Although the Nubian language family is one of the best documented groups within the Nilo-Saharan phylum, with multiple dictionaries and wordlist published of its main languages, systematic comparative work within the family remains in its infancy. The efforts of scholars such as Marianne Bechhaus-Gerst, Claude Rilly, and Angelika Jakobi have been hampered by the absence of a reliable database of cognates that can be used as a common dataset for comparative research.

The Comparative Nubian Dictionary (CND) project aims to deal with this particular problem by developing an open database of Nubian cognates and reconstructions based on the extant sources. The CND is built on open software of developed by the Cross-Linguistic Linked Data project (https://clld.org/) and used in for example the Comparative Siouan Dictionary (https://csd.clld.org/). This paper will present the architecture of the CND as well as its current contents.

The CND is developed in a collaboration between the Union for Nubian Studies (https://unionfornubianstudies.org/), Cloud68.co (https://cloud68.co/), and bini-tek (https://github.com/bini-tek).