

How has the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam changed the legal, political, economic and scientific dynamics in the Nile basin?

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Why a journal dedicated to the GERD?

- This is an extremely timely topic... for the Nile Basin and for transboundary water management in general
- There is an increasing need to bridge science and policy- and decision-making processes
- First journal issue exclusively dedicated to the topic

- **Goal I:** To understand how has the GERD changed the dynamics in the Nile Basin
- **Goal II:** To provide the readers with a critical analysis of the challenges and opportunities brought by the GERD

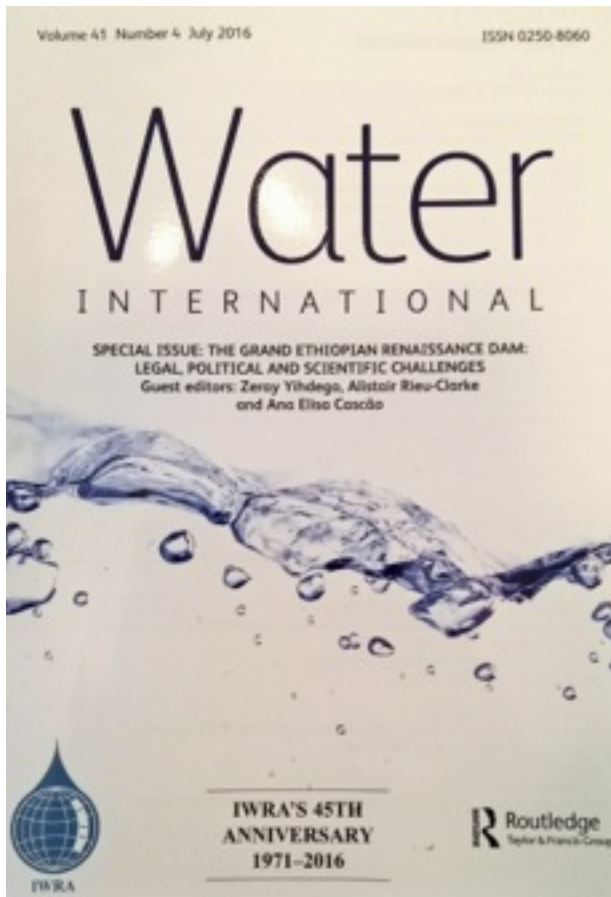


Overview of the Special Issue trajectory

- The genesis of the SI to be traced to the 25th World Water Congress 2015, organised by the IWRA
- 19 authors involved
- All papers rigorously peer-reviewed by external experts
- Nature of the articles: 3 law, 2 politics and 2 hydrology papers, plus the Editorial
- Articles made available from April 2016
- Officially launched at the World Water Week in Stockholm in August 2016, involving both policy-makers and civil society from the Nile Basin region
- November 2016: Thousands of downloads
- IWRA Policy Brief
- Possible offsprings: a book dedicated the topic and a special session at the next World Water Congress 2017, in Cancun



The Special Issue



Editorial:

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[Zeray Yihdego](#), [Alistair Rieu-Clarke](#) & [Ana Elisa Cascão](#)

Articles:

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: the road to the declaration of principles and the Khartoum document

[Salman M. A. Salman](#)

An exploration of fairness in international law through the Blue Nile and GERD

[Zeray Yihdego](#) & [Alistair Rieu-Clarke](#)

GERD: new norms of cooperation in the Nile Basin?

[Ana Elisa Cascão](#) & [Alan Nicol](#)

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: a benefit-sharing project in the Eastern Nile?

[Rawia Tawfik](#)

Filling the GERD: evaluating hydroclimatic variability and impoundment strategies for Blue Nile riparian countries

[Ying Zhang](#), [Solomon Tassew Erkyihum](#) & [Paul Block](#)

Cooperative filling approaches for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

[Kevin G. Wheeler](#), [Mohammed Basheer](#), [Zelalem T. Mekonnen](#), [Sami O. Eltoun](#), [Azeb Mersha](#), [Gamal M. Abdo](#), [Edith A. Zagona](#), [Jim W. Hall](#) & [Simon J. Dadson](#)

Water challenges in the IGAD region: towards new legal frameworks for cooperation

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Legal dynamics

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Legal instruments at basin and regional level

Principles of international water law

Substantive and procedural issues

GERD processes: what legal changes does it bring?



Political/Economic dynamics

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The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: a benefit-sharing project in the Eastern Nile?

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Co-existence of different cooperation processes

Opportunities and challenges of regional cooperation

Water-sharing vs. benefit-sharing

Benefit-sharing: how to operationalise?



Scientific dynamics

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Filling and long-term operations of the GERD

Possible coordination and adaptation strategies

Natural flow and climate variability

What is the appropriate solution to increase benefits and decrease risks?
Only cooperation can answer the question!





Conclusions

1. The GERD has not only changed the dynamics in the Nile basin but it has the potential to bring more significant changes in the future;
2. This is not without challenges. Addressing and resolving these challenges requires informed policy and dialogue, and ultimately a tangible distribution of benefits and minimisation of costs;
3. Ultimately, all articles strongly recommend sub-basin/basin-wide cooperation as the solution not only to share the Nile water resources but also to support wider economic integration between the Nile riparian countries.

GERD process: provides a strategic opportunity for countries to reflect on the pressing need for a new transboundary water regime in the Nile Basin