



Lessons from the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi

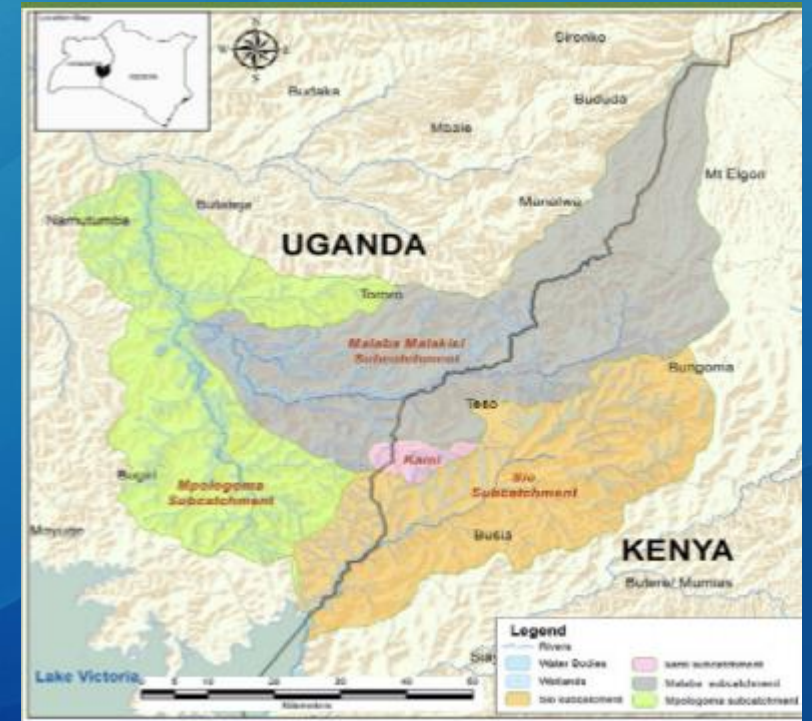


Diego Jara
Environmental Law Programme
IUCN | ELC
diego.jara@iucn.org



Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM)

- The Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) is a transboundary basin shared between Kenya and Uganda.
- A basin investment and development strategy was developed for the SMM basin in 2008.
- In 2017, the governments of Kenya and Uganda concluded that the 2008 basin investment and development strategy needed to be revisited to take into account the new context in the basin





Background

The IGAD Secretariat approached IUCN and the UNECE with a request to support the development of work on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the IGAD Region.

IUCN and UNECE developed a joint project that included a pilot benefit opportunities assessment dialogue in one river basin.

To select the pilot basin, IGAD issued a call for proposals among its Member States, and Kenya and Uganda jointly expressed interest in carrying out the work on benefits in the SMM basin.



Background

- The development of the benefit opportunities assessment dialogue included:
- A presentation of the approach jointly designed by IUCN and the UNECE
- The development of a situational analysis on benefits of cooperation in the SMM basin as an input to the first basin meeting
- The organization of three bi-national basin meeting
- The development of a draft framework for promoting and guiding investments of transboundary significance in the SMM basin
- An MoU between Kenya and Uganda to protect the waters of the SMM



Not everything was taken into account

- A scoping paper reviewed the benefits identified in previous SMM analytical and project documents that looked both at past benefits and the potential (enhanced) benefits of implementing specific projects.
- This analysis revealed that many past project ideas did not identify regional economic integration and peace and security benefits



Benefits of transboundary water cooperation

	ECONOMIC BENEFITS	SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
SMM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in joint investments• Increase in tourism-related tax revenues• Increase in energy security• Increase in agricultural productivity• Increase in economic growth• Jobs created in transboundary water management agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved livelihoods• Increase in food security• Positive health impacts• Increase in collaboration between communities• Rediscovery of cultural bonds• More equitable use of the basin's natural resources• More equitable distribution of benefits• More sustainable water use• Positive impacts on ecosystems• Improvement in water quality• Improvement in climate resilience



Benefits of transboundary water cooperation

	REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION	PEACE AND SECURITY BENEFITS
SMM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in regional trade and commerce• Increase in regional integration and cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anticipate conflicts, avoid/reduce disputes• Peace, harmonious coexistence• Increased cohesion among border communities• Accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals



Exchange of lessons and experiences





DRAFT SUGGESTED WORKING TEXT FOR A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING TO COOPERATION ON THE SIO-MALABA-MALAKISI BASIN

I. PREAMBLE

Taking into account that the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Kenya (hereinafter “the Parties”) are riparians of the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi basin;

Considering that the Parties have since 2005 been engaged in discussions and activities in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi basin (hereafter SMM), in the context of fostering transboundary water governance and development;

Aware of the importance of furthering regional cooperation regarding the utilisation and development of common water resources;

Mindful of existing cooperation efforts between the countries through agreements and other joint initiatives of conservation and development of shared waters;

Recognizing the contribution that such cooperation efforts could make towards peace and prosperity of the Eastern African region and towards fostering regional integration;

Recalling the existing Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter “MoU”) between the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Uganda and the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)/Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) for the Integrated management and development of a transboundary water resource of the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi River Basin, signed 4 June 2015;

Recognizing the contributions and work of the existing institutions under the institutional framework of the previous MoU;

Appreciating the benefits achieved so far of such contributions;

Acknowledging the existing cooperation between the riparian communities;

Agree that it is in the mutual interest of the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Kenya (individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively “the Parties”) to establish a framework operationalized by the following Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter “MoU”).



Commitments

Art. 10 Maintaining environmental flows

Art. 11 Adoption of integrated strategies and efficient internal measures

Art. 12 Harmonisation of policies, strategies and legislative frameworks

Art. 13 Promotion of good environmental practices

Art. 14 Enhancing the cooperative framework

Art. 15 Policies and strategies of conservation and sustainable use

Art. 16 Collection and sharing of data and information

Art. 17 Joint studies and assessment



Commitments

Art. 18 Sensitization of the local communities

Art. 19 Capacity building

Art. 20 Joint scientific research

Art. 21 Control and reduction of water pollution

Art 22. Emergency plans

Art. 23 Water resources audits and monitoring

Art. 24 Protection of waters

Art. 25 Control of water-related diseases

Art. 26 Conservation of aquatic biodiversity

Art. 27 Control of invasive aquatic species

