

## Workshop on Basinwide Cooperation for Climate Resilience in the Nile

27-28 March 2012, Kenya School of Monetary Studies, Nairobi, Kenya

### Introduction

**Adapting to Climate Change Induced Water Stress in the Nile Basin** whose goal is to build the resilience of ecosystems and economies that are most vulnerable to climate change induced water stress in the Nile countries through building key adaptive capacity and piloting adaptation in “hotspots” with technical, policy and financial interventions. The project’s first phase runs from 2009 to 2012 and is funded by the Swedish Government and coordinated by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP); with Danish Hydraulic Institute, Global Water Partnership (Eastern Africa) and Department for Early Warning (DEWA) as partners for specific components of the project.

Specifically, the project aims at minimizing the projected stress of too little and too much water for conflict prevention and disaster reduction, through knowledge-based adaptation policy interventions, technology transfer and investment in key infrastructure.

The project is operational at the transboundary level working closely with partners for the ten Nile Basin countries: Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Congo DRC.

### Background

With a rapidly growing population, increased social and economic demands, industrialization and changes to dietary patterns towards crops and meat products that demand much higher available water, climate change adds additional stress to the demand for water across the region.

Interneccine conflict over water and pasture exacts a major toll on human security in the region, and high climate variability causes the worst chronic hunger and distress from increasing droughts and flash floods. Ensuring that the changing climate does not result in further deterioration of water related disasters is critical if the Nile and Greater Horn region are to make any progress in reducing hunger, poverty and environmental degradation.

At the same time, increasing tensions over shared waters in Africa has been of concern to different stakeholders. At the Sharm el Sheikh Summit, Heads of State prioritized the need to strengthen African solidarity and singled out cooperation over shared waters as critical to dealing with food security, climate change and economic infrastructure.

### Workshop Participants

This workshop which provides opportunity for high level technical officers representing Nile Basin Initiative’s member states, key regional research institutions, national climate focal points and NGOs involved in climate related research, policy advocacy or implementation programs that have significant impacts in reducing vulnerability.

The workshop process will disseminate the findings, conclusions and recommendations from the scientific research to a select group of regional organizations, government departments, research institutions and NGOs with a strong climate agenda.

The purpose is to ensure that the project results are effectively interrogated so that the implications inform and influence climate resilience planning at all scales- from the watershed to basinwide.

Special emphasis will be provided on the benefits of transboundary and regional approaches to reduce vulnerability, which is often more pronounced within local and national boundaries.

The workshop participants, which includes Nile TAC and experts from climate planning agencies, will be the platform through which the outputs and recommendations from the project will be integrated in regional and national climate policies, strategies and plans of implementation.

### Expected Outcomes

The purpose of the workshop is to present the findings and recommendations from research that has been taking place on the hydrological, socio-economic and environmental impacts expected to arise from the changing climate.

Workshop participants are expected to develop a better understanding on how regional and transboundary cooperation can enhance the resilience of the riparian countries to adverse climate impacts while enabling more efficient and economic utilization of the shared waters to meet food security, hydropower and environmental demands.

Some of the key outcomes for the workshop will be to find how the research findings from the UNEP led project

- Compare with the state of data, research and information and the country;
- Enhance the resilience of the planning process by taking in account a wider spatial scale (transboundary and regional) which increases the options for actions to reduce vulnerability
- Preparation for the framework of climate action plan suitable for funding from the Adaptation Fund with UNEP as the Executing Agency. This action plan is geared at harnessing a multi-stakeholder platform and process to complement government driven efforts and strengthen societal capacity for climate resilience at all levels and scales

## Presentations

The 2-day workshop is geared at eliciting the participants own knowledge ranging from scientific research, systems analysis, economic and social development, stakeholder involvement and capacity development.

Much of the time will thus be devoted to creation of action plans which the participants are expected to champion within their respective organizations, but also reach out and involve other stakeholders whose inputs are necessary to reduce vulnerability particularly at local levels while building national and regional resilience to climate impacts using the transboundary scale as the theatre for action.

Special presentations reflecting state-of-the-art research and approaches in selected fields will be used to trigger discussion on roles and modes for collaboration between different institutions and groups.

The presenters will include:

- Nile Basin Initiative
- Department for Early Warning, UNEP-DEWA
- Global Water Partnership (Water & Climate Development Program)
- Danish Hydraulic Institute
- African Centre for Climate Policy
- IGAD Climate Prediction & Application Centre
- UNEP Climate Change Unit

Eastern Africa Water Partnership will provide facilitation support and continuity for the process, as well as the expected follow-up actions.