**JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025** 

# MileNews





H.E Motuma Mekasa, the State Minister and Advisor to the Minister of Water and Energy in Ethiopia (right), exchanges water quality equipment handover documents with Dr. Florence Grace Adongo, Executive Director of NBI, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 30 September 2025. Looking on are H.E. Dr. Eng. Habtamu Itefa, the Minister for Water and Energy in Ethiopia and Eng. Teferra Beyene Asfaw, Principal Nile Technical Advisory Committee member

## Pushed by Pollution, NBI Takes Countries into High-tech Water Quality Monitoring for the Nile

In Quarter 1 of financial year 2025/2026, NBI leveraged the Nile Basin regional hydrological monitoring system to take the Nile Basin further into modern, ground-breaking ways of managing shared water resources. NBI attained this by enabling three additional countries to generate real-time data that can inform national policies and practices for improving water quality management and environmental sustainability.

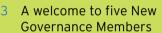
Under Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project, funded by the World Bank through the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund, the three countries also benefited from upgraded laboratories and training for their national water quality task teams. Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda received water quality monitoring sensors – six per country – along with new laboratory equipment, field test kits, and calibration standards, alongside the capacity-building support. Burundi and Rwanda earlier received NBI support along the same lines in Q4 of FY 2024/2025. Installations in all 6 countries have been finalized.

Against a backdrop of ever-increasing environmental pollution and the subsequent decline in water quality,

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### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Dear Reader,

I am delighted to present to you the first edition of Nile News for the 2025/2026 financial year, covering the period from July to September 2025.

To the five new members of NBI's decision-making body, the Nile Council of Ministers, Excellencies and Honourable Ministers from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan and Sudan, including the new Chairperson of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers, I extend my warmest congratulations on your appointments! You assume office at a time of institutional complexities, as the environment in which we operate continues to evolve. It is equally a time for reflection as major projects reach completion, to assess our performance, compile lessons we learned, and determine how best to sustain the benefits NBI realised for its Member States over the past four years.

Most notably, the three months highlighted in this edition of Nile News have been marked by innovative breakthroughs have been a time of innovative breakthroughs spanning from Goal 1 (Water Security) and Goal 4 (Environment Sustainability) under which we installed modern equipment, upgraded laboratories for basin-wide water quality monitoring, and secured two critical Memoranda of



Understanding. Under the Groundwater Project, which also falls under Goal 1, the long-anticipated Managed Aquifer Recharge pilots commenced in the Elgon and Kagera aquifers, shared respectively by Uganda and Kenya, and by Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, to enhance climate resilience. Furthermore, NBI signed a Subsidiary Agreement with Burundi, paving the way for feasibility studies on the Ruvyironza Multi-Purpose Water Resources Development Project.

I invite all our stakeholders to explore, in the following pages, the progress achieved by the Secretariat and NBI's investment arms the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) as we continue to deliver together, with the steadfast support of the Member States of the Nile Basin Initiative.

The trust, confidence and stability cultivated over the years, guided by the dedication and strategic leadership of the Nile Council of Ministers and the Nile Technical Advisory Committee, have carried us for nearly 27 years now, preserving NBI's unique mandate and capacity to bring countries together to discuss matters of the Nile, in line with our Shared Vision Objective:

"To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilisation of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources."

Together with our leaders and with the invaluable support of our development and strategic partners we have developed a robust roadmap for sustainability, even as we continue to mobilise goodwill for Nile cooperation in the years ahead.

Dr Florence Grace Adongo

### NBI welcomes 5 New Governance Members

NBI welcomed five new ministers to the Nile Council of Ministers, following appointments by their respective Heads of State and Government. The new ministers are:



H.E. CALINIE MBARUSHIMANA Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO** H.E. PROF. MARIE NYANGE NDAMBO Minister of Environment, Sustainable **Development and New Climate Economy** 



HON. DR. BERNADETTE ARAKWIYE **Minister of Environment** 



**SOUTH SUDAN** HON. JAMES MAWICH MAKUACH **Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation** 



H.E. PROF. ISMAT GORASHI **ABDALLA MOHAMMED** Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

« "I look forward to continued enthusiasm and involvement to consolidate Nile cooperation, contribute to socio-economic growth of the Basin and the realization of the NBI Shared Vision.">>

In her message to the new Ministers, the Executive Director, Dr Florence Grace Adongo, wrote,

### NBI Signs Two MOUs - With UNEP and DHI

### **UNEP Partnership to Focus on Macro-Plastics Monitoring, Data** Management, Modelling

NBI and the United Nations **Environment Programme (UNEP)** renewed their partnership on 3 July 2025, signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at tackling plastic pollution, declining water quality, and climate-related risks across the Nile Basin.

The two parties will collaborate on:

- Building national and regional capacity for water quality monitoring, data management, and modelling.
- Providing training on water quality and plastic pollution assessments.
- Strengthening transboundary legal frameworks and institutions.
- Promoting direct access to national, regional, and global water quality data.
- Supporting citizen science initiatives to track plastic pollution and monitor SDG 6.3.2.
- Generating knowledge and identifying investment opportunities to address water quality risks.

### **14 MILLION TONNES END UP IN OCEANS ANNUALLY**

Plastic pollution continues to pose a growing threat. Of the 400 million tonnes of plastic produced globally each year, an estimated 14 million tonnes end up in oceans, transported by rivers like the Nile. Macroplastics such as bags and bottles can entangle wildlife, break down into microplastics, clog drainage systems, damage infrastructure, and contaminate common water resources.

In the Nile Basin, inadequate monitoring, weak policies, and limited data on plastic sources and movement, particularly into Lakes Victoria and Albert and through the Nile River, mean



Dr Florence Grace Adongo (left), the NBI Executive Director, and Mette Vestergaard, CEO of Danish Hydraulic Institute (DHI), signed the MoU

that plastics continue flowing unchecked all the way to the Mediterranean Sea.

The new MoU builds on longstanding collaboration between the two organisations, despite the expiration of their previous agreement in 2015. Most recently, UNEP experts from the Global Environment Monitoring Programme,



Dr Florence Grace Adongo (right) signed the agreement at the UNEP's headquarters in in Nairobi, Kenya. with Mr Jian Liu, Division **Director, Early Warning and Assessment Division at UNEP** 

the World Water Quality Alliance, and Earthwatch Europe supported a regional training workshop on macroplastic monitoring, hosted by NBI and GIZ in Kisumu, Kenya.

### DHI MoU to Enhance Technology, **Digital Tools for Water** Management

An MoU that NBI signed with DHI at the Stockholm World Water Week 2024 on 25 August 2025 formalised their long-standing technical collaboration in advancing sustainable, science-based management of the Nile's shared water resources. The MoU aims to harness technical expertise, digital tools and regional networks to deliver practical solutions for one of the world's most complex river basins.

"The Nile Basin Initiative plays a crucial role in enabling countries to cooperate on sustainable river management," said Mette Vestergaard, CEO of DHI. "We are pleased to deepen our longstanding partnership, using science and technology to support informed



Nile TAC chair, Dr Callist Tindimugaya, welcomed the agreement

decision-making and strengthen resilience across the Basin."

NBI and DHI will collaborate on:

- Building technical capacity through knowledge-sharing, training, and partnerships with universities to apply research in practice.
- Enabling data and knowledge exchange, promoting stakeholder dialogue, including through the Nile Basin Development Forum and Nile Day.
- Supporting investment planning by conducting environmental assessments and feasibility studies for projects in NBI member countries.

The NBI-DHI partnership builds on past joint work, including the Nile Basin Decision Support System. Looking ahead, NBI and DHI aim to enhance this system (Decision Support System 2.0) and align it with other tools, such as flood forecasting, drought early warning, and digital innovations for ecosystem and water management.

### **ENROLL NOW!**

#### NBI LAUNCHES EIGHT ONLINE COURSES ON WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Course 1	Basic Principles for Freshwater Quality Monitoring Programme Design
Course 2	Water Quality Monitoring in Rivers and Lakes
Course 3	Monitoring Water Quality in Groundwater
Course 4	Using Aquatic Organisms to Monitor Freshwater Quality
Course 5	Incorporating Particulate Matter in a Water Quality Monitoring Programme
Course 6	Fundamentals of Quality Assurance for Freshwater Quality Monitoring
Course 7	Managing and using freshwater quality data
Course 8	Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 6.3.2 for Water Quality

Register and explore the full catalogue of NBI courses https://elearn.nilebasin.org/ for Nile cooperation.





NBI in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and GIZ, has developed a regional Action Plan for macroplastic monitoring across the Nile Basin.

Focusing on both rivers and lakes, the Action Plan positions macroplastic monitoring as an essential element of water quality management. It promotes harmonised monitoring methods, standardised data management, and coordinated reporting across Nile Basin.

Plastic pollution, one of the least understood water quality threats "Interventions can only be effective if they are based on sound, up-to-date information." said Dr Florence Grace Adongo "Plastic pollution remains one of the least understood water quality threats, especially in freshwater systems like ours. This Action Plan is about closing the data gap so we can identify hotspots, track trends, and take informed action."

The Action Plan allocates a role to citizen science in plastic pollution monitoring. In addition, it promotes integration with existing hydrological and water quality programmes, ensuring that macroplastic data contributes to broader environmental management and policy.

## Governance Charter, Investments, Dam Safety Highlight Technical Briefings and 67th TAC Meetings



Dr Callist Tindimugaya steered the technical briefings

The NBI Secretariat and its investment arms showcased innovative tools, strategies and frameworks that the NBI has developed to strengthen institutional systems, policy coherence and basin-wide climate resilience when the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – comprising representatives from all ten NBI Member States –convened July 18 to 21, 2025 in Kampala, Uganda. The TAC had gathered for technical briefings and their 67th meeting.

The TAC began by reviewing NBI's Progress Report for Financial Year (FY) 2024/2025, the Annual Workplan and Budget for FY 2025/2026 and programmatic and corporate services updates at sessions steered by TAC chair, Dr Callist Tindimugaya. The three NBI offices sought the TAC's technical inputs, and recommendations of the draft reports and documents for the 33rd Meeting of the Nile Council of Ministers due in

js .

Bujumbura, Burundi in November 2025.

#### **KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED**

### Governance Charter

One of the issues discussed was a draft Governance Charter, which NBI has prepared for Nile COM's approval to standardise Governance procedures across Secretariat, NELSAP-CU and ENTRO, facilitate induction of new members of NBI Governance, and reinforce standard, good practices in NBI Governance, thus fulfilling the international requirements for funding accreditation.

### Nile River Basin Investment Programme (NRBIP)

The TAC noted progress NBI made through completed drafts of the NRBIP Programme Document, the Programme Portfolio of the first intake of projects, and the Integrated Assessment Methodology. It emphasized the need to assess and consider transboundary impacts of selected projects.

There was a call for standardised project selection. Another issue raised was the uneven distribution of projects across the Basin and thematic areas. The NBI Secretariat explained that this is because of the profile of ready projects taken from all regional portfolios. The Secretariat also clarified that NRBIP emphasises a flexible approach, leaving



Deputy Executive Director, Dr Abraha Adugna presents the draft NRBIP to the TAC



ENTRO's Dr Ali Aman presents plans for the Dam Safety Reference Regulatory Framework and Training Centre

room for subsequent intakes as projects pass the agreed screening criteria.

Pre-TAC, the NBI Secretariat provided a platform for consultations on the Eastern Nile projects under the NRBIP. The event was funded by GIZ

### Groundwater database

NBI has made the groundwater database accessible at the national level, enhancing data transparency across the Nile Basin, with Member States encouraged to support access and update information. Meanwhile, water quality measures have been incorporated into Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) designs, and groundwater considerations are now integrated into NBI's Strategic Water Resources Analysis (SWRA).

### Proposed Dam Safety Training Centre at ENTRO

Concerns were raised over the Centre's sustainability, structure and financing. Clarity was sought on whether the centre will operate virtually or physically and if Member States would be required







Pre-TAC, the NBI Secretariat provided a platform for consultations on the Eastern Nile projects under the NRBIP. The event was funded by GIZ

to make financial contributions to its infrastructure amidst already dire financial conditions.

#### **Country Contributions**

In FY 2024/2025, country contributions to NBI were low, with only 28 percent received compared to 88 percent the previous year, and arrears rising to US\$25.3 million. The TAC has established a committee comprising Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda to propose practical measures to improve contributions. Burundi, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda confirmed plans to make payments.

### 67th Nile TAC Meeting

The robust contributions the TAC made to technical briefings laid a foundation for the 67th meeting in Kampala, Uganda. In their remarks,

Alternate TAC Chair, Sowed Sewagudde, commended Kenya for paying its country contribution for the 2025/26 financial year, describing it as a positive step towards strengthening NBI's financial stability.

He expressed appreciation to partners, including GIZ, the World Bank, and GEF/UNDP, for their continued support, emphasising the importance of sustaining outcomes of their projects.

He encouraged partners to maintain both their financial and technical engagement with NBI. With NBI's ten-year strategy approaching its conclusion, Chair Sewagudde urged the Secretariat to ensure that Goals 3, 4, and 5 are actively driven forward, safeguarding the longterm objectives and impact of NBI.

### **Executive Director**

Dr. Florence Grace Adongo welcomed newly appointed TAC members from Ethiopia and Uganda, as well as the new Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Abraha Adugna. She recognised the formal



Alternate TAC Chair, Eng. Sowed Sewagudde

return of Egypt, which means full representation of countries within the NBI, and thanked Uganda for hosting the Secretariat and the 67th TAC meeting. Appreciation was extended to GIZ for financing the 67th TAC meeting, and the TAC was asked to provide guidance on electing new office bearers following the extension of Uganda's leadership to June 2025.



Dr Florence Grace Adongo addresses the 67th TAC, during the opening session

Reflecting on FY 2024/25, Dr. Florence highlighted progress in joint investment planning, basin-wide monitoring, knowledge management, and regional dialogue under the Nile River Basin Investment Programme. She underscored the political importance of the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework entering into force on 13 October 2024, as announced by the African Union, affirming NBI's neutral platform for continued engagement. She commended the strong commitment and visionary leadership of NBI's Governance, collaboration among NBI centres, and growing visibility through regional events and capacity-building efforts, with an overall performance of 76 percent.

Financial performance rose to 72 performance, supported by timely contributions from several Member States and an unqualified audit opinion from Ernst & Young Dr. Florence outlined strategic priorities for FY 2025/26:



















TAC members during the July 18-21 meetings, including the 67th TAC. More TAC members participated online, representatives of DR Congo and Rwanda



finalising major projects, preparing for the Second Summit of Nile Basin Heads of State and Government, implementing Basin-wide Programme II and the 10-year strategy, and mobilising resources for a proposed Centre of Excellence.

She urged Member States to strengthen ownership, enhance transparency, and clear arrears, highlighting the new internal revenue measures and improved reserve fund returns.

### TAC DECISIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 33RD NILE COM

During the 67th meeting and the online extra-ordinary TAC meeting convened on July 31, 2025 to finalise pending matters, the Nile TAC responded to reports and recommendations from the two sub-committees.

The TAC sign minutes from their 67th meeting Munyonyo, Kampala on July 21, 2025

In its recommendations for the Nile Council of Ministers' decision-taking in Bujumbura, the TAC endorsed the

- a. Progress Report for Financial Year (FY) 2024/2025
- b. Annual Workplan and Budget for FY 2025/2026.
- c. Internal Audit Report for FY 2024/2025



The TAC sign minutes from their 67th meeting Munyonyo, Kampala on July 21, 2025

- d. NRBIP Document, Portfolio, (publication of) Updated X-pager, and the Integrated Assessment Methodology
- e. Climate Change Strategy 2025-2035 and other Climate Finance Readiness documents
- f. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (2025-2029)
- g. Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Implementation Strategy 2025,
- h. the Macro-plastic Action Plan for the Nile Basin,
- flood and drought early warning systems at NELSAP-CU and ENTRO,
- j. NCCR sustainability plan.

In addition, the TAC recommended approval of the Dam Safety Reference Regulatory Framework and Training Centre, as well as the Dam Safety
Risk Management Framework.
The training centre was endorsed
with a recommendation for its
operationalisation within the NBI/
ENTRO framework. In addition,
ENTRO was asked to develop a resource
mobilization strategy for the training
centre for presentation at future
Governance meetings.

NBI partners – GIZ, the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) and the Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa attended the 67th TAC meeting, with the latter two presenting updates on their work.

The TAC congratulated the NBI Secretariat for a good external audit report for FY 2023/2024 (unqualified opinion).



Acting Regional Coordinator for Global Water Parnership Eastern Africa, Ms Lorna Masika, participated in the TAC meeting

### ONE FORUM, ONE DAY, TWO THEMES

The TAC proposed the following:

Theme for the 8th Nile Basin Development Forum:

"Building a resilient and inclusive Nile future, investing in people, innovation for cooperation and shared prosperity"

Theme for Nile Day regional commemoration on February 22, 2026:

"Voices of the Nile: Community: Youth and Women engagement in water governance"

#### continues from page 1>>

which exacerbates water scarcity, the
Nile Basin faces a persistent shortage of
reliable data. At the same time, based on
results of country-level assessments and
consultations, most riparian countries have
limited or outdated monitoring stations,
inadequate laboratory facilities and data
systems, shortage of trained personnel, lack
of real-time telemetry and data-sharing
protocols, insufficient national funding for
maintenance and upgrades, and absence
of protocols for cross-border sharing of
operational water resource data.

One by one, Member States will now have greater capacity to collect, use,

and share data. The programme has been designed to also support the development of robust regional information systems to safeguard water quality throughout the river basin.

The Deputy Executive Director and Head of the Basin-wide Programme, Dr Abraha Adugna, said: "For most participating countries, this represents their first experience of using water quality sensors. Although challenges are to be expected and not all locations may prove ideal, the priority is to demonstrate the sensors' capacity to provide robust evidence of an escalating, basin-wide challenge of pollution."

This work builds on NBI's earlier achievement in establishing a fully operational regional hydrological monitoring system, which includes 44 hydrological stations and a data management platform active across nine Member States. This network enables countries in the Basin to collect near real-time data on river and lake levels, streamflow, and precipitation, key indicators of water quantity. NBI is now expanding this capability by installing water quality sensors at the same stations, allowing Member States to monitor both water quantity and quality simultaneously around the clock.

### COUNTRY PERSPECTIVES ON NEW WATER QUALITY EQUIPMENT



### **ETHIOPIA**

H.E. Dr. Ing. Habtamu Itefa, Ethiopia's Minister of Water and Energy, emphasised the importance of the new equipment in enhancing Ethiopia's capacity to monitor water resources through advanced technology. He noted that the country is expanding its watershed monitoring network and modernising data collection and sharing to benefit both Ethiopia and the wider Nile Basin.

The Minister added: "We operate a large network of watershed stations using traditional methods to track water quality and quantity. In future, when the NBI visits again, we are confident we will be able to showcase water quality data from our other basins on digital exhibition screens, just as we do for the GERD."



### **SOUTH SUDAN**

Hon. Achier Manyuat John, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, welcomed the equipment, noting NBI's role in supporting countries across various sectors of water resource management and investments.

He added that the equipment would assist the Ministry, and South Sudan as a whole, in improving water quality assessment, monitoring, and pollution prevention and control. This, in turn, would enable the country to present water quality data from its basins and share this information with other basin countries in future, he said.



### **UGANDA**

Ms. Lillian Idrakua, Commissioner at the Ministry of Water and Environment, received the equipment on Uganda's behalf. She stated that Uganda has the expertise and accredited laboratory capacity to manage and maintain the new systems effectively.



https://nilebasin.org/content/nile-basin-faces-rising-pollution-and-declining-water-quality-uganda-receives-vital



https://nilechronicles.com/uganda-re-ceives-new-water-quality-monitor-ing-equipment-from-nile-basin-initi-ative#:~:text=According%20to%20
NBI%2C%20the%20package%20
includes%20general%20laboratory,Basin%20to%20ensure%20systemat-ic%2C%20data-driven%20water%20
quality%20management.

### German Government extends NBI Support to Sustain Cooperation Through Transition Period



Between 24 and 26 September 2025, GIZ together with NBI undertook a planning workshop for Phase 7 of the "Support to Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin" project. The new project will run from 2026 to 2029. It will support the following

- d. National hydrological actors strengthened their operations and maintenance, and data-use skills through dialogue and peer-to-peer learning
- e. Handover of monitoring stations to national authorities with sustainable

« "The German Government is planning to provide support for a new phase of the GIZ project to help sustain multilateral cooperation of the Nile Basin countries through the transition period, which NBI has now entered. Cooperation continues to be key for transformation to a food, energy and water secure Nile Basin and to enhance peace, regional integration and climate resilience."»

### Dr Malte Grossmann, Head of Nile Basin Projects at GIZ

components aligned with NBI's 10-year strategy, building on gains realised in Phase 6:

Regional Hydrological Monitoring

- a. A fully functional regional hydrological monitoring system in seven countries is delivering quality data
- b. Establishment and institutionalisation of a regional expert working group under NBI to support joint analysis of data
- c. Joint hydrological products/seasonal forecasts regularly produced and applied

operation anchored in regional partnerships

### **RESULTS FROM PHASE 6**

Regional Hydrological Monitoring

- a. A fully functional regional hydrological monitoring system in seven countries is delivering quality
- Establishment and institutionalisation of a regional expert working group under NBI to support joint analysis of data
- Joint hydrological products/seasonal forecasts regularly produced and applied
- d. National hydrological actors strengthened their operations and maintenance, and data-use skills through dialogue and peer-to-peer learning
- e. Handover of monitoring stations to national authorities with sustainable operation anchored in regional partnerships

### **NILE RIVER BASIN INVESTMENT PROGRAMME, STRATEGIC WATER RESOURCE ANALYSIS (SWRA), CLIMATE READINESS RESULTS**

f. Roadmap and Concept Note formally endorsed by Member States (Nile-COM) following stakeholder



Eng. Remy Duhuze, a representative of Rwanda on the Nile TAC, explains to NBI Executive Director, Dr Florence Grace Adongo, the regional hydrological monitoring system (quality and quantity) from Gihinga monitoring station in Rwanda.

consultations

- g. Establishment of the NRBIP Coordination Office (NBI Secretariat)
- h. Establishment of SWRA working group and training of country experts trained in SWRA toolbox
- i. Climate Finance Readiness advanced through NBI Governance preliminary approvals
- j. Repository of pipeline projects developed, supporting visibility of candidate projects
- k. SWRA toolbox provides evidence base for coordinated dam operations and basin-wide investment planning

### **RESULTS ON COORDINATED OPERATION OF TRANSBOUNDARY CASCADE DAMS**

- l. Actors involved in cascade dam operations apply agreed procedures and tools for sharing hydrological forecasts and release data
- m. Institutional arrangements for coordinated operational management of cascade dams and dam safety established
- n. Establishment of the regional expert working group on dam safety and collaboration with existing regional expert working group on hydrology,
- o. peer-to-peer exchanges among dam operators, utilities, regulators, and national hydrological services, strengthened joint dam operation
- p. Regional training curricula on coordinated dam safety are developed and delivered, strengthening the capacity of dam operators and regulators.

### Burundi, NBI sign Landmark Subsidiary Agreement for Water Development Project

On September 18, 2025, the Government of Burundi and NBI through NELSAP-CU signed a Subsidiary Agreement to advance the Ruvyironza Multipurpose Water Resources Development Project. The agreement marks a significant milestone, paving the way for feasibility studies and other preparatory activities for one of the region's most ambitious water infrastructure projects.

The Ruvyironza project aims to improve the socio-economic resilience of communities in the project area by enhancing water, food, and energy security. Additionally, the project is expected to contribute to the ecological health of the Akagera River, which drains into Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest freshwater lake by surface area, and a critical component of the Nile Basin.

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The Ruvyironza project is designed around three core objectives:

- a. Enhancing water, food, and energy security in vulnerable and underserved provinces of Burundi.
- b. Strengthening socio-economic

- resilience through improved agricultural productivity, expanded access to clean water, renewable energy, and integrated water resource management.
- c. Boosting climate change adaptation by increasing water storage capacity and rehabilitating degraded upstream watersheds.

### **NELSAP-CU PITCHES PROJECTS AT WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT**

As part of its mandate to mobilise resources for regional water investments, NELSAP-CU showcased the Ruvyironza project alongside the Angololo Water Resources Development Project at the Africa Water Investment Summit, held in Cape Town from 13-15 August 2025. The event, a flagship initiative under South Africa's G20 Presidency and the African Union's Africa Investment Programme, brought together global stakeholders focused on accelerating water infrastructure financing. Invited by AUDA-NEPAD, NELSAP-CU participated in matchmaking sessions with potential financiers and partners, generating significant interest in both projects.



« "This agreement demonstrates Burundi's strong commitment to advancing transformational socio-economic projects with both national and transboundary impact,"»

said Dr Isaac Alukwe, Regional Coordinator at NELSAP-CU, following the signing ceremony with Burundi's Minister of Finance and Digital Economy, H.E. Alan Ndikumana, in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Four Seasons, Four Perspectives on Nile Basin Hydrological Outlook and Advisory

As NBI released the Nile Basin Seasonal Hydrological Outlook and Advisory for October-December 2025, four partners shared their perspectives on the product:





#### **SOUTH SUDAN**



Ena. Phillip Deng, **Deputy Director** for Infrastructure Storage Management and Member, Nile TAC

Over the past two years, the **Equatorial Lakes** region, of which South Sudan forms a part, has experienced unusually high rainfall. This has led to a substantial rise in the water level of Lake

Victoria. Due

to inadequate

water management infrastructure in South Sudan, combined with releases from Lake Victoria (estimated at 2,600 m<sup>3</sup>/s), many flood-prone areas along the Bahr el Jebel, Bahr el Ghazal and White Nile rivers were severely inundated. According to UN reports, these flood events caused the deaths of more than 10,000 people, the closure of around half of the oil wells in Upper Nile, the isolation of numerous towns and villages following the destruction of major roads, and widespread food shortages across the country.

South Sudan has derived various benefits from the seasonal hydrological outlook and advisory. At the regional level, South Sudan and Uganda initiated discussions on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at coordinating water releases from Lake Victoria. At the

national level, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation received several capacitybuilding trainings, which facilitated the establishment of a National Hydrological Outlook. In addition, the Ministry carried out extensive public awareness and information dissemination campaigns across the country. At the local level, a number of flood resilience measures have been implemented.

The seasonal outlook and advisory represent a practical interpretation of data collected through the Regional Hydrological (Telemetry) Monitoring System, that NBI installed in the Bahr el Jebel and Sobat sub-basins. It stands as clear evidence of the value of regional technical cooperation in water resources management.

### **UGANDA**



**Eng. Sowed Sewagudd** Commissioner, **Department of** International & Transboundary Water Affairs | Ministry of **Water & Environment** and member of Nile TAC

Preparation of the Regional Hydrological Outlook and Advisory exemplifies the power of collective science in the Nile Basin. It brings together experts from Member States to jointly assess hydrological trends and issue shared advisories. This not only improves the accuracy of forecasts, but also builds trust, dialogue, and mutual understanding, elements that are essential for regional cooperation and climate resilience.

### **IGAD**



Hydrologist **IGAD Climate** Prediction & **Applications Centre** (ICPAC)

The Nile Basin Initiative's Regional Hydrological Outlook and Advisory is delivering tangible benefits today while helping to build a more resilient future. In the short term, the Outlook

provides critically important, forwardlooking information on expected water availability. This empowers national agencies to make proactive decisions from optimising agricultural planting schedules and managing hydropower releases to preparing for potential droughts or floods. By shifting from reactive crisis management to proactive risk management, countries can safeguard livelihoods, strengthen food and energy security, and protect their economies.

In the longer term, this shared knowledge base serves as a cornerstone for regional cooperation and sustainable development. The Advisory offers a

trusted common platform that brings countries together to discuss the basin's future not in isolation, but as a shared resource. This collaborative approach fosters dialogue, builds mutual trust, and lays the foundation for joint investments and transboundary water management strategies. By working from the same forecast, we are not merely sharing data — we are sharing a vision for a prosperous, watersecure, and cooperative Nile Basin for

### **WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

generations to come.

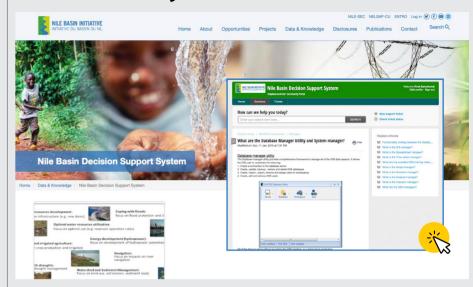
The Nile Basin Regional Hydrological Outlook and Advisory strengthens collaboration among countries by demonstrating the value of shared hydrological data and products in meeting user and community needs. It integrates WMO HydroSOS products which deliver actionable water-resources information to key sectors - into both regional and national mechanisms, thereby enhancing their sustainability and practical use.

The initiative also offers NBI the opportunity to benefit from the WMO **Integrated Processing and Prediction** System (WIPPS), which supports the provision and exchange of operationally defined weather, climate, and waterrelated products across a global network of WMO Members.

In addition, it provides a window for the use of WHOS (the WMO Hydrological Observing System), a "system of systems" that connects and harmonises hydrological data through interoperable technologies. WHOS strengthens machine-to-machine accessibility, visibility, and sharing of data and products across the Nile Basin community.

### **Mr. Washington Otieno**

### Via DSS, NBI Strengthens Skills for Water Sharing on White Nile



Managing water along Uganda's stretch of the Nile, especially around Lake Victoria, requires careful coordination. Hydropower generation, flood control, agriculture, fisheries, and transport all depend on the same water, and current systems have not kept pace with growing and often competing demands.

To help address this, the Uganda **Electricity Generation Company Ltd** (UEGCL) using funding from the European Union through the French development agency AFD developed a tool to optimize the operation of the cascade dams in Uganda along the Nile. This innovation was based on the same technology that NBI used to develop the Nile Basin Decision Support System (DSS).

NBI and the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda later realized that the UEGCL/DSS technology could be used to advise dam operators on how much water to release while informing South Sudan how much water to expect at different times of the year if the tool is extended to Bor town in central South Sudan. With the help of GIZ, the two entities embarked on this current project to extend the system to Bor and build the officials' capacity in the two countries in its use.



« "As demands on the Nile grow, tools like this Decision Support System can help governments and technical teams make choices that are not only data-driven, but also better aligned with national priorities and regional responsibilities."» Mr. Vincent Ssebuggwawo, NBI's Regional Modeller, who conducted

NBI organised the first in a series of capacity-building workshops from 28 July to 1 August 2025. A total of 24 technical staff from Uganda, South Sudan, and the Nile Basin Secretariat took part in the training, which focused on practical system operation and management.

the training

## From Surface to Groundwater: NBI Launches Pilot for Conjunctive Use in support of Climate Resilience



NBI and Ntungamo District officials in Uganda hand over the MAR construction project to the contracted firm. Elsewhere, excavation gets underway

In the Nile Basin, the wet season provides abundant surface water through rain, rivers, streams, ponds, and wetlands. During the dry season, however, water supply often falls short of the rapidly growing demand due to the region's high population and economic

growth. Ground water plays a vital role in bridging this gap, yet there is growing evidence that its recharge is under serious threat. In addition, the interaction between ground and surface water systems remains insufficiently understood and largely overlooked in planning. The situation is more acute for transboundary aquifers, which lack common governance and management mechanisms.

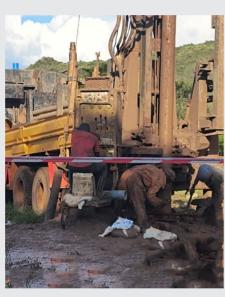
With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), NBI is addressing these challenges. This is happening through a project for enhancing



conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in selected transboundary aquifers for water security and climate change adaptation.

In 2023/2024, following an assessment, five specific sites – three in Kagera and two in Elgon – were identified as suitable for Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), an innovative technology that uses water from rivers, lakes, and rainfall to replenish ground water, thus improving aquifer resilience to drought and climate change. The MAR also enhances water quality through natural filtration, making more water available in communities for domestic use, agriculture, and industry.





In September 2025, NBI together with Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment and local government leaders handed over one of the five sites – in Ntungamo District in Uganda (Kagera Aquifer) – to engineers to undertake the MAR pilot. Concurrently, NBI gathered multi-media content to raise awareness basin-wide about groundwater in the Nile Basin.

### Three from Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda join Secretariat as Young Professionals

In October 2025, the Executive Director welcomed the NBI Secretariat's last cohort of young professionals under the World Bank's Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project, congratulating them on earning nominations from their respective countries. She highlighted the central role of knowledge-sharing and capacity building within NBI, noting that the institution attracts some of the region's finest scientists. She encouraged the three professionals to learn as much as possible from their colleagues. The Executive Director also explained NBI's diplomatic status as an institution and urged the professionals to chart their paths with this in mind.

The three professionals are:

- Flugence Nahimana, a hydrogeology engineer from Gitega, Burundi, working with IJEBU.
- Kevin Iyaka Butine, a hydraulic engineer specialising in rain forecasting and climate change, working in Kinshasa, DR Congo, with the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and New Climate Economics.
- Emmanuel Shyaka, Co-Lead of the WASH and Climate Resilience Department at the Rwanda Young Water Professionals in Kigali.



NBI Deputy Executive Director, Dr Abraha Adugna, welcomes the young professionals at Entebbe



Under the NCCR project since 2021, NBI has hosted 75 interns or young professionals, 60 of them at ENTRO. Stories from ENTRO's 11 cohort

### GIZ Director Drops by at Executive Director's, Says Hello and More



Dr Florence Grace Adongo, the Executive Director of NBI, and Prof. Dr Matthias Rompel, Regional and Horn of Africa Director at GIZ. Below, Dr Florence Grace Adongo. Dr Matthias and other staff of GIZ and NBI

Prof. Dr. Matthias Rompel, Director for East Africa and Horn of Africa at GIZ, stopped by to meet NBI Executive Director Dr. Florence Grace Adongo. Prof. Rompel was accompanied by Mr. James Macbeth Forbes, Country Director of GIZ Uganda and Dr Malte Grossmann, Head of Projects at the "Support to Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin" project. Dr. Florence briefed her guest on NBI's long-standing partnership with Germany since its founding by 10 countries in 1999. "Germany has been an enabler, supporting us in institutional strengthening, knowledge generation, climate action, and addressing plastic pollution," she said.



Prof. Rompel appreciated hearing about NBI's engagement with regional organizations and its peer-to-peer learning initiatives. He emphasised that platforms like NBI are vital for promoting peace and security among countries.

### IN OTHER NEWS

## New Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy Places Water at Centre of Development



Dakar, 06 October 2025 – In a historic move, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) has adopted the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy (AWVP63) during its 14th Ordinary Session held on 29 September 2025. This milestone positions water as a central force for achieving Africa's development goals under Agenda 2063.

With the powerful vision of "a water-secure and resilient Africa with safe sanitation for all," AWVP63 redefines water as a strategic asset for peace, prosperity, and sustainability. It provides a continental framework to ensure inclusive, climate-resilient water security, aligned with both the AU Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Highlights of the Vision include:

1. Recognising water as a driver of

- food, energy, industry, trade, and regional integration.
- 2. Promoting shared water resources as tools for peace and cooperation.
- 3. Reinforcing climate adaptation through sustainable water and sanitation systems.

H.E. Dr Cheikh Tidiane Dièye, AMCOW President and Senegal's Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitatin, hailed the adoption as "Africa's solemn commitment to future generations to safeguard water as the heartbeat of prosperity, peace, and dignity."

AMCOW comprises ministers responsible for water, sanitation, environment and related affairs, together with the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment.

- **FULL STORY**
- **WHAT IS AU AGENDA 2063?**
- AFRICA'S FUTURE RUNS ON WATER. SO, TREAT IT AS ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.
- STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOME
  OF THE AFRICA CLIMATE
  SUMMIT (ACS2)
- \$9.98M FLOOD MITIGATION AND WATER PROJECT
- RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED
  ABOUT WATER ISSUES (NELSAP
  MENTION)

### Forecasting the Nile: One Man's Argument on Why Science Matters

Prof. Yilma Seleshi, the coordinator for ENTRO's flood and drought risk mitigation programme, spoke to Nile News about the knowledge, tools and systems NBI built for the Nile Basin under the World Bank-funded Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project. He also talked about the best thing he gained from NBI, and what NBI must do to survive.

### Q: TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT YOU DO.

A: My name is Yilma Seleshi, and I am a Professor of Water Resources Engineering at Addis Ababa University. Since 2022, I have also been working with NBI as the Regional Project Coordinator for Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation. I develop early warning systems for floods and droughts - models that can help save lives and protect property.

The flood early warning system covers Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan, while the drought early warning system (DEWS) serves all 11 Nile Basin countries. During the rainy season from July to September in the Eastern Nile — we issue daily flood forecasts. In 44 locations, our alerts help local authorities and communities prepare for potential disasters.

### Q: WHY SHOULD PEOPLE CARE ABOUT YOUR WORK?

A: Human beings by nature cannot forecast more than a day of rainfall, but technology allows us to know - to some extent - whether it will rain heavily or not in two or three days. So, we use that information to estimate the probability of a flood on a day-to-day basis. That information is critical for people living in flood-prone areas. Indeed, the local populations and the Governments rely on our forecasts. If used well, NBI's forecasts can save lives.



Prof. Yilma, Coordinator of ENTRO's flood and drought risk mitigation programme (right), with NCCR task team lead, Dr K.C. Shyam, in Kigali, Rwanda

### Q: WHAT IMPACT HAS YOUR WORK HAD SO FAR?

A: Measuring impact is not easy, but we know our forecasts are eagerly awaited during the rainy season. Without forecasts, floods can cause severe losses to life and property. With them, local people and authorities are better prepared, and the consequences are far less devastating.

### Q: CAN YOU SHARE AN EXAMPLE OF **TANGIBLE IMPACT?**

A: Certainly. Two years ago, in the Lake Tana area, a local WhatsApp group used our forecasts. When heavy rains came, they were not caught off guard - they had already moved to higher ground. Another example is from Khartoum this year. Our model accurately predicted when the river would rise above its banks, giving residents time to act. This kind of information is vital for major towns along the Nile, such as Khartoum, Wad Medani, Malakal, and Tekeze.

### **Q: IS CLIMATE CHANGE REAL? OR IS IT EXAGGERATED?**

A: The issue is sometimes politicized, but the changes are real. For example, in the

past five to six years, the Blue Nile has experienced unusually long wet seasons. Also, rainfall in Ethiopia now tends to cover smaller areas than before. These are clear signs of shifting climatic patterns.

### Q: WHAT IS THE VALUE OF NBI'S SUPPORT THROUGH EXPERTISE LIKE YOURS?

A: The drought model is still being refined, but as both systems become more accurate, their combined value could easily amount to US\$1-2 million annually. The benefits are even greater during severe droughts. Drought early warning is particularly valuable for pastoral communities, where people are required to preserve feed and water for their animals.

### **Q: WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR WORK AS** THE NCCR PROJECT CONCLUDES?

A: We have developed comprehensive flood and drought early warning systems, river flow forecasting tools, and a flash flood model - all for the entire Nile Basin. These systems are designed to save lives, property, and infrastructure. However, they must be sustained and regularly updated, and

people need ongoing training. The riparian countries ought to take responsibility for maintaining these systems. It is not a large cost, and the value is immense.

### Q: WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL PLANS AFTER NCCR?

A: I will return to Addis Ababa University.

### Q: WHAT WILL YOU LEAVE BEHIND AT NBI?

A: Twenty well-trained young engineers, flood forecasters, many of whom began as young professionals. I will continue supporting them and collaborating on the models we developed.

### Q: WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM YOUR TIME WITH NBI?

A: Networking. Meeting with talented and experienced practitioners, including the World Bank experts and authorities of the water affairs ministries in the Nile Basin. In addition, understanding the cultures of different riparian countries where I have travelled, for example in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

### Q: WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU **FACE ALONG THE WAY?**

A: Honestly, not many. My time at ENTRO was well-aligned with my responsibilities and compensation. Of course, bureaucracy and differing management styles can be challenging, but that is true everywhere.

### Q: WHAT MORE DO YOU FEEL NBI **NEEDS TO DO?**

A: Member countries must fully own NBI and the Nile River Basin Commission. That way they can benefit from the knowledge that has been built.

### Q2 Calendar (1 October-31 December 2025)

NCCR: PREPARATION OF (BORROWER'S) IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION AND **RESULTS REPORT** 

#### WATER SECURITY

#### **Information Support Systems**

■ Webinar to announce winners of Nile Basin Data Analytica Services (DAS) Hackathon

#### Water Quality Monitoring

- Official handovers of monitoring sensors and other equipment to Burundi, Rwanda and Kenya, along with bench-testing, upgrading laboratories, training of task teams in World Bank environmental and social safeguards
- E-learning courses in water quality monitoring available https://elearn.nilebasin.org/
- Finalise video documentary for awareness raising in the Nile Basin
- Regional training for lab technicians, in Uganda
- Completion of Environmental and Social Audit for the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project

### Conjunctive Use of Ground and Surface Water

- Handover of MAR sites in Rwanda and Kenya and Commissioning of pilots in Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda
- MAR monitoring visits in Bulambuli and Ntungamo in Uganda
- Groundwater Regional Project Team Lead participation in Global Environmental Forum (GEF) session in Vienna, Austria for UN Water Summit preparations
- Groundwater Regional Project Team Lead participation in GEF platform in groundwater and conjunctive use conference, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Groundwater Regional Project Team Lead participation in UNESCO workshop for GEF projects in conjunctive use in Abuja, Nigeria
- Steering Committee meeting with UNDP and GEF

### **CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**

- White Nile River flow forecast capacity building for water practitioners in South
- Final workshop to review Nile Basin River Flood Forecast Model with nine Member States and Lake Victoria Basin Commission

### **Transboundary Water Governance**

- Last World Bank Internal Support Mission for NCCR, in Kigali, Rwanda
- Nile COM Special Committee Meeting on Cooperative Framework Agreement
- Resource mobilization for 8th Nile Basin Development Forum
- NBI participation at International Water Management Institute (IWMI) international conference on digital twinning, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- NBI presentation at IHE international conference on water, peace and security
- Secretariat to host last batch of young professionals under the NCCR project (from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda)
- Engagement of Desk Officers and Communication Officers on Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
- Secretariat to conduct three-centre staff training on Stakeholder Engagement and a social media awareness session
- Publish premier regional journalists' sourcebook: Reporting the Nile Basin
- Completion of Human Resource Functional Analysis

### SOCIAL MEDIA (X AND LINKEDIN, HIGHEST IMPRESSIONS)





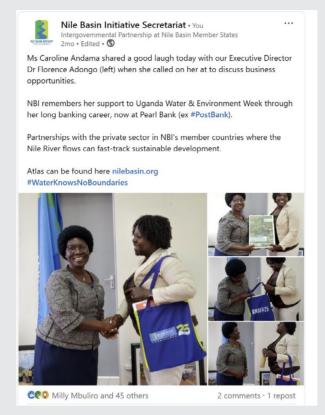
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The 67th main TAC meeting just opened in Kampala today with all 10 founding countries of the Nile Basin Initiative participating

Main event on agenda today: TAC will break up in sub-committees to finalise recommendations they'll take to Nile Council of Ministers.









### 19TH NILE DAY REGIONAL COMMEMORATION SONG

### We are the Nile

#### Verse 1

Flowing like a story, ancient and wide, The Nile River calls, it's our source of pride. From the mountains so high, to the deserts so far, It connects us all, like a shining star.

### Chorus

We are the Nile, flowing strong and free, Together we rise, like the river to the sea. From Ethiopia's heart and Victoria's shore, The Nile is our gift, let its blessings pour.

#### Verse 2

Blue Nile waters, from Lake Tana's side, White Nile waters, from Lake Victoria's side, Journey to the world, a powerful guide. Through our fields and dreams, the river runs, A promise of life for daughters and sons.

#### Chorus

#### Bridge

Let's keep it clean, let's keep it bright, The Nile belongs to all, our future's light. With hands united, let's care and share, For the mighty Nile, it's our love we declare.

Chorus

Outro.

The Nile is our story, the Nile is our Song Let's unite for common prosperity, forever long On Nile Day we stand, with pride and cheer, one vision, for one people, from one River, Let us sing together, for Nile River so dear.

Composed by the National Organizing Committee of Ethiopia

