



# **NILE FORUM SEEDCAMP**

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**20th-26th  
March 2016**

# DAY ONE | Arriving & Orienting 20th March

## Welcome with a Song by Mohamed

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### Welcome

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Mongy welcomed us to the first day. Welcome to our circle, Welcome to Agelica (means Remember Me), Welcome to Nubia whose wisdom will inspire.

Hopefully this circle will be remembered by all of us!

As I look around the circle, I see how diverse we are. The Nile cuts across many cultures, languages and people.

The Nile will be part of the circle – it will be with us. The rocks and the water will inform us. Some of our discussion will be difficult and rocky, yet like the rocks they will go deep because they are submerged below the water. Others will be fun and will flow gently. The place where the rocks and the water meet – the edge between the two is where things grow. I invite us to handle each other with openness, sincerity and gentleness – so something will grow between us. Hopefully we will seed strong things that will withstand difficulties. This is why it is called a Seed Camp.

The Nile is the connector – it is the symbol of Africa. We have here a gift from the Congo, brought to us by Andre – a beautiful art piece of Africa – a sign of unity. Africa is from where all humans come from so we also have people who are not from Africa who care and are with us.

Before sharing the story of how we got here and the programme and how we will work, we will be invited to share why we each said ‘yes’ to coming to the Seed Camp.

I invite us to hear our voices – as humans!



## Check in Circle

Luea and Silus invited us to check in. We are inviting ourselves to check in to listen to each other and our journeys. We will ‘weave the carpet’ between us – sounding each of our sounds into the centre. What is calling us here? By sharing, we might find that we discover more of why we have come.

Each voice will be heard. We will use a talking piece – our gift, symbol of Africa will be this. The principles we will use are deep listening – we will each have one opportunity to speak and many opportunities to listen. Speak with intention and listen with curiosity – no judgement – this is someone’s story. We will begin with our individual stories and we will come to the ‘we’ – we will define this together. The question we ask you to speak to is ‘Of all the places in the world, why have I said yes to being here at the Seed Camp?’.

The talking piece passed from hand to hand and each voice spoke. Stories were shared and the following are the key words that were heard again and again as to why we had said ‘yes’ to being together at the Seed Camp:



**IDENTITY**



**Collaboration**



**Paradox**



**LOVE**



**Dialogue**



**Co-creation**



**AFRICA**



**Community of Communities**



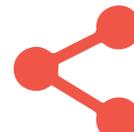
**Shifts**



**Belonging**



**Emotions**



**Connections**



**Demystifying the other**



**Learning & Unlearning**



**Ownership**



**Simplicity**



**PLACE**



**Foreign**



**Familiar**



**Land**



**Transcendence into Humane-ness**



**Patterns**



**Culture**



**Multiple stories**



**Walk together**



**Dynamics - Dialogue, Conflict, Reconciliation**



**Interdependence**



**Nile Basin**



**Civil Society**



**LIFE**



**THE RIVER**



**Mix happens after a distance**

## Framing

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The story of the idea was shared by Mongy:

Since a long time, there was a longing to create connections between human beings connected to a natural phenomenon; the Nile is not just a river, it is an energy, a living being; a connector. It connects us to the planet Earth, spirituality (From being a God into harbouring the Gods and religions), to civilizations that live with and through the Nile. This connection has been a longing for so many people that were not connected themselves.

The idea proposed is of creating a platform that enable these connections to manifest and nurture the Nile and its dwellers, and also to be a model for how humanity can heal and regenerate itself through regenerating their connection to nature (here the Nile).

This conversation happened in the last four years, in the Nile Project workshop (with the intention to create a Civil Society platform), in Findhorn between Fasil and Mongy “Why don’t we connect something that connects us all - a platform”, then with Luea around the Culture of Peace.... then within Misriyati. The last found a way to create a proposal for funding and draft an invitation to have a seed camp for civil society multipliers to craft this platform and test the readiness of its need.... It was a birthing, a stepping into the water by putting the call out there ... and the resonance across the Nile was strong - showing it’s the right Moment.... and here we are.

The story cannot remain a story of I - it’s the story of WE. Expanding to have a bigger story, as there is much more possible together.

It’s a space for us and a space for others to come.

### **The intentions:**

There are four intentions we are holding for this gathering;

- Vision for a Nile Basin Regional Identity
- Platform for Civil Society in the Region
- Innovation areas we will engage in
- Mandate to a Core group to take it forward

## Our 7-days journey

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Maria shared the programme. It’s a 7 days journey with different Stepping Stones that we will travel together. Spiders use anchor points to weave their web. The Stepping Stones are our Anchor Points to weave us together.

We host it all together and take care of and for each other.

The invitation is here to get involved, contribute, feeling the shorelines between us.

Our Fundament is the AoH - Art of Hosting. We had a Training in Cairo in 2011 and 2012. AoH is a worldwide self-organising network exploring and working on creating spaces for meaningful conversation - on new ways of communicating and being together.

## The Keystones of AoH are:

- 1) We live in a time of transformation / structures, beliefs... are falling apart, fundamental change.
- 2) We have to take us to places of knowing and not knowing - a dance between chaos and order - it's a constant movement and not so much about being able to control it. In our movement here together there is order, our program has order yet not fixed conclusions - there is the Open Space for new and diverse contributions, to create new patterns together.
- 3) Dialogue and Communication lays a the core - that includes silence, dancing, listening to nature, the elements
- 4) Dialogue leads to meaningful and wise actions - this platform is a good place, a good soil to plant new trees
- 5) Lets not be afraid of paradox or oppositions, let's move beyond - it's the time to create new meaning. Having differences and disturbance in us and between us is inviting us to the Question " How do we respond to it - seeing it as an opportunity. Checking our judgements and allowing to unlearn.
- 6) We are a living system - Living System principles
- 7) We are using throughout this week the Pattern of Check-in and Check-out

### Short intro to the days:

**Sunday:** Time to arrive and orient where we are - connecting to the Nile as a world River

**Monday:** Sharing stories, personal Identity, being in the me, we have to know our identity before we starting to connect. It's the time of the I moving slowly to the WE.

**Tuesday:** More WE, gently stepping into and raising awareness of our national/cultural assumption regarding the Nile, sharing some of the differences in a constructive way and harvest the collective vision. Clarifying the relevance of the Platform.

**Wednesday and Thursday:** Time to organise and look at new links, activity areas, etc.

**Friday:** to time to converge together

**Saturday:** Closing

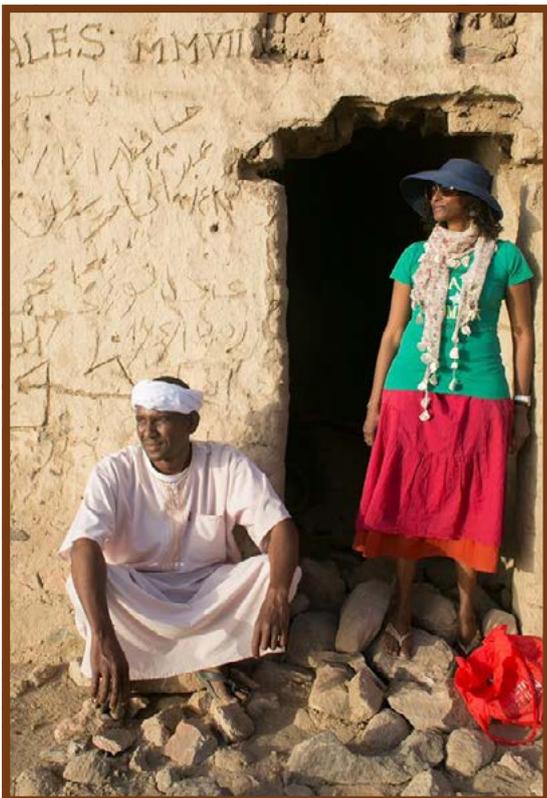
WE know more by being together.  
The living systems owns itself when it's participating  
Harvesting it leads us to wise actions

I invite us all to host ourselves, be in conversations, initiate conversation that make our Heart go BOOOOOM as we are stepping up becoming a community of practice.

This is our home for the next week - let's take care of it and bring beauty.

## Connecting to the Nile - Boat trip on the Nile

Fasil invited us to open ourselves fully to the Nile whilst on our boat trip. He asked us to become aware of what our thoughts, feelings and other senses were telling us - to listen to the Nile and allow its presence to inform us. Our boat trip allowed us to see up close the Great Dam and it took us to an abandoned village that was submerged when the Great Dam was built and all its inhabitants were relocated to other parts of Egypt (thousands of Nubian people lost their homes from many villages in the area) with the result being a loss of their way of life and their sense of identity and belonging. We heard of how the Nubian people in the surrounding villages used to live from the natural flood plains of the Nile and how this was all submerged with the building of the dams that now only supplies 9% of the electricity for Egypt. We saw the beauty and felt the presence of a way of life and its traditional knowledge lost.





## Check Out - Closing the Day

Upon returning from the Boat trip, Silas invited us to check out of our day with a 'one word' check out of how we were as we ended our first day. Words shared included:



**Hopeful**



**Connected**



**Unsettled**



**Nile**



**Disturbed**



**Arriving**



**Questions**



**Fertile**



**Curious**

# DAY TWO | My Relationship with the Nile

## 21st March

Welcome with a song from the Ethiopians

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Mongy welcomed us to the second day, speaking that the focus of the day was working with our individual relationships with the Nile. How do we relate with and to the Nile? What are our personal stories of the Nile? Luea went on to shared the programme of the day, which included working in Triads to share our experiences and stories of the Nile in the morning and using the afternoon to share with each other the projects, initiatives, and ideas we are either already doing or wishing to grow. Luea invited us to be in the day together with curiosity and discovery, allowing to learn and un-learn how we are currently are relating with the Nile and its region.

## Feed Forward from Day One

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As a way of reminding us of what we had shared and discovered the previous day, Jennifer offered the keywords that were spoken during our check in circle and we were invited to create links between them by drawing lines with marker pens.

Omnia followed and invited us to share reflections from the previous days boat trip on the Nile. The following key realizations and comments were shared:

- What do we value most; the civilization legacy or electricity?
- The choice of building the high dam can be simplified by the question “With the Nubians without the Dam OR with the dam without the Nubians?”  
Dennis Siroh
- Can the damage cause be restored / repaired? Is the damage incommensurable?
- This water submerged fields that have been cultivated for thousands of years to cultivate new fields in the desert.
- What is “home”, the relocation cut the Nubians not only from their source of life and the flow of the river but also from the flow of history that links them to their past.
- “I never realized that also people in Egypt suffered from infrastructure projects, I have only heard the narrative in Sudan and it was turned into something between Egypt and Sudan, seeing this I am now viewing things differently; it is not between countries, it is a struggle between power and communities” Dalia Haj Omar
- I am angry, this dynamics remind me of my life and struggle in my country. On one hand I am not alone, but on the other hand I am angry at the suffering that some communities and people put up with. Deng Aling
- With the “Nile SEA” we are nothing, we ARE the Nile and the Nile IS us, we will vanish without the SEA. Doaa
- I feel somehow that through this story of the dam, fingers are pointed at Ethiopia because we are the ones building the biggest dam. I think there is more into it than just projecting the same story of dams happening elsewhere. Filimon Gebremehdin
- I am confused, this has been so different than my world of academia. I studied the Nile but never saw the Nile until two years ago. Firehiwot Bahiru
- Isis story through the temple has been uprooted from its place to somewhere else.
- The village withstood being submerged for many years and they still stand tall, if any of our modern buildings have witnessed the same thing it would have been destroyed. Their resilience is symbolic to the resilience of the Nubians.

## Check in

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Being together in Silence and letting sink in what we just heard from each other during the Feed-Forward.

## Sharing our Relationship to the Nile Through Triads

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Silas and Luea invited us to work in Triads around the questions of “How do I relate to the Nile? What stories do I hold for the way I relate to the Nile?”

We worked with three roles so that we shared our stories, were deeply listened to and where we were offered reflections so as to become more aware of how the story shared has shaped our relationship with the Nile.

**Speaker:** narrates the story, speaking with intention.

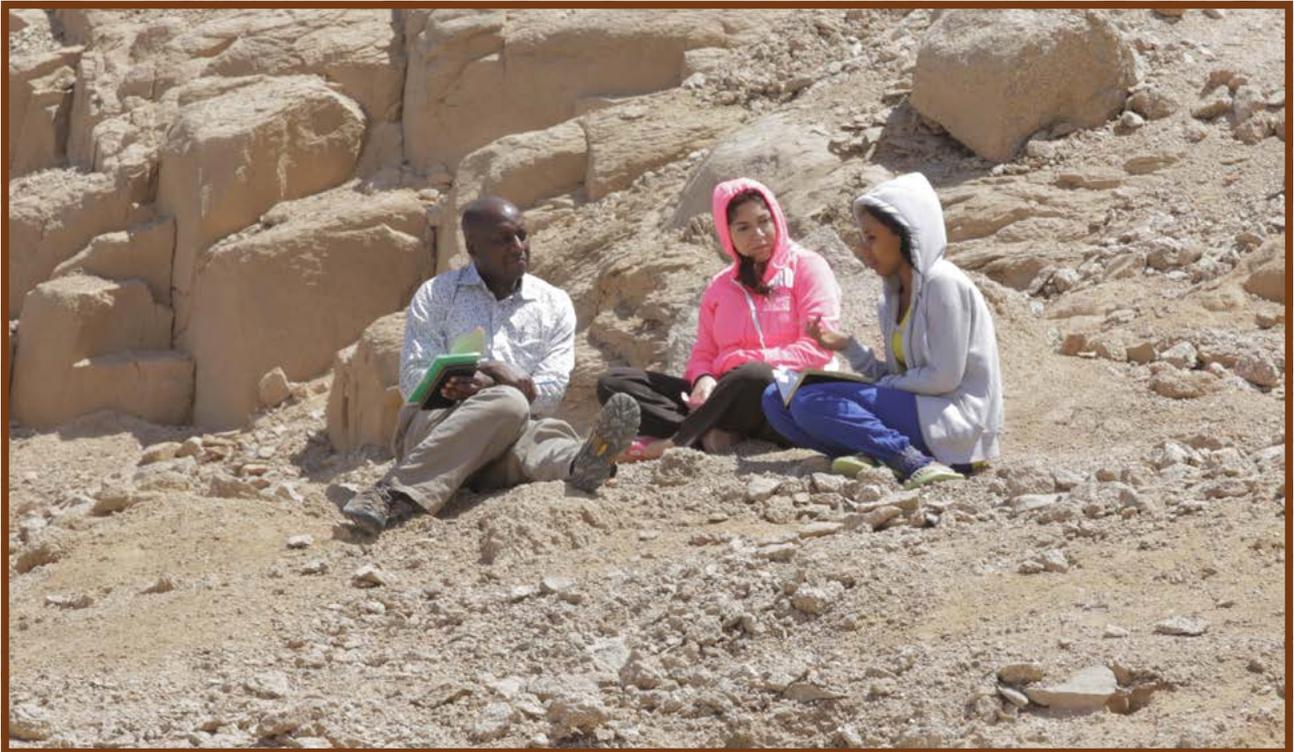
**Listener:** Listens with attention and asks questions to explore the story more.

**Witness:** Observe the process and hold the space for the conversation to happen.

After sharing our stories with two other people, we came together in the circle and shared some key insights. Examples of insights shared include:

- The way we relate to the Nile is similar in some ways and very different in other ways. Nahom Haile
- I have never lived around the Nile but the Nile for me is a story of love but it did not start this way, it started from academic interest. Kata Molner
- It is a fake identity, it is not real. Firehiwot Bahiru
- We are the NILE SEA, we do not exist without it. Doaa
- I can see the potential connections and similarities across the Nile basin communities because I work in many places, first in Ethiopia, then Egypt and now in Tanzania, the government-community relationship is the same and the resilience and survival strategies are the same. Jennifer Veilleux
- My government does not represent me in the way we deal with the Nile. Lama El Hatow
- Let us go dip ourselves in the Nile and feel it on our bodies. Fillimon Gebremehdin
- It seems to me that there is a longing to create community of communities. We have been doing that in West Africa and it can work. Simon Gibba
- The power of saying YES: Growing up in Europe as a black man, I reached a way to relate to others and myself on a different level of humanity. I am not English and am not Ethiopian, I am both. I said YES to the calling of the Nile as a way to serve my continent in a different way. Fasil Bogale
- The Nile is an African river, but also a Human river; we need to be conscious of the difference between Pan-Africanism (with essentialism of US and THEM) and a Pan-Africanity (With an openness to the world while being strongly rooted in Africa). Mohamed El Mongy
- The Nile came to our consciousness through stories, myth and heritage and also music, poetry and songs. Mai Shalaby
- The Longest Kiss; I felt the presence of the Nile after I have visited Omnia in Khartoum, there I saw the Blue Nile and the White Nile meet, but they do not bang and mix right away; the murky water of the blue Nile and the crystal water of the White Nile, they flow gently side by side and then after the first cataract is then when they mix flawlessly. Lama El Hatow





## Discovering our Current Projects, Initiatives & Ideas

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Maria opened the afternoon sharing that the purpose is to exchange with each other what we are currently working on and the ideas we are incubating. This is so we can continue to get to know one another, share knowledge and importantly begin to co-create together. Maria invited us to work with a process called Open Space Technology around the question, “What are the existing projects, activities, initiatives in the different parts of the Nile Basin that we want to share and connect around?” After explaining the four principles, the law of two feet and the four roles in how people can participate, Maria offered the blank agenda board and invited the Seed Camp participants to call the topics/discussions they wanted to have over two sessions. Many topics were posted and after two sessions of conversations, we came back to the Circle and the following projects/initiatives/ideas were reported back on, (see Appendix A)

## Check out

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We danced our way out of the day as a check out!



# DAY THREE

## Our Collective Identity & Relevance of the Platform 22nd March

### Opening of our Day with a South-Sudanese Dance by Deng

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### Welcome to the Day

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Fasil welcomed us to day three's focus of our collective identify and discussing more in depth the relevance of the Platform. He spoke that the theme of the day is how we navigate the rocks with gentleness? The rocks being all the things that can stop us - our fears, the edges, threats from others, etc. We have to look at the challenges that will stop us from creating the Platform in order to make it relevant and useful.

### Feed Forward

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Jennifer offered a review from the previous day, sharing insights from the Triads in that many of us do not actually have direct relationship with the Nile and that it comes through stories, images or impressions. Others of us see the Nile as a leisure activity - a place to relax and feel nature but do not see our livelihood or life source from the River. There is a need there-

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fore for communities to begin to have a first hand experience, as this is what will support us from just seeing it as a political tool or resource for human consumption.

Sarah followed on and asked us to share what we learned from so far. The following was shared:

- Something in your story resonates in me and opens me up more
- Africanicity is a consciousness
- Remembering and Reconnecting - Dennis' work has inspired me as going back to what we know, how do we invite the younger generations into this remembering, and how do many of us return to the natural
- The longest kiss - walking in our difference long enough before becoming one
- Lama is a person who inspires me and her story of the longest kiss is the river trying to teach us how to come together
- I am becoming more aware of how my government is acting towards others in a way that does not represent me - and this is increasingly bothering me. We need to unlearn how our governments are relating as it is having very negative impact on humans.
- I am humbled by the fact that many people here are not from Nile communities - yet we are here to do all we can for the Nile - doing it for all humbles me
- Building on this the conversations I had yesterday is how the Nile does affect us - that everything is interconnected
- We need lots of music - the Nile Project - the Nile music - this is very important
- Until yesterday I began to understand that I have been so involved in the practicalities but I am very shy and being with the group is not always easy for me - the dancing really helps and people coming and speaking to me
- I was really inspired by all the Open Space sessions and especially the Nile Project as it is not just about music but also about building community and initiating student project
- For me I connected to the walls that I have built around me in the last months and realising that I cannot be with these walls - they are now falling apart and this is good, yet it hurts to now feel that I have had these walls - how they have not let me fully feel
- History depends on who tells the stories - and now how we are sharing our stories - the simplicity is finding new words to express things
- We are finding the cracks to bring in just enough new flow
- I am feeling the connectivity and trust that we are building between us
- The discussion has been very good which is a measure of the community that is here - we need to respect each other's countries - all of you are inspiring me
- The human connection is so important as decisions are made that are beyond our control and impact our lives - we need to be connected and also not be blind to the actuality
- I am concerned in that we have to really get to know each other in order to build something else for the future - do we have the courage to press our 'red buttons' - even where we disagree?

## Check in - Mapping the Room

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Mongy and Maria invited us to take a moment to check in to see where we are as group with reference to the reason of why we have gathered and also how we are with the process. Mongy introduced that we would be given different questions and we would be asked to move to different parts of the room in order to show where we are individually. He also mentioned that this would show how the group is distributed against each question. Finally Mongy indi-

cated a continuum in the room with one end showing a high response and the other showing a low response. We ‘mapped the room’ based on the following questions:

- What is my clarity of the vision of the Nile Forum - Fully Clear (high response) to Completely Confused (low response)
- What is my clarity of the Platform and its way of operating - Fully Clear (high response) to Completely Confused (low response)
- Where do I stand - I am ready to take action, (high response) I need to connect more with each other (medium response) or I am confused (low response)
- How are you with the Process - Comfortable, (high response) Uncertain, (medium response) Disturbed (low response)

The ‘maps in the room’ showed that:

- Clarity on the vision was emerging for people, however some people who initially thought they knew the vision were becoming more unclear and there were a few people who really were not clear yet
- There was less clarity on how the Platform was going to operate and organise itself and this map clearly showed that more thinking and conversation was needed in this area
- There were a few people who were ready to act, yet the majority were still wanting to connect and get to know each other
- Most people were comfortable with the process, yet some were uncertain as to where it would lead and there was no one that was disturbed by it

Mongy closed the session by saying that the hosting team would take these ‘maps’ into consideration when designing the following day so as to meet some of the needs that became apparent through this check in.



## Going to the Rocks

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After a break, we sat in circle to listen to a bit more on the rationale of a Platform. Lama spoke the news from Brussels that two bombs had gone off at the airport, killing and injuring people and also at a metro station. The circle was hit with the shock as well as the personal realisation that family and friends are there and the urgency of wishing to get in touch with them to know that they are safe. Fasil shared the rationale behind the Platform - wishing to create a connected network of civil society people working in their own countries and willing to work on cross boundary projects and issues that would transcend the politicisation of the Nile and create a neutral body of people who want to live in peace. However, the news of the bombs in Brussels overshadowed this and you could feel the wave of disturbance in the circle.

This news and the response in the Circle heralded an embodied experience of how the work of creating connection and seeking peace can be disrupted and damaged if not protected and worked with consciously. We no longer were just speaking of a metaphor when we said “going to the rocks” - we were now experiencing first hand what it means to face the real challenges - that there will be external and internal forces that will be obstacles and could stop us moving forward.

Mongy invited us to take a walk away from the River - into the rocks. We walked in silence until we came to a clearing and stood in silence. Mongy invited us to think of what will stop us - what are the rocks inside us and around that we must take into account. We held hands and felt the pulse run through us.

## World Cafe - What can stop us?

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After lunch, Maria welcomed us to a World Cafe, a collective process where we can make visible what can stop us. We worked through three rounds of conversations and finally Silas invited us to share the five most important challenges/inhibitors. We wrote these on post its and clusters these into the following themes:



Co-develop vision/objective and Values:

- Clarity of vision & action
- Aligned Values
- Clarity on the need of different societies

Realistic Time & Co-operation

- Scope & Pace: wanting to do too much too quickly

Lack of Trust amongst ourselves

- Mistrust & ego
- Lack of trust in the future

Copy Paste

- Lack of innovation
- Not learning from previous experiences

Fear

Dealing with Power Dynamics - internally and externally

History/Politics

- Negative history, prejudice and stereotypes
- Treaties, Colonialism, NBI, Regional Conflict, Donor's interests
- Egyptian Domination
- Destructive Narratives
- Past Trauma's



#### Create & Sustain our Commitment

##### Create long-term communication strategy

- Challenge of information & lack of it, the need to raise collective consciousness/ awareness
- Messaging
- External communication

##### Create Resonance for Engagement

- Engagement: apolitical, who? How?
- Reasons to engage the general public

##### Develop Business Model

- Funding/Resources
- Funding and self compromise
- Lack of Funds

##### Develop Coherence in the CSO Ecosystem

- Fragmentation & conflicting interests of CSOs in the Nile Basin

##### Who is part of the Platform?

- Trust & relationship between civil society and local communities

##### Transcending & Integrating National & Regional Identities

- Balance between Africanism and Internationalism
- Threat of national identity threatens Nile identity



As we finished, there were some comments and doubts as to whether this has not already been done and would a Nile Forum really be able to address some of these challenges or was it a naive assumption. Although not spoken, there was an air of doubting ourselves. Then quietly but firmly, Filimon said, ***“I know that these challenges exist, but also we exist...and I believe that through us it is always possible”***. His words cut through the doubt and were like a bell ringing to remind us to keep going.



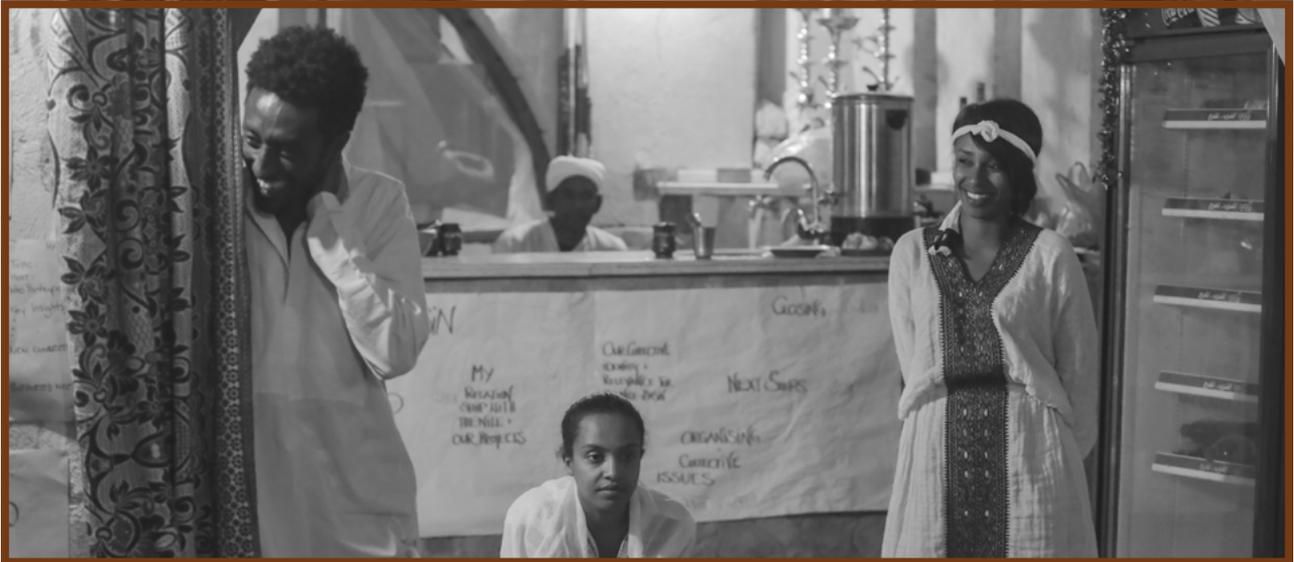
## Check out

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We checked out by passing a clap through the group.

## Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony

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Abraham, Filimon, Melet, Fasil and Firehiwot welcomed us to share in an Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony. They shared the importance of coffee in Ethiopia as a main crop but more as a way of people coming together and socialising. This is a simple way in which family, friends and neighbours meet up, exchange daily conversation and stay connected. The younger ones in the family who are taught by their elders usually brew coffee and it is served in different waves so that people might enjoy one, two, three or even more cups of the delicious coffee.

We were all served coffee and we drank this and talked and socialised - Ethiopian style!



# DAY FOUR

## Organising the Platform 23th March

### Welcome to the Day

Maria welcomed us to the day of organising the Platform. She spoke that from 'mapping the room' yesterday it was clear that some clarity is needed on the Nile Forum/Platform and its purpose and organising pattern so Mongy and Fasil will present more of the vision of what the Nile Forum is as well what it is being created for and how it might unfold. Maria closed by saying, "This will be the day where we will move deeper into asking ourselves what we want the Platform to be".



### Feed forward

Maria shared a poem, stringing together key words and impressions from Day Three:

Today is for the Rocks - Do we dare?  
Your story is my story - Resonating  
Africanicity is a consciousness  
Reconnecting to Permaculture - Thank you Dennis  
The Longest Kiss in the World - walking together long enough before becoming one  
My government is not acting in my name - what do I do?  
The Nile Project - helps us feel our interconnection through the notes  
The Walls - why did I build them - the relief of breaking them down - the pain of living with them?  
A book - 7 days in Aswan!  
The Red Buttons - do we dare to touch them - in myself, between us, for all of us?  
Mapping the Room  
Our vision - I was clear but now I am blurry  
I am completely clear - let's act!!  
Our process - Comfortable with the process, yet when do we get clearer?  
Our energy - Ready to work on actions, yet need to continue to connect  
After a break. We receive the news  
Boom - Belgium - Bombs  
The Platform being explained  
Hard to hear this  
Feeling the Chaos and the Movement

Feeling the Rocks - the challenge  
Walking to them  
Standing in Circle  
Feeling our pulse through our hands  
LUNCH REST LAUGHTER  
Entering into what will stop us...  
Not being clear about Pathway ahead - vision, objectives, values  
Our Commitment & Trust  
Who to engage  
How to communicate  
Embrace the history and politics  
The Wounds - soothe them  
The National identities - integrate them  
A clap round the Circle took us into the evening  
Ethiopia - Coffee - Ceremony  
Friendship - Dancing - Laughing  
LIFE - we are life  
We continue into Day Four

## Check in

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Kata invited us to check in through a trust exercise where we paired up and one person allowed themselves to fall forward or backward and trust that the other person would 'catch' them. After pairing up and trying this we shared the following reflections:

- Interesting to keeping that my partner was there and would not let me go
- We should translate this into what we do - our ability to relax and let go of what we know will determine what will be our success
- There are different level of trust and this depends on the context - one needs to find their level of comfort
- In trusting there is a sense of equity and balance
- Time is a factor - it takes time to trust
- We should realise that sometimes not trusting - having walls is an act of protection - and we have to go gently and gradually





## Presenting the Platform

To respond to the emerging need from the Seed Camp to better understand what is the Nile Forum and to gain more clarity on its vision, objectives and values, Mongy and Fasil offered a perspective that was a combination of their own thinking as well as a harvest of what was emerging during the Seed Camp.

## What is the Nile Forum?

A PLATFORM/HUB/FORUM for societal multipliers across the Nile Basin. Specifically these words indicate anything that brings us together. They are offered as a starting point so that we can begin to come together and further define what it is we want to do together across the Nile Basin.



## For What?

Fostering Connections among Nile Basin citizens (& internationals) who identify themselves & their work with the Nile beyond a single country. There are some assumptions in this statement:

- (1) There are people who want to come together
- (2) Not forcing people to connect
- (3) Connecting helps us to create a collective consciousness and culture
- (4) Connecting can be done in person and digitally. The information age helps us to stay connected and speeds up the process.

## What are the Core Values?

Diversity - “The Longest Kiss” is the metaphor that captures this and us mimicking the Nile and walking together for as long as it takes until we become more than what we are alone.  
Independence and neutrality - Not belonging to one nation, but working for all of the Nile Basin

### How will we Organise?

This is yet to be decided but we envisage two parts to how we will organise:

- (1) A Core Group that will host and facilitate the overall unfolding of the Platform
- (2) Pillars of activity areas (some examples that are coming from what we have discussed so far):



Overall, The Nile Forum is aiming at creating a new narrative for the Nile Basin - one that connects us in peace!

## Questions on the Platform

Different questions were shared on the perspective offered by Mongy and Fasil:

### Core Group and Legal Entity

How will the Core Group hold the integrity of the values and focus?

What is the Core Group mandated for?

How will we establish a legal entity that covers the whole of the Nile Basin?

What are the benefits of being registered and not?

### The Forum/Platform/Hub

Who forms the Forum?

What are the needs we start with so that we do not feel pressured to focus on what is ‘cool’ or being funded?

What skills do we hold between us?

How can people who are working at a grassroots level become trans-boundary in their actions?

How do we reduce the risks of committing and

not leading to anything?

What is the electronic/digital aspect of the Forum?

How do we engage with those that do not have electronic access?

What is the information that will be needed at different levels?

Through the discussion that followed around these questions it became clear that these topics need to continue to be discussed through the Seed Camp and specifically four areas emerged that became the focus of the conversation in the afternoon:

Core Group & Organisation hosted by Mongy and Fasil

Seedlings/Innovation Areas hosted by Maria

Skills and Capacities hosted by Luea

Needs hosted by Mina and Silas

## Discussion Groups



We broke into the four discussion groups of the topics identified before lunch and we did four rounds of identifying aspects for the core group, seedlings/innovation areas, skills/capacities and needs.



### Core Group

#### Purpose/Role

- Develop the vision
- Safeguard the values
- Identify objectives of each pillar
- Offer guidance and overall interest
- Promotes ideas further up with policy makers and raises awareness
- Communicates with Media
- Helps the Forum Community stay connected
- Everyone should act as a core in their region/country

#### Who

- Multipliers
  - o Have the skills and charisma
  - o Communicate with communities
  - o Connect wider
- How are people selected to be on the core team?

## Structure(s)

- Function based structure
- Do we need all the pillars have to be in all the countries?
- Representation of the Core – will it have country representatives?
- How will monitoring and evaluation take place?
- Size – how many people – more than 15 can be difficult
- Will core team members be paid?
- Needs transparency
- Needs a constitution

## What would be supportive to the Core Team?

- Communication structure
- Funding and Time
- Capacity Building (what kind of capacity is needed?) – frequency of training

## Funding/Self Funding

- Funding Model – will it be membership based, receive donations, % of project funding going for admin, crowd funding?
- External Fund Raising – Grants, Government, Equity?
- What is the business model for the Forum?

## Legal Registration

- Is there an umbrella organisation that is registered – and which country?
- How can we proceed without registration?



## Needs

- Funding – either EGP, \$, or Swiss Francs, access to financial services
- Legal registration
- Technology – central digital space
- Capacity in planning, monitoring and evaluation, strategizing, marketing, communicating
- Training, Coaching and Mentoring
- Data & Information
- Local Partners, e.g. local networks, government, etc.
- Public support
- Regional and International Exchange
- Sustained commitment and interest
- Organisational Effectiveness Development
- Orientation and modelling of comparative experiences
- Translation
- Visa facilitation
- Harvesting success stories
- Incubator for ideas
- Online and offline communication



## Seedlings/Innovation Areas

### Advocacy

- Visual Documentation of the Nile Basin Cultures as many languages, indigenous skills, and stories are endangered – a written, video and photography documentation

Sarah, Dalia, Mohammed, Deng

- Writing a book that shares Nile Basin Stories and that is written by more than one writer and focuses on the question of ‘What does the Nile mean to me’ – captures the heritage, history, relationship people have of with the Nile

Deng

### Capacity Building

- Food, Agriculture, Fishing - Mai
  - o Trainings and Exchange programmes on different topics, e.g., Permaculture, Eco-tourism, Agro-business
  - o Establish community farms in different parts of the Nile Basin
- Incubators Programme – for new start ups to receive relevant training, mentoring and support
- Nile Basin Student Programme – Abeer
  - o Create a programme specifically for Nile Basin students studying at Cairo University so they can share their needs, learn to business plan, strategic planning – as a way of connecting their different endeavours across the Nile Basin
- International Exchange Programmes, e.g. to Switzerland to gain more knowledge on water management, etc.
- Socio-Economic Programme for Young Ugandan women (could be expanded to other Nile Basin countries) that supports them to develop their ideas and turn them into sustainable enterprises - Moses

### Information

- Build a database of existing and potential programmes (begin with Seed Camp participants) – Abeer
- Research – create a research capacity that can offer to policy makers videos, articles, etc. that can help to educate and inform them, as well a wider reach of people in local communities to learn more of the Nile Basin – Firehiwot
- Amyalfia – based in Sudan but can have a wider reach that could disseminate what is happening through the Forum and also provide information on what is needed - Omnia

### Nile Basin Jam

- A week long process that helps to heal deep trauma and wounds
- It would take place annually, accept people from across the Nile Basin and each year it would be held in a different Nile Basin country

- A proposal already exists on this and also the facilitators and organisers
- There is a need for legal entity and funding

## Lama and Moses

### Multi-stakeholder/disciplinary

- Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Water Diplomacy – bringing academics and policy makers with Civil Society to discuss and use other creative modalities to look at difficult water diplomacy issues – Lama
- Develop sectorial and professional networks where people from particular sectors or professions can meet exchange best practices, co-create new projects, etc.
- Host specific gatherings/conferences on difficult topics, e.g. agricultural investment where different stakeholders can meet and begin to look for new solutions - Kata



### Skills/Capacities

These are Skills and Capacities that were mentioned:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cooking</li><li>• Coffee</li><li>• Sports</li><li>• Development of responsible tourism/Eco Tourism</li><li>• Trans-National Building of Community of Communities</li><li>• Child and Youth Work</li><li>• Mobilizing Volunteers</li><li>• CSO - Mobilization</li><li>• Civil Society Connection</li><li>• Community Mobilization</li><li>• Community Development</li><li>• Community Engagement</li><li>• Team Coordination</li><li>• Core Group Skills</li><li>• Gender Issues / Participation</li><li>• Inclusion of Indigenous</li><li>• Humanitarian Work</li><li>• Multi Stakeholder/ Trans-Sectorial Approach</li><li>• Conflict Analysis</li><li>• Music</li><li>• Literary Arts/Storytelling</li><li>• Dancing</li><li>• Cultural Connection</li><li>• Film/Documentary</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Photography</li><li>• Architecture/Urban Planning</li><li>• IT-skills</li><li>• PC-Skills</li><li>• Entrepreneurship</li><li>• Mentoring</li><li>• Long-Term Process Design</li><li>• Org. Development and Strategic Planning</li><li>• Management and Leadership</li><li>• Mindfulness and Meditation</li><li>• Negotiation Training</li><li>• Dialog Facilitation</li><li>• Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Work and training</li><li>• Fundraising</li><li>• Monitoring and Evaluation</li><li>• Graphic Design</li><li>• Communication Strategies</li><li>• Communication Protocol</li><li>• Social Media Management</li><li>• Information Sharing with other Networks -PR</li><li>• Event Management</li><li>• Relationship Building and</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication</li><li>• Public Speaking</li><li>• Networking</li><li>• Grant Design and Proposal writing</li><li>• Writing general</li><li>• Visa Facilitation</li><li>• Outreach</li><li>• Private Sector Networks</li><li>• Universities Connection</li><li>• Governmental Contacts</li><li>• Governmental Engagement</li><li>• Transnational RE</li><li>• Research</li><li>• Cartography</li><li>• GIS-Mapping</li><li>• Statistic Analyses</li><li>• Human Rights Advocacy</li><li>• Strategic / Digital Advocacy</li><li>• Financial/Funding Management</li></ul> |
|---|--|--|

## Check Out

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We checked out of the day by inviting any moments of inspiration or disturbance.

## Gala Dinner at Fekra in our beautiful traditional dresses

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We dressed up in either our nice clothes or national clothing and we assembled by the boat. We went to Fekra where we were greeted by Fekra's dog and by Abuda. Although this was to be our Gala Dinner it was also a surprise birthday celebration for Dalia with Nubian singing and dancing which invited us all into dancing and singing. We also participated in a local women's craft bazaar where Doaa also was offering her jewellery and artwork. We ate delicious local food, told jokes and danced, until we said 'Yala' - time to go to bed for we have another day's work tomorrow.



Happy Birthday Dalia

# DAY FIVE | Our Collective Issues - 24th March

## Welcome to the Day

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Silas welcomed us to the day saying that we would work in the morning on any collective issues and that in the afternoon we will go move out into the surrounding area by going to the Isis Temple and also going to Aswan to the Nubian Museum and also have dinner in Aswan. He reminded us that we were entering the fifth day and that we should use the day well to continue to connect to discover what we can do together as well as be open to what we will see this afternoon.

## Check in

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Luea invited us to check in through a game where we playfully allowed the energy-“ball” travelling through and across our circle -> Ill-joga - Tiger-Apricot - T-SHHHHHH - Sonic Boom! This woke us up by laughing and moving.

## Connecting with Each Other Open Space

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Maria reminded us that when we ‘mapped the room’ there was a majority of us that wanted to spend more time connecting with each other to get to know one another. For this purpose, Maria invited us into Open Space Technology for one session around the question, “What/Who do I want to connect with in order to better get to know who we are at the Seed Camp?” Different topics were posted and people used the ‘Law of Two Feet’ to go to the discussions they wanted to participate in.

## Trip to Isis Temple, Nubian Museum and Aswan

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After lunch, the boat was waiting for us to take us to the Isis Temple, and then to Aswan to visit the Nubian Temple and to have dinner. Again we reminded ourselves to listen to what we heard through the ancient history of the area and the history of the Nubian people. The afternoon was a series of impressions, connections, moments of dialogue, amazement and life.



# Day Six

## Next Steps and our Contribution

### 25th March

### Welcome to the Day

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Luea welcomed us into our day six. The day where we bring all that what we have worked on to be rounded off. Where we take time to look at the next gentle and tangible steps. The day to see where we individually want and feel called to step up and contribute to them.

Jennifer sang us into the day with a Song, this time in the English Language.

### Check - In

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As a Check-in Luea asked us the question “What is bubbling up from our trip yesterday visiting the Ancient and Current Times”. We held it in an Open Mic version and heard different voices:

- Amazing to imagine that the Isis Temple was removed from its original position and taken stone by stone to the new locations, especially because of its size
- The movement of location has however affected the energy of the temple - it feels empty, although an impressive job was done of saving it
- Interesting to see how many people and cultures have crossed Nubia and how each one left it's mark
- The Nubian Museum is a beautiful testimony of the Nubian people, land and culture - it is good that this has been created to remember what was then displaced in the building of the dams
- It was so clear that the Nile is a life giver seeing all the civilisations that have lived with it - how could they have flooded this vibrant land to build dams?

## Feed forward

Fasil and Maria offered a feed forward through a diagramme that reflected how the different conversations over the past days were beginning to show another level of understanding for the organising pattern of the Nile Forum. Specifically Maria shared:

- At the centre are the communities from our different countries who are touched by the Nile (symbolised by a heart) - The Nile Forum works for a vision of embracing diversity in the Nile Basin (the vision shifted due to our conversations from originally being a vision of a Nile Basin Regional Identity)
- Around this centre are social multipliers - that is us and others that will join us that will work with communities and other stakeholders, e.g. governments, institutions, international bodies, etc. to expand the integration of the vision
- Then come the activities of the Nile Forum - they are the tangible ways in which people can participate and be involved so that the vision is put into practice
- Finally, holding the whole is a core that enacts a variety of horizontal activities that support the activities to be implemented, the social multipliers in order to have impact finally on communities of the Nile Basin



## Working on Activity Areas

Maria introduced a methodology called Ritual Dissent, which is a more structured process, as we are now beginning to focus on activity areas and specifically next steps. We worked with the following activity areas, with assigned hosts/spokespersons for each area that had been harvested by the hosting team from the previous days conversations, i.e. called through Open Space and discussed through the World Cafe and also the Group Discussions of Day Four.

- Community Building – EDE - Simon & Geri
- Nile Identity visual/audio stories - Sarah & Mohamed
- Nile Basin Jam/ Healing dialogue - Lama
- Research - Jennifer
- Ecological land + water practices - Mai & Dennis
- Social entrepreneurship - Abraham & Dalia
- How to stay connect - Fasil
- Digital Online Outreach – Omnia



The process offered a thirty-minute discussion for each group to begin to fill in an action plan through the following areas on a flipchart:

- Activity/Title
- Overarching Intention
- Your Desired Outcomes
- Resources and Skills needed
- Possible Partners

After thirty minutes, the host/spokesperson of each group was asked to take their action plans and move to another group to present what they had identified and to receive constructive criticism. This was repeated three times in total.



Then the host/spokesperson went back to their original group and another thirty minutes was given to refine their action plans by taking on board the constructive criticism received. Finally each group presented their action plans in plenary, (see Appendix B for results).

## Triads

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We started the afternoon by sharing from the morning session of the different groups.

After that Luea and Maria invited us to work in triads with the question ***“What have I tapped into myself that myself strengthens me to act”***.

We worked in triads and did not share in plenary, as we wanted to keep this between those in our groups.

## Contributions

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Towards the end of our afternoon Luea invited us to map where we wish to contribute. We asked the following questions:

### 1) Who can see him/herself being part of the Core-Team

Mongy, Fasil, Jennifer, Omnea, Dennis, Sarah, Dalia, Abraham, Mohamed, Moses, Andre, Ntugo

### 2) Who can see him/herself supporting the Core team in a specific area or with specific skill

Filimon still to see how

Firehwiot Ethiopian Side/ University

Noam Communication/Design

Lea still to see how, Writing, Networking

Jennifer Student Support/Research/ Network

Mai ground work, linking people, workshop, presentation, background support

Abuda Community, Eco-Tourism

Dalia Support Content Creation, Digital Com., Proposal Writing, fundraising

Mirette writing, translate, networking

Moses Project Planning, Evaluation, Performance Monitoring

Maria at the back support, living system organisation, network, AoH

Josie organising, and more

Luea Networking, Holding Space, Support as Steward, and more depending how it unfolds

### 3) Who can see him/herself leading or being part of an activity

Research

- Jennifer all holding the hosting
- lama
- Abeer
- Ahmed
- Firehwiot
- Lea
- Lama

### Nile Identity

- Sarah Lead/Host
- Mohamed Lead/Host
- Mirette
- Deng
- Noam
- Jennifer

### Nile Jam

- Lama Lead/Host
- Moses
- Lea
- Josie

### Ecological Part

- Mai Lead/Host
- Dennis Lead/Host
- Ntugo Lead/Host
- Andre
- Silas

### EDE

- Andre Lead/Host
- Gerry Lead/Host
- Simon Lead/Host
- Abouda
- Melat

### Social Entrepreneur

- Abraham Lead/Host
- Filimon
- Melat
- Abuda
- Ntugo

### 4) Being a multiplier in your own country

Ethiopia: start with the team together

Egypt: start with the team together

Sudan: Omnia, Mohamed, Dalia

Kenya: Sarah, Mohamed

Tanzania : Ndugo

### 5) Supporting when asked

Abraham, Andre

## Check - Out

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Clapping together 3 times: one for myself, one for us, one for the world

# Day Seven | Closing 26th March

## Framing the Closure & Check out Circle

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Mongy, Maria and Luea hosted us into closing our 7-days journey together with a more extended Check-Out Circle with the question “What is alive in me and what do I take with me”

- Words like the following were shared:

- Rainbow
- Humbleness
- Embodied knowledge
- We need each other
- This is the time breaking down our ego`s
- We are not alone
- Intune with nature
- Love
- Being Ready
- Vessel that holds us
- Peace
- Belonging
- Creating something collectively
- Responsibility
- We are igniting something
- Collaboration between us
- one - ness
- Purpose
- Commitment / making it happen
- Exiting
- Passion - I can contribute
- Wisdom
- Solid Friendship
- Ability to engage
- Sheltering the light
- Coming home to many places
- Homefullness
- Honour - part of an organism working through me
- Being cooked ready
- Building our ark - the vessel to take us to the next place
- Commitment to be at each others back

We thanked the Angelika staff for their hospitality and we exchanged our appreciations of each other.

Gerri Mitchell read her poem inspired by the River...



## How do I Now Feel About the Nile?

---

The Nile has called me home. Home to heal from the journeys of pain. Home to listen and to align. Align my heartbeat to be in tune. In tune with the pulse and the rhythm that is Africa.

The journey has ended. It's time to heal the suffering. It's time to mend the separation. It's time to be brave enough to take responsibility to own where we slip.

Slip back into the conditioning separates. Slip into old paths which divide. Divide us from each other. Divide us from our true nature.

Divide me from you. Divide me from myself.

I see you, great river. Coursing through this beautiful home of us all. Coursing through the veins in my body. Only I can allow you to heal me. You are where you have been always. I and humanity have been searching. While you have patiently waited. Waited for me to stop searching. And to embrace what has always been there. Despite my closed eyes and troubled heart.

Thank you, Great River.





## Appendix A – Open Space Results of Discovering our Current Projects, Initiatives & Ideas

### Topic: Potential Dialogue Project in the Nile Region

Host: Lea

Participants: Deng, Abraham

#### Key Insights/Highlights:

- AFD going south
- Need for dialogue between young people & Civil Society
- The relevance of a dialogue focus in the Nile Forum

#### New Connections/Actions/Projects

- We were not really ready to go further that this so we dissolved
- 

### Topic: Pygmies Eco villages (Eastern Congo)

Host: Andre

Participants: MO 'men, Maria, Simon, Abuda

#### Key Insights/Highlights:

- Need for reforestation so that Pygmies can feel their natural habitat
- Put more focus on the quality of the work rather than on the quantity
- See how the traditional knowledge of the pygmies can be used (even though difficult to see how this can be implemented in their new environment)

#### New Connections/Actions

#### Support Needed

- More ideas and opinions
- 

### Topic: The Nile Jam

Hosts: Moses & Lama

Who Participated: Fasil, Melat, Ahmed, Abraham, Mongy

#### Key Insights/Highlights:

- The Nile Jam is about peace in action
  - Appreciation of small actions
  - It is a long week event
  - It allows for dialogue for healing's sake
  - Invites a diversity of participants
-

- There is no specific KPI's
- Aim is for individual as well as interpersonal healing to take place

### **New Connections/Actions/Projects**

- The Nile Jam could take place at Strawberry Fields in Ethiopia
- It would be good for the Nile Jam to be part of the Nile Forum

### **Support Needed**

- Fundraising
  - Legal Entity to do this under
- 

### **Topic: Organic Agriculture using Permaculture Principles in Rusinga Island on Lake Victoria**

**Host: Dennis**

**Who Participated: Abeer, Mai, Ndugu, Tanja, Deng, Dalia, Silas, Ahmed**

### **Key Insights/Highlights:**

- Food security
- Lake pollution
- Deforestation
- HIV/AIDS

### **New Connections/Actions/Projects**

- To spread the Initiative to reach out to many communities along the Nile Region

### **Support Needed**

- Funding
- 

### **Topic: Organisational Effectiveness, Development & Enhancement in Tanzania**

**Host: Ndugu**

**Participants: Abeer, Geri, Nermine, Dennis**

### **Key Insights/Highlights**

- Organisations have to be viable in order to be able to address their most pressing livelihood challenges

### **New Connections/Actions/Projects**

- Cover the lake zone regions and districts where the various rivers that feed in to the Lange originate from
-

## **Support Needed**

- Funding for developing organisational effectiveness of the grassroots organisations in the lake zone regions
- 

## **Topic: Digital Storytelling Research Initiative for Water Stories**

**Host: Jennifer**

**Participants: Kata, Mongy, Mohamed, Sarah, Dalia, Deng, Silas, Josie, Abeer, Nahom**

## **Key Insights/Highlights**

- Common goals
- Africans documenting Africans (need documentary training and equipment supply)
- Identify audiences, platforms, communities, artists, products
- Existing opportunities

## **New Connections/Actions/Projects**

### **Support Needed**

- Funding
  - Legal entity
  - Team
  - Governmental Support or permits
- 

## **Topic: African Identity Documentary Throughout the Nile**

**Host: Sarah**

**Participants: Dalia, Mohamed, Mongy, Nahom, Deng, Omnia**

## **Key Insights/Highlights**

- Documentary by Africans for Africans - using the Nile as a connecting starting point
- Pan Africanism vs. Pan Africanity
- African pride
- The movie makes the connection visible without articulating conclusions but triggering discussion

## **New Connections/Actions/Projects**

- Could this be hosted under the Nile Forum?

### **Support Needed**

- Film makers
  - Photographers
  - Platform
  - Fundraising
-

**Topic: Building a Community of Communities - The People's Coast and Basin**

**Hosts: Geri & Simon**

**Participants: Andre, Omnia, Abeer, Deng, Mai, Ndugu**

**Key Insights/Highlights**

- Importance of EDE and Permaculture as a vehicle for engagement and consistency
- Focus on the strengths and assets within the bio-region
- Strategies and processes for connecting and collaborating with stakeholders and policy makers

**New Connections/Actions/Projects**

**Support Needed**

- Funding for more EDE's, Permaculture and Mediation Skills
- 

**Topic: Engaging Diverse Parties into a Process**

**Host: Kata**

**Participants: Mina, Lea, Tanja, Melat, Eman, Passent, Deng**

**Key Insights/Highlights**

- A process with multiple participants with different backgrounds, purpose, ideas, crisis - it is hard and it needs time
- When it reaches momentum, more people want to participate
- The co-ordination is needed
- An example is the climate/water initiative with its specific objectives of mobilising governments on groundwater and climate issues
- There are lessons, ingredients of these processes that we can learn from, e.g. rules of interaction membership, offering opportunities for engagement, consider ownership, learning outcomes, co-operation and managing of action plan
- Questions raised: (1) What are the motivations for organisations to join, (2) How is it co-ordinated, (3) How activities are financed

**New Connections/Actions/Projects**

- Open for joining
- Lessons learnt to be shared with outcomes of the Seed Camp

**Support Needed**

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**Topic: Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD): Opportunities and Challenges**

**Host: Ahmed**

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**Participants: Lama, Mai, Filimon, Fasil, Jennifer, Tarek, Josie, Firehiwot**

**Key Insights/Highlights**

- The topic is important for reconciliation
- Main concerns include transparency and lack of public consultation
- Would a cascaded (3 smaller dams) design make any difference in terms of impact?

**New Connections/Actions/Projects**

- Strategy to engage civil Society

**Support Needed:**

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**Topic: The Nile Project**

**Host: Mina**

**Participants: Lea, Firehiwot, Filimon, Tarek, Kata, Nermine, Doaa, Josie**

**Key Insights**

**New Connections/Actions/Projects**

**Support needed**

## Appendix B: Activity Area Results

### Identity Visual/Audio/Multimedia Stories

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(Sarah, Mohammed, Deng, Mirette)

#### Overarching Intention

Document communities along the Nile for the purpose of preservation, information and community empowerment.

#### Points of discussion

- What is Nile identity?
- Why does it have to be collective?

#### Intended Outcome

Generations will have access to information, their heritage, and communities will be empowered.

#### Next Steps

1. Organizing the structure of the team
2. Research and the identification of existing communities
3. Discussing timeline
4. Identify needed resources
5. Identify contributors
6. Determine communication strategy
7. Discuss Production/Final Output
  - a. Documentary
  - b. Book
  - c. Exhibitions

#### Partners

1. Individual Networks
  - a. Financial
  - b. Non Financial
  - c. Grass Roots
  - d. Media Agencies
  - e. Government (Indirect)

## Nile Basin JAM

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### **Intentions:**

- Dealing with deeper roots of conflict
- Creating a community
- Connecting with the other
- Better understanding of the other
- Enhance collaboration
- Create a platform of healing and dialogue
- Venting historic and present grievances in a safe space
- Trust building
- Spreading an alternative narrative – scaling up – ripple effect

### **Intended outcome**

- Host the 1st Nile Basin JAM in early 2017 – February 2017

### **Needs/Skills Resources**

- Funding \$
- Fundraisers – 3-4 people
- Legal registered entity – legal registration
- Outreach for maximum diversity (urban/rural)
- Organizational team (3-4 ppl) – [core team of Nile forum maybe?]
- Facilitators team (5-6 ppl)

### **Partners**

- YES Network
- Nile Forum – a project under the Nile Forum
- RAHA – NGO in Uganda
- WIN – think tank in Egypt
- UNICEF - donor
- UNESCO - donor
- Swiss Development corporation – donor
- Nile Project

### **Next Steps:**

- Skype once a month
- Update Nile Basin JAM proposal
- Team formation
- Process design
- Fundraising

### **Interested persons from Nile Forum to work on Nile Basin JAM**

- Lama
- Moses
- Mongy
- Lea
- Josie
- Dalia Haj Omar

## Ecology: Land and Water Practices

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### Overarching intention

Improved quality of life of the Nile communities through adopting sustainable ecological, land and water management practices.

### Intended outcomes

- 1) Improved food security while not compromising ecology
- 2) Scaling up successful models (e.g. Rosinga Island)
- 3) Reduced pollution
- 4) Increased income of the targeted households
- 5) Increased understanding of conservation
- 6) Increased forest/vegetation cover

### Needed resources

- 1) Capacity building
- 2) Funding
- 3) Community buy in
- 4) Land

### Next Steps

### Partners

### Critiques

- 1) Have you identified the communities? To ease implementation?
- 2) What is meant by “increased understanding of conservation”?
- 3) Capacity building for who? What kind of capacity are we talking about?
- 4) Need to know more about Rosinga
- 5) Time frame is 1 year, is improved food security feasible?
- 6) How is land a needed resource? Needs clarifying
- 7) Have you already targeted households and how many?
- 8) Capacity is equipment or skills?
- 9) Might need interns/volunteers?
- 10) Seems too big
- 11) What is needed now is to define the next steps in order to see how this big thing can take action and come to the ground
- 12) How to work with current events such as the lake that would be created by the GERD and work with the people in training and possible projects? (similarly with Aswan dam relocated communities)
- 13) Seems like 3 projects:
  - a. Food security
  - b. Pollution
  - c. Understanding
- 14) Quite ambitious, needs breakdown
- 15) Breaking down the capacities, need to be more specific

- 16) Need local partners
- 17) Don't like it but think it's great
- 18) Create linkages between communities in similar situations like the GERD and Aswan
- 19) Overarching intention is too blurry. What is quality of life? It is too broad, need to be specific
- 20) Can't see enough of the form of how we will do this. Can't see the tangible stuff. If this group were the donors, they would not fund it like this
- 21) Too inspirational not tangible
- 22) Need more examples and clarifications
- 23) Who will be the partners?
- 24) What is the actual goal?
- 25) Once back with group, break it down further into tangibility
- 26) Pinpoint exactly who and how. Add numbers such as x number of PDCs, x farmers to change practices etc.
- 27) Should not look for land, find people with land
- 28) Capacity building is not a resource (core can support it to happen)
- 29) Add quantitative measurements: reduce pollution by how much?
- 30) Intended outcomes: first year, so start small and how many countries?
- 31) Exactly where will you plant trees?
- 32) Prototype first
- 33) Missing elements of government. All too grassroots.

<b>Staying connected</b>	
<b>Intention</b>	Keep the spirit and momentum Circulate relevant information Potential collaboration
<b>Outcomes</b>	Annual meeting Well informed members/ core Well connected Formation of local networks (Facebook groups, mailing list, newsletters ..)
<b>Needed skills</b>	Photography Story telling Digital Media management Organizing skills IT and Graphics design
<b>Needed resources</b>	Funding for activities, resources, man power .. Internet connection Time Space for local networks
<b>Potential partners</b>	Every one in the seed camp Digital outreach team Photographers and writers team The Nile project
<b>Steps to take in the coming 3 – 6 months</b>	
1 2 3 4 5	Establishing local networks Online platform establishment Collecting peoples contacts Plan the next gathering Assign delegates for countries

Team members: Fasil, Philimon, Nahom, Josey

## Community Building

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### Introduction

Ecovillage Design Education Programmes (EDE) are being used to build resilience in communities across the world. The month long intensive event covers the four EDE dimensions (World-view/Culture, social, economic and the environment). Graduates of the programme become social multipliers and are certified trainers, equipped with the skills and information to train and inspire their own people and communities

In this way, it is possible to build a capacity in a community to plan their own way forward and in doing so, feed into the wider story of the Nile Forum and provide a focus that will define its identity by showcasing success stories that the Forum identifies itself.

### Building resilience in communities and the network

EDEs could be used as a tool to build coherence both at the level of the existing social multipliers on a multi country basis and at community level. With the former there is the potential advantage of generating a cohesion between different countries that share the Nile (and their partners) by drawing participants from each area. During the programme, they form a community that has the potential to represent all aspects of the Nile itself.

With the latter, there is the opportunity to draw participants from single communities (possibly with some participation of singles or pairs from other Nile Basin Countries or other local communities). This then creates a critical mass of people from one or two communities who can then support each other in their journey to resilience. Through these now informed and aware communities, initiatives and examples of resilient practice can be showcased at the wider Nile Forum. Over time, this showcasing will demonstrate in practical terms the identity of the Forum helping others to understand what we stand for in terms of resilience building.

In this way, it will be possible to build a grassroots movement that can feed into the Forum and beyond.

### Intention

- Hear the voice of local communities at the Forum level
- Build a grassroots movement through EDEs
- Assist communities (including the Forum itself) to design their own plans
- Build a holistic view of the Nile across the Nile Basin Countries and Partners

### First Year Outcomes

1. Agree process for selection
2. Secure funding
3. Plan curriculum
4. Gain certification for first EDE

## **Next steps**

### 1. Agree process for selection

- Draw up criteria for selection to the first EDE - Forum or community
- Decide venue
- Agree the language of the programme - probably English
- Success stories to build on and showcase
- 11 countries + The Gambia and other similar initiatives
- Ensure transparency
- Marketing
- Agree venue
- Appoint facilitation team

### 2. Secure funding

- Establish connection with funding team
- Explore other sources of funding - governments and known donors
- Explore self-financing possibilities

### 3. Plan curriculum

- Selected individuals attending EDEs elsewhere returning to help plan

### 4. Certification

- Apply to Gaia Education

## **Partners**

- Other Nile projects
- Interested individuals from the Seed Camp
- The Gambia - The People's Coast and other 'community of communities' initiatives

## **Needed Skills and Resources**

EDE facilitation skill and curriculum development

Permaculturalists

Local volunteers and interns

Admin

Logistics

Entry point facilitation

Marketing

Buy in from wider group of Nile People

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECT: Sustainable Ecolodge

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### Overarching intention and Status

The Entrepreneurship Project (Team Plans Sustainable Ecolodge) met on March 25, 2016 to build upon the momentum that was established in a previous sharing sessions. The focus was on the status quo of a specific ecological project, “the Strawberry Fields Ecolodge project”, Abraham, Abel and Filimon plan to own Strawberry fields Ecolodge and build a potential collaboration with other regional projects such of Amaken Trips (Tours & Sightseeing by Yousra Mounir). The main point that was taken away is that the project that have two tracks in regards to the matter of implementation: The first track is short term, this will involve raising required resources to transfer ownership of Strawberry Fields Ecolodge while the second track is long term, which will essentially be collaboration between regional projects and use the Nile Forum Seed Camp as a means to link with the Nile basin countries and internationally.

### Team members present

Abraham Wate, Dalia Haj-Omar and Yousra Mounir,

### Potential members (visitors)

Denis, Ndugu and Silas Lusias,



### Key Intended Outcome

A key outcome was to have a sustainable entrepreneurship strategy including for means of collaboration between Strawberry Fields Ecolodge and Other neighbouring seed projects, how to draw support from the neighbouring projects and networking of the project.

### Meeting Minutes and Resolutions

1. The vision of the sustainable Ecolodge project was explained by Abraham, followed with inputs from Dalia and Yusra. Set in the Konso region of Ethiopia, Strawberry Fields Eco-Lodge (SFEL) combines a restaurant, farm, eco-lodge, and permaculture design training centre. Abraham also stated that, the Ecolodge plans to offer a Cultural Immersion Programs, giving an in depth view of the fascinating local Konso culture through lectures, workshops, and community based activities and trekking trails; mainly to be facilitated by local community members and participating guests. The secondary, long term strategy is envisioned to take several years and underpins the projects commitment to connecting people and projects along the Nile River.

2. Several follow-up communication methods were proposed. The team is now communicating through facebook and emails.

### Needed Resources

- Funding, skills, Local Authorities permission and platforms. Of course, SFEL as well.

## **Next Steps**

3. It was stated that a team of three social entrepreneurs (Abraham, Abel and Filimon) have made a serious assessment of the business plan and focused outline of the project on the actual cost, potential of the Ecolodge then forwarded their proposal to LUSH, a potential funding partner. This complimented the next steps approach. There is also a remaining part of funding to be secured and the team discussed on finding similar interested groups to match the remaining funds required to make the transfer of SFEL.

4. Proposal for creating a local start up in Ethiopia to serve as a new buyer of Strawberry fields Ecolodge and then facilitate negotiation with the current owners of SFEL, subsequently, reach an eventual resolution on what that identity will be.

## **Critics from the group during the meeting**

5. Where will the resources be leveraged? A diversification of funding sources including engaging local companies and individuals was regarded as a viable way to raise sustainable local resources;

6. How will the project benefit the locals? The issue of Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR) in regards to the private and public companies and industries that utilised the river as a resource and oftentimes contribute to its degradation was identified as a means of engagement to raise funding and awareness. However, it was noted that the approach would vary in regards to the private and public divide. This bundle would also include an elevator pitch that utilises the core pillars of the project's objectives.

7. Who will you work with directly? Identification of possible Partners, agencies that currently work or have worked on Ecolodge initiatives, nationally and globally was noted as another key variable to assist in the development of a concise strategy.

## Digital Outreach Team

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### -What is digital outreach?

- o Communicating with audiences
- o Consciously engaging with the public

### - Goals and objectives

- o Disseminating information
- o Crafting messages (type-time)
- o Connecting with the public
- o Actively growing our portfolio using internet tools
- o Connecting with local actors to bring them to the transboundary conversation and vice versa
- o Reflecting local narratives broken down by categories such as science , social etc
- o Find partners for implementation

### - Partners

- o Andariya
- o Academia
- o Artists (bloggers, photographers, videographers etc)

### - Skills and resources

- o Content and campaign creation: media and social media
- o Writers and storytellers
- o Photographers/cinematographers
- o Professional networks outreach
- o Finances: crowd funding

### - Outcomes

- o Active portals that engages and propels our messages
- o 10-15 digital outreach goals
- o 10-15 writers/artists from across the Nile
- o Steady digital pipeline (content/campaigns)

### - Steps

- o Establish website content pages
- o Find content providers and assess them
- o Content pipeline/campaign launch

### Feedback from other groups

- Scope is too big
- Need to specify partners
- Financial needs and budget allocation
- Over-lapping with other group (the artists one)
- Translation issues consideration
- Need a clear internal vs. external communications strategy
- Printing option
- Platforms & mediums – how to regulate content?
- Prioritize work and practical means
- What is the website's branding?
- Safety and security of contributors
- What is/are the content type(s)?
- Differentiating ourselves from other similar initiatives?
  - o Map current initiatives
- Engagement strategy unclear

## Research Networking

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### Primary Outcome:

**Activity:** Research Network

### Overarching Intentions:

- Support peer and academic community
- Support platform community on case by case basis
- Map skills and partners
- Develop mandate
- Identify existing events/platforms
- Create online network
- Identify tools

### Intended outcome:

- Project proposal
- Conference
- University Network
- Online portal

### Knowledge transfer that is:

- Accessible
- Practical
- Appropriate
- Relevant

### Partners:

- Nile Forum
- Nile Project
- Universities (local and global)
- Civil Society Leaders
- TBD

### Needs:

- Storage space
- Legitimacy (legal)
- Community outreach
- Funding
- Workshop and training
  - o Methods
  - o Analysis
  - o Data collection
  - o Presenting
  - o Writing

### Group Discussion

- **What do we have:**
  - Students working on the Nile
  - Researchers and faculty for funding and data collection.

- Contacts in the Nile Basin Countries
- Communication, documentation, resources.

• **What we can do:**

- Sharing documents (policy, articles, papers).
- Develop the Mandate
- Knowledge transfer on different levels: (seed camp members, local communities, policy makers, scholars, faculty)

• **Suggested themes from other groups needed to be developed and well discussed :**

- Culture
- Water
- Land
- Politics
- Economics
- Climate change
- Environment

• **Team’s research interests**

Ahmed	Egypt, Energy, Water, Natural resources Management, developing Scenarios, system Analysis
Abeer	Egypt, Civil society, Social Movements, International Relations, (Neo)Regionalism, International organizations, foreign aid, third world/developing politics , international political economy
Firehiwot	Ethiopia, Hydropolitics, land investment, gender, political science, policy analysis
Eman	Ethiopia, Egypt, Media, peace building, conflict resolution, conflict transformation, history
Kata	Ethiopia, Hydropolitics, land deals, socio-ecological systems
Jen	Ethiopia, Egypt, Tanzania, water resources, political science, ge-ography, water science, anthropology , complex systems, human security, sociology.
Lama	Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, climate change, Environment , hydropoli-tics, conflict resolution, peace building , water diplomacy
Moses	
Deng	
Mai	
Joise	

- Time plan will be discussed in the first Skype meeting on the 27of April

3-6 months	1 year
Map our skills	Conference , workshop
Network online	Research project proposal ( Ahmed)
Develop the Mandate	Develop tools (communication, dissemination, visualization, online platform)
Map the potential partners	Create university network ( local, regional, re- search centres, research institutes, what exists, keep the Nile Basin boundary, the Nile project experience )- (Firehiwot, Jen, Iman, Abeer)
Collecting existing events	Create student network , the Nile project experi- ence (Firehiwot, Iman, Abeer)
	Workshop/training assessment of need – make a list of what and where.

## Next Steps to 9 April 2016

who	what	Progress
Jen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create Facebook group</li> <li>- Create the Drop box</li> <li>- Sending the Mailing list (Gmail)</li> </ul>	
Ahmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add the literature to drop box</li> </ul>	
Firehiwot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add Literature to drop box</li> <li>- Mapping the skills of Ethiopian professors</li> </ul>	
Mongy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing the Contacts of professors in European</li> </ul>	
Abeer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add Literature to drop box</li> <li>- check the available higher education agreements between Cairo University and other universities in the Basin countries.</li> <li>- check with Mo'men how to use the Nile Forum website</li> <li>- Document minutes and sending to Mongy and the team</li> </ul>	
Eman		
Kata		
Moses		
Deng		
Josie		
Mai		
Lama		

## **Next Group Skype: Wednesday 27 of April 2016:**

**The objectives of skype gathering are:**

- 1- Develop the action plan for next 3-6 months.**
- 2-**
- 3-**
- 4-**