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Nordiska Afrikainstitutet
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Swedish University of
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Land and Hydropolitics in the Nile River Basin – Challenges and new investments

Emil Sandström, Anders Jägerskog and Terje Oestigaard

Water Politics in the Nile Basin – Emerging Land Acquisitions and the Hydropolitical Landscape

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Project participants:

Anders Jägerskog, Emil Sandström, Terje Oestigaard,
Ana Cascão and Mats Hårsmar

Also participating:

Atakilte Beyene, Kyungmee Kim, Farida Mahgoub





This research aims to investigate the water and land nexus in the Nile Basin. More precisely it seeks to understand how the current surge in land acquisitions and investments by foreign countries, sovereign wealth funds and private corporations, as well as domestic investors, will affect transboundary water interaction in the region.

Will the hydropolitical landscape in the Nile Basin be affected by investments in land for food, biofuel and cash-crops production undertaken mainly in upstream countries but also Sudan?

Will this trend impact effective cooperation and joint management of the river Nile?

What role could there be for regional bodies?

Could they be involved in the approval of land acquisitions or is this purely a concern for sovereign countries?

Edited by Emil Sandström,
Anders Jägerskog
and Terje Oestigaard

Land and Hydropolitics in the Nile River Basin

Challenges and new investments



Earthscan Studies in
Water Resource Management

Earthscan
from Routledge

Chapter 1: Chapter 1. Changing challenges: New hydro-political landscapes in the Nile Basin
Emil Sandström, Anders Jägerskog and Terje Oestigaard

Chapter 2: Dealing with water - emerging land investments and the hydro-political landscape of the Nile Basin
Emil Sandström

Chapter 3: Overseas investment in land and challenges in the Nile Basin –evident links from the Middle East and North Africa investment
Kyungmee Kim and Anders Jägerskog

Chapter 4: The Gulf States in the Political Economy of the Nile Basin: a Historical Overview
Harry Verhoeven

Chapter 5: Inward investment in Sudan – the case of Qatar
Martin Keulertz

Chapter 6: Sudan, ‘kingmaker’ in a new Nile hydro-politics: negotiating water and hydraulic infrastructure to expand large-scale irrigation
Ana Cascão and Alan Nicol

Chapter 7: Trans-boundary Water Resources & The Political Economy of Large-scale Land Investments in the Nile: Sudan, Hydro-politics, and Arab Food Security
Ramy Lotfy Hanna

Chapter 8: Dams, water and accountability in Uganda
David Ross Olanya

Chapter 9: “Lease the land, but use the water” - The case of Gambella, Ethiopia
Wondwosen Michago Seide

Chapter 10: Lake Tana – source of disputes or collaboration over the Blue Nile?
Mats Hårsmar, Emil Sandström and Atakilte Beyene

Chapter 11: Water, national identities and hydro-politics in Egypt and Ethiopia
Terje Oestigaard

NILE RIVER BASIN

- SELECTED CITIES
- ★ NATIONAL CAPITALS
- MAJOR ROADS

This map was produced by the Map Design Unit of the World Bank. The boundaries, colors, denominations and any other information shown on this map do not imply, on the part of the World Bank Group, any judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.



Preliminary results (although published book):

- **(Political implications of) no conclusions?**
- **The agricultural question and size of investments**
- **How may it affect transboundary water interaction in the region?**

(Political implications of) no conclusions?

- The premises for the future is largely shaped now?
- Complexity and lack of overview creates political space for manoeuvring and massive investments in water-infrastructures

Population in the Nile Basin Countries

Country	Population (thousands)				
	1950	2009	2015	2025	2050
Burundi	2,456	8,303	9,413	11,161	14,846
DRC	12,184	66,020	77,419	98,123	147,512
Egypt	21,514	82,999	91,778	104,970	129,533
Eritrea	1,141	5,073	6,009	7,404	10,787
Ethiopia	18,434	82,825	96,237	119,822	173,811
Kenya	6,077	39,802	46,433	57,573	85,410
Rwanda	2,162	9,998	11,743	14,676	22,082
Sudan*	9,190	42,272	47,730	56,688	75,884
Tanzania	7,650	43,739	52,109	67,394	109,450
Uganda	5,158	32,710	39,710	53,406	91,271
Total	85,966	413,741	478,581	591,217	860,586

* South Sudan became independent in 2011, but in this statistics the total future population of both Sudan and South Sudan are merged together in order to make the data compatible and comparable with the 1950 and 2009 populations.

Source: UN 2009. *World population prospects: the 2008 revision*, p. 6-10.

The agricultural question and size of investments

Target country	Intended deals (hectare)	Closed deals (hectare)	Number of closed deals	Major crops	Major investor country
Egypt	53,752	119,552	6	Rice, wheat & fodder crops	United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia
Ethiopia	2,304,446	1,237,396	69	Cotton, sugar cane, jatropha & various cereals	Saudi Arabia, India, Ethiopia, US
South Sudan	2,629,000	1,642,584	11	Various cereals & teak	US, Egypt
Sudan	2,198,842	1,297,529	19	Wheat, maize, sunflower & sugar cane	Egypt, South Korea, Qatar
Uganda	940,363	38,415	6	Wheat & sugar cane	Egypt
Total	8,126,403	4,335,476	111		

Source: Land Matrix, 2014; Deng, 2011; Bossio, 2012; Lavers 2012a, 2012b; Olanya, 2014; Lofty Hanna in chapter 7 in this volume; Wondwosen in chapter 9 this volume.

Egyptian land deals between 2008-2013 in Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.

Investor	Target country/location	Intended deals (hectare)	Closed deals (hectare)
Citadel Capital	Sudan		136,080
Citadel Capital	South Sudan		105,000
Government	Sudan	420,000	210,000
Government	Uganda	800,000	
Government	South Sudan	16,800	
Government	Ethiopia (Located outside the Nile Basin in the Afar region)		22,000
Total size		1,236,800	473,080



How may it affect transboundary water interaction in the region?

- Increased complexity
- Absence of a clear water hegemon
- Different layers of actors
- Food security
- Age of water insecurity