

# THE NILE FORUM SEED CAMP REPORT

## Context & Background

The Nile basin is one of the richest river basins in terms of history and heritage, it is also one of the most conflicted river basins over trans-boundary water problems. All conflicting issues are addressed from a political perspective.

Therefore, solutions are never implemented in a sustainable manner because of deeper social, cultural and identity related issues that are not featured in the political conversations. These forgotten perspectives are deeply rooted within each nation psyche and require dialogue and connection in a way that enables integration and synergy of these different - sometimes diverging-perspectives. Without the understanding of these deeply rooted elements, it is impossible to reach any sustainable integration between the riparian countries. These conversations are never prioritized politically. Hence the need for or civil society engagement in addressing such issues. National CS are in many cases inhibited by some regulations, lack of infrastructure and most importantly lack of medium/ platform to connect with other national CS networks and organizations. Unfortunately, there is also no space or platform -outside the formal governmental organizations- that allows these conversations to emerge on the social level.

This was the driver to establish the Nile Forum as a platform that focuses on interconnection enhancing areas of collaboration away from conflicting political issues.



## **The Seed for the Nile Forum**

The main intention of the seed camp is to set the foundation for the Nile Forum. This is where 30 participants met, representing NGOs, networks, academia, research institutions, grass root workers, activists and other Civil Society Organizations interested in trans-boundary collaboration in the region.

The Seed Camp took place in Aswan Egypt from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2016.

### **The invitation and participants selection**

In order to establish a platform of trans-boundary nature for societal multipliers in the region, a calling for the idea was made in form of invitation on this website <http://www.nileforum.org/>

The invitation was communicated to two target groups:

- Organizations and individuals known to the organizers interested in the call.
- Organizations and spaces who could potentially be interested in the call.

Each interested person wrote an application form (Annex 1) that was the basis of assessing their participation.

The following criteria were identified for the selection of 'multipliers' who can contribute actively in the establishment of the Nile Forum:

- Ability to relate to diverse individuals and effectively interact in a multi-cultural setting.
- Effective outreach and network in the civil society and grass root communities in own country or more countries in the Nile basin.
- Track record of work and impact in civil society, academia or in any other sector.
- Deep understanding of their own societies needs and issues.
- Good access to online communication facilities.
- Ability to transfer knowledge beyond the group of participants in the Seed Camp.
- Willingness to be connected and contribute to the Nile Forum actively after the Seed Camp.
- Knowledge of several languages spoke in the basin is an asset.
- Knowledge and experience of trans-boundary issues in the Nile Basin is an asset.

The selection took in consideration to a team with diverse backgrounds, gender balanced and representative of most countries in the Nile Basin.

The selection process was conducted by reviewing the 68 applications received. Each application had its answers assessed against the above criteria for each individual applicant. This was done by the organizers and the facilitators. At the end a holistic look to the group was done to see the diversity and representation within the group. The result of the process was the following list of participants. Annex 2 has the bios of all participants.

The below list did not include the representation from partners; the Swiss Development Cooperation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Egypt. Passent Moussa and Tarek Kotb represented the two entities respectively in the Seed camp.

Country	Participant	Brief
Congo DR	Andre Zigabe	Permaculturalist from Eastern Congo Kivu region
Egypt	Lama El Hatow	Phd cand. Climate Chang impact on water resources
Egypt	Mai Shalaby	Permaculturalist
Egypt	Abeer Rabie	Phd cand. African studies - teaches in Cairo university
Egypt	Ahmed Younes	Phd cand. Renewable Energy, Master thesis - GERD regional impact
Egypt	Eman Sayed El Ahl	Master in international security in Addis Ababa Univ.
Egypt	Mirette Bahgat	Award winner story teller
Egypt	Mina Girgis	Co-founder and CEO of the Nile Project
Egypt	Mohamed El Mongy	Co-founder of Misriyati for conflict resolution
Egypt	Mo'men Zaki	Co-founder of Misriyati for conflict resolution
Egypt	Nermine Mounir	Co-founder of Misriyati for conflict resolution
Egypt	Yousra Mounir	Founder of Amaken traveling experiences
Egypt	Doaa Mohamed	Local from Heisa island
Egypt	Abouda El Betity	Founder of Fekra cultural center Aswan
Ethiopia	Abraham Wate	Ethiopian MoFA, Master in energy - Thesis on GERD
Ethiopia	Filimon Gebremehdin	Terra Nova Ethiopia founder & GEN-Africa member
Ethiopia	Firehiwot Bahiru	Phd. cand. in GERD Addis University
Ethiopia	Melat Kebade	Terra Nova
Ethiopia	Fasil Bogale	Board member of GAIA education
Ethiopia	Nahom Haile	Peace revolution Ethiopia & initiatives of change
Kenya	Dennis Siroh	Founder and manager of Permaculture Research Institute Kenya
Sudan	Dalia Haj Omar	Political and Human Rights activist. Girifna movement
Sudan	Omnia Shawkat	Founder of Andariya online platform
Sudan	Mohamed Altoum	Photographer and Film maker
South Sudan	Deng Aling	Journalist & writer
Uganda	Moses Kyamakya	Founder of RAHA for development
Uganda	Sarah Waiswa	Photographer and Film maker
Tanzania	Ndugu Mugyabosu	Permaculturalist & land cultivator
The Gambia	Geri Mitchell	Founder and manager of Sandele Eco retreat
The Gambia	Simon Gibba	Founder & director of Kartong Ecovillage Network
Zimbabwe	Silas Lusias	Art of Hosting facilitator
Denmark	Lea Lybecker	Ambassador For Dialogue, founder of DIALOGEKE
Germany	Josephine Parkner	Project Peace, social work Univ. of Makerere Uganda
Greece	Maria Scordialos	Founder of Living Wholeness Institute, AoH facilitator
Hungary	Kata Molner	Global Waters
Switzerland	Luea Ritter	Constellation facilitator
Switzerland	Tanja Mirabile	Founder & Manager of Institute for Conflict Resolution & Peace
USA	Jennifer Veilleux	Phd, Professor in Colorado University - Nile basin cooperation

## Overall Purpose & Objectives of the Seed Camp

There are four intentions we are holding for this gathering;

- Vision for a Nile Basin Regional Identity (Objective 1)
- Platform for Civil Society in the Region (Objective 2)
- Innovation areas we will engage in (Objective 2 & 3)
- Mandate to a Core group to take it forward (Objective 2 & 3)

<p><b>Objective 1: To identify the readiness and preparedness for regional collaboration among locally oriented civil society interested in Nile issues.</b></p>	<p>Fully achieved: Day 4 of the agenda was the time when this question was asked openly. After going through a deep reflection the conclusion was that there is a need and readiness to establish such a platform.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> The underlying cooperation opportunities and inhibitors are laid down.</p>	<p>Fully achieved: Annex 3 is a record harvest of the seed camp and it includes records on inhibitors (page 16 &amp; 17) and opportunities of contributions (page 31 &amp; 32)</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Participants are clear on their role as 'multipliers' to enhance cooperation opportunities and address inhibitors.</p>	<p>Fully achieved: Annex 3 is a record harvest of the seed camp and it includes the different cooperation opportunities and the roles that multipliers can do to implement activities in the Forum to capture these opportunities (Page 31 to 35 + Annexes)</p>
<p><b>Output 1:</b> A map of key cooperation opportunities in the Nile Basin.</p>	<p>Mostly achieved: Based on the seed camp it was clear that this is not an output but an ongoing task as what has been mapped in terms of opportunities highlighted by the group cannot be generalized to be all what is being done in the region. There are other activities and projects we do not know of and the role of the Nile Forum as a platform is to search for these opportunities and bring them to light.</p>
<p><b>Output 2:</b> A map of inhibitors of cooperation in the Nile Basin and how to deal with them from a civil society perspective.</p>	<p>Fully achieved: Annex 3 page 16 &amp; 17.</p>

<p><b>Objective 2: To establish a physical and virtual space for interaction between change-makers interested in enhancing positive relationship in the basin.</b></p>	<p>Fully achieved: The platform is established in terms of overall framework. IT is yet to be officially (legally) created. Check the recommendations and next steps in this document.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> The Nile Forum civil society platform is created with clearly defined vision, values, mandate,</p>	<p>Fully achieved: Check the section of the Nile Forum in this document. Also, check the recommendations section below in this document.</p>

roles & responsibilities, presence (Online and offline) and form (NGO or loose Network or any other form of an entity).	
<b>Output 1:</b> A founding document of the Nile Forum with its strategic intent.	Mostly achieved: The founding document is being completed. See recommendation section.
<b>Output 2:</b> A clear process mapped out to follow through the establishment of the 'Nile Forum' platform.	Fully achieved: A generic framework for the way forward has been laid out. Check recommendation document. Each pillar identified key next steps (check annexes of Annex 3)
<b>Output 3:</b> A core team from different countries in the region mandated to take this process further.	Fully achieved: Currently the facilitators of the seed camp are the core team. They will transition to a core team in the coming 6 months. A number of participants indicated they are interested to be in the core team, check Annex 3 Page 34.
<b>Output 4:</b> Documented activities and timeline of the Nile Forum planned for 2016.	Partly achieved: Documented activities in Annex 3 (annexes). The timeline is being reviewed and finalized during the coming 6 to 8 months.

<b>Objective: To exchange learning experiences on 'collaboration models' among regionally oriented civil society in the basin.</b>	Partly achieved: Learning experiences have been exchanged. Collaboration models have been presented but there is none within the region except the Nile Project.. All collaboration examples are bilateral (e.g. Andariya between Sudan and South Sudan)
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Participants experience a mind-set shift from locally focused to regional orientation.	Fully achieved: There has been a unanimous agreement on the need for a regional focus. The video documented this.
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Participants are exposed to new conceptual models for collaboration.	Fully achieved: Models for collaboration have been presented in the open space.
<b>Outcome 3:</b> Participants apply those models in practice to prototype collaboration in the basin addressing the identified opportunities and challenges.	Not achieved: This is yet to be traced.
<b>Output 1:</b> 30 trained civil society representatives from all over the region in dialogue facilitation using the 'Art of Hosting' methodology for collaboration.	Not achieved: Participants went through the process that used the Art of Hosting but there has not been enough time to train them to use it. IT is extremely necessary and recommended for this to be the next step as per the recommendations in this document.

<p><b>Output 2:</b> At least 5 documented prototypes of regional collaboration among civil society that can be modelled.</p>	<p>Not achieved: There were five areas of collaboration but not five models of collaboration.</p>
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## Approach and Process of the Seed Camp

The Art of Hosting is an approach to leadership that scales up from the personal to the systemic using personal practice, dialogue, facilitation and the co-creation of innovation to address complex challenges.

The Art of Hosting is a highly effective way of harnessing the collective wisdom and self-organizing capacity of groups of any size. Based on the assumption that people give their energy and lend their resources to what matters most to them – in work as in life – the Art of Hosting blends a suite of powerful conversational processes to invite people to step in and take charge of the challenges facing them.

Groups and organizations using the Art of Hosting as a working practice report better decision-making, more efficient and effective capacity building and greater ability to quickly respond to opportunity, challenge and change. People who experience the Art of Hosting typically say that they walk away feeling more empowered and able to help guide the meetings and conversations they are part of move towards more effective and desirable outcomes.



We call it *The Art of Hosting*, because it is an *art* to become skilful at helping ourselves and others work well together, especially in these times of increasing complexity. We talk about *hosting*, because what is offered here is not a typical facilitation or moderated session. It gives attention and care to

all aspects of people's work together, intending to host them in being successful, just as any person welcoming guests will make sure they have everything they need to make their visit fruitful.

The Art of Hosting Conversations That Matter takes into account the whole process - all the preparations before the participants come together, what happens while they are working together, and how the results of their conversation - the 'harvest' - support next steps that are coherent for their purpose and context.

The suggested process prior to the camp was the U process indicated here <http://www.nileforum.org/#!seed-camp/c10d6> , the process implemented is an alteration of the U process that also starts with presencing and is tailored to work with groups intending to form a community of practice, it is call the four fold practice.



The four fold practice works on transforming a group into a community of learners / a community of practice. This was manifested in the Seed Camp as follows:

Being present (Hosting self)

### Day 1: Arriving and Orienting

Arrival and check in

Framing the intentions and driver for the gathering

Boat trip in the Nile



### Day 2: My Relationship with the Nile

Our individual stories of the Nile; How do I related to the Nile? Sharing in triads

My personal identity?

My community work in the Nile; sharing our work and contribution (Open space)

Participate in conversation

### Day 3: Our collective Identity and readiness to connect (Is the idea of a platform relevant?)

A community of communities; Moving from the story of "I" to the story of "WE"

The rocks, what can stop us?

Ethiopian coffee ceremony



Create the conditions

### Day 4: The platform; Are we ready?

Presenting the idea of the platform

The core driving values

Questioning the platform

Gala dinner



A community of practice

### Day 5: Our collective issues

Open space on issues we can address as a community

Trip to Aswan and Isis temple and Nubian museum



### Day 6: Next steps and our contribution

The platform (Nile Forum) and the way it is organized

The activity areas

### Day 7: Closing



## **Key Findings of the Seed Camp**

### **The need for a platform**

There was a clear calling for connection on many levels. The multipliers who attended the forum clearly came because of the longing for a connection and a vessel that enables this connection.

For some participants there is a dire need to connect in order to pursue their own path in life/ career.

According to day 3 and 4 in the agenda, there was readiness in allowing this platform to be birthed.

### **Lack of expertise in trans-boundary work**

Most/ if not all the civil society multipliers who came to the forum are working in their own country or maximum working in two countries. With the exception of the Nile Project there is no knowledge and capacity on how to work on a large regional scale in a region that presents a very high level of diversity (No common language or enabling infrastructure, and diverse cultures and ecological realities...to state examples) yet full interdependencies (Livelihood, challenges, economy, water etc..).

There was an evident gap in skills and capacity in trans-boundary collaboration.

### **Diverse motivations for connection**

Participants motivation to attend was not purely to establish a civil society network. Many participants had other intentions, which contributed to the diversity in many cases and in some cases conflicted with the intention of establishing the forum.

One example of these motivations was to network with fellow researchers to facilitate publishing and producing papers. Through the process of the Seed Camp the researchers group allowed the integration of their intention and the Nile Forum. In some other cases this integration was not always feasible.

### **Relationship to the Nile**

The people who came to the Seed Camp have diverse way of relating to the Nile. Some of these relationships are based from how their own community relate to the Nile or manifested their individual relationship and experience with the Nile. This was documented from the applications and the first two days that focused on the unity of the Nile. This is also documented in the short seed camp clip and also documented from their application.

Below is a scheme highlighting four quadrants of analogy using the Integral Ecology theory. The theory determines the relation to any subject or entity based on two axes; the Individual - Collective Access and the Interior - Exterior. The more oriented is a group/individual to quadrant 4, the more holistic is the approach in addressing the entity/subject in question.

Below are how participants saw their relationship and their communities to the Nile. In their applications with the exception of a couple of people none of the participants viewed the Nile within quadrant 4 (The systemic). The Nile Forum invites us to look at the Nile based on this quadrant to have a holistic approach to collaboration across the basin. This realization reinforces the relevance and the need for the platform.

A document is being analyzed about this now, and will assess the view of participants of the Nile before and after the forum.

<p><b>Q 1: INDIVIDUAL - INTERIOR</b></p> <p>Livelihood source Inspiration &amp; beauty Leisure &amp; tourism</p>	<p><b>Q2: INDIVIDUAL - EXTERIOR</b></p> <p>Area/field of study Academic knowledge Politicization (Water &amp; Energy politics)</p>
<p><b>Q 3: COLLECTIVE - INTERIOR</b></p> <p>Custodian of customs &amp; traditions Cultural connections National identity Pride Poetry/Music Community/Nation resources (Water, energy, economy etc...) Witness of a civilization</p>	<p><b>Q4: COLLECTIVE - EXTERIOR</b></p> <p>Community of communities Uniting Africa Ecological connection Humanness Restoring Humanity Caller of Peace Transnational/ trans-local identity Connector of civilizations &amp; cultures</p>

## Challenges

There are many challenges that faced the organization and the process of the Seed camp and there were other challenges that we are currently facing to establish the Nile Forum.

### A. Challenges in the Seed Camp:

- *Location:* Despite the beauty of the spot, there were two challenges related to the location; first is the size of the two locations where the Seed Camp was held, none of them could accommodate 40 people. The participants were located in the two locations and one group had to commute by boat every morning, this slowed down the morning start in most of the days.

This was approached positively to enable the benefit from the accommodation fees to go to two locations. It also helped fostering collaboration between the two places, which was non-existent previously.

The second challenge was the main meeting place that was exposed, which was beneficial in some days and not in others depending on the weather.

This was also approached positively, as from the Art of Hosting perspective it allowed sensing into the weather as part of the nature. It helped the group to be constantly connected to the Nile.

- *Tickets:* There were two challenges with the tickets; first the last minute changes and cancelation. The second is the cost of the ticket that was increasing by the day the more we got closer to the date. It was difficult to start booking earlier as since the approval of the project there was little time to accommodate the announcement, application and selection process.

This was overcome by seeking alternative routes and effective communication with participants for prompt confirmation. It was also made possible through the acceptance of the funders to have a budget adjustment.

- *Visa:* Visa process was smooth in general, except with a couple of cases. Although it was handled at the end, there has been a learning on how to accelerate it and do it better.

## **B. Challenges for the Nile Forum:**

- *Legal and political:* All Nile Basin countries have strong limitations and restrictions for civil society organizations. In some countries (e.g. Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia) the regulations and freedom for civil society organizations are getting more and more difficult.

The topic of Trans-boundary relationship in the Nile region is sensitive; hence establishing an entity that works on that in most of the countries raises several flags, let alone an entity with a trans-boundary nature.

This trans-boundary nature of the forum is met with restrictive regulations that go against the principles of the forum (below mentioned), for example; an entity in Egypt with co-founders from other Nile countries -and potentially co-founders from outside the region- will slow down if not restrict the foundation of the forum as an entity in Egypt.

- *Geography:* The trans-boundary nature of the forum poses a challenge in operations on daily level. This is not fully felt now and will probably not be the case in the first year or two

of the Forum but it will be an issue afterwards. This would require appropriate funding either to enable multiple travelling all through the year, and/or employment of several people from across the basin within a single office in a chosen country.

- *The approach:* The principles of the 'Art of Hosting' is strongly embedded in a very unique worldview stemming from the assumption of a 'New Story' to be created for humanity and a new way of doing things that is challenging existing paradigms of development, politics, relationship and also organizational behaviour.

The principles of the Art of Hosting works very much on emergence, as opposed to fixed pre-determined outcomes, this was challenging during the Seed Camp and prior to the Seed Camp, as the first question that comes to mind from any entity or individual is 'What is the outcome?' or 'Result?'. It is very unsettling to operate from an approach of 'wait and see what emerges' when the paradigm that we have been raised to praise and operate with is 'what is the end in mind'.

The other principle of the Art of Hosting is giving weight to 'chaos' as much as 'order', which is counter-intuitive if we work in business or in mainstream development. The Art of Hosting acknowledges that Chaos is not an unhealthy state -as in the popular connotation- but is a natural state of being for any person, organization or experience and there is a need to embrace Chaos rather than jumping to fix it to make it orderly. The wisdom in embracing Chaos lies in allowing creativity and freedom to manifest. The dance between the wisdom of Chaos and the wisdom of Order, is called the 'Chaordic Path' and it is where the Art of Hosting approach tries to embrace through 'Chaordic confidence'. This state is sitting between the Knowledge and the Unknown, which was also very tiring and unsettling for participants and organizers. Currently the Nile Forum is in this state and there is a strong frustrated call to quickly get into order, projects and structure. However, the core team sees the wisdom in nailing down the principles and the understanding of the Art of Hosting principles before moving into ordering things.

The approach of the Nile Forum works on connections; as a consequence the Forum will not take a project oriented approach but rather activities oriented approach. Projects are time bounded and outcomes oriented, and activities

are open ended and sequential -sometimes regular-. This is also challenging to grasp for the time being.

- *Commitment*: Civil Society multipliers are by definition busy with their own work and have very little time to devote elsewhere. It was easy to get them to the Seed camp and to collectively birth the Nile Forum but it is extremely challenging to make them commit to the establishment of the Forum that requires a lot of effort, time and follow-up.

The other aspect of commitment, is the holistic orientation of the people's dedication. Many people are excited to commit to a project or an activity but it is more difficult to commit to cultivate a platform or commit to the idea of connection.

- *Funding*: There are many entities interested in the idea and the funding (check the opportunities section), however, the commitment is to projects, programs or pre-determined outcomes. It is also difficult to argue the need to nurture the process of establishment without any orientation to a certain fixed output/ or outcome, despite the fact that this phase is the most challenging and the bottle neck to create the Nile Forum.

## The NILE FORUM - The platform for societal multipliers

### The NILE FORUM

#### What is the Nile Forum?

A PLATFORM/HUB/FORUM for societal multipliers across the Nile Basin. Specifically these words indicate anything that brings us together. They are offered as a starting point so that we can begin to come together and further define what it is we want to do together across the Nile Basin.

#### The driver:

Fostering Connections among Nile Basin citizens (& internationals) who identify themselves & their work with the Nile beyond a single country.

#### Vision of the Nile Forum:

A culture of peace (Peaceful co-existence) in the Nile Basin

#### Mission:

To enable the diversity within the Nile Basin to be celebrated through meaningful connection and dialogue.

#### Role of the platform:

- Capacity building for societal multipliers on a trans-local level.
- Creating spaces for meaningful exchange and learning.
- Incubating initiatives of trans-local nature.
- Research trans-boundary Nile issues
- Advocacy and lobbying for collaboration on a transnational and trans-local levels.
- Connecting grassroots communities across the basin.

#### Activities pillars (Check their specific section below)

1. Nile Forum Internal Community building.
2. Fostering Nile Identity
3. Healing and Dialogue
4. Research:
5. Ecological Practices in communities
6. Social entrepreneurship:

#### Principles:

**The Longest Kiss** - (This part needs to be elaborated further).

“The Longest Kiss” is the metaphor that captures this and us mimicking the Nile and walking together for as long as it takes until we become more than what we are alone.

- *Celebrating Diversity*: As the Nile cuts across many cultures and ecosystems. The Nile Forum is a manifestation of this diversity.
- *Demonstrating Neutrality*: The Forum is neutral and does not have an inclination towards any orientation or opinion but allows all views to be expressed through meaningful dialogue.
- *Manifesting Independence*: The Forum maintains its independence, hence it does not belong to an individual entity, a single country or one project.
- *Trans-locality Nature*: The Forum works on trans-boundary level and trans-local level rather than in a single country.
- *Collaboration*: The premises of the Nile Forum work is trans-local / national collaboration.

## Organising Pattern - Community, Multipliers, Activity Areas, Core (hosting cross cutting support)



## Activity Pillars

There are 6 activity pillars that were identified during the Seed Camp for the Nile Forum to work on. Each of these pillars is explained in this section with the concrete activities that were identified.

The discussion process of these pillars is captured in the Record Harvest document, Annex 3. The concrete activities identified are assessed based on a few criteria:

- Number of participants interested in the activity.
- Readiness to start: Immediate - or the approximate future date.
- Political influencing: Low - Medium or High
- Multiple countries involved; the number
- Regularity: Yearly, ongoing, once, need basis etc...
- Scalability: Low - Medium or High
- Organizational complexity: Low - Medium or High
- Estimate budget, if available
- Estimated duration in days, weeks or months

## 1. Nile Forum Internal Community Building

The Nile Forum needs to be built as a community of practice as highlighted in the 4 fold practice above mentioned. This requires continuous nurturing. The following activities have been identified.

N.B. The discussion on this pillar has been confusing at the start as some participants identified 'community building' as the internal community we built at the seed camp, and some others identified it as the communities of the Nile be it rural or urban. Hence, we separated the two and the second interpretation was merged with pillar 5 on Ecological practices.

### Art of Hosting Training

This is a training for all the activity pillars leaders and the core team on the use of the 'Art of Hosting' as an operating system and methodology within the Nile Forum. This is an essential starting point so that the community building is effective and to ensure adequate coordination of the whole platform. This has been identified as the immediate next step for the whole group to move forward. Check the recommendations section

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
All	Immediate	Medium	All	Need basis	Very high	Low	60K	12 days

### Online Nile Forum Platform

This is an online manifestation of the forum, with spaces for dialogue/chat, sharing news and information as well as to create an online community among Nile basin citizens to present the different narratives and opinions.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
12	Immediate	Low	All	Ongoing	Low	Medium	Not done	Ongoing

## 2. Fostering Nile Identity

The intention of this pillar is to help Nile Basin citizens to be more connected to the Nile, hence identify more with it on a trans-local level, from a collaborative/ Exterior quadrant above mentioned in the Integral Ecology theory. The assumption is that as a consequence those people will identify more with each other across the basin.

### Nile stories book

Capturing the stories that connect communities to identify with the Nile and seeing the similarities of the stories embedded in the riparian countries cultures. The stories will be documented with pictures from diverse communities across the basin.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
6	2017	Medium	5 to 6	Once	Medium	High	Not done	12 to 18 months

### Nile board game

This activity will create a board game that highlights the diversity within the Nile basin for educational purposes mainly for teen agers and youth in the Nile basin.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
3	2017/2018	Medium	All	Once	Medium	Very high	Not done	18 to 24 months

### Nile Identity movie

Creating a movie that highlights the similarities of life patterns mainly in rural communities across the basin, and how they relate to the Nile to open eyes for negotiators, politicians, academics as well citizens on the strong connections that exist within the Nile basin that is still unrecognized and unacknowledged. It could also potentially have practical messages of the needs of those communities so that politicians and negotiators are conscious of those needs.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
8 to 9	2017	Very high	4 to 7	Once	High	Very high	Not done	18 to 24 months

## 3. Healing and Dialogue

The need for dialogue within the region has been strongly spelled as an urgent need. Linked to the ability to hold dialogue is the healing from past traumas and reconciliation.

### Nile Basin Jam

The idea of this activity is to gather interested people to get together in a conducive place for healing traumas. This is ideal for people working on mainstream Nile Basin issues, individuals and communities affected by infrastructure projects, refugees, environmental activists etc... The JAM process has been used since 12 years in different parts of the world where there are traumas, e.g between Palestinians & Israelis, Pakistanis & Indians etc...It has been proven very effective in creating a community (JAMILY) of individuals willing to go beyond their traumas and collaborate. There is an interest from the YES WORLD <http://www.yesworld.org/> , the entity that organizes the JAM workshops in creating a Nile Basin Jam.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
5	Immediate	Low	All	Yearly	High	Low	30K	8 days

### Nile Water Dialogue / Nile Dialogue Ambassadors

Following the model of Ambassador For Dialogue and using the approach of creating regional water dialogues that waterlution is doing, those two entities are very keen to initiate regular Nile Water dialogue workshops, where



participants learn alternative approach to transcending water conflicts into water cooperation.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. Complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
5	2017	High	5 to 6	Yearly	High	Low	50 to 60K	10 days yearly or more

#### 4. Academic Research Platform

As there is no research platform focused on the Nile Basin from within the Nile Basin countries. Also the difficulty to conduct research collaboratively among the academics from different countries in the basin created this pillar. Based on the online platform, the idea is to facilitate co-publishing and dissemination of academic and action research across the region. This pillar is an activity by itself.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
8 to 10	Immediate	High	All	Ongoing	High	Medium	Not done	Ongoing

#### 5. Ecological practices in communities

This pillar required more time to work on. The members of the group felt the need to have regular meetings to crystallize the intent of this pillar more. For now the concrete activity presented is the EDE/ CDE and the youth exchange.

##### Ecovillage Design Education/Community Design Education

Through the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) and GAIA Education there are certified Community Design Courses addressing the Social, Ecological, Economic and Cultural elements of community building. These courses are worldwide known to be highly qualified and influential for communities that want to be more sustainable. The idea here is to have regular EDEs and CDEs for the Nile Basin countries.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
7	2017/2018	Medium	All	Every 2 years	High	Medium	Not done	6 weeks each time

##### Nile Youth Exchange Community Camps

Organization of camps ala CISV for Nile Basin Youth, the camps allow youth to work on the land, or do a community project and learn new practices they can apply at home.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
4	2017	Low	All	Yearly	Medium	Medium	Not done	2 weeks each time

## 6. Social entrepreneurship (Nile Basin projects incubation)

This pillar is a manifestation of the role of the platform as a magnifier and support to trans-boundary projects within the basin. The idea of incubation has been growing recently within the region and internationally. There are some projects linked to incubators in the basin such as Nahdet el Mahrousa, ICE Addis and ICE Cairo. These incubators work on local and national projects. The idea presented is for the Nile Forum to do the same process for Nile wide projects, encouraging people to collaborate across the Nile countries. The pillar is the activity for the time being.

Particpts interested	Readiness to start	Political influence	Multiple countries	Potential regularity	Scalability	Organiz. complexity	Est. budget (EUR/CHF)	Est. duration
6	2018/2019	Hlgh	All	Ongoing	Very High	Very High	Not done	Ongoing

### Recommended Actions

**1. Training on how to use the Art of Hosting as an operating system for the Nile Forum;** As the Art of Hosting proved to be successfully working with diversity, emergence and in complex circumstances similar to the Nile Basin, it is necessary that the core team and the activity pillars leaders are well trained and even accompanied in applying this methodology (and similar ones) to their work together. This requires a training on the 'Art of Hosting Meaningful Conversations' and an accompaniment (coaching) of the core team in their initial baby steps.

**2. Awareness of the Reality in the basin;** the people who came to the Seed Camp have very good intentions and some of them are currently working with Nile issues, however there is still a lot of knowledge lacking in understanding the reality of the Nile Basin. This would require more reading and exposure to some of the countries situations in relation to contemporary issues related to the Nile. Although this is an ongoing process, the core team needs to acquire more knowledge on the key issues in the basin because they will have to deal with this reality.

**3. Functional and operational decisions about the Nile Forum;** the readiness and the founding strategic intent of the Forum has been agreed upon. However there are many functional and operational decisions that needs to be taken; the speed of operations, the membership system (individuals or entities), criteria and duties of membership, how to expand/ if at all, the countries of operations, the partnership, the funding schemes, capturing on opportunities etc...

This process needs to be well facilitated as it will be the first test of the core team on how they work together.

**4. Transition to a new core team;** There is a number of participants who showed interest in being the core group. However there are a lot of decisions that need to be made regarding this core group like How is it structured? What are the different roles and responsibilities? How to work virtually/ or if they should work virtually? IF not virtually then what are the alternatives? How can this core group function together? How would relate to the Forum? What

would be the role of this core group in relation to the Forum; is it a cultivation unit, or a board or a steering committee?

All these questions are decisions that need to be made and it needs to follow a process that is enabling diversity and allowing the different world views to synergize. Baring in mind that there is a strong lack of capacity in working across the trans-boundary nature of the region, it would require a gathering specifically dedicated to making such decisions by the core team. Especially that some of these questions would require previous discussion about the Nile Forum.

#### **5. Priority actions in each activity Area;**

A similar process of decision making needs to happen for each activity area to identify priorities and key actions steps to implement those activities.

#### **6. Registration in Europe and Africa**

The Nile Forum as an entity now does not officially and legally exist, it needs to be legally registered. The current core team together with some of the participants of the seed camp to identify locations based on certain criteria set after the Seed Camp. The conclusion was that it is useful to register an entity in the region as well as another entity in Europe for functional practicality and to allow access to EU funding. The potential countries identified are Belgium and either Uganda or Kenya.

This process is tedious one and requires a lot of administration as well as certain decision making related to point 3, 4 and 5 above mentioned.