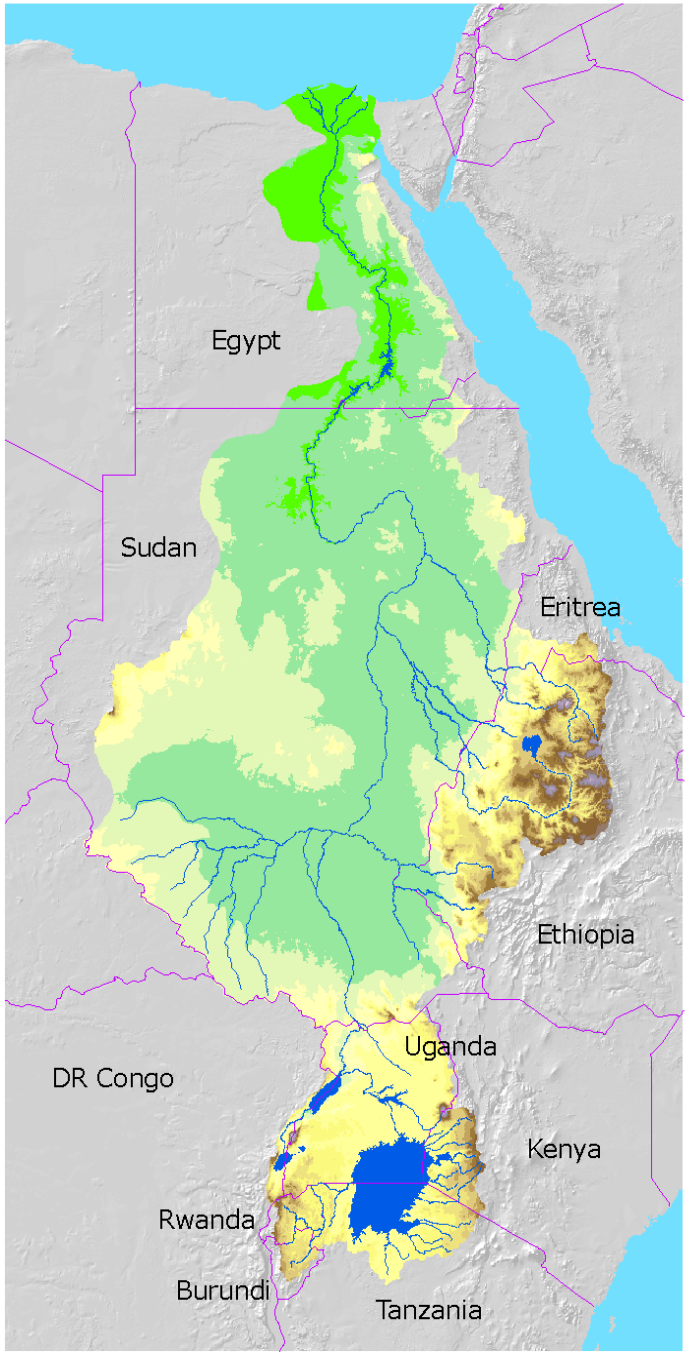
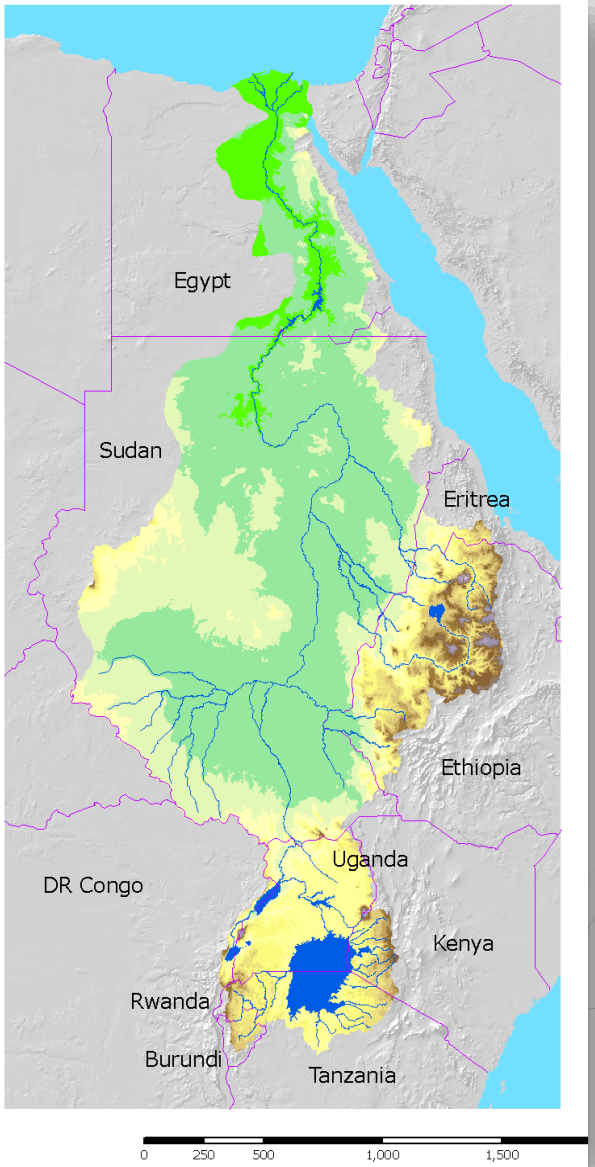


Transboundary water cooperation in Uganda

Briefing on the Water Convention
15th November 2019

Sowed Sewagudde
Directorate of Water Resources Management
Ministry of Water and Environment

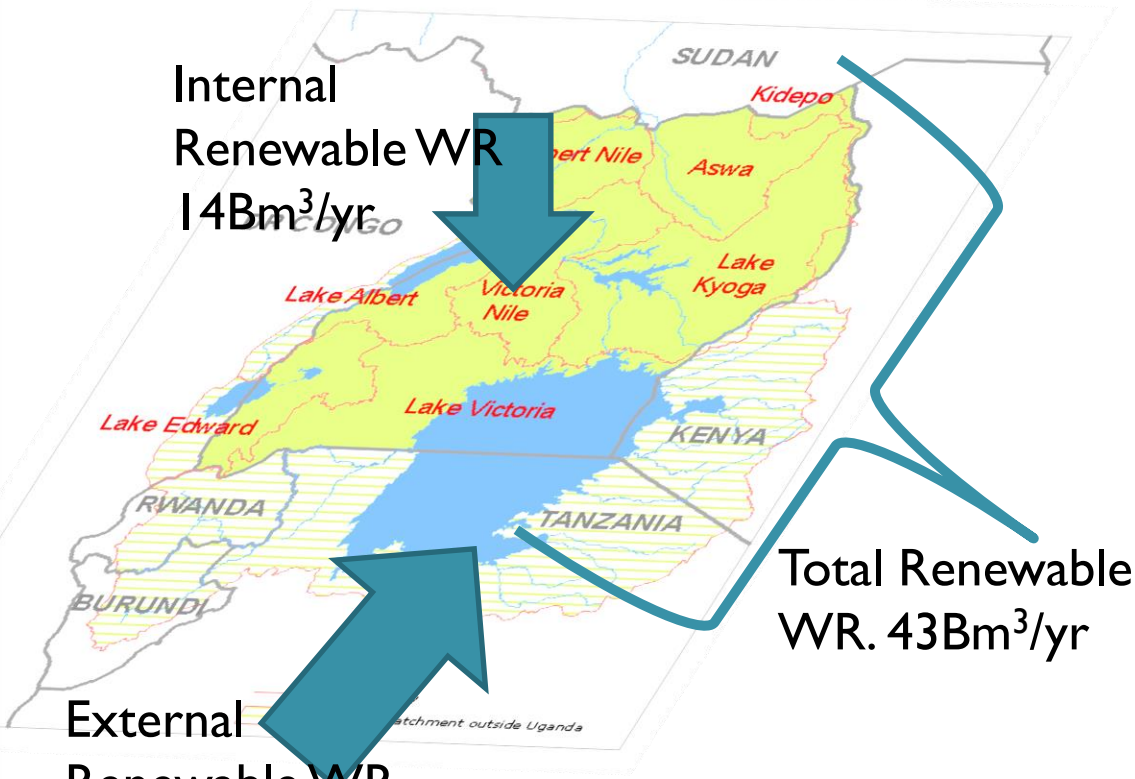
Uganda's water resources in a transboundary context



98% of Uganda's Water Res. Are within the Nile Basin

$\frac{ERWR}{TRWR}$ % = Dependence Ratio =69%

Internal Renewable WR 14Bm^3/yr



Total Renewable WR. 43Bm^3/yr

External Renewable WR 29Bm^3/yr

Uganda and transboundary water governance: A brief history

- Pre-colonial Period
  - In the 19 Century, Mohammed Ali Pasha, the Ottoman Viceroy of Egypt sought to control the entire Nile Valley by Conquest to support cotton production
  - Sir Sameul Baker and Emin Pasha, governor of Equatoria, tried to take over present day Uganda but were repulsed by King Kamurasi (1864) and Kabalega (1875)
  - During the scramble for Africa (1880), Egypt was placed under Britain. Acquisition of Uganda was inspired by the need to secure the source of the Nile, for Kenya to secure access to the sea

Uganda and transboundary water governance: A brief history *Cont'd*

- Colonial Period - Colonial agreements
  - Niles Waters Agreement (1929)- Resulted from the British-instituted Nile Commission to appropriate water between Egypt & Sudan
  - The 1934 Agreement between Britain & Belgium regarding water rights on the boundary between Tanganyika, Rwanda & Burundi
  - The 1949 and 1953 Agreements relating to the construction of the Owen Falls Dam- Permanent Mission of Egypt in Uganda.
- Post colonial era
  - At independent, Uganda sought to renegotiate treaties taking into consideration the changed circumstances

Legal and Policy Framework

- 1995 Constitution
  - *"The State shall promote sustainable development and public awareness of the need to manage land, air and water resources in a balanced and sustainable manner for the present and future generations."*
- National Water Policy 1999
  - **Policy Objective:** *To manage and develop Water resources of Uganda in an integrated and sustainable manner, so as to secure and provide water of adequate quantity and quality for the all social and economic needs of the present and future generations with the full participation of all stakeholders*

Legal and Policy Framework *cont'd*

- Recognizes the need for a coordinated strategy regarding international water resources issues in particular related to the utilization of the Nile Waters
- Regional cooperation for Shared water resources is one of the key WRM strategies prioritized by the policy.
- Water Policy Committee to coordinate the formulation of an international WR Policy

Institutional framework

- To respond to increasing importance of transboundary water management, MWE formed the Department of International and Transboundary Water Affairs in 2014
- Strategic Objective
  - to secure and safeguard Uganda's interests in the shared water resources and ensure availability of water to meet her ecosystem and national development needs.

Major Functions for Transboundary

- Advise on international water resources issues
- Harmonize water policies and legislation with other riparian states in order to align national water policies with joint cooperation amongst riparian states
- Participate in development of mechanisms for resolution of conflicts and take part in activities that avert and reduce friction and crisis

International and Transboundary Coorperative

- involved in two key transboundary water management and development initiatives;
  - The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
    - Member States include; Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Eritrea is as an observer.
  - Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
    - Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi are members.

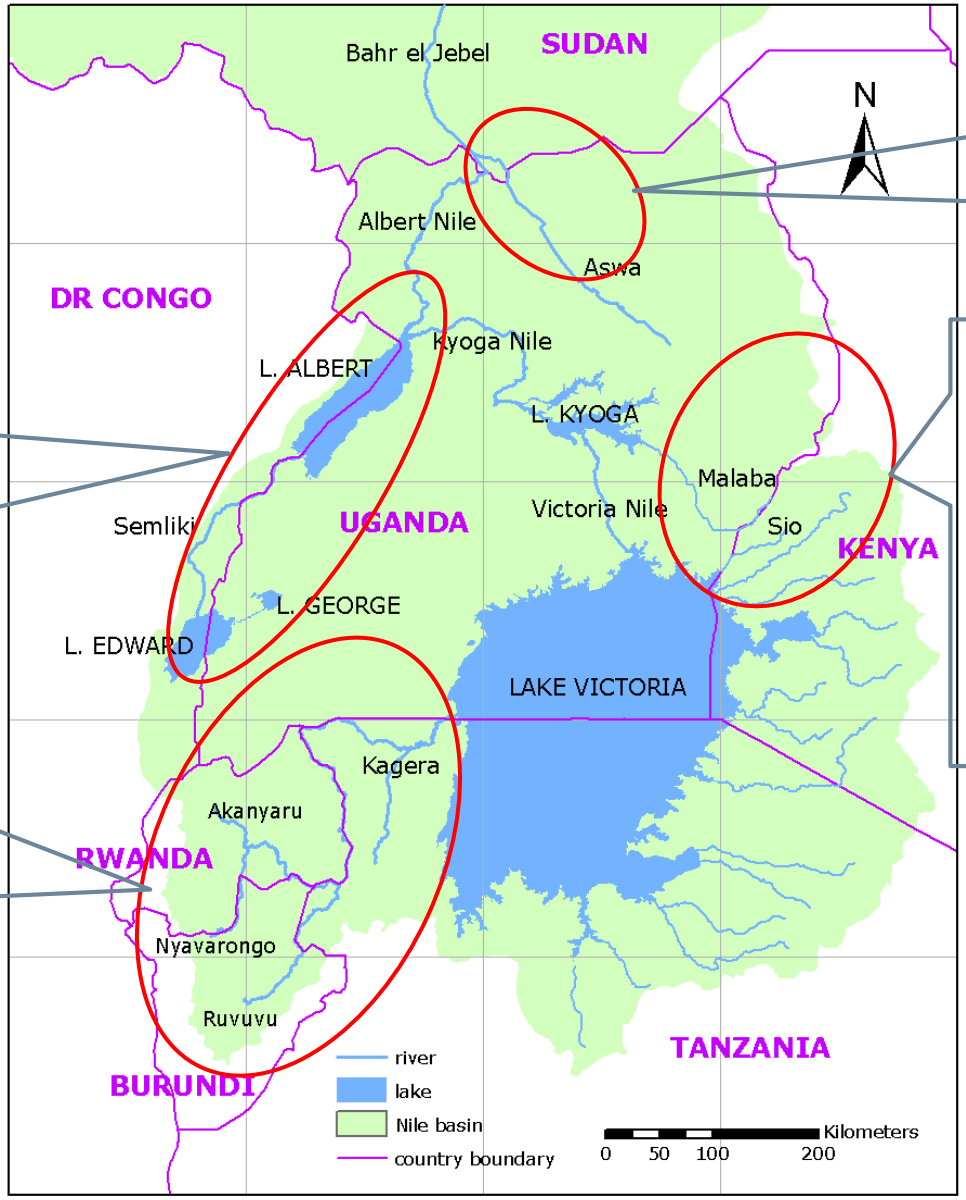
Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)

- Established in 1999 and brings all Nile Basin countries to work together to develop the resources of the Nile Basin for the benefit of all
- Two key Programmes
  - Shared Vision Programme (SVP)
    - to create an enabling environment for the Nile riparian countries to realize their vision
  - Subsidiary Actoion Programme -ENTRO and NELSAP
    - to translate the Shared Vision into action, realizing transboudary development opportunities

NELSAP PROJECTS IN UGANDA

Lakes Edward and Albert Fisheries and Water Mgt Project UGANDA/DRC

Kagera _UG / TZ/RWA/BUR
_ Bigasha
_ Kabuyanda



Nyimur Multi Purpose WR Mgt & Dev't Project UGANDA/S SUDAN –,5100ha

SMM_UG & UG
- Nyabanja
- Angoloro
- (command area 2500ha)

Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement

- Since 2003, Uganda has been involved in the negotiations on the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA)
- seeks to establish a new legal regime on the Mgt & dev't of Nile basin WRs
  - 6 of 10 countries have singed the CFA
  - Championing consensus building for the CFA – Nile Basin Summit 2017
  - 4 have ratified including Uganda

Lake Victoria Basin Commission

- Commission serves as apex body responsible for the coordination of mgt, dev't and utilization of resources of the L. Victoria and its basin.
- Established by the Protocol for Sustainable development for Lake Victoria basin.
- 14 areas for cooperation
  - Water, tourism, fisheries, transport, agriculture, trade, energy, public health, research, gender, Environment, forestry, information exchange

Key LVBC Projects

- Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (USD 126m)
  - Basin wide project with particular emphasis on catchment rehabilitation in Katonga catchment(for Ug)
- Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project
  - Mayuge, Buwama, Kayabwe, Bukakata and Ntungamo Towns
- Mountain Elgon Ecosystem Conservation Project – Mt. Elgon Region

- new regional projects coordinated by LVBC,

1. Multinational Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport (MLVMCT) (USD 36.6m)
2. Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management (LVB-IWRM) (EURO 32m)
3. Lake Victoria Basin Climate Change Adaptation (LVB-CCA). (USD 5m)

Other Cooperative Frameworks

- Global water Partnership (GWP)
- Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)
- Inter Government Agency for Development (IGAD)
- International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
- African Minister's Council on Water (AMCOW)

Initial benefits of transboundary cooperation in picture

model waste recycling plant for KCCA- process 40,000 tonnes of plastic and 1,000 tons of market waste/mo- **LVEMP II**

Regional Water Quality Laboratory Block for Albert Water Management Zone - **LEAF**

Initial benefits of transboundary cooperation in Pictorial *cont'd*

Catchment restoration efforts along River Sebwe catchment in Kasese District – **LEAF II**

September 2018

May 2019

Initial benefits of transboundary cooperation in Pictorial *cont'd*

- Construction works at 5 landing sites and ancillary facilities in Kagadi, Hoima, Pakwach, Rukungiri and Kamwenge progressed to 73% - **LEAF II**

21 km of access roads opened

Initial benefits of transboundary cooperation in Pictorial *cont'd*

- Handover of finalized the Feasibility Studies and Detailed designs, ESIA and RAP for the Kabuyanda Multipurpose dam

Commissioner for International and Transboundary Water Affairs, Mr Jackson Twinomujuni, showing the proposed extent of the dam to the Minister of Water and Environment and guests

NELSAP-CU Official Mr. Maro Andy Tola *officially hands over the Kabuyanda Multipurpose Project to the Government of Uganda for implementation.*

Emerging Issues

- Lack of a clear framework for ownership, construction, management and operation of transboundary infrastructure projects
- Following the expiry of donor support to sustain operations of cooperative programs and projects there is risk of:
  - failure to actualize the identified investment projects
  - losing the achievements already realized;

Conclusion

- pre-investment projects;
  - identified joint investment options,
  - demonstrated potential benefits,
  - increased trust and sharing between countries
  - created foundation for regional WRM & investment planning.
- There is urgent need for Uganda and riparian states to:
  - Undertake the downstream project design process
  - roll out Sub Catchment Management Plans
  - Mobilize investment finance for identified joint investment options;

Thank you

Uganda Vision 2040