1. Background

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a partnership of 10 Nile riparian countries that seeks to promote cooperative management and development of the shared Nile water resources. NBI’s Basin Wide Program is based on, and is one of the tools for implementation of, NBI’s 10 Year Strategy 2017-2027. The 10 Year Strategy itself is a tool for moving the NBI Member States towards their Shared Vision Objective, which is “to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from the shared Nile Basin water resources”. NBI’s 5 Year Basin Wide Program borrows the architecture of the 10 Year Strategy and hence adopts its Goals and Strategic Directions. The objective of the Basin wide Program is similar to the objective of the shared vision.

Key elements of the basin-wide are drawn from and aligned to five of the six of NBI 10 year strategy goals. These are Water Security, food security, environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, and transboundary water governance.

The Basin Wide Program is comprised of five work streams and four cross-cutting functions, which support delivery of results along the five work streams. The four cross-cutting functions provide NBI governance support (secretariat service), knowledge management, analytic systems (e.g. maintenance and support of NB DSS), planning, reporting and M and E; resource mobilization, donor coordination and overall program coordination; communication and stakeholder engagement support.

The structure of the BWP is a result of reflections over the challenges of program implementation over the past several years. The core business of the Nile SEC is transboundary water resources management and, in this regard, basin cooperation, communication and stakeholder related activities are required to be closely aligned with the core activity of water resources management.

The Program is expected to cost US$ 33.6 million and will be financed through country cash and in-kind contributions, and Development Partner grants. Slightly more than one half of the required funds have already been secured. A number of donor-funded projects are currently under implementation that will lend support to the Basin Wide Program. The Nile Secretariat, which will implement the Program, will approach more development partners to raise additional resources for the Program.

Monitoring and evaluation of the Basin Wide Program is carried out by staff of the Nile Secretariat to be complemented by external evaluations at the mid-term and end of Basin Wide Program phases. An analysis of risks has been carried out and appropriate mitigation measures instituted for identified risks. The risks include low country cash contributions, and non-participation in Nile cooperation by some riparian countries.

Implementation of the 5 year Basin Wide Program started in July 2017. December 2019 marked 2.5 years of Program implementation which is midterm. Nile-SEC intends to hire services of a suitable
consultant to undertake Mid-term review of the NBI Basin-Wide Program. These Terms References provide the objective of the information on the

2. Objective of the Mid-Term review

The Midterm evaluation will assess whether the level to which the Basin-wide Program is on track in delivering the intended results at the start and make recommendations of moving forward in a more effective manner. The review will determine the relevance and attainment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. The review will also assess the adequacy of the institutional structure, processes and coordination efforts of the actors for delivery of the results in the overall implementation of the program. Management of Nile-SEC will base on these recommendations to propose adjustments to the program for governance approval.

3. Approach

The Mid-term review will be conducted by an individual consultant with an extensive experience in multisector, multinational development programs reviews. Nile-SEC staff will provide the necessary information to facilitate reviews and analysis by the consultant. Key milestones in the approach are;

(i) **Literature review**: Study and comprehend NBI 10 year strategy as well as the Nile Basin Initiative Basin-wide Program 2017 – 2022 as background information for the mid-term evaluation of program implementation. Associated strategies such as the Communication and stakeholder engagement strategy, financing strategy as well as the resource mobilization action plan; will provide additional background information to the Basin wide program. Annual reports highlight the progress that has been made in implementation of the program.

(ii) **Preparation of inception report** highlighting the understanding of the assignment, refinement of approach, as well as the detailed work plan for execution of work.

(iii) **Consultations with key stakeholders** involved in program implementation as well as members of governance and representatives of development partners. Other stakeholders may include reginal actors, academia, and civil society representatives. The feedback from these consultations will validate or challenge the content or processes being applied; and provide alternative viewpoints.

(iv) **Preparation of the draft report** that puts together information as well as the results of the analysis, deriving initial recommendations for moving the program forward in a more beneficial manner

(v) **Preparation of final report** that will be reviewed and endorsed by management of NBI

4. Scope of the Mid Term Review

The MTR will focus on the 5 year NBI Basin-wide Program. It will evaluate the design, implementation progress and attainment of the planned results considering the evolving context of NBI and make recommendations of moving the program forward. Primary criteria for the review will consider the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

**Relevancy**: The relevance criteria will examine whether the program objectives are still consistent with the beneficiaries needs, and in synch with regional and global priorities.

**Effectiveness** of the Basin wide program will be assessed based on whether the objectives of the program are being achieved. The overall objective of the basin wide program is to achieve
sustainable socioeconomic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources.

Efficiency of the program will assess the achievement of the level of attainment of the results at the cost so far expended on the program.

Impact of the basin wide program is aligned to the NBI Shared vision program objective, which is to achieve sustainable social economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin Water resources.

Sustainability of the results achieved from the basin-wide program will be assessed based on the extent to which the results are institutionalized for post program viability.

Other additional criteria are monitoring and evaluation of the program, as well as adequacy pf the institutional structure in delivery of the program.

Monitoring and evaluation of the program: Implementation of the BWP is designed to follow a Results Based Management adopted by NBI in 2008. The system emphasizes delivery and measurement of results as opposed to focusing on processes. The review will assess how the program design and implementation has adhered to the Results Based System of management.

Institutional adequacy will be assessed based on the level of effort required for the program delivery vis-a-viz the existing Nile-SEC structure. The institutional assessment will also assess the level of support derived from member states and the gaps to be closed, including means of how to close the gaps.

5. Professional qualifications of the consultant

Advanced degree in development studies, program/project management, economics, engineering, water resources management, agriculture or closely related fields.

Additional qualifications;

i. Experience in program management of more than 10 years
ii. Experience in evaluation of multidisciplinary and complex development interventions for at least 2 similar or comparable programs
iii. Demonstrable knowledge of results based monitoring and evaluation system (at least 2 assignments)
iv. Knowledge of the Nile Basin region an added advantage
v. Understanding of the multicultural sensitivities and respect thereof
vi. Ability to create consensus during stakeholder consultations
vii. Good communication skills

6. Deliverables and schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>% payment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception report</td>
<td>Based on the information provided and initial consultations of key stakeholder, analyze and prepare report for consideration in a consultative workshop</td>
<td>1 weeks after contract is signed</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultative workshop</td>
<td>Facilitate consultative workshop with key stakeholder including representatives of Member states, Saps, LVBC and NBD that discusses the inception report and provides feedback on initial on approach, and program implementation</td>
<td>2 weeks after contract is signed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Report</td>
<td>Based on the feedback from the consultative workshop, prepare draft</td>
<td>3 weeks after</td>
<td>45%</td>
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report that includes findings and recommendations for optimal program implementation. At most 3 coordination loops between Consultant and Nile-SEC.

| Final report | A final report with key recommendations. | 1 month after contract is signed. | 40% |

7. **Level of effort**

The total number of person days is expected to be 25. These will be distributed over the contract period.

8. **Implementation arrangements**

The consultant shall sign contract with NBI Secretariat. The contract shall be a lump-sum contract where payment shall be upon submission of acceptable deliverables (see deliverables list and payment schedule above). Nile-SEC shall be responsible for the technical oversight. The Consultant shall work closely with the Program Officer under the supervision of the Head of Basin Wide Programme.

The consultant shall work from his/her home venue and undertake at least two trips to Nile Basin region.

Costs for work related travels for the consultant shall be separately paid by the NBI as per prevailing regulations of the NBI. All travels will have to be approved by the task manager and arrangements for the Consultant shall be made by the NBI.

**How to apply:**

Interested applicants are advised to submit applications electronically to the Executive Director through midtermreview@nilebasin.org. Application/cover letter indicating the title of the assignment accompanied by detailed curriculum vitae should reach the Executive Director not later than 12:00 pm (Local Time in Entebbe, Uganda) on 23rd March 2020.