In order to ensure country driven multi-sector and basin-wide approach to multipurpose infrastructure projects including fisheries production, irrigation development/ expansion, hydropower production, interconnection of power grids and watershed management planning and implementation in the Nile River basin, NBI/NELSAP is coordinating Nile Basin member countries to design, structure and package in-country and trans-boundary priority investment projects under the Nile Equatorial Lakes Investment Program (NELIP). NELIP will champion investments from studies already undertaken by NELSAP. The selected package of projects are those that will have the greatest benefit to the water, food, energy and environment sectors, improve rural livelihoods while having the least impact on the natural flow of the Nile River, including reducing sedimentation.

NELIP recognizes that all Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) riparian countries have investment plans that tap the potential of the River Nile to accelerate poverty alleviation and boost economic growth. While hydropower generation
and water supply will remain the main driver for the
development of water infrastructure in the next decades,
irrigation expansion is also planned in all of the countries
to meet food security goals. Coordinated management
of these investment will allow NEL member countries to
reap the most from multi-country infrastructure systems,
reduce political tensions, promote efficient use of common
water resource and encourage regional cohesion.

Key indicators of NELIP success will be number of
households connected to electricity supply, amount of
food produced annually, amount of sediment loading in
kilograms in waterways and water bodies, percentage of
economic growth and number of rural communities living
above the poverty line.

**BACKGROUND OF THE NELIP PROGRAM**

In 2012, NELSAP carried out a NEL Multi-Sector
Investment Opportunity Analysis (MSIOA) which
developed a regional water investment strategy for the
Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) region that broadly supports
socio-economic development, poverty reduction, and the
reversal of environmental degradation. Specifically, MSIOA
(i) identified potential regional investment options, taking
into account their economic, social and environmental
implications as well as cumulative impacts; (ii) investigated
the alignment of potential regional investment options
with national-level priorities and plans; (iii) prioritized
and sequenced potential investments in light of existing
and planned interventions (including those supported by
development partners) up to 2035; and (iv) contributed to
the regional knowledge base.

In implementing the recommendations from the MSIOA
study, in 2013, NELSAP together with the World Bank
CIWA Trust Fund formulated the Nile Cooperation for
Results (NCORE) Project with the overall objective to
“To facilitate cooperative water resources management
and development in the Nile Basin”. Under the NCORE
project, NELSAP implemented among other activities
the preparation of transformative investment projects of
regional significance of the Sio-Sango irrigation and water
resources development project in Kenya, Kabuyanda
irrigation and water resources development project in
Uganda, Mara Valley irrigation and water resources
development project in Tanzania and Ngono Valley
irrigation and water resources development project in
Tanzania.

Other investment projects implemented by NELSAP
include the Multinational Lakes Edward and Albert
Integrated Fisheries and Water Resources Management
Project (LEAF II Project) shared between the DR Congo
and Uganda and funded by the African Development
Bank (AfDB) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF);
the AfDB African Water Facility (AWF) funded Nyimur
irrigation and water resources development project in
Uganda; Regional Rusumo Fall Hydroelectric project
funded by the World Bank for the Power Plant and AfDB
for Overhead lines (by the countries-Burundi, Rwanda and

**NELIP PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP**

| AUG 2017 | NELIP CONCEPT PAPER APPROVED BY THE
| APR 2018 | NELIP CONCEPT PAPER FINALIZED WITH
| AUG 2018 | 1ST REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP
| AUG 2018 | DESIGN & STRUCTURE NELIP CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
| NOV–DEC 2019 | REPORT AND PROJECT SCREENING CRITERIA IN NAIROBI
| NOV 2019 | 2ND REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP
| JUNE 2020 | APPROVAL OF THE NELIP PROPOSAL BY
| MAY 2020 | STRUCTURE AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AGREED
| JAN 2020 | COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SIGNING BY MINISTERS IN
| NOV–DEC 2019 | COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS RAPID ASSESSMENT
| MAY 2020 | CHARGE OF ENERGY, WATER AND FINANCE.

Tanzania); Uganda – DR Congo (DRC) Interconnection
project; Tanzania - Zambia Interconnection project; the
Interconnection of the Electric Grids of the Nile Equatorial
Lakes Countries: Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and
Uganda; NBI/NELSAP Technical Assistance for Capacity
Building for River Basin Planning funded by the French
Development Agency (AFD); Electric Interconnection of
the Electric Grids of the Nile member countries project
funded by Sida, KfW (Government of Germany), JICA
Government of The Netherlands and EU; Zambia-
Tanzania-Kenya Interconnector Study project funded
by KfW and Government of Norway; Comprehensive
Basin Wide study of Power Options; Basin Irrigation
Potential Assessment (RATP project) by CIDA; and the
NBI-NELSAP/Implementation of wetlands management
plans in the NEL Region Project funded by the German
Government / Ministry of Environment - International
Climate Initiative (BMUB-ICI) and implemented by The
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GmbH (GIZ).

**RATIONALE OF THE NELIP PROGRAM**

Coordinated development and management of the water
energy and food resources in the Nile Basin will be the
most critical challenge of the coming decade, requiring
careful balance of economic and environmental interests
and better management of natural resources.

NELSAP has developed internal capacity on assessments
of the state of NEL region’s resource endowments in order
to build Member Countries capacity as well as provide
Member States with a shared knowledge base and an interactive information system that facilitates decision making and supports informed planning and management of the shared water resources. The establishment of a NEL basin-wide Investment Program (NELIP), therefore is key in advancing major studies and implementing investment projects that have impacts on improving the integrity of the basin water and land resources, improving livelihoods of the basin population, contributing to economic growth and reversing environmental degradation.

Under NELIP Member Countries will structure a basin-wide investment program that has buy-in from the sector Ministries of Finance, Planning, Water, Irrigation, Energy, Natural Resources, Health, and Trade among others. The Program will also find ways of collaborating with other regional organizations (EAC, LVBC, IGAD, ICPAC, RCMRD, COMEMSA, SAPs and EAPP) including the private sector during the planning and implementation of its activities.

The overall goal of the NELIP is “to optimize and implement a NEL basin water, energy and food security program to boost NEL member countries’ economic growths, improve rural livelihoods as well as reduce poverty levels and safeguard the Nile River ecosystems”.

Specifically, the NELIP will: (a) build on ongoing work in the NBI/NEL region, of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) of national programs and plans; (b) implement in-country/transboundary multipurpose infrastructure projects for fisheries production, irrigation development/expansion, interconnection power lines and watershed management; (c) implement rural livelihoods improvement projects such as agricultural products value addition, eco-tourism and market access; and (d) develop a basinwide framework and tools to map and monitor cumulative impacts of the implemented investments on the basin water and land resources.

**Expected NELIP Results**
The Expected Results from this NELIP include: (a) enhanced food and energy security in the Nile Basin; (b) increased water quantities and improved water quality in the basin waterways and reservoirs/lakes; (c) improved livelihoods to the Basin population; (d) increased cooperation between NEL Member Countries; and (e) improved coordination between NBI institutions, NEL Member Countries sector ministries and other regional organizations working within the Nile Basin. Other key specific results are:

- Contribute to production of energy of about 8,004.17GWh and transmission lines;
- Contribute to food security in the region by increasing about 0.8 million people accessing an average daily per capita calorie intake for healthy life and improved livelihood.

The design and structure of NELIP will be done jointly with the NEL Member Countries by involving the sector Ministries of Finance, Planning, Water, Irrigation, Energy, Natural Resources, Health, and Trade among others. During its design, there will be intensive collaboration with other regional organizations like EAC, LVBC, IGAD, ICPAC, RCMRD, COMEMSA, SAPs and EAPP. The private sector will also be involved during the planning and implementation of NELIP activities.

**Regional Stakeholders consultations:** Two regional stakeholder workshops have been held to design, structure, review and discuss the proposed NELIP. In the 1st regional stakeholder workshop, the overall NELIP goal, its objectives and prioritized transboundary investment projects in the water-energy-food nexus were agreed upon. During the 2nd regional stakeholder workshop, the NELIP proposal was validated. At the third regional stakeholder
Designing and structuring of NELIP: Consultants were hired to carry out rapid assessment of the NEL member country’s needs; review member countries investment sector plans; identify and include prioritized investment projects into the NELIP proposal; carry out institutional analyses for capacity building and training; formulate proposed NELIP investment plan; develop scope of work and cost estimates for the NELIP; prepare the NELIP financing plan; prepare the NELIP implementation plan; design the NELIP monitoring and evaluation framework; evaluating the sustainability and risks of the NELIP; and carry out a financial and economic evaluation of NELIP.

Technical Analysis of NELIP Projects
The Nile Basin Decision Support System (NB DSS) was used to complete the technical analysis of the NELIP priority projects using MCA tool. Re-calibration of the NEL Model with all sub-catchments and planned NELIP projects up to Bahr el Jebel in South Sudan was also done.

ABSTRACT

The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda, is one of the two investment programs of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). NELSAP-CU was established in December 1999 by the Council of Ministers for Water Affairs in the Nile River Basin, with a mission to “contribute to the eradication of poverty, promote economic growth, and reverse environmental degradation in the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) region, within the overall NBI’s shared Vision of sustainable socioeconomic development and the equitable use of and benefit from Nile Basin water resources”. NELSAP-CU is governed and reports to the Council of Water Ministers from 10 Nile Basin membership states of Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.