



# Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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## **Enabling healthy Nile Basin wetlands for disaster risk reduction**

Natural hazards such as floods and drought have become more prevalent in the Nile River Basin – as a result of climate and weather changes – resulting in massive disasters which drain communities economically, physically and environmentally. Wetlands are naturally productive ecosystems which are capable of managing the risk of disasters to communities. They can contain flood water, which helps cushion communities against floods. When there's drought, they release the water which supports livelihoods. Aside from their buffering effects, wetlands also act as water purifiers.

<http://bit.ly/2koSiOW>

## **Nile River project seeks 'Africa without borders'**

A 2,500-mile navigational shipping line connecting Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea via the Nile River should be up and flowing in 2024, 11 years after it was first approved. The African Union Steering Committee, headed by Egypt, is directing construction of the project, which is part of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative. The enterprise is being carried out under the umbrella of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

<http://bit.ly/2ksQSmr>

## **[Editorial] Kiswahili key to regional integration**

It is official; Kiswahili (or Swahili) is one of Rwanda's four official languages after Kinyarwanda, English and French. It was inevitable that it would be included among

the country's recognised languages since it is also the official language of both the East African Community (EAC) and the African Union (AU). It took long for Africa to recognise Kiswahili despite it being spoken by a tenth of the continent's population in more than ten countries; all the way from the Democratic Republic of Congo to the Indian Ocean islands of Comoros and Mayotte.

<http://bit.ly/2kyLFWm>

## **Four African nations to discuss joint gas exploration in Lake Tanganyika**

A Tanzanian cabinet minister said Wednesday four countries sharing Lake Tanganyika Basin will next week discuss a joint exploration of oil and gas in the world's second deepest lake. Sospeter Muhongo, the East African nation's Minister for Energy and Minerals, told

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Parliament in the political capital Dodoma that the meeting will be held in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).  
<http://bit.ly/2lqfVLc>

### **Research on the Nile – a keystone of successful cooperation**

The Abay River, which contributes 85 percent of the Nile water, accounts for 55 percent of Ethiopia's water resource, while 40 percent of the country's population lives in its surrounding. Engineer Gideon Asfaw, an Ethiopian Expert at the International Panel of Experts (IPEs) which assesses the potential harm of the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on lower riparian countries says Abay has the potential to develop and capacity to generate over two million hectares of land through irrigation and over 30,000 MW of hydro-energy respectively.

<http://bit.ly/2k104gQ>

### **New dam is a big win for Ethiopia**

In another otherwise difficult year filled with political turmoil, Ethiopia has scored one huge win by inaugurating the Gilgile Gibe II Hydroelectric Dam over the Omo River which almost doubles the country's power generation output. The Omo River Basin, located in the south western part of the country, is one of 11 basins. The Omo River valley is grown into full force from the steams and brooks of the mountains of Amhara. The Oromia region flows down to the Jimma zone and down the basin as it quenches the thirst of the old Kingdom of Janjero and its people and animal inhabitants.

<http://bit.ly/2k13uAx>

### **GERD – Nation's voice of cooperation**

The GERD has been witnessing that nation has built the capacity to control the discharge of Nile through well-designed

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Dam which was unimaginable some decades ago. Up on finalisation, the project will make Ethiopia well known for its power and taming of the wilderness of Nile (proves Ethiopia's engineering prowess to fetter the unchecked run of Nile to the benefit of its citizens).

<http://bit.ly/2kR5NKlv>

### **5 myths surround the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)**

The Nile River is the source of life for about 300 million residents of Africa in 11 different countries. Over the years, many dams have been built along the river, varying in size and capacity; most have been small enough not to raise eyebrows and political upheaval (Raina, 2015). The politics around the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), however, which is about 70 percent complete (Zegabi, 2016) and is projected to hold around 70 billion cubic metres of water, have become more complicated.

<http://bit.ly/2k1xf8S>