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Abstract.

Sub-Theme: Nurturing Cooperation for Sustainable Development,

With the amount of water in the Nile Basin fluctuating due to climate change and climate variability, the projected population growth in the basin will be above average.

The Nile Basin has three of the heaviest population concentrations in Africa; in total, almost 224 million people live within the basin—almost one-quarter of Africa's population.

The uncertainty in climate projection makes it difficult to predict the precise impact on water resources. This could have important implications for water supply, agriculture, and energy policy and development in a region where terrestrial water stores are already highly spatially variable.

This paper is about Nurturing cooperation for sustainable development, opening dialogue on enhanced "hands-on" trans-boundary cooperation; collaborative assessment of solutions, experiences and best practices in a river basin; shared water for social and economic development; and fast-tracking of actions towards the transformative agenda 2030/SDGs goals;

As NBD is about influencing policy development, equitable utilization and sustainable management of Basin resources, this is the opportunity to explore areas of engagement and make cooperation a reality.

Key cooperation areas.

Multi-level governance in diagnosing gaps and bridging gaps.

- By looking at policy gaps, accountability gaps, funding gaps, capacity gaps, information gaps, administrative gap and objective gaps.
- Learn from the OECD Multi-level Governance Framework "Mind the Gaps, Bridge the Gaps" which identified seven categories of governance deficits related to water management that are relevant to all countries regardless of their institutional organization, water availability and demand.

Lessons to learn

- Information: Knowledge and trust are pillars of legitimacy and cooperation
- Shared knowledge and trust are assets – they create the foundation for the pathway to water security.
- Political debate and contest is part of the process- omission of key groups or viewpoints may undermine the pathway to water security.
- Comprehensive monitoring feeds databases that can build systems models for adaptive planning.
- Early, in-depth understanding of rivers, aquifers or urban water networks enables and sustains their development.

Take home messages.

Triggers: plan for the future. Don't waste a crisis, but don't wait for one.

- Good planning is dynamic - as good plans will be ready for the opportunity when it comes; the next crisis is the next opportunity.
- Populations and their expectations change - plan for expanded and diversified water services.
- There are multiple triggers for investments in water security: opportunities, chronic impacts, and acute shocks, and both water-related and external factors, such as political changes, natural hazards, and international trends. In any given situation, multiple different factors coincide to trigger investment.