



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

A service brought to you by NBI Secretariat

8th – 12th August, 2016

\$6.7m for Nile Basin Initiative projects

As population growth, rapid urbanisation and demand for agricultural land put pressure on **Africa's wetlands, countries in the Nile Basin** are looking to joint restoration and protection efforts for solutions. The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), an intergovernmental partnership of 10 countries that form the Nile Basin, says the target will be on conserving and protecting wetlands that are shared or those with a high ecological value. Germany, through the Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zumsammenarbeit (GIZ), is funding the Euro 6 million (\$6.7 million) wetland protection project over a five-year period in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

<http://bit.ly/2b4UJGh>

The win-win situation on the GERD

After the announcement of the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in 2011, Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan have been at loggerheads in regard to the project. Addis Ababa is confident that the construction of the dam would not harm Egypt and Sudan but Cairo has

been sceptical and wants the whole project revisited. Now fives have passed ever since the announcement and countless negotiations have taken place to smoothen the tensions. Being considered as key partners, journalists from Ethiopia, Egypt, Sudan and South Sudan paid a visit to the dam site over the weekend to report on what is actually happening on the ground.

<http://bit.ly/2bafGwz>

Nile water: Why Ethiopia's dam is a 'no-war' project

Through a concrete barrier, water flush forcefully, producing a froth. Maelstroms crash against the other and against eddies and rocks to produce a fascinating mixture of buzz and sparkle.

This is the Ethiopia's new dam on the Blue Nile, 40 kilometres away from the border with The Sudan. The dam, with a power capacity of 6,000 megawatts and a volume of 74 million cubic metres, lies in a low land surrounded by hills extending from the Ethiopian highlands.

<http://bit.ly/2aFtiAE>

Damned if you do, damned if you **don't**: Cooperation in the Nile Basin

When people talk about climate change, they often emphasise interdependence. In biological terms, the earth works in the systemic fashion. With a changing climate, we are likely to see all sorts of interactions that could lead to unpredictable physical phenomena. Yet, politically, the world is singularly unprepared for such systemically generated dynamics. Perhaps no other example illustrates this better than the struggle over water in the Nile Basin. While nature knows no borders, the political world sure does. In fact, the international system is by definition characterized by borders. When it comes to environmental cooperation in the Nile Basin, climate change is increasing the pressure to find mutual solutions.

<http://bit.ly/2aBTLfu>

Decline of fishing in Lake Tanganyika 'due to warming'

Lake Tanganyika is Africa's oldest lake and its fish are a critical part of the diet of neighbouring countries. But catches have declined markedly in recent decades as commercial fleets have expanded. However, this new study says that climate warming and not overfishing is the real cause of the **problem. Estimated to be the world's** second-largest freshwater lake, Tanganyika is an important resource for the countries that border it: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia.

<http://bbc.in/2b2d19H>



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

Dam construction going full steam while Egypt-Ethiopia talks stall

Ethiopia is seeking rapprochement with Egypt through the media after years of rising apprehension over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam of the Blue Nile watershed. The tension arose almost as soon as then-Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi laid the foundation stone in April 2011 for the now almost-finished dam. Political and technical negotiations between the capitals, Cairo and Addis Ababa, are stumbling as the countries try to agree on policies to reduce the risks Egypt expects if Ethiopia begins operating the dam without considering consulting **firms' recommendations.**

<http://bit.ly/2b9IGYj>