

# Project Cluster: Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin

Enhancing peaceful cooperation of Nile Basin states on shared waters

## 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 utilised, water availability is likely to further decrease with land use and climatic changes. The basin is therefore classed as highly prone to conflict, with no permanent intergovernmental agreement on water cooperation in place.

## Our approach

Germany, through projects commissioned by several of the government ministries, has been supporting Nile cooperation and the NBI since 2002. The support is part of the Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Water Management in Africa. Currently, GIZ is implementing five complementary projects:

The project *Support to Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin* (funded by BMZ) supports the NBI to develop capacities, foster dialogue and build the shared knowledge base and policy frameworks for cooperative planning, management and development of the basin's water resources.

The project *Support to Hydro-Diplomacy in the Nile Basin* (AA) supports the basin's countries in engaging in a constructive political and public dialogue surrounding the Nile's water resources.

The project *Dialogues and Assessment of Transboundary Peatlands in the Kagera Sub-Basin of Nile* (BMUV) supports countries in building knowledge and



<b>Project Cluster</b>	<b>Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin</b>
<b>Commissioned by</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</li> <li>Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) – International Climate Initiative (IKI)</li> <li>Federal Foreign Office (AA)</li> <li>European Union (EU) (2016–2022)</li> </ul>
<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>	2001 – 2025
<b>Financial volume</b>	€ 22.8 million (BMZ) € 10.0 million (EU) € 8.65 million (BMUV–IKI) € 4.8 million (AA)

capacities on the potential of peatlands for nature-based climate mitigation and adaptation.

The project *Marine Debris Framework – Nile Basin* (BMUV) supports the assessment of plastic load in the Nile and tributaries to tackle pollution from source to sea.

The project *Climate Services for Infrastructure Investments* (BMUV) supports NBI member states to adapt their water infrastructure to the future impacts of climate change.





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## Results in figures ...

**10 member countries** hold regular meetings on transboundary water management under the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) for the past **24 years**.

Under NBI, **7 Regional Expert Working Groups** regularly bring together representatives from each of the member countries' **10 transboundary water units** to develop joint approaches on issues ranging from basin monitoring to wetlands and peatlands management and plastic pollution.

The **first-ever Nile River Basin Management Plan** and the **Nile Basin Investment Program** have been developed by NBI and endorsed by its member states as key pillars for the coordinated management and development of the shared water resources.

NBI has started the operation of a regional hydrological monitoring system, with **45 hydrological monitoring stations** rehabilitated by NBI. Existing historical information has been shared and analysed to form the basis for the **1<sup>st</sup> Nile Basin Water Resources Atlas**.

**2 editions of the State of the Nile Basin Report** have been published, a high-level information product that monitors the environmental and socio-economic conditions in the basin.

**7 Nile Basin Development Forums** to date have each brought together **over 400 participants** to discuss the fundamental issues surrounding Nile Cooperation.

**A network of journalists from the 11 riparian countries** regularly collaborates on fact-based reporting on Nile issues.

## ... in stories

**“The NBI process helps build trust and cooperation.”**

*Statement by a member of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC)*

Such trust and cooperation is necessary for countries to enter into a cooperative planning process. A first step is for countries to develop a common understanding of the water resource. In 2016, the NBI member states for the first time embarked on a joint analysis of the water availability and existing and planned water uses. This laid a foundation for the development and adoption of the first-ever Nile River Basin Management Plan in 2022, an achievement that was made possible by the dedicated work of the NBI's experts, the increasing readiness and trust among the Nile Basin states for such cooperative assessments and intensive technical consultations.

## ... in a nutshell

Since its creation and with support from German cooperation and other development partners, NBI has significantly contributed to **strengthening capacities and fostering dialogue** among Nile Basin states. Countries are now working together towards a shared vision. German support has helped to establish NBI's water resource management function which now effectively makes available to member states information, analytical tools, and policy instruments as well as a platform for managing the shared Nile Basin water resources in a sustainable manner. This is a direct contribution to achieving the SDG Target 6.5.2, which is to establish operational arrangements for water cooperation in all transboundary basins.

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