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Session: **“Challenges and Perspectives In
Transboundary Water Management in Africa”**

Role of River Basin Authorities in Poverty Alleviation and
Economic Growth

By

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The Nile-valuable resource

- The Nile is one of the world's greatest riches and is of inestimable value for its peoples – a resource which needs to be held in trust for future generations.
- Sustainable development and management of the Nile Basin presents a great challenge and there remain many opportunities for growth and development for the future, bringing the promise of regional harmony and economic development.
- At the heart of this challenge is the imperative to eradicate poverty. Without action today, the riparian countries will face many problems including famine, extreme poverty, environmental degradation and rapid population growth. This is a clear challenge for the peoples of the Basin and calls for vision and leadership.

Economies of Nile Countries

Country	Land Area /1,000 Km ²	Population 2002/Million	GNP/Cap. /US\$	Access to Electricity/%
Burundi	28	6.6	102	2
DR Congo	2,350	51.2	111	1-6
Egypt	1,000	70.5	1354	98
Ethiopia	1,222	69.0	90	10
Kenya	583	31.5	393	9
Rwanda	26	8.3	212	2
Sudan	2,506	32.9	412	15
Tanzania	945	36.3	267	10
Uganda	241	25.0	236	5

Source: UN Human Development Report 2004

Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)

- NBI was formally established in February, 1999
- The NBI brings all Nile Basin countries to work together to develop the resources of the Nile Basin for the benefit of all.
- Provides a platform for co-operation and for building working relationships between the riparian countries
- Promote regional peace and security
- It is a mechanism to begin implementation of the
“shared vision”
through an agreed
“Strategic Action Program”

The NBI Shared Vision

“To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources.”





NBI Governance

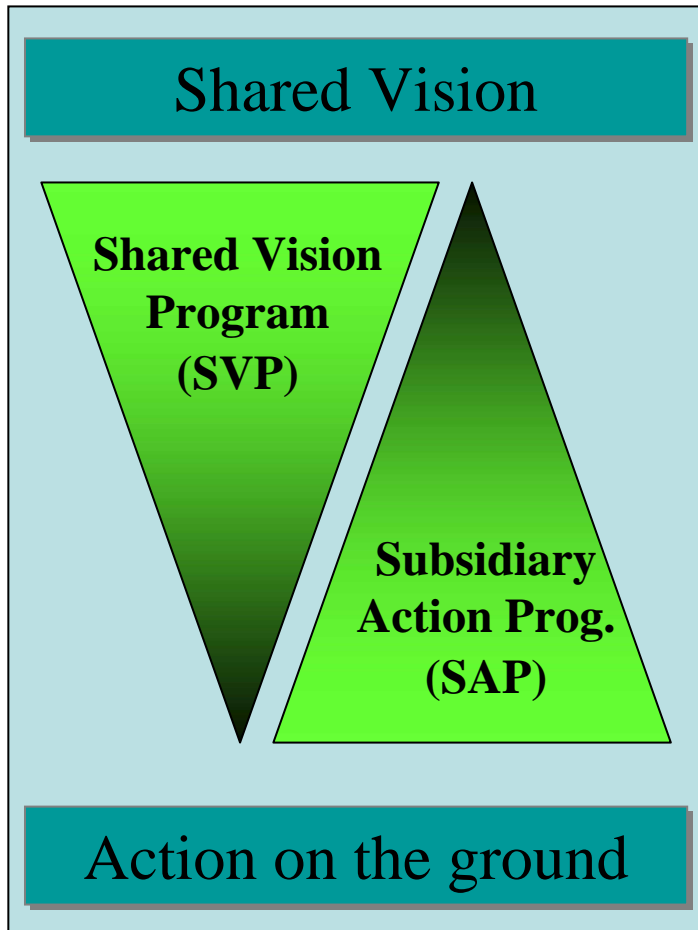
Council of Ministers - Nile-COM

Technical Advisory Committee -
Nile-TAC

NBI Secretariat - Nile-SEC



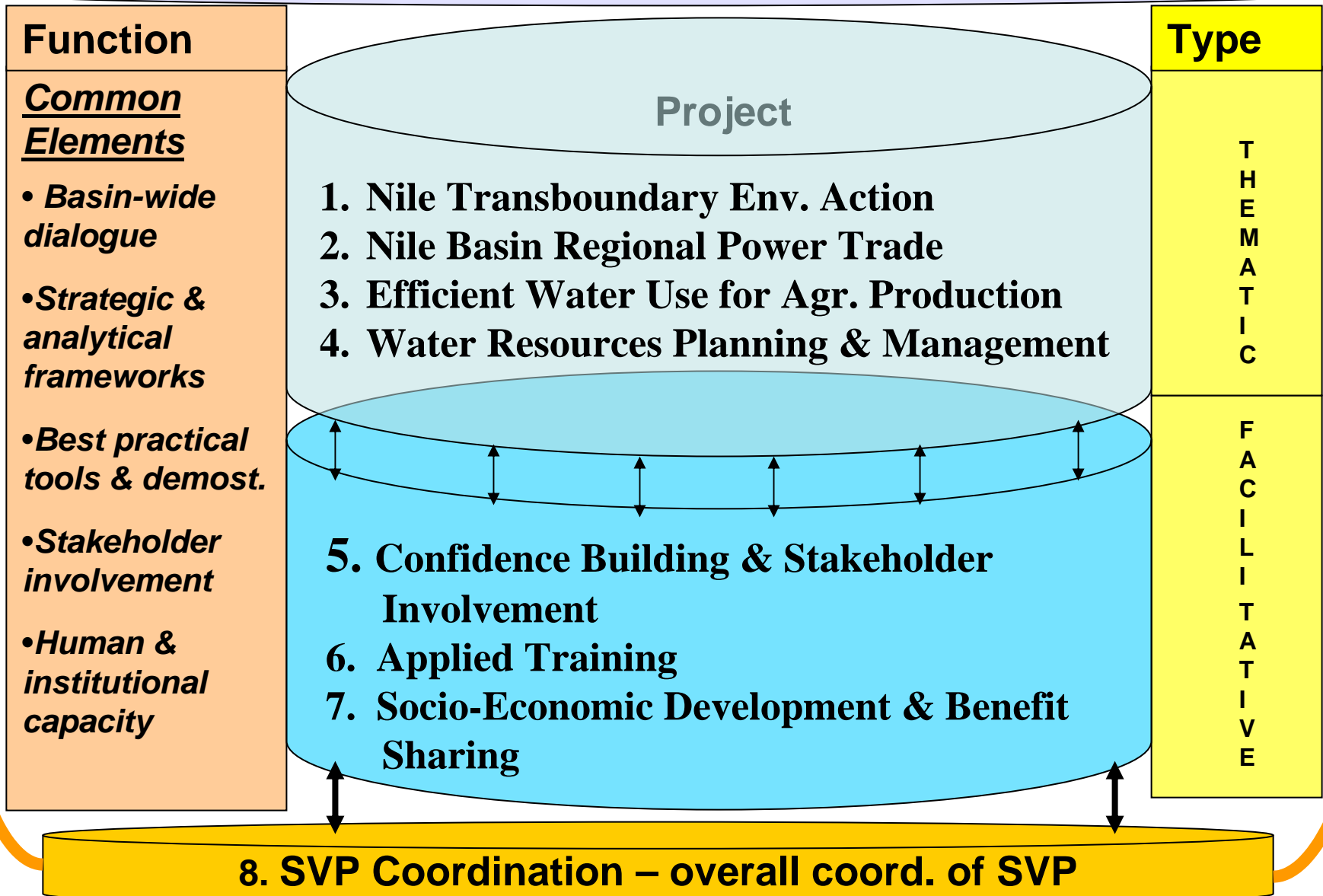
Strategic Action Program for the Nile Basin



Main Tasks

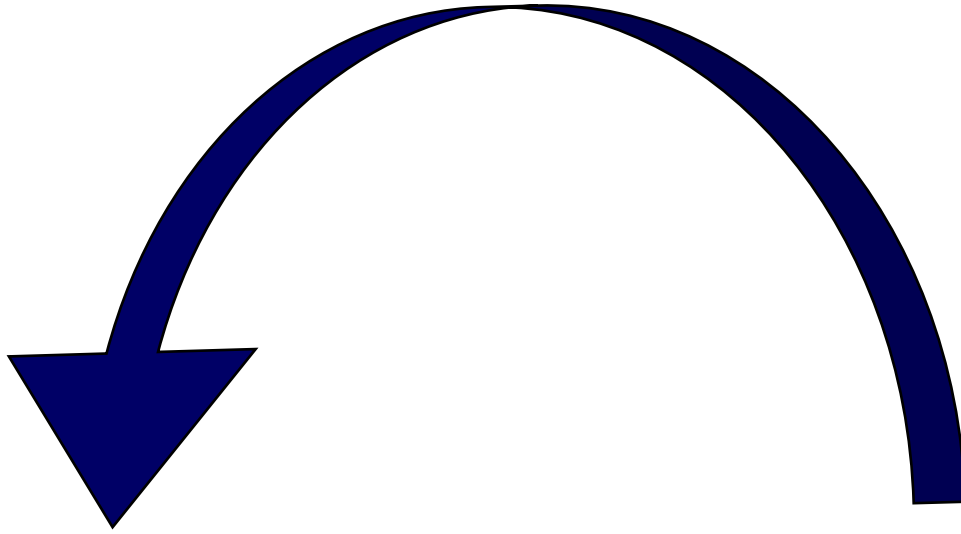
- **SVP - Creates an enabling environment, builds the capacity, enhance the trust and build the confidence for cooperative investments within a basin-wide framework**
- **SAP - Promotes the Shared Vision through sub-regional investment projects**

SVP Project Portfolio



NBI programs linkages



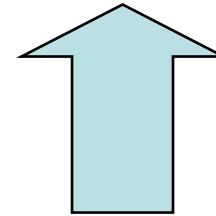
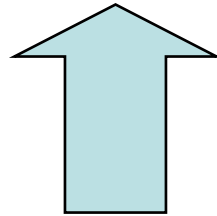


Trust & capacity

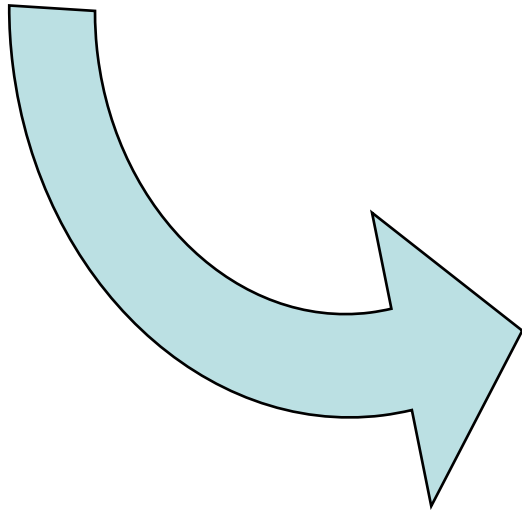
Management

+

Development



Institutions & opportunities

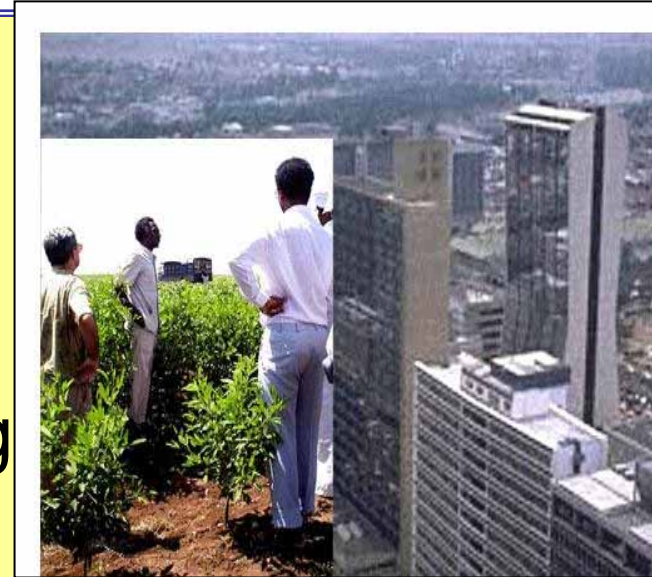


Confidence Building & Stakeholders Involvement

- Develops confidence in regional cooperation under the NBI
- Ensures full stakeholder involvement in the NBI and its projects
- Promotes public awareness and understanding of the NBI process

Socioeconomic Development and Benefit Sharing

- ❑ Builds greater understanding of, and promote the opportunities, principles and mechanisms for sharing potential social, economic and environmental benefits among the riparian
- ❑ Promotes exchange and collaboration among researchers and research institutes in the Basin
- ❑ Focuses on issues and opportunities related to cooperative regional development, integration and benefit sharing



Benefits of Cooperation: changing perceptions

	The Challenges	The Opportunities
Type 1: Increasing Benefits <i>To the river</i>	Limited water resourc. management: degraded watersheds, wetlands, biodiversity, & water quality.	Improved water quality, river flow characteristics, soil conservation, biodiversity
Type 2: Increasing Benefits <i>From the river</i>	Sub-optimal water resources development	Improved hydropower & agricultural production, flood-drought management, environmental conservation & water quality
Type 3: Reducing Costs <i>Because of the river</i>	Tense (+/-) regional relations & political economy impacts	Policy shift to cooperation & development, from dispute; from food & energy self-sufficiency to security; reduced conflict risk & military expenditure (+/-)
Type 4: Increasing Benefits <i>Beyond the the river</i>	Regional fragmentation	Integration of regional infrastructure, markets & trade

Critical Elements and Lessons

- **A Shared Vision**
- **Strong riparian ownership**
- **Effective lead donor/partner**
- **Partnership and commitment of donors/partners (funds, technical and facilitation)**
- **Flexible financing mechanisms**
- **Basin specific priorities and actions based on the situation**
- **Strong advocacy, Stakeholder participation => Build trust**

Critical Elements and Lessons (contd)

- **Staying with the process by incremental steps,**
- **Optimise benefits, win-win objective/strategy,**
- **Multi-track approach to create incentives for the process and demonstrate benefits,**
- **Adequate funding and investments for the process (time money, expertise, political, etc.) and coordination CRITICAL,**
- **Transparency and accountability,**
- **OPTIMISM**

Key Challenges for NBI

- **Timely and efficient implementation of SVP projects**
- **Launching of SAP investment projects.**
- **Linkages SVP/SAPs/other national and regional initiatives and programs.**
- **Sustained long term donor support**
- **Broadening participation at the basin, sub-basin country levels - through projects and multiplier effect, and other activities**
- **Conflicts in the region affecting effective participation of countries and timely implementation of projects - ***NBI CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE PROCESSES.*****

Way Forward

- ❖ Continue addressing the issues of concern-institutional and challenges of NBI growth & uniqueness,
- ❖ Implementation challenges - SVP, SVP/SAPS, SAPS, collaborative programs & coordination-**projects but holistic with OUTPUTS**,
- ❖ Strengthening trust & ownership-Riparian leadership and broadening participation,
- ❖ Short & Long term commitment to process & product & Partnerships
- ❖ **Long-term Cooperative framework**

Conclusion

- **Although there are a number of challenges for the WRMD in the Basin, the opportunities are enormous and encouraging.**
- **The only way for utilizing the opportunities is the cooperation among the riparian countries.**
- **NBC are looking forward to sharing the benefits from the common water resources.**
- **Regional perspective for the WRD is essential.**
- **NBI innovative ideas:**
 - **Strategic Action Program based on two complementary programs.**
 - **Devote one key project to focus on the confidence building and stakeholders involvement in the whole projects**

Conclusion

- Consider the water as socio-economic good and devote one cross-cutting project to realise the socio-economic development and benefit sharing
- It is early to propose the NBI model to be replicate elsewhere, *however we believe it is going in the right direction and soonest we will be able to pick at least the low hanging fruits.*

For more information, please visit the Nile Basin web-site: www.nilebasin.org

Thank You