Conserving Biodiversity in the Nile Basin
Transboundary Wetlands

Michael Kizza
The Nile Basin

- Source of livelihood for > 250m people in 11 countries (500m in countries)

- Area - 3.2 m sq km

- Most parts of the basin is arid/semi-desert

- Over 80% flow comes from a small basin part that is prone to regular climate extremes

- Most current uses are in the d/s arid/semi-desert part

- Most undeveloped part is upstream in water source countries

- Home to fragile ecosystems and world-class environmental assets including wetlands

Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
GOAL 4: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (of the NBI 10 year Strategy 2017-2027)

• **Strategic Direction 4.1: Ensure Sustainable management of wetlands of transboundary significance**

• **Strategic Direction 4.2: Maintain river and lake ecosystems**

With support of
NBI’s 2-level approach for ‘Wetlands Work’

**Basin wide level (Nile Sec)**
Knowledge for ecosystem based sustainable management of wetlands of TB significance is strengthened

**TB Wetlands level (Nelsap)**
For selected TB sub-basins plans for the management of wetlands of TB relevance are in place and being implemented
1. **Inventory and mapping** (e.g. Wetland Atlas) - monitoring system for the status of wetlands

2. **Baseline studies** – wetland ecosystem services and their integration in Nile hydrology, the economics of wetlands and their potential as green infrastructure are in place

3. **Strategy and plan** – Updated Wetland Management Strategy (2022) - integration of sustainable management of wetlands of transboundary significance in river basin planning in the Nile Basin
Overview of the Nile Basin and its Wetlands
Peatlands distribution

- Total area = 3 Mha (Million hectares)
- Three subsets:
  - A- NEL peatlands: 1.3 Mha (40 %)
  - B- Sudd: 1.6 Mha (55 %)
  - C- Ethiopian highlands: 0.1 Mha (> 5 %)
Strengthening the Knowledge Based

• Reports available at: http://ikp.nilebasin.org
TB Wetlands Level (sub-basin)
Three Transboundary Landscapes
Adopted Management Plans
A participatory process

- Focus on development of Cross Border Wetland Committees which ensure the implementation of the Management Plans
- Interinstitutional bodies where Wetlands – Water – Biodiversity and Climate Change officers from both countries are represented
Implementation of Measures

• Focus on Nature Based Solutions (Examples: Green Borders and Wetland Restoration Measures)
WAY FORWARD – IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL
Example of Peatlands Action – moving towards implementation

- Government of **Uganda** (MoWE – Wetlands Department) is working on **operationalizing the peatlands NDC target**

- Core elements of the proposal include:
  - A Peatlands National Strategy
  - In depth Peatlands mapping and assessment of mitigation potential (**including cross-border**)
  - Development of an MRV system accounting for peatlands GHG emissions
  - Wetland Restoration and Peatland Rewetting in hot spots projects (**including cross-border**)
  - Enhancement of value chains and paludiculture (eg. for sustainable papyrus use)
Thank you

Email address: mkizza@nilebasin.org

Website: www.nilebasin.org

Twitter: @nbiweb