

Burundi

Institutional Arrangements

In Burundi, the governance functions for water resources management are shared between the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and the Ministry of Land Management, Environment and Tourism. The Ministry of Energy and Mines is responsible for the constitutional and organizational function for water resources management. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is responsible for water uses in the agricultural sector, water supply for the livestock sector, and the development of the fisheries sector. The Ministry of Land Management, Environment and Tourism is responsible for irrigation and drainage development, and watershed and soil erosion prevention.

The Water Resources Department in the Ministry of Energy and Mines takes care of the constitutional and organizational functions for water resources development. The department supports the National Commission of Water and Energy (NCWE), which main objective is the coordination of the various ministries and organizations involved in water resources management and hydropower generation. The NCWE has a leading role in the development of water legislation and the protection of water and energy resources, and the Geographical Institute of Burundi acts as its secretariate..

The Electricity Department of the DGEE in the Ministry of Energy and Mines is responsible for the constitutional and organizational function for the electricity sector. The electricity departments of the municipalities (REGIDESO) have the operational function for the generation, transmission and distribution in urban environments. The Rural Energy Departments of the provinces (DGER) have the operational responsibility for the rural areas.

Table 1.1 Key institutions involved in the water sector of Burund

Constitutional function	Organisational function	Operational function
Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM)	MEM Water Resources, Electricity, Water, Geology Departments	*REGIDESO Water Department * DGER Water Department
	MEM Energy Department	*DGER Electricity Department *REGIDESO Electricity Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (MAL)	MAL General Directorates of Planning, Pedology & Soil conservation, Livestock, Fisheries	*MAL Department of Rural Engineering and land patrimony conservation *Water Users Associations *Departments of Fisheries *
Ministry of Land management Environment and Tourism (MINATET)	MLET GD Land Management, Rural Engineering and Land Patrimony Conservation, and Hydrometeorology, Technical, Environmental, Topography and Cartography Departments	
	National Institute for Environment and Conservation	Local stations National Parks

National Commission for Water and Energy (NCWE)	Geographical Institute of Burundi	
Ministry of Planning and Reconstruction		
Ministry of Finance and National Economics		
Ministry of Public Health	Department of Health Promotion, Hygienic and Sanitation	
Ministry of International Cooperation	Non-Governmental Organizations	Community Based Organizations
Ministry of Transport and Communications		Department of Waterways

The Water Resources Department of DGEE in the Ministry of Energy and Mines is responsible for the constitutional and organizational function for water supply and sanitation. The Water Departments of the municipalities (REGIDESO) have the operational function for the production, distribution and billing of water supply and sewerage water treatment in urban environments. The Water Departments of the provinces (DGHER) have the operational responsibility for the rural areas.

The General Directorate of Planning of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry is responsible for the planning of water related projects and programs for the agricultural, livestock and fishery sectors.

The Ministry of Land Management, Environment and Tourism (MINITET) is responsible for the constitutional and organizational functions for environmental protection. The Department of Rural Engineering and Land Patrimony Conservation is responsible for the operational function in irrigation, drainage and soil erosion prevention. The Department of Hydrometeorology and Agro-climatology is responsible for collection, processing and dissemination on meteorological and hydrological data. The Department of Topography and Cartography develops maps that organizations involved in the water sector need for the planning of interventions. The Technical and Environmental Departments of the National Institute for Environment and Conservation is responsible for water and environmental conservation initiatives in the Kivu National Park.

The Department of Waterways of the Ministry of Transport and Communication is responsible for the planning, construction and maintenance of waterways. The Ministry of Public Health has a responsibility related to the prevention of water related diseases and its Department of Health Promotion, Hygienic and Sanitation organized public awareness campaigns..

Beside the public sector organizations that are involved in the water sector of Burundi, there are numerous Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and some private organizations active in the sector. The NGOs are supporting Community-based Organizations in developing rural water supply, drainage systems for marchland, watershed conservation initiatives. Their projects vary in approach, target population and scale and the Ministry of International Cooperation acts as liaison agency between foreign and local NGOs.

Trans-boundary treaties and agreements

There have been several colonial and post-colonial bi-lateral and multi-lateral transboundary treaties and agreements related to the use and management of the waters of the Nile Basin. The following table provides a list of these treaties and agreements.

Table 1.2 Trans-boundary treaties in Nile Basin

Date	Treaty basin	Signatories	Treaty Name
August 5, 1994	Lake Victoria	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda	Agreement to initiate program to strengthen regional coordination in management of resources of Lake Victoria
July 1, 1993	Nile	Egypt, Ethiopia	Framework for general co-operation between the Arab republic of Egypt and Ethiopia
May 18, 1981	Kagera	Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda	Accession of Uganda to the agreement for pertaining to the creation of the organization for the management and development of the Kagera river basin
August 24, 1977	Kagera	Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda	Agreement for the establishment of the organization for the management and development of the Kagera river basin
November 8, 1995	Nile	Sudan, Egypt	Agreement between Egypt and Sudan the government of the united Arab Republic and the government of Sudan
July 16, 1952	Nile	Egypt, Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Exchange of notes constituting an agreement between the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the government of Egypt regarding the construction of the Owen Falls dam in Uganda
January 19, 1950	Nile	Egypt, Great Britain on behalf of Uganda	Exchange of notes constituting an agreement between the government of the united Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of the government of Uganda and the government Egypt regarding cooperation in meteorological and hydrological surveys in certain area of the Nile basin
December 5 1949	Nile	Egypt, Great Britain on behalf of Uganda	Exchange of notes constituting an agreement between the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and government of Egypt regarding the construction of the Owen Falls dam, Uganda
May 31, 1949	Nile	Egypt, Great Britain	Exchange of notes constituting an agreement between the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the government of Egypt regarding the construction of the Owen Falls dam, Uganda
December 7, 1946	Nile	Egypt, Great Britain	Exchange of notes constituting an agreement between the government of the united Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Egypt regarding the utilization of profits from the 1940 British government cotton buying commission to finance schemes for village water supplies
November 22, 1934		Belgium; Great Britain	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Belgium regarding water rights on the boundary between Tanganyika and Ruanda - Urundi
May 7, 1929	Nile	Egypt; Great Britain	Exchange of notes between his Majesty's government in the United Kingdom and the Egyptian government in regard to the use of the waters of the river Nile for irrigation purposes

Date	Treaty basin	Signatories	Treaty Name
December 20, 1925	Lake Tana	Great Britain, Italy	Exchange of notes between United Kingdom and Italy respecting concessions for a barrage at Lake Tana and a railway across Abyssinia from Eritrea to Italian Somaliland
December 13, 1906	Nile	France, Great Britain, Italy	Agreement between Great Britain, France and Italy respecting Abyssinia
May 9, 1906	Nile	DR Congo, Great Britain	Agreement between Great Britain and the independent state of the DR Congo, modifying the agreement signed at Brussels 12 May 1894, relating to the spheres of influence of Great Britain and the Independent State of the DR Congo in East and Central Africa
May 15, 1902	Nile	Ethiopia, Great Britain	Treaties between Great Britain and Ethiopia, relative to the frontiers between Anglo- Egyptian Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea
March 18, 1902	Nile	Ethiopia, Great Britain	Exchange of notes between Great Britain and Ethiopia
April 15, 1891	Nile	Great Britain, Italy	Protocol between Great Britain and Italy for the demarcation of their respective spheres of influence in Eastern Africa

Source: UNEP (2002), Atlas of International Freshwater Agreements

There are two other on-going multi-lateral agreements being negotiated by the Nile basin countries which are of major importance to the NBI-DSS. These are:

- Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework; and
- Protocol for Data Sharing.

Issues identified by key stakeholders

The following are some of the key water resources related issues that were identified by the stakeholders in the respective countries of the Nile Basin. These issues were categorized into structural and institutional issues.

- Structural Issues
 1. Need for drinking water services provision
 2. Rehabilitation & Installation of Climatological & Hydrological monitoring systems
 3. Need for reliable hydrological forecasting real time information
 4. Impacts of Climate Change on flooding, soil erosion, and water quality
 5. Impacts of deforestation on run off, and soil erosion
 6. Food security
 7. Fishery Management
 8. Drainage of Marshlands for Agriculture
 9. Optimal Use & Transboundary development of hydropower potential
 10. Improving & Developing navigation potential
 11. Biodiversity conservation

12. Water pollution due to mining activities and lack of sanitation services

13. Gaps on groundwater development knowledge

▪ Institutional Issues

1. Post conflict land tenure and rights

2. Overlap of responsibilities in the water sector

3. Gaps in regulations and Laws