



## **The first Sio-Malaba-Malakisi basin stakeholders' consultative workshop for the initiation of a Benefit Opportunities Assessment Dialogue**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2017, at Kisumu Imperial Hotel, Kenya**

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### **1. Introduction**

The Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) basin, shared between Kenya and Uganda, faces constraints primarily from deteriorating water quality and water scarcity in parts of the catchments. Despite the potential for development and investment, the basin remains underdeveloped, limiting economic growth. The cooperation among the two riparian countries has evolved from shallow cooperation to formal establishment of project management unit and Regional Project Steering Committee. The Basin is currently being managed under the Nile Basin Initiative/ Nile Equatorial lakes Subsidiary action program framework through the SMM River Basin Management Project. Strengthening transboundary cooperation in the SMM basin has the potential to enhance regional peace, security but also to accelerate socio-economic development and reverse environmental degradation.

The SMM basin has been selected as a demonstration basin under the project “Strengthening transboundary water governance and cooperation in the IGAD region”, based on the request from Kenya and Uganda. This project will facilitate a Benefit Opportunities Assessment Dialogue and provide training to key stakeholders, to strengthen conflict mitigation, negotiation, and problem solving skills related to collaboratively managing shared waters resources for enhanced benefits, investment, and development opportunities. The project will contribute to the strengthening of the institutional framework and stakeholder-inclusive governance mechanisms for water resources management in the SMM basin. A study is being undertaken on the “situational analysis, activities refinement and scoping of benefits of cooperation for strengthening transboundary water cooperation in the SMM basin” to inform the design and planning of the activities to be implemented in the SMM basin under the project.

This stakeholders' consultative workshop is the first workshop organized in the SMM basin under the project “Strengthening transboundary water governance and cooperation in the IGAD region”.

This project is implemented by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development IGAD (IGAD) Secretariat with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Secretariat for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and with financial support from the U.S State Department and co-financing from the Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC). Its aim is to improve trans-boundary cooperation between riparian countries in the IGAD region by facilitating application of hydro diplomacy at multiple levels and strengthening capacities for the governance of shared water resources. The project is helping the IGAD Member States in strengthening regional and basin level frameworks and stakeholder-

inclusive governance mechanisms and enhance their capacity through training on topics critical to transboundary water governance and cooperation, such as hydro-diplomacy, international water law, negotiation, benefit-sharing etc. At the regional level, the project is supporting the negotiation process of the IGAD Regional Water Resources Protocol to implement the IGAD Regional Water Resources Policy, and strengthening capacities of the members of IGAD's Technical Advisory Committee on Water Resources Management through training on international water law, hydro-diplomacy, water governance and benefit sharing.

It is expected that the SMM Benefit Opportunities Assessment Dialogue would also contribute to the negotiations of the IGAD Water Protocol, as well as to derive lessons for the possible implementation of similar projects in other countries of the region.

## **2. Objectives of the workshop**

The overall workshop objective is to contribute to strengthening transboundary water cooperation between Kenya and Uganda in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi River Basin.

The workshop will engage key stakeholders from the SMM basin in a joint basin visioning process that will:

- (i) analyze challenges and opportunities for transboundary water cooperation in the SMM basin, building on past and on-going activities and studies for the basin related to transboundary water cooperation;
- (ii) develop, through a multi-level dialogue, a common understanding among key basin actors of the main benefits (historical or potential) of transboundary water cooperation in the SMM Basin, as well as some of the opportunities for realizing them (preliminary cooperation scenarios) and possible related trade-offs;
- (iii) finalize the design of the next steps of project activities in the SMM basin.

The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- i. To improve the participant's understanding on transboundary water governance, benefits of transboundary water cooperation, and benefit sharing, through the delivery of capacity building modules and exercises;
- ii. To discuss the findings of the study - the situation analysis and benefit scoping paper – that has been commissioned to inform the design and planning of the project activities to be implemented in the SMM basin; and
- iii. To discuss and agree on the way forward and next steps for the project activities (in the basin).

## **3. Preliminary overview of the agenda**

The following is an indication of the content and flow of the workshop. The detailed agenda and programme will be developed once the draft results of the above mentioned study are received as inputs:

- Day 1: Introduction to the project, capacity building sessions on transboundary water governance, benefits of transboundary water cooperation, benefit sharing etc;

- Day 2: Presentation of study findings; interactive basin visioning exercises; discussion on outcomes of past and on-going activities to support transboundary water cooperation in the basin (including from other related projects); participatory basin visualization exercise to facilitate the identification of existing benefits and beneficiaries of transboundary water cooperation in the SMM River Basin; discussion on institutional framework for cooperation/ agreement;
- Day 3: Completion of interactive dialogue work on benefits; discussion and agreement on next steps; discussions on potential additional benefits (and related trade-offs) of cooperation and possible cooperation scenarios, based on the preliminary findings of the discussion paper; agree on the objectives and methodology for future activities to be implemented under the project in the basin (based on the Study).

#### **4. Proposed list of participants – target audience**

13 participants per country drawn from different sectors<sup>1</sup> and levels<sup>2</sup>, as well as national representatives from the riparian countries (total 26); 2 national project focal persons; 2 national consultants; 1 EAC LVBC; 1 NELSAP; 1 NBD; 3 IGAD Secretariat; 3 IUCN; 1 UNECE; 2 Regional/International consultants - a total of **42 participants**.

#### **5. Proposed venue and dates**

The meeting will take place at **Imperial Hotel Kisumu, May 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

#### **6. Accommodation and travel logistics**

Participants will arrive and check in the hotel on **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017** (in the evening) and Depart on **May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017** (morning, after breakfast). IUCN will pay directly to the hotel the cost for bed and breakfast and conference package (lunches, tea/coffee, bottled water etc) and provide an out of pocket allowance for dinners and incidentals. IUCN will also meet the cost of participants' public transport.

#### **7. Contacts**

For more information on logistics, please, kindly, contact: Celestine CHEMORKOK, email: Celestine.Chemorkok@iucn.org and Khadija Mohamed, email: khadija.mohamed@igad.int

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<sup>1</sup> Agriculture, Land, Environment and Natural Resources, Forestry, Water, Mining, Fisheries, Energy, Foreign Affairs, CBOs/NGOs etc

<sup>2</sup> Regional, National, County, Districts, Catchments etc