CALL FOR CASE STUDIES ON ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY (TEEB) FOR WETLANDS AND WATER OF THE NILE BASIN
1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is an inter-governmental organization initiated and led by the Nile riparian countries to promote joint development, protection and management of the common Nile River Basin water resources. NBI has a Shared Vision: 'to promote sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources'. A wide range of programs and projects are currently under varying stages of identification, preparation and implementation under NBI, designed to contribute towards the realization of the NBI shared Vision.

The NBI performs three core functions:

- Building Cooperation. The NBI main objective is to facilitate, support and nurture cooperation amongst the Nile Basin countries to promote timely and efficient joint actions required for securing benefit from the common Nile Basin water resources.
- Water Resources Management. The NBI provides member countries with analytic tools and a shared information system that will enable monitoring and the sustainable management of the basin.
- Water Resource Development. The NBI assists member countries to identify development opportunities and prepare projects and seek investments. Development programs are focused on power trade and generation, agriculture and watershed management.

2.0 NILE BASIN WETLANDS SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO

The aforementioned Nile Basin Wetlands Portfolio has been initiated and developed based on long time understanding on the role of wetlands in improving water resources quality, quantity ecology and sustainability in the basin, and the challenges that management of wetlands face. The wetlands portfolio interventions, among others, aims to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities for sustainable management of transboundary wetlands and wetlands of regional relevance in the Nile. The aim of the interventions cascades from the farsighted Wetland Strategy of the Nile Basin Initiative, and it is so proposed to reduce the historical barriers of sustainable wetland management in the basin in terms of technical and institutional capacity limitations.

Overarching interventions goal (outcome): The technical and institutional capacities for sustainable management of wetlands of transboundary relevance in the Nile basin are strengthened.

Specific interventions goals (outputs):

- Nile Basin/ Level of river basin planning: The knowledge base for ecosystem based sustainable management of wetlands of transboundary relevance in the Nile Basin wetlands is strengthened.
- Equatorial Lakes Region/ Level of wetland management: In transboundary sub-basins of the Nile Basin, plans for the management of wetlands of transboundary relevance are in place and are being implemented.
- Capacity development and networking: The lessons learned from implementing the project are compiled and action-related information is disseminated via national, regional and international networks, platforms and training measures.

3.0 TEEB CASE STUDIES ON NILE BASIN WATER AND WETLANDS

3.1 Background Information

Understanding the economic, social and cultural values provided by wetlands is key for promoting improved management, conservation and restoration of wetlands and associated ecosystems. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Water and Wetlands is, thus, crucial in enabling visibility of wetlands and water-related
ecosystem goods and services in the society, economy and overall human welfare. TEEB for Water and Wetlands facilitates valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in economic terms for purposes of mainstreaming the accrued values in planning and decision making. Thus TEEB is an approach for outreaching decision makers to incorporate wetlands and water-related ecosystem services in development planning.

Nile Basin Wetlands offers critical wetlands and water-related ecosystem services. These include water supply and purification, carbon sequestration, local livelihoods, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, floods protection amongst other green infrastructure related services. These are critical for the Nile Basin Region society, economy and overall human welfare of Nile Basin region population. However, Nile Basin wetlands are undergoing degradation and loss but hardly do the associated wetlands and water-related ecosystem services valued and mainstreamed in economic planning and decision-making. This is partly due to inadequate valuation studies and poor information on the values of Nile Basin Wetlands and Water-related ecosystem services to inform decision makers.

It is due to the foregoing that Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in collaboration with The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) under the funding of German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) through International Climate Initiative (IKI) is interested in appraising the TEEB studies undertaken on Wetlands and Water of the Nile Basin with specific focus on River Nile wetlands and water-related ecosystem services. This work is anchored under ongoing project on “Conserving biodiversity and utilizing ecosystem services in relevant Nile Basin transboundary wetlands”.

3.2 Call for Abstracts on Case Studies

The NBI Secretariat hereby invites for submission of extended abstracts on TEEB case studies on water and wetlands in the Nile Basin. The following case study submissions guidelines and selection process shall suffice;

- Institutions, individual scientists and practitioners who have undertaken economic valuation of wetlands and water-related ecosystem services studies can submit abstracts.
- Abstracts submission can be more than one with each abstract covering one case study.
- The abstracts shall be on completed case studies and each abstract shall be 1 page.

The abstract should cover the following content:

- Title.
- Short summary of the case study covering the objectives, methods, results and main conclusions. The case study site and wetland or water-related ecosystem services valued must be indicated clearly.
- Full contacts of the author or contributor.
• The economic valuation studies can be in monetary or non-monetary terms and undertaken at any spatial scale.
• The study must have clear link with River Nile. Thus studies covering Sio-Malaba-Malakisi, Mara, Kagera, Semliki, Aswa, Lake Victoria, Sudd Wetlands, Machar Marshes, Baro-Akobo-Sobat and any other associated sub-basins of River Nile is welcome.
• Based on submitted abstracts, the Nile-Sec shall select those case studies that shall be included in the first Nile Basin TEEB-Water and Wetlands Report.
• Authors of selected abstracts will be invited for a WriteShop for collaborative writing and editing of case studies. The WriteShop is planned to take place around third week of June 2017.

4.0 BENEFITS FOR SHARING TEEB CASE STUDIES

The following benefits will be accrued by those whose case studies are:

• Publication of the case study in Nile Basin TEEB for Water and Wetlands compendium or special issue journal.
• Fully funded support to present the case study in Kigali, Rwanda during the 5th Nile Basin Development Forum (http://nbdf.nilebasin.org) scheduled for 23rd-25th October, 2017.
• Training on TEEB case studies publication through Scientific Writing Writeshop.

• Honorarium for developing the selected case studies into publishable format based on standards to be shared by NBI.
• Benefit from “Nile Basin TEEB for Water and Wetlands Study Research Facility” for in-depth work on TEEB for Water and Wetlands in Nile Basin.

5.0 WHO SHOULD APPLY

The contributor of the case study should have participated fully or partially in the generation of the content of the case study and has publication rights. In the case of group or institutional case study, the contributor must have expressive permission of the group or institution to publish the case study on their behalf. One contributor is allowed to submit more than one case studies.

6.0 CASE STUDIES SUBMISSION

The case studies should be submitted to the Regional Wetlands Expert, Nile Basin Initiative, wetlands@nilebasin.org

, P.O.Box 192; Entebbe, Uganda. Kindly indicate “Nile Basin TEEB Case Studies” in the subject line of the e-mail. The abstracts should be submitted by 31 May 2017.

For any clarification questions please email; wetlands@nilebasin.org

For more information about Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) please visit the NBI web-site (http://www.nilebasin.org).