The Sudan Investment Benefits from the Nile Basin Cooperation

THE SUDAN

If any single country can be said to be geographically dominating the Nile Basin, it is surely The Sudan. With an estimated total area of 1,864,049 km², The Sudan is the third largest country in Africa. It makes up 44 percent of the Basin’s land area, has 75 percent of its area within the Basin and 87 percent of the population lives in the Basin. The Nile runs through the entire country from south to north providing about 77 percent of Sudan’s fresh water. Khartoum is also where the White Nile and the Blue Nile converge to form the main Nile, giving it a central role in the history of the entire Basin.

In terms of support to NBI, Sudan provides financial contribution as per the agreed increments in table 3 on page 54. This is in addition to in-kind contribution of USD 5.7 million to-date (Refer to Annex II on page 60).

The Sudan has been part of the Nile cooperation since HYDROMET (1967-1992), UNDUGU (1983-1992), followed by TEC-CONILE (1993-1999), before joining the NBI in 1999.
Access to reliable and affordable electricity

The Ethiopia-Sudan Interconnector (194 km transmission interconnection between Bahir Dar and Gondar in Ethiopia, and 321 km connecting Gonder-Shehedi-Metema in Ethiopia with Gedaref in Sudan) has generated a number of benefits for the Sudan. Fully commissioned at the end of 2013 the Interconnector with a capacity of 100MW has enabled nearly 1.4 million households (both in Sudan and Ethiopia) to access reliable electricity. Apart from improved reliability of supply, consumers have gained from lower tariffs of US$ 0.05 per kWh for imported electricity as compared to US$ 0.096 per kWh from power generated domestically. Improvements in reliability and security of supply have yielded benefits including lighting of schools and homes, better access to social services, and greater opportunities for business development. Small- and medium-sized industries such as flour mills, rural water supply installations, tanneries and coffee processing plants are creating employment and contributing to poverty alleviation.

Other key benefits are ability to better integrate its energy reserve capacities and in the process improve reliability of supply on the interconnected system enabling savings on capital and operating costs. Furthermore, the country participated in the Eastern Nile Joint Multi-Purpose (JMP) Study, which identified the Abbay/Blue Nile sub basin as most suitable for cooperation among the three countries (Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan). The JMP envisaged large scale transformational multipurpose water infrastructure development from which each country would benefit. The Study produced two working papers, Paper 1 on ‘Environmental and Social Perspectives on Blue Nile Multipurpose Development’ and Paper 2 on ‘Strategic Options Assessment for Blue Nile Multipurpose Development’.

The Eastern Nile Regional Transmission Line; Ethiopia-Sudan (Rabak)-Egypt (Nage Hamadi) will generate additional electricity to benefit 2,000,000 people. A feasibility study for the 1,200 MW or 9,200 MWh/yr Ethiopia-Sudan connection and the Ethiopia-Egypt connection (2,000 MW or 7,700 MWh/yr) has been completed. In addition, over 197 flood-affected communities will benefit from improved river regulation.

Food security

The Eastern Nile Watershed Management project has created a shared understanding of the watershed problems and enabled commitment among the Eastern Nile countries to undertake joint action.

In Sudan, over 27,000 ha of degraded agricultural land has been rehabilitated, and farm yields for dominant crops have shown significant improvement, with sorghum yields increasing from a baseline 519 kg/ha to 1,249 kg/ha in Dinder and from 1,249 kg/ha to 3,391 kg/ha in Atbara. Similarly, sesame yields increased from 202 kg/ha to 336 kg/ha in Dinder and white bean yields...
floods in the Eastern Nile Basin. Among other things, The Sudan National Flood Forecasting Center (NFC) was strengthened and flood risk maps prepared for over 778 km² covering the entire reach of the Blue Nile from El Deim to Khartoum. In addition, a number of flood-related activities were funded at the national level. These include flood risk mapping studies, development of technical flood embankment manuals and guidance on voluntary resettlement policies. A total of 1.3 million people from 198 flood-prone communities are benefitting from the project interventions, with some 200,000 benefitting directly and 1.1 million indirectly.

The Baro-Akobo-Sobat Multipurpose Water Resources Development Study project will enhance the water resources planning and management capabilities in the sub-basin through preparation of water resources development plans and projects that respect social, environmental and economic sustainability.

The Eastern Nile Regional Transmission Line: Ethiopia-Sudan (Rabak)-Egypt (Nahe Hamadi) will benefit 197 flood-affected communities in Sudan through improved river regulation.