

## Omo-Gibe River Basin, Ethiopia

*By supporting local, regional and international stakeholders, WPS aims to prevent and reduce water-related conflict and turn the vicious cycle of water challenges and instability into a virtuous one of sustainable water management and peace.*

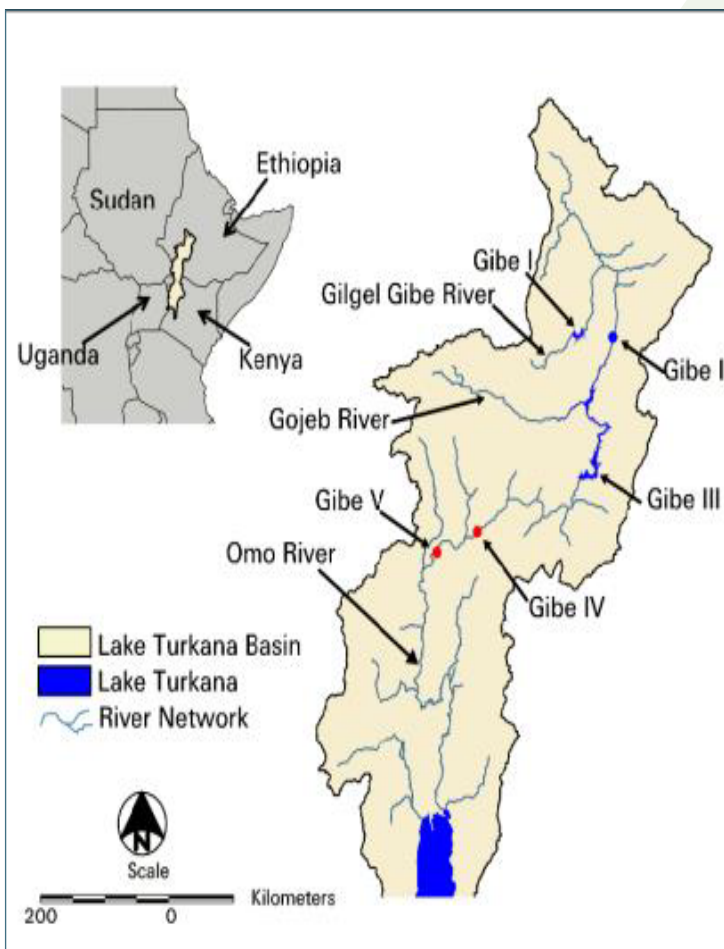
### WATER-RELATED SECURITY CHALLENGES

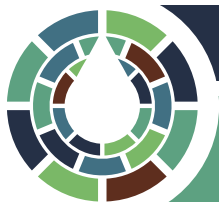
The Omo-Gibe Basin in Ethiopia, home to 7 million people and crucial for 45% of the country's hydropower and large-scale irrigation, faces severe challenges. These include population pressure, landscape degradation, shocks of climate change, groundwater decline, and water-related conflicts in the lower parts of the basin, down to lake Turkana. These issues impact local, regional, and national stability, and causes transboundary tensions.

### WPS MAIN TASKS

WPS is supporting Ethiopia's Ministry of Water and Energy and Wolaita-Sodo University in developing a management plan for the Omo-Gibe Basin to address potential water resource conflicts. The plan includes preventive and mitigative measures to prevent conflict escalation. WPS activities involve context analysis of conflicts, training sessions, hydrological assessments, and reservoir optimization models to analyze different operation scenarios.

Although WPS's work in Ethiopia is ongoing, key stakeholder dialogues are planned for 2024 and 2025. These dialogues will be guided by advanced optimization analyses, developed jointly with stakeholders, to explore the principles of equity and distributive justice for various users, including hydropower, irrigation, agro-industry, environmental flow, and pastoralist needs.





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*Crossing the Omo river (Ethiopia)*

### STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

WPS has facilitated preliminary dialogues among stakeholders, such as the South Omo pastoralist community, Gibe III hydropower dam operators, and the Ministry of Water and Energy. These efforts have led to open discussions aimed at finding long-term solutions to water-related conflicts.

### WPS APPROACH IS PART OF THE IWRM PLAN FOR OMO-GIBE BASIN

WPS's approach is integrated into the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plan for the Omo-Gibe Basin and has been instrumental in the basin's inclusion in the mega project "The Basin Management Support for Resilient Inclusive Growth and Harmonized Transformation (BRIGHT)." This project aims to improve IWRM in five Ethiopian basins, including the Omo-Gibe Basin.





### ENHANCING STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN BASIN PLANNING

Despite existing basin management plans, Ethiopia faces challenges in effective implementation. In December 2021, WPS hosted a four-day workshop to identify financial, institutional, and technical capacity issues. With WPS support, the Ministry of Water and Energy is establishing multi-stakeholder forums to enhance planning processes, particularly in the Omo-Gibe Basin.



*Stakeholders workshop - Awasa, June 2024*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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 Water, Peace and Security

WPS is a collaboration between the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a consortium of six partners: IHE Delft (lead partner), World Resources Institute (WRI), Deltares, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS), Wetlands International and International Alert.