




**TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS IN  
CENTRAL AND NORTHERN  
AFRICA: THE ENVIRONMENT  
PROJECT OF THE NILE BASIN  
INITIATIVE**

**First Pan-African Structured Learning  
Workshop**

**October 30- November 2, 2006**

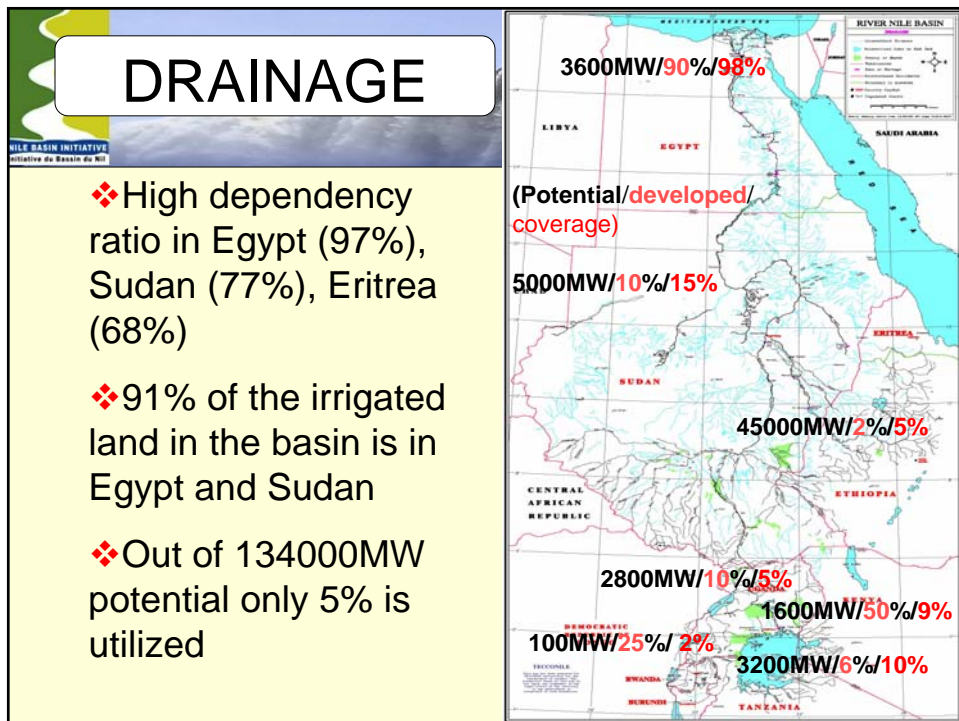
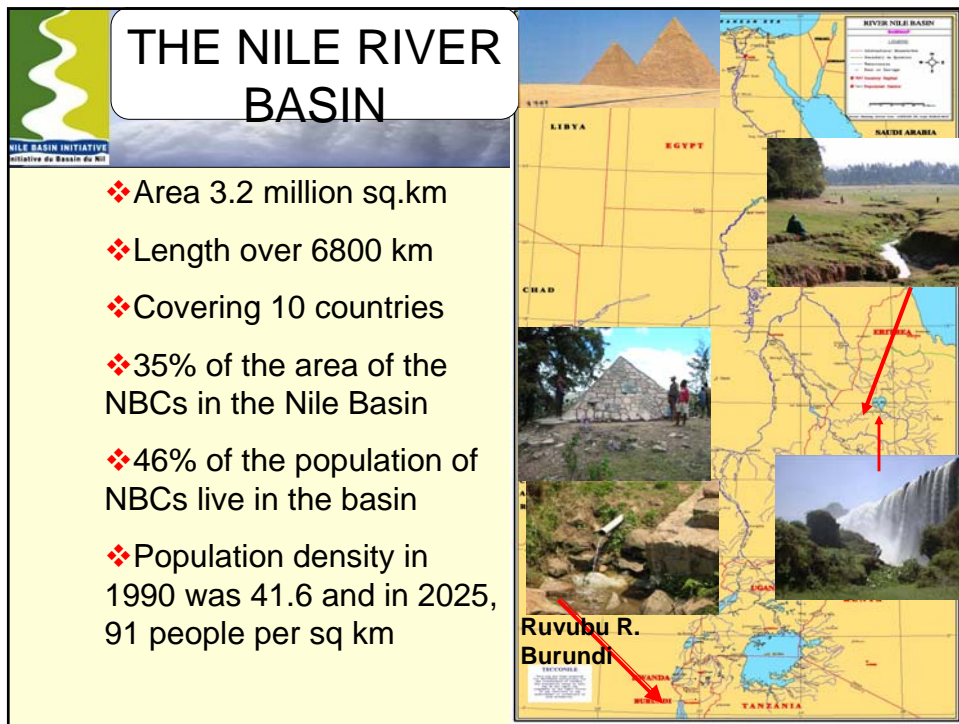
**Nairobi, Kenya**

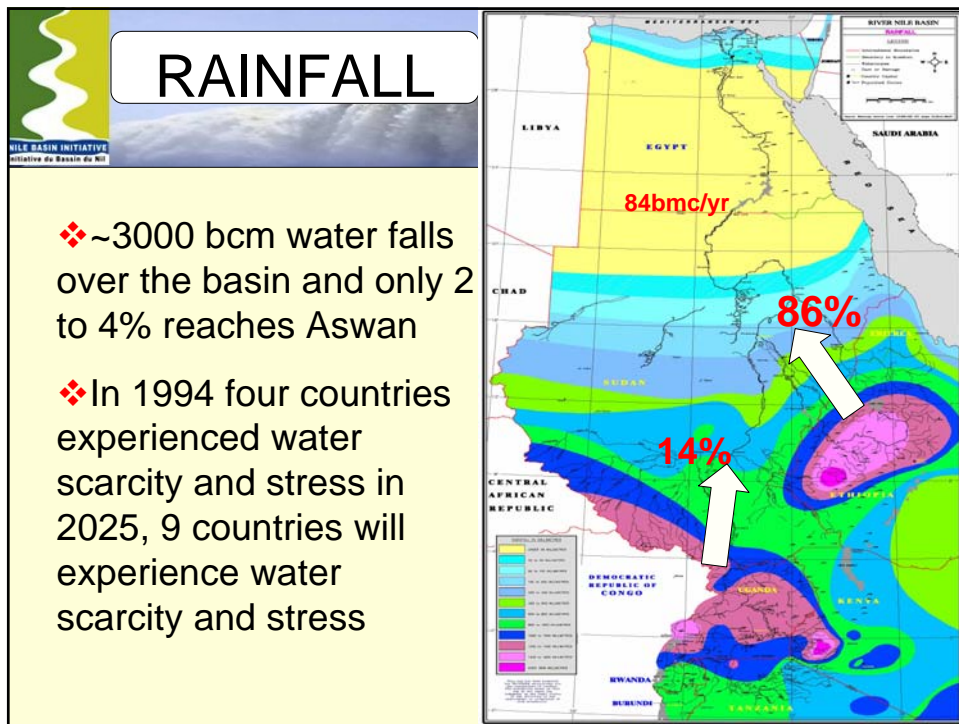
Gedion Asfaw, RPM, NTEAP



**Content**

1. Introducing the Nile Basin Environment
2. Nile Environmental Threats
3. NTEAP Approaches
4. Challenges
5. NRAK
6. Some Lessons Learnt





NILE BASIN INITIATIVE  
Initiative du Bassin du Nil

## Environmental Threats

### Deforestation

### Soil Erosion

### Siltation


### Wetlands Degradation

### Floods & Droughts

### Water Weed Infestation


### Losses of Species & Ecosystems

### Sanitary Concerns



## Basin-wide causes

- ❖ Policy, governance, institutional and capacity constraints,
- ❖ insufficient environmental education and awareness,
- ❖ limited access to environmental knowledge and information (including relevant scientific data),
- ❖ unclear tenure and inadequate access to resources for local stakeholders,
- ❖ inadequate management of protected areas and other environmental hot spots



## NTEAP Objective

**“To provide a **strategic environmental framework** for the management of the transboundary waters and environment challenges in the Nile River basin .**

# NTEAP Components

## Major Components & allocated budget (US\$ 43.6m)

1. Institutional strengthening, (18.24m)
2. Community-level land and water conservation(11.85m)
3. Environmental education and awareness (3.43m)
4. Wetlands and biodiversity conservation(7.15m)
5. Basin-wide water quality monitoring (2.93m)

# NTEAP APPROACHES

- ❖ NTEAP was launched in May 2004
- ❖ NTEAP is now fully functional at PMU in Khartoum and in all of the NBI countries: BURUNDI, DR CONGO, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, RWANDA, TANZANIA, SUDAN, UGANDA.
- ❖ NTEAP IMPLEMENTS THRU NETWORKS & WORKING GROUPS







## EE&A Lead Specialist implements activities thru: 3 Networks



EE Practitioners Network



EE university Lecturers network



EE Journalists Network

- 10 schools from each of the NBI countries
- Masters exchange program



## WQ Lead specialists implements activities thru:

Water Quality WG Network: 18 members  
two from each of the NBI countries



**Microgrants Lead Specialist implement activities thru NSCc and NGOs..**

- ❖ **118 MICROGRANTS** Projects approved worth **US\$2.6Million)**
- ❖ **NTEAP Steering Committee** provides guidance and approval of work plan and budget





**Strengthen Prospects of cooperation thru meetings with high level government officials**

**Ministers of Water & Environment-Egypt**



**Burundi Minister of Land Environment & Tourism**



**Nile COM Chair with RAK Te**



**Rwanda-Ministers of Water & Environment**



**V/Minister of Water-Ethiopia**



**DR Congo- Minister of Environment**







## Challenges



- Very large basin and complex problems
- Agreement among countries on water quality testing and data exchange
- Legislations to protect forests, wetlands and parks & compliance
- EIA legislation & compliance
- Varying pace of implementation at national level



## Challenges



- National awareness and recognition that Nile is shared by 10 countries
- Implementation of Agenda 21
- Ratification and Implementation of the biodiversity, desertification and climate change conventions
- National focus on the conservation of natural resources of the Nile Basin (forests, wetlands..etc)




## Consolidated Information on Nile Basin: Nile River Awareness Kit




## Some Lessons Learned

1. Start up Activities take time and resources
2. Relationship of Regional Organization and national level organizations is not straight forward thus needs proper study and definition
3. Getting the attention of national level decision makers and the public at large requires concerted and persistent awareness and public relations work. Basin Organizations are just one of thousands other competing projects at national level.



## Some Lessons Learned

- 4. Showing the benefits or the added value of having transboundary organizations to national level partners takes time and patience. The NBI approach of having both investment and capacity building activities helps.
- 5. Micro-grants activities help to get communities interested in transboundary cooperation since they addresses livelihood issues.
- 6. Having all nationals of the cooperating countries participate in running the basin organization helps in capacity building, strengthening cooperation, and developing a culture of tolerance



## Some Lessons Learned

- 7. Engaging students in NBO activities promotes public participation, brings in innovative ways of dealing with transboundary issues.
- 8. Engaging networks, working groups at both national and regional level promotes better visibility and implementation of activities.

