

# NEWS

## Science & Environment

# Water conflicts: are media and science part of the problem or part of the solution?

As tensions grow over the Nile's and other international rivers' waters, a new research addresses the role that journalists and scientists play in fuelling conflicts or facilitating cooperation. **"Open Water Diplomacy Lab** – explains project coordinator Emanuele Fantini from UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education – aims at offering a space where water diplomats, water journalists and water scientists from different Nile basin countries can engage in a process of common learning and co-production of knowledge.



### Project strategy

### Understanding

The research will study how the relation between media, science and politics unfolds in the Eastern Nile basin,

Applying quantitative and qualitative methods we will look both at traditional and new media.

### Training

Are you a journalist reporting on science and development issues? Join our [training on water conflicts and cooperation](#).

Are you a researcher working on hot topic in the Nile basin? Join our [training on media skills for water scientists](#).

### Co-producing

Journalists and researchers will be offer small grants to develop "sandpit" projects on communicating science for water diplomacy.

Project teams will be trans-disciplinary and trans-national, involving participants from different Nile countries.

### Watch/listen: the team



**Emanuele Fantini (UNESCO-IHE)**, discusses how scientific communication can be manipulated to uphold political agenda but also how it can act as catalyst for cooperation.



**Iginio Gagliardone (University of WITS, Johannesburg)**, introduces a research methodology to analyze online speech and to link it with offline politics.



**Amel Azab (Nile Basin Capacity Building Network)** assesses the needs of a unique network of water scientists when it comes to better communicate their research.



**Fredrick Mugira (African Water Journalists Network)** describes the challenges faced by journalists when reporting on sensitive water issues in Nile basin countries.



**Bothina Osama (SciDev.net Cairo)** reveals the tricks to facilitate the interaction between journalists and researchers to better communicate science for development and cooperation.



**Callist Tindimugaya (NileIWRM Net)** discusses how to promote networking with policy makers and water diplomats.

### LIVE The Nile talks

Researchers and journalists supported by the project reach out to water diplomats and policy makers, communicating water science in a way that is understandable to wider audiences and that might contribute to transboundary negotiations.