



NBD Information sheet

Ethiopia

The Nile Basin in Ethiopia

The Nile Basin in Ethiopia includes the source of the Blue Nile in the north-western highlands, and covers around one third of the country's land area. It is characterised by environmental degradation (deforestation, soil erosion, water resources depletion, biodiversity loss), and high population density with high levels of rural poverty. Fragmented approaches to water resources management in Ethiopia present a further challenge. The Ethiopian National Discourse Forum (EtNDF) works to raise awareness of water resource issues and engages closely with the NBI and the Government of Ethiopia to improve water management. Regional chapters have been established in five regions within the Nile basin, and consultative workshops and stakeholder assessments have taken place at regional level.



Awareness raising and the National Nile Youth Network

The EtNDF has established a resource centre on water and Nile issues. To raise broader awareness, televised public debates have been conducted on water resource issues and Nile issues have been reported in the media on many occasions. During World Water Day 2007, the EtNDF joined the Ministry of Water Resources and a number of NGOs in Ethiopia to celebrate and raise awareness of water issues through speeches, music, photo exhibitions and a workshop. Recently workshops have been held in Addis Ababa with the media and academic community which aim at raising awareness and mainstreaming Nile issues. As a result a course on the history of the Nile will be incorporated into the curriculum of all university history courses in Ethiopia.

In March 2007, the EtNDF successfully launched the National Nile Youth Network which is working to increase understanding of Nile issues among young people in Ethiopia. The national Nile youth network will in future be part of the proposed Eastern Nile Regional Nile Youth Network.

Policy Engagement

The EtNDF engages closely with a variety of NBI programmes active in Ethiopia, as well as with Eastern and Southern African actors within the European Commission Economic Agreement negotiations. It has also been developing good relations with the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) in Ethiopia, building a more supportive environment for civil society participation in Ethiopia's water.

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