



Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile



Network Members

In alphabetical order



Firmina Acuba (Uganda) | serves as a Senior professional Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda. Ms Acuba has worked with the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda as Senior Sociologist since 2001, also engaged as a Gender and HIV Mainstreaming Expert. Firmina has developed and revised several Ministry of Water and Environment Gender and HIV mainstreaming policies and strategies. She is an advocate of inclusion of rights of women and vulnerable groups in water supply and management programming and a training and capacity development expert.



Florence Grace Adongo (Uganda) | is the Director, Water Resource Management, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda. She is a Principal Technical Advisory Committee member representing Uganda on the the Nile/ NEL governance and Chair of Uganda Country Water Partnership. Head of Senior Officials on water resources matters in the Lake Victoria Basin Commission East African Community. She is also the Vice/Chair for Uganda Public Service Directors, Commissioners and Under-Secretaries Forum. Ms. Adongo holds a Master's of Science Degree in Water and Environmental Resources Management, IHE-Delft, a Masters and Doctorate degree in Business Administration and Management.



Monica Nyingut Akuien (South Sudan) | is currently the Deputy for Environment Cooperation Organisation in South Sudan. She has previously served as Office Manager at the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare for two years, with a special focus as a counselor in the office of HIV/AIDS testing and counselling. Monica also spent a year as a Marketing Manager for a travelling agency. An advocate for the rights of women and girls, Monica has also founded the Greater Bhar El Ghazal education programmes, a new organization of girls education programmes in South Sudan, which supports the education of girls in Greater Bhar El Ghazal region. Monica also serves as the Director of the education programme.



Dr. Karima Attia (Egypt) | is Professor Emeritus at the Nile Research Institute and Former Director of the Water Resources Research Institute, National Water Research Institute in Egypt. Dr Attia has more than thirty years of experience in water resource management working as a team leader and member of many national and international projects with a focus on watershed management, drought early warning and forecasting, sediment transport modelling, as well as waterway navigation development. Dr Attia is one of the principal authors of the book, 'Regime of the River Nile in Egypt,' and has published more than 45 research papers in scientific journals and conferences. Dr Attia serves on numerous professional committees and advisory councils in her professional capacity and has been awarded a number of key prizes for her scientific and administrative contributions.



Yodit Balcha (Ethiopia) | is a Senior Climate Change Adaptation Advisor at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy (MoWIE), where she is responsible for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and resilience plans into the ministries sectoral strategic and development projects. Her work focuses on the nexus approach of Climate, Land (Agriculture), Energy, and Water Systems. Yodit holds M.Sc. in Sustainable Development and Agricultural Economics and B.Sc. in Natural Resource Economics and Management.



Belaynesh Birru (Ethiopia) | serves as the Director for the Environment and Climate Change Directorate at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and is a Member of National Climate Negotiation Team. Ms Birru graduated from Kharkov State University Ukraine, received MSC Degree on Geography with a specialization of rational utilization of natural resources and environmental protection. Professionally Ms Birru is a Geographer and Environmentalist. Since 2014 she served as Director for the Environment and Climate Change Directorate, three years as an Environment Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists and three years working as the Gender and Energy Directorate Director and team leader. Previously in her career she served as a geography teacher for ten years. Ms Birru serves on the board and steering committees of numerous programs and institutions.



Noella Queen Bwiza (Rwanda) | secured her Bachelor's Degree in Water and Environmental Engineering with now more than two years' experience in the field of Integrated Water Resources and Environmental management. Prior to her career as an environmentalist, she worked with the water supply and sanitation institution as a laboratory technician and water purifier. She's now the Programme Officer at the Rwanda Water Partnership with a wide range of responsibilities and tasks to face water security related challenges. Being also an active member of Young Water Professionals, Rwanda Chapter, she contributes to the development of water, environment and climate change project proposals, and they are currently implementing a pilot project named, Nature-based Flood Adaptation Measures in Informal Settlements, in partnership with UNESCO. In addition, she is the Youth and Gender Representative at UNESCO-IHP National committee where she got different opportunities to participate in national and regional conferences/workshops. Noella participated in the 3rd women in water diplomacy workshop organized and hosted by SIWI and she learnt a lot which helps her to keep fulfilling her everyday professional work. Her involvement in these trainings/workshops has led her to make presentations of the outcomes to a wide range of water sector stakeholders and enabled her able to be a trainer in conducting a training of trainers. She enjoys learning from the seniors and believes that failing to try is a failure itself; therefore she always aims higher and never gives up while growing her career.



Ambassador Nadia Gefoun (Sudan) | is the Deputy General Director of International Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sudan and Director of the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources. As part of her duties, Ambassador Gefoun has represented Sudan as a Member of the official delegation in the GERD negotiation process. She served as Sudan's Ambassador to Norway and Denmark (2011-2015), prior to that she served as Sudan's Deputy Ambassador to Sweden, Malaysia, and served as part of the delegation to the United Nations. Since 2016 Ambassador as served as a Member of the Human Rights Committee at the Arab League.



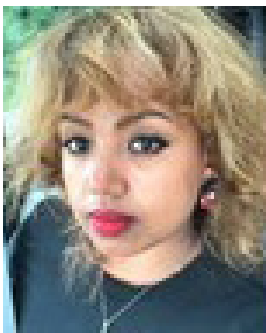
Eng. Enas Ahmed Abdelhalim Hussien (Egypt) | is a Senior Water Resources Engineer at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in Egypt. She holds a MSc. Degree (2017) from the Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Egypt. Eng. Hussien has more than 15 years of experience in different areas of profession, specialized in multinational projects coordination and monitoring and evaluation. She worked as a Member of Shared Vision Program (SVP) team in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) National Office, where she was responsible for evaluating, approving and commenting on NBI SVP projects' proposals, appraisal documents and progress reports. As part of her responsibilities she tested, validated and analyzed scenarios of development alternatives in the Nile Basin. She has organized, participated in and reported on many regional and international events (Arab Water Forum, Africa Water Week, Union of the Mediterranean, and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, etc). Further she has participated in projects preparation, monitoring and evaluation in coordination with many multinational organizations in the field of water resources. She has served as the AMCOW M&E and UN- Water Overall Focal Point (OFP), the Country AfricaSan Focal Point and has published the paper "Impacts of Climate Change on Hydropower Production in Blue Nile Sub-Basin" in Advances in Environmental Biology Journal –2016.



Margaret Irungu (Kenya) | is the Acting Deputy Director and heads the Division of Treaties and Legal Instruments within Transboundary Water Resources Department, working within the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation as a Principal Water Research Officer. She is a registered Geologist and a member of Geological Society of Kenya. She is experienced in Water resources management; environmental issues, geological survey and geological mapping. Ms Irungu is the National Liaison Officer, for the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Project shared between Kenya and Uganda and acting as a Nile Basin Initiative Desk Officer for Kenya. She has participated in Regional Steering Committee meetings for the project, representing Kenya. She has also represented the Technical Advisory Committee Member at AMCOW and has participated to IGAD meetings to represent Kenya. She was instrumental in formulation of Memorandum of Understanding between Kenya and Uganda for the management of Sio-Malaba-Malakisi catchment system which is a shared system between the two countries as well as the Steering Committee formulation of Lake Victoria Water Release and Abstraction Policy for the management of Lake Victoria basin and Transboundary Water Policy. Margaret is a graduate from the University of Nairobi with a Masters in Geology and trained in various aspects of water, to include; International Water Law, Negotiations and Hydro-Diplomacy, International Water Law in Africa, Database and Groundwater Modeling, Climate Change in Integrated Water Management, Modeling for Data Support System, Transboundary Water Management for the Lake Victoria Region, Groundwater Tracing Techniques, Regional training course on Isotope data evaluation among others, at national, regional and international.



Eng. Marwa Khattab (Egypt) | is the Deputy Director of the Establishment of a Navigational Line Between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea (VICMED) project and Senior Engineer in the Central Department of External Cooperation, Nile water sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA), Government and public sector, ESLSCA Business School 2018; Shared Water Resources Diploma, Cairo university 2004; and B.Sc Civil engineering, Ain Shams university, Egypt 2000. Eng. Khattab has twenty years' experience in water resources management in different disciplines, including as a team member in Nile Basin Initiative National Office Shared Program and Eastern Nile projects and member of the Bilateral Cooperation Department.



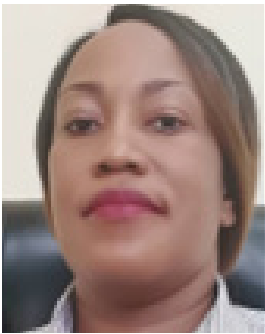
Bethelhem A. Melaku (Ethiopia) | is a government and international relations expert and currently the Public Diplomacy Officer at the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Ottawa, Canada. She is responsible for public relations, managing the social media of the Embassy, people to people relations and image building activities, public mobilization, works on sensitizing the Ethiopian diaspora and that of the international community on the Nile river as a major cooperation factor, consults, vet documents and gives counsel on legal issues as well. Ms Melaku started her carrier journey by working in multicultural environment, at the legal counsel of the African Union, where she acquired an extensive experience on the Nile River, transboundary water cooperation and the like while working at Boundary and Transboundary Resource Affairs Directorate General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. Ms Melaku is passionate on the Nile, equitable use of the Nile water, International Law and Relations and Diplomacy. She is a graduate of law from renowned Mekelle University. She is very studious, loves adventures and always in a quest to learn and try new things.



Dr. Sumia Mohamed (Sudan) | graduated from Cairo University, Egypt, Faculty of Law, holding a Master's Degree in Law on the Nile Basin Countries, and Nile Master Degree in Environmental Legislation, University of Juba, and a PhD Degree in Strategic Vision for the Settlement of Transboundary Water Disputes Nile Basin Case Study. Dr Mohamed works closely with the Technical Authority for Nile Water between Egypt and Sudan through her work at the Ministry of Irrigation and Electricity. She serves on the National Environmental Council, which has published a number of papers presented in the field of protecting the environment of the Red Sea, the green economy and other topics.



Dr. Muna Musnad (Sudan) | serves as the Water Chair, UNESCO; Nile Basin Capacity Building Network in Sudan. Dr Musnad has more than 20 years' experience as a researcher/Senior researcher as UNESCO Chair in Water Resources-Omdurman Islamic University, and more than 9 years as a consultant at KIMA consultancy. Dr Musnad has a varied background with experience in Flood Risk Mapping, Integrated Water Resources Management, MODFLOW, HEC-RAS, HEC-HMS and GIS. Her vast research includes work with Riverside Company (USA) for ENTRO-NBI and the Nile Basin Capacity Building Network-River Engineering Project (NBCBN-RE). In addition, she is a lecturer in M. Sc. Program Environmental Engineering.



Tumaini Mwamyalla (Tanzania) | is a National Desk/ Focal Officer for the Nile Basin Initiative. She has two Masters: Master of science in Community Economic Development from New Hampshire University and Masters of science in Engineering Management from University of Dar es Salaam as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Integrated Water Resources Management from SIWI. She has eighteen years of experience in transboundary water resources management, coordinating transboundary issues with different regional cooperation institutions such as AMCOW, NBI, ZAM-COM, LVBC, Lake Tanganyika Authority, Ruvuma Basin Commission and Songwe River Commission. Tumaini has participated from negotiation to ratification for the Nile Basin Comparative Agreement Framework (CFA) and has participated in preparation and implementation of Several Shared Vision Programmes under the Nile basin Initiative. Generally, she has responsibility of coordinating and supervising preparation and execution of transboundary water resources management and development plans as well as implementation of national, regional and international programmes at national level.



Prisca Nandede (Uganda) | is a Senior Sociologist with the Ministry of Water and Environment in the Republic of Uganda. She has a background in Social Sciences and a strong interest in community development. Prisca is currently involved in the implementation of a number of crosscutting (gender mainstreaming, community-based management system, HIV/AIDS mainstreaming, Self-Supply interventions, environment and social safeguards etc.) issues in the water and environment sector. She has also been involved in the development and review of a number of policies and strategies that included the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW's) Gender Strategy. She is also a member of the International Association for Community Development. Ms. Nandede is a strong believer in the strength of mentorship and coaching as she has been mentored and continues to be mentored by strong women past and present. Her main interests are: gender equality, community development, water security and religion. Ms. Nandede was born in Mbale District, Uganda. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences at Makerere University, Uganda and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Development Studies.



Nancy Ngumba (Kenya) | is a Director, Foreign Service, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya and a Deputy National Coordinator, National Coordination Mechanism in the Office of the Great Lakes region. Her responsibility entails facilitating and coordinating Kenya's interest in the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on issues of Peace, Stability, Security and Development in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. An alumnus of the University of Nairobi, Nancy Holds an MA in International Conflict Management, a BA in Gender Development and a Diploma in International Relations.



Mary Nelson Khamis Noah (South Sudan) | currently serves at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Sudan. She has extensive experience in leading humanitarian activities including organizing medical response missions and social counseling. Inclusive processes have been central to her roles, previously serving as Assistant Secretary for Women's Affairs, South Sudan.



Jacqueline Nyirakamana (Rwanda) | is a Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist in Ministry of Environment and a Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) member. She is appointed the Chair of the Nile-TAC for the years 2020-2021. She has previously worked as Representative of Rwanda in Lake Kivu and Rusizi/Ruzizi River Basin Authority (ABAKIR). Jacqueline has a Masters in Business Administration (MBA)-Strategic Management from Mount Kenya University (MKU) and a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Université Libre de Kigali (ULK). She has 18 years of experience in Transboundary Water Resources management.



Anne Silvestro Tukai Osilly (South Sudan) | is an Official in the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation Government for the Republic of South Sudan/Juba. Ms. Osilly holds a Diploma from College of Business Administration, Katuwe, Uganda (2003). She obtained certificates from various countries including a certificate in office management from Kenya School of Government, a certificate in Rural Electrification, a certificate in Small Hydro-processor and Water Resources Management from Hangzhou China, and on Entrepreneurship and Small Business in Water Supply and Sanitation Development from India, and in Organisation Need Assessment and Project Design from Japan. She is currently a senior hygiene community officer at Directorate of Rural Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation Government of Republic of South Sudan. Before her current position, she has 10 years working experience in hygiene promotion at the Ministry.



Eng. Ereen Fayez Poqtor (Egypt) | is the General Director of the Nile Museum in Aswan. From 1996 until 2010 Ms Poqtor served in various key positions in the General Administration of Water Resources and Irrigation for Aswan Governorate supervising the maintenance and development operations of the Aswan canals and infrastructure. Since 2018, she has served as the General Director of the African Cultural Center and Nile Museum in Aswan where she works to share the importance of the Nile basin for Africa and the river's diverse histories and cultures with to the public. Ms Poqtor holds a BSc of Engineering and a Postgraduate diploma in structural engineering.



Louise Sahabo (Burundi) | is currently in charge of communications within the Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture in Burundi.



Dr. Tahani Sileet (Egypt) | is currently the Head of the Central Department for External Cooperation in the Nile Water Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt. She also represents the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in many regional and international organizations as the Technical Advisory Committee Member in the African Minister Council On Water (AMCOW), the Technical and Scientific Committee Member in the League of Arab States (LAS), the Water Expert Group Member in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Director of Nile Basin Initiative National Office and the Project Management Unit Director and Regional Coordinator of “Establishment of a Navigational Line Between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea (VICMED) Project”. She is also appointed as the National Focal Point of Program Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). She holds a PhD in Shared Water Resources Management, a M.Sc. In the “Impact of Climate Change and Sea Surface Temperature on the River Nile Flood Regime”, an International Post Graduate Diploma in Shared Water Resources, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Irrigation and Drainage from Cairo University. She has several publications on many different topics related to the Shared Water Resources Management especially the Nile Basin.



Diana Umulisa (Rwanda) | works as an Advisor to the Executive Secretary at the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST). She has a wide range of experience in areas of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy and strategy advisory, inter-office coordination, management and institutional strategic planning. She has a master's degree in Water Policy/ Governance and a fellowship at IHE Delft Institute of Water Education, which exposed her to numerous trainings in the areas of Integrated Water Resources Management. Throughout her work experience, Diana's roles have revolved around stakeholder establishing and maintaining cordial inter-institutional and inter-personal relationships, social and governance practices at a national level, and effectively engaging with internal and external experts in policy development.



Theresa Khakasa Wasike (Kenya) | is currently serving as Director of Administration in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation. Theresa has 23 years experience in public administration at both the grass root and central government administration levels. She has worked in the Ministry for 12 years in various administrative positions including as a Project Steering Committee member of a Nile Basin Initiative projects on Mara river, shared by Tanzania and Kenya. Theresa is also a member of the Ministry's Water Sector Reforms team that is aligning the Ministry's mandate and functions to the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the Water Act 2016. Theresa has attended several Nile Basin conferences and meetings both at the technical and high levels with the aim of reaching amicable solutions to challenges facing the communities living in the Nile basin. Additionally she has participated in water, desertification and climate change conferences at both national, regional and international levels. Theresa also acted as a Senior rapporteur at the World Water Week 2019 in Stockholm, guiding the Junior rapporteurs. An alumni of the Ukrainian Institute of International Relations, Kiev University, she has an M.A in International Relations. Further, Theresa has training in strategic leadership and management with the objective of enhancing public service delivery in the ministries that she serves. As a member of Women in Water Diplomacy Network,(WIN), she has also enhanced her skills in negotiation, lobbying and networking.

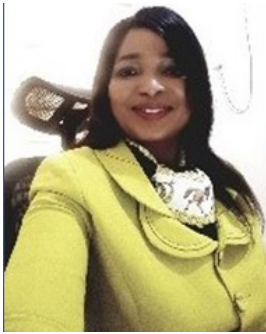


Gladys Wekesa (Kenya) | is the Director of Transboundary Water Resources in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation in Kenya. She is a holder of MSc. (Geology) and BSc. (Geology) from the University of Nairobi; and a Registered Geologist by the Geologists' Registration Board. As the Director in the Ministry, she is charged with spearheading the sustainable management and development of the transboundary water resources in Kenya through formulation of the relevant policies, strategies, protocols etc.; in collaboration with other stakeholders and riparian states. As such, she is a member of the various Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) of the regional inter-Governmental bodies, including the Nile Basin Initiative (on the Nile River Basin), The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (Mara River and Lake Jipe/Challa Basins), African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), IGAD Water Unit, and the UNEP Coordinated Project on the Sustainable Development of Lake Turkana and its River Basins; between Kenya and Ethiopia. The role of the TAC Members is to support the Ministers responsible for water affairs of the Member States in providing the overall policy direction and strategic guidance in the joint management and development of the shared water resources.

Additional Network Supporters



Zodwa Dlamini (South Africa) | is a seasoned international transboundary water management specialist, development professional, and senior infrastructure projects manager. As the former South Africa's Chief Delegate and Permanent Representative on the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC) for 11 years, she oversaw the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) and its implementation. The LHWP is a binational project between the government of the Republic South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho responsible for delivering water from the highlands of Lesotho to South Africa, and utilising the water delivery system to generate 72MW hydro-electric power for the Kingdom of Lesotho at 'Muela Hydropower Station. LHWP is Africa's largest water transfer scheme to date. Ms Dlamini further ensured that gender policies in the LHWP are intentional and decisive in matters of gender inclusivity and participation of women. It was during her tenure when the LHDA first appointed a woman Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in over 20 years of its existence.



Ms. Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-Motsa (Eswatini) | is the WASH Specialist, Africa Region Coordinator for the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA). Ms Ntshalintshali-Motsa has over 15 years of experience in the WASH sector of which 10 years was spent providing strategic direction on multi-stakeholder engagement, coordination and planning the implementation of the community water supply and sanitation programme in the country including those supported by national and international cooperating partners. Through stakeholder engagement, Ms Ntshalintshali-Motsa has effectively undertaken baseline assessments, indicators, advocated for the upscaling of the community rural water supply and sanitation programme of the country using a number of entry points which include policy and regulation, advocacy and research. Prior to joining SWA, Ms Ntshalintshali-Motsa was the national WASH Chairperson in the Kingdom of Eswatini responsible for the coordination of the national WASH sector, coordinating work of multilateral and international development partners including UN agencies, facilitating the development of the WASH policies, strategies, and development of national plans for the country as well as monitoring and evaluation of the national WASH programme. Prior to joining SWA as Africa Regional Coordinator, Ms Ntshalintshali-Motsa was elected to the SWA – Steering Committee member representing the East and Southern Africa sub-regions, the Technical Advisory Committee member for the African Minister's Council on Water (AMCOW), a focal point for GLAAS, JMP and SADC gender mainstreaming in the water sector programme.

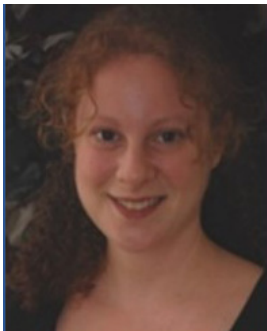
Women in Water Diplomacy Network Coordination and Support



Elizabeth A. Yaari (United States) | is a Senior Programme Manager at Stockholm Interventional Water Institute (SIWI) and the UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC), where she is responsible for managing regional water diplomacy processes in conflict and post-conflict environments. As SIWI's former Gender Focal Point, Elizabeth oversees SIWI's gender work in the context of transboundary water cooperation. Elizabeth A. Yaari holds an MA in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy and BA in International Relations.



Alexandra Said (Sweden) | serves as Programme Officer for the Transboundary Water Cooperation dept. and the International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC) at SIWI. Her focus areas include water governance in relation to gender and security, inclusive processes, and gender mainstreaming in the Nile basin. Alexandra holds a M.Sc. in Global Studies and a B.Sc. in International Relations.



Jessica Troell (United States) | is a Senior Attorney and Director of the International Water and Africa Programs at the Environmental Law Institute. Ms. Troell has over 15 years of experience in international development and environmental law with a focus on developing and implementing inclusive, equitable and effective legal, policy and institutional tools for sustainable and equitable water resource management.

About

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile is a project of the Stockholm International Water Institute's Shared Water Partnership programme (SWP). SWP was founded in 2010 as a platform to improve cooperation over shared waters in regions where water is, or may become, a source of conflict or where water can serve as a catalyst for peace. The overall objective of the Shared Waters Partnership is peaceful cooperation between basin states sharing transboundary water sources. The Shared Waters Partnership is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the United States, Norway, the Netherlands, and UNDP.

For more information on the Shared Waters Partnership programme please visit: <https://www.siwi.org/what-we-do/shared-waters-partnership/>

Read more about the Women in Water Diplomacy Network here: <https://www.siwi.org/publications/tapping-our-potential-womens-water-leadership-in-the-nile-basin/>

For information on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network contact:
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