

# Natural resources based conflict: actors, issues and processes in the Nile Basin, 2001-2011

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## **Abstract:**

Although the causes of conflicts are multilayered, natural resources have been observed to conflicts in societies particularly in situations where groups compete for possession of same resources; and where such resources are not fairly distributed. Hence the overall objective of this study is to critically analyze the natural resources based conflict in Africa focusing on Trans-boundary Water Resources management with the Nile River being the case study. This will be achieved by providing an overview of the Nile Basin conflict, analyzing the different actors, issues and processes in the basin and exploring the theoretical linkage between natural resources and conflict. Due to the fact that human beings need a number of essentials to survive which include food security, water, and shelter, the study explores the theories of human needs theory and human security. The concept of benefit sharing as a way of solving water conflicts is explored which accords water resources economic value. This study has been conducted through the use of both primary and secondary data. Personal interview were conducted with structured and unstructured questionnaire. Observation method was used which has the advantage of its directness and enables to study behavior as it occurs. Some key findings of the study show that the downstream states continue to prolong the conflict by refusing to renegotiate on the 1959 agreement that gave them exclusive rights to the use of the Nile waters. It also came out clearly that water scarcity is not an issue in the basin but that of water resources management which has led to environmental degradation and water pollution due to the lack of an integrated approach of water resource management. Six of the ten member states of the Nile Basin have signed the CF A and are in the process of ratification to form a river basin commission, a process which the downstream states have disputed but state otherwise the formation of the commission through political pronouncement.