

## Hydrosolidarity –

### Opportunities and constraints in water management of the Nile River

The Nile is the source of life that plays a crucial role in the economics, politics, and cultural life of eleven countries and their almost 400 million inhabitants. The population of these countries is expected to double within 30 years. This means that an astonishingly number of three-quarter of a billion people will be dependent for their livelihood on a single river with dwindling flow. How can the water of the Nile be handled in a way that meets the water needs of all people in the region?

The Nile extends through the Arab region in the Middle East and also includes some of the poorest areas in the world (e.g., Ethiopia and Eritrea). Thus, the area is confronted by severe problems due to both climatic conditions and socioeconomic factors. The region is characterized by a fast increasing population (especially Egypt and Ethiopia), which has resulted in a sharp decline of the per capita availability of water during last the decades. The socioeconomic problems are severe in many of these countries and rely heavily on the availability of water supply for irrigation from the Nile.

The so-called Arab Spring brings hope for improvement in the region on aspects of democracy and human rights standards. But it also opens up for new negotiations on established agreements and the expected increase of level of living standard will increase the demand on water resources. In 2011 Sudan was divided into two countries and hopefully this will lead to a more peaceful situation in the two countries and in the region as a whole, but it will also create tensions that have to be met with cautious conflict handling. In 2011 Ethiopia started the debated construction of the Grand Millenium Dam (later name change to the Grand Renaissance Dam). About 30% of the funding for the dam is secured from China but the remaining funding is still unresolved. Earlier, Egypt has threatened with war if Ethiopia tries to block the Nile flow and Ethiopia has responded that no country can prevent it from using Nile water (about 85% of the Nile river flow originate in the Ethiopian highlands). Egypt has responded that it will not give up its share of Nile water. What are the possibilities to resolve the water problem and prevent extended hydropolitical conflict? According to the above, the potential for conflict over water appears to be overwhelming. The escalating water problems appear overpowering and risks for an ecoclimatic collapse with resulting famine and possible conflict valid. Even so there may be a future outcome that could encompass peaceful co-use of the Nile water resources. In this research program our aim is to focus on the Nile Basin as an example of utmost important water management.

Future sustainable use of water resources requires solidarity and mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution. Researchers from six different faculties will focus on the water management, but also on aspects of conflict prevention and human rights. The research program aims at studying how people with different ethnic origin and religious belief are linked together in the Nile Basin and to investigate the preconditions and prospects for hydrosolidarity. One of our research hypothesis is that increased hydrosolidarity among the riparians is required to manage water resources in a sustainable manner.

## Researchers

**Ronny Berndtsson** (coordinator)

Professor, Water Resources Engineering

[Ronny.Berndtsson@tvrl.lth.se](mailto:Ronny.Berndtsson@tvrl.lth.se)

[http://www.tvrl.lth.se/personal/teachers\\_researchers/ronny\\_berndtsson/](http://www.tvrl.lth.se/personal/teachers_researchers/ronny_berndtsson/)

**Dan-Erik Andersson** (coordinator)

Assistant Professor, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

[Dan-Erik.Andersson@cme.lu.se](mailto:Dan-Erik.Andersson@cme.lu.se)

<http://www.cme.lu.se/index.php?id=9768>

<http://www.ht.lu.se/o.o.i.s?id=23921&p=DanErikAndersson>

**Karin Aggestam**

Associate Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies

[karin.aggestam@svet.lu.se](mailto:karin.aggestam@svet.lu.se)

[http://www.svet.lu.se/Dynamic/personal\\_page/Personal\\_homepage.lasso?-token.kod=KAG](http://www.svet.lu.se/Dynamic/personal_page/Personal_homepage.lasso?-token.kod=KAG)

**Umut Özkerimli**

Guest Professor, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

[umut.ozkerimli@cme.lu.se](mailto:umut.ozkerimli@cme.lu.se)

<http://www.cme.lu.se/index.php?id=9776>

**Magdalena Gora**

Senior Researcher

[mm.gora@uj.edu.pl](mailto:mm.gora@uj.edu.pl)

<http://www.ces.uj.edu.pl/about-ces/faculty-and-staff/faculty/magdalena-gora>

**Petter Pilesjö**

Professor, Physical Geography and Ecosystem Analysis

[petter.pilesjo@gis.lu.se](mailto:petter.pilesjo@gis.lu.se)

[http://www.nateko.lu.se/staff\\_details.asp?id=33&cat=1&lang=2](http://www.nateko.lu.se/staff_details.asp?id=33&cat=1&lang=2)

**Dalia Abdelhady**

Senior Researcher, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

[Dalia.Abdelhady@cme.lu.se](mailto:Dalia.Abdelhady@cme.lu.se)

<http://www.cme.lu.se/index.php?id=9978>

**Olof Beckman**

Assistant Professor, Human Rights Studies

[olof.beckman@mrs.lu.se](mailto:olof.beckman@mrs.lu.se)

<http://www.ht.lu.se/o.o.i.s?id=23921&p=OlofBeckman>

**Karin Broberg Palmgren**

Associate Professor, Genetic Occupational and Environmental Medicine

[karin.broberg\\_palmgren@med.lu.se](mailto:karin.broberg_palmgren@med.lu.se)

[http://www.med.lu.se/english/labmedlund/occupational\\_and\\_environmental\\_medicine/personnel/karin\\_broberg\\_palmgren](http://www.med.lu.se/english/labmedlund/occupational_and_environmental_medicine/personnel/karin_broberg_palmgren)

**Kenneth M Persson**

Professor, Water Resources Engineering

[Kenneth\\_M.Persson@tvrl.lth.se](mailto:Kenneth_M.Persson@tvrl.lth.se)

[http://www.tvrl.lth.se/personal/teachers\\_researchers/kenneth\\_m\\_persson/](http://www.tvrl.lth.se/personal/teachers_researchers/kenneth_m_persson/)

## Final Seminar May 2013

### Hydrosolidarity - the Quest for better Water management in the Nile Basin

The seminar takes place at the Pufendorf institute, main lecturehall, on the 29th of May 2013 between 9.00 - 17.00.

All are welcome, but please note that seats are limited and registration necessary. For participation, please register

here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11yys40rcyJhFp1DVTfOcVBDha4vrymhG82CuYGqWV5o/viewform>  
(or contact Eva Persson, [Eva.Persson@pi.lu.se](mailto:Eva.Persson@pi.lu.se))

Download seminar program [here](#)

Program:

***Hydrosolidarity –  
the Quest for Better Water Management in the Nile Basin***

**Venue:** Pufendorf Institute,

**Time:** May 29th 2013, 9.00-17.00

**9.00 Welcome and Short introduction to PI and Hydrosolidarity**

*Morning session chair and discussant: Professor Ahmad Wagdy, Cairo University*

**9.20 The Great Renaissance Dam**

- Ronny Berndtsson - The dam in a basin perspective
- Karin Aggestam - Unilateralism, multilateralism and hydrosolidarity
- Umut Özkirimli - What's in a name? The national symbolism of the Great Renaissance Dam

**10.15 Coffee**

**10.30**

- Olof Beckman- In the absence of a Special Agreement – more than rules and a dam
- Dalia Abelhady - The social consequences of a dam
- Dan-Erik Andersson - The role of religion for Hydrosolidarity

**11.30 Discussion and Summing-up:** Professor David Grey,  
Oxford University

**12.00 Lunch**

*Afternoon session chair and discussant: Associate Professor Mulugeta Feseha, Addis Ababa University*

**13.30 Key-note speaker**

- Kaveh Madani - Strategic loss opportunities for cooperative management of transboundary river systems: Insights for the Nile

**14.30 Pilot Study**

- Kenneth M Persson – Hydrosolidarity is Water Quality
- Karin Broberg Palmgren, Petter Pilesjö & Dalia Abdelhady - Water quality, health and solidarity - a pilot study from the upper White Nile

**15.30 Coffee**

**15.45 Grand Finale – the Future of Hydrosolidarity**

- Associate Professor Mulugeta Feseha, Addis Ababa University
- Professor Ahmad Wagdy, Cairo University
- Associate Professor Kaveh Madani, University of Central

Florida

- Professor David Grey, Oxford University
- Professor Ronny Berndtsson, Lund University

**17.00 Reception in the Pufendorf Gardens**