of regional initiatives. He expresses a dedication to addressing these challenges and maintaining contributions for future projects, highlighting the need for strong political will to support the



South Sudan ENSAPT lead Eng. Thomas Jank

Eng. Thomas Said that “If any one of us fails to support the system, progress stalls. South Sudan is fully committed to ensuring the success of NBI, especially within the Eastern Nile sub-basin,” he stated.

In conclusion, Eng. Thomas thanks the development partners and expresses optimism about achieving positive results with new leadership and emphasizes the importance of collaboration for the Basin investment plan and encourages continued cooperation and expresses hope for successful discussions at the meeting.



Sudan ENSAPT lead Dr. Hassan

Sudan ENSAPT lead Dr. Hassan express his gratitude of attending this meeting, he raised the challenges related to country contributions, he promised that they will work as a country to overcome the problems, and that they can collaborate effectively to address the recent challenges.

The ENSAPT chair and ENSAPT lead Ethiopia, Dr. Zebene Lakew expresses his gratitude to the Ugandan government, the Nile Secretariat, and GIZ for their support in hosting the event. He highlights the "Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience" project for its importance in enhancing regional resilience to climate change, with tools and models developed to mitigate its impacts.

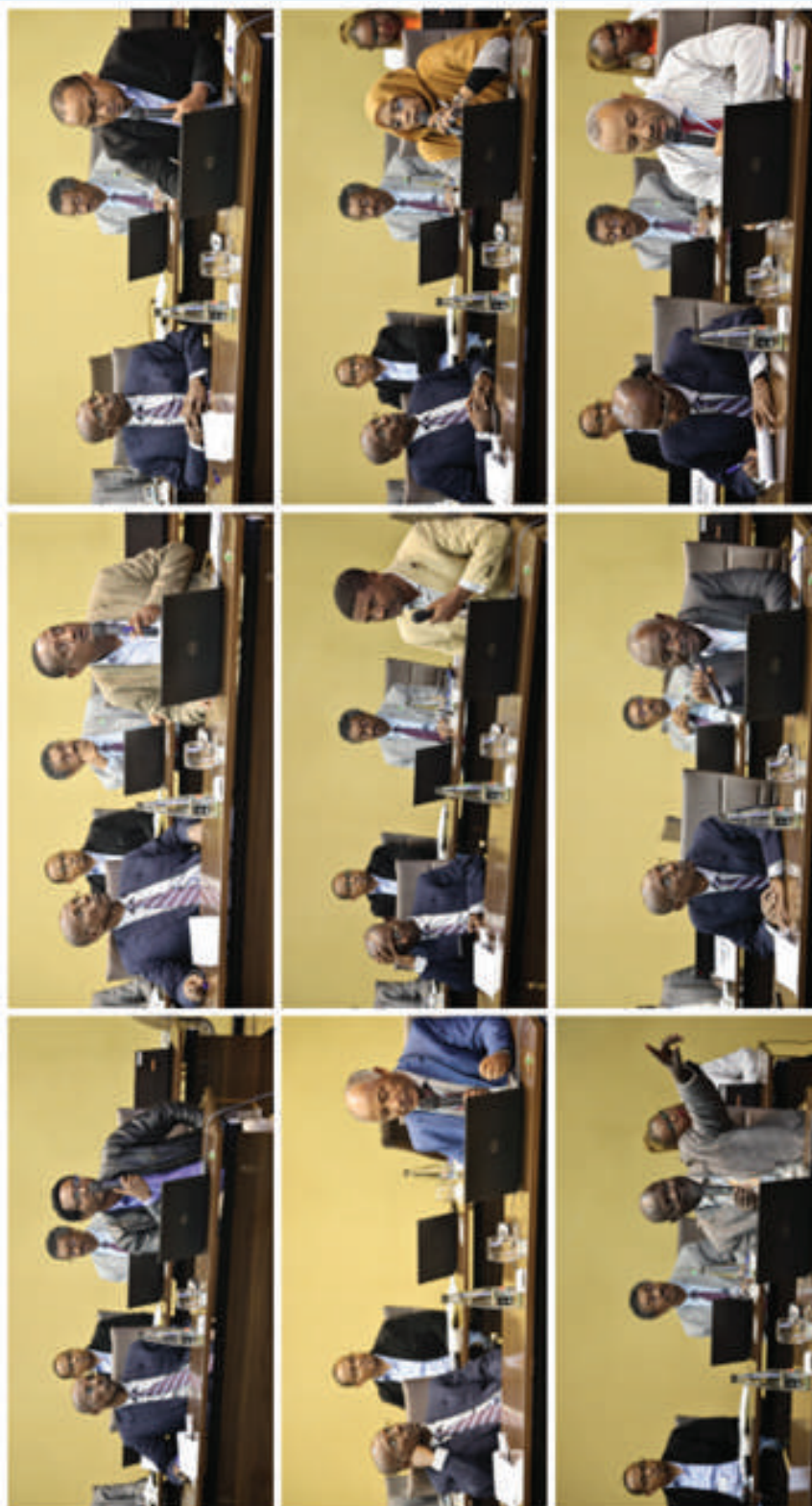


The ENSAPT chair and ENSAPT lead Ethiopia, Dr. Zebene Lakew.

The ENSAPT Chair appreciates the recent performance rating of ENTRO's NCCR project by the World Bank progress made but challenges remain in funding, staffing, and security in the Eastern Nile region. Dr. Zebene also states that the meeting is an opportunity to foster cooperation and advance sustainable development in the Nile Basin, which will also discuss the project's completion and necessary exit strategies related to human resources, and encourage participants to engage actively in discussions.

Dr. Zebene appreciated ENTRO efforts in lifting the NCCR project rating to a satisfactory level, in organizing the meeting, and attendees are encouraged to participate actively, sharing insights into sustainable development in the Eastern Nile Basin and officially opened the meeting, wishing for fruitful discussions and deliberations.

Accordingly, different presentations took place about the overall plan and performance of the organization under different thematic areas, which include both technical and financial performances, audit reports, and human resources matters within ENTRO for the period spanning from July 2024 to June 2025.



ENTRO Technical Staff During Presentations

From Risk to Resilience: Building Capacity and Trust in the Nile's Water Infrastructure.

Consultation Workshop with Members and Partners on the 1st Phase Implementation Plan of the Nile Centre for Dam Safety.



Consultation Workshop Participants.

The consultation workshop on the 1st Phase Implementation Plan of the Nile Centre for Dam Safety held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia with the primary objective of advancing regional collaboration in capacity development and facilitate the exchange of best practices in dam safety management with key stakeholders and partners in the region. This consultation workshop serves as a foundational step toward operationalizing the Regional Dam Safety Centre. It is designed to strengthen collective ownership, reinforce institutional partnerships, and build consensus on the strategic direction, functions, and collaborative modalities of the Centre.



ENTRO Acting ED, Eng. Teshome Atnafie

During the opening remarks, **Eng. Teshome Atnafie, the Acting Executive Director of ENTRO**, underscored the crucial role of dams in ensuring food, water, and energy security while driving economic growth. He stressed that dam safety requires not only technical expertise but also strong institutional frameworks, collaboration, and continuous capacity building.

He highlighted the planned Nile Centre for Dam Safety as a central hub to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools needed to uphold the highest safety standards. Concluding his remarks, he encouraged dialogue, engagement, and knowledge sharing, while expressing appreciation to CIWA, the World Bank, and other partners for their support to ENTRO and the Nile Basin Initiative.



Dr. Isaac Alukwe, Regional Coordinator of NELSAP-CU.

Dr. Isaac Alukwe, Regional Coordinator of NELSAP-CU, highlighted that while dams provide immense benefits, they also pose serious risks due to the large volumes of water they hold, with potential for catastrophic consequences in case of failure. He stressed that dam safety is therefore a matter of both national and regional importance.

Dr. Isaac underscored the need to strengthen regional capacity and cooperation to ensure that dams in the Nile Basin continue to deliver long-term benefits. He concluded by affirming NBI commitment to supporting member countries and extending efforts across Africa to promote safe and sustainable dam management.



Dr. Zebene Lakew, ENSAPT Chair

The ENSAPT chair and ENSAPT lead Ethiopia Dr. Zebene Lakew, stressed the responsibility that comes with extensive resource use, particularly in dam construction and management, which carries significant risks. He highlighted the workshop as a key opportunity to advance the establishment of a Dam Safety Center in the Nile Basin, aimed at building capacity for engineers, operators, policymakers, and stakeholders.

Dr. Zebene emphasized that the initiative is not just about infrastructure but about fostering a culture of safety that protects human lives and promotes environmental sustainability. He welcomed participants, encouraged collaboration and partnership, and officially declared the workshop open.



H.E. Dr. Eng. Habtamu Itefa, Minister, Ministry of Water and Energy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

H.E. Dr. Eng. Habtamu Itefa, Ministry of Water and Energy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia states that ensuring dam safety is critical for both upstream and downstream communities. Dams must be built to last, manage properly, and maintained through continuous investment.

H.E. stressed that strong transboundary cooperation, open communication, and shared responsibility are key to preventing risks such as sedimentation, poor watershed management, and operational failures. Safe dams mean shared benefits and stronger trust among all.

The consultation workshop brings together prospective members of the Regional Dam Safety Centre and key partners to align efforts toward establishing a sustainable and effective regional platform for dam safety capacity development.

Participants of this consultation meeting include the following:

- Power utilities owning large dams
- Development partners, including the World Bank, GIZ, and AIIB
- Regional and International Partners from Africa, Asia, and Canada
- Three NBI Centres (ENTRO, NELSAP-CU, and Nile-Sec)

During the workshop, presentations by Canada Dam Association (CDA) and NBI staff, followed by discussions to gather feedback has been conducted. This consultation serves as a strategic platform to align stakeholder efforts, strengthen institutional partnerships, and build momentum for the successful 1st phase operation of Nile Centre for Dam Safety under NBI/ENTRO.

The Development of Eastern Nile Water Resources Planning Models and Tools.



The validation workshop was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from June 12 to June 14, 2025. The primary objective of this workshop is to validate the methodologies, tools, and outputs developed across six work packages, while also gathering feedback from stakeholders to ensure their relevance and effectiveness.

Participants in this workshop include experts in water resources modeling, water resources planning, and sediment transport modeling from the Eastern Nile (EN) countries. Additionally, members of the Regional Technical Working Group and representatives from the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) centers are also in attendance.

The validation workshop proceeded with opening remarks. Accordingly, **Eng. Teshome Atnafie, Acting Executive Director of ENTRO**, opened the validation workshop by welcoming the attendees. He outlined the workshop's primary objective and noted that the event would serve as a platform to disseminate these new models and tools to stakeholders.



ENTRO Acting ED Eng. Teshome Atnafie

Eng. Teshome underlined that water resource modeling tools and knowledge products are critical for effective water resources planning and management, thus ENTRO has developed and archived various models, toolkits and databases, including Riverware, RIBASIM, HEC-ResSim, SWAT and other models. However, challenges remain in data accessibility, model accuracy and knowledge sharing, limiting the full potential use of these models in water resources planning and management related activities.

The Acting ED emphasized that the robust and user-friendly tools are designed to meet the specific needs of Eastern Nile stakeholders. He stated they will significantly contribute to improved water resource planning, informed decision-making, and sustainable development in the region. Following his remarks, Eng. Teshome invited the Sudanese ENSAPT member to give remarks.

Thus Eng. Saied Magzoub, representing the Sudan ENSAPT, thanked the Ethiopian government for hosting workshop. He acknowledged the hard work of the ENTRO team and experts in building tools that accurately model our region's water resources, including hydrology, hydraulics, and sediment transport.



Eng. Saied Magzoub, representing the Sudan ENSAPT

He stated, "these tools are not just scientific achievements; they are an instrument of cooperation, trust-building, and informed decision-making." Eng. Saied concluded by encouraging everyone to share their expertise to validate the models, ensuring they are technically correct, reflect local knowledge, and can be trusted for planning and discussions between our countries.



South Sudan ENSAPT Representative, Eng. Richard Gama,

Following the Sudan remarks, South Sudan **ENSAPT Representative, Eng. Richard Gama**, on his remarks states that this project has taken 15 months to reach its current stage and has undergone multiple validation workshops which has incorporated expertise from various countries to achieve this progress. Eng. Richard encourages all technical team members to collaborate closely with the consultant and share their insights to reach the final stage of the development.

He said that *“the final delivery will remain with us. While we have previously relied on existing water resource tools and models, this project aims to develop innovative tools and techniques to enhance water resource management in the basin.”* Eng. Richard

Finally, he appreciates everyone’s efforts and encourages all to make the most of their time moving forward.



ENSAPT Chair Dr. Zebene Lakew.

Finally, the welcoming remark was given by the **Ethiopia ENSAPT Leader and Chair Dr. Zebene Lakew**, who welcomed all participants to Addis Ababa and to the validation workshop on the development of the Eastern Nile water resource models and tools with the financial support of the World Bank.

The ENSAPT Chair states that “We have gathered not only to reflect on the recently developed models and tools but also to share the vital ideas and experiences that will shape the future of water resource management in our basin.” Said Dr. Zebene.

He said that, as technical experts in respective fields, insights are crucial in ensuring these tools are not only scientifically robust but also practical and applicable for real-world challenges. Also, Dr. Zebene states that the interactive discussions, combined with the planned presentations and data activities, will be highly productive, which will minimize the challenges we face and better harness the potential of our shared water resources for the benefit of all our people.



In conclusion, Dr. Zebene extended his gratitude to the World Bank, the workshop organizers, and all participants. He wished everyone fruitful deliberation and officially opened the meeting.

The workshop delivered the following outputs:

- Validated methodologies and outputs for the six work packages.
- Feedback and recommendations for improving the models, tools, and platforms.
- Enhanced stakeholder awareness of the Eastern Nile water resources models and tools.

Building cooperation through #HydroDiplomacy, media & gender equality!

ENTRO Forging an All-inclusive Eastern Nile Cooperation to Build Trust Towards Shared Vision.



The Hydro-diplomacy, gender & media training took place in Nairobi Kenya from September 15-17, 2025. The main objective of this stakeholder's consultative training workshop was to engage critical Eastern Nile stakeholders, which include the community leaders, gender representatives, diplomats with good knowledge of Nile issues and wisdom to share, media houses, journalists to promote all-inclusive Eastern Nile cooperation and minimize misunderstanding and mistrust that hinders the shared vision.



Eng. Said that “For water management to effectively integrate the goals of efficiency, sustainability and equity, full participation of broad cross-sectional stakeholders is needed.”

During the opening remarks, **ENTRO Acting ED Eng. Teshome Atnafie** warmly welcomed the participants to the Hydro-diplomacy, gender & media training workshop. On his welcoming remarks the Acting ED Eng. Teshome emphasizes that effective water management in the Nile Basin requires broad stakeholder participation at all levels local, national, regional, and international.

The basin faces pressing challenges such as water variability, rising demand, environmental degradation, and climate change, which call for cooperative action.

Eng. Said that “For water management to effectively integrate the goals of efficiency, sustainability and equity, full participation of broad cross-sectional stakeholders is needed.” The forum is designed to foster dialogue, share experiences, address gender balance, and lay the foundation for stronger collaboration, including potential joint declarations.

On his final remarks, Acting ED gave acknowledgment to the World Bank-CIWA for their technical and financial support and encouraged participants to engage actively, share insights, and contribute to enhancing cooperation and sustainable management of the Eastern Nile’s vital water resources.

Sudan ENSAPT leader Dr. Salih Ahmed, in his speech, calls for strengthening negotiation capacity and strategic diplomacy to manage shared resources peacefully and equitably.





Sudan ENSAPT leader Dr. Salih Ahmed

Dr. Salih highlights the media's pivotal role in shaping perceptions, correcting misinformation, and amplifying the benefits of regional cooperation—urging closer collaboration between journalists and water professionals. On gender, the speech stresses the importance of inclusive participation, noting the disproportionate burdens carried by women in Africa, and advocating for context-sensitive approaches that empower all members of society.

The ENSAPT chair and ENSAPT lead Ethiopia Dr. Zebene Lakew, highlighted that the Eastern Nile Basin as a shared lifeline that sustains communities, ecosystems, and culture, while acknowledging the complex challenges of climate change, population growth, and competing demands. Dr. Zebene emphasized hydro-diplomacy as a key tool for dialogue, negotiation, and cooperation in managing shared waters.



The ENSAPT chair and ENSAPT lead Ethiopia Dr. Zebene Lakew

In his speech, he underscored the vital role of media in shaping narratives, raising awareness on water security and climate change, and inspiring collective action. He also reaffirmed that gender inclusion is essential for sustainable development, calling for women's voices to be elevated in decision-making.



Presentation of Certificates

The ENSAPT Chair states that the three-day training is designed to strengthen understanding of these themes, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and equip participants with tools for effective communication and governance.

Finally, the Chair expressed gratitude to development partners, ENTRO, and facilitators, and officially declared the training open.



From the training workshop, the following Key outcomes are met: -

a) Equip EN governance with a thorough understanding of hydro-diplomacy concepts and tools to support effective and fair negotiations among EN countries; improve media personnel's capacity to provide accurate, evidence-based reports on transboundary water issues and ensure the public is well-informed; and empower gender specialists to advocate effectively for and incorporate gender equality principles within transboundary water management.

b) Stakeholders discussed and strategically planned for the continuation of key NCCRP achievements, establishing a clear path forward to ensure their lasting impact beyond the project's period.

c) ENTRO knowledge products related to NCCRP results presented to the stakeholders and disseminated to promote the benefits of cooperation.

Connecting the Nile: A Journey of Shared Destinies

2025 regional Innovative stakeholder's forum III



Forum Participants.

The 3rd Regional Innovative Stakeholders forum took place in Nairobi Kenya from June 18 to 20, 2025 with the main objective of engaging five critical Eastern Nile Stakeholders - (i) the Faith Community (mainly of the two predominant faiths Christian and Muslim), (ii) Hydropower/Dam operators, (iii) Ex-Diplomats (with good knowledge of the Nile issues and wisdom to share), (iv) media house owners/ Journalists, and (v) parliamentarians to promote all-inclusive Eastern Nile Cooperation and avoid or at least minimize misunderstanding and mistrust that hinders the shared vision.

As a citizen of the Eastern Nile Basin, this forum is a platform designed to bring new exchange, constructive dialogue and innovative approaches of promoting cooperation on our vital resource, which is Nile River and its water resources, proper development and management without conflict.

During the welcoming remarks **ENTRO Acting Executive Director Eng. Teshome Atnafie** on behalf of ENTRO and himself, welcomed all participants to the regional stakeholder forum conducted in Nairobi, Kenya.



Eng. Teshome, state that the *“The stakeholder engagement and consultation is one of the pillars of this strategy to promote cooperation and build confidence among the member states. For water management to effectively integrate the goals of efficiency, sustainability and equity, full participation of broad cross-section of stakeholders is needed. Whether on the local scale or at a small catchment or on the regional or international boundary scale, water users and other interested parties need to be involved to varying degrees in planning, development, management, and monitoring of water management activities conducted in the basin.”*



ENTRO Acting Executive Director Eng. Teshome Atnafie

As the Acting ED said, the Innovative stakeholder forum is expected to serve as a platform to discuss Eastern Nile water resource development and management related issues and it will provide us with an opportunity to exchange experiences, identify challenges related to Eastern Nile Basin and chart efforts for further cooperation and strengthening our relationship. Accordingly, Eng. Teshome invite the South Sudan ENSAPT to give welcoming remarks.



Hence, **Eng Thomas Jang Kag ENSAPT lead of South Sudan** on his speech emphasize on the importance of water, he states that “this is an opportunity to see what are the challenges that we are facing in terms of water sources management in development and also when we have this water, we have so many issues to be solved by water, for it plays a crucial role in various sectors, including hydropower and irrigation, and we must confront the complexities that arise from these dependencies.”

Eng. State that in our current landscape, it is essential to recognize the challenges we face regarding water resource management and development. He said that Water is not just a vital resource; it also presents numerous issues that require our attention and resolution. Eng Thomas invites all to come together in a spirit of collaboration, acknowledging that water is not solely an individual concern but a shared responsibility.

Following the South Sudan, Sudan ENSAPT Representative Dr. Harith Mustaf in his welcoming remarks said that *“this forum presents an opportunity to bridge the gap between the diverse perspectives of various countries in the region regarding cooperation and regional development. We anticipate that this forum will particularly emphasize the importance of water diplomacy, especially in light of the pressing challenges posed by climate change, which affects everyone without exception.”*



Dr. Harith Mustaf

Dr. Harith state that this initiative represents a significant shift away from traditional conflict resolution methods and forums that have been utilized in the past, Water-related conflicts cannot be resolved solely through political means; it require a comprehensive approach that involves the entire community, actively engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from the media, parliament, diplomacy, and religious organizations—individuals who play a crucial role in shaping society. “By involving those who are directly impacted by these issues, we believe we can foster a more effective dialogue and create lasting solutions”. Engaging these community members is essential, as they possess valuable insights and influence within their societies.



Dr. Zebene Lakew ENSAPT Chair

Finally, The ENSAPT chair and ENSAPT lead Ethiopia Dr. Zebene Lakew, in his opening remarks indicate the Faith Leaders and, Media representatives influence in shaping our region through collaboration, as respected religious leaders' said Dr. Zebene, your *"wisdom and expertise are invaluable to this workshop. Your participation is essential, as it enables us to effectively reach our communities and amplify our collective impact. Also, for Media houses as Dr. states Media houses serve as vital communication channel. Without your support, our efforts to engage with the community would be significantly hindered. Your presence here adds immense value to our discussions,"* says Dr. Zebene.

ENSAPT Chair explained that cooperation and collaboration in utilizing shared resources can only be achieved through the active engagement of stakeholders who possess both direct and indirect influence on the performance of the NBI. Stakeholders in the Eastern Nile Basin hold significant power to foster inclusive cooperation and to mitigate misunderstandings and mistrust that can obstruct our shared vision says the chair.



Finally, Dr. Zebene said *“Our collective efforts will ultimately benefit our communities, particularly those in need. I look forward to an engaging and interactive discussion, guided by our resource persons and the senior experts from the NBI. Together, we can pave the way for a sustainable future for our region.”*

Finally, Dr. Zebene officially opens the III Regional Innovative Stakeholder’s Forum.

A new regional effort begins stakeholders Join Hands to Address Yabus Floods and Safeguard Communities from Climate Extremes.



Yabus and Associated Riverine Floods Management Interventions Feasibility Study Consultancy Services activities Regional Meeting took place in Nairobi, Kenya 19th September 2025. The one-day meeting held to start the Yabus and associated riverine floods management interventions feasibility study consultancy services activities. The emphasis being to engage with the representatives of national stakeholders from Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan; Eastern Nile Governance, and some regional entities.

The meeting enlightens and sensitizes the stakeholders’ representatives to understand and seek their cooperation to facilitate conduct of the study activities, including the obligations, coordination, reporting and monitoring.

ENTRO’s Acting Executive Director, Eng. Teshome Atenafie in his opening remarks highlights the project objective and the overall structure. Eng. Teshome also states that the consultation meeting was convened to strengthen regional preparedness for the increasing frequency and intensity of water-related climate shocks in Eastern and Southern Africa.



Eng. Teshome Atenafie

Eng. Teshome said that *“The meeting will enlighten and sensitiz the stakeholder’s representative to understand and seeks their cooperation to facilitate the conduct of the study activities including coordination, reporting and monitoring.”* Said Eng. Teshome.

Finally, the Acting ED expresses his expectation from the participants to give valuable suggestions and propose innovative approaches to fast-track the feasibility study of Yabuswatershed.

Mr. Andrew Yunda, South Sudan Director for Planning and RCRP Coordinator, State that the Regional Climate Resilience Program is designed to address the pressing realities of climate change in our countries. Mr. Andrew explained that, looking at rivers in terms of their catchments and watersheds, the program aims to provide solutions to floods and droughts that affect our people and economies.

This gathering is a valuable opportunity for us to provide a platform to identify the challenges affecting each of our countries and to harness ENTRO’s expertise to better address them across local and regional scales.



Mr. Andrew said that *“looking at the rivers in terms of its catchments or watersheds, how we can address aspects of flood and aspects of drought in our countries? This stakeholder consultation meeting is really very important for us to consolidate our efforts towards addressing these issues.”*

Accordingly, **South Sudan ENSAPT representative Eng. Richard Gama** welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked the government of Kenya for hosting this event and ENTRO for organizing the regional meeting.

Sudan ENSAPT lead Dr. Salih Hamad highlighted that the workshop marked an important step in addressing the recurring floods in the Maban area of South Sudan, a challenge that links Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.



“Unlike the previous flood studies in ENTRO this study will consider one structural solution which I think will bring ENTRO back to its main course of studying some sort of quality, investment or on-ground projects.”

Dr. Salih stressed that successful implementation will deliver real on-ground impacts, protect vulnerable populations, and strengthen regional cooperation under ENTRO's leadership.

The ENSAPT chair and ENSAPT lead Ethiopia Dr. Zebene Lakew explained that the event is intended to engage stakeholders, strengthen their understanding of the project, and build ownership of the upcoming study on the Yabus and associated riverine floods.

ENSAPT Chair highlighted the importance of identifying mitigation areas, developing adaptation and resilience strategies, and protecting communities from extreme climate events. Risk mapping already conducted in the Baro area was cited as an example of critical work in addressing future climate challenges.



Dr. Zebene said that *"Stakeholders' consultation is important for two purposes. One, to know what is happening in the ground. Second, to support. So, I really urge active participation of all of you."* Said Dr.

Finally, Dr. Zebene urged participants to contribute actively, particularly in reviewing social and environmental aspects of the Terms of Reference and stressed that everyone has a stake in the project's success.

In the spirit of collaboration, Dr. Zebene officially opened the session, calling on participants to work together towards a sustainable future.

The regional meeting brought together stakeholders from Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, and regional organizations such as the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), ENSAPT Member, technical experts, ICPAC, Environmental Safeguards Representative, Gender Representative, ENTRO Staff with different expertise and Hydrogeologist to explore synergies with ongoing initiatives, strengthen institutional partnerships, and identify opportunities for collaboration.

About Regional Climate Resilience Project (RCRP)

The purpose of the RCRP is to improve regional preparedness for the increasing frequency, intensity, and impact of water-related climate shocks on people, livelihoods, infrastructure, and ecosystems.



The Program Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen the resilience to water-related climate impacts in select countries of Eastern and Southern Africa.

The Project components,

Component 1: which focuses on disaster risk management, early warning systems, and climate financing.

Component 2: that responds to the urgent need for transformational and sustainable infrastructure investments that are critical for improving the management of climate change impacts on water resources.

Component 3: for ensuring that the most vulnerable populations are better protected from climate risk through enhanced access to information and adaptive social protection programs.

Component 4: project Management

ENTRO Family



STAFF NEWS



FARWELL AND APPRECIATION

Celebrating Our Departing Team Members

ENTRO extends its heartfelt appreciation to our departing colleagues for their remarkable contributions, professionalism, and dedication to advancing transboundary water cooperation and sustainable development in the Nile Basin.

We wish them success and fulfillment in their future endeavors.

Position:

Professor Yilma Seleshi

Position: Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation (FDRM) Project Coordinator & Water Resources Planning Expert

Years With ENTRO: 15/12/2021-30/9/2025

 **Profile**

Professor Yilma Seleshi is a distinguished hydrologist and water resources engineer with decades of expertise in dam hydrology, flood analysis, spillway design, reservoir operation, and water systems modeling. He is a Professor of Water Resources Engineering at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

He has contributed significantly to the fields of hydrology, seasonal rainfall prediction, reservoir operation, and drainage system design. Notably, he served as one of the ten members of the International Panel of Experts for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) from 2012 to 2013.

 **ENTRO's Tribute**

ENTRO expresses its deep gratitude for Professor Yilma's dedication, wisdom, and leadership. His technical excellence and collaborative spirit have left a lasting mark on the organization and the region.

We wish him continued success and fulfillment in all future endeavors.



Dr. Elias Tedla

Position: Regional Internship and Young Professional Program Coordinator

Years with ENTRO: 01/10/2025-30/9/2025

Profile

Dr. Elias Tedla brings over 15 years of professional experience in academia, government, and international development. He has served as Assistant Professor of Water Resources Engineering at Addis Ababa University and Hawassa University, and as Senior Advisor for Water Resources Management at Ethiopia's Ministry of Water and Energy.

His consultancy work with UNDP, UN-Habitat, SIWI, SMHI, and the RAIN Foundation has focused on water resources management, climate adaptation, project management, and monitoring and evaluation.



ENTRO's Tribute

At ENTRO, Dr. Elias led the Regional Internship and Young Professionals Program, mentoring emerging water professionals and strengthening regional capacity-building initiatives. His dedication and guidance have inspired a new generation of water leaders.

ENTRO warmly thanks Dr. Elias for his service and wishes him success in his continued journey.

Dr. Muna Mohammed

Position: Regional Water Resources Modeler

Years with ENTRO: 16/11/2-2023 -30/9/2025

Profile

Dr. Muna Mohammed holds a PhD in Water Resources Engineering, Development, and Management from the UNESCO Chair in Water Resources at Omdurman Islamic University, Sudan.

She has served as Acting Director of the UNESCO Chair in Water Resources, where she led postgraduate programs, research coordination, and capacity-building efforts.

She also directed the Research and Innovation Department, managing water quality laboratories, guiding strategic research, and promoting innovation in sustainable water resource management.

ENTRO's Tribute

During her time at ENTRO, Dr. Muna made significant contributions to regional water modeling, data analysis, and collaborative basin planning. Her expertise and commitment greatly advanced ENTRO's technical work.

We thank Dr. Muna for her valuable service and wish her the very best in her professional journey.



Vision

“A credible, adaptive regional institution fostering sustainable transboundary cooperation.”

Mission

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



ONE RIVER ONE PEOPLE ONE VISION




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