

Ethiopia

Institutional Arrangements

The Ministry of Water Resources is the federal body in Ethiopia that is responsible for the constitutional and organizational function for the water sector. The state governments have jurisdiction over the water resources within their territory but when water passes the boundary of the state it becomes the mandate and jurisdiction of the federal state.

The Ministry of Water Resources is composed of nine technical departments and eight supportive units that mainly focus on the governance and organizational function. Semi-autonomous bodies and the regional water bureaus are mainly responsible for the operational function.

A Technical Committee that is chaired by the head of the Hydrology Department and has representatives of the involved MWR departments and stakeholders, prepares the water release plans of the dams. The Minister and the State Minister of MWR have the final decision about the water release plans.

The Planning and Projects Directorate focuses on the constitutional function in the MIWR. It is responsible for the formulation of the national water policy and strategy, the review of the national irrigation policy and strategy, and the technical planning for water resources development.

Table 1.1 Key institutions involved in the water sector of Ethiopia

Constitutional function	Organisational function	Operational function
Ministry of Water Resources (MWR)	*National Council for Water Resources (NCWR) *MWR technical Departments and supportive units *Water Resources Development Fund *State Bureaus of Physical Planning and Water Resources Development (River Basin Authorities)	*State Bureaus of Water Resources Development 1 ≈Management Boards of national irrigation schemes *Municipality Water Boards *Community-based Organannizations
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)	State Bureaus of Agriculture and Rural Development Water Harvesting Department MARD	State Irrigation Development Authority *Water Users Organizations *Agricultural Corporations
Ministry of Energy and Mining (MEM)	Ethiopian Electricity Agency	Ethiopian Electricity and Power Corporation
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development		
Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Environmental Protection Agency	
Ministry of Local Government	Regional Government Authorities	Local Government Authorities
Ministry of Foreign Affairs		

¹ Also in Ethiopia the ministries and departments at state level dealing with water and irrigation have different names depending on the major activities in the specific state.

The MWR Boundary and Trans-boundary Department is responsible for undertaking studies and negotiating treaties pertaining the utilization of boundary and trans-boundary water bodies.

The Hydrology Department is responsible for collecting nation-wide hydrological information, flood forecasting and disseminating this data to public and private sector agencies responsible for the planning and implementation of water resources management.

The Dams and Hydropower Department conducts studies and develops designs for Hydropower projects. It is also responsible for the development of environmental, social and safety guidelines for dams that have to be applied nationwide.

The Irrigation and Drainage Department is responsible for the planning and design of large- and medium scale irrigation schemes on request of the Water Bureaus/ Irrigation Development Authorities and private or water users organizations. The Water Harvesting Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for WUA legislation development, technical assistance and capacity building of the regional Bureaus of Agriculture and Rural Development. These bureaus are responsible for the technical and institutional components of water management (irrigation extension and WUA) including water harvesting for small-scale irrigation schemes.

The Water Resources Administration and Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Service and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Departments are responsible for the constitutional function in water supply and sanitation in respectively the urban and rural environment. The Bureaus of Water resources have an organizational function at state level while the municipality water boards and community-based organizations should become responsible for the operational function respectively in the urban and rural areas.

The MWR Basin Development Study and Water Utilization Control Department is responsible for the development of the River Basin Master Plans, the water resources administration, and the preparation of institutional set-up of River Basin Authorities.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy has the constitutional function for the electricity sector, the Ethiopian Electricity Agency has the regulatory function and the Ethiopian Electricity and Power Corporation has an organizational and operational function. The actual operation of hydropower dams is the responsibility of the Ethiopian Electricity and Power Corporation.

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy has the mandate to prioritise the investments proposed by the public-sector organizations in the water sector at federal and state level. The Ministry promotes private sector investments in the water sector, however their interest currently is limited to hydropower plants and small-scale irrigation schemes.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has the constitutional function for environment management. The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the preparation of environmental protection policy, laws and directives. It is also in charge of evaluating the environmental and social impacts of economic development projects, like irrigation and hydropower, and supervision of the mitigating measures.

The Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are responsible for respectively the relations in the water sector between the state and federal governments, and for the bi- and multilateral relation in the water sector of the federal government.

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. Food security due to lack of supplementary irrigation facilities
 2. Desertification of semi-arid areas
 3. Siltation of irrigation and drainage canals
 4. Soil erosion, sedimentation and land degradation
 5. Diminishing base flow in rivers in most times of the year
 6. Waste water drainage and hygiene in densely populated areas in the wet zone
 7. Limited funding for modern measurement gauges to collect accurate hydrologic information

8. Need to enhance flood forecast and drought prediction capacity with real time hydrological and meteorological data
 9. Limited potable water infrastructure
 10. Need for groundwater potential assessment & production
 11. Energy needs
 12. Watershed Management
- Institutional issues
 1. Lack of transparency of the planning and decision process of major water infrastructure projects
 2. Conflict of interests between different stakeholders (fishery, nature conservation, irrigation, drinking water and hydro-power) for water release plans of dams and reservoirs
 3. Lack of institutional and legal framework for CBO and WUO involvement in water sector
 4. Mobilization of funds and prioritization of expenditures for water resources development