Nile Basin nations challenge Egypt over water

While Egypt's 80 million people face an imminent food crisis, five upstream nations of the Nile River Basin – some of the world's poorest – have signed a treaty asserting their rights to the waters of the Nile. Six signatories are required to overturn a 1929 colonial agreement which gave control of the entire river to Egypt and, via the 1959 Nile Waters Treaty, Sudan

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Nile Delta

Average discharge 300 million m³ per day

Cairo

E G Y P T

World's second biggest importer of wheat, hit by Russia's export ban. **No other water supply**

RED SEA

S U D A N

Independence referendum in south could create another headwater state

River basin area: *Over 3,349,000km², home to 180m people*

Atbara

Khartoum

ERITREA

Blue Nile

White Nile

Proposed Jonglei canal will re-route more water to north

Lake Tana

Source of Blue Nile

New Tana-Beles hydroelectric project

Addis Ababa

Sudd swamp

50% of inflow passes no further

E T H I O P I A

Hydroelectric and crop irrigation projects could make country net exporter

D.R. CONGO

Ruvyironza River

Most remote headstream, 6,695km from Mediterranean

UGANDA

Kampala

KENYA

80% of land arid or semi-arid but no irrigation-based agriculture

Nairobi

Kigali

RWANDA

Lake Victoria

Bujumbura

BURUNDI

T A N Z A N I A

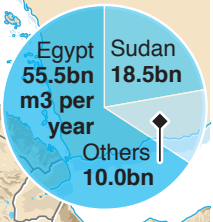
170-km pipeline planned to irrigate arid northwest

INDIAN OCEAN

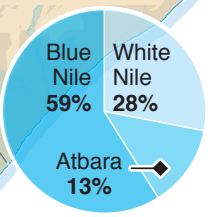
MAJOR DAMS

1. Aswan High Dam
2. Merowe Dam
3. Sennar Dam
4. Roseires Dam
5. Owen Falls Dam

WATER CONSUMERS



CONTRIBUTION to Aswan Dam flow



150 miles
240km

Source: Nile Basin Initiative, FAO

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