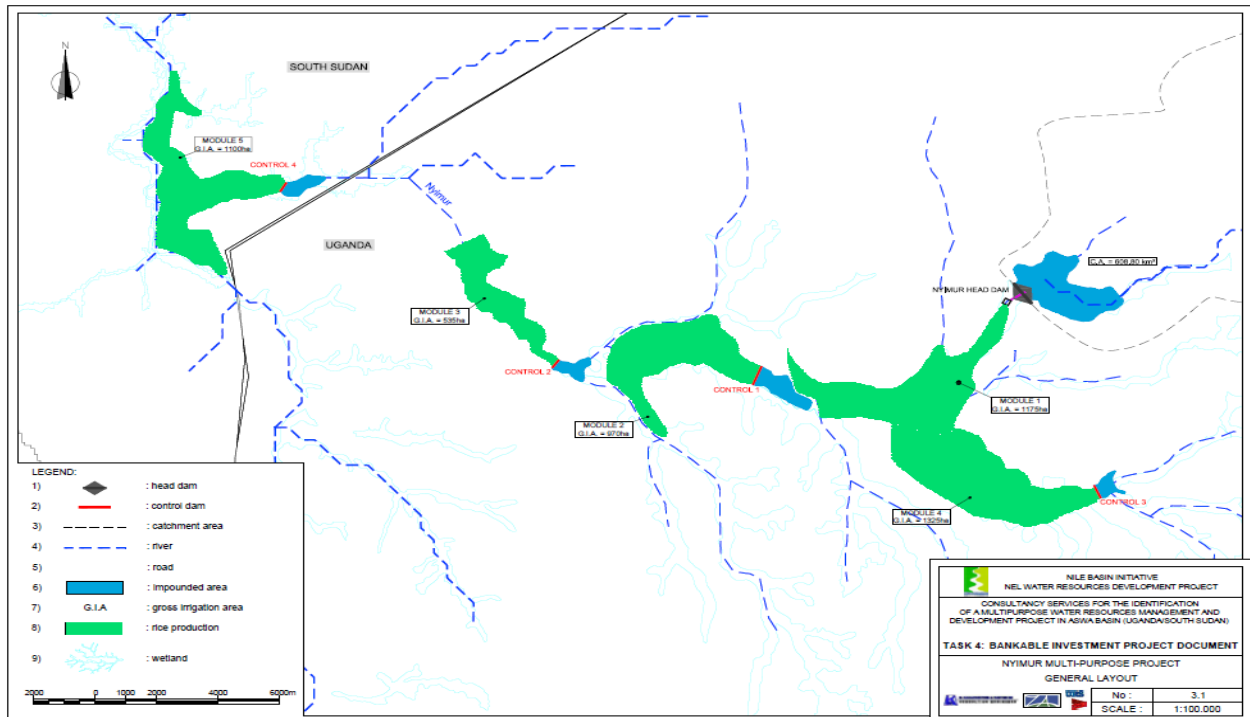




Nyimur Multipurpose Water Project



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Nyimur river valley, located in the Aswa river basin covers just over 31 thousand square kilometres in Northern, Eastern and North-eastern Uganda and in the Magwi county of Easter Equatoria state of South Sudan. Over the previous years, the Aswa basin, both in Uganda and South Sudan, was theatre of armed conflict, acute social insecurity and mass displacement of populations from rural areas towards more secure congregated settlements. This in turn led to mass abandonment of agricultural land, poverty and famine and high reliance on food aid. The Aswa basin is host to a variety of livelihood systems including pastoral, agro-pastoral and pure farming societies. Competition for limited resources in the already insecure environment coupled with the widespread availability of guns lead to further opportunities for armed conflict. In terms of pressures on the environment, the social upheaval led to the degradation of abandoned agricultural land and intensive collection of firewood and unsustainable use of other natural resources near population centres. This resulted in deforestation, encroachment on and degradation of wetlands and overexploitation of other areas with natural vegetation. Wildlife also suffered from hunting and loss of habitat.

SUB-PROGRAM

Water Resources Development and Management

EXECUTING AGENCIES

NBI/NELSAP-CU in collaboration with the Governments of South Sudan and Uganda

PROJECT DURATION

2014-2017: Preparation phase

BUDGET

About € 2M from African Water Facility

PARTICIPATION MEMBER STATES

Governments of South Sudan and Uganda

The project is in Lamwo district in Uganda and in Magwi County, Eastern Equatorial in South Sudan and consists of a community based irrigation scheme, a water reservoir, water and soil conservation components among other enabling sub components. The project will establish a water resources information/knowledge base and institutional development of the target project area. The core scheme of the project consists of a 26 m head dam and reservoir on Nyimur River and five (5) modules of irrigated lowland rice of approximately 5,105 ha. A mini hydropower plant with a capacity of 350 kW is included in the dam component.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project overall objective is to sustainably improve the living conditions and incomes of rural populations in the proposed irrigation scheme and the surrounding watersheds of the Nyimur River shared by Uganda and South Sudan.

The project aims at: (i) Creating a large base of high productivity cultivation (irrigated agriculture) that will lead to an increase in local income, make available enough produce to influence agro-processing and the access to markets and have a substantial impact on the economic life of the area (ii) Mitigating the recurrent flooding and drought problems by storage river regulation and watershed management, thus allowing cultivation in the Nyimur River lowlands (iii) Addressing poverty and lack of social development, which constrain agricultural intensification (iii) Improving water supply and sanitation infrastructure and thus contributing to better public health, improved livelihoods and cleaner water bodies and (iv) Strengthening trans-boundary cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan in water resources management and development.

KEY EXPECTED OUTPUTS OF THE STUDY

- Feasibility study reports, detail designs and tender documents
- Independent environmental and social impacts assessment and related safeguards management plans including a resettlement management plan.
- Donor roundtable
- Stakeholders involvement and participation

IMPACTS STATEMENT

The major development impacts of the project will be its contribution to i) economic development, and ii) reduction of poverty in the two countries. More specifically, the Project will result in better living conditions, improved health and enhanced food and energy supply for people in the Aswa River Basin.

These impacts are attributed to the structural and institutional framework investments in water reservoirs (improved water security and reduced floods and droughts), hydropower production, irrigated agriculture, investments in water supply and sanitation and fisheries development.

The project will also contribute to increased resilience of the basin population to changing socio-economic and natural conditions, including climate variability and climate change.

On a longer term, impacts/outcomes will be an increase in both Uganda and South Sudan of agriculture production, food security and access to drinking water and improved sanitation facilities through the completion of water supply and sanitation infrastructure as well as supply of electricity to local communities. Increase of irrigated areas and agro-production, fisheries, increase to water and electricity access will contribute sustainably to improve the populations' sanitation, social and living conditions.

Upon its completion and under operation, the project will contribute to the stabilization of the border movements between the two countries and will materialize the combined and joint management of land and water resources, and water source protection in the Aswa River Basin.



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