

Funding to support Nile cooperation

This pooled fund mechanism, administered by the World Bank and supported by ten donors, has helped to ensure coordination and best use of funding, and to keep everything working efficiently towards a single shared vision.

Funding to support Nile cooperation has come through various sources, with a total commitment of over US\$264 million applied in the last 10 years. This support has resulted in a total of over US\$1.5 billion being leveraged for ongoing investment projects across the region.

Key influential factors in the success

“In the beginning it was a different environment. People from different countries rarely talked or worked together. Some countries didn’t quite realise the impacts of their activities on other countries.” Dr. Barbara Miller, former Senior Water Resources Specialist in the World Bank’s Africa Region

Through regionally agreed strategic programs, the NBI has contributed to building significant trust and cooperation across the region. From a starting point when discussions between some countries had to be mediated through a neutral third party, countries are now coming together to agree and plan new, large-scale projects and recognise the benefits of working collaboratively.

This trust and cooperation has in part been achieved through improvements in understanding, capacity, and knowledge. Where previously weaknesses in capacity and knowledge were real constraints, now technicians

and Ministers from the Nile countries better understand the realities of transboundary flows, the impacts of water resource management and development on neighbouring countries, and the benefits of working cooperatively.

Combined, these achievements inform both developments in national policy and planning, and expectations on shared benefits from transboundary cooperation. This promotes management and development of the Nile that is cooperative, equitable, and sustainable.

Some key tools, policies and guidelines

- Nile Basin Decision Support System (DSS) - an analytical tool jointly developed by the NBI and Member States. Development of the tool was completed in December 2012. The tool is being used for joint regional studies, and a number of member states have applied the tool in their water resources planning and development.
- Nile Basin Sustainability Framework (NBSF) – approved by Nile-COM in 2011 – informs and guides all investment projects, ensuring their orientation towards shared benefits and regional economic development.
- NBI policies on gender, climate, environment and social sustainability – all of which guide best practice, sustainability and equity across NBI work, including investment project preparations

“The results of donor groups working together – we always came to a consensus which was amazing. It makes everything a lot easier, and transaction costs are much lower.”
Durk Adema, Water Policy Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands



Achieving regional economic development and stability

The NBI helps countries better understand and manage changes in the river, including floods and droughts. The tools, capacity and infrastructure will help countries better adapt to climate change. By working together to jointly manage resources before potential conflicts occur, trust and cooperation among member states is increased and contributes to stability and peace.

This note forms one of a series of briefing notes prepared to mark the completion of the Nile Basin Trust Fund (NBTf). The Nile Basin Trust Fund was opened in 2003 at the request of Ministers responsible for water affairs in the Nile countries, and was administered by the World Bank on behalf of ten donors.

The series of briefing notes highlight the achievements of the Nile Program, a set of projects and sub-programs that have been supported by Nile riparian countries, the Nile Basin Trust Fund and other donors in parallel to the NBTf, largely implemented by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

NBI Member States



Nile Basin Trust Fund Partners

Administered by: WORLD BANK GROUP

Co-financed by:



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THE NILE STORY

BRIEFING NOTE 1

Highlights of 15 years of Nile cooperation



In 1999, nine Nile Basin countries came together in a remarkable partnership. They formed the Nile Basin Initiative as a platform for joint working to better understand and utilize the common Nile resource, to harness the benefits for equitable and sustainable regional economic development. This note highlights the key achievements of this historic endeavor.



The Nile is one of the world’s most celebrated rivers. Fifteen years ago, despite the river basin crossing the boundaries of ten countries, there was almost no cooperation to jointly plan or coordinate development or management of the Nile waters. However, in the late 1990s the countries of the Nile basin saw an opportunity to change this. They recognised the potential to work together to harness the benefits of transboundary cooperation to make the most of this resource for regional development to the benefit of the basin’s 237 million inhabitants. The governments of these countries came together to look for a way forward, and the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was born.

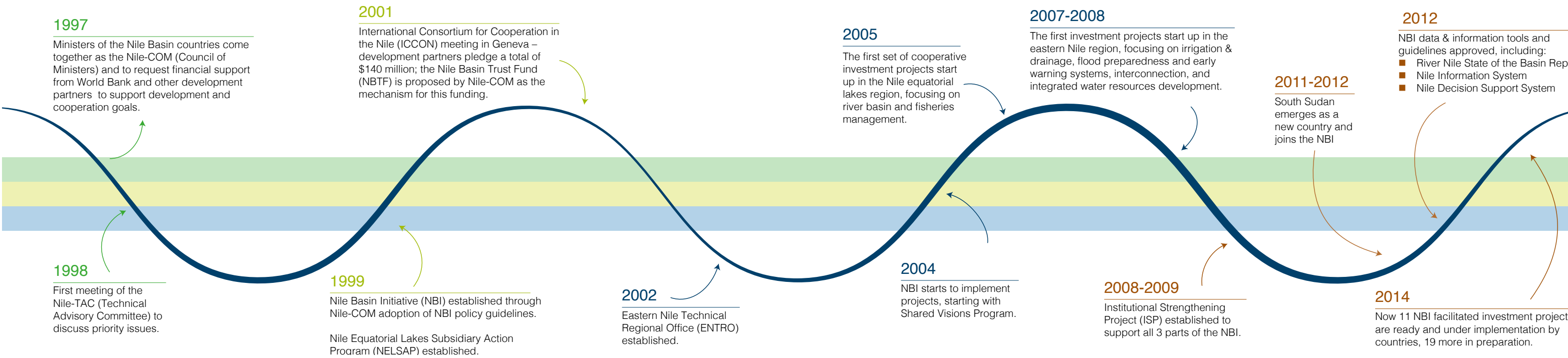
Today, a little over 10 years after significant funding for the NBI began to be mobilised, it is a very different story. Now, countries regularly meet to discuss their regional water resource issues. They share data to plan and

predict, and they work collaboratively to develop shared water resource management and development projects.

These emerging projects show real evidence that they are bringing prosperity across the region, with benefits in terms of access to water, food security, and improved energy security. The ‘Nile Story’ is one to be proud of. It has achieved a level of progress that has taken decades in many other regions and river basins.

The NBI, set up as a transitional arrangement while a formal agreement was being sought, has become the “go to” institution for support on Nile issues.

“Development is inevitable, and the only way forward is cooperation, which should bring all countries peace and stability.” Abdulkarim Seid, Head of Water Resource Management, NBI Secretariat.



Nile cooperation has achieved key results in the past 15 years

Nile cooperation has enabled the development of an effective basin organization.

- Launched in 1999, the NBI is now a well-respected, well-functioning organization with valued capacity that member countries turn to for information and support on water resource management and development. It has become a “go to” organization for national government staff wanting to engage across borders for planning or information purposes.
- It effectively promotes regional cooperation on the Nile resources by building capacities, facilitating transboundary collaboration, and preparing powerful multi-country investment projects.

- It is a truly regional organization – directed, staffed and advised by a cadre of experts from within the region, rather than relying on international advisors.

NBI work will directly reach nearly 30 million beneficiaries, once investment projects are implemented.

- It operates through a range of result areas: capacity building, water resource management and access, irrigation, flood prediction and early warning systems, and energy generation and transmission.
- Some beneficiaries are already seeing the results, while others will benefit in the coming decade through investment projects in the pipeline.
- The NBI is also reaching beneficiaries indirectly, through government capacity building resulting in better practice and service delivery.

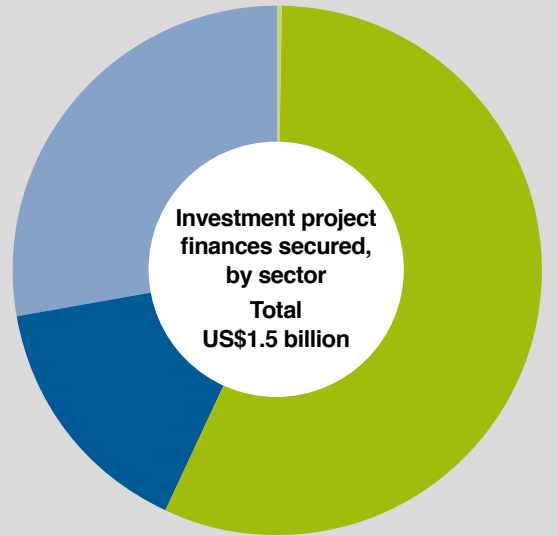
The Nile countries are advancing sustainable, transboundary investment projects for regional economic development.

- The NBI has facilitated the start-up of 11 investment projects now under implementation by countries across the region, and 19 more are under preparation. Bringing countries together to negotiate and agree on these regional, shared projects is a significant achievement.
- The NBI has already catalyzed investments of over US\$1.5 billion in these large-scale investment projects, with over US\$4.5 billion more in the pipeline for projects in preparation.
- Once implemented, these projects could result in sustainable, integrated economic development based on truly cooperative work and real ownership by the countries involved.

Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (US\$469m) will generate 80 MW new energy, shared between Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania.

Ethiopia Tana-Beles Integrated Water Resource Development Project (US\$70m) has improved water quality and flows through natural resource management and rehabilitation of degraded land.

Nile Equatorial Lakes Regional Interconnection Project (US\$403m) is improving cross-border transmission of electricity (1,300 MW) between 5 countries.



- Floods and early warning systems US\$5.5 million
- Power trade and transmission US\$884 million
- Power generation US\$235 million
- Watershed management US\$432 million (incl irrigation and water supply)

Nile cooperation projects are contributing significantly to regional energy security.

- NBI studies have enabled Nile countries to see the advantages of joint power development (considering strategic, social and environmental issues) to maximize usage of their shared water resource. It has become clear that regional approaches are much more cost effective than countries investing individually. This has resulted in 5 major, regional power projects under implementation and 4 more in preparation.
- New power generation facilities prepared with NBI support will bring 170 MW new generation capacity into national grids across the region, and, on the basis of NBI project identification, countries are taking forward projects that will bring thousands more MW on stream.
- NBI projects will create approximately 8,580 MW of additional transmission capacity, helping to ensure power can be moved around more effectively from where it is generated to where it is needed, and linking up the eastern and southern African power pools.
- These power projects are expected to improve power security for 22 million people through more reliable power supply and lower cost power generation.

NBI projects are bringing countries together to sustainably manage and develop water resources.

- Once implemented, 16 projects in preparation or already underway are expected to bring almost 1.7 million hectares of the Nile Basin under improved management for environmental and agricultural benefits.
- In total, over 17 million people in 10 countries will benefit from NBI facilitated watershed and water resource development projects currently implemented or in the pipeline.
- Watershed management supports downstream investments in irrigation and power by improving water flow and quality.
- A daily bulletin on flood preparedness in the Eastern Nile region is being used by 43 organizations, enabling better direction of relief efforts.
- Over 7 million people will benefit from regionally significant irrigation projects once they are implemented, and the NBI estimates a consequent US\$90 million per year benefit in increased agricultural production, which will lead to significant food security and regional trade benefits.
- Over 3 million people will have better access to clean water, which will bring positive impacts on health and sanitation.