

TPM1x - 4.1 - Case Nile

I am Bert Enserink and I am a policy analyst at Delft University of Technology, and I am involved in policy making in the river Nile. The river Nile is the longest river of Africa. More than 6000 kilometers of length and bordering some 10 different states. And many people are dependent on the water of the Nile, for their livelihood, for drinking water, for sanitation, for industrial purposes, for energy generation. And of course there is a big tension between the countries upstream and the countries downstream. If upstream they are spoiling the water, then downstream there is a shortage of water. And it is a very complex and political sensitive issue. And we are asked to support in decision making. So let's first watch this small video to give you a little bit more information and I will be back to you after that.

The client asked me to support the policy making process in the Nile basin. The Nile is a very complex river system as you discovered. There are many clashing interests. Some people want to build a dam to generate energy. Others want to build this dam for irrigation systems to raise new crops and improve the agricultural system. And everyone has a claim on the water. Upstreams. Downstreams. Rural population. City dwellers. Everyone has a claim. This debate on the management of the water has been going on for years. But it is stuck. Everyone is fitting for his own interest.

So, if I need to facilitate the policy process, then I need to know what are the real concerns and issues in this river basin. What do these people want? So I need to know, not the solutions, building a dam, or building an irrigation system, but what are the issues that need to be solved. And, whether there are different solutions possible.

So, I would like to invite you to help me analyzing the issue. Use the tools that we reached you. The causal diagram, the systems diagram, the problem diagram, and try to get some grip on the issues that are important to the stakeholders in this system.