



The Nile Environment

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NTEAP



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Editorial

The last quarter of 2006 was indeed a busy one for NTEAP. The high lights of the quarter were the Mid Term Review, the participation in the Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF), the NBI results based system development and the second staff retreat. The mid term review came up with useful recommendations to guide planning and implementation of activities during the remaining life of the project. The next NBDF is to take place in Khartoum and the NTEAP has been tasked to lead the preparations. The second staff retreat exhaustively discussed the 2007 work plan and budget, reviewed project implementation in 2006 and came up with recommendations for further improvement of performance and team work.

The quarter also witnessed yet another high level support for the NTEAP activities when the Minister of Land Management, Tourism and Environment of Burundi visited micro grants and schools projects in Burundi. This was the second time in a row and within the same quarter that NTEAP was honoured with high level political support in Burundi. We in NTEAP deeply appreciate the goodwill demonstrated and we pledge to intensify our efforts in 2007.

We are also pleased to note that participation of women in NTEAP activities is on the rise as signified by the number of micro grants women beneficiaries in NBI countries, although challenges still exist.

We in NTEAP wish all our stakeholders prosperous 2007.

Gedion Asfaw, RPM

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Minister of Land Management, Tourism & Environment of Burundi, Visits NTEAP Microgrants Projects



The Minister, H.E Odette Kayitesi (Extreme right, in white suit) at Dukingirikibira tree nursery in Bugarama

H.E Odette Kayitesi, the Minister of Land Management, Tourism and Environment of Burundi, has applauded the NTEAP Micro grants (MG) support to local communities and in particular, women, for environmental interventions and poverty alleviation. This was during her visit to 6 Micro Grants and 2 school projects supported by NTEAP under the Micro grants and Environmental Education and Awareness components respectively, 28-30 November 2006

She was accompanied by the Project Steering Committee Member, the Ministry Communications Officer, the General Director of Forests, Environment and Tourism, National Radio TV journalists, Governors of Provinces where projects are located, Governor's Advisers, Agriculture and Forestry Technicians, Administrators of Districts and Provinces security teams.

The Minister exchanged views with beneficiaries who are mostly women on projects implementation, the importance of MG projects in the context of environmental protection and poverty alleviation. She thanked NTEAP for the support and encouraged beneficiaries to continue protecting the environment for the benefit of future generations. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to NTEAP for the financial support and to the Minister for sparing time to visit them.

In Burundi, MG projects are contributing to the implementation of the national forestry policy as well as water and soil conservation through the production of about 1,650,000 forestry and agro forestry seedlings which will be planted during the launch of 2006 – 2007 forest campaign.

NTEAP supports local initiatives in environmental, land and water conservation in 9 countries of the Nile basin through its Micro grants component.

NTEAP Holds 2nd Staff Retreat



NTEAP staff pose for a photo with the ED

The second NTEAP retreat was held from 18-21 December 2006, at Imperial Resort Hotel, in Entebbe, Uganda. It was attended by all National Project Coordinators, Local Micro Grants Coordinators, Project Management Unit Staff, World Bank, UNDP, Nile Sec and UNOPS and opened by the Shared Vision Program Coordinator and Senior Program Officer, Ms Hamere Wondimu.

The first retreat was held in September 2005, in Sodero, Ethiopia. Since the last retreat NTEAP implemented national and regional activities with remarkable progress but not free of new challenges.

Objectives of the second retreat were to further strengthen and consolidate team spirit and enhance communication among NTEAP staff, reflect on progress and challenges during 2006, discuss and finalize the 2007 work plan and budget, discuss the strategies for the remaining project life and also have fun.

In her opening remarks the Shared Vision Program Coordinator (SVP) Ms Hamere Wondimu highlighted the achievements of NBI, and said NBI is proud of the performance of NTEAP. The World Bank, representative at the retreat too expressed happiness

with the performance of NTEAP. The Project Steering Committee member commended NTEAP for using the retreat for both planning and team spirit building.

In concluding the opening remarks, the Regional Project Manager, Mr. Gedion Asfaw said the last retreat was a success, built team spirit, improved performance and made staff to know each other.

He paid tribute to the NBI Executive Director, the SVP Coordinator, PSC members, and all development partners and thanked them for their continued support. He also thanked the Minister of State for the Environment Hon. Jessica Eriyo, for honoring NTEAP with a visit during the retreat.

The NTEAP work plan and budget was exhaustively discussed and recommendations made for further improving the performance and consolidating the team spirit.

Joel Arumadri- KMS



Participants at the 2006 Nile Development Forum

The Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) 2006 took place from 30th November to 2nd December 2006. The main theme of the forum was the "role of the River Nile in poverty reduction and economic development in the Basin".

The Forum held at the United Nations Conference Center was formally opened by H.E Asfaw Dingamo, Minister of Water Resources of

The 2006 Nile Basin Development Forum

Ethiopia, and attended by Nile Basin Initiative family members and the Nile Basin Secretariat Executive Director, members of the Nile COM (Council of Ministers), as well as representatives of international development partners. About 400 participants from Ethiopia and abroad participated. The opening session was followed by 2 parallel sessions which covered the eight sub-themes of the Forum. The forum was sponsored by the Ministry of Water Resources of Ethiopia and the Nile Basin Initiative and it attracted national governments, regional and metropolitan development planners, water managers and administrators, researchers and practitioners dealing with Integrated Water Resources Management and representatives of international organizations.

The main objective of the Nile Development Forum 2006 was to create and promote awareness on the Nile Basin

Initiative among the international communities, decision makers and their policy advisors of the benefits of good practices in the utilization and management of the Nile River.

Specific objectives of the Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) 2006 were; to bring together experts and scholars from all the Nile Basin countries to exchange views and ideas on how to foster cooperation for the Nile Basin Development, discuss how efficient water resources management can help the development in the Basin, and to discuss the effect of climate change on the development in the basin.

The 2008 forum is expected to take place in Khartoum, Sudan, and NTEAP is to take the lead role in the preparations.

Joel Arumadri- KMS

MTR Recommends One Year Extension of NTEAP Project



Review Team and Project Staff outside NTEAP offices

The Nile transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) conducted a mid term review (MTR) from 10th October to 19th November 2006. The MTR was intended to diagnose the challenges faced by the pro-

ject and suggest actions that will increase value and impact of the project outputs and propose corrective measures that will ensure achievement of project objectives. It was also a learning process for the project team and the beneficiaries since the review attempted to determine in systematic and objective manner the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project's activities and outputs in light of the project's objectives. The review was undertaken in close collaboration with the project staff and the project's stakeholders in all the countries and it looked at the project design assumptions, outcomes and indicators, and provided recommendations

on the sustainability and continuity of the institutions and networks.

Among other recommendations, the team recommended the extension of the project duration until 2009, taking into account the one year delay in commencement of the project activities, and recognizing the heightened delivery of project activities.

The MTR was done by a team of highly experienced and qualified consultants lead by Dr. Stanislaw Manikowski and members included Mr. Tim Hannan, Management Expert, Prof. Hassan Abdel Nour, Community Development Expert and Dr. Tarek Genena, water Quality Management expert.

Joel Arumadri- KMS

NTEAP a Role Model of Gender Balancing in Egypt



NTEAP is a role model for gender equality in Egypt. Although the project is cautious to follow an equal opportunities principle where people are selected on merit and competency, rather than merely sex, examining the gender segregation for the different

stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project reveals that gender balance has been achieved. The National Project Coordinator is a female who was competitively selected. The journalists national training conducted during 4-7 December 2006 attracted two female trainers out of 3; and 12 out of 16 participants were females. Similarly, 8 out of 17 trainees for the national teachers training were females, including 2 out of 3 trainers. In the Nile River 2006 school awards competition, 21 out of 30 winners were females. Even where there is men domination culturally, NTEAP has been able to reach women. A case in point is the community farmers training conducted

in the second half of December where 6 female farmers were trained, although farming and irrigation is a male dominated occupation in Egypt.

At the national level, over the past couple of decades, Egypt has witnessed a great narrowing in its gender gap. On the one hand this is a result of government efforts through establishment of various gender friendly policies including the National Council for Women, the National Council for Mother and Childhood, the family courts etc. On the other hand was the boom in national literacy rates which naturally lead to increased community awareness and respect of female's rights and enhancing their access to services, jobs, education etc.

Ithar Khalil—NPC Egypt

THE RIVER OF SORROWS: The Environmental Status of the River Nile

«*I did not pollute the waters of the Nile*» is one of the pleas that the deceased intoned during the Judgment of the Dead. Thus, in the days of the pharaohs to pollute the Nile was considered a sin. Today, Hapy (the name that the pharaohs gave the Nile, once revered like a god) endures all kinds of pollution.

The pollution of Egypt's main source of drinking water has caused an increase in the number of people suffering from kidney failure. Official data show that 90.000 Egyptians die annually from diseases linked to environmental pollution.

It's no secret that the Nile has gradually become a huge rubbish dump for Egypt, as for other countries of its basin. Egyptians pour all kinds of wastewater into it, from industrial, agricultural or sanitary sources, on top of solid wastes of every sort.

The situation is serious. The data speaks volumes. According to research carried out by **Dr Magdi Allam**, environmental expert and former officer in charge at the [Egyptian Agency for Environmental Affairs \(AEAE\)](#), the volume of raw sewage and partially treated waste water entering the Nile every year is around 1.8 billion m³. The sewage essentially originates from the 4,200 villages situated along the river bank that stretches for 1,300 km.

According to Dr Allam the sewerage network is sufficient to cover only 77% of towns and 5% of villages. The rest is discharged into the Nile. The problem was further exacerbated when the government started extending the clean water system to other towns without proportionally widening the sewerage network.

However, the most serious problem is the discharge of industrial wastes. Every year the river receives 549 million m³ of industrial waste, 40% of which (220 million m³) comes from the industries of Greater Cairo and Alexandria. The Ministry of the Environment, under the former Minister Dr Nadia Makram Ebeid, managed to assist 34 industries in changing their production methods. The change meant a 100 million m³ decrease

in the volume of waste entering the Nile.

Where industrial waste is concerned, according to the AEAE, the food and chemical industries are respectively responsible for the major inputs of organic pollutants (388 million tons per year) and of heavy metals (1.65 million tons per year) into the river.

Among the other sources of pollution in the Nile is agricultural run-off that ends directly into the river and that amounts to 12.2 billion m³ per year. Not to mention the 919 fishing boats which employ 7.463 fishermen and that discharge their wastes directly into river waters.

That isn't all. The list is still very long. The 270 cruise ships that sail the Nile are a true threat for its waters. Almost 50% of these ships discharge their wastes untreated «A cruise ship can produce up to 120.000 litres of waste water per day and can empty its raw sewage directly into the Nile», stresses Mahmoud Al-Qayssouni, an expert in tourism and the environment.

The matter is extremely complicated. Despite the fact that a number of regulations exist declaring that all forms of pollution of the Nile are illegal, these laws are not respected or enforced. Furthermore, due to the lack of adequate environmental awareness, Egyptians are often oblivious of their negative impact on the river, which ironically provides them with 95% of their drinking water.

In the attempt to find solutions to this regrettable state, the Ministry of Irrigation and Hydraulic resources is presently revising the articles of law 48 of 1982 and of law 12 of 1984 regarding the Nile, and proposing crucial changes that will render these laws more effective and able to counter the multiple violations suffered by the Nile. Furthermore, this Ministry will be able to count on the national monitoring and surveillance network for water quality. «We have 290 measuring sites for surface water and 200 surveillance points for ground water. Through our network we are able to measure all

organic, chemical and microbiological elements present in water on a regular basis» declares Hussein Al-Atfi, spokesperson for the Ministry of Irrigation.

The Ministry of the Environment, on the other hand, is trying to solve the problem from land, and has built 5 stations for the collection of liquid wastes from cruise ships, as well as helping 257 cruise ships to establish their own units for sewage treatment at these locations.

In addition, the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project of [Nile Basin Initiative \(NBI\)](#), a program assisted by Canada, the Netherlands, GEF, UNDP and the World Bank, is trying, through a number of projects, to raise the awareness of the populations living in the basin to help them change their destructive behaviour towards river waters.

«Most of our efforts are spent educating school children, to get them used to respecting the environment in general and the Nile in particular», states **Dr Ithar Khalil**, National Coordinator of the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project. She also adds that school programmes, as well as the media, are key words for raising awareness.

«Through our project we train journalists to deal with environmental issues to capture the attention of the readers», claims Dr Ithar.

Efforts are thus being made to eradicate violations against the Nile, especially after the alarm sounded by the experts, who declared that by 2025 there will be severe water problems in three of the countries situated in the Nile river basin: Egypt, Sudan and Kenya. These countries risk living below the water poverty threshold. The truth is undeniable: water is limited. At least let it not be polluted.

*Dalia Abdel-Salam, Member NTEAP
Environmental Journalists Network*

Sudan Wetlands Listed in RAMSAR

Conservation efforts aiming at preserving one of Nile Basin's most important wetlands received a major boost as the Sudd region in southern Sudan was included in the Ramsar Convention List of Wetlands of International Importance.

The Sudd supports a rich animal diversity including hundreds of migratory birds. The government of Sudan received the Ramsar certificate on 30th October 2006, at an award and environmental workshop event co-sponsored by the Nile Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) of the Nile Basin Initiative held at the regional capital Juba. The workshop was opened by H.E Riak Machara, the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan. The event, which continued until 2nd November, is one of the first events of its kind for the new government.

Wetlands are extremely valuable resources. They control floods by acting

as a sponge and soaking up excess water. They also slow down water flow, giving flood waters more time to



recede and provide habitat for many species. Wetlands also improve water quality as the vegetation slows down the flow of water and allows materials and sediments to drop to the bottom. The sediments create environmental problems when it enters the water bodies. Fish depend on wetlands to spawn, and migrating birds use wetlands as a resting place between flights and wetlands support livelihoods through fishing, hunting, energy supplies, brick making etc and recreation.

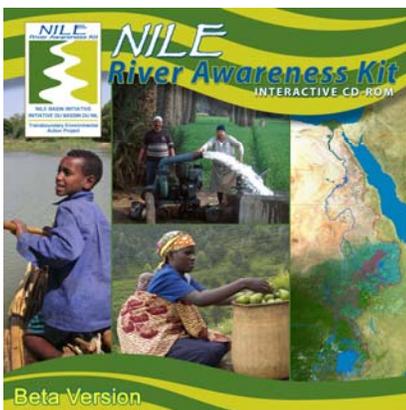
The Wetlands in the Nile Basin are threatened by drainage for (for agriculture, construction) filling, dredging and stream chanalisation (for navigation and flood protection), hydrological alteration (for canals, roads), ground water abstraction, siltation and discharges of pesticides, herbicides and sewage. All these reduce the value and productivity of wetlands.

NTEAP through its Wetlands and Biodiversity Conservation component seeks to improve the understanding and awareness of the role of wetlands in sustainable development. The project also strives to improve management at selected sites and cross boarder protected areas.

Knowledge transfer and capacity building in wetlands management is to be achieved through networks, in depth ecological and economic studies of key wetlands of transboundary significance in the region and training.

Joel Arumadri- KMS

Nile RAK (the Nile River Awareness Tool Kit) Presented at the Tiger Workshop



The Nile RAK, a multimedia environmental education and awareness CD ROM produced by NTEAP with financial support from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), under the Tiger Initiative, through the Hatfield Consultants

Ltd. was presented by the NTEAP Knowledge management Specialist at the Tiger Workshop, held from 20-21st November 2006, Cape Town, S.Africa.

The tool kit, which attracted a lot of interest, is designed to promote the sustainable management and use of the environmental resources within the Nile basin. Earth observation applications (satellite data, training modules and maps are integral components of the project and provide decision makers with improved capability to understand and manage the environment within the basin.

The Tiger Initiative is a response from the European Space Agency to the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) as a contribution to assist African countries to overcome water

related problems and to bridge Africa's water information gap using satellite data.

The Nile RAK was funded under this arrangement to bridge the water information gap and Hatfield Consultants provided the technical support in partnership with Strata 360 and FAO.

The Gold version (in English) of the tool kit was released in November 2006 and over 100 copies were distributed at the workshop. The French version has been finalized and it is expected to be launched during the Nile Day celebrations in Kigali. A web version is to be developed in due course.

Joel Arumadri-KMS

Women ' s Forum for the Nile to be formed.



Opening session of the NBI gender workshop

The women of the Nile Basin countries have made a commitment to form a women's forum to work closely with the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) to lobby for the development of a gender policy and implementation that will ensure women's representation and equal participation in all programmes and organs of the NBI, including equal representation of women and men at the formation of the Nile Basin Commission. The forum will ensure strong collaboration and cooperation with all the women in the Nile Basin to ensure regular interaction and to monitor and evaluate the progress and impact of the NBI projects on women at local, national, sub regional and regional levels. It will also ensure that that Civil Society Organi-



Participants from Sudan.

zations and the short visit by the Nile COM Chair, media continue to mobilize women to participate in all NBI activities. This declaration was made at the regional forum organized by the Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement (CBSI) Project of NBI, in Addis Ababa, during the period 27-29 November 2006. The forum, which was organized under the title, "The Women of NBI, Women in NBI", was indeed conceived as major contribution to the wider Gender Main Streaming Strategy

that currently the NBI is embarking on. It was attended by 60 women from all over the nine Nile Basin countries, representing a wide range of women groups, ranging from policy makers, NGOs, private sector, research, to media and other civil society groups. The Opening Session of the Forum was addressed by His Excellency Mr. Adugna Jebessa, the Minister of State Minister of the Ministry of Water Resources in Ethiopia and the NBI Executive Director Mr. Audace Ndayizaye. The Meeting was also graced with a

zations and the short visit by the Nile COM Chair, media continue to mobilize women to participate in all NBI activities.

Effective involvement of women and realization of their high potential contribution to Nile Basin conservation and development has been a rising concern for the Nile basin Initiative. The NBI and its auxiliary organizations and projects are aware that unless conscious measures are



NBI gender workshop participants with the state minister of water resources of Ethiopia

taken to fully incorporate women in the Nile development process, their issues and interest will be overlooked.

The meeting agreed that the NBI, as an organization, also has to address gender mainstreaming in its recruitment, personnel policies and procedures. The meeting came up with a number of important recommendations which were discussed and handed to NBI Executive Director and SVP project managers who attended the closing of the meeting.

Intisar Salih, M&E Lead Specialist

Women and Micro-grants



Micro-grants field visit at Woodlot at Nyanga Kentale, Uganda.

awards at least 10% of its resources to women NGOs and CBOS. This is over and above the funds awarded to NGOs to undertake activities that address both men and women within a community. This indicator (10%) was established during the formulation stage of the NTEAP to ensure that marginalized groups specially

that they deserve. Today more than 20% of the total US\$ 2.6 Million in projects funded by Micro-grants have been earmarked for women NGOs. Moreover, efforts are being exerted to ensure that the issue of Gender is mainstreamed into all of the MG Project activities, so as to avoid assigning women marginal activities that do not provide them with economic leverage. The coming years of the project will witness intense efforts in this regards including the appointing of more women in the National Steering Committees that review and approve Micro-grants Projects.

The Micro-grants Program women receive the due attention

Amir Baker- Micro-grants Lead Specialist

Experiences of the Beneficiaries of NTEAP Students Exchange Program

STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

Martin Esakina Safu

St. Mary's Kibabii Boys High School Bungoma Kenya

I wish to pass my sincere gratitude on behalf of the Environment Club for enabling us to travel to Tanzania and Isebania.

The club is a highly populated club compared to other clubs in the school. The increased enrolment is due to support from NTEAP.

During the student exchange activity, I learnt that firewood provides 10% of the world's total energy consumption. Approximately half of the people in the world use wood or charcoal for cooking. Although trees are renewable resources, the global use of firewood is unsustainable. Natural forests are therefore being destroyed and this leads to creation of deserts. A solution was demonstrated at Siria High School who have started a renewable energy source - biogas.

From the residents of the areas we visited, I learnt that we have a lot to teach and learn from our local communities. The trip exposed us socially, since we interacted with various people with different cultures and disciplines.

This trip has increased and firmed up my commitment to fight environmental depletion and join international efforts to Promote renewable energy sources, protect rain forests and plant trees, conserve energy and store water.

TREES AND FOREST

Anne Kerubo

Siria high School - Kenya

Trees and forests provide a lot; they provide a lot, all over the world, Forest means food, fruits and nuts for people, Leaves for animals, Forests make great homes, for people and animals, Purify the air for all the living, Forests have a lot to offer, they are important to us, Now it's our turn to give back

WHAT I LEARNT FROM THE NTEAP STUDENTS EXCHANGE

Michael Omollo Onyango

Siria high School

During the participation in the Nile Basin Environmental Action Projects student exchange between Kenya and Tanzania, I enjoyed the trip itself, the environment and the clean ups.

I learnt that international action is needed to protect forests and to plant trees with shallow roots to reduce excessive water absorption in water catchments areas, together with maintaining cleanliness around settlement and institutional areas

I also learnt the importance of encouraging community participation in conservation and management of natural resources, particularly rivers and lakes because they are sources of water for domestic and industrial use, irrigation, sources of fish, tourist attractions and good boundaries for countries, provinces and villages.

Forests are sources of income, building materials, beauty and home for wild animals.

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A National Plan for Environmental Management for the Sudan in offing



From left to right: H.E Theresa Siricio, Vice President Dr. Riak Machara. and H.E James Loro

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) has not only ended Africa's longest civil war, but has ushered in new opportunities for national reconciliation, healing, reconstruction and development.

In this context, the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Development (MEPD) in collaboration with the federal line ministries of the Government of National Unity (GONU) and the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MEWCT) of the Government of the Southern Sudan (GoSS) are preparing a National Plan for Environmental Management (NPEM). The plan is sponsored by the Nile Trans-boundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the European Commission (EC).

The approach is based on bringing institutions concerned with environment and natural

resources together to establish a national forum for highlighting national and regional environmental issues facing Sudan and to encourage technical discussion and public debate on these issues in order to prepare an Environmental Management Plan for Post Conflict Sudan that illustrates the shared vision of all partners and highlights important and priority actions.

The second preparatory workshop took place in Juba during 31 Oct- 2 November 2006 where the main environmental issues and an outline for the National Plan for Environmental Management were presented.

The Vice president of the Government of Southern Sudan opened the workshop and speeches were made by the Minister of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism GoSS, and the State Minister of Environment and Physical Development GoNU; the representatives from EC, UNEP and NTEAP and HCENR. Other participants came from Uganda, Kenya, Switzerland and USA.

The first workshop was convened in Khartoum during 18- 20/07/06 where the process was mapped and major environmental issues discussed and broad recommendations for addressing the identified issues provided.

A National Plan for Environmental Management for the country is expected by February 2007.

Susan Ayot, Izzat Mirghani

Coordinators, NPEM

Upcoming events

12-14 January– 4th NTEAP Steering Committee

15-17th January– 4th RPTP Project Steering Committee meeting.

15-17th January- WRPM Project Steering Committee meeting. Nairobi, Kenya.

18-19th January- EWUAP Project Steering Committee meeting, Nairobi, Kenya.

20-21st January- ENPT Project Steering Committee meeting, Khartoum Sudan.

7-8th February- CBSI Project Steering Committee meeting, Entebbe, Uganda..

8-9th February– Opening conference of Nile basin research programme, Bergen, Norway.

22 February– Nile day