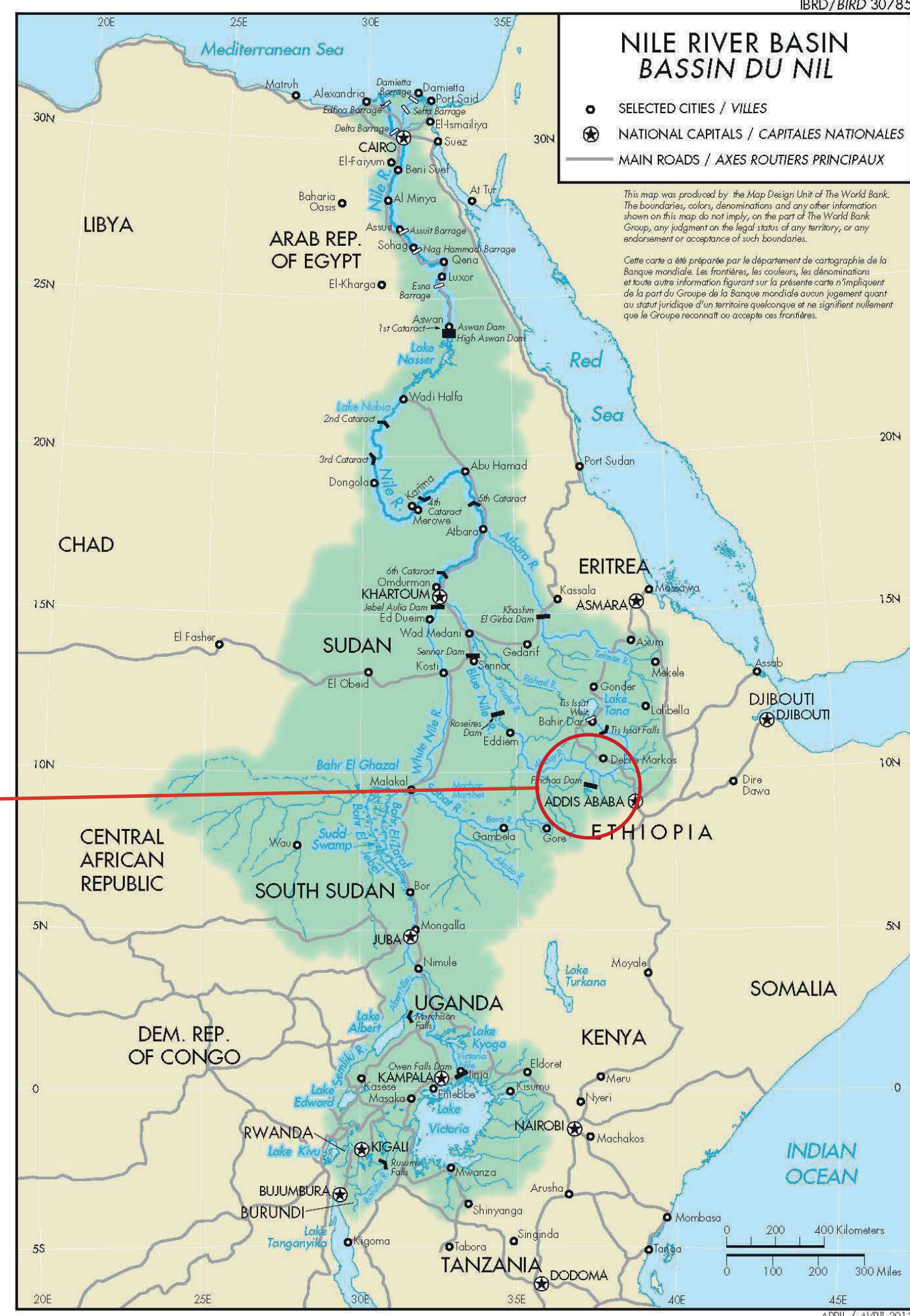


CASE STUDY WATER CONFLICT EGYPT & ETHIOPIA

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Ethiopia's new Nile dam



BACKGROUND AND SOURCES OF THE CONFLICT

- River Nile is shared by 11 riparian countries.
- Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia being among them all depends on the river for their social economic activities.
- Approximately 95% of water sources in Egypt is from the river.
- Social economical activities relating to water uses from the river has created a huge tension between the countries.
- Ethiopia constructed a mega dam with 74 billions m3 capacity for electricity generation.
- The approximated annual volume flow of the river is 110 billions m3.
- Ethiopia proposes to fill the dam in less than 7 years while Egypt proposes more than 15 years.
- No equitable distribution of water flows between the riparian countries, which has resulted into this conflict.

SOCIAL IMPACTS

- Cultural ecosystem services including the use of the Blue Nile for recreational purposes will be negatively affected
- Provision ecosystem services including the Blue Nile as a source of fish for Egypt and Sudan will be negatively affected
- Water as a provision ecosystem service for Egypt and Sudan will diminish significantly
- The Grand Renaissance Dam will help grow the economies of Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan through reliable power generation
- The Grand Renaissance Dam will expand the economies of rural communities in all three countries
- Displacement of human populations

POLITICAL IMPACTS

- Lack of water may drive the countries into riots and chaos
- Strain in diplomatic relations between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan possibly resulting in a war

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Increasing probability of a seismic events
- Negative impacts on local fish populations
- Downstream sediment erosion
- Disappearance of archaeological and historical sites
- Riparian habitat fragmentation and habitat loss
- Flooding and the destruction of surrounding habitats and ecosystems

SOLUTIONS TO THE CONFLICT

- **Adherence to the Principle of Cooperation** by Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan based on their water needs is key to averting a full blown water-related conflict
- **Principle of Development, Regional Integration, and Sustainability** will ensure peaceful coexistence between Ethiopia and her neighbours Egypt and Sudan given that the Blue Nile will be generating clean and sustainable energy which will inure to the economic growth of all three countries
- **Principle of Not Causing Significant Harm** is important if Egypt and Sudan are to be assured that in the absence of an agreement, harm will be alleviated and if need be appropriate compensation will be paid
- **Principle of Impartial and Suitable Use** will ensure that Ethiopia protect and preserve the Blue Nile being mindful of the socioeconomic needs of Egypt and Sudan with reference to usage of the Blue Nile
- **Principle of Cooperation in the First Filling and Management of the Dam** will avert a water conflict between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan through the implementation of the International Experts Committee's recommendations on the initial filling and rules and guidelines on the annual operation of the Grand Renaissance Dam
- **Principle of Trust Building** is key for an amicable resolution of any conflict that may emanate from Ethiopia's sale and Egypt as well as Sudan's purchase of power generated from the Grand Renaissance Dam
- **Principle of Peaceful Settlement of Conflicts and Principle of Dam Safety** will ensure transparency and drastically ease tensions with reference to safety of Egypt and Sudan during the operation of the Grand Renaissance Dam
- **Principle of Sovereignty and Unity of the State's Region** will ensure that Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan exhibit good intentions on the basis of "equal sovereignty, unity of the state's region and mutual benefit settling all conflicts by consensus through consultations and negotiations
- **Principle of Peaceful Settlement of Conflicts** is of high relevance in ensuring a conflict free Nile basin with an overall lasting peace between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan

CONCLUSION

- If a potential water conflict between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan is to be averted, all three Nile basin countries should respect the 10 principles of "The Declaration of Principles on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam" which encompasses dispute-resolution through peaceful coexistence.
- The riparian countries must agree on procedure to share the available water supply
- Downstream countries can claim their share of water by helping Ethiopia with financial aids and other technical services to climb the ladder of poverty
- Solution to this conflict without the cooperation and trust with each other is impossible
- There should be some arrangement to respond to water supply during less rain crisis
- Transboundary water conflicts may be exacerbated as population increases if effective cooperation are not improved.

WORLD MAP OF WATER CONFLICTS



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