



Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin

Project Partner:	Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
Project Region:	NBI member states: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda
Project Term:	total: January 2002 – June 2013 current phase: January 2009 – June 2013
Project Budget:	total: EUR 10.3 million current phase: EUR 5.8 million

Context

With a length of 6695km and a catchment area of more than 3 million km², the Nile is one of the world's major rivers and the most important freshwater reservoir in its region. The Nile basin is shared by 11 countries and covers around 10% of Africa's total landmass, home to an estimated 230 million people – almost 23% of the African population. Its water resources are essential for socio-economic development in all riparian states, where poverty, political instability and environmental degradation are widespread. Water demand across the Nile basin is steadily increasing (e.g. for irrigated agriculture, hydropower and a rapidly growing population) but water availability is both finite and variable due to climatic factors.

Realising that cooperation beyond national boundaries is crucial for the development of the region, nine riparian countries founded the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in 1999. The initiative's joint vision is "to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources."

Project

GIZ supports the NBI on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Currently, GIZ engages in the NBI 'Institutional Strengthening Project' in close cooperation with other partners that contribute to the Nile Basin Trust Fund. The objective of the project is to improve the planning and coordination of sustainable water resources management in the Nile basin on both national and regional levels.

With the aim of supporting the successful transformation of NBI into a fully mandated river basin organisation in the future, GIZ provides the NBI assistance in strengthening its institutional and technical capacities in the following areas:

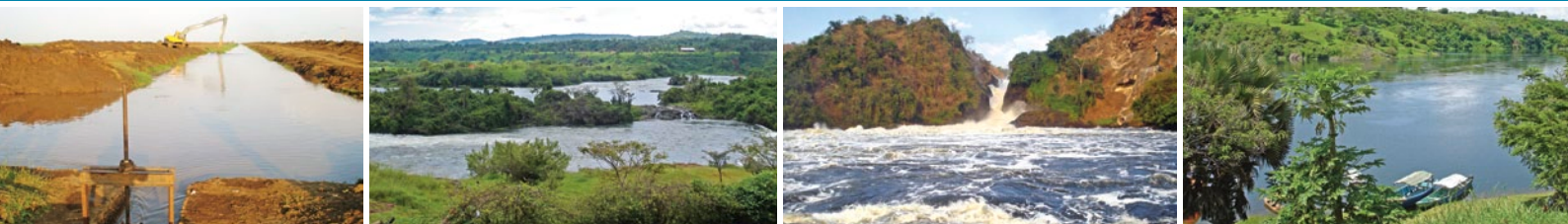
💧 Institutional and organisational development

GIZ supports the NBI in increasing its institutional and financial sustainability: Key factors here include the definition of roles, responsibilities and coordination procedures, as well as clear mandates for the NBI Secretariat and the two NBI investment programmes on the sub-basin level. Furthermore, a significant share of financing by the NBI member states is essential to ensure financial sustainability of the organisation in the long term.

💧 Policy and strategy development

GIZ supports the NBI in the development of basin-wide principles and standards for the management of the shared water resources of the Nile basin:

With the *Nile Basin Sustainability Framework*, a common strategic approach is now in place, serving as a reference for policies, strategies and guidelines for the sustainable management and development of the Nile basin, such as the NBI Environmental and Social Policy.



GIZ further assists the NBI in developing key thematic strategies within this framework (on climate change and wetlands management) and in providing support to member states to integrate transboundary principles into their respective national water policies.

💧 Data and Information Management

GIZ supports the NBI in the establishment of a comprehensive knowledge system to foster data and information exchange and provide a reliable information base that assists in decision making processes:

The web-based *Nile Information System* gives NBI staff, decision makers and other stakeholders at the regional, national and local levels access to relevant information on the Nile basin and the NBI's activities, enabling information exchange among the different user groups. The *River Nile State of the Basin Report 2012* (and subsequent releases every three years) serves as a tool for monitoring the health of the river basin in the long term. It provides credible information and in-depth analysis of trends in various areas such as energy, food security and climate change. The report identifies key challenges in these fields and provides recommendations for decision makers in the basin.

💧 Adaptation to climate change

On the sub-basin level, GIZ supports the NBI's efforts to adapt to climate change:

In the Nile Equatorial Lakes Region, climate-proofing guidelines are developed and mainstreamed in cooperation with KfW Entwicklungsbank to ensure that infrastructure projects are identified, developed and implemented with future climatic changes in mind. In the Eastern Nile basin, a flood early warning system is set up to quickly alert affected stakeholders and local communities on upcoming flood events.

Impact

Despite the present political situation in the basin, significant progress has been achieved in terms of confidence building between riparian countries as well as conflict prevention. Within the NBI, numerous water professionals from all participating countries now regularly work together on solutions and opportunities for cooperation. This has led to a consensus on key elements of adequate water policies and common standards, which has had a marked influence on the water sector reform process in individual member countries.

Over the past years, NBI has strengthened its capacity to effectively perform its function as an international river basin organisation,

and has demonstrated the benefits of cooperation to its member countries. On the sub-basin level, the NBI is coordinating concrete investment projects for infrastructure development and resource conservation with a total value of around 1 billion USD, including hydropower generation and power transmission projects. The population of the Nile basin is the ultimate beneficiary of those investment projects on the ground.



Topographic map of the Nile basin © NBI

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für
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Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn/Germany
T +49 6196 79 - 0
F +49 6196 79 - 80 11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Contact:
Axel Klaphake
E axel.klaphake@giz.de

Partner:
Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat (Nile SEC)
I www.nilebasin.org

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