

APRIL – JUNE 2026

NileNews

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NILE BASIN INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

We are open for 8th Nile Basin Development Forum!

Scan here. Submit your Abstract. Or Media Awards Entry. Participate!
nbdn.nilebasin.org



CONTENTS

11 NBI completes MAR Groundwater pilots

12 Uganda, South Sudan sign data-sharing MoU

19 23 years later, a letter to NBI

Digital Twin for the Nile Basin

Countries consult on innovation for decision support

Member States of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) are conducting consultations within their countries on a proposed Digital Twin for the Nile Basin, an innovation that could strengthen how water data, knowledge and modelling tools are used to support decision-making across the Basin.

A digital twin is a virtual representation of the Nile Basin that brings together data and modelling to show how the basin is changing, this helping decision-makers plan for the future.

The twin responds to a critical need for managing the Nile Basin, a complex transboundary river system where effective planning depends on reliable, accessible and integrated information.

Continues on Page 5



NBI and partners during the Twin scoping mission in May 2026 in Kampala



New at Nile COM

The Executive Director at NBI extended warm congratulations to Hon. Kahinda Otafiire on his appointment by H.E. President Yoweri Museveni as Uganda's Minister for Water and Environment in May 2026.

In a letter dated 21 July, 2026, Dr.-Eng. Nestor Niyonzima

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present the Quarter 4 edition of Nile News for the 2025/2026 financial year, covering the period April to June 2026.

This quarter, the Nile Basin Initiative continued to demonstrate the power of regional cooperation in turning dialogue into action. A key milestone was the two-day engagement of the Special Committee of the Nile Council of Ministers on the Nile River Basin Investment Programme (NR-BIP). During the engagement, Ministers provided strategic direction towards advancing a shared regional investment agenda for the Basin.

This edition highlights important advances in innovation, knowledge and cooperation. The proposed Nile Basin Digital Twin and the completion of two Managed Aquifer Recharge pilots are strengthening the evidence base for the Strategic Water Resources Analysis (SWRA). They also demonstrate practical pathways for improved water resources planning and climate resilience.

The Regional Expert Working Group on Hydrology provided another important platform for cooperation. Nine Member States and partners reviewed progress under Phase VI of the Hydromet Programme,



launched the eighth consecutive seasonal regional hydrological monitoring outlook and advisory, and identified actions to strengthen the sustainability and impact of regional hydrological information systems.

We renewed our partnership with the Nile Basin Discourse and celebrated continued progress across the Secretariat, ENTRO and NELSAP.

Looking ahead, we will deepen consultations with Member States on the Digital Twin, design a community-based flood early warning system, advance the NR-BIP and intensify preparations for the 8th Nile Basin Development Forum. We will continue engaging Member States to strengthen ownership through country contributions.

We will also continue engaging Member States to strengthen

ownership through improved country contributions

All achievements of the Nile Basin Initiative are anchored in the leadership, guidance and stewardship of its governance structures. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Nile Council of Ministers for its strategic leadership and to the Nile Technical Advisory Committee for its continued technical guidance and oversight. Their support remains central to translating regional priorities into practical action and strengthening cooperation across the Nile Basin.

I also appreciate the continued collaboration of our development partners and the dedication of NBI staff across the NBI Secretariat here in Entebbe, ENTRO in Ethiopia and NELSAP in Rwanda in advancing our shared vision for the Basin.

Dr.-Eng. Nestor Niyonzima

Uganda brings much experience

From Page 1

welcomed Hon. Otafiire to the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM), NBI's highest governing body, and reaffirmed NBI's commitment to working closely with the Ministry's leadership to advance Nile cooperation.

"We are confident that your leadership and commitment will

make a valuable contribution to advancing regional cooperation and the sustainable management Nile Basin water resources," Dr Niyonzima wrote .

Hon. Otafiire brings extensive public service experience to the role. A retired military officer, he previously served as Uganda's Minister of Lands, Water and Environment from 2003 to 2006.



Maj. Gen. Kahinda Otafiire

NBI's unique role and how it advanced NR-BIP

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) continues to demonstrate its unique role as the region's platform for cooperation, bringing Member States together through sustained dialogue to address complex transboundary water challenges and shape a shared investment agenda for the Nile Basin.

This spirit of cooperation and inclusive dialogue was on display in Kampala, Uganda 9-11 June, 2026, where representatives of Nile Basin countries met to advance the Nile River Basin Investment Programme (NR-BIP). The NR-BIP is a flagship initiative established following a 2017 directive by the Nile Basin Heads of State to promote regionally led investments that drive climate-resilient socio-economic development while reversing



environmental degradation.

The meeting, convened by a Special Committee of the Nile Council of Ministers comprising Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda through the NBI Secretariat, focused on advancing discussions around a portfolio of 24 first-intake projects in the Eastern Nile.



Continues on Page 4
Nile News 3



Cooperation hands-on: Nile Council of Ministers members Hon. Calinie Mbarushimana (Chairperson, right) and Hon. Eng. Eric M. Mugaa (Kenya, below, centre) steered sessions as the Special Committee engaged Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan. Tanzania participated; as did development partner GIZ



From Page 3

Progress on the portfolio will be an important milestone towards resource mobilisation, enabling engagement with development partners and supporting the eventual implementation of priority investments across the Basin.

The NR-BIP process has been guided by extensive consultations involving Member States, regional organisations and technical institutions. Together, stakeholders developed objective criteria for identifying, screening and prioritising investments of regional significance. The process culminated in 2025 with the completion of four key programme documents, including the Basin Investment Programme document, the Cooperative Investments to Advance the Nile Development Agenda, the

the NR-BIP Portfolio Document and the NR-BIP Integrated Assessment Results.

Following concerns raised by Egypt and Sudan regarding aspects of the Eastern Nile portfolio, the Nile Council of Ministers, at its 33rd meeting in December 2025, established a Special Committee comprising Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to facilitate further dialogue among the concerned Member States.

Meeting in Kampala in June 2026, the Special Committee provided an important platform for Egypt and Sudan to present their concerns, Ethiopia to respond to them, and all parties to review the technical issues through an open, transparent and structured process.

Following two and a half days of discussions, the Special Committee signed agreed minutes together with Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and the NBI Secretariat. The minutes, alongside additional submissions from the concerned countries, will inform a report to the Nile Council of Ministers for consideration.

Chairperson of the Nile Council of Ministers and Burundi's Minister for Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, H.E. Calinie Mbarushimana, said the Special Committee reflected Member States' collective ownership of the process and strengthened cooperation, trust and transparency across the Basin.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eng. Eric Murithi Mugaa remarked,

"The credibility of our work will

« The credibility of our work will depend on our ability to ensure that all views are heard and given due consideration. » **Kenya Nile COM member and Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eng. Eric Murithi Mugaa**

Special Committee listened to all 3 countries

From Page 4

depend on our ability to ensure that all views are heard and given due consideration. In doing so, we will not only address the specific matters before us but also contribute to strengthening confidence in the regional mechanisms established by our Member States and reinforcing the spirit of Nile Basin cooperation.”

He reaffirmed Kenya’s commitment to the success of Nile Basin cooperation and to the principles upon which NBI was founded.

NBI Executive Director Dr Eng. Nestor Niyonzima described the Basin Investment Programme as more than a portfolio of projects. He noted

among regional organisations and engage development partners more strategically.

Dr Niyonzima said the programme creates a framework for a shared development agenda that can help mobilise resources for regionally led investments, strengthen resilience and expand opportunities across the Nile Basin.



The event ended with the Special Committee and Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan signing the minutes

Twin to enhance visualization, application

From Page 1

The concept builds on NBI’s existing investments in regional knowledge and information systems, including the Strategic Water Resources Assessment (SWRA) and the Regional Hydrological Monitoring System. These systems generate important information on water resources, floods, droughts and other basin dynamics. The Digital Twin would provide an opportunity to

enhance the visualization, integration and application of this knowledge to support evidence-based planning and cooperation.

Following an initial technical scoping process with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), GIZ and other partners in May 2026, NBI went on to engage countries through its Technical Advisory Committee to gather perspectives and build a

shared understanding of the proposed initiative. This will ensure that the Digital Twin responds to both national and regional priorities of Nile Basin countries.

If endorsed by the Nile Council of Ministers, the initiative would mark an important step towards digital innovation to strengthen cooperative knowledge-sharing.

From Rio to Runyironza, via Geneva

AT TWO GLOBAL DIALOGUES, NBI SHARES ITS EXPERIENCE ON DATA, INNOVATION COOPERATION

GENEVA —The Executive Director joined global water experts and policymakers in Geneva, Switzerland, from 5–7 May 2026, contributing to discussions on how data, innovation and institutional cooperation can strengthen the management of shared water resources.

The engagements formed part of preparations for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, scheduled for December 2026, particularly discussions on water for cooperation. They brought together governments, basin organisations and partners to explore how monitoring, assessment, data-sharing and emerging technologies can advance transboundary water management.

Positioning data and innovation as drivers of better decisions

At the Global Workshop on New Technologies and Innovations for Monitoring, Assessment and Data-sharing in Transboundary Basins (5–6 May), the Executive Director participated as a panelist in a session on the enabling environment for effective data-sharing and technology uptake.



NBI highlighted its monitoring tools and their benefits to its Member States

Drawing on NBI's experience, Dr Niyonzima highlighted that the challenge is no longer only generating more data, but ensuring that information is transformed into decisions that support planning, investments and operations across countries.

He emphasised that technology alone cannot deliver impact. Sustainable results depend on strong institutions, clear mandates, interoperable systems, long-term financing, technical capacity and trust among countries. He shared NBI's experience in developing regional systems that support joint understanding and decision-making. These include basin-wide hydrological monitoring, Earth Observation applications, seasonal hydrological outlooks, the Integrated Knowledge Portal, Nile Basin Decision Support System and Nile Basin Data Analytical Services.

« The Executive Director emphasized that technology alone cannot deliver impact. »

and the Nile Basin Decision Support System.

The Executive Director also highlighted NBI's emerging good practices on the conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater.

Contributing Nile Basin perspectives to global guidance on water cooperation

Building on discussions from the global workshop, Dr Niyonzima participated on 7 May in the twenty-first meeting of the UNECE Water Convention's Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment. The meeting focused on translating global discussions into practical actions, including preparations for the 2026 UN Water Conference, progress on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation, and development of the Policy Guidance Note on Conjunctive Water Management in Transboundary Basins.

Continues on Page 7

Geneva Dialogues in Preparation for UN Water Conference

From Page 6

During discussions on the guidance note, NBI emphasised that conjunctive management should move beyond a technical concept and provide practical pathways for implementation. The Executive Director highlighted the importance of sustained monitoring, shared data systems, institutional coordination and approaches that countries can apply consistently over time.

Through these engagements, NBI strengthened its visibility as a regional platform translating science, data and cooperation into practical solutions for shared water challenges. By contributing Nile Basin experiences to global discussions, NBI continues to demonstrate the value of basin-wide approaches in building trust, strengthening resilience and advancing sustainable water management.

UNTV <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1j/k1jy7gcjay>

INBO SUMMIT: NBI REINFORCES ITS ROLE, CHAMPIONS DATA-DRIVEN COOPERATION



The Executive Director, Dr. Niyonzima, speaks at the INBO events

RIO DE JANEIRO - NBI reinforced its role as a global leader in transboundary water cooperation at the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) World General Assembly in Brazil in June 2026, where Executive Director joined a high-level panel on "From Data to Action: Modernising Water Resources Monitoring for Resilient Basin Management."

Drawing on NBI's practical experience, he demonstrated how shared data is helping Nile Basin countries make better decisions, strengthen climate resilience and translate cooperation into tangible development outcomes.

Dr Niyonzima showcased NBI's growing portfolio of basin-wide data and decision-support systems. These include hydrometeorological monitoring, seasonal hydrological outlooks, flood and drought early warning systems, water quality monitoring and decision-support tools. The tools

ED's 4 key messages

At the heart of his intervention were four key messages. First, shared data leads to better decisions and builds trust among countries sharing the Nile. Second, turning data into action is not only a technical challenge—it requires strong institutions, political commitment and sustained cooperation. Third, basin-wide information systems are contributing to resilience, stability and peace by helping countries jointly prepare for floods, droughts and other climate risks. Finally, lasting impact depends not only on technology, but also on investing in people, institutions and sustainable financing to ensure knowledge continues to inform decisions.

By sharing the Nile Basin's experience with a global audience, NBI strengthened its profile as a trusted regional knowledge and cooperation platform while advancing evidence-based dialogue on water management.

The engagement supports NBI's strategic

ON SIDELINES AT INBO SUMMIT, ED HOLDS IMPORTANT MEETING



RIO DE JANAÍRO —The Executive Director met with Dr Eric Tardieu, Secretary General of INBO, to explore opportunities for a strategic partnership.

Their discussions focused on collaboration in basin monitoring, digital transformation and data-driven water management.

FOR ENERGY, CLIMATE & JOBS, ED JOINS NELSAP IN RUVYIRONZA

RUVYIRONZA, Burundi —The Executive Director joined NELSAP-CU staff led by the Regional Coordinator, Dr. Isaac Alukwe and Government officials on a field visit to the Ruvyironza River in Burundi between 19-21 May 2026. The purpose of the mission was to review progress and prepare for the launch of the PRODERER Multi-purpose Water Resources Development Project.

The team engaged with Government counterparts, including Dr Lt. Col. Jean Albert Manigomba, Director General of REGIDESO; Permanent Secretaries for Energy and Water, Dr Martin Ndayizeye and Mr Emmanuel Maniraguha; and Ms Shella Inamhoro, Director in the Ministry of Finance.

Dr Niyonzima proposed positioning NBI as a flagship example of integrated basin monitoring and transboundary cooperation, while identifying opportunities to jointly mobilise resources, advance digital solutions and collaborate on the **8th Nile Basin Development Forum**.

The meeting reinforced a shared commitment to peer learning, stronger basin governance and practical cooperation. This raised NBI's international profile and expanding opportunities for partnerships that support sustainable management of the Nile Basin.



Reflecting on the visit, Dr Niyonzima emphasised that the key challenge facing many regional investments today is no longer technical

preparation, but the timely completion of national actions required to move projects forward.

Continues on Page 9

ONE DAY, TWO ACTS OF COMMITMENT: TANZANIA



The ED was met with hospitality and gifts – made in Tanzania

As part of his ongoing outreach to ambassadors and high commissioners of Nile Basin countries accredited to Uganda, to update them on Nile cooperation, the Executive Director paid a courtesy visit to Tanzania's High Commissioner to Uganda, H.E. Major General Paul Kisesa Simuli on 22 April 2026. He was accompanied by Deputy Executive Director and Head of Basinwide Programme Dr. Abraha Aduga.

The engagement gained added significance when, earlier in the day, the United Republic of Tanzania paid its annual country contribution to NBI, a timely demonstration of ownership and commitment to Nile cooperation.

The High Commissioner reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to Nile cooperation. The discussions highlighted the enduring partnership between Tanzania and NBI, including the benefits that regional cooperation has delivered since the institution was established in 1999.



Tangible benefits: Dr. Niyonzima reflected on some of the tangible benefits Tanzania has gained through Nile cooperation. They include the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project, which is helping stabilise the national electricity grid and other regional power transmission investments, including the Mbeya-Kabwe, Isinya–Singida and Iringa-Mbeya power transmission lines. Tanzania also benefits from multipurpose projects in the Mara and Kagera sub-basins; upgraded systems for monitoring water quantity, water quality and groundwater; and the training of more than 1,000 water professionals.

Ruvyironza and beyond: A call to Members States

From page 8

The Executive Director called for urgent progress on key Government actions, including the nomination of Project Steering Committee members, identification of technical peer reviewers and confirmation of national coordination arrangements.

“Commitment letters, signed agreements, counterpart financing, technical clearances and national coordination arrangements are often the difference between a project that remains on paper and one that changes lives,” Dr Niyonzima noted.

The engagement reinforced NBI's commitment to supporting Member States in translating regional investments into tangible benefits for communities, while highlighting the importance of strong national ownership and coordinated action in delivering sustainable water security across the Nile Basin.



The Ruvyironza River



Same month, two High Commissioners



This happened on April 16 at NBI Secretariat, a few days before the Executive Director visited the Tanzanian High Commissioner. NBI used the visits to strengthen new and old partnerships



Double Delight as Tanzania Board Visits to Learn

A day after the Executive Director's visit to the Tanzanian High Commissioner in Kampala on April 22, 2026, a delegation from the National Water Fund of Tanzania visited the NBI Secretariat in Entebbe for a learning mission. The mission focused on resource mobilisation and

innovative financing for water investments across borders.

The delegation exchanged experiences with NBI on approaches to strengthening institutions, mobilising resources and advancing sustainable water development.

The Board's Chairperson Ms. Sarah Mtelele said, "We came to learn – so we can enhance our capacity to implement our projects, which include supplying rural populations. But we are also seeking a partnership. I already see a lot we can do with NBI," she said.

SWRA Comes to Life through MAR Pilots

The Nile Basin Initiative completed and handed over the first two of five Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) pilot sites, marking a major milestone in demonstrating the Nile Basin's capacity for conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater. The approach, recommended by NBI's Strategic Water Resources Analysis (SWRA), provides a pathway to strengthen climate resilience, manage drought and address growing water scarcity.

The two pilot sites, located in Uganda's Mt Elgon and Kagera transboundary aquifers, were handed over to the Government of Uganda on 22 and 30 June 2026, respectively. Three additional pilot sites are under implementation in Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda. Together, the five sites represent different hydrogeological settings, allowing NBI to generate diverse evidence and practical lessons on applying conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater across the Nile Basin.

Although implemented in four countries, the pilots are designed to generate evidence, operational experience and good practices that will benefit all nine Nile Basin countries that participated in the SWRA. The lessons will inform future investments and policies for expanding conjunctive water management across the basin.

NBI's MAR site handovers in two locations in Uganda, various components of the MAR and NBI installation of monitoring infrastructure in the Kagera sub-basin



Pioneering Groundwater Monitoring: Alongside the pilot infrastructure, NBI is strengthening regional groundwater monitoring by installing data loggers at each site. The data will feed into a basin-wide integrated monitoring system, improving understanding of interactions between surface water and groundwater and strengthening the evidence base for future Strategic Water Resources Analysis, investment planning and cooperative management of shared water resources.

During the latter weeks of June, Ecolog 1000 groundwater monitoring systems were installed at 20 monitoring stations across the Kagera Transboundary Aquifer in Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The systems were tested, configured and calibrated to collect and transmit groundwater level and quality data to national and regional data centres.

Phase II scale-up plans: The five MAR pilot sites will serve as demonstration platforms for generating lessons and good practices that can support wider application of conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater across the Nile Basin.

Building on the evidence from the pilots and the regional monitoring system, NBI plans to strengthen and expand the approach during Phase II.

Uganda and South Sudan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the flow management of the White Nile, establishing a practical framework for coordinated river management and preparedness for floods and droughts.

Facilitated by the Nile Basin Initiative, the MoU promotes the exchange of hydrological and meteorological information, coordination during floods and droughts, development of seasonal flow outlooks, stronger early warning systems and continued technical dialogue. The agreement is non-binding and fully respects the sovereignty of both countries.

The MoU was signed on 6 June 2026 by Eng. Thomas Jang for South Sudan and Eng. Sowd Sewagudde for Uganda. NBI Executive Director Dr Eng. Nestor Niyonzima witnessed the signing after a two-day meeting facilitated by NBI in Kampala.

Opening the meeting, the NBI Executive Director said the discussions offered an opportunity to turn regional technical cooperation into practical action between two neighbouring countries.

“The White Nile is not merely a river connecting our countries geographically. It is a shared hydrological system that supports livelihoods, food production, energy generation, transport, ecosystems and economic development,” Dr. Nestor Niyonzima said.

The Executive Director added that the MoU creates the framework needed to exchange

Signed, Stamped: Uganda and South Sudan arrive at MoU for the White Nile



Left to right: Eng. Jang, Eng. Sewagudde and Executive Director, Dr. Niyonzima

« The MoU and the Nile Hydropower Optimization and Flow Management Decision Support System will provide a stronger foundation for cooperation, preparedness and sustainable management of the White Nile. »

information and apply technical knowledge to safeguard the White Nile's role in supporting communities and sustainable development across the Basin.

A tool to support better flow management: The Nile Hydropower Optimization and Flow Management Decision Support System will support implementation of the MoU.

Developed by NBI in collaboration with Uganda, South Sudan and GIZ, the web-based platform provides technical advisory information for cooperative flow management.



Bringing in BIP: NBI Strengthens Modellers' Capacity for Climate-resilient investments

Nile Basin countries are strengthening their ability to plan sustainable and climate-resilient water investments through enhanced modelling capacity supported by the Nile Basin Initiative.

A five-day regional capacity-building workshop held in Kampala from 8–12 June 2026 brought together members of the Strategic Water Resources Analysis (SWRA) modelling technical working group from eight Nile Basin countries — Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda — alongside NBI experts.

Supported by GIZ, the training focused on applying the SWRA Toolbox to assess Nile River Basin Investment Programme (NR-BIP) projects and evaluate how investments perform under future climate scenarios.

Through practical exercises, experts strengthened their ability to use the upgraded TALSIM modelling platform, analyse water resources scenarios and apply climate-proofing approaches within their national institutions.

The training drew participants from NBI countries and partners from the Lake Victoria Basin Commission



Launched in 2015, SWRA provides a shared analytical foundation for Nile Basin countries to understand future water demands, assess development options and support cooperative management of shared water resources.

By strengthening national expertise and providing shared analytical tools, NBI is enabling Member States to make better-informed decisions, improve investment planning and build resilience to future water challenges.

At the close of the workshop, representatives from Nile-TAC and GIZ called on participants to take ownership of the knowledge and tools gained, and to champion their application within their respective institutions.

Five things countries benefited from the training

<https://nilebasin.org/content/five-things-nile-countries-benefited-training-new-water-modelling-system>

Charting the next Chapter for Hydrology

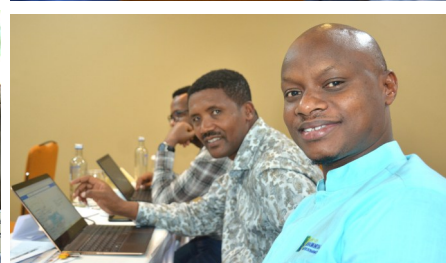
The 4th Technical Session and Annual Forum of the Regional Expert Working Group on Hydrology plotted the way forward for regional hydrological monitoring, with a focus on sustaining achievements, strengthening information products and ensuring greater impact for communities and institutions across the Basin.

Nile Basin Regional Expert Working Group (REWG) on Hydrology has concluded its 4th Technical Session and Annual Forum with a renewed focus on sustaining and scaling up shared hydrological information systems to strengthen transboundary cooperation.

Held from 1–5 June 2026 in Kampala, under the theme “Transitioning to a New Phase: Sustaining and Scaling Up Information Products for Transboundary Cooperation,” the forum brought together experts from Nile Basin countries, the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), and partners supporting regional hydrological monitoring.

Established by NBI, the REWG provides a platform for Member States to jointly advance hydrological monitoring, generate shared information products and strengthen the evidence base for water resources management. Through this cooperation, national hydrological services benefit from improved monitoring systems, technical support, shared expertise and regional information products that strengthen planning, forecasting and decision-making.

Continues on Page 15



Hydrologists applaud gains, aim for greater impact



Countries launched the 8th seasonal hydrological outlook for the Nile Basin

From Page 14

From monitoring to early action: The forum marked the conclusion of the sixth BMZ/GIZ-supported phase of the Nile Basin Regional Hydrological Monitoring System, which has delivered significant progress in strengthening regional hydrological services.

Key achievements include the operationalisation of the dual GSM-satellite telemetry monitoring system across eight Member States, with system handover to national services completed in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania in January 2025.

The programme also strengthened forecasting and preparedness in Member States through strategic partnerships with the World Meteorological Organization and IGAD-ICPAC, resulting in eight seasonal regional outlooks and flood advisories developed over eight consecutive rainy seasons since March–May 2024. These products support national disaster preparedness efforts and

water resources management, contributing to the global Early Warnings for All initiative, which the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres launched in 2022.

The programme also strengthened forecasting and preparedness in Member States through strategic partnerships with the World Meteorological Organization and IGAD-ICPAC, resulting in eight seasonal regional outlooks and flood advisories developed over eight consecutive rainy seasons since March–May 2024. These products support national disaster preparedness efforts and water resources management, contributing to the UN's global Early Warnings for All initiative, launched in 2022.

Other milestones include Uganda-South Sudan peer learning and information sharing on cascade dam operations, as well as technical support from the NBI Secretariat to rehabilitate and troubleshoot regional monitoring stations in Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, South Sudan and Uganda.



A major breakthrough was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Rusumo Power Company Ltd and the national hydrological services of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. The agreement established a transboundary data-sharing mechanism that enables the three national hydrological services to access and share information critical for planning and operations at the Rusumo hydro-power station.

Continues on Page 16
Nile News 15

Hydrology: A call to consolidate, own, sustain

From Page 14

In return, Rusumo Power Company Ltd is supporting the operation and maintenance of six selected regional hydrological stations that provide information critical for hydropower operations and planning.

Taking information further down the value chain

While recognising these achievements, participants emphasised the need to demonstrate how regional hydrological information translates into practical benefits for communities and institutions.

Dr Malte Grossmann, Head of GIZ's Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin Project (in photo), highlighted the importance of answering questions about the real-world value of the monitoring system.

"These include, for instance, what difference the flood advisories make on the ground and how they translate to reducing flood risk for people living in flood-prone areas," he said.

"This is the purpose of the new three-year phase. You have done great work in rehabilitating the hydrological monitoring system, and translating the observations and remote sensing into flood advisories. Now let us focus on how to get the information further down in the value chain."

Eng. Sowed Ssewagudde, Ugandan member of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee and Commissioner for Transboundary Water Governance at the



« You have done great work in rehabilitating the hydrological monitoring system, and translating the observations and remote sensing into flood advisories. Now let us focus on how to get information further down in the value chain. »

Dr Malte Grossmann, GIZ

Ministry of Water and Environment, called for stronger feedback mechanisms to ensure products respond to user needs.

"We need to ensure whether, in this consolidated system, our clients are satisfied with our products, and how we can use it to improve the process we have created," he said. He also stressed the importance of documenting processes to preserve institutional knowledge.

ED's call to consolidate, own and sustain

Closing the forum, NBI Executive Director Dr Eng. Nestor Niyonzima said the achievements of Phase 6 provide a strong foundation, while emphasising the importance of long-term ownership and sustainability.

"As we celebrate what we achieved under Phase 6, we must also be candid about what lies ahead. The conclusion of the current BMZ/GIZ-supported phase is not an ending—it is a call to consolidate, own, and sustain," he said.

The next three years: scaling impact

Building on the achievements of the current phase, participants agreed on seven priority areas to guide the next three years of the programme. These include ensuring the sustainability of the regional hydrological monitoring system; strengthening early warning systems and community engagement; improving data management, standards and information sharing; expanding the use of Earth Observation and forecasting technologies; enhancing technical capacity and excellence; addressing vandalism and protecting monitoring infrastructure; and strengthening partnerships and resource mobilisation.

The next phase (2026–2029) will focus on ensuring that countries benefit from improved flood forecasting, drought monitoring and water planning, hydropower operations and enhanced transboundary cooperation.



A station for DR Congo

From Page 16

On 3 May, the Nile Basin Initiative handed over a Regional Hydrological Monitoring System on Lake Albert at Kasenyi, Bunia, in Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of Congo. The station provides real-time data on lake and river water levels, as well as key water quality parameters, strengthening the country's capacity to monitor and manage its water resources.

The data will support hydropower operations, improve flood and drought preparedness, and inform agricultural planning. In Ituri Province, the system will also enhance navigation, marine operations and safety on Lake Albert.

New website:

Send us your feedback on the Nile Basin Regional Seasonal Outlook

<https://nilebasin.org/outlook>

'Milestone' as water quality sensors arrive in Sudan

After months of delays due to insecurity, Sudan has received water quality monitoring equipment from the Nile Basin Initiative, completing deliveries to all nine participating Member States under a regional water quality monitoring programme. The cargo included equipment to support NBI's ongoing groundwater monitoring programme.

In a social media post, an engineer in Sudan's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation described the delivery as "valuable support" for establishing an advanced water quality laboratory.

Full story

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nile-basin-initiative-secretariat-68439123b/recent-activity/all/>

Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat reposted this

Mohammed Ibrahim Abohassabo • 2nd
Water Resources Engineer | Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigati...
1w • [Follow](#)

..الحمد لله رب العالمين، وبفضله وتوفيقه
يسرني أن أعلن عن تلقي دعمًا قيمًا لإنشاء مختبر متطور لجودة المياه بالتعاون مع
في خطوة تمثل دفعة قوية لقدراتنا الوطنية في الرصد، (NBI) مبادرة حوض النيل
والاستجابة.

تكمّل قطاعي وأثر مؤسسي شامل
لن يقتصر دور هذا المختبر على جانب واحد، بل سيشكل ركيزة فنية أساسية لخدمة
إدارة المياه الجوفية والوديان، إلى جانب تقديم الدعم والخدمات التحليلية لكافة
قطاعات وإدارات الوزارة المختلفة، بما يضمن تكامل إدارة الموارد المائية
يسهم هذا المختبر بشكل مباشر في
تطوير الفحوصات: رفع كفاءة ودقة تحاليل جودة المياه بأساليب حديثة
موثوقة البيانات: إنتاج داتا دقيقة تدعم صنع القرار والتدخل في الوقت المناسب
الإنذار المبكر: التنبؤ الاستباقي بالمخاطر المائية المحتملة لحماية البيئة والسكان
على هذا الدعم المثمر الذي (NBI) كل الشكر والتقدير لشركائنا في مبادرة حوض النيل
يجسد روح التعاون الإقليمي المشترك

Benefits from support by World Bank/CIWA

The water quality monitoring equipment forms part of a regional programme funded by the World Bank through the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund. Beyond supplying online sensors, laboratory and IT equipment, and sediment samplers, the programme strengthened cooperation on water quality management across the Nile Basin. This happened through water quality modelling, multi-criteria analysis, pollution hotspot mapping, policy guidelines, peer learning, laboratory upgrades, training for lab technicians, a shared water quality database, e-learning courses, and the establishment of a Regional Expert Working Group on Water Quality.

Details here on NCCR Results <https://www.ciwaprogram.org/blog/a-regional-model-for-success-world-bank-praises-nbis-nile-cooperation-and-climate-resilience-project/>

NBI IN THE NEWS

More from the REWG meeting: Key Outcomes and Policy Implications

<https://nilebasin.org/content/basin-transition-key-outcomes-and-policy-implications-regional-forum-hydrologists>

Nile Basin countries advance flood early warning and anticipatory action through technical workshop in Kigali

<https://wmo.int/media/project-update/nile-basin-countries-advance-flood-early-warning-and-anticipatory-action-through-technical-workshop>

Nile Basin seasonal hydrological outlook and advisory

<https://theforefrontmagazine.com/nile-basin-seasonal-hydrological-outlook-and-advisory/>

NBI pilots demonstrate Solution to Water Scarcity in the Nile Basin

<https://nilebasin.org/content/nbi-pilots-demonstrate-solution-water-scarcity-nile-basin>

A Digital Twin for the Nile Basin

<https://www.iwmi.org/news/a-digital-twin-for-nile-basin-to-advance-water-management/>

<https://www.iwmi.org/topics/digital-twins/>

<https://news.fundsforngos.org/2026/06/11/nile-basin-digital-twin-project-aims-to-transform-water-management-across-africa/>

Water Diplomacy: Sudan's Gateway to Strengthening Regional and International Cooperation (1/4)

<https://sudanhorizon.com/water-diplomacy-sudans-gateway-to-strengthening-regional-and-international-cooperation-1-4/>

Egypt FM holds talks with African counterparts in Seoul to boost cooperation

<https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1234/569911/Egypt/Foreign-Affairs/Egypt-FM-holds-talks-with-African-counterparts-in-.aspx>

Egypt, Uganda reaffirm support for peaceful conflict resolution in Africa

<https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1234/567902/Egypt/Foreign-Affairs/Egypt,-Uganda-reaffirm-support-for-peaceful-confli.aspx>

Joint Communique on the Occasion of President El-Sisi's Visit to Uganda

<https://www.presidency.eg/en/%D9%82%D8%B3%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%B1%D8%A6%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A9/news1352026-2/>

Egypt and Germany discuss African issues

<https://sis.gov.eg/en/media-center/news/egypt-and-germany-discuss-african-issues/>

Sudan's Water Crisis Worsened by War, But There is Hope

<https://www.thecaireview.com/essays/sudans-water-crisis-worsened-by-war-but-there-is-hope/>

Egypt, Germany Deepen Coordination on African Affairs, Sudan Peace Efforts

<https://see.news/egypt-germany-deepen-coordination-on-african-affairs-sudan-peace-efforts>

Egypt's Quest for External Support on Abbay Waters Undermines African Unity and Sovereignty

https://www.ena.et/web/eng/w/eng_9058001

Deconstructing the new Ethiopian narrative

<https://english.ahram.org.eg/UI/Front/Inner.aspx?NewsContentID=571306>

23 years later, a letter from Tom

I joined NBI on 19 October 2003 as a consultant supporting the start-up of the Shared Vision Program, a capacity- and trust-building initiative designed to create an enabling environment for cooperative investment across the Nile Basin. At the time, the political commitment and technical support were so encouraging that many believed the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) would soon become a reality. On 1 November 2003, I was appointed as a Program Officer, a role I proudly served until June 2026, when my final annual contract came to an end.

Looking back, I am proud of how far the institution has come. NBI has generated a wealth of scientific and institutional knowledge on transboundary water resources management and has significantly strengthened awareness and capacity across the basin. The organization has also grown in institutional maturity, refining its mandate, strengthening its human resources, and expanding the tools needed to support regional cooperation.

Rapporteur for 23 years and what I learnt

I am grateful to have been part of it all, especially in Goal 6 under the current 10-year strategy. I had the opportunity to draft the minutes of Governance of NBI for 23 years and minutes for the Negotiating Committee of the Cooperative Framework Agreement on the Nile from September 2003 till the last meeting in 2010. This assignment trained me in balancing the diverse



perspectives of multiple stakeholders, including national representatives, sectoral experts, gender groups, and development partners, while ensuring that discussions remained focused on achieving the desired outcomes. Certain terminology was particularly sensitive due to its historical and political significance within the Nile context. Words such as “agreement” and “framework” were considered contentious. Careful wording and diplomacy were therefore essential to produce documents that were acceptable to all parties.

Matters for NBI’s attention

At NBI, I discovered the importance of sustaining and institutionalizing the gains achieved through projects. While sustainability plans are routinely developed, translating them into long-term practice has remained difficult. Too often, valuable expertise is lost as projects conclude. Strengthening institutional mechanisms to retain knowledge, build lasting capacity, and mainstream successful interventions for the future.

Also, while substantive knowledge has been generated, its uptake into national policies, planning, and practice still needs to be systematically assessed and quantified. There is a need to better demonstrate how regional knowledge products influence national decision-making and development outcomes. Equally important is fostering a stronger culture of data-driven decision-making, where political choices are informed by sound scientific evidence, robust analysis, and objective assessment. This will strengthen confidence in cooperative action and improve the effectiveness of investments across the basin.

Gratitude, Pride and Hope

I have had the privilege of working alongside exceptional professionals from within and beyond the Nile Basin. Together, we developed frameworks, built partnerships, and laid foundations that continue to strengthen the institution and advance Nile cooperation. I remain deeply grateful to my colleagues, management, Member States, development partners, and all stakeholders whose dedication and collaboration been so rewarding.

As I leave this remarkable institution, I do so with igratitude, pride, and hope. I am confident NBI will continue to evolve, deepen cooperation among the basin countries, and make an even greater contribution to sustainable development and shared prosperity.

Tom Waako (Mr)

Of Uganda's famous places and NBI's curious guests

During their free hours in Uganda — following events on Page 3 and Page 10 — the Nile-COM Chairperson and Minister for the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi, Ms Calinie Mbarushimana and the Tanzania Water Board team visited Uganda Martyrs Catholic Shrine, Namugongo. The Tanzania team also visited Kasubi Tombs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Both sites are located on the outskirts of Kampala City.

<https://www.ugandamartyrsshine.org.ug/>
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/>



Below and bottom left, Kasubi Tombs. Elsewhere, the Uganda Martyrs shrine

