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# CIWA's Sustained Support in the Nile Basin:

## Where are we now?

CIWA's long-term engagement in the Nile Basin is anchored with multiple initiatives – the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), and the World Bank Nile Basin Support Program – to support cooperative engagements between countries where agreements exist and support dialogue to create space for new agreements where agreement has not yet been reached. The CIWA grants support strengthening information systems, enhancing institutions, and improving sustainable infrastructure.

### **Significant achievements that build on past progress**

CIWA's support in the Nile Basin builds on the continuing progress made by riparian countries in advancing their cooperative agenda. With support from the NBTf between 2001-2015, the NBI focused on “establishment and confidence building,” i.e. bringing Nile countries together to build trust, capacity, and an enabling environment for investments, followed by a period of “institutional strengthening,” during which the NBI established itself as a platform for cooperative water resources management and development, while concurrently working with the countries to identify,

prepare, and support the implementation of investment projects of regional significance. Beginning 2012, through the Nile Cooperation for Results Project (NCORE), CIWA has provided US\$23 million and leveraged an additional US\$16.5 million from the NBTF. As a result, the NBI has grown into an established regional institution that provides advisory, analytical, and technical services to its member countries to advance cooperative water resources management and development. The NBI's added value results from its solid technical capabilities, a shared knowledge base and analytical tools to enable countries to understand the implications of their actions, its positioning to identify opportunities for managing risks and realizing joint benefits through on-the-ground investments, and importantly, the unique platform it provides for regional dialogue on transboundary water issues. Significantly, participating Nile countries have established the norm of jointly evaluating and approving preparation of projects of transboundary significance identified by the NBI.

**With CIWA support, the NBI has identified, prepared or facilitated regionally significant investments worth over US\$ 3.3 billion which will potentially benefit an estimated 9.9 million people. Out of these, US\$ 326 million worth of investments have begun implementation, while the NBI continues to facilitate resource mobilization to roll out its growing investment portfolio.**

Similarly, CIWA channels its support through the NBD – a basin-wide network covering over 625 local and national NGOs working on a range of issues relevant to Nile cooperation, including environmental conservation, gender equity, livelihoods, poverty reduction, and others – to promote inclusion and equity in cooperative water resources management and development, via channeling community voices in Nile Basin cooperation activities, building civil society capacity to improve understanding and participation, and providing a safe space for Nile basin dialogue and confidence building. Through the \$2.5 million Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin Project, the NBD has mobilized partnerships with governments and regional development organizations to ensure that **social concerns shape water, power, and commodity investments of transboundary significance worth, thus far, an estimated US\$ 150 million with potential benefits to an estimated 6.5 million people.**

## **A complex transboundary context**

It should be noted that this progress in regional cooperation continues despite complicated hydro-politics outside of CIWA engagement, including issues related to disagreements over the text of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (a proposed international legal agreement that outlines principles, rights and obligations for cooperative management and development of the Nile Basin water resources) and unilateral development of multipurpose investment projects. One riparian's participation in the NBI has been frozen since 2010 because of some of these issues. These developments have intensified the need for NBI to strengthen its strategic and technical role in order to demonstrate benefits of regional cooperation, and to provide customized services to the diverse stakeholders of the institution.

## Approved in the past year – additional financing for NBI and NBD projects

Agreements among NBI member states reached under the current NCORE project have provided openings for further advancing cooperative action. Member States have identified next steps to address their water resources management and development challenges.

While the NBI has been established as a credible and capable regional organization, member states recognize that capacity gaps at the national level can limit the extent of benefits that countries harness through NBI services. An additional financing of US\$ 8.5 million to the NCORE project enables countries to work with the NBI to build capacity to mainstream regional planning and coordination services provided by the NBI Centers into their national and local planning and development processes. Strengthening regional national linkages are critical for reinforcing the sustainability of results achieved under NCORE and enabling member states to better benefit from the technical capacity of the NBI.

### *The recently approved additional financing for NCORE aims deepen development impact through the following results led by the NBI's three centers:*

	Nile-Sec	NELSAP-CU	ENTRO
	Advanced development of NBI seasonal forecasting system	Collaboration among countries to prioritize a new Nile Equatorial Lakes Investment Program (NELIP) that strengthens regional inter-sectoral coordination with national sector-wide planning	Expansion of seasonal and daily flood forecasts to governments, communities, NGOs, including potentially to South Sudan
Organizational Roles	Increased provision of real-time data and analysis, including real time hydromet and evapotranspiration	Improved capacity within NELSAP-CU and its countries for strategic communications and resource mobilization of prepared projects	Improved technical capacity in new national dam safety offices, including through strengthening the working partnership of a regional network of dam operators
	Creation of an integrated NBI-wide web portal and knowledge management system	Provision of long-term targeted technical capacity building to countries to help them assess their critical water resource challenges, and to support engagement with inter-ministerial mechanisms at the national level on these issues	Scaling up of ENTRO's young professionals program and academic partnerships to continue building a new set of leaders in the Eastern Nile, among others
	Continued provision of platforms for collaboration and dialogue	Assistance to countries in exploring a possible new regional IDA program	Evaluation of the various pilot livelihood-based integrated watershed management interventions conducted by ENTRO, to inform riparian-led scale up of select best and most viable practices, as well as training of practitioners on lessons learned

Similarly, an additional financing of US\$ 1 million to the NBD scales up the results achieved thus far with CIWA support while enabling it to strengthen its financial sustainability. The NBD will strengthen its strategic communications including multi-way communication through its revamped website, improve monitoring of engagements and facilitate increased visits to targeted communities, strengthening the service-provider role of the its National Discourse Forums (NDFs), and solidify the NBD Secretariat's role as coordinator among NDFs, with the NBI, and other relevant regional organizations and national bodies.

## **World Bank Nile Support Program as a unique platform for dialogue**

Through the Nile Basin Support Program, the World Bank continues to offer a space for dialogue and increased understanding among riparians, where it might not otherwise be possible under existing institutional structures. This includes trust and capacity building events between Nile countries, including for example, a study tour to the western United States undertaken by technical representatives from the Nile, to learn about practices in water resources management in North America.

In addition, through the Nile Basin Support Program, the World Bank can continue to bring global expertise to help the NBI and the Nile countries in areas such as pursuing Public-Private Partnerships for investment projects, in application of remote sensing for data collection, in improved environmental and social safeguards, and in other technical applications for water resources work.

## **Future directions of support in the Nile Basin**

While the current CIWA funding for the Nile Basin has been fully allocated, demand for future CIWA support still remains strong. The NBI has a robust pipeline of investments for which it is seeking additional funds for project preparation in hydropower, irrigation, navigation, watershed management, and flood preparedness. NELSAP-CU is seeking \$142 million in funding to prepare new investment projects of regional significance that have been agreed by its countries for further study. The Eastern Nile Multi Sectoral Investment Opportunity Analysis identified 10 new streams of cooperative activities for which ENTRO is seeking funds. The NBI Secretariat is seeking funds for additional hydromet and water quality monitoring stations, to improve the availability of public information on the Nile. In addition, the Secretariat is seeking funds for dialogue and information exchange on groundwater availability. These are just a few examples of the \$16 million of funding that the NBI Secretariat is seeking to implement the additional elements of the first five years of its new strategic plan for 2017 onwards.

In addition, the World Bank has requests from governments to provide capacity building for countries on water diplomacy, on dam safety, on use of remote sensing data and advanced analytics to inform water systems management, in mobilizing public and private investment funds, and in a wide-array of other strategic areas. Should new CIWA support become available, the World Bank would welcome the opportunity to work with the Nile riparians to prioritize the opportunities for engagement.