Ethiopia and Sudan have many reasons not to get along. The two neighbouring nations have jostled over land ownership and migration issues for decades. Yet it seems that last month, during Ethiopia’s president \_\_’s first visit to Sudan under it’s military-led regime, the two nations have found something they both agree on. INSERT DETAILS ABOUT TALKS. At first glance, the benefits of the dam for the two nations are obvious. Ethiopia is in desperate need to address their energy production shortfall, which leaves \_\_% of residents without access to electricity. SOMETHING TO DO W THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Sudan on the other hand will reap significant agricultural benefits if the dam regulates downstream water flow and helps reduce seasonal flooding, in addition to the cheap excess energy Ethiopia proposed they would sell to its neighbours.

For both of these benefits to be fully realised, a formal agreement must be made between the Blue Nile basin countries, Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan. This has not happened, and such an aggreement looks just as improbable as when the controversial project was conceived in 2011. This lack of cooperation partly stems from Egypt, which has serious concerns that the dam will stem the country’s access to the Nile. But it also stems from Sudan’s desire to maintain possession of a political chess piece that they have used as leverage against Ethiopia in the past.