

## Rwanda

### Institutional Arrangements

In Rwanda, the constitutional and organizational functions for water resources management is the mandate of the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forests, Water and Mines (MINITERE). The Ministry has a small unit, which used to be the Directorate for Water and Sanitation that takes care of the constitutional function. The unit is also responsible for the planning of drinking water supply and sanitary services, however the establishment of the Rwanda Water and Sewerage Corporation in 2008, will limit their mandate to water sector policies and water resources management.

**Table 1.1 Key institutions involved in the water sector of Rwanda**

Constitutional function	Organisational function	Operational function
Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forests, Water and Mines (MINITERE)	Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA)	*Electrogaz-Rwanda *(Rwanda Water and Sewerage Corporation (RWASCO))
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MINAGRI)		Project Management Units of rural and water resources development projects *Local Water Users Organizations
Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA)	Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA)	
	(National Energy Development Agency (NEDA))	(Rwanda Energy Corporation (RECO))
Ministry of Economy and Finance (MINECOFIN)		
Ministry of Health (MINISANTE)		
Ministry of Local Affairs (MINALOC)	Regional Administration	District Administration

MINITERE has established the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) to supervise that public and private sector institutions take care of environmental protection aspects (respect of standards, rules and regulations, etc.). REMA reviews and approves the EIAs and conducts environmental audits to supervise that mitigating measures are implemented.

The Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) is responsible for the constitutional functions for public utilities, that cover the energy and water and sanitation services sub sectors. MININFRA has established the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency that has an organizational function to develop and supervise the regulatory frameworks for public utilities like electricity, water and sanitation, transport and telecommunication.

Electrogaz is a para-statal that is still responsible for both energy and urban water supply. However in 2008 the organization will be split into the Rwanda Water and Sewerage Corporation (RWASCO) and the Rwanda Energy Corporation (RECO). The RWASCO will obtain the operational function for water supply and sanitation services provision and RECO the operational function for electricity generation, transmission and distribution. A National Energy Development Agency (NEDA) will also be created in January 2008 that will become responsible for the organizational function in the energy sector.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MINAGRI) is responsible for rational water use in the agricultural sector, water supply for the livestock sector, and the development of the fisheries sector. The water uses in the agricultural sector cover both irrigation and drainage development, and soil erosion protection.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) is responsible for creating a stable macroeconomic environment, foster evidence based planning and performance based budgeting. MINECOFIN has developed an Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy and is considering the basins as basic units for regional development planning. The Ministry has established sectoral working groups in which government organizations, donors, NGOs' and representatives of the private and voluntary sector organizations coordinate their activities.

The Government of Rwanda is implementing an ambitious public sector reform process that aims at a decentralization of operational responsibilities to the lower administrative levels and enhancing the private sector's involvements. The districts are charged with local economic development planning and the coordination of public services delivery.

### 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 Owner Falls dam in Uganda
January 19, 1950	Nile	Egypt, Great Britain on behalf of	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

Date	Treaty basin	Signatories	Treaty Name
		Uganda	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 owner 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
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. Impact of deforestation on Soil Erosion
  2. Watershed Management
  3. Lack of adequate & good quality drinking water supply facilities
  4. Lack of sanitation services
  5. Climate change and impact on floods and droughts
  6. Installation & Rehabilitation of hydrological stations for water resources monitoring and assessment.
  7. Wastewater disposal and microbiological Pollution of water bodies
  8. Water hyacinth
  9. Pollution from industrial and mining activities
  10. Flood forecasting and preparedness
  11. Need to improve rainfall harvesting practices
  12. Limited Capacity in marshlands drainage methods for agricultural activities
  13. Lack of knowledge on water resources assessment (surface & groundwater)
  14. Lack of knowledge on rain water harvesting
  15. Lack of monitoring of natural water quality
  16. Lack of integrated watershed management
  17. Food insecurity due to lack of irrigation facilities
  18. Lack of flood mitigation facilities
  19. Loss of biodiversity due to environment degradation
- Institutional Issues
  1. Lack of awareness of existing laws and legislations
  2. Land Tenure
  3. Lack of enough capacity (logistics, human, institutional)
  4. Lack of institutional framework and forum to discuss DSS development
  5. Lack of proper Data Management Information Systems in institutions.
  6. Limited funds and need to promote cooperation with national, regional and international financial organizations
  7. Implementation of new law
  8. Inadequacy of data quality control system