

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

Nile Basin Initiative hosts Zambezi Watercourse Commission exchange visit on climate resilience and transboundary water cooperation

ENTEBBE, Uganda, 13 March 2026 – Some 24 officials from the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) and partner institutions are in Uganda this week for a knowledge exchange with the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), focused on climate resilience and the cooperative management of shared water resources.

“The Nile Basin is the world’s longest river and supports hundreds of millions of people whose livelihoods depend on increasingly climate-stressed water systems,” said Dr. Eng. Nestor Niyonzima the Executive Director for NBI. “Working together and learning from each other strengthens the ability of regional institutions to support countries in building climate resilience, improving water governance and planning investments that benefit communities across shared water bodies.”

With a drainage area of about 3.2 million square metres, which is nearly 10 percent of the landmass of the African continent, the river spans 11 African countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

NBI is an intergovernmental partnership of all Nile Basin countries, except for Eritrea. The institution has established itself as a leading regional institution with experience in transboundary water resources.

The exchange builds on a similar mission NBI conducted to the Zambezi River Basin in 2024. At that time, an NBI delegation met basin institutions and visited the Kariba Dam, one of Africa’s largest hydropower facilities. These reciprocal visits reflect growing peer-to-peer collaboration among Africa’s river basin organisations.

The ZAMCOM delegation, led by Ms. Elice Engebort, Chair of the ZAMCOM Technical Committee (ZAMTEC), includes officials from the ZAMCOM Secretariat and ZAMTEC, as well as representatives from ZAMCOM, Hidroeléctrica de Cahora Bassa (HBC) and Zambezi River Authority (ZRA).

The Zambezi Basin brings together Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and hosts Victoria Falls, one of the world’s largest waterfalls and a symbol of the basin’s shared natural heritage. Both the Nile and Zambezi river basins support millions of people, many in rural communities, whose livelihoods depend on climate-sensitive water, land and energy systems.

“The Zambezi River Basin, like the Nile, faces increasing climate variability that affects water availability, ecosystems, energy production and livelihoods across the basin,” said Executive Secretary, Mr. Felix Ngamlagosi. “Learning from NBI’s experience in basin-wide planning, information systems and regional programmes will help strengthen our collective response to these challenges.”

During the visit, participants have been exchanging experiences with NBI specialists on regional programme management, basin-wide hydrological data collection, joint investment



planning and knowledge platforms such as the Nile Basin Decision Support System and the Integrated Knowledge Portal, which support evidence-based water management.

The mission has visited a regional hydrological monitoring station in Jinja, the Ugandan city where the Nile River begins its journey northwards from Lake Victoria. The station forms part of NBI's basin-wide hydrological monitoring system, which supports improved forecasting, water management, and climate resilience across the Nile Basin.

The team also visited a modern landing site on Lake George, and a zonal office and water quality monitoring laboratory at the Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment, established through NBI under the Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management Project (LEAF II) project between Uganda and DR Congo. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Global Environment Facility funded the project.

The exchange visit forms part of the Programme for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Zambezi River Basin (PIDACC Zambezi) project, financially supported by the AfDB. Apart from AfDB, the project was developed with technical support from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility of the United Kingdom.

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