

# **Uganda's engagements with the Water Convention and current accession process- rationale for acceding, value add and lessons learnt so far**

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**Tanzania National workshop on accession to the Water Convention: 1 to 2  
December 2022, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

# Uganda's water resources in a transboundary context

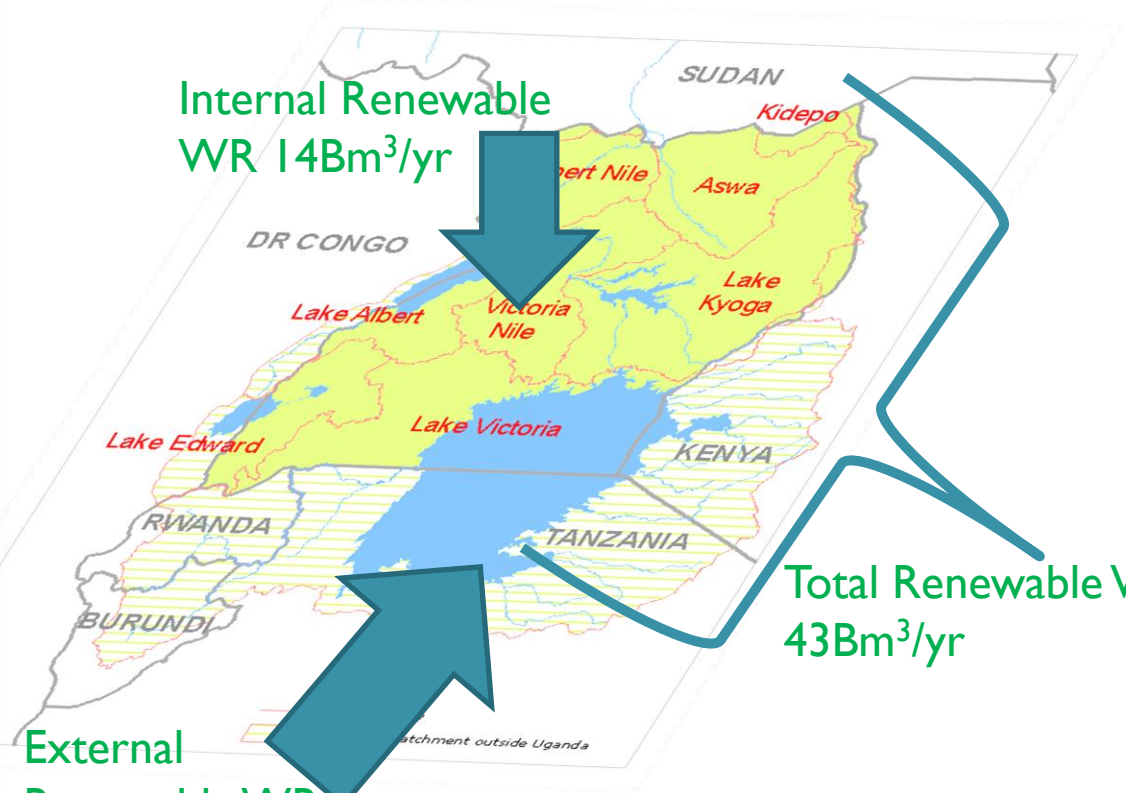
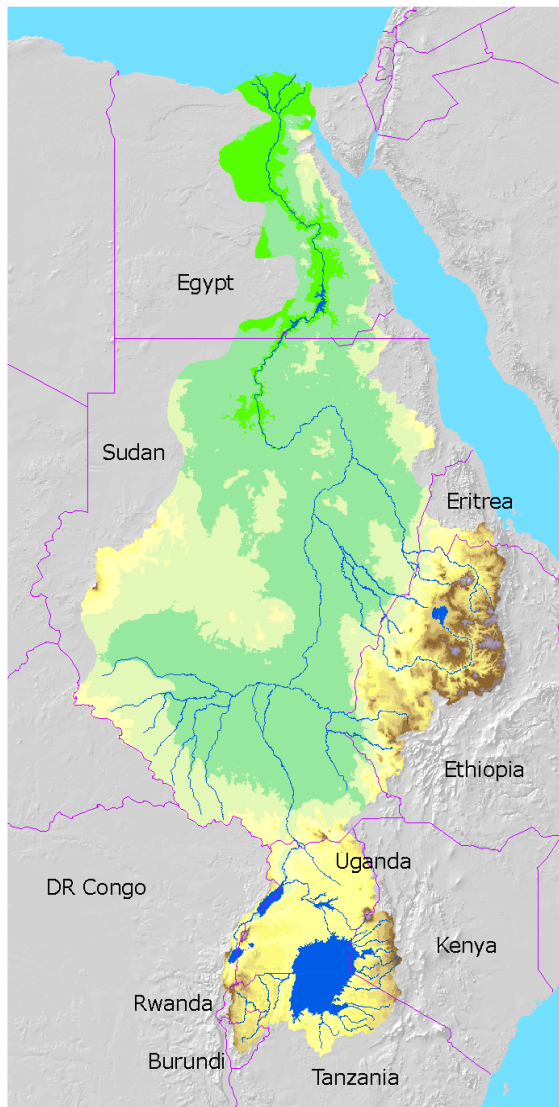
98% of Uganda's WRs are within the Nile Basin

$$\frac{\text{ERWR}}{\text{TRWR}} \% = \text{Dependence Ratio} = 69\%$$

Internal Renewable  
WR 14Bm<sup>3</sup>/yr

Total Renewable WR  
43Bm<sup>3</sup>/yr

External  
Renewable WR  
29Bm<sup>3</sup>/yr



# Transboundary water Cooperative frameworks

- Uganda is involved in two key transboundary water management and development initiatives;
  - **The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)**
    - Member States include; Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Eritrea is as an observer.
    - Transitional institution pending full ratification of Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (Uganda already ratified)
  - **Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)**
    - Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo and South Sudan are members.
    - Established by the Protocol for Sustainable development for Lake Victoria basin.

**NELSAP PROJECTS  
IN UGANDA**

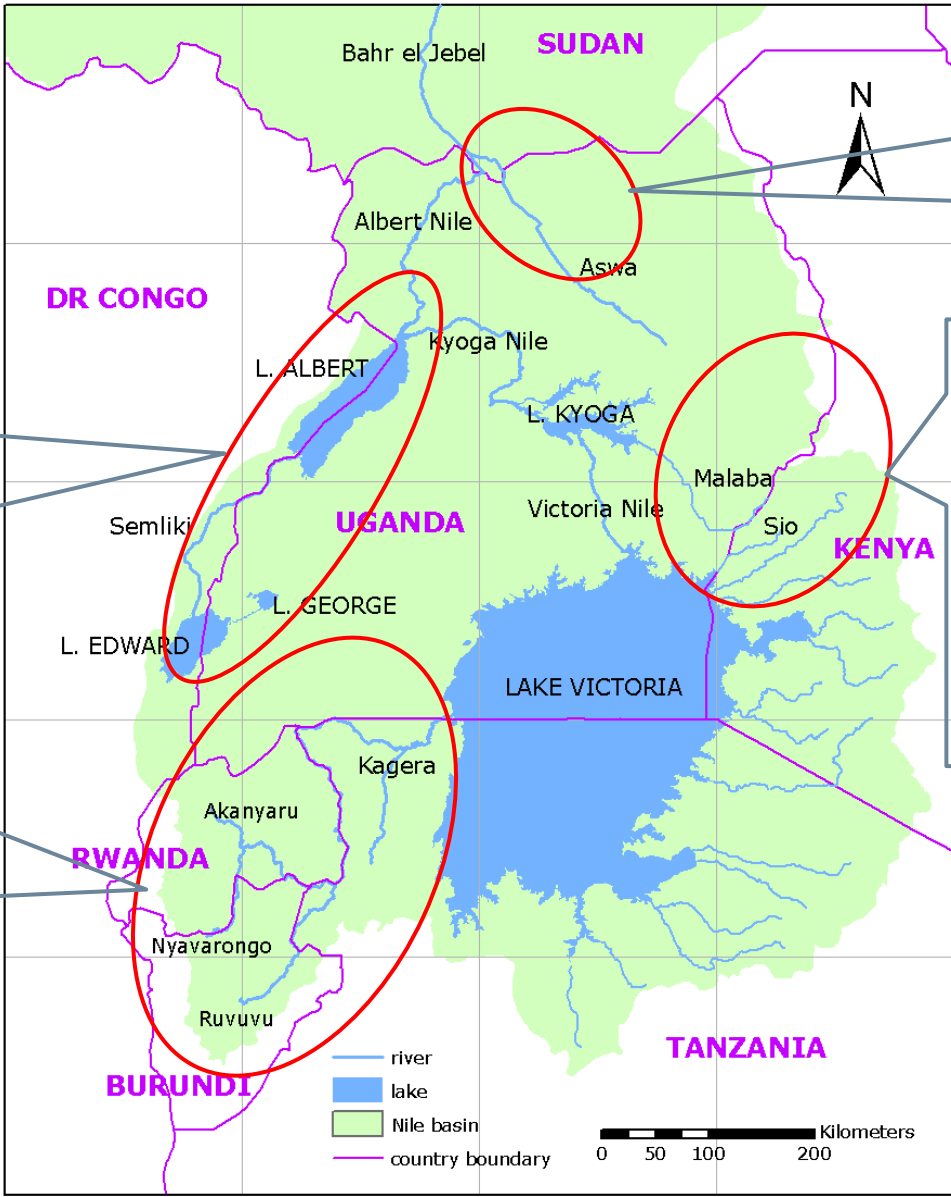
**Lakes Edward and Albert Fisheries and Water Mgt Project UGANDA/DRC**

**Kagera \_UG / TZ/RWA/BUR \_ Bigasha \_ Kabuyanda**

**Nyimur Multi Purpose WR Mgt & Dev't Project UGANDA/S SUDAN**  
5100ha

**SMM\_UG & UG**

- Nyabanja
- Angoloro
- (command area 4500ha)



river  
lake  
Nile basin  
country boundary

0 50 100 200 Kilometers



# Involvement of Uganda in Water Convention Programme of Work

With Uganda ratifying the CFA the country is in the process of acceding to the two Water Conventions.

Despite Uganda not being a party to the Water Convention it has been actively involved in activities under the Convention such as:

- (i) Implementing **Sustainable Development Goal 6** (on water and sanitation) specifically dealing with transboundary water cooperation
- (ii) Implementing a project on **strengthening transboundary water cooperation between Kenya and Uganda** and identifying transboundary investment projects between the two countries for funding.
- (iii) Participating in a number of **meetings and workshops organized by UNECE** in Geneva and elsewhere.
- Co-organizing **international water law and governance training course** at the Water Resources Institute in Uganda in 2018, 2019 and 2022.

# What are the benefits and value added for Uganda in acceding to the Water Convention?

- Uganda will gain a leveraged platform for enhancing international cooperation both regionally and internationally, and this will reduce and or prevent potential tensions and differences which eventually promotes regional peace and security.
- Building of the investor confidence in water related resources.
- Uganda's accession to the water convention will enable the country gain access to financial resources that will promote practical water management, handle transboundary water cooperation and attract funders from both local and international
- Uganda's accession to the Water convention will provide for an integrated water resources management and water governance at both national and international levels .The Country will apply and enforce some of the international principles such as polluter, and user pays principle.

## Benefits of accession (cont'n)

- The country will gain leverage in terms of negotiating legally binding instruments such as protocols or any other amendments to the water convention.
- Uganda will benefit from sharing experiences of handling problematic water issues such as floods, reduction of water tables caused by effects of climate change.
- Accession to the water convention will promote sustainable use of water at source, and this will improve the quality and quantity of water in the country.
- There will be development of Infrastructure on the shared water resource, such as revamping the water transport system, building of dams among others.
- Accession to the convention will promote transparency, information and data sharing among partner states.



## Benefits of accession (cont'n)

- By becoming a party, Uganda stands more chances of **aligning itself to the convention's institutional structures and participating in decision making** which benefits the country both at national and international level.
- Accession to the water convention will **strengthen enforcement and compliance of national laws** once domesticated.- the Convention will provide a good anchorage to the other related laws and Regulations.
- **Improve visibility** on the international Arena.
- **Strengthen regional bodies** such as LVBC.- Will have anchorage on the Water Convention.
- **Issue of ground water** will be properly addressed since it not fully addressed in the CFA.

# Challenges and potential barriers in the accession process

- ❑ Failure to obtain **adequate stakeholder buy in** especially politicians and decision makers
- ❑ **Limited support** from the key national actors such as Ministries of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Finance and Foreign Affairs.
- ❑ **Inadequate financial resources** to support the Accession processes (especially holding meetings with relevant stakeholders to gain consensus on the need to accede)
- ❑ **Low capacity** in terms of institutions, human resources and tools (**Need Champions**)
- ❑ Convention **fatigue**
- ❑ Difficulties in **quantifying the benefits of accession** to the convention and **cost** of not acceding (Added benefits of acceding to the Water Convention when Uganda is a party to different legal frameworks (CFA, Protocol on Lake Victoria etc)
- ❑ Justifying **rationale for Uganda acceding** to the water convention when other **countries in the basin have not**

# Road map for accession

- Submission of letter of expression of Interest to Accede to Water Convention- Aug. 2021
- Hold National Workshop resulting in draft road map to accession - Feb 2022
- Set up Inter-ministerial Committee - March 2022
- Hold discussion, reviews the Conventions, conducts S.W.O.T. regarding risks and prepares an accession toolkit and cabinet paper- April and May 2022
- Undertake comprehensive stakeholder analysis to identify key stakeholders to include in consultations- May and June 2022
- Prepare key communication messages- June 2022
- Prepare of draft Regulatory Impact Assessment and ratification arguments- August 2022
- Hold consultative meetings with Stakeholders- November and December 2022
- Attorney General reviews the Conventions and provides legal advice- Dec. 2022
- Ministry of Finance is consulted about financial implications of accession- Dec 2022

# Road map for accession

- Finalize Cabinet paper and submit to Cabinet Secretariat for review and approval before presentation to Cabinet- **Dec 2022**
- Presentation of Cabinet paper to Cabinet members – **Jan 2023**
- Cabinet consideration of the Cabinet paper to ratify the Water Conventions – **Jan and Feb. 2023**
- Preparation and signature of the instrument of accession by Ministry of Foreign Affairs- **Feb. 2023**
- Submission of instrument of accession to UN in New York- **Feb. 2023**
- Submit information on accession to Parliament – **March 2023**
- Hold side event on the Water Convention and also celebrating Uganda's Accession at the UN 2023 Water Conference (22-24 March 2023, New York, USA)- **March 2023**
- Hold side event at the Uganda Water and Environment week celebrating Uganda's Accession and looking to implementation – **March 2023**

# Status of implementing road map

- National stakeholders' workshops held in **November 2019 and February 2022** (development of accession road map)
- Inter-ministerial working group for accession set up composed of 8 members (**Ministry of Water and Environment (Secretariat); Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Foreign Affairs; Makerere University, and National Environment Management Authority**)
- Terms of Reference for Inter-ministerial working group developed
- 3 sub-committees (**Legal, technical, and stakeholders engagement and awareness**) of Inter-ministerial working group established
- 3 sub-committees meet regularly and have **reviewed the Water Conventions in relation to international and regional agreements and national laws, undertaken stakeholders analysis, produced technical arguments for accession, and awareness raising materials**)
- Preparation of Regulatory Impact Assessment and Cabinet paper almost finalized
- Formal stakeholders engagements starting in December 2022