

Uganda

Institutional Arrangements

The constitutional function for managing the water resources and environment in Uganda lies with the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment (MWLE). The Directorate of Water Development is responsible for organizational function since it coordinates and regulates all water sector activities. The Water Resources Management Department is responsible for water flow and water quality monitoring, and manages water rights and pumping permits.

The Water Policy Committee is a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholders committee that performs the constitutional function for the water sector. The committee advises the Minister on national and trans boundary water resources management issues and policies. It is mandated to initiate revisions to legislations and regulations, and to coordinate sector ministry plans and programs affecting water resources.

Table 1.1 Key institutions involved in the water sector of Uganda

Constitutional function	Organisational function	Operational function
Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment (MWLE)	*Water Policy Committee *Directorate of Water Development and Water Resources Management Department (MWLE)	Local government authorities (districts, municipalities and local communities)
	Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	Local Governmnet authorities
	Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project	*Fisheries Management Committee, *Beach Management Units
	National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)	
	National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC)	National Water and Sewerage Corporation
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)	Department of Farm Development (Irrigation and Drainage, Soil and Water conservation, Water and Production Sections)	*Water users groups and associations *Agricultural Companies
Ministry of Energy and Minerals Development	Electricity Regulation Authority	Electricity Companies
Ministry of Finance		
Ministry of Local Government	Local Government Authorities	

The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) is responsible for the organizational and operational function of environmental management in Uganda. It is responsible for the development of the wastewater discharge regulation, reviews the EIAs, and supervises the mitigating measures of approved public and private sector projects.

The National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) is an autonomous para-statal entity that is responsible for the delivery of water supply and sewerage services in the 15 large urban centres of Uganda.

Local authorities, which comprise districts, towns, local governments and communities, are responsible for the construction and management of water supply and sanitation facilities outside

the large cities. The Municipal councils have the mandate to supervise the management of water supply and sewerage facilities at local level.

The Department of Farm Development (DFD) within the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fishery has the mandate for land reclamation in Uganda. The Department has a Division of Watershed Management that has three water related sections: Irrigation and Drainage, Soil and Water Conservation, and Water for Agricultural Production. In the past the Government of Uganda used a supply-oriented approach for irrigation and drainage development with the public sector responsible for management. In the early 1990s a farmers' participation in the planning, construction and management was piloted.

The Ministry of Electricity and Minerals Development (MEMD) is responsible for governance functions in the electricity sector. The Electricity Regulatory Authority is responsible for the development and supervision of the regulatory framework for public and private companies that invest in the electricity sector. These companies manage the power generation, transmission and distribution systems.

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 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
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. Inadequate coverage of safe potable water.
 2. Reduction of pollution of water bodies leading to decreased costs of water treatment and increase in fish production
 3. Degradation of catchments leading to siltation water bodies including river, wetlands and lakes
 4. Water quality degradation
 5. Need to increase water storage and conservation to adapt to impacts of floods and drought.
 6. Strengthen capacity of water for production (irrigation, livestock watering, and aquaculture development).
 7. Need to assess, develop and optimize the hydropower energy potential to meet the increasing demand.
 8. Optimize utilization of water resources for poverty eradication and alleviation
 9. Need to improve flood forecasting and drought prediction (climate variability) through generation of real time hydrological and meteorological data.
 10. Need to reduce forest conversion, apply good agricultural practices and the application of clean technologies for industries.
 11. Inadequate law enforcement to secure natural resources (wetlands, forests, water etc)
 12. Lack of adequate sanitation facilities along the beaches and high water table areas.
 13. Need for a comprehensive water resources assessment.
 14. Cultural norms and practices that are not in consonant with sustainable water resources management (pastoralists and cultivators) in relation to climate variability.
 15. Need for improved data collection and management for effective utilizations of the fishery.
 16. Need to control of invasive species which affect the ecosystem balance and related services.
 17. Need to increase public awareness and local responsibility in coping with water scarcity and in preventing water pollution.
 18. Better communication of water distribution policies to water users for effective planning and demand management.
 19. Need to enhance tourism through use of water resources.
 20. Review of water policy framework to include trans-boundary considerations (national) and strengthen the IWRM aspects.
- Institutional Issues

1. Conflicts between pastoralists and cultivators
2. Need for better management of fishing practices