Tanzania Prime Minister underscores advantages of cooperation on shared waters

Hon. Mizengo P. Pinda (MP), Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania recently said cooperation on shared water resources is a complement to national development efforts and a window for resource mobilization. He was speaking as guest of honor during the opening ceremony of the 23rd Annual Nile Council of Ministers meeting, that took place in Dodoma, Tanzania on 4th June, 2015.

“Our natural endowments are neither confined to our political boundaries nor evenly distributed, hence underscoring the importance of taking into consideration comparative advantages in our regional planning and development”, Hon. Pinda added. He further noted that despite the commendable development efforts made by the respective governments, Nile Basin countries still face challenges of water and food security, persistent poverty levels, energy deficits and environmental degradation among others.

During the meeting, the United Republic of Tanzania assumed the leadership of NBI for a one year term. The Prime Minister underscored the importance of the NBI to the development of the region and expressed commitment to foster cooperation and regional integration. He further called for enhanced resource mobilization to fund development projects in the Basin.

"Our economic resources are neither confined to our political boundaries nor evenly distributed", Hon. Pinda stated. He added that cooperation on shared water resources is a complement to national development efforts and a window for resource mobilization.

Lake Victoria contains over 500 fish species and supports the largest inland fisheries in the world, with annual fish catches in the region of 500,000 metric tonnes. Lake Victoria is a vital source of food for millions of people in the region and a key contributor to the economy.
Dear Reader,

It is my pleasure to welcome you again to our second issue of the Nile News of this year.

April to June 2015 has been a very busy and fruitful period for the Secretariat in many regards. We successfully concluded the 23rd annual Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) meeting, which took place in Dodoma, Tanzania on 4th June, 2015.

The meeting saw a change in the Political leadership of NBI from The Sudan to Tanzania. The Ministers applauded efforts by Sudan to bring back Egypt into the NBI arena. It is our hope that this will culminate in Egypt resuming full participation in the NBI in the near future as the country has contributed tremendously to the Nile cooperation as well as to building the NBI into a strong institution that we are all proud of today.

The Nile-COM addressed strategic issues to advance Nile cooperation as well as NBI business. They commended physical progress achieved in the implementation of the 2014/2015 financial year work plan.

The Ministerial meeting was also an opportunity to recognize winners of the Nile Media Awards 2015 during a colorful event that took place in the evening of 4th June, 2015. The objective of the competition was to recognize journalists for outstanding reporting on issues surrounding the Nile cooperation and the Nile Basin as well as to inspire increased factual and accurate reporting on these issues. Let me once again take this opportunity to congratulate the winners. Find out who they are on page 4.

On the whole, I wish to take note that NBI is currently facing exciting and challenging times.

Exciting in the sense that all Member States have reiterated that Nile cooperation is not a choice but a must. We therefore need to build on NBI’s core strength as the only cooperation mechanism through which the basin states can discuss with trust and confidence how to jointly address the 21st century challenges while benefiting from the development opportunities presented by the basin.

Challenging because expectations from Member States in terms of tangible benefits are high, yet the organization is faced with financial constraints. However, it’s quite energising to note that NBI has so far stood the test of time given reduced external funding since the closure of the Nile Basin Trust Fund six months ago, thanks to the increasing country contributions. Also quite motivating is consideration as a key player in the sustainable management and development of shared river basins and continued attention of Development Partners. This is not to mention growing media attention to issues surrounding Nile cooperation and the Nile Basin.

As we continue to focus on our resource mobilization agenda with the aim of delivering tangible benefits to Nile Basin citizens, we look forward to continued strong commitment and support from Development Partners and all our esteemed stakeholders.

Best wishes!

John Rao Nyaoro, HSC
Executive Director
period, succeeding the Republic of The Sudan. Accordingly, Hon. Prof. Jumanne Maghembe, Tanzania’s Minister of Water is the current chairman of the Nile-COM, replacing Hon. Amb. Mutaz Musa Abdalla Salim, Minister of Water Resources and Electricity of The Sudan. The changes in leadership are in keeping with the NBI tradition of annually rotating the position of chairman among Member States, in alphabetical order, namely; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

“During the last one year, we have experienced growing commitment to NBI from the Member States as demonstrated by payment of country contributions to enable NBI cover all the operating and program costs on its own”, said Hon. Amb. Mutaz Musa, in a speech read for him by Prof. Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla, the immediate past chairman of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC).

The Sudan also played a critical role with respect to the political track namely the historical reconciliation between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan. This culminated into the signing of the Agreement on Declaration of Principles on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project by the Heads of State of the three countries. “This positive development, which has a significant impact on Eastern Nile cooperation and the Nile Basin at large has no doubt saved the region a challenging phase of confrontation, subsequently putting the countries in a cooperative process for a major construction on the Blue Nile,” he added. Hon. Amb. Mutaz Musa reiterated the importance of sustainable Nile Cooperation, which he said calls for, among other things, increased political commitment from Member States; all-inclusivity, as well as financial resources to finance the implementation of investment projects prepared by NBI, currently worth more than USD 6 billion.

The 23rd Annual Nile-COM meeting addressed strategic issues to advance Nile cooperation as well as NBI business. The Ministers commended physical progress of 87% achieved in the implementation of the 2014/2015 financial year work plan and approved plans and budgets for the coming financial year 2015/2016.

Among other things, the Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, John Rao Nyaoro, HSC highlighted progress made on resource mobilization, including the grant agreement amounting to 1,000,000 Euros recently signed between the Nile Basin Initiative and the French Development Agency. “The funding is aimed at strengthening the capabilities of NBI Member States in the identification, preparation and implementation of development projects in the Nile Basin” added Nyaoro.

The 23rd Annual Nile-COM meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs or their representatives from DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee, NBI management and staff, representatives of NBI Development Partners and the civil society participated as observers.

The next Annual Nile Council of Ministers meeting, the 24th in a series, shall take place in Uganda in mid-2016.

By Jane K. Baitwa
Regional Communication Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

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For speeches: http://www.nilebasin.org/index.php/media-center/speeches

http://www.nilebasin.org/

For more photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/nile-basin initiative/sets/72157654260011929

Facebook posts: https://www.facebook.com/NileBasinInitiative
The media plays a central role in informing the public about what is happening in societies far and wide.

It was in recognition of the crucial role in covering pertinent issues in the Basin, that the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat and Partners organised the Nile Media Awards 2015 competition. The winners, in two categories; radio and print were honoured at a gala dinner hosted in Dodoma, Tanzania on 4th June, 2015.

The objective of the Awards was to recognize journalists for outstanding reporting on issues surrounding the Nile cooperation and the Nile Basin as well as to inspire increased factual and accurate reporting on these issues.

The entries considered were under themes: Nile Cooperation, water, environment, energy, climate change, agriculture, health, tourism, regional economic integration and hydro-diplomacy.

In the radio category, Secilia Ndabigeze, from Tanzania, received the award for Best Radio Programme. In her feature, she embarked on a journey in East Africa to discover how the different countries were tackling the problem of water hyacinth on Lake Victoria. Judges commended the feature for its structure and coverage of a wide range of views, which consolidated the message.

Gerald Tenywa, from Uganda, collected the award for best story in the print category for an article published in The New Vision titled “River erosion: Uganda losing land to Congo.” The article explored how lack of a plan for sustainable development has caused the people of Ntoroko district in western Uganda to be at war with River Semliki. The judging panel applauded the topic, which addressed multi-dimensional aspects including human, economic and environmental views.

The 1st runner-up prize in the radio category went to Claver Hakizimana from Burundi whose recording examined the need to meet energy requirements in Burundi without compromising the interests of other NBI Member States of the Nile Basin Initiative. He looked at the Decision Support System’s (DSS) contribution to the improvement of energy production in Burundi and the importance of the tool in creating more trust among Nile Basin states.
Mona Abdelhalim Eid Sewilam from Egypt was 1st runner up in the print category. Her article on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project, “A win-win situation,” published in Al-Ahram Weekly (initially aired on her TV programme Peace in Focus) examined Egyptians’ fear that Ethiopia’s construction of the Dam would reduce the amount of water that reaches Egypt.

Besides receiving a plaque and certificate, each winner walked away with something special. Gerald won a fully funded trip to a specific part of the Nile Basin or NBI facilitated project, presented by NBI with support from GIZ. Secilia got two-weeks training in Germany at the Deutsche Welle Akademie, supported by DW Akademie, NBI with GIZ support. Claver received a professional radio recorder provided by the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), while Mona took home an ipad offered by Global Water Partnership - Eastern Africa (GWP EnA).

The Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, John Rao Nyaoro, HSC said that engaging the media, keeping them informed through robust communication and participation has been given due emphasis as one of the building blocks of NBI.

Dr. Malte Grossman, the Head of Project - Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin (GIZ), emphasised the importance of the media in shaping regional debate..."And it is the media that carry these developments and debates into the basin countries’ societies and pick up opinion and sentiment from the basin citizens. In the process, the media makes a major contribution to forming national debates on cooperation in the Nile - and in preparing the ground for the countries to enter into closer cooperation”, he added.

The special event was witnessed by more than 200 guests including Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries, Members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee, representatives of Development Partners, staff of NBI, GWP EnA, NBD and the media fraternity, among others.

The Nile Media Awards 2015 was organised by the NBI Secretariat, in partnership with Deutsche Welle Akademie, GIZ, GWP EnA, NBD.

Elizabeth Agiro
Media Relations Consultant
Nile-SEC, Entebbe
On 4th June, 2015 the United Republic of Tanzania assumed political leadership of NBI, succeeding the Republic of The Sudan. This was during the 23rd Annual Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) meeting that took place in Dodoma, Tanzania. The Nile-COM is NBI’s highest decision-making body. It provides policy guidance; approves programs and projects as well as work plans and budgets.

Hon. Prof. Jumanne A. Maghembe (MP), Tanzania’s Minister of Water, is the current Nile-COM chair. The changes in leadership are in keeping with the NBI tradition of annually rotating the position of chairman among Member States, in alphabetical order, namely; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Meet Hon. Prof. Jumanne Abdallah Maghembe (MP)
Chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers

Hon. Prof. Jumanne A. Maghembe has served in the Tanzanian Cabinet as Minister of Water since May 2012.


Hon. Prof. Maghembe studied Forestry at the Agricultural University of Norway; Duke University and at the University of Dar es Salaam. He holds a B.Sc. in Forestry (Honours), M.Sc. Forestry, Master of Forestry and Doctorate in Philosophy.

He is also a renowned Scholar who taught in different Universities both within and outside Tanzania.
The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the French Development Agency (AFD) recently signed a grant agreement amounting to 1,000,000 Euros. The grant is aimed at strengthening the capabilities of NBI Member States in the identification, preparation and implementation of development projects in the Nile Basin. Strengthening of the structures of the NBI and their sustainability is crucial for the maintenance of this framework of concerted dialogue.

The Agreement was signed by Mr. Yves Boudot, the Regional Director of the French Development Agency, and John Rao Nyaoro, HSC the Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat, in the presence of the French Ambassador to Uganda, H. E. Sophie Makame.

“I am pleased to witness the signing of this 1,000,000 Euros grant... I wish this Project will help with enhancing a shared vision on sustainable management of natural resources that will enable economic development, peace and security between the ten Member States of the Nile Basin Initiative” said H.E. Sophie Makame during the signing ceremony.

John Rao Nyaoro, HSC said key areas to be considered are strategic planning and organizational development; Knowledge Systems; Investment Finance Mobilization; and Regulation of Dam Safety.

“These are foundational aspects for institutional sustainability and we regard them highly in shaping the future of NBI”, he added.

The project is designed to provide institutional and technical support to NBI with a focus on the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP).

By Jane K. Baitwa
Regional Communication Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

The grant is aimed at strengthening the capabilities of NBI Member States in the identification, preparation and implementation of development projects in the Nile Basin.
The 44th Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) Meeting was held in Dodoma, Tanzania on 3rd June 2015. The meeting was opened by Eng. Mbogo Futakamba, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water, in The United Republic of Tanzania. Eng. Futakamba affirmed the readiness of Tanzania to take charge of the political leadership of NBI during the one year period from June 2015 to June 2016. He noted the increased visibility of NBI in the Member States and in Tanzania in particular.

Nile-TAC members noted the progress made by NBI during financial year 2014/2015 and recommended for approval by the Nile Council of Ministers, the work plan for the financial year 2015/2016 with a total budget of USD3,431,869.

The meeting observed that while efforts had been made to prepare projects and reach out to development partners, resource mobilization remains a matter of great concern. “Let us promote NBI among our national and international networks at every opportunity, to enable access to resources available out there”, said Prof. Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla, the outgoing Nile-TAC Chair.

During the meeting, Prof. Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla from The Sudan handed over the chairmanship of the Nile-TAC to Mr. Sylvester Matemu from Tanzania. This is in keeping with the NBI tradition of annually rotating the position of chairman of the Nile-TAC among Member States, in alphabetical order, namely; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The 44th Nile-TAC meeting was attended by representatives of DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Others who attended were management and staff of NBI. Representatives of GIZ, GWP-EnA and SIWI attended as observers.

By Tom Waako
Projects Officer
Nile-SEC Entebbe
Secretariat delivers computing equipment worth USD 90,000 to South Sudan

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat recently handed over computing and other office equipment worth USD 90,000 to the Ministry of Electricity, Dams, Irrigation & Water Resources and the University of Juba in South Sudan.

The equipment was handed over by the Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat John Rao Nyaoro, HSC to Eng. Isaac Liabwel C. Yol, Under Secretary for the Water Sector and Dr. James J. Bango, Dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture at the University of Juba on Monday 29th June, 2015.

The Water Sector received a state of the art hybrid power backup system, which utilizes solar and generator power, three servers, one photocopier/network printer, one network switch, one Wifi-Router and three high speed processing workstations. The equipment will benefit the Water Sanitation Hygiene Information Management System (WIMS) Department and the Decision Support System Unit.

The College of Civil Engineering and Architecture received a Server Rack (42 U), UPS -1.5 KV (Rack type), 30 desktop wireless cards, two Wifi-Routers and six air conditioners.

The equipment was requested for by the beneficiaries and it is part of the NBI capacity building program for South Sudan, which is the latest NBI Member State having joined in July 2012.

Jane K. Baitwa
Regional Communication Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Some of the equipment that was handed over
The NBI Secretariat recently established the South Sudan National NBI Office. This was during a mission that took place from 29th to 30th June, 2015 in Juba. The objective of the mission led by the Executive Director, John Rao Nyaoro, HSC was three fold; first to improve understanding of NBI and its programs and projects among key stakeholders for efficient and effective coordination of NBI activities; second to orient officials of the newly established National NBI Office; and third to hand over computing and office equipment that had been procured by NBI for institutional capacity building in South Sudan.

The coordination meeting was attended by 21 participants representing the following sectors whose activities touch on the management and development of the Nile Basin water resources: Water, Energy, Agriculture, Fisheries, transport, civil society, and academia (Juba University) as well as Nile-SEC. The orientation session on the other hand was mainly targeted staff of the Ministry of Water, Electricity, Dams and Irrigation.

Computing related equipment worth about US$9 million were handed over by John Rao Nyaoro, HSC to the Ministry of Water, Electricity, Dams and Irrigation represented by the Under Secretary for the Water Sector, Eng. Isaac Liabwel Yol and the University of Juba.

NBI management pledged continued efforts in developing capacity of South Sudan in water and related fields while the government officials committed to continue supporting and coordinating the NBI activities efficiently.

By Tom Waako
Projects Officer
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

Stakeholders during the meeting.
Nile Cooperation is considerably dependent on the facts, information, and knowledge available to inform riparian dialogue, enrich the discussions, replace perceptions with evidence-based specifics and realities, and provide the most workable solution space; with combinations of feasible options and practicable planning alternatives, based on well-defined evaluation criteria.

The Nile Basin is greatly endowed with resources that require proper management. Lack of information, incomplete understanding, wrong perceptions, insecurities as well as uncertainties and gaps in the knowledge about multi-spectrum prospects and viable opportunities hinder Nile cooperation; especially in terms of harnessing viable potentials. Strategic assessment of a wide range of options and planning alternatives will not only highlight the underpinning roots of inadequacy and inefficiencies, but also pinpoint the domain of best possible plans and policies to maximize the benefits of the Nile water and related resources for the benefit of all Nile Basin citizens.

Application cases point out the vital role of strategic analysis. One case study forecasts the Nile Basin future under the business-as-usual scenario, i.e. national development plans will be pursued under the assumption of no ‘or limited’ cooperation. The other case study will predict how the Nile Basin looks like if solid cooperation takes place; meaning that national programs will be implemented in fully coordinated manner and will completely consider the transboundary elements and requirements. The difference between the combined technical and socio-economic stance under no (or limited) cooperation and the outlook of the same package, if cooperation is upheld, will demonstrate that all the Nile Basin countries will be better-off, with no exception. The gains will definitely be variant in terms of types and magnitudes, the loss will be minimum, and the health and sustainability of the basin resources will be ensured.

As part of its activities to support basin-wide water resources management, the Water Resources Management department at Nile-SEC organized a regional workshop in 2013 to identify and build common understanding on strategic water resources issues within the Nile Basin. A number of issues were identified by the Nile-TAC members under the following four broad themes:
► Enhancing the knowledge base for understanding the Nile River System better, to effect sustainable management.

► Understanding major risks and trans-boundary issues.

► Exploring policy issues to promote knowledge-based and informed cooperative management.

► Harnessing basin opportunities to support cooperative and sustainable development.

As a follow up the Secretariat organised a meeting from 17th - 18th June 2015 to kick start the actual analytic work to address some of the above priority issues.

The main purpose of the meeting was to enrich the concept of the strategic analyses, identify how the three Centers shall collaborate in the execution of the analyses and refine implementation arrangements. The meeting also served as a scoping exercise; where application cases were jointly identified.

It was agreed to perform a basin-wide present and future water balance comprehensive study; including water demand forecasting, water supply (availability) projections, and the related dimensions and factors. Scoping of questions for analytical analysis and ways to develop performance indicators’ matrix are currently undertaken. Analytic work, findings, results and credible outcomes will be supported and strengthened through intensive involvement and engagement of a wide range of stakeholders.

Applying the analytic tools that have been well established, validated and benchmarked will avail the facts and realities, provide the knowledge, support the dialogue, and assist in converging towards a well-defined space for justified and elaborated solutions, that enable decision makers to agree on collaborative framework and develop concrete measures to handle the Nile Basin water resources and related issues. This will in turn convert the sources of diversions into reasons for close cooperation. In addition, it will highlight gaps and opportunities, advance NBI programs and projects, and assisting Nile Basin countries in working together to deal and cope with present and future issues and challenges basin-wide.

The meeting was attended by the Nile-TAC Chair, advisor to Nile-TAC Sudan and Heads and representatives of the three NBI Centers (Nile-SEC, ENTRO and NELSAP CU), as well as GIZ representative.

Dr. Mohsen Alarabawy (PhD)
River Basin Management Specialist/ Water Policy Expert
Nile-SEC, Entebbe
Capacity development has been and will remain one of the key areas of activities of NBI. Capacity development activities range from targeted institutional support of national NBI offices, country to country experience sharing visits, and study tours, short and long training courses.

Most NBI training courses were designed and delivered as instructor-led face-to-face learning sessions. However, a few training and awareness raising modules were prepared for self-paced learning. There is a growing need for packaging the training and awareness raising courses as self-paced learning modules to meet the continually increasing demands of training, diversity of stakeholders, massive geographical coverage, and constrained resources; and subsequently the prime need to cut training time and cost.

As new members of NBI governance, staff, and national desk officers come on board, there is need for ready-made training packs to help them get familiar with NBI. This is done more efficiently and cost-effectively using ready-made self-paced learning modules. The Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB-DSS) is being continually enhanced and the number of NB-DSS users is expected to double thereby bringing in more demands for training. Furthermore, the NBI bankable investment projects worth about US $20 Billion require extensive training and guidance on Environmental and Social safeguards. The noticeable horizontal expansion of apprentices and recipients of various trainings calls for a fundamental shift of capacity development into the Blended Learning paradigm.

The size of the target audience is becoming much more than what NBI has reasonably addressed through the traditional way of instructor-led, face-to-face trainings; the mass of stakeholder groups that can be reached is limited. Although advantageous, face-to-face training is not cost-effective. Therefore, the Nile Secretariat intends to develop training modules for self-paced learning.

Combined face-to-face instruction with computer mediated instruction, mostly involves conjoining Internet and digital media with established classroom forms that require the physical co-presence of instructors (trainers). This is typically referred to as ‘Blended Learning’. Nile Secretariat plans to adopt such an approach for future education, training, and awareness programs.

Supported by GIZ, Nile Secretariat held planning and consultation meetings (2 – 6 February, 2015) where an international expert facilitated the discussions on assessment of and lessons learned from NBI...
capacity development measures in recent past, NBI Blended Learning concepts, examples and design issues - such as accessibility of platforms and Internet courseware, and proposed NBI blended learning modules’ objective, scope, and implementation arrangements. Both ENTRO and NELSAP-CU participated in the process.

Four specific areas have been targeted for NBI Blended Learning modules:

1. NBI Induction and Onboarding standard courses.
3. Environmental and Social Safeguards courses for national liaison officers and NBI staff.

The meeting was successful in advancing the preparation of the NBI blended learning modules into a more elaborate stage. NBI team was able to develop a conceptual framework, define the scope and therefore prepare an implementation plan. The team prepared Terms of Reference (TOR), specification of materials, Tables of Content, multi-level key messages and context, and design of each course.

Fact sheets about each training module have been prepared. Course design, curriculum, means of delivery, modules, materials, approach and detailed specifications are being developed. The format of these training modules shall be designed and developed in such a way that they can be used by groups or individuals to familiarize themselves or enhance their skills in certain areas with little or no instructor involvement.

The three training courses selected for this experimental stage will enable NBI to test the various aspects and means of blended learning, draw lessons and gain experiences, and therefore establish a strong base of blended learning. Once tested, enhanced, well established and benchmarked, Blended Learning will be a breakthrough in terms of the number of target groups that can be provided with trainings and capacity building measures or considered for awareness raising and outreach activities. Collectively, this will not only lead to positive changes in attitude, increased willingness to cooperate, improved capabilities to perform, enhanced ownership and stewardship of policies and actions, but will also improve the capacities and competencies within the entire Nile Basin.

Dr. Mohsen Alarabawy (PhD)
River Basin Management Specialist/ Water Policy Expert
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

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E-learning can be defined as the use of computer and Internet technologies to deliver an array of solutions to enable learning and improve performance.

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[Fact sheet about each training module has been prepared. Course design, curriculum, means of delivery, modules, materials, approach and detailed specifications are being developed. The format of these training modules shall be designed and developed in such a way that they can be used by groups or individuals to familiarize themselves or enhance their skills in certain areas with little or no instructor involvement.]
Appreciating the challenges and aware of the significance of an all-inclusive partnership in unlocking the mutual benefits from coordinated management and development of the common Nile Basin water resources, the Basin states agreed to embed the concept of sharing benefits of cooperation in their Shared Vision Objective: “To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile basin water resources.”

Each country cooperates on the basis of perceived benefits of cooperation. The benefits of multilateral cooperation are yet to be fully understood by decision-makers in the Nile basin countries. It is for this reason that NBI embarked on a study aimed at quantifying benefits of trans-boundary water cooperation in the Nile basin.

Benefit sharing in trans-boundary basins can be defined as: Cooperation between states to increase the benefits in a trans-boundary basin and to fairly distribute the benefits in support of local, national and regional development objectives.

The study results point out that the total potential hydroelectricity in the Nile Basin is 33,024 MW, of which 6,833 MW (20%) is currently installed. Although very conservative, one can say that a 3% growth in energy production will support a 1.5% growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which means that the combined economic benefit to the Nile Basin countries would be USD 15.59 billion per annum.

Regional interconnections can reduce the need for costly system redundancy, which could lead to a direct saving of USD 21.89 million per annum. The benefit of increased quality of power through shared surplus will be a basin-wide increase of 2% in GDP, thus USD 20.79 billion per annum. On the other hand, the cost of non-cooperation is significant, if potential hydropower projects were to be delayed due to objections and/or difficulty in mobilizing funds for unilateral action.

The net benefits of watershed management by soil and water conservation in the Nile Basin could translate to an increase in crop value of USD 5.49 billion per annum. A conservative calculation of the increase in crop and improved regional trade will result in a 4% increase in the agriculture component of GDP for all the NBI Member States, thus adding USD 9.78 billion to the regional GDP. With a combined import and export value for fisheries products for Nile Basin Member States standing at USD 1.20 billion (2012), an increase of just 2% would translate to an increased import/export value of USD 24 million per annum. Coping with the impacts of climate change may cost the region as much as USD 5.04 billion.

NBI actions to respond effectively to the climate change threat include strengthening the knowledge base; building long-term capacities for addressing climate risks and uncertainty; supporting climate resilient planning; scalable low carbon development; and basin-wide climate finance.

Quantification of benefits is however not a simplistic calculation, since most development options also depend on other resources and inputs. The expression of benefits should not only be mapped against the water-related services that is required, but also other inputs such as finance, infrastructure, technical capability, enabling policies, social acceptance and political support.

As a way forward, Nile Basin countries may want to follow structured approaches to evaluating, assessing and agreeing on the costs and
Regional interconnections can reduce the need for costly system redundancy, which could lead to a direct saving of USD 21.89 million per annum.

Benefits of cooperation. Where joint action is appropriate, riparian countries should have access to the same information to evaluate benefits and trade-offs of cooperation. This allows for informed decision-making and timely agreement on next steps.

Specific steps that NBI can take to promote benefit-sharing include:

► Communicate the quantified benefits of cooperation (initial numbers) to Member States to increase buy-in for the benefit sharing approach.

► Refine and publish the tools and approaches to implement benefit-sharing in the Nile Basin context that is clear and accessible to Member States and stakeholders.

► Identify and quantify all benefits beyond those provided as example to aid in prioritisation and decision-making.

► Develop institutional and instruments to implement benefit sharing for specific applications.

By Emerita Mugorewicyeza
Stakeholder Participation Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

The full study report is available at:
http://nileis.nilebasin.org/content/quantifying-benefits-transboundary-water-cooperation-quantifying-benefits-transboundary-wate
aunched in May 2014, NBI’s efforts to develop the Nile Basin Hydro-meteorological System detailed design specifications and multi-phase implementation plan have been concluded. Implementation is expected to start in 2016 with an estimated cost of USD 15 million covering the envisaged four implementation phases, over five years. The Secretariat is currently mobilising the funding.

The final consultation and review workshop held in Entebbe, Uganda from 24 – 25 April, 2015 reviewed and discussed the Nile Basin Hydrometric and meteorological network design and stations’ geographical coverage in reference to locations of transboundary significance. Participants also deliberated on instruments and technologies, cost estimates and bills of quantities, phased implementation plan, milestones for monitoring and evaluation, institutional arrangements, program steering setup, and the structured roles and responsibilities.

Based on the well-defined socio-economic development needs and the associated information, the Nile Basin Regional Hydro-meteorological Services will include compatible regional and national data management systems that systematically handle acquisition, transmission, systematic archiving, processing and dissemination of hydro-meteorological data and information with the associated institutional capacity strengthening needed to manage the systems. The Hydromet system will also include ground and satellite monitoring of weather (rainfall, temperature, common climate/weather parameters) – including radar systems, hydrology (flows, water levels, groundwater), sediment, and water quality (surface and ground water). Earth observations will complement the ground measurements of River Stages and Discharges, Lakes and Reservoirs Water Levels, Sediment Sampling, Precipitation, Evaporation, Relative Humidity, etc.

The Nile Basin trans-boundary hydromet system builds on what is available in terms of infrastructure, competencies, knowledge and experiences as well as international and regional best practices. It also establishes the development needs (e.g. socio-economic requirements), responds to regional, national and local specificities and promotes Innovation and effectiveness. Further it serves and equally responds to both regional and national (Nile Basin countries) needs and demands in terms of data and information and also aims to improve information in the public domain.

Within the context of operationalization of the Nile Basin Monitoring Strategy (2010), following an essentially participatory “consultative” approach, the Nile Basin Hydromet addresses key aspects such as rainfed and irrigated agriculture, hydropower, floods and drought management, soil erosion and sediment transport, water quality, groundwater management, navigation, fisheries, watershed management, wetlands and climate change within the general framework of Integrated Water Resources Management.

Dr. Mohsen Alarabawy (PhD)
River Basin Management Specialist/
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Nile-SEC, Entebbe

The Regional Nile Basin Hydromet System...

► Promotes knowledge based water resources planning.
► Supports efficient water resources management.
► Contributes to harnessing water resources potentials.
► Contributes to creating viable socio-economic development opportunities.
► Enhances capacity to achieve environmental sustainability.
Climate Change: An emerging threat

Climate change is a serious threat, with potentially very adverse impacts on the socio-economic conditions in the Nile Basin, on its environment, and on the ongoing efforts to establish a mutually agreed upon mechanism to manage the Nile water resources.

Because of the high sensitivity of key economic sectors such as rain fed and irrigated agriculture, livestock production, and hydropower generation to the changing climate, the threat of climate change is worrying to the people in the Nile Basin. It could directly affect their livelihoods and food security, harm ongoing efforts to diversify national economies, and worsen public-health conditions. Ultimately, in the case of diminishing Nile flows and insufficient adaptation in measures; it could result in resource conflicts and regional insecurity.

A number of factors render the Nile Basin particularly vulnerable and sensitive to impacts of global warming. Key factors include:

- High fragility of its natural systems: two-fifths of the basin consists of arid and semi-arid dry lands.
- Dominance of poor and rural people in the upstream countries who tend to be heavily dependent on sectors such as agriculture, fishing, and forestry that are highly sensitive to climate variability, and possess limited possibilities for diversification into less climate sensitive sectors.
- A rapid growing population that is putting unprecedented pressure on the natural resource base.
- High exposure to natural disasters, especially floods and droughts.
- High sensitivity of many of the Nile sub-basins to changes in annual precipitation.

Factors increasing the region’s vulnerability to climate change

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- High exposure to natural disasters, especially floods and droughts.
- High sensitivity of many of the Nile sub-basins to changes in annual precipitation.

NBI: Contributing to climate-resilient growth

All NBI activities, because they are aimed at improving water management under natural uncertainty, contribute to enhancing resilience to climate variability and change in the Nile Basin. The key NBI activities in this respect are the following:

Bridging the knowledge gap - NBI has commissioned many studies at sub-basin and basin-wide levels to improve understanding of the water-resources and socio-economic situation, vulnerability to climate change, appropriate coping measures, and feasible development options.

Strengthening basin monitoring and planning tools - NELSAP-CU is supporting the strengthening of hydro-meteorological monitoring networks in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region, while ENTRO is operating a flood forecasting and early warning system in the Blue Nile (Abay) sub-basin. This is in addition to a basin-wide planning tool, the Nile Decision Support System.
Supporting science-policy dialogue - Among other dialogues, NBI has been organizing the two-yearly Nile Basin Development Forum (which started off as the Nile 2002 conferences), which provides a platform for interaction and information exchange among scientists and policy makers from the region on various topical issues.

Facilitating expansion of the region’s water and power infrastructure - Through ENSAP and NELSAP, NBI has for over eight years been supporting the identification, preparation and implementation of investment projects that aim to increase the region’s economic infrastructure and enhance its adaptive capacity to climate change, while supporting poverty reduction, reversal of environmental degradation and socio-economic development.

Promoting watershed management - NBI has implemented community micro-projects in all Member States. The micro-projects demonstrated best practices in watershed management and were located along trans-boundary river courses. Under ENSAP and NELSAP, tree planting and run off and drainage management, has continued. Critically degraded watersheds have been identified and proposed for restoration.

Welcome!

Ms. Elizabeth Agiro joined the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat on 1st June, 2015 as a Media Relations Consultant in the Communications Unit.

For the next nine months - the duration of her contract - she will engage and build effective relations with the media to enhance NBI awareness and visibility within the Nile Basin Member States and, at the same time, bring Nile cooperation to the fore of the communication agenda. She intends to use this opportunity to expand her knowledge base of the pertinent issues in the region.

Elizabeth comes with a wealth of knowledge in Uganda’s media industry. She graduated from Makerere University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Mass Communication.
## Basin Riparian States

The major determinant of population distribution in the Nile Basin is maize. The single most important intra-basin agricultural trade commodity by volume among the Nile Basin riparian states is maize.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July - Aug - Sept</td>
<td>National inter-sectoral meetings in 5 countries (Uganda, DRC, Tanzania, Kenya and South Sudan)</td>
<td>Capitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>July - Aug - Sept</td>
<td>National stakeholder engagement events (Uganda, DRC, Tanzania, Kenya and South Sudan)</td>
<td>Capitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 29 - 1 August</td>
<td>Regional workshop on Nile Basin main types of aquatic systems and practices and recommended procedures for establishing environmental flows; followed by Awareness workshop on international practice in environmental flows</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>EN Regional Media Monitoring Training on Strategic Communication</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-17 July</td>
<td>Mara RBM Project: Working session on compilation of draft final SCMP for Lelaitich Sub Catchment</td>
<td>Juba, South Sudan</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-7 July</td>
<td>Launching of the Nyimur WRD Project between Uganda and South Sudan</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<td>8-9 July</td>
<td>Rusumo Project: RPCL Board Meeting</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-30 July</td>
<td>Joint (Mara+LVSCA) review of draft final SCMP and adoption</td>
<td>Bomet</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Kagera RBM Project: Opening and Evaluation of Financial Proposals for ESIA/RAP for Ruvyironza and Kabuyanda Multipurpose Projects</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Kagera RBM Project: Kick-off meeting for feasibility study and detailed design for Ruvyironza and Kabuyanda Multipurpose Project</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Contract negotiation for feasibility study and Detailed Design for Sio Sango Irrigation and watershed management project</td>
<td>Kakamega, Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Mara RBM Project: Contract negotiation for ESIA/RAP Mara valley Irrigation and Npono irrigation Projects</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Opening and Evaluation of Financial Proposals for ESIA/RAP for Sio Sango Irrigation and watershed management project</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<td>Kick-off meeting for feasibility study and detailed design for Sio Sango Irrigation and watershed management project</td>
<td>Kakamega, Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 August to 15 Sept</td>
<td>Visit selected donor HQ (Finland, EU-Brussels, NORAD-Norway, SDC Switzerland, IFAD Rome )</td>
<td>Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>SMT Visit to regional bodies to discuss cooperation (IGAD)</td>
<td>Djibouti</td>
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<td>3-4 August</td>
<td>Cross Centre coordination meeting</td>
<td>Entebbe</td>
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<td>4-5 August</td>
<td>ENSAP Governance meeting</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>ENTRO/NBI Visibility meetings organized by Ethiopian Ministry of Water &amp; Irrigation</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>ENTRO/NBI Visibility meetings organized by South Sudan Minister of Electricity, Damms, Irrigation and Water Resources</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>ENTRO/NBI Visibility meetings organized by Sudan Ministry of Water, Irrigation &amp; Electricity</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Watershed national training workshop -</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>BAS consultation meeting on Inception report of consultants</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Kagera RBM Project: Contract negotiation for ESIA-RAP studies for the Ruvyironza and Kabuyanda Multipurpose Projects</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 August</td>
<td>Stakeholder validation workshop for Inception Report on Feasibility study, Detailed Design and Tender Documents preparation for Mara valley Irrigation and Npono irrigation Projects</td>
<td>Mwanza, Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-4 September</td>
<td>Stakeholder workshop to review the Inception Report for Feasibility study and Detailed Design for Ruvyironza and Kabuyanda Multipurpose Projects</td>
<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 September</td>
<td>Mara RBM Project: 4th Mara Day Celebrations</td>
<td>Butiama, Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>Rusumo HPP: Design Meeting No 3 with World Bank</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Study visit to Ethiopia (for South Sudan &amp; Sudan)</td>
<td>Ethiopia (B/Dar &amp; Mekele)</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Sept</td>
<td>NBI KM Task team meeting</td>
<td>Entebbe</td>
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