Nile Basin Initiative

Benefits from CIWA support

Michael Kizza (PhD)
Deputy ED
NBI Secretariat
The Nile Basin

- Source of livelihood for > 250 million people in 11 countries - 3.2 m km²
- Most of the basin is arid/semi-arid – water scarce
- Rapid population growth and economic development
- Floods and droughts routinely cause devastation
- Home to fragile ecosystems and world-class environmental assets
- Hotspot for climate change impacts
- Opportunities for cooperation - generate ‘win-win’ benefits to unlock the full productive potential
About the Nile Basin Initiative...

- The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is an intergovernmental partnership of ten Nile Basin countries:


- Shared Vision

  ‘To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilisation of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources’.
NBI 10 Year Strategy 2017-2027

Investments
(preparation, facilitating implementation)

WR Management
(Information, decision support)

Dialogue platform
(Joint Institution)

NBI Core Functions

NBI Structure

Water security
Energy security
Food security
Environment sustainability
Climate change adaptation
Transboundary water governance

Nile-SEC
ENTRO
NELSAP-CU
Nile Ministers approach WB for support

WB manage NBTF; cooperation more challenging

NBTF closes, CIWA starts, NCORE Add’l Finance 1

NCORE closes

Nile Ministers agree to form NBI

Dev partners help design Nile Program

ICCON- $200+ million pledged

NBTF: 30 projects Leveraging US$ 1.5B Investments US$ 4.5B pipeline NCORE starts

NCORE AF2

NCCR starts

Historical Evolution of NBI –CIWA Cooperation – A Progressive Partnership.....
# NILE COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE (NCCR) PROJECT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation period:</th>
<th>March 2021 – Nov 2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project amount:</td>
<td>US$ 30 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Objective:</td>
<td>To improve mechanisms for cooperation on water resources management and development in the Nile Basin. (Dam Safety; Floods &amp; Droughts; Water Quality; Platforms; Information)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Participation Agencies:

- **NBI Centres**
  - NBI Secretariat
  - Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP/ENTRO)
  - Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP)
- **Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) – civil society engagement**
- **Lake Victoria Basin Commission of EAC**
Benefits of CIWA Support

• Positioning of NBI as a platform that *brings all member states on the table* to discuss common issues and implement joint responses – the ‘One River-One People-One Vision’ approach.

• Enhanced **national capacities** of member states for transboundary water resources management – confidence building.

• **Mutual recognition, and acknowledgment of cooperation** as a key driver of sustainable management of the transboundary water resources.

• Through forums *like Nile Day and NBDF*, stakeholders, *including governments, scientific groups, civil society, academic and research institutions, and development partners* interact with each other and the NBI.

• Promotion of broader “**Benefit Sharing**” as opposed unilateral development that can result in conflicts.

• Strengthened capacity to manage and coordinate *the identification and preparation of trans-boundary* and multipurpose investment projects.

• Some supported projects, like Rusumo HEP, have been implemented.
# Impact of long-term support (NBTF, NCORE, NCCR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An emphasis on national Sovereignty – national interests</td>
<td>Transboundary issues are at the centre of national water management (TWM units and policies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unequal basis for cooperation - disparities in wealth, power, and negotiating capacity</td>
<td>Capacity building programs have evened the field and result in deeper dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of understanding about why a regional perspective would bring benefits</td>
<td>Joint investments preparation and implementation (e.g. Rusumo HEP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| No sharing tradition. There was mistrust and suspicion between countries, and data was not shared. | • Data for joint projects jointly collected and regularly shared  
• Joint strategic assessments to address major issues e.g. climate change and environmental degradation |
| No Basin-wide forum for dialogue | • NBI@25 years, CFA under ratification  
• Regular governance meetings,  
• stakeholder dialogues, communication and awareness |
| Limited financing of transboundary programs | • Participation of other partners (EU, GEF, GIZ, AfDB, UNDP, AFD, etc.  
• From NCCR to RCRP  
• Countries cover core costs of institution |
Nile Cooperation – Lessons Learnt

• Transboundary water cooperation is a long gruelling process- aimed at achieving consensus in the face of differences and dispute

• Benefits of Nile cooperation (national and regional) outweigh those of non-cooperation

• Confidence building is critical to transboundary cooperation - a combination of open dialogue, evidence-based technical information, joint assessments, stakeholder engagement, and enhanced capacity

• Coordination between all regional players is critical for achieving the benefits, through optimising synergies and avoiding duplication of effort