



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

THE GERD: HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT, EFFORTS AT TRIPARTITE COLLABORATION, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WIN-WIN BENEFITS FOR EASTERN NILE RIPARIAN STATES;

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THE GERD: HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT, EFFORTS AT TRIPARTITE COLLABORATION, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WIN-WIN BENEFITS FOR EASTERN NILE RIPARIAN STATES;



- HISTORY
- TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR WIN-WIN BENEFITS FOR EASTERN RIPARIAN STATES



HISTORY

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ቀስ፡ ታሪክ፡ ልብ፡ ያለው፡ ሰው፡ ሲሆን፡ ግርማዊ፡ ንጉሠ፡ ነገሥት፡ ቀዳማዊ፡ ኃይለ፡ ሥላሴ፡ የጻፏቸው፡ ዓመት፡ የዘመነቱ፡ በዓላቸው፡ በተከበረበት፡ ጥቅምት፡ ፳፫፡ ቀን፡ በ፪፻፸፯፡ ተገኝተው፡ ባደረጉት፡ የዙፋን፡ ንግግር፡ «...» የዓባይ፡ ውሀ፡ እሁኑ፡ ለአለውና፡ ለመጨረግ፡ ትውልድ፡ ሕይወታዊ፡ የሆነ፡ እስፌን፡ገንት፡ የያዘ፡ ጉዳይ፡ ነው ።

ስለዚህ፡ ዛሬም፡ ሆነ፡ ወደፊት፡ የዚህ፡ የተፈጥሮ፡ ሀብትዋ፡ መጀመሪያ፡ ተጠቃሚ፡ መሆንዋ፡ መታረቅ፡ አለበት፤ ...» ሲሉ፡ በተናገሩት፡ መሠረት፡ በጎጃም፡ ጠቅላይ፡ ዛግት፡ በባሕር፡ ዳር፡ እውራጃ፡ በጢስ፡ አባይ፡ ዳር፡ ግንቦት፡ ፯፡ ቀን፡ ፲፱፻፶፩፡ ዓ፡ ም፡ በተቀዳሚ፡ የመሠረቱት፡ የሐይድሮ፡ ኤሌክትሪክ፡ ሕንፃ፡ በታላቁ፡ ዓባይ፡ ላይ፡ ወደፊት፡ ለሚሠራው፡ ለታላቁ፡ ግድብ፡ በዚህ፡ በመሆኑ፡ ይህ፡ የልማት፡ መሠረት፡ መላ፡ እኩየጽያውያንን፡ ከላብ፡ የሚያስደስት፡ ታላቅ፡ የምሥራች፡ መሆኑ፡ የታወቀ፡ ነው ።

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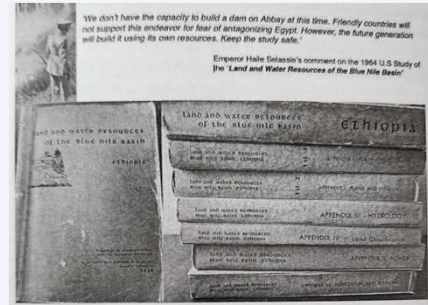


Figure 78: Quote from Emperor Haile Selassie's 'Forward' in "Land and Water Resources of the Blue Nile Basin" study. (Prepared by the Department of State Agency for International Development, United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 1964)



1. May 1959 laying the corner stone for the hydroelectric project at the Abbay falls it was noted that, “ This is a precursor to the **future grand dam** on the great Abbay river/Blue Nile”
2. In his speech to parliament in the same year HIM said “ The Abbay river has an existential value to the present and future generations of Ethiopians
3. At the occasion of the conclusion of the USBR Blue Nile study, HIM said, “ We do not have the capacity to build a dam on the Abbay at this time. **Friendly countries will not support this endeavor for fear of antagonizing Egypt. However the future generation will build it using its own resources.** Keep the study safe.”

History

- In 1964 the USBR identified some 33 projects in the Blue Nile, one of which was the Border Dam,
- A master plan study of the Blue Nile by a French consultant, **BCEOM in 1998** confirmed the Border dam as a priority project.
- The USBR identified Border Dam was 84.5meters high, with a full supply level of 575meters with gross storage of 11BCM with installed capacity of 1400 MW and generation output of 6200 Gwhr per year.
- The three countries of Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan under the ENSAP conducted a prefeasibility study of the Border Dam with 90 meter height and full supply level of 580 masl with a gross storage volume of 14.5 BCM and with installed capacity of 1200MW and energy output of 6011GWhr per year.
- However, because of the delay in its implementation, Ethiopia eventually decided to build the dam as a national project.
- In 2008 Salini , an Italian company (now named “webuild”) and studio pietrangeli, submitted a proposal, at the time called Project X with a capacity of 5150MW, which at a later stage assumed the names of Project 5000, Millennium dam and now the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project.
- In April 2011 Ethiopia officially announced the commencement of construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile.



GERDP LAYOUT: construction begun in December 2010 –Reservoir

74 BCM; Capacity **5,150 MW** Generates **15,760 GWh/year**



Main Dam - RCC gravity dam
Height - 145m
Crest length - 1 780 m
Crest elev. - 645 masl
Volume RCC- 10.7 Mm³

Gravity, RCC;
height=170m/145m from datum



GERD Status



- Overall progress 92%
- Electromechanical 70%
- Hydraulic steel structures 78%
- Civil Works 98%



**Transmission
line = 100%**



THE TRILATERAL NEGOTIATING PARTIES



	Ethiopia the Dam Owner 86% of the Nile flow originates 2/3 of Ethiopia's WR is in the Nile basin	Egypt	Sudan
Population, million	120	110	46
Population with Access to electricity	<50%	100%	62%
Installed capacity (MW)	5200	59500	3500
Irrigated land in the Nile basin(million ha)	< 0.1	3.5	1.8
GDP/capita	925	3698	751
Source : various, rounded up figures			

- No water sharing agreement among the three countries
- Egypt and Sudan with bilateral agreement claiming 100% of the Nile waters. Egypt 55.5BCM ; Sudan 18.5BCM; 10BCM evaporation
- 0BCM for other riparian states

Tripartite Negotiation Process and Efforts



TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS: THE PROCESS

Phase 1: International Panel of Experts (May 2012-May 2013) Established in May 2012 and submitted its report in May 2013

Phase 2: Tripartite National Committee 2013-2016 (DOP 2015) 12 members ; 4 members from each of the three countries established by water affairs ministers

Phase 3- Nine ministers party and national scientific research group (2017-2018) Submission of filling and operation plan by Ethiopia [2017]

Establishment of NISRG [15 members 5 from each of the three countries]

Submission of study results to water affairs ministers in September 2018

Phase 4: Third Party Involvement (Nov. 2019-Feb. 2020)-facilitation by the US and the World Bank

Phase 5: COVID 19 -virtual trilateral negotiations (June 9-17)

Phase 6: Egypt and Sudan appealed to UNSC (on two occasions)

Phase 7: Africa Union Involvement (July 3. 2021 –January, 2021(SA)



IPOE and Joint Review of GERD Design documents

A fundamental and a game changer measure

1. Ethiopia invited the two downstream countries to establish an International Panel of Experts to review the study and design documents.
3. The Panel examined more than 150 design and study documents on the GERD provided by Ethiopia and submitted its final report on 31 May 2013 to the water affairs ministers.
4. This measure demonstrated the value of transparent information sharing.
5. The measure also contributed to **build trust and confidence** among all parties.



2. The Panel was composed of **two experts from each of the three countries** and four international experts (from **Germany, South Africa, France and Britain**).

Establishing the Tripartite National Committee (TNC)

- **The Tripartite National Committee (TNC)** composed of 12 experts; four from each of the three countries, was established in August 2014.
- The TNC was tasked to guide and follow up the conduct of the two IPoE recommended studies. Since its establishment, over 20 TNC and/or ministerial meetings were held on rotation basis in Addis Ababa, Cairo, and Khartoum. Signed an agreement with an international consultant to carry out Water Resources / Hydropower System Simulation Model and Transboundary Environmental and Socio-economic Impact Assessment.
- Succeeded to conclude an agreement on the **Declaration of Principles (DOP) in March 2015**
- **THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GROUP (NISRG)** composed of five scientists from Egypt, the Sudan, and Ethiopia was established effective 15 May 2018 and submitted its report to the Ministers of Water Affairs of the three countries on 25 September 2018.
- **Succeeded in coming up with a consensus GERD filling schedule.**



Ethiopia has promoted cooperation and dialogue by:

- Agreeing to establish trilateral mechanisms to facilitate consultations and negotiations (IPOE,TNC,NISRG...) and transparently shared study and design documents with Egypt and Sudan;
- Willingness to exchange data reciprocally, cascade dams coordination, environmental flow implementation;
- Accepting to engage in consultations and negotiations with the facilitation of the AU, US, and other informal consultations;
- Willingness to negotiate and sign trilateral agreements as demonstrated by the DOP
- Implementing technical measures such as stage based construction and stage based filling, dam safety measures, dam configuration that ensure downstream water releases.

These measures have contributed to keep the dialogue alive among the three countries of Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan and avoided the transboundary relationship from deteriorating or avoided the “conflict intensity from increasing”



Opportunities for win-win benefits for Eastern riparian states



- The GERD is a hydroelectric dam, which Ethiopia – within its legitimate rights – is building on the Blue Nile/Abay by its own resources.
- Throughout the GERD negotiations, Ethiopia demonstrated its commitment to foster cooperation and achieve a win-win outcome.
- Ethiopia believes that negotiations on the Nile must ensure the rights of the current and future generations of Ethiopians to utilize their water resources.
- Sustainable peace, stability and economic integration in the Nile basin is dependent on the establishment of a fair, balanced, and equitable framework for the utilization of transboundary water resources.
- Ethiopia has the right to use its water resources on the basis of equitable and reasonable utilization and not causing significant harm
- The guidelines and rules on the first filling and annual operation should not be mixed up with water sharing/allocation
- Development upstream of GERD should not be compromised and the operational flexibility of GERD needs to be respected.

Opportunities for win-win benefits for Eastern riparian states



Thus for a win-win benefit for the Eastern Nile countries, specifically for Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan that are currently engaged in the GERD negotiations,

- The three countries need to continue the tripartite negotiation on the guidelines and rules on the first filling and annual operation of the GERD in a spirit of good faith and compromise to reach a mutually beneficial agreement, under the auspices of the AU.
- The 3 countries need to focus on addressing the impending current and future water scarcity in the region, and investing their time and energy on trust building and rule based management of the Nile waters
- The two d/s countries need to abandon their insistence to preserve the self-claimed “historic rights and current use” and desist from unnecessarily politicizing and internationalizing the remaining technical negotiations; and
- Sign and ratify the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), in order to forge a genuine cooperation for equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile waters for the common benefits of all the basin countries.



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**THANK
YOU!**

