



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Project Title: Enhancing conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources in selected trans-boundary aquifers: case study for selected shared groundwater bodies in the Nile basin.

Preparation of Project Phase Two Concept Note

Consultancy Title: Consultancy Services to Support the Development of **Project Phase Two Concept Note** on surface- groundwater resources conjunctive use for Selected Transboundary Aquifers in the Nile Basin

- **Duration of the Contract:** from 15th December 2025 to 30th June 2026
- **Level of effort** 20 man-working days.

Introduction:

In 2020, the Nile Basin Initiative has received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP to implement the project titled “**Enhancing conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources in selected transboundary aquifers: Case study for selected shared groundwater bodies in the Nile Basin**”. The project aim was to foster the more effective utilization and protection of selected shared aquifers in the selected sub-basin in the Eastern Nile and the Nile Equatorial Lakes region through further improving the understanding of available groundwater resources and demonstrating ‘**conjunctive management that optimizes the joint use of surface and groundwater**’. After the construction and operation of the managed aquifer recharge facilities (MAR), NBI discussed with GEF, UNDP RTA and other development partners on the need for scaling up the knowledge and experience generated from the project and the urgency to develop phase 2 of the project, to be implemented on other shared aquifers in the Nile basin region. Development partners encouraged NBI to recruit a consultant to develop a concept note for project phase 2, in consultation with Lake Victoria Basin Commission and Kagera River Authority (they have also shared concept notes on conjunctive management in the Nile basin region with UNDP).

Therefore, NBI intends to employ the services of **One Individual Consultant** to support the development of project phase two concept notes on conjunctive use (surface- groundwater resources) for Selected Transboundary Aquifers in the Nile Basin. The assignment described in these ToR is funded through NBI member country contributions, Global Environment Facility

GEF through United Nations Development Program UNDP. This document presents the Terms of Reference for the Assignment.

The Consultants shall be selected competitively based on Nile-SEC's procurement procedures.

Consultancy/Assignment Objectives:

The groundwater availability maps developed by the Groundwater GEF/UNDP project, reports, information and results have underscored the strategic importance of the transboundary aquifers and have highlighted the urgent need for coordinated management across borders. Through joint data collection, stakeholder engagement, and institutional collaboration, the groundwater GEF/UNDP project phase one, findings have built a foundation for harmonized knowledge, inclusive governance, and sustainable resource use. The project phase two will aim at scaling up the experience of 'conjunctive management' in the Nile basin region that optimizes the joint use of surface and groundwater in the transboundary aquifers. The prepared concept note will consider the project concept notes shared by Lake Victoria River basin commission and Kagera River Authority and will address the interests of the three entities, through consultation and active engagements with the senior management at NBI, Lake Victoria and Kagera river authority.

- **Consultancy/Assignment Scope:**

The scope of this assignment will include but will not be limited to the following: -

- **Reviewing, engaging & drafting:**

The consultant will engage with NBI, Lake Victoria basin and Kagera River basin authority senior management (virtually) to discuss, review the shared project concept notes and develop one concept note that aligns and addresses the development objectives of the three entities in one joint concept note for conjunctive use with clear objectives, timelines and deliverables.

- **Editing:**

1. The developed project concept note shall be ready for discussion and validation in February 2026.
2. The approved project concept note will be submitted to UNDP and GEF, among other development partners in May 2026.
3. The consultant will respond to the comments received and address them thoroughly in consultation with the three entities mentioned earlier and development partners.

Assignment outputs (key deliverables)

The consultant shall provide the following deliverables:

1. Draft Phase Two Project Concept Note on Conjunctive Use for Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Nile Basin, submitted electronically.
2. Comments Received Response Matrix.
3. Final Phase Two Project Concept Note on Conjunctive Use for Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Nile Basin, submitted electronically.

Table 1: Deliverables & Time schedule

The deliveries of the national consultant shall be as follows.

Deliverable	Approx. due date from commencement, in weeks	Payment Schedule
1. Draft Phase Two Project Concept Note on Conjunctive Use for Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Nile Basin, submitted electronically.	1 st February 2026	40%
2. Comments Received Response Matrix.	10 th June2026	30%
3. Final Phase Two Project Concept Note on Conjunctive Use for Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Nile Basin, submitted electronically.	20 th June 2026	30%

Level of Effort

This assignment is expected to take a total of 20 man-working days distributed over the contract period from 15th December 2025 to 30th June 2026. The consultant shall remain engaged within the contract period to respond to comments that may arise from the development partners after the submission of the project concept note.

The Client shall pay the consultant professional fees (to be determined based on agreed daily professional fee rate) against deliverables accepted by the client.

The proposed payment schedule is given in Table 1.

Reporting:

The consultant shall report to the Groundwater Project Manager/ Technical Lead with oversight by Senior Water Resources Management Specialist.

The consultant shall work from his/her home venue and partly from the NBI secretariat.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

For monitoring the progress of the production of the edited reports, the consultant shall report the progress of deliverables and the implementation of the different activities of the assignment to the project team lead and will be supervised by the Basin wide program manager & DED.

Minimum qualifications and experience

The expert should meet the following academic qualifications and experience as a minimum:

- a) MSc degree or higher in hydrogeology, groundwater management, water management with special focus on groundwater resources or any other closely related field.
- b) Minimum 15 years of demonstrable experience in project concept notes writing, at least two in the last five years.
- c) Demonstrated experience in conjunctive use/management projects for surface and groundwater projects, experience in the Nile basin or other river basins.
- d) Excellent command of publishing English language.
- e) Advanced knowledge and skills of MS Office and other applications.

Interested applicants should submit the following documents:

- An updated current CV, contact details of at least three referees and a cover letter setting out how the applicant meets the selection criteria, and a proposed approach and methodology)
- Letter of application confirming availability and Interest in the assignment
- Applications should be sent to: wrnconsult@nilebasin.org by 10th December 2025