



### [Groundwater turns Eastern Rwanda into a breadbasket](#)

February 20, 2023



### [Flowing Underground](#)

August 11, 2022



### [Shrinking Lakes](#)

May 27, 2022

#WildEye East Africa Map, Produced in Partnership With [Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism](#).

#WildEye East Africa allows you to track environmental crime across the region.



# InfoNile: Born out of DUPC2

Fredrick Mugira

# ABOUT INFONILE

InfoNile is a cross-border group of over 780 geo journalists with a mission to uncover critical stories on water issues in the Nile River Basin through data-based multimedia storytelling.

We build the capacity of journalists and connect them to scientists to report original cross-border investigations, published in multiple languages and media outlets.



An initiative of:



# THE CHALLENGE

*The Nile River, the world's longest river, stretches through 11 countries in Africa and supports millions of people.*

## Increasing environmental crisis:



**Insufficient  
resources &  
training**

for journalists  
to produce data-  
based, actionable  
stories.



The Nile basin is one of the world's most biodiverse regions - but is highly threatened by climate change, water scarcity, biodiversity threats, population growth, water pollution which are worsening water scarcity and threatening habitats and species critical to the Basin's populations.

## Disconnect between journalists and scientists.



There is a critical gap between the data published by scientists and researchers and its translation to general public knowledge through the media.

# Our Approach

How we work



## Identify a theme of common and cross-border importance

- Biodiversity in transboundary lakes
- Plastic pollution of Lake Victoria
- Water scarcity during Covid-19



## Source credible data cross-cutting across countries

- Forest coverage
- Wildlife trafficking seizures
- Water access data



## Call for pitches

- provide funding for field reporting (radio, TV, print, online)
- support journalists to work in cross-border and inter-country collaborations between media houses



## Mentorship and Training

- Data journalism
- Environmental/science reporting.



## Create actionable interactive maps

- published with the stories.



## Create cross-border multimedia projects

- combining all local stories and cross-border data analysis.
- Incorporate geojournalism visualizations; interactive maps, drone video and photography, satellite imagery, and graphics.



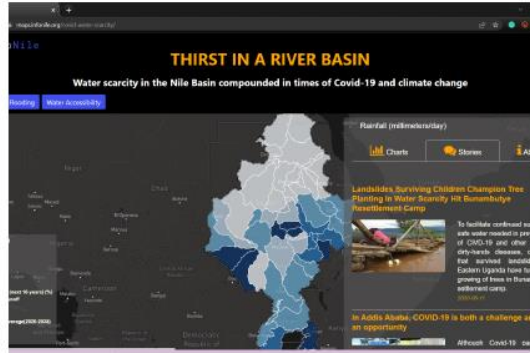
## Publishing and translation

- Local journalists publish in their media houses, often in local languages.
- Translate stories to regional languages (Arabic, Amharic, Swahili, French) for publishing on InfoNile



# Our Projects

Access to clean water during Covid-19 and climate change



Threats to biodiversity in Nile Basin lakes

## BIODIVERSITY IN LAKES IN THE NILE BASIN



NOW

- Lake Nakuru, Kenya's Flamingos home under threat
- Extinct Lake Jipe Tilapia, Kenya

Wildlife trafficking and conservation in East Africa



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation



Plastic pollution and solutions around Lake Victoria



#EverydayNile: photojournalism on water issues of the Nile River



# Our Projects



Youth-driven climate change solutions in urban and rural areas



Agricultural water management and resilience during Covid-19



Solar energy for health services in East Africa



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We have enabled the production of **340** data-based multimedia stories on water and environment issues and solutions

Our stories were published on **106 MEDIA HOUSES** in **12 LANGUAGES**

in 14 countries: including 46 online platforms, 30 radio stations, 21 newspapers, and 9 TV stations.





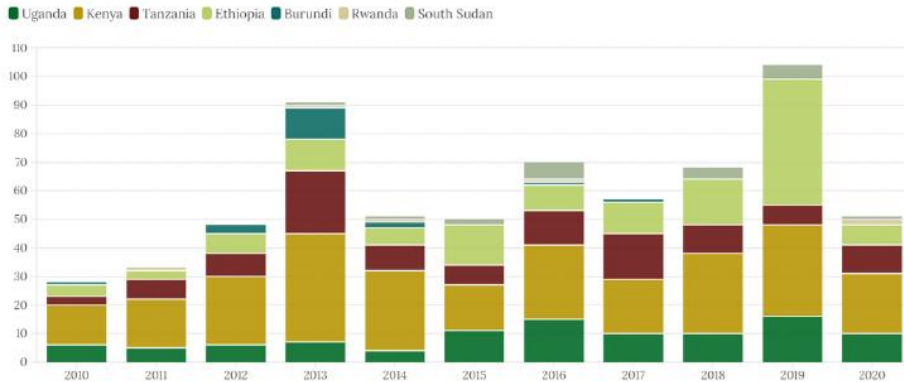
Our Trainings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzimRr2Bzok>





## Recorded trafficked wildlife seizures in East Africa

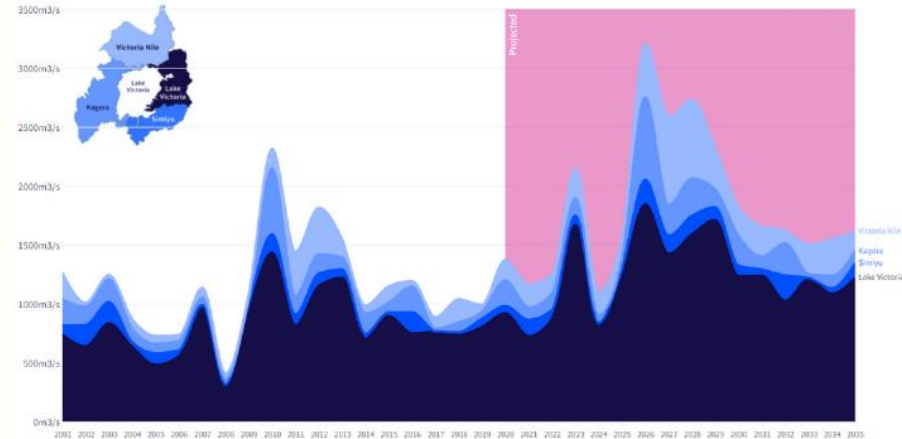
Between 2010 to 2020 there were 650 trafficked wildlife seizures reported in East Africa. 2019 had the highest record of 104 seizures while 2010 had the lowest record of 28 seizures. Kenya recorded the highest seizures at 263 and Rwanda the lowest with 5 seizures. 2020 saw a significant drop in officially reported seizures due to Covid-19.



Source: Environmental Investigation Agency of Wildlife Trafficking Seizures in East Africa, 2010-2020



## Historic and Projected Runoff



Source: Flood and Drought Portal, 2020



and hundreds more published on local media houses.

# How we do it: Connecting journalists and scientists

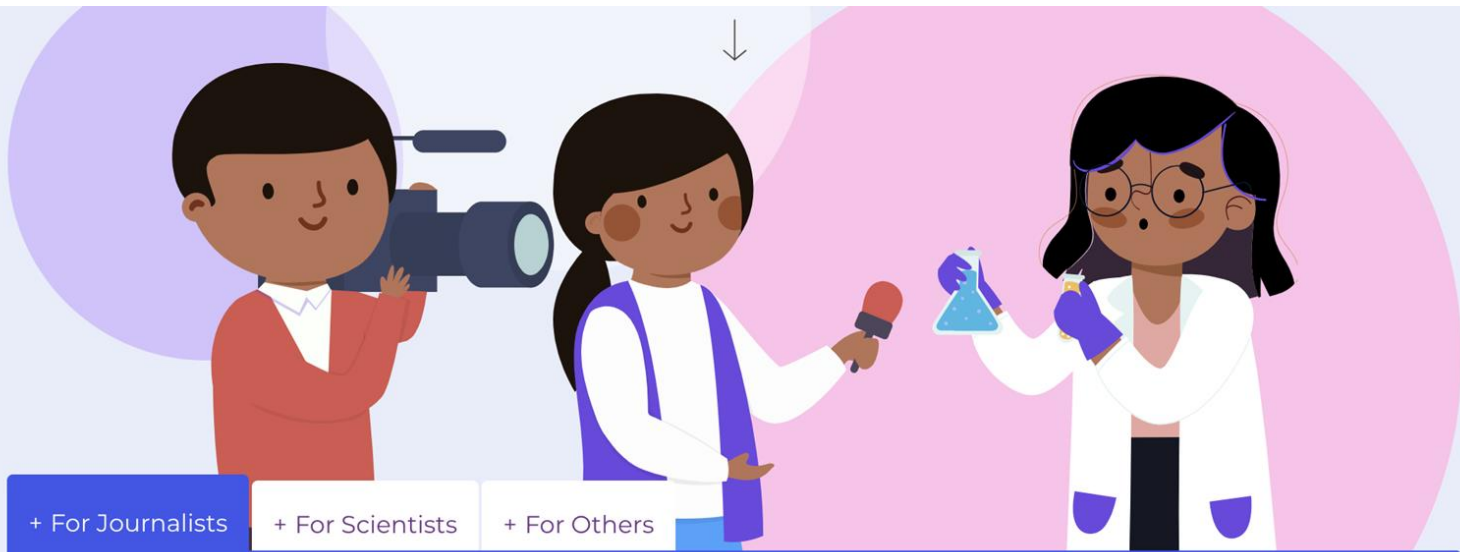


## About NileWell

NileWell is the first platform in the Nile Basin that connects water and environment scientists and journalists to collaborate, produce and share knowledge on water, biodiversity and the environment.

## Programs

- Coproduction of stories by journalists and scientists in the Nile Basin
- Monthly science and media cafes
- Data Journalism Media Labs
- Science Communication Media Labs
- Community exhibitions and forums



+ For Journalists

+ For Scientists

+ For Others



Connect with a Scientist

+ Search Now



Join a Training

+ Join a Training



Browse our Research Resources

+ View Resources



# How we do it: Bringing stories back to communities



[Sinking Land Community Exhibition](#)

# Story Impacts

Hearing: 5%

Law Passed/Proposed: 7%

Institutional  
Action

(Firing/personnel changes,  
reorganization, etc.): 30%

Gvt Investigation:  
33%

Policy Change: 33%

Private Sector Action: 40%

Community or Civil Society Action: 70%

Influence on journalists and media houses to do  
more environmental and data journalism: 89%.

 InfoNile



## Public Impacts



# InfoNile 3 year Strategic Focus

Our strategic goal is to translate scientific research on water and biodiversity to societal action, through the provision of evidence-based information in the media.

We are advocating for funding to scale up our programs enabling high-impact journalism and training journalists in data and environmental reporting in the Nile Basin.



01

## Connecting scientists and journalists

We are looking for support to increase the reach and impact of our new NileWell platform and programs for scientists and journalists, including organizing a coproduction program for scientists and journalists to work together to produce knowledge.

02

## Influence public action to conserve the environment through stories

We also aim to increase the reach and impact of our stories through holding policy events, engaging activists to disseminate stories on scientific findings,

03

## Communicate data stories through mobile youth content

We aim to generate content that aggregates data, science, and stories on water and biodiversity issues in the Nile Basin and disseminate through tech like InfoNile ChatBot



# Some of the public impacts of our stories include:



## 1 Piped Water in Tanzania

Government started extending piped water to residents in Mbeya, Tanzania gold mining communities affected by cholera after our series of reports

## 2 Processing Plant in Uganda

A story on refugees transforming human waste to fuel in northern Uganda helped Oxfam lobby for more funds to construct a processing plant

## 3 Clean toilets in Uganda

The Kabarole, Uganda district health department introduced a home cleanliness latrine competition program and the government started extending piped water to the area

## 4 Irrigation loans for farmers in Kenya

After a story on how Covid-19 impacted farmers in Kenya, the Mwanza City Council started providing small loans to farmers to revive their irrigation activities

## 5 Local Jobs in South Sudan

A story about an Israeli agricultural company leasing land in South Sudan led the company to hire more local workers, and the government put on hold giving the company more land titles

## 6 Oil Pollution Activism in Sudan

After our investigation, people and activists formed committees to advocate on behalf of the locals impacted by the pollution by oil companies in Sudan

## 7 Access Granted DRC-Rwanda

For the case of the water crisis in Goma (DRC) caused by closure of Rwanda border due to covid-19, after the story, the cooperatives which had been stopped from taking water were granted permission

## 8 Budget for Water in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian government allocated additional budget to finalize the ongoing water project in Bekoji village after a story about the water problems

# What our journalists say about us



## Personal Impacts / Increased Coverage

Won Award: 10%

Speaking Opportunity: 35%

Organization Cites Story: 28%

Public Official Cites Story: 32%

Other Media Outlets Cover Story: 45%

**49%** increase in **journalists using data** and visualizations in their stories.

**83%** of our journalists have **shared the data journalism skills** with their colleagues

**89%** of the journalists' media houses started **reporting more environmental or data-driven stories.**



**Jenipher Asiiimwe,**  
Regional editor  
Uganda Broadcasting Corporation

"I was recently promoted to regional editor. I am training my team on how to do impactful data-based stories from the news writing and reporting knowledge and skills gained from InfoNile.



**Jacob Mugini,**  
Tanzania Daily News, founder of  
Mara Online, Tanzania

InfoNile support has completely changed my career in journalism, I am now seen as a role model journalist who is capable of telling water and wildlife conservation stories in the Mara region. This has motivated me to create digital media called Mara Online News that focus on water, wildlife conservation, and local development matters.