

THE NILE PROJECT



The Nile Workshop

January 10 - 14, 2013
Aswan, Egypt

nileproject.org



This is an invitation...

an invitation to join us on an adventure to explore the Nile.

an invitation to see this river in a new light, not just as a waterway, but as a living organism – a complex network of interrelated worlds where water is only the tip of the iceberg, and where tilapias, egrets, crocodiles, and papyrus depend as much on this rich ecosystem as do people – be they Luos, Oromos, Nubians or Copts.

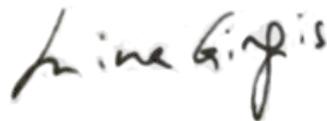
an invitation to work together to understand the Nile as one system where fishing, irrigation, tourism, and transportation are intricately connected to climate change, floods, droughts and dams. Most of us who live within this system have no idea what these relationships mean. How do all these worlds affect one another? How do they come together to affect the Nile? And what can we do to help restore the equilibrium of this complex system?

an invitation to find new ways. The Nile in all its might has dwarfed many of our attempts to manage it in a utilitarian fashion. This river challenges so many of our basic assumptions, including our understanding of our relationships, prediction, and control. Many of us are yearning to find new ways of understanding and responding to this complexity. And to find these ways, we need to bring together the Nile's many stakeholders. Then we need to have an ambitious conversation that will start, not end, during this four day workshop. This is what the Nile Project does. It creates space for this conversation. A space where solutions emerge.

an invitation to learn from the ways nature organizes itself around this river and from the ways Nile Project musicians collaborate to explore a new sound that is greater than the sum of its parts.

This is also an invitation for you to partake in an experiment we call the Nile Project. An experiment that favors a collaborative approach in responding to pressing Nile challenges – both cultural and environmental. A platform that cultivates the critical connections necessary to co-create a new reality with our environment. An opportunity to think together and take a leap into a more sustainable Nile future.

Will you join us?



mina girgis
executive director

THE NILE WORKSHOP

To kick off the Nile Project, we are organizing our first annual Nile Workshop to take place in Aswan, Egypt from January 10 - 14, 2013. This workshop aims to engage participants and inspire them to play an active role in expanding the Nile Project network across East Africa and beyond. During these four days we will:

EXPLORE

engage in a series of conversations to learn about each other's diverse cultural perspectives and benefit from our respective fields of expertise. We will also take this opportunity to engage with Aswan's community and experience the local river ecosystem.

CONNECT THE DOTS

seek to integrate our respective disciplinary and cultural perspectives to collectively map out the complexity of the Nile basin. Building on this systemic understanding of the Nile, we will identify our specific challenges and opportunities for increased collaboration and new interventions.

COLLABORATE AND CO-CREATE

cultivate an open space for experimentation and innovation to allow new cross-basin relationships and partnerships to emerge. We will also explore new avenues to support existing initiatives.

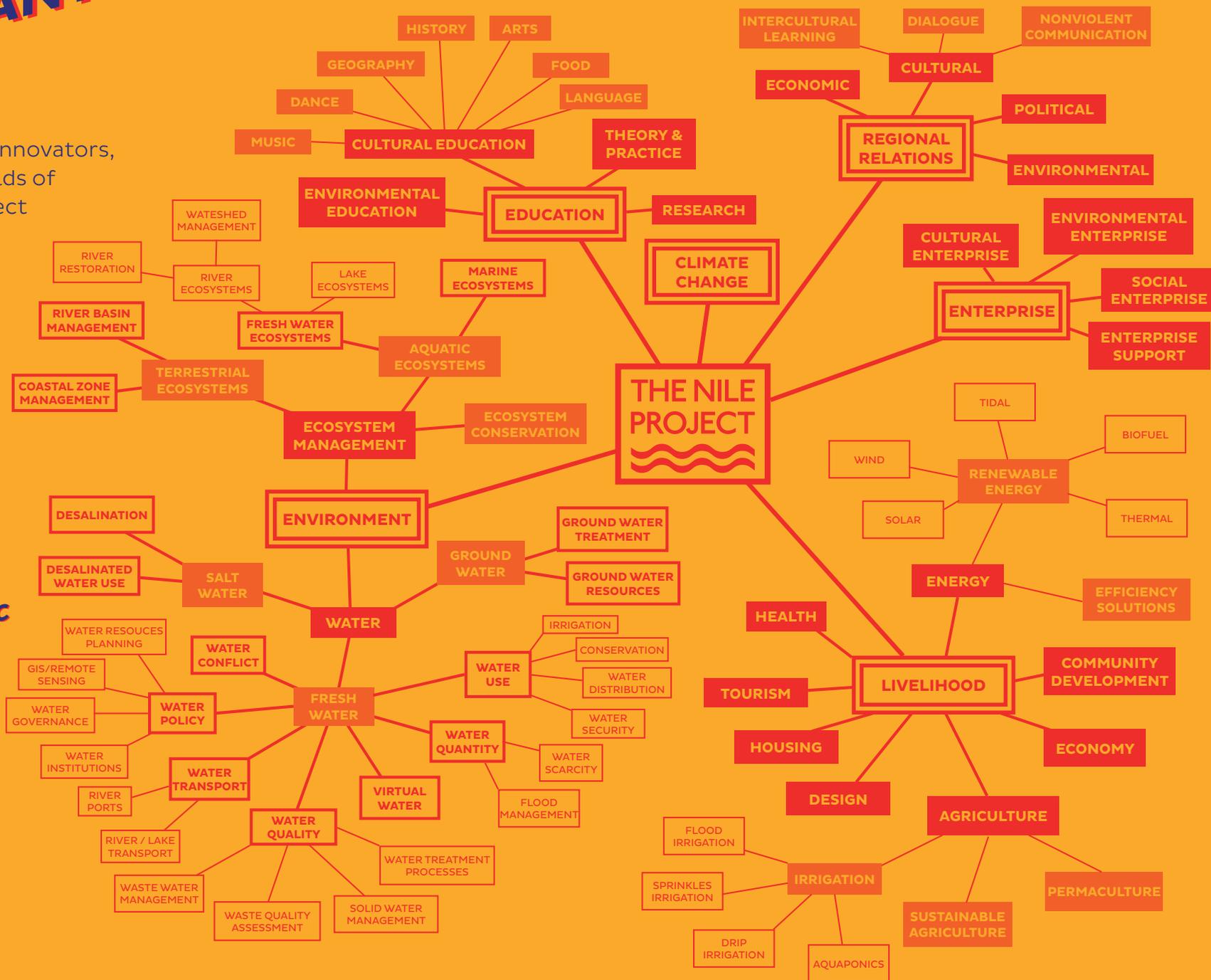
CLARIFY THE ROLE OF THE NILE PROJECT

build on this common-base understanding of the river to crystallize the Nile Project's strategic role within the basin's organizational landscape. Based on this new strategic clarity, we will work together to refine proposed Nile Project programs and develop new ones.

These conversations and activities will serve as a prototype for future cross-cultural dialogues integral to the Nile Project's programs and activities. In the two weeks following the workshop, musicians invited from up and down the Nile will gather to collaborate to translate this dialogue into a new body of songs drawing on their diverse traditions and instruments. Our intention is for this gathering to become an annual tradition that brings together the Nile Project's community of musicians, advisors, partners, and stakeholders from the entire river basin to continually assess the impact of our combined efforts and fine-tune our platform's direction.

PARTICIPANTS

We invite entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders working in fields of relevance to the Nile Project to apply to attend the workshop. Potential participants should show an interest to dialogue and collaborate on addressing issues that cut across the social, cultural, environmental, and economic challenges applicable to the Nile.



BURUNDI
EGYPT
ERITREA
RWANDA
SUDAN
TANZANIA

CONGO DRC
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
S. SUDAN
UGANDA

METHODOLOGY

Our approach is inspired by two sets of methodologies, the U-process, developed by practitioners at MIT, and the Art of Hosting developed by a global network of dialogue facilitators. Both approaches bring together a wide variety of collaboration methods that have their roots in design thinking, multi-stakeholder dialogue, organisational learning and social innovation. The Nile Project is partnering with a team of facilitators whose specialty is to engage participants in defining the content and outcomes of highly participatory workshops.

We believe that music offers a wealth of models that can inform our search for new ways to organize ourselves around the Nile basin. During this kick-off workshop, Nile Project musicians will illustrate some of the ways in which these musical collaboration methodologies can help us engage in more constructive dialogues. Workshop participants will also support Nile Project musicians in translating complex environmental truths into compelling stories and songs.

For more information:
presencing.com
artofhosting.org
the-lwi.org
natural-innovation.net
zambaleta.org



FACILITATION TEAM



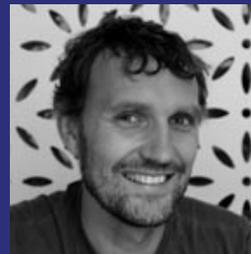
MOHAMED EL MONGY

Mohamed is passionate about environmental sustainability. After spending two years in AIESEC International as Director for Africa he completed his Masters in Environment and Development in Edinburgh. For the past ten years he has worked on sustainable development issues and projects throughout Africa, being involved in many projects concerning National Parks management, water sanitation, environmental impact assessment, cultural heritage preservation. Mohamed El Mongy serves as environment program manager for the Nile Project.



MARIA SCORDIALOS

Maria Scordialos is a co-initiator of the Art of Hosting Meaningful Conversations, a practice that invites people to create new collective intelligence. She is also a co-founder of the Living Wholeness Institute, that is researching and prototyping systemic transformation projects and practices, based at Axladitsa Avatakia, a farm and home that hosts immersion learning in Pelion, Greece. Maria is an experienced strategic process designer and dialogue host, specializing in systemic transformation process architecture. She works with the principles of self-organisation and participation in order to create the conditions where both individual and collective learning and discovery can emerge. Maria has worked in strategic management positions and since 2000 has co-created learning opportunities and led projects in Europe, North America, Africa and the Middle East.



HENDRIK TIESINGA

Hendrik Tiesinga is an experienced designer and facilitator of long-term multi-stakeholder learning and innovation projects. He is passionate about projects that bring together unlikely partners, disciplines and ideas to collaboratively tackle complex challenges. Hendrik is a co-founder of Natural Innovation and the Finance Innovation Lab, a multi-stakeholder platform for sustainable innovation in the finance sector in London. He has facilitated programs across Europe and the Mediterranean on a variety of topics ranging from the arts and climate change to rebuilding trust in the audit profession. He has a background in philosophy and is currently pursuing a PhD on societal innovation labs at the Warwick University in the UK. Originally from the Netherlands, Hendrik currently lives in Cairo.



SIMONE POUTNIK

For the past 10 years Simone has been working on learning networks in culturally diverse environments across the world. She is a practitioner of the Art of Hosting meaningful conversations and is currently based in Egypt where she supports civil society initiatives to strengthen their capacity to collaborate and to host dialogue. Since 2010 she has been a co-learner and supporter of various initiatives at Kufunda Learning Village in Zimbabwe. Simone has co-founded Natural Innovation, the Hub Brussels – a co-working, learning and incubation space for social entrepreneurs and Tasting the Future – a systemic change process and community of practitioners working towards a sustainable food system in the UK. She frequently works with European Institutions on participatory leadership trainings, organisational development and stakeholder engagement. Simone holds an MA in International Communication, specialised in Multi-stakeholder Engagement from the International University of Perugia in Italy.

LOGISTICS

WORKSHOP DATES

January 10 - 14, 2013

VENUE

Fekra Cultural Center is located in Aswan, Egypt. Situated on a Nile cove directly across from the Philae Island - home of the iconic Temple of Isis - Fekra provides direct access to the ecological diversity of Aswan, the historical significance of Ancient Egypt, and the cultural richness of Nubia.

www.fekraculture.com

WORKSHOP FEES

US\$ 250 - \$2,000 (sliding scale)

Workshop fees will cover the following expenses: workshop materials, local ground transportation, costs of facilitation and organisation, venue rental, meals and activities.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

- Camping: free of charge (bring your own tent)
- Nubian Housing (4 nights): \$100 per participant
- Hotel (4 nights): \$200 per participant

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Nile Project hopes to provide financial support to cover the cost of flights, accommodation and workshop fees for candidates whose participation would otherwise be impossible. For assistance in covering any of your workshop costs, please fill in the request for financial support that is included in the online application. If you or your organization would like to make a financial contribution to sponsor workshop participants, please contact us at: info@nileproject.org.

TO APPLY

Fill out our online application at <http://tinyurl.com/nileworkshop>

APPLICATION DEADLINE

December 4, 2012

QUESTIONS

+1.415.617.9397

+20.115.018.3377

registrations@nileproject.org

TO VOLUNTEER

email us: volunteer@nileproject.org



Fekra Cultural Center

THE NILE PROJECT



The Nile Project is a new initiative with a mission to inspire, educate, and empower Nile citizens to work together to foster the sustainability of their river ecosystem. Through an innovative approach combining music, informal education, and an enterprise platform, the project seeks to address the cultural and environmental challenges at the root of the Nile basin's problems.

CROSS-CULTURAL MUSICAL COLLABORATIONS

featuring diverse musicians, styles and instruments from the eleven Nile countries will expose local audiences to the cultures of their river neighbors. Through story telling, these songs will humanize relevant environmental challenges. In this way, these musical experiences will foster cultural empathy and will inspire environmental curiosity to shift the Nile from a divisive geo-political argument to a uniting cultural and environmental conversation.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

will build on the paradigm shifts experienced through the music to provide avenues for audiences to engage with the Nile's cultural and ecological contexts. Partnering with local organizations, the Nile Project will plan and implement a plethora of participatory activities to expose stakeholders to the cultures and challenges of the river and to inspire more responsible behavior.

THE NILE ENTERPRISE PLATFORM

will channel this newly acquired understanding towards concrete action. In partnership with a number of social enterprise organizations, the Nile Project will train and support East African entrepreneurs who are developing holistic solutions that address social, cultural, environmental, and economic challenges relevant to the Nile.

NILE PROJECT TIMELINE

THE NILE PROJECT IS BORN

egyptian ethnomusicologist mina girgis suggests the nile project to ethiopian-american singer meklit hadero.

5-week reconnaissance trip to egypt, ethiopia, uganda, kenya and tanzania to invite musicians to participate in the nile project.

first annual nile gathering taking place in aswan, egypt, and combining a four-day workshop and a two-week music residency.

summer festival tour with a NYC finale commissioned by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts for Target Free Thursdays at the David Rubenstein Atrium.

first nile project tour to africa's major cities.

first recording by nile project musicians.

second annual nile gathering taking place at the source of the white nile in jinja, uganda.

university tour comprised of performances, workshops, lecture demonstrations, and community outreach activities.

concert and workshop tour in europe.

first annual summer camp for young nile basin musicians where they learn about local ecosystem during the day and make music during the evening. taking place in jinja, uganda.

multidisciplinary curriculum exploring the history, geography, cultures, and ecosystems of the nile basin.

sailing down the nile for 35 days from the mediterranean to aswan on a boat made of recycled water bottles. daily performances and workshops with local communities.

tedx conference featuring scientists, thinkers, and artists working on nile ideas worth spreading.

third annual nile gathering taking place at the source of the blue nile in bahar dar, ethiopia.

bi-annual fellowship program that supports innovators developing solutions to address the nile's cultural and environmental challenges.

second annual summer camp for young nile basin musicians taking place in bahar dar, ethiopia.

series of traditional music recordings from the nile basin produced by the smithsonian folkways label.

web-based dialogue platform featuring an annual short film festival about the nile.

fourth annual nile gathering taking place at the meeting of the blue nile and the white nile in khartoum, sudan.

two-week cultural festival on the us national mall – to be curated and programmed in partnership with the smithsonian center for folklife and cultural heritage.

third annual summer camp for young nile basin musicians taking place in aswan, egypt.

feature-length documentary film following the story of the nile project from inception to implementation.

This is a provisional timeline. Many of the proposed programs are pending funding and approvals.

www.nileproject.org
info@nileproject.org
 +1.415.617.9397

2011

AUGUST

SCOUT TRIP

2012

MAY

NILE GATHERING 1

2013

JANUARY

US TOUR

JULY

AFRICA TOUR
NILE PROJECT ALBUM 1

OCTOBER
NOVEMBER

NILE GATHERING 2

2014

JANUARY

US TOUR

FEBRUARY

EUROPE TOUR
NILE CAMP 1

MARCH
JUNE

NILE CURRICULUM

SEPTEMBER

NILE TOUR

OCTOBER

TEDXNILE

DECEMBER

NILE GATHERING 3
NILE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2015

JANUARY
APRIL

NILE CAMP 2
SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS RECORDINGS
NILE STORIES

JUNE
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER

NILE GATHERING 4
SMITHSONIAN NILE FESTIVAL

2016

JANUARY

NILE CAMP 3
NILE PROJECT FILM

JUNE

JULY
DECEMBER

NILE PROJECT TEAM



MINA GIRGIS - executive director

Mina is an Egyptian ethnomusicologist and arts entrepreneur living between San Francisco, CA and Cairo, Egypt. He has participated in organizing many multicultural events such as the Smithsonian Silk Road Festival in Washington DC and Anna Lindh Foundation's first Farah El Bahr Euro-Mediterranean Festival in Alexandria, Egypt. Mina is the founder and the Executive Director of Zambaleta and the Nile Project.



MILES JAY - musical director

Miles Jay is a multi instrumentalist and composer, dedicated to developing the role of his primary instrument, the contrabass, in Arabic, Turkish, and Greek music. From his roots in Jazz and Classical music, Miles followed his love of Mediterranean music to live and work as a musician for the past 6 years in Egypt, Lebanon, and Crete, with artists including Youssou N'Dour, Naseer Shamma, Ziad Rahbani, Ross Daly, Zohar Fresco, Niyaz, Ali Jihad Racy, Zeid Hamdan, and the Cairo Opera Orchestra.



JASON DITZIAN - grant writer

Jason is a multi-wind instrumentalist. He has composed and performed numerous works for stage and film. He tours internationally with ensembles Charming Hostess, Kugelplex, inkBoat and Tehranosaurus. As a producer, he has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Bay Area culture organizations and created festivals including The International Body Music Festival. Jason is working with the Nile Project to ensure effective institutional and partner liaison.



MEKLIT HADERO - co-founder

Meklit is a critically acclaimed Ethiopian-American singer, musician and cultural activist based in San Francisco, CA. She has been an artist-in-residence at NYU, has completed musical commissions for the Fund for Artists, the Brava Theater, and the De Young Museum, and was recently awarded the 2012 TED Senior Fellowship with the Nile Project as her main focus. She is the co-founder of the Nile Project and the Arba Minch Collective.



SARAH MINIAWY HEFNI - communications director

Sarah started as a contemporary dancer in Egypt. Faced with the industry's weak infrastructure, she decided to build on her management studies and pursue a career in arts administration. She joined Cairo's Townhouse Gallery, and moved on to organize the Sinai Music and Art Festival. Sarah then worked for London's Barbican Centre in a corporate PR and communications capacity for seven years. She has recently completed her MA in the social anthropology of the MENA at University of London's SOAS.



MUHAMMAD EL QUESSNY - logistics coordinator

Muhammad El Quessny graduated from the American University of Cairo with a degree in Business administration specializing in marketing. He has been working on a variety of projects in the fields of culture and nature conservation. He is a member of Like Jelly, a theatrical band based in Cairo and has worked on Mashrou' al Mareekh, a nation wide project that promotes self expression in all its forms. Muhammad has also worked at Nature Conservation Egypt focusing on migratory birds and in HEPCA focusing on the Red Sea marine sustainability.



PETER PAPROSKI - management advisor

Peter has worked in international development cooperation for over thirty years. He has managed Canada's development program in Egypt, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Haiti and in Afghanistan, and planned and managed a municipal cooperation program involving thirty countries in sub-saharan Africa. In 2011-12, he was a senior advisor in external relations and donor coordination at PAHO/WHO. Peter will provide ongoing advice on management and effective development.

NILE PROJECT PARTNERS



An Incubated Project at



NAHDET EL MAHROUSA



Wolff Olins

Natural Innovation
collaborative innovation for growing resilient futures

Publicist inc