

# The Nile Basin Project: Identifying Surface and Groundwater Interactions



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency



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The Nile Basin Project is a joint activity by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which aims to fill an information gap about the role of groundwater and its contribution to water balances in lakes, rivers and wetlands in the Nile Basin. The project also aims to provide the scientific basis and necessary institutional and policy support for incorporating a groundwater dimension into the management of water resources for the sustainable development of the Nile basin.

By **enhancing national and regional capacity**, the project will ensure a common understanding of groundwater issues and analysis among the Nile Basin countries. Nine countries (Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) are participating in the project.

Completed project activities include **improving the assessment of ground water-surface water interactions** by the inclusion of hydrologic data generated through the project, and completing a water balance model for the Nile Basin. At the moment, current project efforts are contributing to the finalization of a groundwater report for the Nile Basin.

Overall, the project will **strengthen protection of the rivers and lakes in the Nile basin**. Information on the role of groundwater in the Nile Basin wetlands – and of the Sudd Swamps in the regional water cycle – will be enhanced. The use of water balance models in estimating basin-wide annual and monthly water balances in the Nile basin will be improved, providing a further input to water planning and management in the region. A final Regional Groundwater Report will be used to help the nine participating countries develop a framework for the management of groundwater resources in their country.

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