Key influential factors in the success

“In the beginning it was a different environment. People from different countries rarely talked or worked together. Some countries didn’t quite realise the impacts of their activities on other countries.” Dr. Barbara Miller, former Senior Water Resources Specialist in the World Bank’s Africa Region

Through regionally agreed strategic programs, the NBI has contributed to building significant trust and cooperation across the region. From a starting point when discussions between some countries had to be mediated through a neutral third party, countries are now coming together to agree and plan new, large-scale projects and recognize the benefits of working cooperatively.

This trust and cooperation has in part been achieved through improvements in understanding, capacity, and knowledge. Where previously weaknesses in capacity contributed to stability and peace.

Some key tools, policies and guidelines

• Nile Basin Decision Support System (DSS) – an analytical tool jointly developed by the NBI and Member States. Development of the tool was completed in December 2012. This tool is being used for joint regional studies, and a number of member states have applied the tool in their water resources planning and development.

• Nile Basin Sustainability Framework (NBSF) – approved by Nile-COM in 2011 – informs and guides all investment projects across the region.

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• Nile policies on gender, climate, environment and social sustainability – all of which guide best practice, sustainability and equity across NBI work, including investment project preparations

Funding to support Nile cooperation

This pooled fund mechanism, administered by the World Bank and supported by ten donors, has helped to ensure coordination and best use of funding, and to keep everything working efficiently towards a single shared vision.

Funding to support Nile cooperation has come through various sources, with a total commitment of over US$264 million applied in the last 10 years. This support has resulted in a total of over US$1.5 billion being leveraged for ongoing investment projects across the region.

Achieving regional economic development and stability

The NBI helps countries better understand and manage changes in the river, including floods and droughts. The tools, capacity and infrastructure will help countries better adapt to climate change. By working together to jointly manage resources before potential conflicts occur, trust and cooperation among member states is increased and contributes to stability and peace.

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The Nile is one of the world’s most celebrated rivers. It effectively promotes regional cooperation on the Nile resources by building capacities, facilitating transboundary collaboration, and preparing powerful investment projects for regional economic development. Nile cooperation has achieved key results in the past 15 years, and NBI work will directly reach nearly 30 million beneficiaries, once investment projects are implemented.

The Nile cooperation projects are contributing significantly to regional energy security.

- NBI studies have enabled Nile countries to see the advantages of joint power development (considering strategic, social and environmental issues) to maximize usage of their shared water resources. It has become clear that regional approaches are much more cost effective than countries investing individually. This has resulted in five major, regional power projects currently implemented or in the pipeline.

- New power generation facilities prepared with NBI support will bring 170 MW new generation capacity into national grids across the region, and, on the basis of NBI project identification, countries are taking forward projects that will bring thousands more MW on stream.

- Nile Basin Trust Fund (NBT) is now under implementation by countries across the region, and, on the basis of NBI project identification, countries are taking forward projects that will bring thousands more MW on stream.

Nile cooperation projects are ready and under implementation by countries, in terms of preparation.

Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was born.

Today, a little over 10 years after significant funding for investment projects in the pipeline.

•  Once implemented, 16 projects in preparation or already under preparation are expected to bring almost 1.7 million hectares of the Nile Basin under improved management for environmental and agricultural benefits.

•  In total, over 17 million people in 10 countries will benefit from Nile Basin facilitated water and water resources projects currently implemented or in the pipeline.

•  Watershed management supports downstream investments in irrigation and power by improving water flow and quality.

- National Grids and government-owned entities are ready and under implementation by countries, in terms of preparation.

- A daily bulletin on flood preparedness in the Eastern Nile region is being used by 40 organizations, enabling better direction of relief efforts.

- Over 7 million people will benefit from regionally significant irrigation projects once they are implemented, and the NBI estimates a consequent US$90 million per year benefit in increased agricultural production, which will lead to improved food security and regional trade benefits.

- Over 9 million people will have better access to clean water, which will bring positive impacts on health and sanitation.

- Over 3 million people will have better access to clean water, which will bring positive impacts on health and sanitation.

Nile cooperation projects are successfully contributing to regional energy security.