

State of the River Nile Basin Report launched



Eng. Mugisha Shillingi, displays the State of River Nile Basin Report 2012. Looking on is the NBI Executive Director, Eng. Teferra Beyene (Middle) and the Regional Water Policy Specialist, Dr, Nichola Azza

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) recently launched the first ever State of the River Nile Basin Report. The Report presents information on the general health of the Nile Basin and aims to raise awareness and improve understanding on the biophysical, socio-cultural and economic conditions within the basin. It puts together information from individual Nile Basin countries to create a basin-wide perspective on common environmental, social and economic development issues.

The 2012 edition was officially launched on 15th October, 2012 in Kampala, by the Director of Water Resource Management in Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment; Eng. Mugisha Shillingi on behalf of the Minister of State for Water, Hon. Betty Bigombe.

In her speech, Hon. Bigombe noted that protecting the River Nile is not possible in the absence of empirical data to inform choices of management interventions. The Minister applauded NBI for publishing

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2012 was a year of achievements



Dear Readers

Welcome to our last issue of the 2012 Nile News.

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The year 2012 was of great achievements at NBI in which we once again affirmed the value of Nile Cooperation. We are proud of the things we were able to achieve through implementation of our core functions: [Facilitating Cooperation, Water Resource Management and Water Resource Development](#) and of the support we were able to provide to NBI Member States in the accomplishment of the Shared Vision. Allow me to remind you of only a few of the examples chosen from the many achievements that together illustrate our joint commitment to the Shared Vision of the NBI.

Our governance, the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) met on the 5th of July and made a number of approvals. Key among these is the admission of the Republic of South Sudan to the NBI, bringing the membership to ten; NBI Overarching Strategic Plan 2012-2016; the Nile Secretariat Strategic Plan 2012 - 2016; scaling up of country contributions to meet the minimum functionality of NBI as well as establishment of the NBI Trust Fund.

We continued to engage our stakeholders through different fora and this year, we reached out to Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Nile Basin region. The MPs participated in the 2nd Nile Basin Parliamentarians' Forum held from 6th – 7th July in Kigali, Rwanda. Among other things, the Parliamentarians called on their governments to spearhead the establishment of a permanent institutional set up to put the Nile cooperation on a sustainable footing and to consolidate gains made from the cooperation.

The 7th annual Strategic Dialogue between NBI and its Development Partners held in October provided participants with the opportunity to reflect on NBI's achievements to date, focus on future priorities, challenges and ways of strengthening basin wide cooperation. Participants noted that cooperation is the only way to ensure optimization of benefits from the shared Nile Basin water resources and agreed that NBI is the most appropriate platform to take the agenda forward. During the Dialogue, NBI took the opportunity to launch the first ever State of the River Nile Basin Report on 15th October, 2012.

Our two investment programs continued to advance ongoing investment projects. Through the Flood Preparedness and Early Warning Project, the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) put in place and continued to improve regional and national forecast and early warning systems for riverine flood to save lives and livelihoods. ENTRO also improved the mapping of flood prone communities.

In NELSAP a Tripartite Agreement for the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project was signed on 16th February, 2012 by Ministers in charge of Electricity Affairs in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania to reaffirm their intention to continue pursuing its financing and implementation.

Last but not least, we successfully closed the three-year Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP) that has strengthened NBI's abilities in readiness for the ultimate transition to the intended Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC) and almost completed preparation of a new project - the Nile Cooperation for Results (NCoRe) Project.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The year 2012 has not been without challenges. We are aware that we face financial constraints and have prepared ourselves with a renewed sense of confidence to meet this challenge.

The ENSAP continued to face the sustainability

Our governance, the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) met on the 5th of July and made a number of approvals. Key among these is the admission of the republic of South Sudan to the NBI, bringing the membership to ten

test posed by the freeze on NBI activities by two Eastern Nile (EN) countries. All the ENSAP Member States, namely Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan have throughout continued to reiterate their commitment to cooperation. The Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM) meeting held on 6th November, 2012 in Addis Ababa is a clear testimony of their commitment to cooperate.

On behalf of the governance and staff of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) I would like to thank all of you (Development Partners, collaborators) for your contributions to the successes of the NBI in 2012. I also thank the NBI staff for working with diligence and dedication throughout the year.

As we look forward to 2013, I extend to you, your family members and friends season's greetings and hope that the year will be a successful one.

Eng. Teferra Beyene



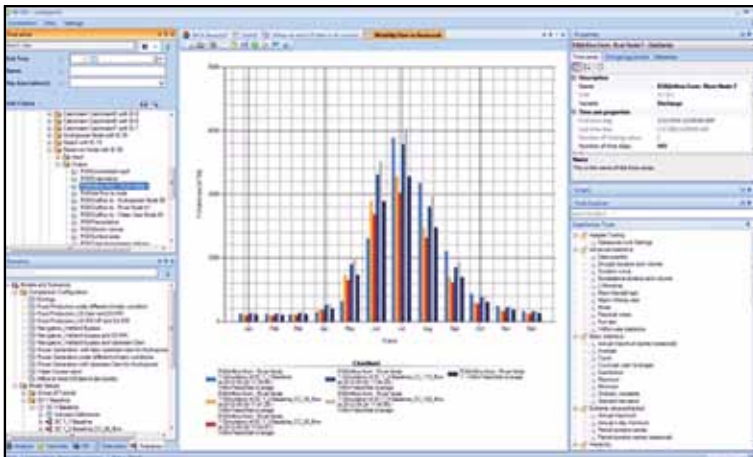
2013 Nile Day celebrations: 22 February
Theme: Land Degradation and Climate Change: Address Shared Threats, Sustain Nile Cooperation
For details: www.nilebasin.org

Nile Basin Decision Support System Sustainability Plan approved

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The Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM), the highest decision making body of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) recently approved the sustainability plan for the Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB-DSS). The plan was approved during the 20th Nile-COM meeting held on 5th July 2012 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The NB-DSS was jointly developed by NBI's Water Resources Planning and Management (WRPM) Project and the Nile riparian states. It is a software framework comprising an Information Management System (IMS), a Modelling System that contains a suite of modelling tools, and a set of Analytical Tools (optimization, cost/benefit analysis and multi-criteria analysis).



The NB-DSS provides a platform for sharing knowledge, understanding river system behavior, evaluating alternative development and management strategies as well as supporting informed and knowledge-based scientific decision making.

The NB-DSS sustainability plan was prepared following extensive consultations undertaken

at regional, sub-regional and national levels to realize benefits commensurate with the sums invested. It is essential that the DSS remains relevant to prospective users' needs and as such is valued to the extent that it is kept in use in the years to come. The plan is founded on these two principles (relevance and value) and seeks to promote continued investment in the DSS to maintain (and expand) its relevance.

Implementation of the sustainability plan was launched with the successful set up of the Water Resources Management (WRM) department at the NBI Secretariat to take up the responsibility of administration and technical support functions for the DSS.

In addition, each riparian country has prepared a plan highlighting national arrangements for integration and sustainable use of the NB-DSS in the respective authorities responsible for water. The national NB-DSS sustainability plans demonstrate different approaches and the countries have started implementation of their respective national plans as well as expressed commitment to continue with the implementation.

**By Ephrem Getahun
WRM (DSS Team)
Nile-SEC, Entebbe**

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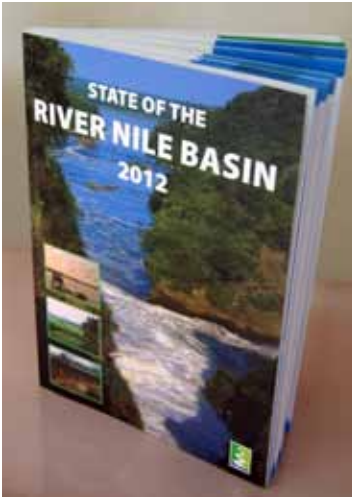


Photo by Chris Abesirwe

the Report.

The State of the River Nile Basin Report 2012 is an accurate, reliable and up-to-date information on the general health of the River Nile basin and its tributaries, along with objective analyses and insights into the biophysical and ecological settings and the social, cultural and economic conditions

with-in the basin. Its primary purpose is to support informed and evidence-based decision making and to empower basin communities to exercise better stewardship of the common Nile Basin water and environmental resources.

The 2012 report is the first in a series that will be produced every three years, mainly targeting

policy makers, parliamentarians and senior government officials in the riparian countries.

By providing this common planning tool, NBI is continuing in its efforts to build trust and confidence among Nile riparian countries and to nurture a conducive environment for cooperative management and development of the common Nile Basin water and environmental resources.

The launch ceremony was witnessed by members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) representing the ten NBI Member States namely; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Others were representatives of NBI's Development Partners, the Nile Basin Discourse as well as staff of NBI.

Download the report <http://ow.ly/h3uWD>

By Jane K. Baitwa
Regional Communication Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Grant Agreements for the Nile Cooperation for Results Project signed

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) recently signed two Grant Agreements with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development /International Development Association of the World Bank, for the implementation of the Nile Cooperation for Results (NCoRe) project.

The Grant Agreements amounting to USD 15.3 million were signed on 26th December, 2012 by the Executive Director of the NBI, Eng. Teferra Beyene and the acting Vice President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development /International Development Association, Mr. Jan Walliser.

The NCoRe project is financed from a grant from Nile Basin Trust Fund (NBTF Grant) in the amount of USD 13.8 million as well as a grant from the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa Trust Fund (CIWA Grant) in the amount of USD 1.5 million. The NBTF Grant is for two years from 2013 to 2014 while the CIWA Grant is for three years from 2013 to 2015.

The objective of the NCoRe project is 'to facili-

tate cooperative water resource management and development in the Nile Basin.'

The Project consists of the following three components:

Component 1: Advancing Nile Basin-Wide Cooperation and Analysis: This Component will support activities at the NBI Secretariat related to its core functions of Facilitating Cooperation and Water Resource Management.

Component 2: Promotion of Sustainable Development and Planning in the Nile Equatorial Lakes Region: This will support the NBI in its efforts to advance investment opportunities in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region

Component 3: Promotion of Sustainable Development and Planning in the Eastern Nile Region: This Component will support NBI in promoting cooperative activities, water resource management and sustainable development in the Eastern Nile.

The Nile Cooperation for Results (NCoRe) Project is the first phase of the Nile Basin Climate Resilient Growth Program and is part of the overall NBI Strategic Plan (2012/13-2016/17).

37th Nile Technical Advisory Committee Meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda



Photo by Chris Abesirwe

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The 37th meeting of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) took place from 12th to 13th October, 2012, in Entebbe, Uganda. The objective of the meeting was to review progress of implementation of NBI programs and projects and prepare for the 7th annual Strategic Dialogue between Nile-TAC members and NBI Development Partners.

The meeting considered pending matters before the closure of Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP) due on 31st December, 2012 and provided direction and guidance towards a smooth start of the new project, the Nile Cooperation for Results (NCoRe) in January 2013.

The Nile-TAC members also approved key policy documents and provided guidance towards finalization of the NBI Trust Deed as well as the Environmental and Social Policy among others.

The 37th Nile-TAC meeting was attended by representatives of NBI Member States, namely Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda as well as management staff of NBI. Others who attended as observers were representatives of the World Bank, GIZ, Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) and Global Water Partnership (GWP) Eastern Africa.

By Tom Waako
Projects Officer
Nile-sec, entebbe

Theme for the 7th Strategic Dialogue

Consolidating the gains, Delivering benefits



Nile-TAC members and representatives of NBI's Development Partners

Photo by Chris Abesirwe

Participants attending the 7th Strategic Dialogue held recently in Kampala noted that commitment to Nile Cooperation is the only way to ensure sustainability of benefits from the shared Nile Basin water resources and agreed that the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is the most appropriate platform to take the agenda forward.

The Strategic Dialogue is an annual event held between the NBI and its Development Partners. The purpose of the Dialogue is to strengthen the partnership through reviewing NBI's progress and exploring ways of moving forward in a more effective manner. The Dialogue also provides participants with the opportunity to reflect on NBI challenges and ways of strengthening basin wide cooperation.

Member States were called upon to demonstrate their commitment to NBI institutional and financial sustainability by honouring their country contributions and as per the decision in July 2012 by the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-

COM) to increase country contributions.

Participants also agreed to:

- Continue with the NBI – Development Partners' dialogue into the future, beyond the Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP).
- Articulate and strengthen gender aspects in planned activities.
- Consider sustainability of the monitoring network in implementing the hydrological monitoring network
- Accurately measure and effectively communicate NBI results.
- Strengthen NBI visibility at national level.

Participants observed that Member States are making efforts to resolve the differences that arose between the upstream and downstream countries in relation to the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) that has impacted on implementation of NBI activities particularly in the Eastern Nile sub-basin. NBI however continued to devise innovative ways to transcend the challenges and advance on-going programs and projects.

NBI achievements include the following:

- A Growing confidence in NBI as exemplified by: countries borrowing to implement NBI facilitated projects; incremental increases in country contributions for NBI core costs; South Sudan application to become a member of NBI.
- A minimum of 20 investment projects prepared with a ratio of pre-investment finance to investment finance of USD1: USD11. The projects contribute to economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable river basin management.
- Opportunities for regional windows in resource mobilization
- Regional and national forecast and early warning systems for riverine flood to save lives and livelihoods in the Eastern Nile as well as mapping of flood communities.
- First ever State of the River Nile Basin report. The report provides baseline data on health of the Nile Basin.
- Narrowing of water resources management related knowledge asymmetries among riparians through enabling access to regional data and information
- A growing and invaluable store of data and information in the areas of water, power, agriculture, now available through the Nile-Information System and on-line libraries
- New access to regional data and analytic tools for investment formulation and decision making through the Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB-DSS)
- Inclusion of trans-boundary dimensions in national water policies
- A growing consensus and awareness among policy makers, professionals and the riparian public at large that the River Nile is a shared resource and that trans-boundary water resources management requires joint action.

Development Partners expressed willingness to continue their support to NBI programs and projects.

The two-day event held on 15th and 16th October, 2012 was attended by members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) representing the ten NBI Member States namely; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Others who attended were representatives of NBI Development Partners, the Nile Basin Discourse as well as Management of NBI.

By Jane K. Baitwa
Regional Communication
Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Consultations among Eastern Nile Countries end successfully



Ministers in Charge of Water Affairs in the Eastern Nile countries recently held consultations on the short-term governance and operational challenges faced by NBI's Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) since June 2010 as well as on long-term sustainability issues. The Meeting came as a follow up on the request by the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) during their 20th meeting held on 5th July, 2012 in Kigali, Rwanda, for ENTRO to address its governance challenges.

The two day meeting held from 5th to 6th November, 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was convened by the current Chairman of Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM), Hon. Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister of Water Resources and Energy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The Meeting, following a day and a half prior deliberation of high-level experts/ENSAPT members, was concluded by the Ministers of Water of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Sudan, and Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, who signed a document entitled *"Outcome of the Consultations among Eastern Nile (EN) Countries on ENSAP/ENTRO Challenges"*.

The signed document enunciates five points as follows:

- To establish a Permanent Cooperative Mechanism in the Eastern Nile Sub-basin that would come into existence when ENTRO as a transitional arrangement within NBI comes to an end.

- To launch the requisite studies and consultations to design future permanent cooperative mechanism in the Eastern Nile that would take over the legacy of EN cooperation, and replace ENTRO in such a way to ensure continuity, sustenance and further promotion of EN cooperation and its gains/projects.
- The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Sudan to resume participation in ENSAP/ENTRO processes and activities.
- The outcome of the consultation is subject to endorsement by the respective governments.
- The Republic of South Sudan participated in the consultations as Observer. The admission of the Republic of South Sudan as member of

ENSAP/ENTRO shall be considered following the endorsement by respective governments of the outcome of these consultations.

As of November 24, 2012 the governments of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of Sudan had already endorsed the outcome of the consultations. The Arab Republic of Egypt's is being awaited.

By Dr. Wubalem Fekade
Head of the Social Development and
Communication Unit
ENTRO, Addis Ababa

Partnership established with UNECA

The partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) was established through NBI's participation in the Regional Coordination Mechanism meetings organized by the former.

In 2011, NBI participated in a meeting attended by River Basin Organizations in Africa and subsequently in 2012, in the Sub-regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) for Eastern and Southern Africa meeting held to validate its Business Plan for 2013-2017. The Business Plan was later approved by the AU/UN Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa during a meeting held in November, 2012.

The Business Plan identifies 12 thematic areas reflecting the diversity of development challenges in the sub-region.

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was selected as the lead agency for two of the 12 thematic areas of the Business Plan, namely Water Resource Management and Development; and Knowledge Management and Information Sharing.

The remaining 10 thematic areas will be led by other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs). They are: regional integration; infrastructure development; climate change and natural resources management; governance; gender and social development; agriculture and food security; industrial development; tourism development; ICT for development; and science

and technology.

The meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic Community for Africa (ECA), as a way for the Regional Economic Communities and Intergovernmental Organizations to work with the UN agencies to partake in reducing fragmentation in their operations and to increase coherence in their work in support of programs and priorities in the Africa region, in particular to address the Millennium Development Goals and focus on agreed priorities for the Post 2015 and the Rio+20 debates.

The SRCM Business Plan 2013-2017 responds to the need for RECs/IGOs and UN agencies to promote joint activities, enhance synergy and increase impact from joint investments while maintaining institutional mandates and accelerating sustainable development.

Key drivers for the realization of the regional agenda during the Business Plan period include: creation of a legal framework; strategic selection and harmonization of prioritized programs at national and regional levels. Other key drivers are application of common policies and gradual elimination of all barriers to trade; devolution of authority to RECs organs and IGOs commensurate with the level of regional integration agenda; as well as establishment of regional institutional frameworks among others.

By Emerita Mugorewiczyeza
Regional Stakeholder Participation, Networking
and Partnerships, Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Study results on water footprint and cross border trade of grains and pulses in the Nile Basin region launched



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Stakeholders from Nile Basin countries and members of Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) from all over Africa recently endorsed results of two studies which were also launched and disseminated during a two-day workshop held in Uganda from 22nd to 23rd October, 2012.

One of the studies analyzed the virtual water/water footprint of 11 commodities (see table on pg11) produced and traded in the Nile Basin riparian countries. This study was carried out by PEGASYS Firm from South Africa. The second Study analyzed two Cross-Border Trade (CBT) corridors for grains and pulses among the Nile Basin countries and was conducted by the MA | REMPAI Consortium from Kenya.

The workshop was officially opened by Uganda's State Minister of Trade and Antiquities Hon. David Wakikona. He noted that, "the grain and pulse sub-sector is very important for food security and a key export potential within the East African Community (EAC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regions." He added that in many partner states



Ms. Charlotte Namahoro, Assistant Minister, Ministry of East Africa in the office of the President, Republic of Burundi receives a copy of the Cross Border Trade Corridor analysis study from EAGC Executive Director Mr. Gerald Masila.

Commodities selected for water footprint analysis in the NBRs (2005-2009)											
	CEREALS			CASH CROPS				FRUIT & VEG			BEEF
	MAIZE	WHEAT	RICE	SUGAR	TEA	COFFEE	FLOWERS	MANGOES	BEANS	BANANAS	BEEF
BURUNDI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
DRC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
ETHIOPIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
KENYA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RWANDA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
TANZANIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UGANDA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
SUDAN	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
EGYPT	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓

NOTE: WHERE A WATER FOOTPRINT WAS NOT CALCULATED IS BECAUSE THE COMMODITY IS NOT PRODUCED IN LARGE ENOUGH QUANTITIES IN THAT COUNTRY

grains are a staple food and they also contribute a lot to animal feeds.

Hon. Wakikona said the study on virtual water/water footprint is useful as it identifies comparative advantage in production and trade following the water footprint within the Nile Basin region.

The study on virtual water/water footprint was launched by the Executive Director of EAGC, Mr. Gerald Masila on 22nd October while that on CBT-Corridor Commodity Chain Analysis for grains and pulses was launched on 23rd October, 2012 by Uganda's Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Hon. Tress Bucyanayandi.

Among other things, the CBT analysis highlights that despite efforts to ensure food security in the region, production of cereals and maize supply in particular continues to fall short of consumer demands thus necessitating imports. Key production constraints include poor market infrastructure, lack of post harvest handling and storage facilities, as well as expensive fertilizers and other inputs.

Trade constraints include non-tariff barriers, high tax rates (different countries with different taxes), official corruption, many road blocks, lack of market information and lack of standard units of measurement of bags.

Other constraints include frequent government bans and lengthy process in obtaining trade permits, differences in axle load limit requirements, multiple and independent regulating institutions, harassment by policemen especially when they are not bribed and high costs of transport.

The costs associated with many of these impediments to trade were evaluated and reported in the launched report.

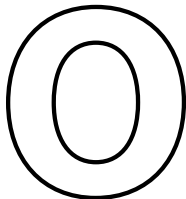
The study further reveals that Egypt is by far still the largest producer and consumer of rice in the Nile Basin region with other major producers being Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

Both studies were spearhead by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) | Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP)'s Regional Agricultural Trade and Productivity Project (RATP) based in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The workshop bringing together government officials, experts, professionals and other stakeholders from all over Africa was jointly organised by the RATP Project and the EAGC.

By David Kezio-Musoke
Communications Consultant
RATP Project

Official from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development visits the Secretariat



On Thursday 4th October, 2012 Dr. Ralf-Matthias Mohs, the Director for East Africa in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), paid a courtesy call at the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat in Entebbe. The German Federal government is one of NBI's development partners.

Dr. Mohs, who travelled in the company of the German Embassy and GIZ staff in Kampala, was met by the Executive Director Eng. Teferra Beyene, the former Executive Director Dr. Wael Khairy and NBI technical staff. During

the discussions, the two sides reviewed NBI's achievements over the last 11 years, challenges related to the political track and efforts to put in place a new legal framework on the Nile. Other issues discussed were NBI's Strategic Plan 2012-2016 and the progress towards financial and institutional sustainability.

Eng. Teferra, expressed gratitude to the German government for the support given to NBI since 2003, which sup-

port mainly focuses on laying the foundation for the development of NBI-wide policies and strategies, the harmonization of national water policies, the knowledge base for integrated water resources management as well as mainstreaming climate change considerations in investment projects planning.

Dr. Mohs took note of the positive impact of projects supported by the German Government and promised to give consideration to NBI's request for further support that might focus on ecosystem management, climate change and regional hydropower planning.

The delegation was later led on a tour of the Secretariat library, which facility has been refurbished and supported by GIZ. The librarian gave a brief presentation on the key developments since 2007. Key among them the remodeling of the library, acquisition of advanced equipment as well as the partnerships built with other researchers in the region. Dr. Mohs encouraged NBI to market the library to the outside world.

By Juliet Nakassaga
Librarian
Nile - SEC, Entebbe



Photo by Chris Abesirwe

Dr. Ralf-Matthias Mohs (centre, in grey coat) poses for a group photo after touring NBI's library, refurbished and re-modeled with support from the German Federal Government.

ENTRO celebrates a decade of building Eastern Nile Cooperation



Representatives of Eastern Nile countries during the celebrations

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The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) recently celebrated 10 years of building Eastern Nile cooperation among its Member States namely Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan (South Sudan joined NBI on 5th July, 2012). ENTRO was formally launched on 6th September, 2002 in Addis Ababa.

The Guest of Honor, Hon. Kebede Gerba, Ethiopia's State Minister of Water and Energy noted that, "before NBI our basin was a region of mistrust and conflict. Trust among countries was not in abundant supply. It is therefore very important to keep in mind that building enduring regional cooperation and meeting all the necessary technical, institutional, organizational, financial, requirements that goes with it, takes time".

Hon. Kebede said that ENTRO, as the executive arm of the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP), has delivered in three critical areas namely; building a sub-basin institution; identifying and preparing water resources investment projects and facilitating regional cooperation. These, he observed, will make the long-term management and development of the common Eastern Nile water resources not only desirable, but practicable.

Hon. Kebede reiterated Ethiopia's position regarding cooperation on the Nile as crystal clear and said that "this will continue in an intensified manner in the future".

The Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, Eng. Teferra Beyene noted that NBI Member States are resolute to sustain the gains made over the years. "During the 20th Nile Council of Ministers' meeting held on 5th July 2012, Member States resolved to increase the country contributions to commensurably cover the minimum

Ethiopia's Minister of State for Water and Energy Hon. Kebede Gerba was the Guest of Honor





The Nile-TAC representative for Ethiopia, Mr. Fekahmed Negash Director (C) of the Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Affairs discusses with representatives of some of ENTRO's Development Partners



A cross section of guests who attended the celebrations

functionality of NBI thus demonstrating increase in commitment and ownership of the NBI”, he added.

The Officer in Charge at ENTRO, Dr. Yosif Ibrahim outlined the 10-year successes as well as challenges. He said, “since May 2005 over USD 6 billion worth of potential investment projects were either identified and/or studies prepared covering Power Trade; Watershed Management; Transmission Interconnection; Irrigation and Drainage; Flood Protection and Early Warning; as well as Joint Multipurpose Program and Planning Model.” Besides contributing to socio-economic growth and better living conditions to the riparian citizens, these projects also contribute to building trust and confidence among the sisterly countries.

By organising 52 governance meetings (of which 25 are ministerial) ENTRO has also provided a platform for the three countries to cooperate. It is under the auspices of ENTRO that, for the first time ever in the history of the Eastern Nile sub-basin, experts from Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan have come together under one roof to jointly and cooperatively identify and prepare investment projects.

Sectoral (energy and power, water resources, environment, agriculture) representatives from each country have participated in joint regional working groups to consult on projects while parliamentarians, civil society, academic and research institutions as well as the media have been successfully engaged.

ENTRO has also succeeded in building a sub-basin water resources management and

development institution with the necessary structural components.

Talking about the challenges, Dr. Yosif said starting from June 2010, ENTRO faced a setback emanating from the negotiation for the Cooperative Framework Agreement, over which it (ENTRO) had little or no influence. “Despite the disagreements over the legal negotiations, ENTRO has been able to flexibly sustain the cooperation process”, he added.

The celebrations held on Tuesday 23rd October, 2012 at the Nile Center were attended by government officials from Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan; representatives of Members of Parliament; ENTRO governance; civil society organizations, media, academia, research institutions; as well as former and current NBI staff.

Looking ahead, ENTRO is optimistic that the gains of the past decade will be consolidated and more innovative programs and projects will be forthcoming. ENTRO is also confident that it will continue being the premier vehicle for deepening and broadening collaboration among the Eastern Nile countries now that South Sudan, the newest member of the NBI, has come on board.

By Million Gebreyes
Social Development/Stakeholder Consultation Specialist
ENTRO, Addis Ababa
and
Jane K. Baitwa
Regional development Communication Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Creating a solid backbone for economic growth and power trade in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region

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The majority of countries in the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) sub-basin have very low rates of access to energy with most countries below 10%. The quality and quantity of supply is poor to low with often interruption of service. Furthermore, the sub region is characterized by lack of infrastructure for power trade, with only a small-scale interconnection (256 km with max capacity of 80 MW) between Uganda and Kenya and other small cross-border power exchanges between countries.

In addition to the above, before the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), there was no regional organization in place to plan regional infrastructures for regional power trade. Dialogue between countries for joint regional power projects was practically inexistent with each country planning its national projects without consideration of regional exchange.

Role of the Nile Basin Initiative

Through the NBI, the first institution to deal with development of power infrastructures at basin-wide level, the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) is helping the NEL countries address the above challenges. NELSAP is one of the two NBI Subsidiary Action Programs and its coordination unit is based in Kigali Rwanda.

The NELSAP Indicative Power Master Plan for power options was adopted in December 2005 by Ministers in the NEL countries responsible for Electricity Affairs. The Master Plan provides the impetus for further development of NELSAP projects in the area of power generation and transmission interconnection.

The NELSAP Coordination Unit is now assisting the six upstream NEL countries namely; Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda

Outputs/Benefits of the Regional Interconnection Project per country						
OUTPUT/BENEFIT	BURUNDI	DRC	KENYA	RWANDA	UGANDA	TOTAL
220 KV LINE LENGTH (KM)	206	158	128 ¹	351	194	1036 KM
220 KV NEW SUBSTATIONS AND SUBSTATION EXTENSION	BUJUMBURA NGOZI GITEGA	GOMA BUHANDAHANDA (KILIBA AT 110KV).	LESSOS	SHANGO BIREMBO KIBUYE GISENYI KIGOMA	TORORO MBARARA NORTH MIRAMA	WORKS AT 15 SUBSTATIONS
FUNDING IN USD MILLION	46.61	48.57	60.45	118.68	79.81	354.12

¹FOR KENYA THE LINE WILL BE DESIGNED AT 400 KV AND INITIALLY WILL BE OPERATED AT 220 KV.

to prepare and implement the following five power projects, including those that could not be implemented before specifically the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project; Uganda – DR Congo Transmission Line; and Kenya – Tanzania Transmission Line. At the same time, identification and preparation of new projects is an on-going process. These investments will create a solid backbone for economic growth and power trade in the NELSAP region.

1. **Regional Interconnection Project:** This project is jointly implemented by five countries, namely Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. About USD350 million out of USD402 million has been mobilized by NELSAP-CU on behalf of the participating countries. The project is strengthening and constructing new 220 KV and 400 KV transmission lines of 1,040 km.
2. **Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project:** The feasibility study for the project has been completed and implementation is expected to commence next year, 2013 after 40 years of existence. The project will generate 80MW of electricity to be shared among Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania.
3. **Kenya – Tanzania Interconnection:** This interconnection was first studied in 2003 but could not be implemented. With NELSAP-CU know-how, the feasibility study of the project has been completed and resource mobilisation is under way. The project will add 400 Kv transmission lines of 510 km to the existing grid. It is expected that the project will be commissioned in 2017.
4. **Iringa – Mbeya Transmission line in Tanzania:** The feasibility study is complete and resource mobilisation to fund the project is under way. With this project, 400 Kv transmission lines of 352 km will be added to the existing grid. Commissioning of the project is planned to take place in 2017.
5. **Uganda – DR Congo (Beni – Butembo - Bunia) Interconnection:** Mobilization of funds is expected to take place from 2013

-2014, followed by implementation in 2015-2018. When completed, the Uganda-DR Congo Power Transmission Line will add to the existing grid, 400 Kv transmission lines of 380 km.

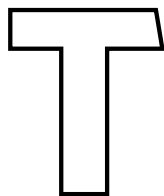
Benefits from Interconnected Grids

- Surpluses can be exported and energy and capacity can be imported in times of low hydrology
- Optimal use of resources due to hydro complementarities (a drought in one river basin may be offset by production from other basins);
- In the absence of interconnections, there is no use for the idle capacity. Water will be spilled over, while neighboring countries may be facing load shedding and leasing expensive generation sets (at a cost of USD 60 million for 60 MW for 6 months)
- Accelerated decommissioning of expensive diesel generation options thus contributing to low green house gases emissions
- Increased cross-border energy exchange and trade
- Improved transient stability of the systems
- Flexibility of operation in interconnected networks is easier than in isolated networks
- Reduced tariff
- Support to rural electrification programs
- Load diversity savings due to reduced coincident peak load of the regional electric systems compared with the sum of the individual peak loads for each national power grid resulting in improved conditions on the supply side.
- Reduced costs which include lower operation costs due to economy energy exchanges

For more information:

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National NBI Coordination activities in DR Congo



The National NBI Office in DR Congo was established in 2002 and strengthened in 2009 with a Memorandum of Understanding between DR Congo and the NBI Secretariat.

In this article, the National NBI Office highlights some of the efforts made to consolidate NBI activities in DR Congo. These include spearheading a campaign to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation measures at the national level. As part of the campaign activities, a workshop was conducted with the following objectives;

1. In consultation with the NBI Secretariat and within the available resources, sensitize, inform and educate the population on climate change using TV, radio, posters, bill boards, sketches, theater and concerts.
2. Promote environment protection in the primary and secondary school syllabi.
3. Officially hand over educational materials prepared through NBI from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Education.

With a view to increase visibility of NBI in DR Congo, the National Office planted several trees during the Nile Day celebrations in the Botanical gardens of Kinshasa. This effort is in line with the policy of the government of DR Congo.

By Matthieu Mongolu
National Desk Officer
NBI/DR Congo



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Importance and Benefits of Nile cooperation

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The Nile is one of the world's longest rivers, traversing more than 6,695 kilometres. The Nile Basin includes 11 African countries and extends for more than three million square kilometres.

The 11 Nile Basin countries are home to more than 437 million people and of these, 54% (238 million) live within the river basin itself (UN Population Division World Population Prospects 2012). All these people need and expect benefits from the management and utilisation of the Nile Basin's water resources.

Notwithstanding the basin's natural and environmental endowments and rich cultural history, its people face considerable challenges including persistent poverty, with millions living on less than a dollar a day, climate change and its adverse effects, increasing water scarcity and deteriorating water quality. Furthermore, less than 10% of the basin residents have access to electricity.

Despite these seemingly formidable challenges, the River Nile holds tremendous opportunities for growth, being one of the least developed rivers in the world. Better management could bring a vast range of benefits including increased hydropower and food production, better access to safe water for domestic use, improved management of watersheds and reduced environmental degradation, reduced pollution and more control over damage from floods and droughts.

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was established in 1999, to address the above need and meet expectations of riparians, by putting in place the building blocks for a cooperative approach to the management and development of the river basin's common water resources.

Today, through cooperation, knowledge sharing and investments, NBI Member States namely Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda are forming a distinct community of interest. Progress continues to be made in three areas considered to be the most critical for livelihoods in the Nile Basin, namely: providing clean, renewable electricity; effective water use for building a modern agricultural sector and river basin management.

Why you should be interested...

The NBI and its Member States jointly develop the Nile Basin Decision Support System

Today, more than ever before, water resources planners are required to address increasingly complex issues. They need to meet competing water demands such as for irrigation, power generation, maintenance of environmental flows as well as urban and industrial water supply. All these demands have to be met without compromising the needs of future generations.

In trans-boundary river basins, the complexity is even more pronounced – the demands for

The NBI in collaboration with Member States has piloted the tool to answer questions relating to the physical system of the River Nile including river flow patterns

water in all riparian countries have to be met in a transparent way to build confidence and promote joint/cooperative development.

Uncertainties about future climate have added a new dimension to the complexity of water resources planning. Thus the latter is becoming a scientific and multi-disciplinary exercise, requiring professionals of different disciplines to collaborate.

The Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB-DSS) is a state-of-the-art tool designed to meet the requirements of complex water resources planning and is jointly developed by NBI's Water Resources Planning and Management Project and the Nile riparian countries. The tool provides Member States with a common analytic platform and knowledge base to support the cooperative development of the Nile Basin water resources.

The NB – DSS provides diverse toolsets for data processing, modeling, scenario management, optimization and multi-criteria decision

making. It offers tools for integrating environmental, social and economic objectives thus greatly facilitating multi-sector water resources planning at river basin level.

The tool is a generic system that can be applied at different scales – at national as well as trans-boundary levels. It can be installed both within an institutional set up thereby allowing multiple access to its central database and tool set and also as a stand alone solution.


The NBI in collaboration with Member States has piloted the tool to answer questions relating to the physical system of the River Nile including river flow patterns, past and present trends in climatic variables versus stream flows, and the water balance in different parts of the system.

More importantly, the NB-DSS is being used to answer questions about expected benefits and potential impacts of planned development interventions.

The following pilot cases have been so far been conducted by Member States:

- Burundi: Nile water resources development for hydropower in the Kagunuzi Sub-Basin.
- Egypt: Impacts of Climate Change on the inflow to the High Aswan Dam.
- Ethiopia: Irrigation and Hydropower Development Opportunities in the Tana and Beles Basins.
- Kenya: Irrigation and hydropower opportunities in the Kano plains, Kenya.
- Rwanda: Investment in Water Resources Development in the Nyabarongo Basin.
- Sudan: The Effects of Selected Interventions in the Nile Basin on the Nile System in Sudan.
- Tanzania: Multipurpose reservoir on Ndembera River in Usangu catchment of Rufiji Basin.
- Uganda: a) Improved water resources utilization in the Mobuku-Sebwe catchments in Western Uganda; b) Water use in Kyoga Basin and its effects to proposed downstream hydro power development.

Facts about the Nile Basin

Basin Area	3,176 X 10 ³ Km ²
Location	-4°S to 31°N and 24°E to 40°E
Main Tributaries	Victoria Nile/Albert Nile, Bahr El Jabel, White Nile, Baro Pibor-Sobat, Blue Nile, Atbara, Bahr El Ghazal
River Length	6,695 Km (one of the world's longest River)
Estimated Navigable Length	4,149 Km
Countries	
Major Lakes within the Basin	Lake Victoria, Lake Tana, Lake Kyoga, Lake Albert
Population (Total in all the Nile Countries)*	437 Million
% Population within the Nile Basin*	54% (238 Million)
Temperature	Night Minimum -10 ⁰ c and daily Maximum in June 47 ⁰ c
Precipitation	Max Annual 2,098 mm/yr in Ethiopia Min Annual 0 mm/yr in Egypt
Mean Annual flow (Discharge) (m ³ /yr) at Aswan	84 X 10 ⁹ m ³ /yr
Discharge/Unit area	28 X 10 ³ m ³ /Km ²
Main Consumptive Water use	Agriculture

Compiled by Milly Mbuliro, GIS/Remote Sensing Specialist (Nile - SEC, Entebbe)
*Source: UN Population Division World Population Prospects 2012

What's on? January - March 2013

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Jan	NCoRe Project Effectiveness	All Centers
Jan	NELTAC/NELCOM Meeting	Kigali
11 - 12 th Feb	Regional Meeting for National NBI Desk Officers	Entebbe
22 nd Feb	Nile Day celebrations (Regional and National)	Bahr Dar, Ethiopia (for regional celebrations)
April	38 th Nile-TAC Meeting	Entebbe

Compiled by Tom Waako, Projects Officer, Nile-SEC -Entebbe

Quiz

What is the major determinant of population distribution in the Nile Basin?

Send your answer to: editor@nilebasin.org

Answer to the previous quiz question

The single most important intra basin agricultural trade commodity by volume among the Nile Basin riparian states is maize.

Member states



Send us your comments and views



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