



Stock Taking of Adaptation Activities in the Nile River Basin



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Acronyms & abbreviations

ADB	African Development Bank
AMCEN	African Ministerial Council on Environment
AMCOW	African Ministerial Council on Water
ALTERRA	Is part of the Wageningen University and Research Center concern
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
ATP	Applied Training Project
AU	African Union
AWF	African Water Facility
AWM	Agricultural Water Management
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CBSI	Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement
CC DARE	Climate Change and Development – Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability
CCI	Country Coordinating Institution
CFA	Cooperation Framework Agreement
CGIAR	Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research
CIDA	Canadian International Development Assistance
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPWF	Challenge Program for Water and Food
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
DGIS	Directorate General for International Cooperation of the Netherlands
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
ECA	East Commission for Africa
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENCOM	Eastern Nile Council of Ministers
ENSAP	Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program
ENSAPT	Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program Team
ENTRO	Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization

FEWSNET	Flood Early Warning System Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GWP	Global Water Partnership
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICCON	International Consortium for Cooperation on the Nile
ICP	International Cooperating Partners
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Center
IDEN	Integrated Development of Eastern Nile
IDRC	International Development Research Center
IGAD	Inter-governmental Authority on Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
ILRI-GIS	International Livestock Research Institute-Geographic Information System
IMAWESA	Improved Management of Agricultural Water in Eastern and Southern Africa
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITC	International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWMI-DSP	International Water Management Institute -
IWMI-NBEA	International Water Management Institute for Nile Basin and Eastern Africa
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KBO	Kagera Basin Organization
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NBD	Nile Basin Discourse
NBDF	Nile Basin Discourse Forum
NBTF	Nile Basin Trust Fund
Nile-COM	Nile Council of Ministers of Water Affairs
NDF	National Discourse Forums

NELCOM	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Council of Ministers
NELSAP	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program
NELSAP-CU	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program – Coordination Unit
NELTAC	Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committee
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa’s Development
NTEAP	Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
Nile-TAC	Nile Technical Advisory Committee
NTEAP	Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project
NBRP	Nile Basin Research Program
NBTF	Nile Basin Trust Fund
NELSAP-CU	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program-Coordination Unit
NRBAP	Nile River Basin Action Plan
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PJTC	Permanent Joint Technical Commission for Nile Waters
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SAPs	Subsidiary Action Programmes
SDBS	Social Economic Development and Benefit Sharing project
SVP	Shared Vision Program
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TECCONILE	Technical Cooperation for the Promotion of the Development and Environmental Protection of the Nile Basin
TWA	Transboundary Water Management
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nation’s Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN	United Nations
UP	Undugu Project



1.0 Introduction

Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change and climate variability, a situation aggravated by the interaction of 'multiple stresses', occurring at various levels, and low adaptive capacity. Climate change is also likely to aggravate water stress currently faced by some countries in the Nile River Basin, while others that do not currently experience water stress will become at a risk of water stress. According to empirical evidence, climate change in Africa is a fact that has a strong impact on Africa's water resources. Adaptation to this impact is of crucial importance for political and socio-economic stability and economic growth. There is a great need for adaptation strategies to be developed together with all partners on the basis of sub-regional future scenarios, including expected changes to the hydrological cycle and impact on agriculture and food security. Institutions at all levels must develop capacities to cope with climate change and extreme events. Transboundary cooperation on the impact of climate change (e.g., floods and droughts) through a better exchange of information and know-how, and early warning systems will have to increase significantly. Moreover, the effects of climate change will increase the importance of groundwater resources for future water and food security in the region.

As a shared river basin, the Nile is managed collaboratively by ten riparian states (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda). The impacts of climate change and other stresses on water resources and changes to flooding risks in the future will require adaptation on the part of governments, water resource management institutions, water users and a host of other stakeholders in the Nile Basin. Co-operative management of shared river systems among riparian states is an adaptation initiative that requires co-ordination at the regional level and co-operation between national governments. This collaboration provides a ready entry point for integrating climate change adaptation concerns

in the context of planning and management of water resources at the level of the entire river basin. Adaptation activities are clearly evident in all riparian states but with great diversity by the countries depending on their priorities and specific vulnerability. Currently, there are several adaptation-relevant initiatives, projects and programmes that have been completed, are ongoing or proposed in the Nile River Basin, which have contributed or are expected to contribute to building adaptation capacity in the region. However, due to inadequate information, coordination and collaboration between and among the various initiatives, there is a possibility of duplication of efforts or conflicts of interest that can lead to uneconomic use of scarce resources.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is committed to assisting African countries adapt to the impacts of climate change by building resilience of vulnerable sectors and ecosystems in the region, hence its focus at a river basin level. In its climate change strategy, UNEP recognizes that African River Basins will be severely impacted by climate change and so the management of water resources needs to be taken into account. UNEP, in partnership with the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), other relevant partners and the Nile Basin countries, is planning to undertake a project entitled “Adapting to Climate Change Induced Water Stress in the Nile River Basin.” The overall goal of this project is to build resilience of ecosystems and economies that are most vulnerable to climate change induced water stress in the Nile Basin countries by building key adaptive capacities and piloting adaptation in “hot spots” with technical, policy and financial interventions. To support UNEP to achieve this goal, UNEP commissioned a three month study to undertake a stock taking of adaptation activities in the Nile Basin, which includes an extensive scoping of institutions engaged in climate change adaptation activities. The desktop review was undertaken with the aim of identifying key stakeholders and partners at continental, sub-regional, basin, national and local levels, with a particular focus on a wide range of actors such as intergovernmental institutions, regional economic commissions, government agencies, development partners, non-states actors, and research institutions working in the pursuit for adaptation solutions in the Nile Basin.

Although there are numerous stakeholders, organizations and institutions working on and in the Nile Basin with the potential to accelerate the realization of UNEP’s project, they remain relatively unknown. It is hoped that this profiling will enable UNEP, policy makers, politicians, practitioners and other interested parties in the region to understand

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stakeholders working on transboundary water issues in general and climate change adaptation in particular. Based on the stock-taking and the information gathered, the profiling will provide an up to date and comprehensive understanding of regional, national and local initiatives, projects, and programmes on adaptation, which can be used to inform the project, policy makers, politicians and practitioners on gathering further examples of good practice as regards past ecosystem based adaptation activities in the basin and support them in effective decision-making.

For purposes of this desktop review, the term adaptation is used here in the sense used by the IPCC, where adaptation describes “changes in processes, practices and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change¹ and adaptive capacity refers to “the potential, or ability of a system to adapt to climate change stimuli or their effects or impacts”.² More specifically, however, ‘adaptation activities’ were categorized in three broad areas of work as adopted from the African Ministerial Council on Environment’s (AMCEN) Comprehensive Framework of African Climate Change Programmes³ as follows:

1. Disaster risk reduction and risk management: including early warning, preparedness,

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