



The Nile Environment

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NTEAP



Volume II, issue 2

April-June 2005

Editorial

This is the second issue of NTEAP Newsletter in 2005. The first issue highlighted the high level political commitment of member countries, increased cooperation among stakeholder groups and the heightened communication and knowledge exchange as evidenced by the series of meetings during the quarter, including the Nile COM /TAC and Trust Fund Committee meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.

The main focus of this issue is the World Environment Day. The cities and towns in the Nile basin are no exception to the urban environmental Challenges facing the globe. Degradation of water quality, land degradation and diminishing biological diversity are among challenges affecting sustainable socio-economic development within the basin.

We reaffirm our commitment to sustainable environment management by joining the world in celebrating the World Environment Day.

Other articles in the Newsletter give highlights on the IWR workshop in Brazil, the visit of the joint Ethiopia/Sudan team to Dinder National Park, in the Sudan, the development of the environment and natural resources information communication tool and SVP news.

All these activities demonstrate progress in stakeholder cooperation and commitment in addressing the transboundary environmental issues, while creating synergies in empowering the people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development.

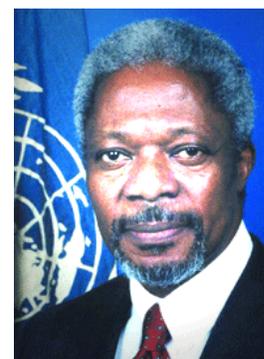
Gedion Asfaw, RPM

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World Environment Day 5th June 2005

The urban Environmental challenge



"In the next quarter-century, almost all population growth will occur in cities, most of it in less developed countries. By 2030, more than 60 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas. Cities are prolific users of natural resources and generators of waste. They often degrade local water quality, deplete aquifers, pollute the marine environment, foul the air and consume the land, thereby devastating biological diversity", Kofi Annan. Source: UNEP

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Commemorated each year on 5 June, World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. Governments, individuals, non governmental organizations, community and youth groups, business, industry and the media undertake variety of activities aimed at renewing their commitment to the protection of the environment.

Each year is celebrated under a different theme, the theme for 2005 is **Green Cities** and the slogan is **Plan for the Planet!** The main international celebrations of the World Environment Day 2005 were held in [San Francisco, California, USA](#).

The UN agenda is to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

The Vision of NBI and the aims and aspirations of NTEAP are in conformity with the UN Agenda.

Source: Adapted from UNEP

NBI-NTEAP Participated in the GEF, Third Biennial International Waters Conference, 20th—25th June 2005, Brazil

The third Biennial International Waters Conference, co-sponsored by GEF, UNDP, UNEP and World Bank, took place in Pestana Bahia Hotel, Salvador, Bahia Brazil; June 20- 25, 2005. The week long conference, was attended by more than 350 participants, from all over the world and it brought together international waters stakeholders, to share experiences, and learn from each other on how to enhance the management of international waters projects.

NBI-NTEAP was represented by a team comprising of Mr. Gedion Asfaw, Regional Project Manager NTEAP, who also chaired three breakout sessions on River Basin Projects, Mr. John Omwenga, Water Quality Specialist NTEAP, Dr. Abdel Fattah Mettawie, TAC member, Egypt and Dr. Aryamanya, Mugisha-Henry, Project Steering Committee member, Uganda.

The purpose of the conference was to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration between GEF international water projects, GEF agencies, participating governments, and the private, academic and non-profit sectors, and to identify and disseminate lessons and experiences for international waters management.

The conference allowed project stakeholders to provide feedback to the implementing agencies and identified learning priorities for the next two years. It also examined innovative funding mechanisms to support project sustainability and ex-

plored approaches for promoting the integration of other GEF focal areas

Basin Projects, Lake Basin Projects, Ground Water Projects and Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Projects, were among thematic areas addressed.

Other workshops discussed the role of public participation in international waters management, overview of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), GEF project Information Communication technology, legal frameworks and opportunities and innovative project financing and private sector involvement. Discussions on GEF partnerships in Latin America, GEF international waters portfolio, World Bank, UNEP and UNDP portfolios also featured.

This was the first international waters meeting attended by the NBI/NTEAP, despite the fact that two earlier meetings had been held, one in Dalian, China and the other in Budapest, Hungary. It was felt that more coordination between all GEF-funded projects in Africa is necessary. The need for GEF-funded river basin projects in Africa to meet to share experiences ahead of the next IWC meeting, planned to be held in Africa in the year 2007 was underscored.

Gedion Asfaw, Regional Project Manager NTEAP; **John Omwenga**, Water Quality Lead Specialist



NTEAP Exhibition Stall



Conference Hall

(Biodiversity, Climate Change Land Degradation and Desertification), with international waters activities.

It was recommended that partnerships and synergies be enhanced, particularly between GEF-financed projects. River

NTEAP mode of celebrating WED- adapted from UNEP

- N** Network
- Never litter
- T** Tree planting
- E** Environmental education programmes in schools
- Establishment of governmental structures dealing with environmental management
- Exhibitions (drawings, posters, photos and paintings)
- A** Award presentations (for environment-related activities)
- Art using recycled materials
- Awareness campaign
- P** Parades
- Performances (plays, songs, poetry) Promotional materials related to theme (T-shirts, stickers, bookmarks)



The Youth Participate in WED Tree Planting in Omdurman, Sudan

NTEAP joins Nile Basin countries and the rest of the world in World Environment Day Celebrations



Removing Water Hyacinth in Lake Rweru Burundi

On 5th June 2005 NTEAP joined hands with countries of Nile Basin to celebrate the World Environment Day. The celebrations were a week long in many countries and graced with activities varying from country to country.

In Burundi activities included; delineation of a community park within the city of Bujumbura, two days awareness workshop, removing invasive weeds in lake Rweru in Kirundo, as a demonstration to the fisher folks on

the link between low fish catch and the weed; and awards given to environmental journalist and the folk dancers with the best environmental messages on the Nile.

In Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Tanzania awards were presented to schools. Community based organizations (CBO's) in Tanzania and footballers in Congo also received prizes.

In line with this years WED theme, *Green Cities*, trees were planted and cities cleaned.

WED is one of the days NTEAP through its EE&A component recognizes as an opportunity to reach stakeholders with no access to the traditional tools and methods of communication like posters, TV, newsletters, etc

The activities were supported to a

tune of approximately US\$ 6,000 dollars in each country, except Uganda and Rwanda where there are no National Project Coordinators.

The support covered cleaning, tree planting, awards, and production of awareness materials.

NTEAP received a certificate of appreciation from the city of Mwanza as



Tree Planting in Omdurman City, Sudan

indication of success of the event and appreciation for the support.

Mausche Kidundo - EE & A Lead Specialist

Knowledge Management & Communication- Nile River Environmental Awareness Kit (NRAK) in the offing



Fishing in shores of L. Kyoga, Uganda

NTEAP in collaboration with Hatfield Consultants is in the process of developing an interactive self study CD-ROM, Nile River Environmental Awareness KIT (NRAK). The kit is to be a training tool designed to promote sustainable management of water resources within the Nile Basin. The Multimedia CD-ROM tool will provide training material that can be used by regional, national, and local stakeholders to enhance understanding of

natural and anthropogenic activities that impact the river Nile Basin.

The Nile NRAK project is designed to contribute to the identification, mitigation, and rehabilitation of transboundary environmental issues through:

- Providing training programs in environmental and water management, delivered through an interactive, multi media CD-ROM learning tool.
- Developing Earth observation (EO) applications and map products for regional environmental monitoring and management; and
- Raising awareness on environmental issues impacting the Nile Basin through workshops, posters and brochures.

The kit will include the following thematic areas:

- ◆ Water resource management issues related to agriculture, erosion, flooding and desertification.
- ◆ Impacts of human activities on the basin
- ◆ Earth observation (EO) applications to improve environmental management; and
- ◆ Biodiversity and conservation issues within the basin

Consultations on the Nile RAK architecture and contents have been done in Uganda, Egypt and Ethiopia and consultations in other countries will be completed within July—August 2005.

NTEAP expresses its gratitude to the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and the Hatfield Group for the support to the development of the Nile River Awareness Kit

Joel Arumadri - Knowledge Management Specialist, NTEAP

Basin-wide Water Quality Monitoring- National and Regional Water Quality Monitoring Benchmarks developed

This quarter saw a major benchmark; National Water Quality Monitoring Baseline reports, finalized for all the Nile riparian countries, except Ethiopia and Egypt, where the reports await revision and endorsement by the stakeholders.

A baseline study was conducted to establish the current water status, with regard to water quality monitoring initiatives at the country level, against which subsequent project activities are to be measured and evaluated. Highlights of the study include:

- ◆ Water quality monitoring data sets
- ◆ List of geo-referenced sampling stations
- ◆ Inventory of major point and non-point sources of pollution
- ◆ Inventories of existing laboratories
- ◆ Water quality monitoring initiatives and
- ◆ Weaknesses and strengths of each country, with regard to water quality monitoring.

The national reports have already been consolidated into a draft Regional water quality monitoring baseline report and issues highlighted in the report include:

- ◆ Technical capacity

- ◆ Institutional capacity
- ◆ Training needs
- ◆ Level and type of water quality monitoring program
- ◆ Status of legal frameworks, policy instruments and strategies for water resources management
- ◆ Existence and level of enforcement of standards, guidelines and regulations and

- ◆ Number and status of laboratories, laboratory instrumentation and staffing.

Arising from the issues, the following recommendations have been made:

“4000 children die daily from water-borne diseases like diarrhea, malaria and typhoid.”
- UNICEF's state of the worlds children 2005 Report

- ◆ Designation of a Nile Basin focal laboratory
- ◆ Selection of key basic parameters of trans boundary importance
- ◆ Measures to curb and monitor pollution from non-point polluting



sources

- ◆ Proposal on dealing with trans boundary pollution
- ◆ Need to carry out Nile river pollution hazard assessment
- ◆ Need for water quality modelling
- ◆ Need to incorporate biological parameters for monitoring
- ◆ Establishment of regional water quality testing centres.
- ◆ Preparation of water quality maps

A Regional Workshop is planned for 19- 21st July, 2005, at Novatel Hotel, Bujumbura, Burundi, to discuss the recommendations.

John Omwenga- Water Quality Lead Specialist, NTEAP

Caravan for WED celebrations in Kenya

NTEAP in collaboration with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Kenya, supported a caravan from Nairobi to Kisumu on Saturday 4th June to mark WED. The purpose of the caravan was to create awareness on environmental problems Kenyan cities and towns face. The caravan went through several city hotspots, with stopovers in Nakuru Kericho, Awasi, Kisumu and

Naivasha. Other activities included:

- ◆ Competitions in essay writing/photography/painting, tree planting, exhibitions.
- ◆ Essay/Art/Photography competition for schools supported by KOEE, UNEP and NTEAP
- ◆ Tree planting in Shauri Moyo Primary school in Kisumu in collaboration with the Forest Department

- ◆ Exhibition in Kisumu to help publicize the project and to display the work done by the students from within the basin.

The Minister of environment Hon. Kalonzo Musyaka, UNDP representatives, Ministers, Members of Parliament, were among others who attended.

Lily Kisaka—NPC Kenya, NTEAP

Monitoring & Evaluation- Partners discuss NTEAP M & E Strategy and Action Plan

A Regional Workshop was held in Naivasha, Kenya last April, to discuss and finalize the draft NTEAP Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy and Action Plan. The high level meeting brought together key partners of the Nile basin Initiative, including the Executive Director of NBI Secretariat, Project Steering Committee members, Shared Vision Program Coordinators, National Coordinators and UNDP/GEF Coordinator among others.

The meeting provided a good opportunity for the participants to discuss, understand and review the projects' outcomes, outputs and indicators, provide inputs to enhance the quality



of the strategy/action plan and the baseline documents/report.

The need to reflect the commitment of Governments and sustainability

issues in the indicators that the project will use to measure progress during the coming four years was emphasised.

The way forward and the need to move from projects monitoring to environmental monitoring was also stressed.

The M&E Strategy and Action Plan are meant to provide feedback to the NTEAP management and partners on the progress of the project towards achieving its objectives.

Intisar Salih- M & E Lead Specialist, NTEAP

NTEAP forms Networks - for implementing Transboundary Activities

Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project is mandated to implement transboundary environmental activities.

Nile basin Environmental Education and Awareness (EE & A) component embarked on formation of networks for implementing transboundary activities.

Practitioners, EE & A Lecturers and

Environmental Journalists networks have been formed. Planned regional networks include Nile basin EE & A Teachers and Members of Parliament networks.

An EE&A working group, as a national hub, consisting of 12 people, from Government, civil societies, and the private sector is in place. The network ensures the regional activities are implemented and are in line with countries priorities.

Each regional network is represented by two delegates from each country, are to meet annually to plan and develop mechanisms for implementation. During the sessions, experiences are shared and consequently knowledge exchanged.

The meetings are in line with the NBI vision of working together.

Mausche Kidundo—EE & A Lead Specialist, NTEAP

GSDI/Global Map Grant—Twenty nine African countries still eligible for grant

22 African countries have benefited from a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI)/Global map grant.

These are grants designed by Environmental Services Research Institute (ESRI) to support framework data development by African national mapping agencies. The grant consists of software (ArcGIS) and a credit for training. ESRI is accepting applications from Burundi, Egypt and Rwanda, among the countries in the Nile Basin.

Other eligible countries include Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Djibouti, Gabon,



Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Reunion, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia.

The grant is a capacity building opportunity for the beneficiary countries to enhance knowledge management and for the countries in the Nile Basin, it reinforces the knowledge management activities of NTEAP.

For online application, go to:

<http://gis.esri.com/company/sdi-app.cfm>

Source: GSDI

Micro-grants- First Regional Micro-grants Capacity Building Workshop

Kenya, hosted the first Regional Micro grants Capacity Building Workshop. Participants from the riparian countries assembled for a four day period to discuss the fundamental challenges and threats that face the environment of the Nile Basin and to review the opportunities that the NTEAP is fostering through its various components.

The workshop provided a forum for opportunity for development partners and Government experts to exchange ideas and identify common entry points that could be used to build networks and formulate joint proposals for funding through the Micro grants.

The fundamental challenges and threats facing the environment in the Nile Basin and the opportunities through the various components of NTEAP to address them, were among issues discussed.

There was exchange of Knowledge between participants and the Project Management Unit (PMU), through sharing of practical experiences from the different riparian countries on the



challenges of environmental threats in the Nile Basin, and the existing opportunities/programs being administered by NTEAP to address some of them.

The need to embrace networking at all levels and with all stakeholders, as a means of sharing knowledge was emphasized. The workshop provided an opportunity for NTEAP to closely examine and explore possible scenarios for implementing micro grant

activities, in light of country specific situations.

The capacity building workshop, was the first of two planned meetings and it took place from 5th – 8th April 2005, in Nairobi. The meeting was extremely useful to the participants, as well as the NTEAP staff, as it provided an insight into the environmental issues within the Nile Basin to be addressed.

Amir Baker– LS Microgrants, NTEAP

Africa/Canada Partnership to Demonstrate Benefits of Space to water management

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) is developing projects to demonstrate the use of earth observation products in the African context. The projects are to take place in a number of African countries including the Nile riparian countries. Areas to be covered are environmental and health problems related to water, flood, drought etc.

Earth Observation Products are an important tool for water management hydrogeology, river basin management and environmental awareness and education

The projects are typically for demonstration and intended to act as leverage to generate funding for long term commitment with Afri-

can partners for sustainable earth observation development projects.

This will be beneficial to NTEAP and NBI at large as it will enhance the information requirements for managing the water resources of the River Nile.

<http://www.space.gc.ca/tiger>

Source: CSA

Institutional Strengthening- Ethiopia/Sudan Joint Visit to Dinder National Park, Sudan:

Within NBI's frame of institutional strengthening to facilitate regional cooperation, a joint Ethiopia/Sudan team visited Dinder National Park, in the Sudan.

The team included the Deputy Director General of the Environmental Authority of Amhara Region (Dr. Zerfu Hailu), Mr. Woldegbriel Gebrekidan (an expert in the same Authority), Dr. Assefa Mebrate from Addis Ababa University, the National Watershed Project Coordinator of Ethiopia for ENSAP (Mr. Alemayehu Taffese), and both NPCs of Ethiopia & Sudan, representing NTEAP. The team was accompanied and guided by Dr. Mutasim Bashir Nimir, Dinder National Park GEF Project Manager, Mr. Ab-

dalhafeze Osman, GEF Project Coordinator and Mr. Ibrahim, a representative of the Ministry of International Cooperation.

Among issues discussed were participation of local communities in park management and possible areas of cooperation and coordination in the management of the two parks.

Such visits promote cooperation among stakeholder groups; not only within their countries, but with counter parts in neighboring countries. Exchange visits are essential ingredients for building mutual understanding, relationships and trust that can lead to improved regional cooperation.

Dinder National Park is located 582 Km away from Khartoum in eastern borders



of Sudan, adjacent to the Ethiopian Alatish Park. The reserved area of the two parks in Sudan & Ethiopia is more than 10000 & 2000 square kilometers respectively

Abdelsalam Ahmed Abdelsalam
NPC Sudan, NTEAP

“One Planet, Many People Atlas” - Launched in London, 3rd June 2005.

Visit www.earthprint.com for more information and to acquire. Source: UNEP

One Planet, Many People: Atlas of Our Changing Environment provides a comprehensive, visual presentation of scientifically variable information, on changes in the global environment—both the good and the bad—acquired and assessed through state-of-the-art remote sensing technology.

The atlas documents visual evidence of global environmental changes resulting from natural processes and human-induced activities. Special objectives of One Planet, Many People include:

- generating awareness of human interactions with the environment that alter the environment in de-

monstrable ways;

- providing scientific measurement of over-exploitation of the environment.

To meet these objectives, the atlas provides:

- a collection of spectacular “before and after” satellite image pairs on various themes for 80 sites around the world;
- over 30 environmental case studies supported by narratives, images and ground photographs; and a compilation of recently released environmental maps.



Institutional Capacity Building—Scholarships for Water Professionals

The Applied Training Project (ATP) has announced MSc. and Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) Scholarships for Water Professionals in the Nile Basin region for the academic year 2005-2006.

The **Applied Training Project** supports the SVP's vision to improve

water planning and management cooperatively in the basin by assisting in the development of human resources and institutional capacity building.

The ATP is offering scholarships at MSc level for water professionals in order to increase their capability in handling water issues in an inte-

grated manner and PhD for officers in training institutions, to enable them effectively deliver water resources management courses.

Details are on www.nilebasin.org

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SVP -Regional Power Trade Meeting held in Mombasa

A Steering Committee and Technical meeting of the Regional Power trade Project took place in Mombasa, Kenya from 16th – 18th June 2005. This was the first Project Steering and Technical Committee meeting. The meeting laid the ground for the establishment of the Nile Basin Power Forum and also discussed the six-month work plan. The Power Forum will bring together power experts and power utility companies to discuss ways to expand power trade and improve access to reliable, low-cost power in the Nile Basin.

Discussions ranged from variations in the cost of electricity to access, in the nine countries of the basin. The observation was that Egypt had relatively cheaper electricity and better accessibility as compared to Ethiopia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Eritrea, where power supplies are erratic, tariffs are high and therefore unaffordable to many.

With the exception of Egypt where over 96% of the population has access to

electricity, less than 10 per cent of the people in other countries of the Basin have access to electricity. "How can you be competitive in this world when you have these kinds of figures?", the Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative, Mr. Patrick Kahangire asked.

The four-year Regional Power Trade project is expected to cost US \$13 million and is supported by the governments of Norway and Sweden and the African Development Bank.

Other projects of the Nile Basin Initiative include the Nile Trans-boundary Environment Project, hosted in Khartoum, the Sudan; Applied Training Project In Cairo, Egypt; Water Resources Project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Regional Power Trade, in Dar es salaam, Tanzania; Efficient Water Use in Nairobi, Kenya; Socio-economic Development and Benefit Sharing in Entebbe, Uganda, and Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement Project at the Nile Secretariat, also in Uganda.

Source: Press release www.nilebasin.org

Upcoming events/News Flush

Nile Basin Environmental Journalists Network Workshop, to be held in Kenya from 18th—20th July 2005.

Regional Workshop on Water Quality Working Group meeting, 19—21 July 2005, Novatel Hotel, Bujumbura, Burundi. For more information contact the Water Quality Monitoring Lead Specialist, NTEAP, at johno@unopsmail.org.

NTEAP Environmental Education & Awareness Regional Workshop, to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 1st—3rd August 2005. For details contact E E & A LS on mausche@unopsmail.com

The second Regional Micro-grants Capacity Building Workshop is scheduled to take place during the period 17-19 August 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Interviews for the Local Micro grant Coordinators for Burundi, D.R.C and Ethiopia were concluded in June 2005.

**Please send your articles /
comments to
The Editor
Nile Environment at
joela@nileteap.org**

The Micro-grants National Action Plan for Sudan was approved in June 2005.

The third NTEAP Steering committee is planned for December 2005 in Khartoum, Sudan. The exact dates will be announced in due course.

AfricaGIS 2005 Conference— to be held at CSIR International Convention Centre, Tshwane (Pretoria), S.Africa, from 31 Oct. to 4th Nov. 2005. For more information See

<http://www.africagis2005.org.za/>

RAMSAR COP9, Kampala, Uganda, November 2005. For more information see www.ramsar.org/index_cop9_e.htm