Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in partnership with the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NEL-SAP- CU) and the Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric Project (RRHP) conducted an experiential tour of this flagship regional hydropower infrastructure project that is located at Rusumo Falls at the border of Tanzania and on River Kagera from 8th to 10th February 2023. It is one of the largest investment power

DID you know?

Every three years, the NBI is proud to host the Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF). The 7th NBDF is taking place in Kampala, Uganda in October 2023! Click here for more info: https://nilebasin.org/nbdf/

Group Photo of Permanent Secretaries at the Rusumo Hydro Power Plant 9th February 2023
Welcome to the third newsletter edition of the Nile News for the Financial Year 2022/2023! The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) has continued programme implementation at a brisk pace and this edition of the newsletter shares key highlights and achievements between October 2022 and March 2023.

NBI embarked on implementation of the second half (2022-2027) of its 10-Year Strategy (2017-2027) and on the NBI Basin-Wide Programme (BWP) II, which is the institution’s flagship planning tool, and builds on the achievements and lessons learned from the BWP I (2017-2022).

This edition of the newsletter highlights courtesy calls from the GIZ Uganda Country Director, ambassadors from the Sudan and French embassies along with the Director of the Agence française de développement (French Development Agency), underscoring NBI’s continued and deepening cooperation with these entities. Similarly, NBI enhanced its visibility beyond its traditional Member States by being invited to deliver a presentation on who NBI is to the African Ambassadors Group in March 2023.

On the global stage, NBI enhanced its visibility by attending the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater in Paris, France in early December 2022 as well as the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York in March 2023.

In the area of capacity building, among other activities, NBI conducted an experiential learning tour targeted at senior government officials who are decision makers, or who influence decisions made regarding transboundary water management. Furthermore, NBI provided capacity building in climate proofing of large infrastructure, delivered training in Python and R programming languages, held a workshop on gender training, among others.

As NBI continues to stride forward with implementing the BWP II together with the second half of its 10-Year Strategy, our deep appreciation for the confidence and support in our work and in us from our Member States, development partners, and you – our readers – remains unabated.

Best wishes,
Eng. Sylvester Anthony Matemu
projects in the south-eastern part of East Africa which serves as a lifeline to hundreds of thousands of citizens in the three partner countries: Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

This NBI flagship hydropower project addresses the acute shortage of electricity experienced by the three Kagera sub-region countries, which in turn has negatively affected the economies and socio-economic livelihoods of the citizens of these three countries.

The experiential learning tour targeted senior government officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Water Resources and Finance who are decision makers, or who influence decisions made regarding transboundary water management. This tour offered an interactive and practical approach to learning that they would otherwise not likely participate in.

The objectives of the experiential learning tour were as follows:

1. Promote sharing of good practices in the management and development of transboundary water resources. NBI will benchmark good practices that can be promoted for replication within the other Nile Basin Member States.
2. Facilitate learning from flagship projects that are successful in the management and development of transboundary water resources.
3. Promote learning of sustainable methods of harnessing benefits from transboundary water resources.

The NBI Experiential Learning Tour is part of the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) Project, which is supported by the World Bank through the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund.

By: Ms. Nakasagga Juliet
Knowledge Management Officer
In furtherance of cohesive implementation, performance planning and teamwork, the Nile-SEC team hosted a joint planning and team building retreat with GWPEA on 15th to 16th December 2022. This retreat was used not only to plan and review work plan implementation progress but also to build capacity of staff on organizational culture and change management dynamics. The main objective of the training activity was to provide an ideal opportunity to blend learning, reflection, fun and bonding for both the Nile-SEC and GWPEA staff and empower them to effectively manage personal change as well as employment transitions when they do happen. This was meant to ensure the continued well being of staff during and post-employment with NBI SEC and GWPEA.

The retreat took the opportunity to assess the progress made in changing mind set, taking initiatives and performance management since the previous retreat that dealt with inculcating a winning NBI Corporate Culture. In addition to the foregoing review, the team looked at modern issues in performance management at the work place including apprising itself on the good and the ugly of effective performance appraisals. An additional segment covered the management of change and employment transitions that broadly equipped staff to understand dynamics of personal change, types of employment transitions and their possible management strategies. The final segment focused on the need for financial and investment literacy as staff plan the post-employment times left all staff in attendance better equipped on management of their personal growth, welfare and yearning for more.

In conclusion, stimulating and exciting experiential learning activities were carried out that build the capacity of NBI SEC staff in the following areas:

► Factors that undermine teamwork.
► Characteristics of a high performing team.
► Effective interpersonal relations and communication, including active listening.
► Secrets of getting outstanding results through others.

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The management of NBI continues to take the development of its staff with high regard and significance. The Executive Director in his closing remarks of the retreat acknowledged staff for their improved performance, team’s overall behavior, initiative and improved health as compared to the previous year. He noted with gratitude that the NBI brand continues to stand out and differentiate itself from other similar public organizations in the region.

Martin Mutua
Head of Corporate Services
Nile-SEC
The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Groundwater Project Holds its Third Steering Committee Meeting

The NBI Groundwater Project, which is worth USD$30 million and has a project life cycle of five years (2020-2025) marked an important milestone on 30th November 2022 during its project steering committee meeting that was held on the 30th of November in Nairobi, Kenya.

With funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) channelled through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), this project aims at strengthening current mutual understanding on groundwater flow, recharge mechanisms, policies and management systems as well as community engagement and sustainable development plans for the effective utilization and protection of groundwater from over abstraction, depletion, and pollution.

The Project Steering Committee is responsible for arriving at management decisions through consensus, including recommendations for UNDP/Implementing Partner approval of project plans and revisions as well as addressing any project-level grievances. The Steering Committee is composed of a Project Management Unit at the NBI Secretariat; a task team at two of NBI’s Subsidiary Action Programme Offices (Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme), national focal point institutions in each of the seven participating NBI countries; and local-level government authorities in each of participating NBI Countries.

The Steering Committee Meeting is an important milestone in the project life cycle since it is an opportunity to present the progress achieved in 2022, share the expected deliverables for the Financial Year 2023, and also discuss challenges, opportunities, and possible solutions in the implementation of the various project components.

The Steering Committee Meeting was preceded by a three-day Action Plans Inception workshop.

Dr. Maha Abdelrahim Ismail
UNDP/GEF Groundwater Project Team Leader
The World Meteorological Organization’s (WMO) Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS) initiative’s aim is to provide global and regional scale standardized hydrological information to understand and monitor the world’s freshwater systems and to adapt to upcoming changes in water storage and conditions.

Between November 22 and 24, 2022, the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was among over 60 participants that gathered in Kigali, Rwanda, for the Lake Victoria Basin HydroSoS Implementation Workshop. The participants were key experts and stakeholders in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, in addition to development and implementation partners such as the Global Water Partnership (GWP), IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH). Other stakeholders included the private sector, media, civil society, NGOs, and governments.

A memorandum of understanding between the Nile Basin initiative and WMO was signed to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations. The NBI Technical experts supported in preparation and coordination of this workshop which was a gesture of cooperation.

NBI Knowledge Management Officer and Regional Water Resources Modeler who supported in the facilitation of the workshop.

This workshop was the first step of a larger process to implement HydroSOS in the Lake Victoria Basin and is expected to foster a shared understanding of the project.
objectives and impacts, as well as the implementation activities and plans that are geared towards creating a solid platform for the development and successful implementation of HydroSOS at regional, national and community levels.

The meeting’s main objectives were to:

► Establish partnerships and linkages with existing activities relevant for the implementation of the system in Lake Victoria Basin
► Develop a roadmap and milestones to full HydroSOS implementation including the review and validation of this concept note.
► Understand the needs, expectations, opportunities and challenges, and perspectives at the regional and local levels to refine the development of project activities and products.

► Identify the demonstrator basin(s) and the potential benefits of HydroSOS to Members and.
► Develop implementation plan for demonstrator development in 2023 under the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) East Africa project.

Expected outcomes from this workshop included:

► Selection of initial/demonstration sub-basin(s)
► Definition of products based on the member and end user needs.
► Mapping of HydroSoS implementation activities with existing projects along with the required resources (such as infrastructure, human capacity, tools, etc.), funders, stakeholders, development partners, and funders
► Well-defined implementation roadmap, implementation matrix, validation of pre-concept including CREWS East Africa Project
► Expression of commitments by Members and implementing partners through the re-confirmation of Focal Point and Technical Experts

Nakasagga Juliet
Knowledge Management Officer

<< Between November 22 and 24, 2022, the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was among over 60 participants that gathered in Kigali, Rwanda, for the Lake Victoria Basin HydroSoS Implementation Workshop. >>
On October 20th, 2023, Mr. James Macbeth, the GIZ-Uganda Country Director, paid a courtesy call on the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat offices at Entebbe. Accompanied by Dr. Malte Grossman, Head of Project, Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin at GIZ Uganda, Mr. Macbeth was warmly welcomed at NBI by the Executive Director, Eng. Sylvester A. Matemu, Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Michael Kizza, and NBI Secretariat staff. The courtesy call served a three-fold purpose: to strengthen a longstanding relationship between NBI and GIZ (which dates to 1999 at NBI’s establishment); to sign a three-year agreement between NBI and GIZ, which is an extension of GIZ’s support to transboundary water cooperation in the Nile Basin (2022-2025); and to launch the HydroMet station installed on NBI’s premises.

This new three-year funding phase focuses on three areas:

1. Sharing the hydrological data from the HydroMet with Nile Basin Member States;
2. Coordination of dam/reservoir operations and;
3. The Nile Basin Investment Programme (NBIP)

The Nile Basin Investment Program aims at implementing the Nile River Basin Management Plan (NRBMP). This is in line with one of the key strategic directions under the NBI 10-Year Strategy, which is, "to strengthen basin investment programs, preparation and management." This strategic direction elaborates on the key actions identified as part of the RBMP into a basin-wide, multi-country and multi-sector portfolio of regionally significant investments to be implemented by the Member States and the various intergovernmental mechanisms active in the basin. These shall constitute the Nile Basin Investment Programme or Agenda (NBIP/A), whereby various investment options will be packaged to address the diverse needs of the riparian countries. Furthermore, a NBIP/A support function will be established to coordinate, promote, and follow up the preparation and implementation of the program.

Following a cordial engagement with NBI staff, Mr. Macbeth ended his visit by planting a tree of indigenous species in NBI’s backyard, which overlooks Lake Victoria.
Building capacity for Nile Basin countries in climate proofing for large infrastructures

Climate change will profoundly affect water security across the Nile Basin. It will affect hydrological dynamics and water availability across the Nile Basin. Countries in the Nile Basin which already experience energy and water shortages, and for example rely on irrigation-fed agriculture, are extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. For these reasons amongst others, countries construct dam and reservoir infrastructure on the Nile to make water available for development and produce electricity. Though, climate change induced reduced flows, extreme flow variations or extremely high flows of Nile water will have implications for the ability of water infrastructure to cope with such stress and deliver its core services and sustain its structural integrity, threatening crop production, food, and energy security, and as well as disaster resilience. Hence, water governance will become an increasingly contentious topic, and unless action is taken it will be a destabilizing element for the region. To achieve domestic and regional development objectives and ensure water security and peace, water suppliers must meet demands across the Nile Basin. Built infrastructure must do its part to help ensure the integrity of this supply, across states, regions, and seasons and for the full lifecycle of each investment.

To help ensure these outcomes, infrastructure investment planning must now consider not only the historical range of the hydrological conditions with which a
project must contend but also the full potential range of future conditions, as affected by climate change, over the lifetime of a project. Climate proofing is termed the approach and defined as a process that ensures thinking climate resilience throughout all stages of investment decision-making, hence ranging from the climate proofing at policy and planning level and continues as investment projects are identified, prepared, constructed, and operated.

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) has taken the effort together with its development partner, the German International Cooperation (GIZ), and implemented a workstream to pilot and test the concept of Climate Proofing using a number of investment projects under the Nile Equatorial Lakes Investment Program (NELIP) and developing a manual for climate proofing. The core of climate proofing is executing climate risk assessments. The methodological foundation of risk assessment piloted and tested under the NELIP is based on the provisions and principles of the Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) hosted by the Climate Risk Institute (CRI), the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) and GIZ. It had been adjusted to the requirements of water infrastructure in the Nile region and the sequential steps of water investment procedures followed by NBI and its member states. Furthermore, through the contribution of ESSA ecosystem-based approaches to climate proofing in the so-called grey-green continuum had been brought up in this manual.

The manual is strongly aligned within several complementary resources available at the NBI that in their sum represents the significant capacity offered to promote climate proofing and set the seed for its institutionalization throughout the Nile Basin. The manual is programmed as a website under NBI’s Integrated Knowledge Portal (IKP) and is aligned with more technical manuals and access to climate data banks on processing climate and hydrological data for the execution of risk assessment. Moreover, a climate proofing self-paced e-learning course is available for decision makers, engineers, infrastructure owners, operators, and climatologists. For purposes of peer-exchange and expert networking the NBI provides an entry point for access to an international expert community hosted by the PIEVC. Webinars, a marketplace for services on climate proofing is accessible to all interested experts throughout the Nile Basin.

Hence, the manual and its complementary resources is an opportunity and offer to NBI’s member states and their experts to engage in climate proofing. It promotes the notion that all investment decisions shall be based on sound climate proofing to ensure future water security, in such a way as Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) takes care of environmental sustainability. Hence, this manual also provides food for thought of making climate proofing mandatory.

Dr. Modathir Zaroug
Climate Services for Infrastructure Project Lead
Introduction

The Nile Basin Initiative received funds from World Bank through the CIWA Trust Fund to cooperatively address the ever-increasing water quality and pollution control challenges in the basin. The program shall support improved water quality management at national and regional levels to address the growing threats of degradation of water resources. Specifically, the program shall (i) support member states to improve their water quality monitoring systems and ensure effective participation in the regional water quality program; (ii) improve availability of water quality data and information at national and regional levels; (iii) develop a Nile Basin water quality database that can support development of measures for addressing pollution and quality degradation at national and regional levels; (iv) prepare models assessing critical sections of the basins (hotspots) and providing critical information for designing intervention measures (v) prepare and disseminate information products aimed at improving awareness of countries on the water quality challenges in the basin and measures that can be taken to address them; (vi) improve capacity of key stakeholders with tools and models for designing/implementation of water quality interventions.

Nile SEC has contracted the joint venture BRL Ingenierie (BRLi), ANTEA group and Water and Environment&Geo Services Ltd (WE Consult) to develop Nile Basin water quality database. The objective of the consultancy is to bring the different and diverse water quality data from national, regional and global sources into one place, develop a data management system that also incorporates customization to user needs, and to widely disseminate information about the data to users through the Nile Basin Integrated Knowledge Portal (IKP).
The specific objectives of the two days’ workshop were the following:

► To discuss and comment the progress report of the consultancy services for development of Nile Basin water quality database. This will include the data user/system requirements, detailed design of database and first release and the database

► To collect water quality data from the countries, NBI centres and LVBC

► To seek support from member states countries on the provision of water quality data to support e Nile Basin WQ data base and water quality modelling and

► To discuss the design update report for water quality monitoring and presentation of technical specifications of water quality equipment (sensors, basic WQ equipment, field kits and sediment sampling equipment) to be supplied to the Nile Basin countries.

**Outcome of the workshop**

Considering that the collection of water quality data from the national data repositories and data base (where they exist) are handled by the Nile-SEC, the workshop was an opportunity:

► To introduce the consultant to the countries and share with them the data collection requirements, formats, water quality models, database.

► To provide information to the consultant on the selected hotspots for water quality modelling which have been developed by NELSAP through Multi-criteria analysis methodology

► To present the draft technical specifications of water quality equipment and update design of water quality monitoring network

► To highlight the importance of the countries collaboration in provision of water quality data and

► To initiate the collection of water quality data from the Nile Basin countries

The workshop attracted 52 participants which include all members of the Water quality technical work group (WQ-TWG), representatives of the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), the members of the National Water Quality Taskteam (NWQT) of Rwanda and consultants (BRLi and WSS Ltd).

**By: Dr Jean Namugize**  
Regional Water Quality Expert  
Nile-SEC, Entebbe, Uganda
NILE NEWS

NBI builds water resource professionals’ capacity in analytical skills

NBI organized training on Python and R programming languages for the purposes of building capacities in climatic and water resources data analytic services. The goal of the training was to increase the analytical skills of water resource professionals from member states and Nile Basin Initiative staff members in the analysis of Earth Observation data using free software tools. Open software are affordable, easily accessible and sustainable for users in the basin, hence the preference for strengthening such capacity. These trainings are a component of the initiative to establish data analytics services under the World Bank-funded Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project.

The two training sessions took place at different times in two different countries. The Python training, which was held in Bujumbura, Burundi, from January 23–27, 2023, was officially opened by Emmanuel Ndorimana, Assistant Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi. Out of 25 trainees that participated in the program 85% were male and 15% were women. 18 participants came from Member States (2 from each nation) and 7 were from the Nile-SEC, LBVC and NELSAP.

The R training was virtually introduced for one day in Bujumbura after the Python training, then it was physically conducted in Kigali, Rwanda.

From March 20–22, 2023, the R physical training was held in Kigali, Rwanda. There were 31 trainees in attendance, with 19% women and 81% men. Of the total participants, 18 (two from each member state), 11, from the Nile-SEC, LBVC, and NELSAP, and three were young professionals from Nile-SEC.

Participants of Python training in Bujumbura, Burundi
The course included hands-on practical activities using open-source real-world Earth observation (EO) data from several cloud-based repositories, as well as theatrical features of the Python and R tools. The location of where to obtain free geospatial data was also explained to the trainees for use in their daily activities.

Experts from member states will be able to access public domain data from various portals after this training to conduct analysis for decision-making. Additionally, they will support NBI in the execution of its data analytics service.

Participants were satisfied with the training including the software capabilities, the expertise for the training, as well as the facilitation by Nile-SEC. It was recommended that for sustainability of such a network needs to be realized through formation of the working group on earth observations analytical capacities to enable the critical mass that participated in the training to continue networking and building such capacities in the basin. A training of trainer’s approach was recommended for the future.

Zeleke Kebebew Challa
Earth Observation and Remote Sensing Expert

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On January 18th, 2023, His Excellency, Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Ahmed, the Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan to Uganda, paid a courtesy call to the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat, where he was warmly welcomed by the Secretariat staff led by the Executive Director, Eng. Sylvester Matemu.

The cordial meeting was an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between NBI and The Sudan, which is a Nile Basin Member State. H.E. Ambassador Ahmed confirmed Sudan’s support for NBI and its mandate, and pledged Sudan’s continued commitment to Nile Cooperation. He also added that there is need to deepen the cooperation between Nile Basin countries and the international community given the socio-economic and political importance of the Nile. He toured NBI’s Knowledge Center, where he was shown rare technical documents in addition to contemporary NBI-authored technical reports. H.E. Ambassador Ahmed concluded his visit by touring the Entebbe Hydromet station located on the Secretariat premises and planting an indigenous tree species in NBI’s expansive backyard.
Each year on 22nd February, NBI together with Nile Basin Member States, and friends of the Nile – and in partnership with the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) convene to commemorate the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), which occurred in 1999 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

This year, Nile Day 2023 was held on February 22nd, 2023, at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya. This was not the first time for Nile Day celebrations to be hosted in Kenya; the 2016 Nile Day celebrations were also held in Kenya in Vihiga. The theme for Nile Day 2023 was, “Deepening Nile Cooperation: Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate.”

The main objectives of Nile Day are to:

- Raise awareness and visibility of the Nile Basin Initiative, its achievements, and benefits of Nile Basin cooperation;
- Enable Member States and friends of the Nile Basin to recognise and celebrate the rich and varied cultures which exist within the Nile Basin;
- Attract the support and collaboration of regional and international strategic partners on transformative initiatives that will facilitate sustainable utilization of the Nile waters.

Over 400 participants attended the Nile Day 2023 celebrations. Participants included Ministers (or their representatives) in charge of Water Affairs from each Nile Basin Member State, members of the Diplomatic Corps, development partners, officials and staff from the Kenyan ministries of Water, Energy, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Environment, as well as NGOs, the media, civil society organisations, and youth.

In addition to the Host Country’s Minister of Water, there were seven members of NBI’s highest governance body, the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM), in attendance as well as high-ranking representatives.
The Nile Day 2023 Guest of Honor was H. E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, the Prime Cabinet Secretary for the Republic of Kenya, and the Host Country Minister was Hon. Alice Wahome, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation for the Republic of Kenya.

The Guest of Honor visited the Nile Day 2023 Expo where NBI showcased its technical expertise alongside 11 other exhibitors drawn from the government, related institutions, and the private sector.

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The keynote address for Nile Day 2023 was delivered by Dr. John Rao Nyaoro, who served as the NBI Secretariat’s Executive Director from 2014 to 2016. In his stirring keynote, Dr. Nyaoro provided a background to NBI’s existence 24 years ago and highlighted that the Nile Day 2023 celebrations were an opportunity for the Member States, the three NBI centres, and Development Partners to not only celebrate the achievements to date but also assess “their common development interests on the sustainable development of the Nile Basin shared water resources.

Dr. Nyaoro also emphasized the importance and benefits of cooperation in face of the challenges from climate change, explaining that deepening cooperation will result in building resilience to climate change and also lead to the peaceful co-existence of Nile Basin citizens.

In his remarks, the Guest of Honor, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH called for equitable utilization of the Nile Basin resources through mutual cooperation and understanding, emphasizing that, “we are united by the Nile. Let us protect it from despair.” He added, “the water resource is not elastic hence the need to share the increasing scarcity of Nile water equitable among the Nile Basin countries.”

Eng. Sylvester A. Matemu, NBI Secretariat’s Executive Director, expressed his gratitude to the NBI Member States for their continued commitment to cooperation under NBI and to NBI’s Development Partners for their unwavering financial and technical support highlighting NBI’s existence and relevance over the past 24 years adding, “it is not easy to remain relevant and making
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Catherine Tovey from the World Bank remarked that, “Over the last 24 years, we have witnessed the Basin countries moving from a situation of which little cooperation took place to joint capacity building, joint development of knowledge and joint investments have taken place.”

A unique feature at this year’s Nile Day celebrations was that the nine NBI Secretariat’s former Executive Directors were each presented with a plaque in recognition of their leadership and dedication to NBI.

Nile Day 2023 was preceded by a clean-up operation at Michuki Memorial Park as a precursor to the actual Nile Day celebrations. The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation, Hon. Dr. Paul Ronoh presided over the clean-up operation.

Following the Nile Day 2023 celebrations, NBI’s highest governance body, the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) held an extraordinary meeting at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre.
The Nile Basin Initiative Strategic Dialogue is an annual event that brings together representatives of NBI Partner States and of Development Partners to discuss the Nile cooperation, share briefs and lessons on institutional and program progress. The dialogue seeks to strengthen Nile cooperation through exploring options of institutional sustainability. The discussions reflect on the evolving context of enabling environment, emerging issues, challenges, opportunities to map prospects for institutional growth and sustainability.

The annual NBI Strategic Dialogue was held on 23rd February 2023 at Sarova Panafric Hotel, in Nairobi, Kenya. The dialogue was arranged in a hybrid format, with the majority of Development Partners joining online. The Strategic Dialogue has been established as an instrumental forum in generating ideas on institutional, technical, as well as financial sustainability for Nile cooperation. The forum is not a decision-making body but a platform for analyzing issues and the outcomes informing decisions of NBI governance as well as the Development Partners of NBI.

This year’s Strategic Dialogue was presided over by the Nile-TAC Chair, Dr George Lugomela, and co-chaired by Dr Malte Grossmann, Head of Transboundary Projects at GIZ-Uganda, representing Development Partners. The role NBI played in bringing all stakeholders on board in the cooperative process, capacity building, and much enhanced common understanding was appreciated. The strategic outlook of the Development Partners was about two questions: what needs to be done in the long run to set the basin on solid footing for food/energy security; and how to move forward to stronger cooperation amongst the Member States.

The call to support countries to protect the watershed was made by the Member States and countries also reiterated their commitment to clear their arrears of country contributions to NBI.

Transformative transboundary investments in the Nile Basin through strengthening political cooperation towards transformative investments was underscored. It was noted that the visibility of NBI will be greatly realized through implementation of investment programs. The international community was called upon to play a more proactive role in resolving sticking issues impeding cooperation on the Nile. Countries were advised to include priority areas in their strategic papers.

Overall, the Strategic Dialogue 2023 was fruitful in revisiting the NBI institutional and programmatic priorities and sharing the priorities for the future.
On February 26th, 2023, NBI held a gender training workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, which was attended by NBI staff across the three centers. The gender content was delivered in a workshop style which involved presentations by the facilitators, group discussions, and interactive activities. The workshop style provided a conducive environment for the impartation of theoretical knowledge and concepts.

The overall aim of the one-day training session was to provide all participants with a foundational understanding of gender concepts and their importance in project and organizational processes. NBI staff participants came from senior management, programs, finance, corporate services, and administration. The objectives of the training were to:

- Be able to begin mainstreaming gender throughout project implementation and operations.
- Improve the ability to identify, interrogate, and provide solutions for gender challenges within project and organizational processes.

The training covered the following topics:

- What is our individual and community understanding of gender and gender norms?
- How do gender and cultural norms affect the work we do?
- How can we identify gender gaps in our work and what can we do to mitigate them?
- How can we better integrate gender into our organizational and project processes?

Given that this was an introduction to gender and gender concepts, there are plans to follow up on this crucial capacity building and address issues specifically from a programs, finance, and operations perspective since gender is applied in different ways in each of those work areas.
Installation of Hydromet Stations in the Nile Basin Countries Continues

NBI begun installation of 60 hydrological monitoring (hydromet) stations in rivers across nine Nile Basin countries on the third week of September 2022 and was expected to conclude by October 2022. The stations will support water level monitoring in several rivers that fall within the basin. The countries are Burundi, D.R Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan Republic, Tanzania, and Uganda.

“The nine countries received equipment for hydromet stations in July 2022 and by September 18th, 2022, were assembling, installing and testing the stations,” said Dr. Mohsen Alarabawy, the Regional Project Manager for the NBI European Union (EU-BMZ) funded Hydromet Project.

By March 2023, a total of 43 hydromet stations had been successfully installed in the region. The total number of hydromet stations that will be installed in the region is 60.

“These hydromet stations will provide real-time data and reliable information to improve water resources planning and management both at national and regional levels. They will enable better flood and drought disaster preparedness, monitoring of surface water quality and sediment transport, coordinated management of water storage dams, navigation, and improved adaptation to climate change,” said Mrs. Jacqueline Nyirakamana, the Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist at the Ministry of Environment, Rwanda / TAC Member. She spoke while officially receiving equipment for installation of six hydromet stations on behalf of Rwanda.

As part of the hydromet package, each country has received the following: Water level and rainfall sensors connected to data loggers with necessary accessories. A telemetric system with dual data transmission technology (GPRS and satellite) that will enable transmission of data from regional stations to the national data centres. This dual transmission system provides the highest reliability while giving each country the option to switch to either method (GPRS or satellite) in compliance with the national policy and country limitations. Countries’ national data centres are also being upgraded through among others, acquisition of computers (hardware and software), rehabilitation/construction of selected regional stations, and training of national staff to ensure member states have the necessary skilled staff to install, operate and maintain modern hydro-meteorological monitoring systems. Upon completion, the stations will be handed over to the member countries for operation and maintenance.

“The Nile Basin Regional hydromet system shall provide data and information required to facilitate implementation of various projects and programs and will significantly contribute to conflict prevention and regional integration,” said Eng. Dr. Isaac Alukwe, the NELSAP Regional Coordinator.
ENTRO has taken the initiative to establish an internship program as part of its core activities and has successfully implemented it for the last 10 years. The program has proven immensely popular in fostering cooperation and has facilitated ENTRO in enhancing its professional network.

The program started in 2011 when ENTRO engaged Eastern Nile countries through partnership with scientific communities (Eastern Nile Universities).

Eastern Nile countries have acknowledged the contribution of the internship program and even instructed ENTRO in enhancing its professional network.

The program has extended its reach outside academia, to include young professionals practicing their trade in the private sector, other government ministries, and civil society, among others.

The main objective of the internship program is to empower young people from the Eastern Nile Basin countries to support the emergence of a shared understanding about the resource base – its potential, the risks it is facing, and its future. The overarching objective is to engage young people in transboundary dialogue and trust building among relevant Nile Basin stakeholders to enhance cooperation to mitigate risks and harness opportunities.

To date, around 200 interns have been enrolled in 21 batches from Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan. Currently four interns are on board, working on the theme, “Socio-Economic and SDG 6 Indicators Mapping.”

The internship program runs in the following categories: Regular Internship Program, Flood Management and Forecasting, Young Professionals Program, and Joint Studies.

Over 80 capacity building training courses, sharing sessions, field visits, workshops, and online sessions have been implemented under this program so far.
Achievements of the Internship Program

► A network of young water resources professionals created that can change the future and contribute to the sustenance of the momentum in dialogue and inter-riparian cooperation.

► The internship gives young people the chance to start their career and helps them acquire a better idea of what they want to do in the future.

► The internship program helps in establishing physical and virtual space that allows people from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds to work together in joint teams allowing for unprecedented collaboration.

► Benefits for these targeted young people include increased knowledge and skills on water management, enhanced capacity to set up projects, increase in their social capital (networks) within the water sector, opportunity to interact with other inspiring young people, on-going support from NBI and continuous mentorship from senior water experts.

► The internship plays a key role in sustaining Nile Basin cooperation, engagement and partnership, particularly among water resources professionals.

► The interns enrich NBI’s knowledge base with an array of technical knowledge and academic traditions in understanding the river system,

► This program helps NBI to create a conducive environment where water resources professionals, academics and practitioners can come together and collaborate in solving the shared problems of the basin and build cooperative partnerships.

The most recent batch of interns (21st batch in ENTRO’s history) were at ENTRO from November 2022 to February 2023 and represented Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan. During their internship period, they conducted a study called, “Institutional Framework and State of Water Governance in the Eastern Nile Basin.”

The objective of this study was to assess and analyze the state of water governance progresses and challenges under Member Countries’ institutional framework in the EN Basin and propose innovative solutions and opinions to enhance transboundary water resources development and management cooperation.

Some of the recommendations the interns came up with regarding conflicts on water use in the Eastern Nile River Basin included enhancing institutional capacity on a domestic level and fostering a shared understanding of resource utilization. Some of the topics that the interns covered included water law, water governance, water resource policies and strategies, transboundary water cooperation, and institutional frameworks.

<<< Eastern Nile countries have acknowledged the contribution of the internship program and even instructed its sustenance and expansion. As a result, the program has extended its reach outside academia, to include young professionals practicing their trade in the private sector, other government ministries, and civil society, among others.>>
On March 15th, 2023, His Excellency, Mr. Xavier Sticker, the Ambassador of France in Uganda together with Mr. Hatem Chakroun, the Director, French Development Agency and Ms. Ony Razafintsalama, the Cooperation Attachée at the French Embassy in Uganda, paid a courtesy call to the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat where they were warmly welcomed by the Secretariat staff led by the Executive Director, Eng. Sylvester Matemu. The cordial meeting was an opportunity to strengthen the already-existing relationship between NBI and France.

In his remarks to the Secretariat, H.E. Sticker remarked that France, through the AFD, is a major development partner in the water sector and explained France’s historical ties to water through Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, who in 1783, concluded that water was a compound composed of oxygen and hydrogen.

Mr. Chakroun expressed AFD’s support for NBI and its mandate, remarking that NBI plays a key role in Nile Cooperation within the basin. AFD supported Nelsap-CU/NBI in the development of its Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Eng. Sylvester Matemu set the scene by explaining that “water is life” and is at the center of socio-economic development. Based on its mandate, NBI is therefore of national, regional, and global significance. He added that the sustainable management, conservation, and development of water resources cannot be fully achieved without the support of development and international cooperation partners.

The French delegation concluded their visit by receiving NBI knowledge products and souvenirs and touring the Entebbe Hydromet station located on the Secretariat premises.
Capacity development plays a central role in the implementation of NBI’s core mandate and achievement of its vision. The NBI Capacity Development Strategy (2022) will help NBI implement its capacity development activities more systemically and track and report its progress and achievements. The strategy defines NBI’s overall capacity development framework and sets capacity development priorities for the period 2022-2027, which aligns with NBI’s 10-Year strategy (2017-2027). The development of this strategy was financed by the World Bank—Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (WB/CIWA), under the “Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience” project implemented by NBI in the period 2020-2025. The capacity building strategy will contribute to the project by strengthening prerequisite competencies of NBI in data-driven decision-making.

The Nile Basin Initiative capacity development has been one of the key areas of activities. These activities range from targeted institutional support of national NBI offices, country to country experience sharing visits, and study tours, short and long training courses. Several NBI stakeholders have benefitted from these capacity development events. A focus has emerged on the topic of capacitating young professionals at Nile-SEC, particularly, water security, climate change and transboundary water governance. In the past years the NBI has invested resources to build capacity of project managers, planners, designers and different stakeholders.

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The Young Professionals Program is part of NBI’s core activities. This program will foster cooperation and allow Nile-SEC to expand its professional network. The Program shall help Nile-SEC to engage young professionals of the NB countries through partnership with ministries and scientific communities (universities). There will be 3 batches because of logistical arrangement of the program. The young professional program expected to start soon.

The selected participants will also be involved in the development and testing of the Data and Analytics Services platform which will leverage on the data available today in the public domain. For the Earth Observation (EO) data, the selected participants will play a key role in practical applications of the data and analytics to application cases from their respective home institutions in the Nile Basin countries.

Each batch will consist of 3 selected participants:

- The first batch which already started is from Burundi, DRC, and Ethiopia.
- The second batch will be from Kenya, Rwanda, and South Sudan.
- The third batch will be form Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The objective of this program is to support selected participants to develop key skills necessary for transboundary Water Resources Management in the Nile Basin.
Specific objectives are:

► The program will also support transferring the knowledge from the senior NBI experts to the selected participants.

► Develop capacity on water security (groundwater, earth observation, water quality, etc), food security, environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, and transboundary governance,

► Increase opportunities for collaboration and networking amongst stakeholders throughout the NBI riparian countries.

► Support the development and testing of the Data and Analytic Services platform. For the EO data, young professionals will play a key role in practical applications of the data and analytics to application cases.

► Develop modelling skills of the young professionals in a range of tools.

The duration of the internship is 2.5 months and the internship period is to be physically spent at the Nile-SEC offices in Entebbe. NBI has covered the cost through funding from NCCR which is provided by the World Bank through Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Program.

Prepared by: Dr. Modathir Zaroug

Young Professionals Supervisor
On March 20th, 2023 at Hotel Africana in Kampala, Uganda, the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat had the opportunity to present its work, achievements, challenges, and prospects to the African Ambassadors Group. Led by the NBI Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Michael Kizza, this high-level engagement with African ambassadors was an opportunity to enhance NBI’s visibility beyond its traditional Member States.

In his presentation, Dr. Kizza provided the historical context to NBI’s establishment in 1999, the institution’s core functions, and its role in strengthening cooperation for the benefit of the Basin citizens. Following Dr. Kizza’s presentation, there was a stimulating Q&A session and an explicit request from the ambassadors to engage further with NBI.

As a precursor to this conference, Eng. Matemu attended the second round of Africa regional consultations on the mid-term review of the water action decade (WAD) and stakeholders’ engagement on the strategic groundwater programme and African water quality (AWaQ) programme in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 7-10 November 2022.

Representing both NBI and the African Network of Basin Organizations (as current president of the organization) in New York, Eng. Matemu was among the 10,000 participants at this pivotal conference whose aim was to address the water crisis and ensure equitable access to water for all. The UN 2023 Water Conference was a convergence point for world leaders, business leaders, civil society, youth, academics, scientists and many others drawn from the water, environment, energy, and agriculture sectors.

The key outcome of this Conference was the Water Action Agenda, to which over 700 commitments were made and captured from Member States, the private sector, NGOs, and multilateral banks, among others.
The Nile Basin Data and Analytics Services

Nile Basin Data and Analytics Services User Community Forum

The NBI has generated a wealth of knowledge through implementation of its programs over the past two decades. It is this knowledge that has given the organization its niche in the management and development of trans-boundary water resources in the Nile Basin. However, knowledge on the Nile Basin is based on data that is collected from the countries as well as that that is freely available from global sources. Access to observed data, both in space and time, from the countries remains an institutional challenge. Poor access to data and information undermines the Nile Basin countries’ ability to effectively address water development challenges related to food, energy, water, climate, and environmental insecurity at national and regional levels. Digital technologies have increasingly been used in recent years to enhance water resources management at regional, national and local levels and in the transboundary context. NBI and national governments use data to manage water resources and make informed decisions based on historical, real time, and projected information on Basin resources and uses. >>
long-term environment impact and local and regional economic growth. Enhanced information-based decision making in the Nile Basin cooperative environment enables more effective planning, designing and managing water resources to respond to water related challenges in a systems context.

The NBI is largely dependent on manual ways of accessing data, processing and generation of knowledge products with strong inclination to use of older approaches and technologies. Data collection is typically a local manual activity that is primarily done by the countries, in addition to limited access to globally available datasets on the Nile Basin. As part of modern technological advances, more modern real-time in-situ observation is being supported by the NBI. Effective use of EO and other tools can greatly expand data coverage over larger geographical areas to complement in-situ data and optimize monitoring networks. In addition, in the past the best way to manage and combine data was to physically store it in a local database and analyze it using legacy desktop software. Access to visualize and use even very basic Basin data is very restricted, especially in transboundary contexts.

However, today data can be accessed, analyzed, and interactively visualized on any connected device through a growing set of “live” public-domain online services, potentially sourced from all over the world, and does not necessarily need to be ‘owned’ to be used by a single user. Cloud storage, analytics, and automation have enabled a wide range of users to interactively access, analyze and visualize relevant data, including public domain data, at a low cost. The NBI looks forward to tapping on these resources to establish a system that promotes and improves data and analytic services for the Nile Basin in light of supporting decision making processes in member states.

The Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project is working, among other activities, towards expanding NBI’s data and information services to its member states. The move is aimed at enhancing access to line ministries and departments to all relevant data required for climate risk-informed planning and investments, including, hazard and climate variability data, weather patterns and any other sector-specific data.

A key step towards the development of the Nile Basin Data and Analytics Services involves development of the platform and later integrate the platform into the Nile Basin Integrated Knowledge Portal (IKP).

Prepared by: Dr. Modathir Zaroug
DAS project lead
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 2– 8, 2023</td>
<td>Experiential Learning Tour ZAMCOM</td>
<td>Harare, Zimbabwe</td>
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<td>April 12-13, 2023</td>
<td>DAS (Data and Analytic Services) Kick off meeting</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
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<td>April 20 – 21, 2023</td>
<td>DAS Needs assessment (Uganda)</td>
<td>Kampala (ministry), Uganda</td>
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<td>April 24 – 27, 2023</td>
<td>Training in Cloud Services (AZURE)</td>
<td>Dubai, UAE</td>
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<td>April 27, 2023</td>
<td>National NBI (Nile Basin Initiative) Coordination Meeting</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<td>25-26 April</td>
<td>DAS Needs assessment (Rwanda)</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Advanced training on Drupal 9 – IKP (Integrated Knowledge Portal) migration</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Mid Term Review Workshop Groundwater</td>
<td>Entebbe</td>
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<td>May 2 – 4, 2023</td>
<td>Training in Transboundary Water Cooperation</td>
<td>Dar, Tanzania</td>
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<td>May 8-9, 2023</td>
<td>DAS Needs assessment (DRC)</td>
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<td>May 11-12, 2023</td>
<td>DAS Needs assessment Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis, Ethiopia</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Consultation workshop Mt. Elgon shared aquifer</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Consultation Workshop Kagera shared aquifer</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15 – 19, 2023</td>
<td>Mid-Term Review of NCCR (NILE COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE) Project</td>
<td>Entebbe, Uganda</td>
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<td>May 22 – 26, 2023</td>
<td>Meeting of L/RBO of Africa</td>
<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
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<td>May 21-22, 2023</td>
<td>DAS Needs assessment (Sudan)</td>
<td>Khartoum, Sudan</td>
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<td>May 24-25, 2023</td>
<td>DAS Needs assessment (South Sudan)</td>
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<td>June 2023</td>
<td>62 Nile-TAC Meeting</td>
<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
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<td>June 2023</td>
<td>31st Nile-COM Meeting</td>
<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
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<td>June 2023</td>
<td>Consultation workshop Gedaref</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Regional workshop on action plans on conjunctive use</td>
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<td>September 2023</td>
<td>Regional workshop on water quality analysis and presentation of the final report on Nile Basin Water Quality Database</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<td>October 2023</td>
<td>7th NBDF</td>
<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
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<td>December 2023</td>
<td>Nile-SEC Annual Planning Retreat</td>
<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
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**Facts about the Nile Basin**

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

- **Temperature**
  - Night Minimum: -1°C
  - Daily Maximum in June: 47°C

- **Population within the Nile Basin**
  - Total: 437 Million
  - 54% (238 Million) within the basin

- **Main Consumptive Water Use**
  - Agriculture

- **Major Lakes within the Basin**
  - Lake Victoria
  - Lake Tana
  - Lake Kyoga
  - Lake Albert

- **Location**
  - -4° S to 31° N
  - 24° E to 40° E

- **Basin Area**
  - 3,176 x 10^3 Km^2

- **Main Tributaries**
  - Victoria Nile/Albert Nile
  - Bahr El Jabel
  - White Nile
  - Baro Pibor-Sobat

- **Mean Annual Discharge/Unit Area**
  - 28 x 10^3 m^3/Km^2

- **Precipitation**
  - Max Annual: 2,098 mm/yr in Ethiopia

- **River Length**
  - 6,695 Km (one of the world’s longest River)

- **Estimated Navigable Length**
  - 4,149 Km

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**Quiz**

**What's on? January - March 2013**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22nd Feb</td>
<td>Nile Day celebrations (Regional and National)</td>
<td>Bahr Dar, Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 – 12th Feb</td>
<td>Regional Meeting for National NBI Desk Officers</td>
<td>Entebbe</td>
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<td>Jan</td>
<td>NELTAC/NELCOM Meeting</td>
<td>Kigali</td>
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<td>Jan</td>
<td>NCo</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>38th Nile-TAC Meeting</td>
<td>Entebbe</td>
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</table>

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**Member states**

- Burundi
- DR Congo
- Egypt
- South Sudan
- Ethiopia
- The Sudan
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Rwanda
- Eritrea

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**Disclaimer:**

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of NBI, its Member States or Partners.

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**NBI MEMBER STATES**

- Burundi
- DR Congo
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- South Sudan
- The Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda

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**Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Shared Vision Objective**

To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilisation of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources.

Want to know more about NBI?

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**Nile News**

@nbiweb

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