JULY – SEPTEMBER 2026

NileNews

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NILE BASIN INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT

NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

CONTENTS

7 Why the Nile Basin needs a shared hydrological outlook

10 Uganda-S.Sudan power interconnection: NBI's unique role

16 Groundbreaking: A Sourcebook for Journalists

22 Forests, Wetlands and the President

26 One year into the job: An Interview with the Deputy ED



8th Nile Basin Development Forum: NBI invites you to scan & join the final lap. Out of Tanzania

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to share with you the Quarter 1 edition of *Nile News* for the 2026/2027 financial year, covering July to September 2026. The stories in this edition reflect both the challenges facing the Nile Basin and what we can achieve when countries work together.

Nearly half a billion people depend on the Nile Basin and its resources for water, food, energy and economic opportunity. As climate change, population growth and competing demands intensify pressure on these resources, cooperation among Basin countries is essential to securing their sustainable use while supporting shared prosperity.

Advances we made for Nile cooperation

Across our three centres — the NBI Secretariat in Entebbe, ENTRO in Ethiopia and NELSAP-CU in Rwanda — our teams work with Member States and partners to turn this cooperation into practical results. In the pages that follow, you will read about advances we made in hydrological forecasting, groundwater management, regional power connectivity and knowledge sharing. These achievements demonstrate how shared knowledge, gains we have made or leave promising solutions unrealised.

I commend NBI's Governance, led by the Nile Council of Ministers, for its strategic direction and commitment to this shared mission. I am equally grateful to our development partners GIZ, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Development Programme, whose support has helped make these results possible. The Nile Basin Discourse also remains a critical partner, bringing civil society to the centre of Nile cooperation.

Investment must be our pathway

Amidst the growing needs and mounting pressure on the Nile, we cannot afford to lose the gains we have made or leave promising solutions unrealised. I therefore invite our development partners, philanthropic organisations and friends of Nile cooperation to invest in the Basin's future. Investing in us means investing in the resilience, prosperity and well-being of the more than half a billion people who depend on the Nile — for generations.

Looking ahead, the 8th Nile Basin Development Forum, taking place in Tanzania from 25–27 November 2026, offers an important opportunity to bring science, policy and practice into a shared conversation about the Basin's future. I invite you here **nbdf.nilebasin.org**.

Together, we can build a future in which the Nile's shared resources create lasting opportunities for all.



Dr. Eng. Nestor Niyonzima

From the Basin and Beyond, 135 Abstracts Received

The 8th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF8) may have been formally launched in Dodoma, Tanzania, on 6 August 2026, but the strongest indication of its relevance has come from what happened next.

NBI received 136 abstracts from all 10 Nile Basin countries and contributors elsewhere in Africa and Europe.

The response points to something bigger than participation in an event. It reveals the depth of knowledge, experience and ideas available across the Basin — and the appetite to bring them into a shared conversation about its future.

From a call to a regional programme

By the end of September, NBI had used the response to shape a programme of 19 webinars covering 18 topics and featuring 90 presentations and applied case studies.

The programme would bring together a wide range of expertise — from earth observation, machine learning and digital twins to hydrological forecasting, reservoir operations, innovative financing, wetlands and nature-based solutions, water law, benefit sharing, basin institutions and science diplomacy.

Continues on Page 4



Permanent Secretary Eng. Mwajuma Waziri (centre), flanked by the NBI Executive Director and Tanzania officials, officiated at the launch

From Page 3

The webinars will make an initial conversation that will inform a high-level discourse among practitioners from the Nile Basin during the 8th Nile Basin Development Forum in Tanzania in November 25 – 27, 2026. In turn, discussions in Dar es Salaam will guide policy recommendations for a communique.

Putting People into the Picture

NBDF8 gives greater prominence to the people behind the data, infrastructure and policies. About one-third of the programme focuses on women and youth participation in water governance, household water and food security, community participation, disaster resilience, equity and inclusion.

The Forum's concept also recognises women and youth as important actors in the use and stewardship of the Basin's water and environmental resources. It highlights the role of academia and civil society in amplifying voices and strengthening inclusive policy dialogue.

This gives NBDF 8 an opportunity to make inclusion part of the substance of Nile cooperation — ensuring that conversations about water security, climate resilience and development also consider whose voices are heard and who benefits.

Message from the Tanzania Water Minister

The importance of cooperation was central to messages delivered at the Forum's launch in Dodoma. Speaking on behalf of Tanzania's Minister for Water, Hon. Jumaa Hamidu Aweso, Permanent Secretary Eng. Mwajuma Waziri described the NBDF as a place where countries converge in “ideas, knowledge, resources and ambitions.” She reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to cooperation and called for a future in which the Nile remains a source of cooperation, opportunity and prosperity for its people.

Speaking on behalf of the UNDP Resident Representative and NBI's development partners, Kingsley Bekoe highlighted the Forum's long-standing role in bringing policymakers, scientists, development practitioners, communities and development partners together around the opportunities and challenges of the Nile Basin.

The rationale for that cooperation extends beyond water management. When countries cooperate around shared natural resources, they create opportunities not only for sustainable development, but also for stability, trust and regional integration. This, Bekoe said, is why UNDP values its partnership with the Nile Basin Initiative.

He highlighted the growing pressures on the Basin, including climate change, population growth and rising demands for water, food and energy — and the need to invest in people, institutions, knowledge, technology and partnerships.

For NBI, this, ultimately, is what gives the Forum its value: creating a space where knowledge can meet policy, policy can connect with practice, and cooperation can open pathways to shared benefits.

«There is a lot happening across the Nile Basin, and enormous potential. Until you hear the perspectives coming from different parts of the Basin, you may not fully appreciate the breadth of the knowledge, innovation and experience that exists.» NBI Executive Director Dr Nestor Niyonzima

NILE MEDIA AWARDS 2026: SIX PARTERS, 100 ENTRIES

From Page 4

The call to contribute to NBDF 8 also resonated with media and parters: The 2026 Nile Media Awards (5th Edition) received 100 entries, bringing journalists from across the Basin into the wider conversation on Nile cooperation.

The event attracted the following partners: the East Africa Radio Service (EARS), Foundation for Photography and Visual Arts (FOTEA), *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Media in Cooperation and Transition (MiCT) and Water Journalists Africa/InfoNile.

Established in 2015, the Nile Media Awards recognise excellence in reporting on Nile Basin water issues. This year's edition has been designed to focus on what journalism can achieve for the Basin. The structure encourages solutions-focused reporting, cross-border collaboration, data-driven storytelling and community-centred narratives. It includes four permanent categories — Best Solutions Story, Best Transboundary Collaboration, Best Radio Story and Best Emerging Media — alongside three cross-cutting prizes: Emerging Storyteller, Best use of NBI Data and The Impact Prize: (A story that sparked action).

The awards are intended not only to recognize journalists, but to also strengthen reporting on water issues across the Basin. Winners and finalists will participate in a journalism capacity-building workshop alongside NBDF8, connecting the trainees with technical experts, senior editors and fellow journalists from across the region.

"The 100 entries show that journalists across the Basin are interested in telling the story of the Nile," NBI's Deputy Executive Director and head of its basinwide programme, Dr Abraha Adugna said. "Through these awards, we want to recognise journalism that informs, connects and helps open space for solutions."

The winners will be recognised during the 8th Nile Basin Development Forum in Dar es Salaam.

«Since the first edition in 2015, the awards have helped raise the profile of Nile cooperation as a subject worthy of serious journalism. They have motivated reporters across the basin to engage with issues that too often go uncovered.»

Egypt Appoints Member to Nile TAC

The Nile Basin Initiative has welcomed Egypt's appointment of a new alternate representative to its technical advisory committee (TAC), an encouraging signal of the country's continued engagement in Nile Basin cooperation.

In a letter dated 28 September 2026 to Egypt's Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, H.E. Prof. Hani Sewilam, the Executive Director, Dr Nestor Niyonzima, welcomed Eng. Enas Ahmed Abdelhalim Hussin, the General Director of the Regional Organisations and Authorities Department at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation.

Eng. Hussin will serve as Egypt's alternate representative to the Nile-TAC as well as the Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committee.

Her appointment follows Egypt's return to NBI technical deliberations in 2025 after an absence of about a decade.

"Every Member State has a valuable contribution to make to our shared future. We therefore welcome Egypt's continued participation and look forward to working with Eng. Hussin to advance constructive, inclusive and mutually beneficial cooperation across the Nile Basin," Dr Niyonzima said.

The ED also expressed appreciation to the outgoing representative, Eng. Mostafa Ahmed Senosy Sayed, for his contribution to cooperation on the Nile.



Engineer Enas Hussin

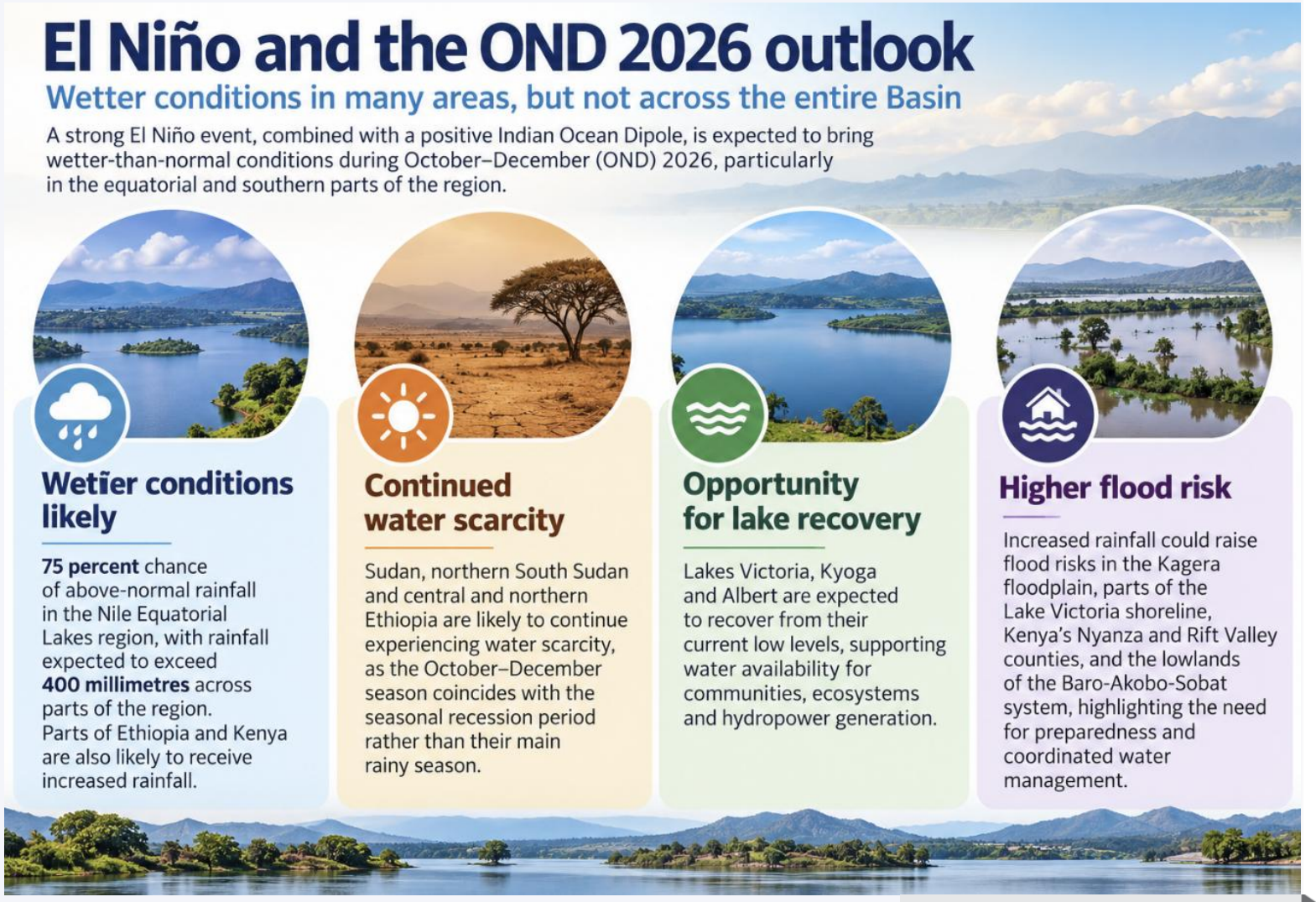
Why Nile Basin Needs a Shared Hydrological Outlook

A seasonal outlook and advisory is only as useful as the decisions it helps people and institutions make. In the Nile Basin, that means understanding not just whether rainfall is likely to increase or decrease, but what changing conditions could mean for water supplies, infrastructure, farming and the risks of floods or continued water scarcity.

NBI's Seasonal Hydrological Outlook and Advisory translates seasonal climate forecasts into information that governments, water managers, farmers and disaster-response agencies can use to prepare. Improved monitoring networks, satellite observations and forecasting systems have strengthened the region's ability to anticipate changing conditions.

But the outlook's value also lies in how NBI develops it. National Hydrological Services from across the Basin work with NBI's Regional Expert Working Group on Hydrology, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to interpret regional climate forecasts, assess country-specific implications and validate findings. This collaborative process builds country ownership and a shared understanding of interconnected water conditions, particularly where formal data-sharing arrangements

Continues on Page 8



From Page 7

remain limited. The need for this cooperation is clear in the contrast between the June–September (JJAS) 2026 season and the October–December (OND) outlook. JJAS brought below-normal rainfall across much of the Basin, with Lake Victoria falling by 1.5 metres and Lake Kyoga by 0.84 metres. The resulting water stress affected agriculture, water supplies and hydropower generation.

A strong El Niño event, combined with a positive Indian Ocean Dipole, is expected to bring wetter-than-normal conditions across much of the Basin during OND. The outlook gives the Nile Equatorial Lakes region a 75 percent probability of above-normal rainfall, with rainfall expected to exceed 400 millimetres across the Lake Victoria Basin, Burundi, Rwanda and western Tanzania. Southern Ethiopia falls within a zone with a 90 percent probability of enhanced rainfall.

However, El Niño does not mean wetter conditions everywhere. “Treating El Niño as ‘wetter everywhere’ would be actively misleading for roughly half our Member States,” says Mr. Calvince Wara, NBI’s Hydrological Expert. Sudan, northern South Sudan and central and northern Ethiopia are likely to continue experiencing water scarcity because OND coincides with their seasonal recession period rather than their main rainy season.

Elsewhere, increased rainfall offers an opportunity for recovery but also raises flood risks in the Kagera floodplain, parts of the Lake Victoria shoreline, Kenya’s Nyanza and Rift Valley counties, and the lowlands of the Baro-Akobo-Sobat system. Water managers must balance the need to replenish reservoirs with maintaining flood-control buffers, while countries share timely information to connect upstream warnings with downstream action.

For Mr. Wara, the outlook’s value lies in helping different users make decisions before conditions change. “Every one of those audiences, but each is reading it for a different decision,” he explains. Dam operators must balance water storage against flood protection; disaster managers need to prepare for potential emergencies; and farmers need to consider both the prospect of above-normal rainfall and the possibility of dry spells lasting up to ten consecutive days.

Getting the information to communities is therefore as important as producing it. This year’s basin-wide advisory explicitly calls for multi-channel dissemination, including local radio, community meetings, extension and health workers, religious leaders, schools, disaster management committees and mobile alerts. These channels can help translate technical forecasts into information people can trust and act on.

By combining improved forecasting, country-led collaboration and practical communication, the outlook helps countries prepare for different risks while strengthening the shared knowledge and cooperation needed to manage the Nile’s interconnected water resources. This work is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through GIZ’s Support to Transboundary Cooperation in the Nile Basin project.

Continues on Page 9

«This gives water managers and dam operators a better basis for planning, helps farmers make informed decisions about the season ahead, and enables disaster-response agencies to prepare for emergencies»



El Niño: Districts race to relocate families from high-risk areas
https://www.newtimes.co.rw/article/39116/news/rwanda/el-nino-districts-race-to-relocate-families-from-high-risk-areas



Nairobi braces for El Niño

https://www.dw.com/en/after-recent-floods-nairobi-braces-for-el-nino-extremes/svideo-79671649

https://www.topafricanews.com/2026/10/27/el-ninos-double-blow-drought-and-flood-risks-deepen-water-and-food-crises-across-east-africa/



NBI keeps power corridor moving for Uganda, S. Sudan

Through NELSAP, power project advances towards construction, opening a new chapter in regional trade

The South Sudan–Uganda Power Interconnection Project (SUPIP) moved closer to construction during the July–September financial quarter, with procurement advancing for a Supervision and Management Consultant. Once recruited, the Consultant will support the two countries in implementing the project.

The Nile Basin Initiative through its Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NELSAP), is coordinating this regional undertaking on behalf of the Governments of South Sudan and Uganda. Prior to this, NELSAP coordinated detailed feasibility studies, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and a Resettlement Action Plan and supported the two countries in mobilising financing for the project.

The Supervision and Management Consultant will subsequently lead the procurement process for an Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor. Physical construction is projected to begin between July and September 2027.

The approximately 299-kilometre, 400kV double-circuit transmission line, with a transfer capacity of 1,000 MW, will link the existing Olwiyo substation in Uganda to the new Juba/Gumbo substation in South Sudan.



From Page 10

The project will also upgrade the Olwiyo substation and extend the Karuma substation to facilitate the evacuation of electricity from Karuma towards Olwiyo.

The source of the electricity matters. Power generated in Uganda will be transmitted to South Sudan. This means that the interconnection will link Uganda's growing generation capacity with South Sudan, which is currently faced with a significant electricity deficit.

“This is exactly what we mean by shared benefits from the Nile through cooperation: one country’s electricity generation capacity helping meet the needs of another, creating benefits for both countries and their people,” the Executive Director Dr Nestor Niyonzima said.

For South Sudan, the interconnection is expected to improve the availability, reliability and affordability of electricity, reducing dependence on costly diesel generation. For Uganda, it will open a market for available surplus electricity. The African Development Bank explicitly identifies both objectives in the project’s development framework.

The interconnector is also designed to support two-way power flows. Although electricity is initially expected to flow predominantly from Uganda to South Sudan, the infrastructure will allow transfers in either direction as generation and demand evolve. This creates opportunities for deeper electricity trading between the two countries and, through the Eastern Africa Power Pool, across the wider region.

The benefits extend beyond the power sector. More reliable electricity will support businesses, households and public services in South Sudan, while Uganda gains another regional market for its generation capacity. The project will also strengthen regional integration and create opportunities for knowledge and technology transfer, employment and private-sector activity.

NBI’s Comparative Advantage

NBI offers an important neutral platform that helps projects with greater regional impact. It has a unique capacity to navigate the often complex differences in national policies, laws and priorities, which can delay cooperation and prevent countries from realising the full benefits of transboundary projects.

SUPIP is contributing to the African Union’s Agenda 2063, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Africa Single Electricity Market. It supports Sustainable Development Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy, while advancing efforts to integrate South Sudan into the Eastern Africa Power Pool.

https://eyeradio.org/uganda-south-sudan-power-project-enters-implementation/?amp

https://www.parliamentwatch.ug/news/uganda-south-sudan-power-link-opens-new-chapter-in-regional-energy-trade

https://share.google/atxLGP8egkssf1Rys

«NBI offers an important neutral platform that helps countries move beyond national priorities to identify and develop projects with greater regional impact.»

NBI and Partners Discuss CREATES

The Nile Basin Initiative and its partners reviewed progress on the US$40 million Climate Resilient for Eastern Africa Transboundary Water Management for Environmental Sustainability (CREATES) project, which aims to strengthen transboundary water cooperation and climate resilience in Eastern Africa.

The review took place on 29 September 2026 during a visit to NBI Executive Director Dr Nestor Niyonzima by Mr Mikkel Johannessen of the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and representatives of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNEP-DHI.

The delegation briefed the Executive Director and other NBI staff on progress under the DANIDA-funded project, which works in collaboration with the NBI Secretariat and its investment arm, the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NELSAP).

CREATES seeks to strengthen transboundary cooperation through improved decision support systems, learning, water governance and climate resilience, including the restoration of catchments.

Launched in January 2026, the project focuses on two shared river basins: the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Basin, located between Uganda and Kenya, and the Mara Basin, a biodiversity-rich ecosystem shared by Kenya and Tanzania.





The Executive Director, Dr. Niyonzima (3rd right), Mr. Johannessen (on his right) and officials from NBI and the partner agencies at the NBI Secretariat on Entebbe, Uganda

La RDC appelée à se préparer à prendre la présidence de l'Initiative du bassin du Nil

17 août 2026 10 vues 3 min de lecture







Continues on Page 14



Executive Director Urges DR Congo to Prepare Adequately for NBI Tenure

NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

In Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 17 August, the Executive Director Dr Eng. Nestor Niyonzima met the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and New Climate Economy, Prof. Marie Nyange Ndambo, to discuss NBI's engagement in the country and preparations for its potential chairmanship of the Initiative.

The visit provided an opportunity to brief the Minister on NBI activities and projects in the country, including the benefits of regional cooperation.

"We travelled to Kinshasa to pay a courtesy call on Her Excellency the Minister and to brief her on the activities currently being implemented by the Initiative and on the projects concerning the DRC," said Dr Niyonzima.

A key focus of the discussions was the DRC's potential turn to chair the Nile Basin Initiative under the established rotation among Member States.

Dr Niyonzima emphasised the importance of the DRC preparing adequately to assume the responsibilities of chairing the Initiative, including strengthening its engagement in NBI processes and ensuring readiness to take on the leadership role.

"Very soon, the presidency of the Nile Basin Initiative will be assumed by the DRC. It is therefore important to prepare accordingly," he said.

The potential chairmanship would provide an opportunity for DR Congo to strengthen its engagement in Nile Basin cooperation and bring greater attention to priorities and projects of importance to the country within the regional framework.

The Executive Director also encouraged DR Congo to fulfil its financial contributions to NBI, underscoring the importance of Member States meeting their commitments to sustain the Initiative and its cooperation mechanisms.

Continues on Page 15

BENEFITS OF COOPERATION FOR DR CONGO

From Page 14

DR Congo has been a direct beneficiary of NBI-supported investments through NELSAP. Among the benefits are:

- **Fisheries and livelihoods:** Through the Lakes Edward and Albert Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Project (LEAF II), four modern fish landing sites were constructed in DR Congo, alongside measures to strengthen fisheries management and livelihoods. The project also provided two equipped patrol boats and trained personnel to support joint surveillance of the shared lakes.
- **Water and environmental management:** DR Congo received a mobile water-quality laboratory, water-quality monitoring infrastructure and a water and fish research station, strengthening capacity to monitor and manage shared water resources.
- **Long-term investment planning:** NBI/NELSAP supported the preparation of a 30-year Lakes Edward and Albert Basin Strategy and Investment Plan, covering priority investments in fisheries, water resources, agriculture, hydropower and electrification, navigation, and watershed and wetland management.
- **Regional power connectivity:** NELSAP supported the development and implementation of the Goma–Gisenyi power interconnection, linking eastern DR Congo to Rwanda and the wider regional electricity system. NBI is also supporting the wider Buhandahanda–Goma–Gisenyi–Kibuye–Shango transmission corridor, strengthening regional electricity connectivity.









The DR Congo has benefited from NBI's water quality lab technicians' training, young professionals programme, modernised landing sites and energy projects

https://agoramedias.net/article.html?id=448f8c93-bb4c-4734-9869-_82aadb167c2f

From a Reliable Source: NBI's Groundbreaking Guide for Journalists

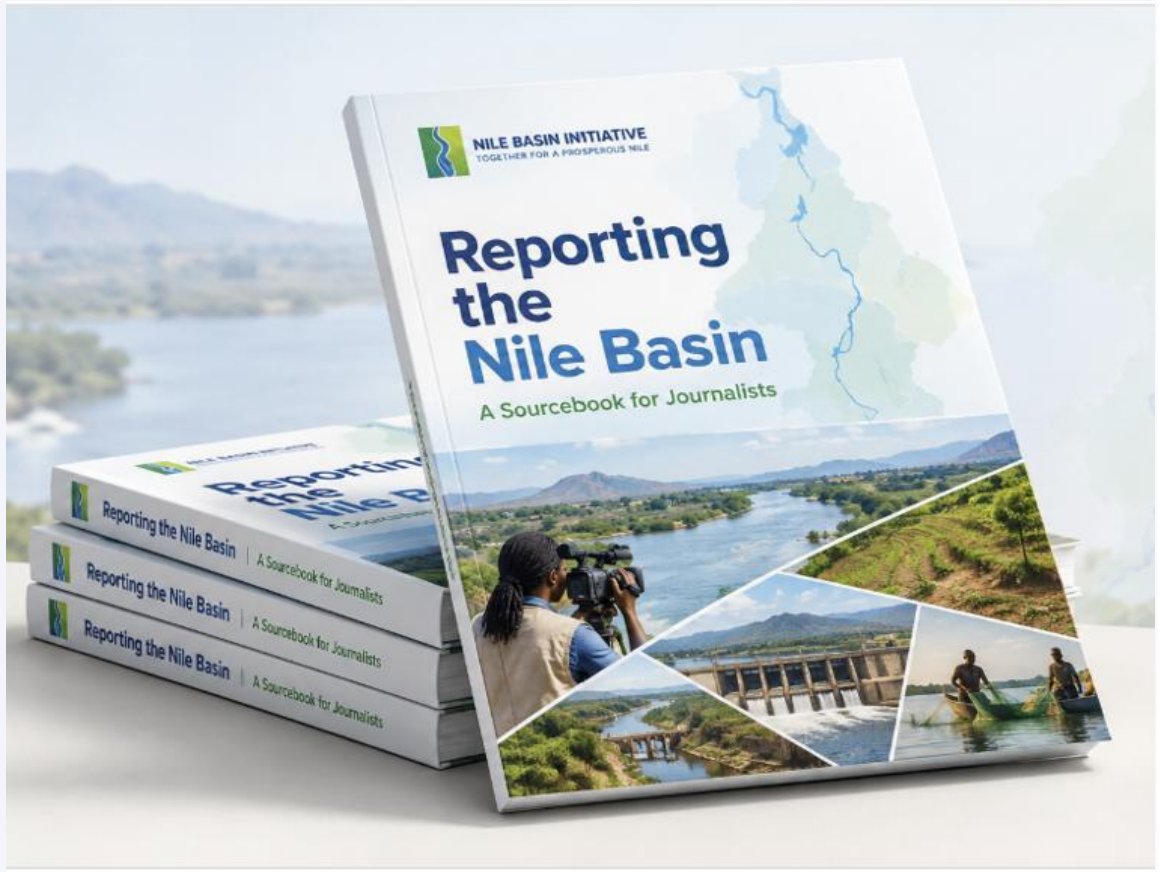
How do you tell the story of a river shared by 11 countries, spanning some 3.2 million square kilometres and supporting hundreds of millions of people?

The Nile Basin Initiative has published an answer: "Reporting the Nile Basin: A Sourcebook for Journalists". The product is a practical regional guide designed to help journalists report the Nile with greater context, accuracy and depth.

The Sourcebook is significant because it brings together, in one dedicated resource, the geography, history, economic and environmental importance of the Nile, the evolution of regional cooperation, key agreements, current challenges and practical guidance on finding and developing stories. It also points journalists towards credible sources, data and reporting angles.

Its novelty lies in its deliberate focus on reporting the Nile as a shared basin. Rather than viewing the River through isolated national stories, the Sourcebook encourages journalists to explore the connections between countries, communities, ecosystems and economies — and to report not only on challenges and tensions, but also on solutions and the benefits of cooperation.

As pressure on the Nile grows from climate change, population growth, urbanisation and environmental degradation, the quality of public understanding matters more than ever. Better reporting can help people see the Nile not simply as a river that divides interests, but as a shared resource whose sustainable future depends on cooperation. The Sourcebook therefore serves a purpose beyond journalism. It strengthens the wider knowledge and communication ecosystem that supports Nile cooperation, giving media practitioners and other communicators a common factual foundation for telling the Basin's story.



The Sourcebook was made possible through funding from the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund of the World Bank, under the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project. **Download here**

https://nilebasin.org/sites/default/files/2026-10/Reporting%20the%20Nile%20Basin.pdf

Underground, NBI, UNDP Jointly Address Water Scarcity in Nile Basin

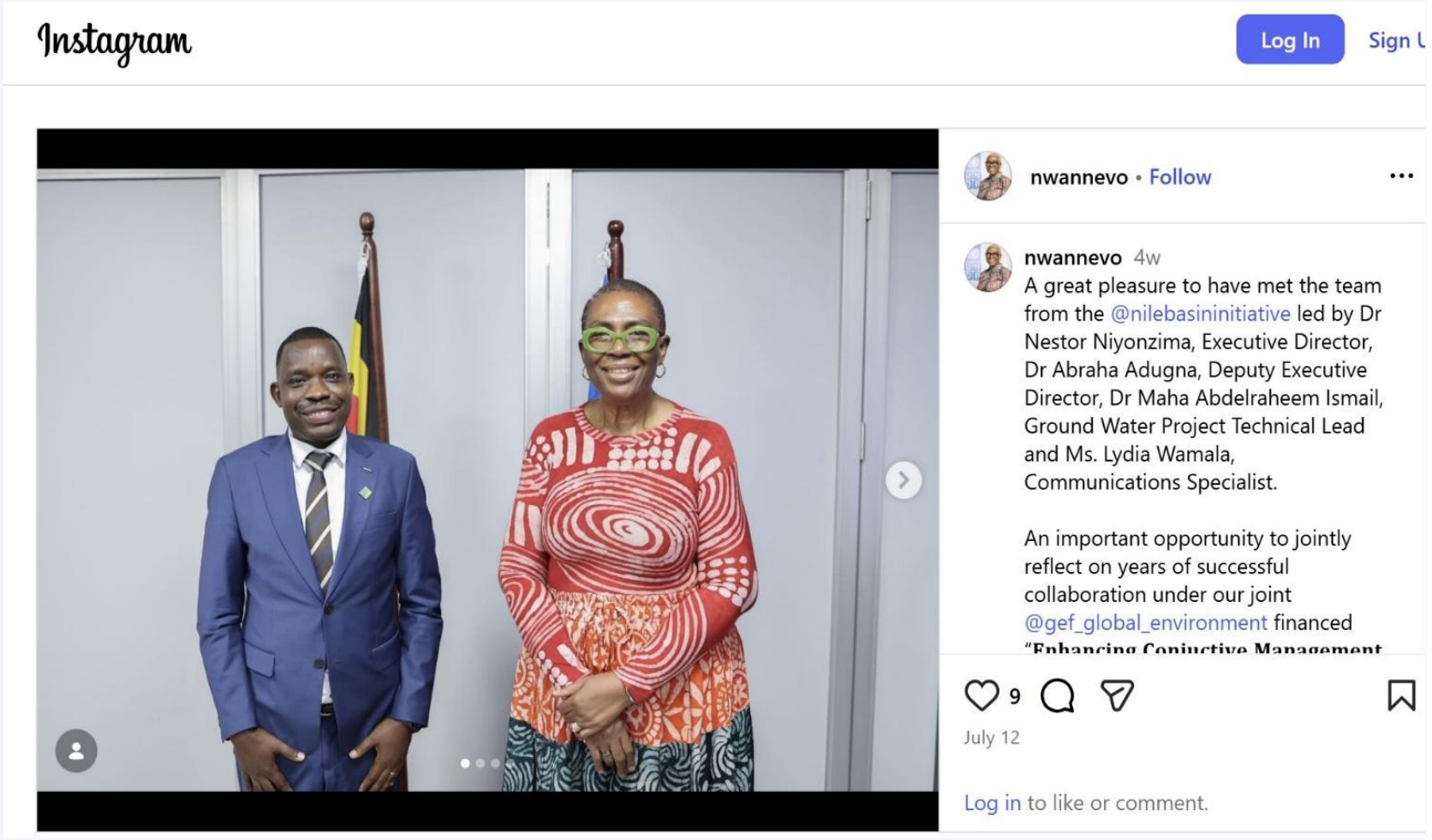
An NBI team led by Executive Director Dr Nestor Niyonzima met the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda on 10 July to discuss their partnership in strengthening the sustainable management of groundwater resources in the Nile Basin.

The team met UNDP Resident Representative Ms Nwanne Vwede-Obahor, Deputy Representative Mr Ian King and heads of technical departments.

Ms Vwede-Obahor commended NBI's achievements under the project Enhancing Conjunctive Management of Surface and Groundwater Resources in Selected Transboundary Aquifers. NBI implements the project with funding from the Global Environment Facility through UNDP to help Nile Basin countries address water scarcity and the impacts of climate change.

She highlighted the project's results, including Shared Aquifer Diagnostic Analyses, modelling reports, knowledge products, capacity building, a regional online database with geospatial data and maps, regional action plans for transboundary groundwater monitoring, and installations for

Continues on Page 18



From Page 17

in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. MAR helps replenish groundwater by directing surface water into underground aquifers for storage and later use

Ms Vwede-Obahor noted that the results align with UNDP's priorities and encouraged NBI to sustain its efforts for generating technical knowledge that informs decision-making.

GEF through UNDP will fund a new phase of the project starting in 2027. The new phase will extend MAR technology to additional locations across the Nile Basin.





NBI COMPLETES TWO MORE PILOTS

NBI handed over two additional managed aquifer recharge (MAR) sites to national authorities in Giteranyi, Burundi, on 11 September and Kitale, Kenya, on 24 September, following successful pilot implementation. Earlier this financial year, NBI had handed over two sites in Uganda.

The Giteranyi and Kitale sites lie within the Kagera and Mount Elgon transboundary areas, respectively. Besides the handovers, NBI trained district staff and community members to strengthen local ownership and support the long-term sustainability of the water supply systems.

As populations grow, economies expand and climate change intensifies, pressure on the Nile Basin's finite water resources mounts. Through the MAR pilots, NBI is demonstrating how better management of surface water and groundwater together can strengthen water security and support climate-resilient development.

The pilots are generating practical evidence on the interaction between surface water and groundwater, helping Member States explore approaches that could be replicated and scaled up across the Basin.

Inside the GEF newsletter
https://iwlearn.net/nbi-pilots-demonstrate-water-scarcity-solution



Handover occasions led by the Executive Director and NBI Governance in Kenya (top) and Burundi

Stories from Communities
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ch5b3Guxp/
https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/trans-nzoia-borehole-offers-relief-to-residents/
https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/trans-nzoia-borehole-offers-relief-to-residents/

From the Nile to Stockholm - and Back: 3 Aspects Stood Out



An NBI teamAt Stockholm World Water Week 2026, from 24 to 28 August, the NBI shared nearly three decades of experience in transboundary cooperation, learned from other river basins, strengthened partnerships and explored opportunities that can translate international engagement into benefits for Nile Basin countries and their populations.

Held under the theme “Water for People and Progress”, the annual gathering brought together governments, river basin organisations, development partners, research institutions, civil society and other water-sector actors to consider how cooperation can help address growing water and development challenges.

For NBI and its Member States, three themes stood out: learning, connecting and delivering benefits to Member States.

LEARNING

One of the most valuable aspects of international engagement is the opportunity to learn from others facing similar challenges.

NBI and the Mekong River Commission (MRC), with support from GIZ, exchanged experiences on ecosystems, fisheries and livelihoods; hydropower development and dam operations; transboundary environmental impact assessment; and drought, low flows and downstream vulnerabilities.

Continues on Page 20

From Page 19

The exchange went beyond technical issues. Participants discussed the importance of trust, diplomacy, transparency, stakeholder engagement, data sharing and sustainable financing in sustaining cooperation between countries.

NBI identified areas for further learning from MRC and agreed on a study tour to the Mekong River Commission.

Institutional Evolution: What it looks like

The Deputy Executive Director and Head, Basinwide Programme, Dr Abraha Adugna said. “One area of particular interest to NBI is the Mekong’s experience in evolving into a formal intergovernmental commission. We look forward to learning about institutional, legal, and political processes that contributed to the establishment and strengthening of the Commission.”

In the Nile Basin, significant progress has been made with the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) entry into force. During the transition period, two parallel institutional arrangements have been allowed to operate in accordance with decisions of the Council of Ministers. Efforts are also ongoing to engage countries that have not acceded to the CFA to strengthen cooperation.

Digital twin and the matter of trust

Other discussions explored emerging issues relevant to the Nile Basin. At a working session on the Water Governance Accelerator convened by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), NBI highlighted the governance challenges around regional data sharing and the development of the Nile Basin Digital Twin.

«The engagement provided an opportunity for NBI to position its work not simply as a set of programmes, but as a regional platform for cooperation, knowledge generation and investment preparation. »

CONNECTING

Stockholm provided an important platform for strengthening relationships that can support Nile cooperation.

A strategic dialogue with development partners brought together representatives of Nile Basin countries, NBI institutions and international partners to review progress, funding challenges and the future direction of cooperation.

Development partners reaffirmed their support for NBI, while discussions highlighted the importance of sustainable financing, investment preparation and continued strategic planning. The engagement also provided an opportunity for NBI to position its work not simply as a set of programmes, but as a regional platform for cooperation, knowledge generation and investment preparation.

How partnerships evolve

A meeting with the Danish Hydraulic Institute (DHI) provided another example of how partnerships can evolve.

Continues on Page 21

From Page 20

NBI and DHI signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the 2025 Stockholm Water Week. In 2026, the two institutions discussed how to move that commitment towards implementation, including through a practical roadmap, joint project development and resource mobilisation.

They also explored modernising the Nile Basin Decision Support System, addressing technical challenges affecting forecasting and early-warning systems, and extending the benefits of these services to vulnerable communities.

The same spirit of connection ran through NBI's engagements with organisations including the North Water Network, opening opportunities around technical cooperation, knowledge exchange, innovation, capacity development and investment mobilisation. NoWNET is comprised of more than 1,000 organizations and companies in the industrialized countries.

BENEFITS

Learning and connecting matter because of what they can make possible for countries and people across the Basin. This was one of the strongest messages from a high-level panel on water cooperation convened by GIZ. climate resilience and improved livelihoods.

NBI already has examples that demonstrate this wider value. The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project, jointly developed with Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania has improved electricity access and energy security and stabilised the grid in Tanzania. More than the equivalent of US$8 million has been generated from trading in electricity. More than one million people are benefiting from the project. The project contributed to 21 percent reduction in carbon emissions in Rwanda while supporting regional integration.

Such examples point to an important opportunity for Nile cooperation: to make the wider value of regional action more visible and easier to understand while making cooperation more tangible.

TAKING COUNTRIES ALONG

The participation of Nile-TAC representatives from Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda brought Member State perspectives directly into discussions with development partners, other basin organisations and technical institutions.

This matters because NBI's work is owned by its Member States. Having governance representatives present in an international forum therefore creates a direct link between global discussions and the priorities, opportunities and challenges facing countries. It also allows Member State representatives to hear directly from partners, exchange experiences with counterparts from other basins and engage in discussions about the future of Nile cooperation. In this way, international engagement becomes part of the wider process of building ownership, strengthening dialogue and connecting regional cooperation with national priorities.

BRINGING STOCKHOLM BACK

For NBI, several Stockholm engagements have clear follow-up actions: advancing the NBI-DHI partnership; exploring further learning with the Mekong River Commission; continuing engagement with IWMI on data governance and digital decision-support; and strengthening relationships with development partners and potential sources of technical and financial support. Other action areas include updating the NBI Strategy beyond 2027, advancing the digital twin initiative and the Nile River Basin Investment Programme and updating the State of the River Nile Basin report.

Forests, Wetlands inside the President's Birthday Greeting



Yoweri K Museveni
@KagutaMuseveni

Fellow Ugandans, especially the Bazzukulu and other well-wishers beyond Uganda.

I have seen the millions of messages congratulating me on my 82nd birthday, led by my nuclear family members—Maama, Muhoozi, Natasha, Patience, Kyaremeera and those of my wider family of the NRM, the other Ugandans, the East Africans and those beyond East Africa. Thank you so much.

My social-media handler, Precious Kamwiine, told me that there were 8 million such messages. I thank God for the 82 years. I thank God for the peace in Uganda and the progress—agriculture, oil, other minerals, factories, etc. The present unreliable rains are a reminder that we should not take nature for granted. Those in the wetlands or forests or other protected areas, must get out so that we keep the treasure God gave us.

2:58 PM · Sep 25, 2026 · **1M** Views

One Statement and another (and yet another) as a Stalwart Leaves ENTRO

Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office-ENTRO
Sep 17

Celebrating the Dedicated Service of Mr. Elsadiq Goda.

The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) proudly recognizes and celebrates the outstanding service of Mr. Elsadiq Goda, Regional Finance and Administration Head (RFAH), whose remarkable journey with the organization spans from October 2018 to September 2026.

During his tenure, Mr. Goda provided strategic leadership and Managerial Discipline across Finance, Human Resources, and Administration, ensuring that ENTRO's corporate services effectively supported the implementation of regional programs and institutional priorities. His expertise and Disciplinary resolve in financial management, budgeting, compliance, administration, and procurement oversight led to strengthened organizational efficiency, accountability, and good governance.

As he concludes nearly eight years of distinguished service, ENTRO Management and Staff express their sincere appreciation for his invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment to the organization Mission and Objectives.

His legacy of dedicated service will remain an enduring part of ENTRO's institutional journey.

ENTRO wishes Mr. Elsadiq Goda continued success and fulfillment in his future endeavors.



ENTRO colleagues see off Mr. Eisadiq Goda (second right) following his separation from ENTRO on 26 September

NBI IN THE NEWS

Tanzania launches the 8th NBD Forum with a call for stronger ties among Nile Basin countries
https://dailynews.co.tz/tanzania-launches-the-8th-nbd-forum-with-a-call-for-stronger-ties-among-nile-basin-countries/

Deepening ties with Tanzania
https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/50/1201/573276/AlAhram-Weekly/Egypt/Deepening-ties-with-Tanzania.aspx

Egypt stresses Nile cooperation for mutual benefit, rejects unilateral measures
https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/149592/Egypt-stresses-Nile-cooperation-for-mutual-benefit-rejects-unilateral-measures

Abdelatty rejects unilateral Nile measures in talks with Tanzanian FM
https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1234/577049/Egypt/Foreign-Affairs/Abdelatty-rejects-unilateral-Nile-measures-in-talk.aspx

Strategic Miscalculations in the Abbay (Nile) Basin: Why Egypt's Isolation Strategy Against Ethiopia Is Bound to Fail
https://www.ena.et/web/eng/w/eng_9253560

Sudan Between Two Dams: The Technical Water Resources Authority – The Constant in Sudan's Water Equation Amid Changing State Structures
https://sudanhorizon.com/sudan-between-two-dams-the-technical-water-resources-authority-the-constant-in-sudans-water-equation-amid-changing-state-structures-part-3-of-3/

Falling Nile River Levels Spark Growing Fears Among Sudanese Farmers Amid Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Concerns
https://see.news/falling-nile-river-levels-spark-growing-fears-among-sudanese-farmers-amid-grand-ethiopian-renaissance-dam-concerns

Egypt, DRC FMs affirm int'l law on transboundary waters
https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/149669/Egypt-DRC-FMs-affirm-int-l-law-on-transboundary-waters

El-Sisi, Kenya's Ruto urge Sudan unity, end to conflict in phone call
https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContentMulti/566772/Multimedia.aspx

Columnist Richard Fein: Water bankruptcy — horror and hope
https://gazettenet.com/2026/07/26/columnist-richard-fein-water-bankruptcy-horror-and-hope/

Ethiopia's Light, Egypt's Fear
https://www.ebc.et/english/Home/NewsDetails?NewsId=6813

Egypt FM holds talks with African counterparts in Seoul to boost cooperation
https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContentMulti/569911/Multimedia.aspx

Egypt's Choices on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Damhttps://www.e-ir.org/p/egypts-choices-on-the-grand-ethiopian

Reevaluating Nile Hydropolitics: From Alarmism to Scientific Realities in Egypt's Perspective https://www.ena.et/web/eng/w/eng_9294291

Egypt Revives Dam Feud with Ethiopia, Driving Another Wedge into BRICS
https://www.breitbart.com/africa/2026/09/22/egypt-revives-dam-feud-with-ethiopia-driving-another-wedge-into-brics/

After GERD, can Egypt shape Ethiopia's next Nile dams? (Al Jazeera)
https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/8/21/after-gerd-can-egypt-shape-ethiopias-next-nile-dams

Ethiopian Water Minister Rebukes Egypt's Nile Stance, Says Ethiopia Will Press Ahead With Resource Dev't in Its Sovereign Territory
https://www.fanamc.com/english/amp/ethiopian-water-minister-rebukes-egypts-nile-stance-says-ethiopia-will-press-ahead-with-resource-devt-in-its-sovereign-territory/

The Nile Basin Commission: Between genuine cooperation and the logic of the majority
https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/4/0/576200/Opinion//The-Nile-Basin-Commission-Between-genuine-cooperat.aspx

Continues on Page 25

Egypt FM calls for stronger Nile Basin consensus in talks with Ugandan counterpart

https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContentMulti/565094/Multimedia.aspx

Egypt renews invitation to Ugandan president to attend African Union Coordination Summit

https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/148662/Egypt-renews-invitation-to-Ugandan-president-to-attend-African-Union

Egypt, Uganda discuss trade, Nile cooperation, and regional security

https://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2026/08/01/egypt-uganda-discuss-trade-nile-cooperation-and-regional-security/

Egypt, Somalia FMs discuss strengthening strategic partnership, release of detained Egyptian sailors

https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1234/577398/Egypt/Foreign-Affairs/Egypt,-Somalia-FMs-discuss-strengthening-strategic.aspx

Beyond Historical Allocation Ethiopia's Development Rights and the Future of Nile Cooperation
https://www.ifa.gov.et/blog/748
South Sudan: Juba aims to advance Fula, with a potential of 1,080 MW
https://beninwebtv.bj/en/south-sudan-juba-aims-to-advance-fula-with-a-potential-of-1080-mw/
South Sudan ready to proceed with Fula Dam plans cites sovereignty and Nile Basin Resolutions
https://www.eyeradio.org/article/south-sudan-ready-to-proceed-with-fula-dam-plans-cites-sovereignty-and-nile-basin-resolutions
South Sudan Dam Approved After Review Finds Limited Nile Impact
https://cairoscene.com/News/South-Sudan-Dam-Approved-After-Review-Finds-Limited-Nile-Impact
Sudanese Experts Discuss Water Security, Legal Framework, and the Future of the GERD Negotiations
https://sudanhorizon.com/sudanese-experts-discuss-water-security-legal-framework-and-the-future-of-the-gerd-negotiations/
Egypt says it agreed to South Sudan's Fula dam
https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/egypt-says-it-agreed-to-south-sudans-fula-dam

Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation briefs foreign correspondents at the State Information Service-Organized meeting (several NBI mentions)

https://sis.gov.eg/en/media-center/news/minister-of-water-resources-and-irrigation-briefs-foreign-correspondents-at-the-state-information-service-organized-meeting/

Extras

'Water cooperation can greatly defuse conflicts' – GIZ
https://www.giz.de/en/newsroom/stories/water-cooperation-can-greatly-defuse-conflicts
Mapping The Nile | Africa Earth's Wild Home | National Geographic
https://youtu.be/rmuz3xFGBhw?si=c8eKWl0O7UfBWVAR

One Year into the Role: A Dialogue with the Deputy

Dr Abraha Adugna recently made a year and a quarter in his role as Deputy Executive Director and Head, Basinwide Programme at the Nile Basin Initiative. He spoke to *Nile News* about the magnitude of his task, the seven skills needed to succeed, even the number of emails he receives in a day.

What has your first one year and a few months been like at NBI?
It has been both rewarding and enriching, providing a unique opportunity to serve the Nile Basin Member States and contribute to regional cooperation. I quickly became involved in strategic initiatives including resource mobilisation, the Nile River Basin Investment Programme, governance processes, and strengthening cooperation among Member States. During this period, I focused on listening to stakeholders, understanding the priorities of member countries, strengthening partnerships, and advancing strategic initiatives that promote sustainable and cooperative management of the Nile Basin's shared water resources.

What does it mean to be a Deputy Executive Director at the same time Head of the Basin-Wide Programme?
Serving in both positions at the same time is a significant leadership responsibility. It combines strategic management, technical oversight, and regional diplomacy. It is a dual leadership role. As Deputy Executive Director, I support the Executive Director in governance, partnerships, policy dialogue, and institutional leadership while as Head of the Basin-Wide Programme, I oversee programmes related to water security, climate resilience, environmental sustainability,

Continues until Page 28



Dr Abraha Adugna

One Year into the Role: My most challenging task

From Page 26
knowledge management, and transboundary water governance.

What is the magnitude of your assignment? What special skill does one require?
The assignment is regional in scope and involves working with multiple countries that have diverse priorities, perspectives, and development aspirations. Success in this role requires strong diplomatic and leadership skills, strategic thinking, technical knowledge, consensus building, cultural sensitivity, and the ability to translate scientific knowledge into practical policy and development actions. The role also requires creativity in resource mobilisation, and delivering results despite funding constraints.

When you joined NBI, you listed these among your priorities: strengthening trust and collaboration among Nile Basin countries, enhancing integrated water resource planning, promoting data-sharing and building institutional capacity, etc. Do you think you have made progress or is it too early to judge?
Yes, meaningful progress has been achieved despite the complexities of regional cooperation. We have strengthened engagement with Member States and development partners, advanced the Nile River Basin Investment Programme and enhanced resource mobilization. We have promoted knowledge sharing and decision-support systems, and continued dialogue on important cooperation issues affecting the future of the Basin.

What do you do to maintain momentum and the highest standard?
Maintaining momentum requires a clear focus on priorities, teamwork, accountability, and regular communication. I strongly believe in evidence-based decision making, continuous learning, and ensuring that all activities remain aligned with the long-term vision of sustainable development and cooperative management of the Nile Basin's resources.

People, partners, or projects: which has been easier to manage?
The three are interconnected and equally important for institutional success. While projects often have clear objectives and timelines, partnerships require trust and sustained engagement. Managing people remains the most challenging yet most rewarding. Motivated and committed teams are the foundation of all achievements.

Today, what are the priorities on your desk and why?
My priorities include strengthening resource mobilization, advancing the Nile River Basin Investment Programme, improving climate resilience initiatives, expanding strategic partnerships, promoting digital transformation and data-sharing, and supporting dialogue among Member States. These priorities respond to increasing climate risks, rapid population growth, and the need for collaborative regional solutions.

How many emails do you get in a day and how do you sort through them?
I receive between 50 and 100 emails daily, depending on ongoing activities and meetings. To manage them effectively, I prioritize messages that require urgent action or strategic decisions. I categorize communications by thematic areas, and rely on teamwork and delegation to ensure timely responses and follow-up.

What do you do for work-life balance?
Maintaining a healthy work-life balance is essential for effective leadership and sustained productivity. I dedicate time to family and friends. I enjoy reading and keeping up with developments in water management and emerging technologies. I create time for reflection and planning to maintain focus and perspective.

One Year into the Role: Resilience is our Destination

What do you think of AI? Do you use it for anything?
I consider Artificial Intelligence to be one of the most transformative technologies of our time, with tremendous potential for improving water resources management and decision making. I use AI for data analysis, knowledge management, forecasting, and information synthesis. I recognise that it should complement human expertise and be applied responsibly and ethically.

Funding levels are low at the moment. What do you strongly wish you could have done by now for NBI had more resources been available?
I would have liked to accelerate the implementation of several high-impact regional initiatives, secure more sustainable financing for the institution, and move priority investment projects more rapidly toward implementation. Greater investment in climate action, digital water management systems, and technical capacity development across Member States would further strengthen the Basin's ability to address emerging challenges. Resilience is our destination.



Dr Adugna in the middle of a breakthrough in Kampala in June 2026 as a Special Committee of the Nile Council of Ministers and Members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee endorse minutes regarding the Nile River Basin Investment Programme

Editor: Lydia Wamala lwamala@nilebasin.org