

The Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond Strategy 2022-2025

An Invitation to Partnership
First Strategy Consultation Meeting

December 14, 2021 | 15:00-17:00 CET (Stockholm) / 16:00-18:00 SAST (Pretoria)

About SIWI

SIWI is a water policy institute focused on water governance and contributing to international efforts to combat the world's escalating water crisis.



Headquarters in Stockholm, **Sweden**
Africa Regional Centre in Pretoria, **South Africa**
Latin America & Caribbean Centre in Bogota, **Colombia**



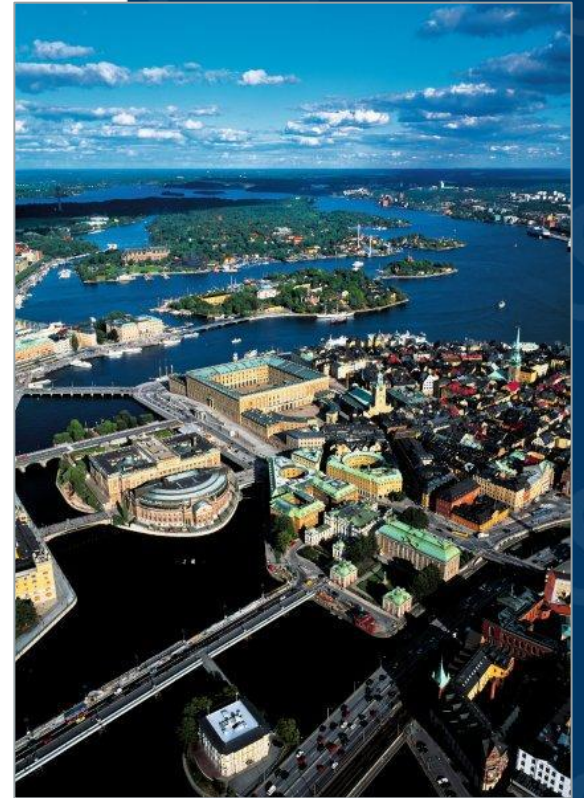
85 Staff members



25 years of ongoing operations
Specializations in: WASH, Water Governance, Transboundary Waters



Elevating Water Excellence through the
World Water Week, Stockholm Water Prize,
Stockholm Junior Water Prize



World Water Week 2022 will take place **August 23 – September 1** online and in Stockholm under the theme: *'Seeing the unseen: The value of water.'*

SIWI's Shared Waters Partnership

- Global **multi-donor programme** supported by Sweden, US, Netherlands, and UNDP
- Designed to **improve cooperation over shared waters in fragile regions** where water is or may become a *source of conflict* or where water can serve as a *catalyst to peace* and stability.
- **Multi-track** approach to water diplomacy processes
- Focus on **inclusive** decision making with emphasis on gender equality, youth empowerment, and the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in line with SIWI's strategy.

Water Diplomacy

Water diplomacy recognizes that there are *many different actors* that have the ability to *create solution spaces* for conflicts over water and that can *create windows of opportunity* for cooperation over water.

Water diplomacy can help to assess and generate opportunities for cooperation in shared basins and improve water security.

Many types of actors have a role to play including:



Government officials

(mandated at state and local level)



Civil society



Non-state / non-governmental actors



Academics & experts



Private sector



Media



Others

Klimes, Martina and Yaari, Elizabeth. Water Security in the Middle East – Opportunities and Challenges for Water Diplomacy. Routledge Handbook on Middle East Security, Routledge, London.

Multi-Track Water Diplomacy *in-practice*

- Joint capacity building – Experience and Knowledge Exchange opportunities
- Developing Communities of Practice
- Joint research and analysis/ ‘Science diplomacy’
- Regional Planning Processes
- Study Tours/ Joint Fact Finding
- Media Trainings – shared understanding
- Donor alignment and coordination



Multi-Track Water Diplomacy *benefits*

- Support the development of a **shared vision**
- Support shared **understanding** of technical and water related challenges and mutually beneficial solutions
- Strengthen **linkages between political and technical tracks**
- Support **sustainable, long-term relationships** between parties
- Engagements can foster '**unfreezing**', new thinking, new perspectives, new knowledge intersections that can inform the official process
- **Broaden the diplomatic space** to engage stakeholders
- Maintain **alternative channels of communication** should formal relations deteriorate





People are at the heart of water diplomacy!

Putting the pieces together:

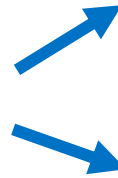
Why a focus on Women in Water Diplomacy in the Nile?



Costs – Benefits – Opportunities



Failure to include women equitably

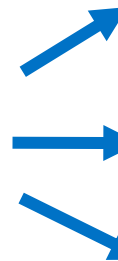


Has direct cost to political decision-making at transboundary level

Undermines progress toward cooperative and sustainable management



Support to women water diplomats



Opportunity to elevate distinctive knowledge, perspectives and experiences

More comprehensive understanding of relevant water issues and challenges

Broader set of **equitable solutions**

Resources are scarce



Investing directly in women is an easy choice

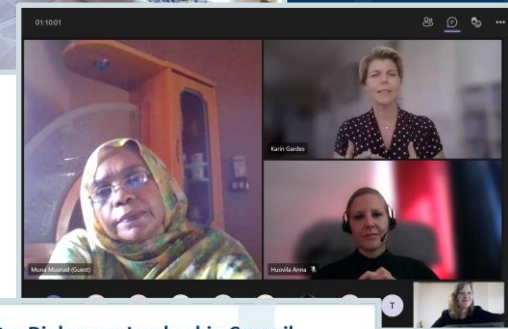
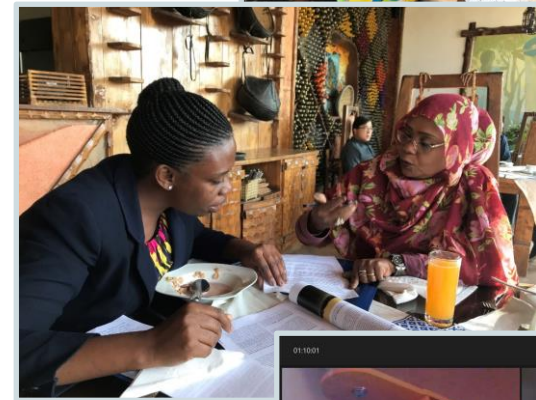
Women in Water Diplomacy: Network Objectives

- **To improve gender equality in high level decision making in transboundary basins** with focus on enhanced women's leadership in decision making on the shared waters in the Nile Basin and other transboundary basins in Africa and globally - with resultant positive implications for regional peace, human security and water governance.
- **To support technical and research cooperation, knowledge exchange, peer to peer experience exchange, and capacity building** opportunities to enhance coordination, shared understanding, and trust building among Network members.
- **To elevate dialogue, knowledge, and experience** around the intersecting themes of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (gender equality, women's leadership, male championship, water cooperation, water security, climate security, human security, etc.) as part of the basins processes, Pan African processes and globally.
- **To contribute to empowering young water diplomats** by fostering experience exchange and empowering early career water diplomats.
- **To engage new sustainable core and thematic partners** to continue to support the Network in the Nile and develop adapted and contextualized Women in Water Diplomacy Networks in other strategic basins in Africa.



Women in Water Diplomacy Nile Network Programme Development 2016-2021

- Network inception in 2016, pilot annual Forum in 2017
- Annual week-long Network Forum meetings
- World Water Week Engagements
- Network 2020 Joint Statement
- 2020 adaptation to online knowledge and experience sharing series with leading mediators and transboundary water experts
- Communications, publications, newsletter, website and public events
- Informal exchange in Network chat group
- To date ~50 representatives of key line ministries responsible for transboundary water cooperation in the Nile Basin have engaged in the Network.
- Launch of the Network Leadership Council and Strategy development process in November 2021
- **Learn more:** siwi.org/swp-women-in-water-diplomacy-network/



The 2022 Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council

 Yodit Balcha, Sen. Climate Change Adaptation Advisor, Ministry of Water and Energy (Ethiopia)	 Jacqueline Nyirakamukamu, Chair, Nile-TAC, Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist, Min of Environment (Rwanda)	 Theresa Khakasa Wasike, Director of Administration, Ministry of Water (Kenya)	 Dr Tahani Sileit, Head, Central Depart. for Ext Cooperation in the Nile Water Sector, Min. of Water, Res. & Irr. (Egypt)	 Tumaini Mwauryella, National Desk/ Focal Officer for the Nile Basin Islamic University, ICWC Board Member (Tanzania)	 Dr. Muna Mamed, UNESCO Chair in Water Res., Ombudsman Islamic University, ICWC Board Member (Sudan)	 Dr. Ziswa Dlamini, Independent Consultant and Former Chief Del. and Permanent Rep. on the ANKOW (South Africa)	 Nonqumlelo Nshahlethalli-Motsoa, Africa Regional COO, Sanitation and Water for All hosted by ANKOW (Eswatini)
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What people are saying....

'To get ahead and to innovate in our work, professionals and experts need to be surrounded by a network of supporters for inspiration and sharing.'

– **Dr Muna Musnad (Sudan), Water Chair, UNESCO; Member, SIWI hosted ICWC Governing Board and Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile**

'Ensuring equality for women on decisions about water is critical for their social and economic empowerment and plays a vital role in strengthening community resilience.'

– **Professor Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla, Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative**

... this platform provides women with a space where we can learn and share experience about water governance and transboundary cooperation issues. It is very empowering to be of this Network.'

– **Yodit Balcha (Ethiopia), Senior Climate Change Adaptation Advisor at the Ministry of Water and Energy, Ethiopia and Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile**

'The Network is getting stronger and stronger, like for example when I participated at the recent Renaissance Dam Negotiations ... I found out that we were very few in the three delegations, we are about four or five women, but we had something in common between us because ...we are one group – a Network. If that continues that will be very good for the negotiations.'

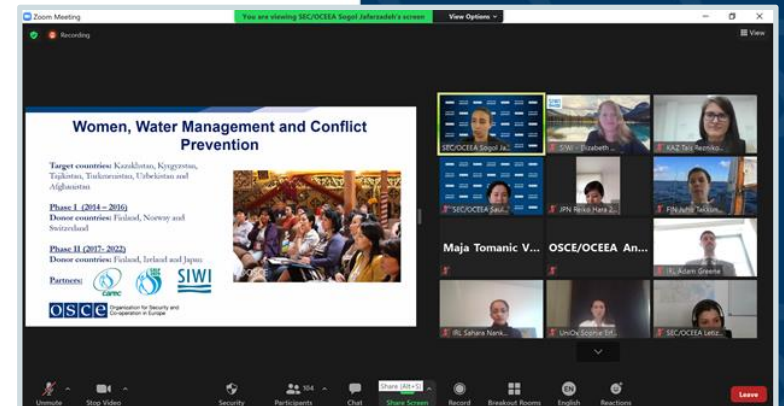
– **Ambassador Nadia Gefoun, Sudan, during public SIWI webinar event, 2020; Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network**

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network: Nile and Beyond Strategy 2022-2025

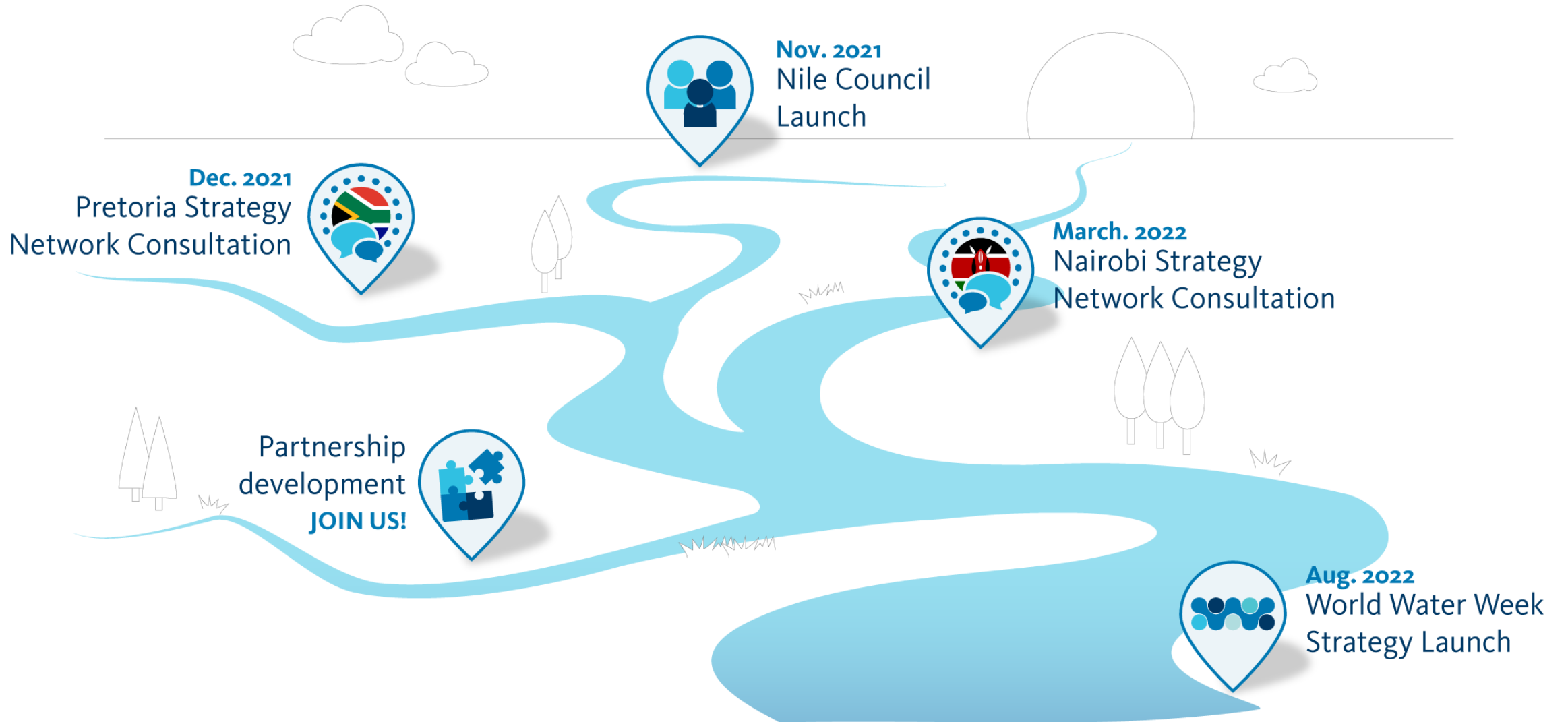
Introduction for Feedback

2021: Nile and Beyond Strategy Inception

- **Requests**, analysis of opportunities for replication and adaptations in other basins in Africa
- **Launch of the Central Asia- Afghanistan ‘Women in Water Management Network’**
 - in partnership with OSCE and CAREC
 - drawing upon the experience of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile.
- **Launch of the 2022 Women in Water Diplomacy Nile Council and 2022-2025 Nile and Beyond Strategy Process**

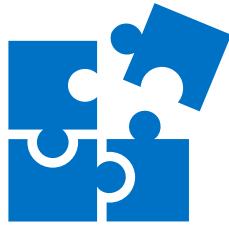


Women in Water Diplomacy: Nile and Beyond Strategy Development Process 2021-2022

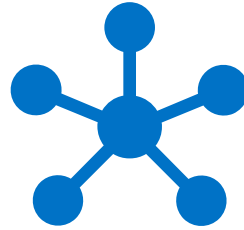


Women in Water Diplomacy: Nile and Beyond

Partnership aims



New core partners
in each new
basin process

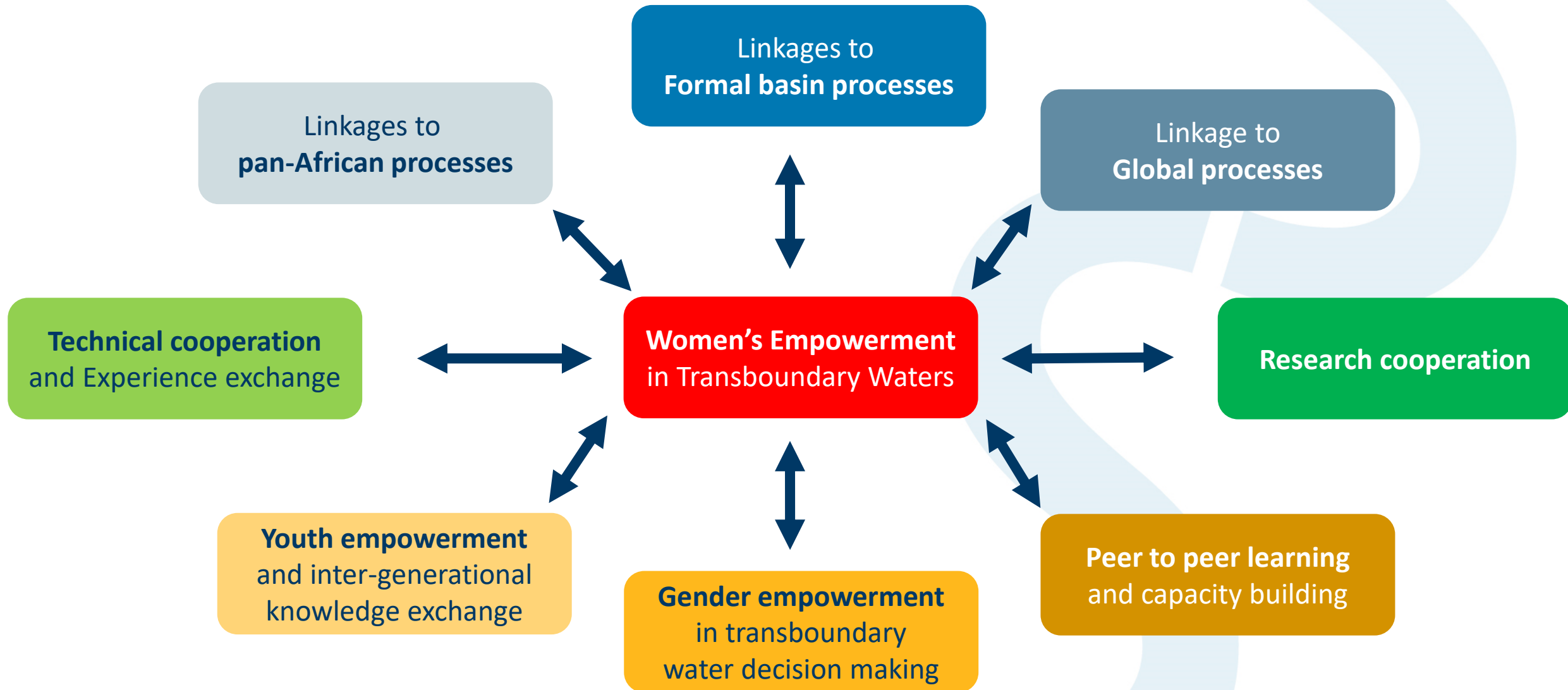


New thematic partners
for each
strategic pillar



Sustainable partners
commitments
to three years of engagement

Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond Strategic Pillars



The 2022 Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council



Yodit Balcha
Sen. Climate Change Adaptation Advisor, Ministry of Water and Energy
(Ethiopia)



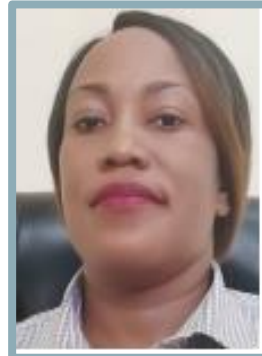
Jacqueline Nyirakamana;
Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist, Min of Environment
(Rwanda)



Theresa Khakasa Wasike
Director of Administration, Ministry of Water
(Kenya)



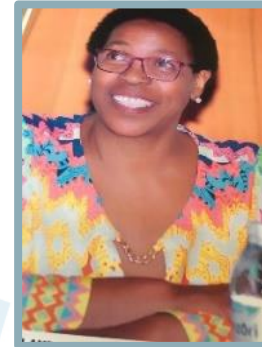
Dr Tahani Sileet
Head, Central Depart. for Ext Cooperation in the Nile Water Sector, Min. of Water Res. & Irr.
(Egypt)



Tumaini Mwamyalla,
National Desk/ Focal Officer for the Nile Basin Initiative, Min. of Water
(Tanzania)



Dr Muna Musnad
UNESCO Chair in Water Res., Omdurman Islamic University
(Sudan)



Dr Zodwa Dlamini
Independent Consultant and Former Chief on the Lesotho Highlands Water Com.
(South Africa)



Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-Motsa
Africa Regional Coordinator, Sanitation and Water for All
(Eswatini)

Youth empowerment and inter-generational knowledge exchange

Technical cooperation and data exchange

Linkages to pan-African processes

Linkages to Formal basin processes

Linkages to Global processes

Research cooperation

Peer to peer learning and capacity building

Gender empowerment

Communications

Partnership and Strategic Network Development

The Women in Water Diplomacy Process Support Team



Elizabeth A. Yaari, Operations Lead, Sen. Man., Transboundary Water Cooperation Dept, SIWI



Julienne Ndjiki Programme Officer and Gender Equality Champion, SIWI



Xanani Baloyi Programme Officer and Gender Focal Point, SIWI



Anton Earle Director, Africa Regional Centre, SIWI



Katie Goldie-Ryder Programme Officer and Youth Empowerment Champion, SIWI



Kasonde Mulenga Programme Manager, SIWI



Jessica Troell, Director, Int'l Waters Program, Environmental Law Institute (Key partner since 2017)

Partnership and Strategic Development

Technical cooperation and Experience exchange

Gender empowerment

Linkages to pan-African processes

Youth empowerment and inter-generational knowledge exchange

Gender empowerment

Partnership and Strategic Development

Linkages to Formal basin processes

Research cooperation

Linkage to Global processes

Partnership and Strategic Development

Communications

Research cooperation

Peer to peer learning and capacity building

Communications

Strategic Pillar 1

Gender empowerment in transboundary water decision making

Objective: Spearhead initiatives within the Network that elevate women's roles in decision-making and address underlying drivers of gender inequities in water governance from local to transboundary levels.

Key Activities Nile and Beyond:

- Identify and develop **national Women in Water Diplomacy expert pool**
- **Convene national trainings targeting** a broad sector of line ministries related to transboundary water governance as relevant to national governance structures and develop workplans for addressing priority drivers of gender inequities across sectors
- **Develop training materials** that can be used by Network experts to broaden awareness of drivers of gender inequities in water governance.
- **Facilitate a Male Champions Dialogue Group** for male decision makers in transboundary waters working to improve gender equality in their decision-making teams and processes.



Nompumelelo
Ntshalintshali-Motsa



Xanani Baloyi



Kasonde Mulenge

Strategic Pillar 2

Youth empowerment and inter-generational knowledge exchange

Objective: Contribute to empowering young water professionals and fostering experience exchange between early career and senior women water professionals.

Key Activities Nile and Beyond:

- Identify and develop **national young Women in Water Diplomacy pool**
- Actively engage young water professionals in all Network engagements across all Strategic Pillars
- Foster opportunities for peer-to-peer learning between early and senior level Network members
- **Identify and create opportunities for early career women water diplomats** to participate in high-level, regional and/or global events to raise their profile and contribute to their professional learning and experience



Yodit Balcha



Katie Goldie-Ryder

Strategic Pillar 3

Peer to peer learning and capacity building

Objective: Support knowledge exchange, peer to peer experience exchange, and capacity building opportunities across Network.

Key Activities Nile and Beyond:

- Network member needs assessment regarding key water diplomacy skills and capacities.
- Recurrent online capacity building opportunities related to trends and key issues in water diplomacy at national, regional and transboundary levels.
- Promote the sharing of experience and lessons learned from the Network members within the basin and beyond.
- Develop specialized accredited training course for Network members
- Facilitate Knowledge exchange with experienced practitioners, experts, mediators and negotiators.



Dr Zodwa Dlamini



Elizabeth A. Yaari

Strategic Pillar 4

Technical cooperation and experience exchange

Objectives: Identify, assess and support technical capacity and cooperation to support coordination, shared understanding, trust building among Network members.

Key Activities Nile and Beyond:

- Knowledge resource library for Network members.
- Outreach and engagement in women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), as well as other environmental fields to learn about water diplomacy and water governance and consider careers in water management and cooperation.
- Explore technical research collaboration and knowledge generation across the Network and Network partners.
- Leveraging Network engagements to communicate knowledge between technical and policy decision makers.



Jacqueline
Nyirakamana



Julienne Ndjiki

Strategic Pillar 5

Research cooperation

Objectives: Support multi-disciplinary research cooperation among Network members and other institutions and partners in cooperation with the SIWI hosted UNESCO International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC).

Key Activities Nile and Beyond:

- Identify areas of joint research cooperation.
- Develop knowledge resource library for Network members.
- Undertake baseline gender equality in transboundary water decision making assessment for each country engaged in Network (identifying barriers and opportunities) and examine the drivers of gender inequities related to water cooperation.
- Develop monitoring framework for gender equality in transboundary water governance decision making fora.
- Engaging young water professionals in research cooperation engagements
- Explore opportunities for collaboration with other members of the UN Water family organizations (ex. UNESCO IHP).



Dr Muna Musnad



Julienne Ndjiki



Jessica Troell

Strategic Pillar 6

Linkages to pan-African processes

Objectives:

Contribute to elevating dialogue, knowledge, and experience around the intersecting themes of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network as part of Pan-African dialogues.

Key Activities Nile and Beyond:

Elevating and promoting the Network and its objectives at key African engagements, events and other opportunities such as linkages to AMCOW Gender Strategy, Africa Water Week, AU – ANWIN, RECs, Sanitation and Water for All, ANBO and other pan African initiatives, AfDB (Africa Water Facility)



Tumaini Mwamyalla



Anton Earle

Strategic Pillar 7

Linkages to Global processes

Objectives: Contribute to elevating dialogue, knowledge, and experience around the intersecting themes of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network as part of Global Processes.

Key Activities Nile and Beyond:

- **World Water Forum** – Dakar, March 2022
- **World Water Week 2022** – Stockholm, August 2022; Network Strategy launch event
- **Cairo Water Week 2022** – Cairo, Egypt; October 2022 (tbc) / **COP27** – Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt; November 2022 *'the water COP'*
- **Mid Term Review SDG 6** – New York, March 2023 (outreach to UN Women)



Theresa Khakasa
Wasike



Xanani Baloyi



Elizabeth A. Yaari

Strategic Pillar 8

Linkages to basin processes

Objectives: Contribute to elevating dialogue, knowledge, and experience around the intersecting themes of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network to advance an enabling environment around basin processes.

Key Activities Nile and Beyond:

- Exchanging lessons learned from the Network and its members within the basin and with other basins to advance the field of water cooperation and water diplomacy.
- Elevating the Network and its objectives at key basin engagements, events and other opportunities.



Dr Tahani Sileet



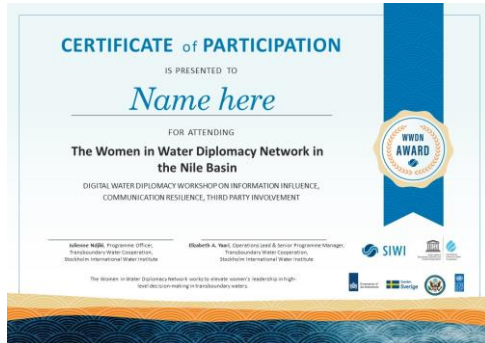
Elizabeth A. Yaari

Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond Newsletter – Relunched!



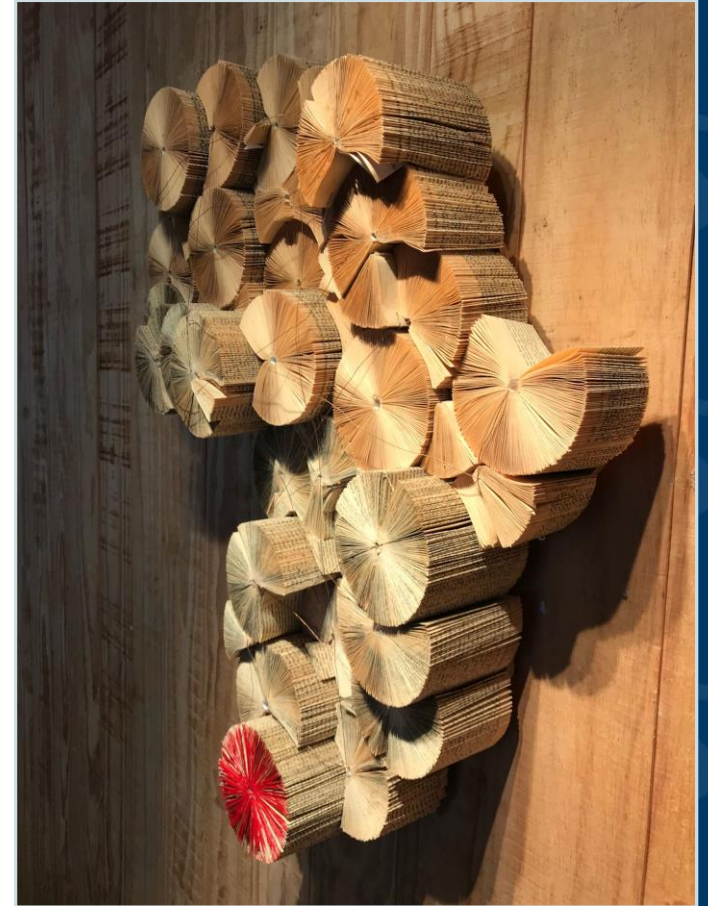
Next
edition to
be released
in early
2022!

Women in Water Diplomacy: Shared Strategy – Basin Specific Approach



Nile and Beyond – A Focus on Africa

- **Request for engagement** from basin partners.
- Prioritizing basins with high level of **water insecurity**.
- Prioritizing basins with a high level of **gender inequality**.
- Developing context specific **adaptations** at both the intra and inter state levels.



Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond

Engagment and Partnerships



SIWI Shared Waters Partnership

supporting Women in Water Diplomacy in the Nile Basin since 2017



Government of the Netherlands

Women in Water Management Network

Central Asia and Afghanistan since 2020



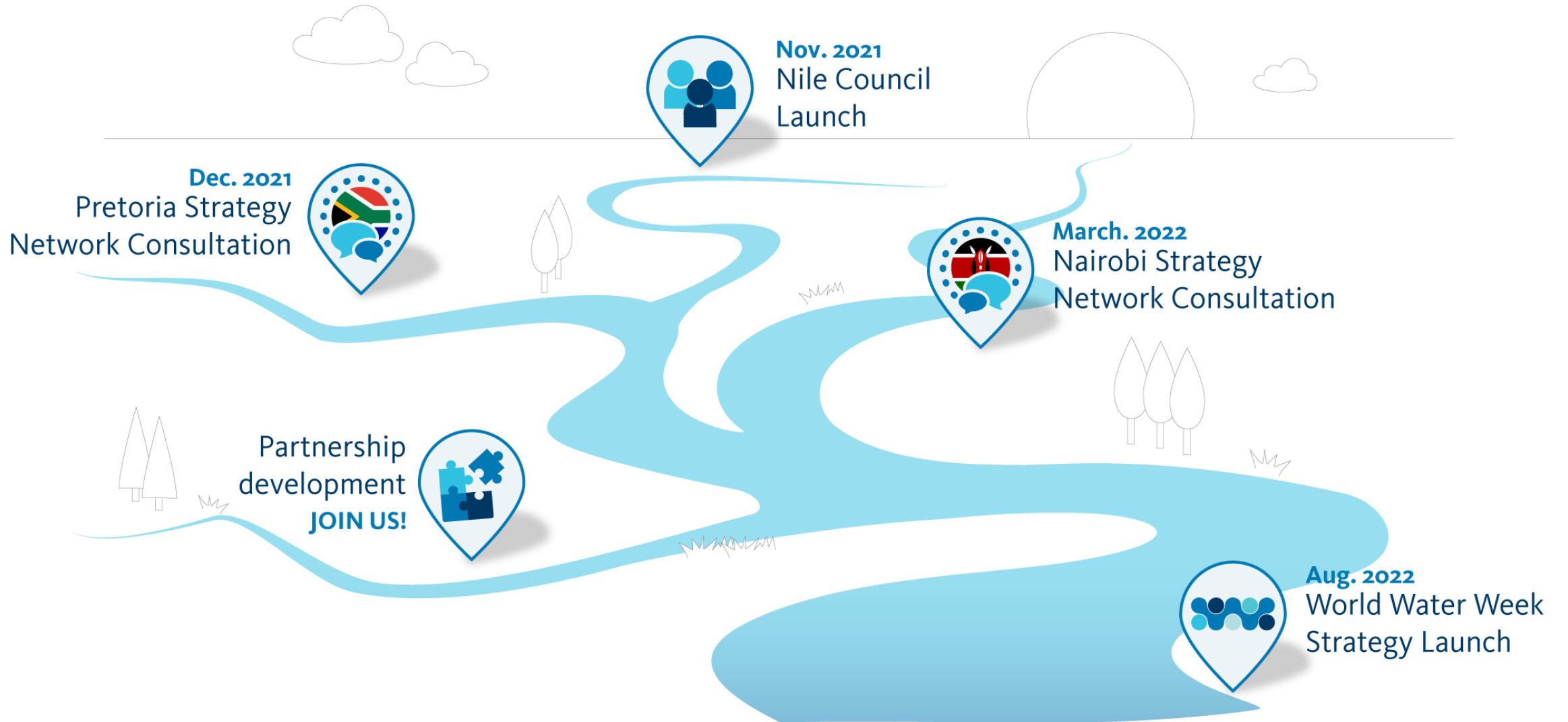
Network Support Implementing Partners



Join us!

Together, we can do more!

Women in Water Diplomacy: Nile and Beyond Strategy Development Process 2021-2022





Join us!

Visit: siwi.org/swp-women-in-water-diplomacy-network

Contact: elizabeth.yaari@siwi.org