



Introduction to the project “*Strengthening trans-boundary water governance and cooperation in the IGAD region*”

A Presentation during the inception and capacity building workshop, May 15th-19th 2017, Kisumu, Kenya

By

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The Project “Strengthen trans-boundary water governance and cooperation in the IGAD region”

1. With request from the IGAD Secretariat to support the strengthening of water cooperation in the IGAD region, IUCN, UNECE and IGAD have secured funding from the OES US State Department
2. This project is carried out in synergy with activities funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation (SDC): *Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE)* implemented by IUCN, and *Support to transboundary water cooperation on the basis of the UNECE Water Convention* implemented by UNECE.
3. The funding will be for the implementation of the a 2-year (Oct 2016-Sept 2018) project
4. Activities will benefit both regional-level processes (IGAD – TAC level) and cooperation mechanisms in a demonstration basin.



Specific objectives of the Project

1. Strengthening regional and basin level frameworks for cooperation and conflict mitigation on trans-boundary water resources in the IGAD region;
2. Strengthening conflict mitigation, negotiation and problem solving through joint dialogue with governing bodies and stakeholders in the demonstration basin on opportunities for enhanced benefits, investment and development from collaborative management of shared water resources; and
3. Capacity building in hydro-diplomacy, international water law, negotiation and benefit sharing to improve trans-boundary water governance and cooperation. Capacity building will include exchanges of experiences from other basins at global level to support institutional strengthening and capacity building in the IGAD region, as well as in the demonstration basin;

Lessons learnt from implementing this project in a particular demonstration basin will inform both regional level processes as well as cooperation efforts in other specific basins of the IGAD region.



The project activities to realize the objectives

Regional level activities include:

- Identification of the demonstration basin (activity 1.3);
- Dialogue on benefit opportunities assessments and benefit sharing at the IGAD TAC level (activity 2.1)
- Capacity building on international water law, hydrodiplomacy and benefit sharing (activity 3.1);
- Regional meeting to facilitate consultations, finalization, and adoption of IGAD Regional Water Resources Protocol (activity 1.1);
- Regional meeting to facilitate consultations, finalization, and adoption of IGAD Regional Policy and Protocol on Water Related Data Exchange (activity 1.2);
- Study Tour to gain experiences from the International Sava River Basin Commission and the Rhine River Commission plus the IUCN BRIDGE Academy (activity 1.5 and 3.2);
- Facilitated dialogue on stakeholder-inclusive river basin governance mechanism and possible financing modalities for its operation in the demonstration basin (activity 1.6).



The project activities to realize the objectives cont.....

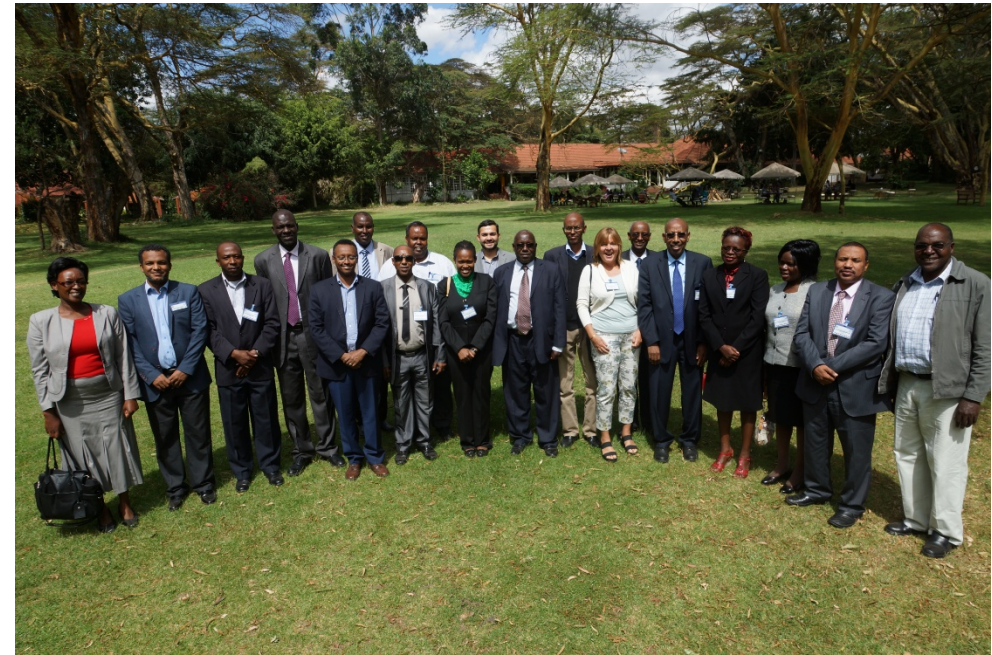
Basin level activities include:

- Analysis and recommendations on basin & sub-basin level institutional frameworks for water resources management in the selected demonstration basin (activity 1.4);
- Basin visioning and Benefit Opportunities Assessment Dialogue involving multiple stakeholders in the demonstration basin (activity 2.2);
 - Initiation of a Benefit Opportunities Assessment Dialogue at basin level (activity 2.2.1);
 - Detailed qualitative assessment of a subset of collaborative water management solutions from national to local levels in the basin (activity 2.2.2);
 - Adaptation of Benefit-sharing Opportunities Assessment Tool (BOAT) (activity 2.2.3);
 - Identifying Collaborative Water Management Solutions and Opportunities for Benefits Enhancement (activity 2.2.4);
- Basin-level workshop with key development partners and local to national representatives from the demonstration basin (activity 2.3)

Note: We shall have some time at the end of this workshop to discuss the work plan and/or scheduling of these activities.

Background to benefit assessment and benefit sharing

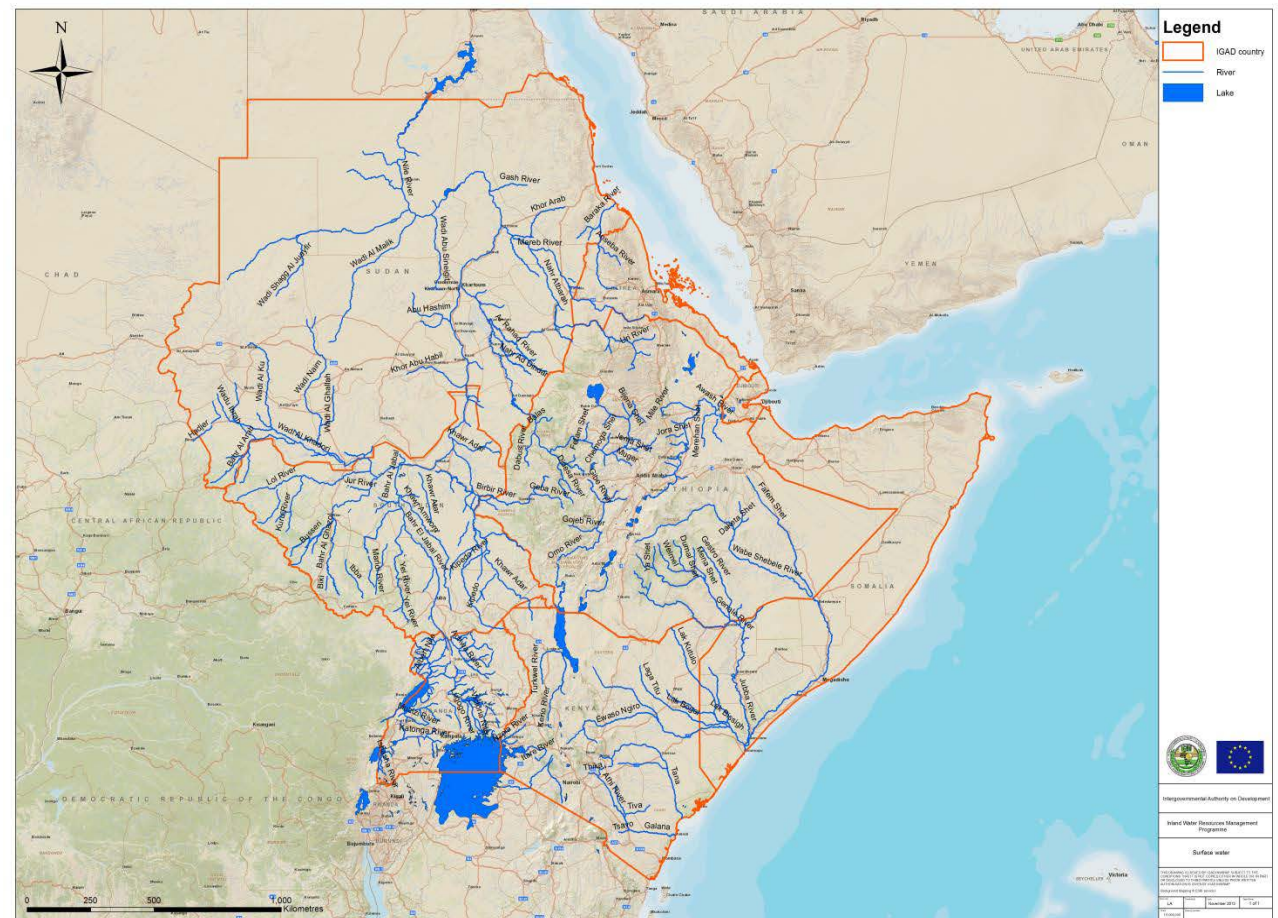
1. The IGAD Secretariat (and member countries) expressed interest to deepen work on benefits opportunities assessment in the IGAD region;
2. During the previous TAC Meetings (under the BRIDGE Initiative), in addition to talking about the International Water Law, we also talked about the subject of Benefit Sharing and Benefits Opportunities Assessment:
 - 1st TAC Meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda (May 6th – 8th 2015) IUCN's Global Water Programme facilitated working sessions on *Benefit Sharing: An Instrument for better governance in trans-boundary water management*
 - 2nd TAC Meeting held in Naivasha, Kenya (July 8th-9th 2015) IGAD Secretariat presented a Policy Guidance paper produced by UNECE Water Convention Secretariat – *Counting our gains: Identifying, assessing, and communicating the benefits of trans-boundary water cooperation*



The importance of assessing the benefits opportunities from cooperation in water management the IGAD region:

The IGAD region has a number of trans-boundary rivers and lake basins and supporting IGAD in the development of improved governance and cooperation frameworks around the use and management of shared waters is a key building block of the region's peace and stability;

1. Over 60% of the region is arid or semi-arid lands that are among the most vulnerable areas to climate variability in Africa; Frequent droughts in these areas often lead to catastrophic famines and exacerbate competition and conflict for limited water resources;
2. The *Regional Water Resources Policy* was adopted in January 2015 and there is an ongoing process of negotiating the IGAD Regional Water Protocol.
3. Joint identification of a broad range of possible benefits can help by opening new ways of cooperation, for e.g. by involving additional sectors.
4. Jointly assessing benefits can provide fact-based arguments to discuss opportunities for generating and sharing benefits through (stronger) cooperation.





Thank you very much for your kind attention