

# Support to Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin

Strengthening capacities for sustainable and cooperative basin management and development

## The challenge

The Nile Basin covers approximately a tenth of Africa's surface and is home to almost a quarter of its population. Demand for water in the region is constantly increasing due to economic development and population growth. Being a water-scarce basin with water resources already intensively utilized, water availability is likely to further decrease with land use and climatic changes. The basin is therefore considered as highly prone to conflict, with no permanent intergovernmental agreement on water cooperation in place.

To tackle these challenges, the riparian countries established the Nile Basin Initiative in 1999, promoting a coordinated approach to river basin planning and development. This is based on the NBI's vision of achieving sustainable socio-economic development through equitable use of the Nile Basin's shared water resources.

## Our approach

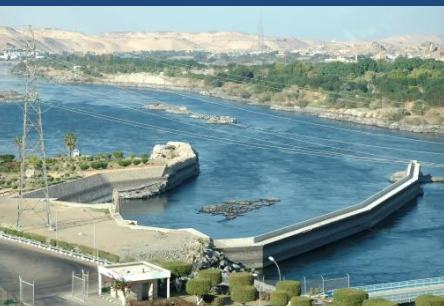
The project's objective is to strengthen the utilization of the services provided by NBI to its member states. Following the GIZ capacity development approach, the focus is on strengthening capacities of persons involved in transboundary cooperation, strengthening the organizational capacity of NBI, and the policy framework that is required to facilitate the cooperation. The project supports the following priority areas for transboundary cooperation in the Nile Basin:



<b>Project</b>	Support to Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin
<b>Commissioned by</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Implementing partner</b>	Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
<b>Project region</b>	Nile Basin: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda
<b>Duration</b>	Phase 6: 2022 – 2025
<b>Financial volume</b>	Phase 6: € 6 Million

- Operation of the **regional hydrological monitoring system** and the exchange and use of data for water resources management
- **Coordinated operation and safety of cascade dams** – both in the Eastern Nile and the Lake Victoria Nile Rivers
- **Strategic Water Resources Assessments (SWRA)** for common understanding of the basin's development potential and water resources management challenges
- Development of a **regional Nile Basin Investment Program (BIP)** as a tool to support implementation of the NR Basin Management Plan and to support coordination between regional actors with a mandate related to basin development.





## Contact person

Dr Malte Grossmann

Head of Projects

Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin

[malte.grossmann@giz.de](mailto:malte.grossmann@giz.de)

## Results in figures...

The **10 riparian countries** continue their cooperation and hold **regular Regional Expert Working Group (REWG) meetings** on transboundary water management under the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), including **1 REWG on Hydrology, 1 REWG on Strategic Water Resources Assessment, 2 REWG on Cascade Dam Management and 1 REWG on the Basin Investment Program.**

Riparian states have **established a regional hydrological monitoring system** which includes 80 hydrological monitoring stations. **45 stations have been rehabilitated** by NBI.

The Nile Riparians have in a collaborative process completed **Phase 1 – Baseline – and Phase 2 – Future Outlook – of the Strategic Water Resources Assessment** and are now embarking on **Phase 3 – Options Assessment.**

Countries have agreed on a roadmap for **Coordinated Operation of Cascade of Dams in the Eastern Nile** and have completed scoping studies to identify potential for coordination in the Eastern and Lake Victoria Nile.

The Nile Council of Water Ministers (Nile-COM) has approved the **Nile River Basin Management Plan** including **6 key strategic goals** on water security, energy security, food security, environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation and transboundary water governance. A **Nile Basin Investment Program** is under development to advance the implementation of a portfolio of priority investment projects with regional significance, coordinated among **6 Regional Organisations**

## ... in stories

**“Basin wide cooperation on the Nile started in earnest with the HYDROMET project in 1967. The establishment of the regional hydrological monitoring system under the NBI is a major milestone in the technical cooperation among countries of the Nile Basin.”**

*Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat*

The system allows countries to share and make use of joint data and information on a bilateral, multilateral or basin-wide level, according to purpose. Data is key to enable the riparian countries to develop a common understanding of the Nile’s water resources – its hydrology, floods and droughts, climate change impacts – and to monitor water availability across the basin as the basis for planning and management. The regional monitoring system is witness to step by step deepening of the cooperation across the basin.

## ... in a nutshell

The project contributes directly to implement NBI’s Shared Vision, and the member countries’ priorities as agreed in the NBI 10 Year Strategy and Work Program. Overall, the project makes a direct contribution to achieving the SDG Target 6.5.2, which is to establish operational arrangements for water cooperation in all transboundary basins.

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered office: Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5  
65760 Eschborn  
Germany  
T: +49 61 96 -11 475  
F +49 61 96 79-11 1 15

Authors: Dr Malte Grossmann  
Layout: GIZ  
As of: September 2023

In cooperation with: Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)

On behalf of: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

