



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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“Many people in Nile Basin countries have insufficient water storage facilities and lack good access to clean water and regular water supply for farming. Despite this, total water use is increasing. Combined with increasing demands on the land, and increasing population levels especially in cities, water quality is being negatively affected. NBI’s watershed management and water resource development projects work towards providing clean water, desiltation of rivers, and storage of water, while irrigation projects are important for agricultural productivity and food security. Watershed management supports regional hydropower developments by regulating water flows and reducing siltation problems that affect power station efficiency.

<https://web.facebook.com/NileBasinInitiative/>

Gripped by drought, Ethiopia drills for water

With Ethiopia in the grip of its worst drought in decades, the government has appealed for aid to help the 10 million people living in Africa’s second most-populous nation. But in the town of Wukro, surrounded by the rocky, arid mountains of northern Tigray region, the government is investing longer-term efforts to ensure a supply of fresh water that will go far beyond immediate needs of aid.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/environment/2016/04/18/gripped-by-drought-ethiopia-drills-for-water/>

El Nino impact on food security and health in eastern Africa likely to continue this year

While the adverse effects of El Nino peaked in January 2016 and are expected to wind down by June, the impact on food security, malnutrition and public health is likely to continue throughout 2016. The next three months will be critical for simultaneously increasing preventative action against the cumulative effects of climate and conflict on the region and scaling up a robust response that focuses on preparedness, mitigation and resilience measures. Critical public

health, medical, nutrition and water services are currently overstretched, and without support may well be decimated further, resulting in human suffering on an enormous scale.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/regional-outlook-horn-africa-and-great-lakes-region-recommendations-humanitarian>

Incomplete works delaying East Africa power trading project

Rwanda, Ugandan and Kenya will have to wait longer before they can trade in electricity due to delays in completing the needed infrastructure. Rwandan officials said that contractors are yet to complete works on substations and high-voltage power lines that would facilitate the power trading plan, which is part of the Northern Corridor Infrastructure Projects. The three countries had proposed to start trading in power by 2015, a deadline that was pushed to April this year.

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/Incomplete-works-delaying-East-Africa-power-trading-project/-/2560/3162768/-/npjlqqz/-/index.html?>

Will drought fuel conflict between Cairo and Addis?

Ethiopia's northern regions have been plagued by one of the worst droughts to face the area in decades. During a visit to one of the worst hit areas earlier on January 31, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned that "the people of this beautiful country are facing their worst drought in 30 years." On March 24, the United Nations, along with humanitarian partners, launched a three-month campaign to aid drought-



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affected regions and raise awareness of the ensuing food crisis. Now some are fearing this could exacerbate the long standing conflict between Cairo and Addis Ababa over water resources.

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/04/egypt-ethiopia-drought-renaissance-dam-conflict.html?>

Egypt, Sudan discuss Ethiopian dam in Khartoum

Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Mohamed Abdel-Atti met Tuesday with his Sudanese counterpart Moataz Moussa to discuss the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Youm7 reported. The closed meeting was attended by Egyptian and Sudanese delegations in Khartoum to tackle technical issues concerning downstream countries on the Nile. The technical discussions have halted since February when a tripartite committee, tasked to discuss GERD issues, announced reaching a unanimous agreement on the proposal submitted by the two French consultancy firms on GERD's potential impact on Sudan and Egypt.

<http://thecairopost.youm7.com/news/204610/news/egypt-sudan-discuss-ethiopian-dam-in-khartoum?>

Uganda, Kenya send surveyors to Misingo island

The talks between Uganda and Kenya aimed at resolving the standoff over Misingo Islands on Lake Victoria have started yielding results. Misingo is a tiny 2,000 square metre (0.49 acre; 0.20 hectare) island, about half the size of a football pitch. Foreign Affairs permanent secretary, Ambassador James Mugume, told New Vision that the two countries have now agreed to send surveyors to the island to open the boundaries. Mugume said that after opening the boundaries, the surveyors will file a report which the Presidents of Uganda and Kenya will base on to resolve the disagreement.

http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1422670/uganda-kenya-send-surveyors-misingo-island?

Water War: This river could sink China-India relations

[...] Among the world's major international rivers, the Brahmaputra ranks low in terms of institutionalised management. Countries along the Nile, for instance, have formed the Nile Basin Initiative to encourage peace and security...

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/water-war-river-could-sink-china-india-relations-15829>

Al-Sisi meets Burundi foreign minister in Cairo

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi met with Burundi foreign minister Alain Aime Nyamitwe on Monday in Cairo to discuss challenges and developments on the African continent. [...] Al-Sisi acknowledged bilateral ties between Egypt and Burundi during the meeting

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and recognised the Burundi government's efforts in reaching a common ground on water-sharing agreement between Nile Basin countries.

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2016/04/12/al-sisi-meets-burundi-foreign-minister-cairo/>