

Nile Basin Initiative
Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP)



The Nile Environment

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NTEAP



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Editorial

This is the first issue in 2005. The three issues of 2004 informed our readers on the launch of the project and the first steering committee meeting, provided information on the NTEAP and the NBI, NTEAP missions to NBI countries, and gave brief account of important workshops held during 2004. This issue of our newsletter provides highlights of the Steering Committee meeting, project component articles & SVP news.

The second PSC meeting approved the 2005 work plan and budget after a detailed discussion and gave directives on the implementation of the work plan. The PSC also approved rules of procedure for the PSC.

The quarter also saw the Nile Council of Ministers, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Trust Fund Committee meetings in Kigali, Rwanda which was held between March 14 and 17 2005.

These and other high level meetings of the NBI demonstrate the political commitment of member countries and their resolve to achieve the vision of the NBI.

The number of institutions and individuals who are expressing interest and getting involved in the activities of the NBI is increasing substantially. This is an obvious indicator of increasing regional cooperation and the regional meetings and exchange of visits by practitioners of NBI countries will modestly contribute to strengthening regional cooperation.

Gedion Asfaw, RPM

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NTEAP Second Project Steering Committee Approves 2005 Work Plan and Budget



Participants of the Second Steering Committee Meeting, January 10-11 2005

The second Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held between January 10 and 11 2005 at the Friendship Hall, Khartoum, Sudan. It was attended by all members and observers except for Rwanda.

The PSC approved the 2005 work plan and budget and further approved up to 20% additional budget for "eligible national level projects" to be submitted to the NTEAP by member countries after consultation with relevant stakeholders. The PSC also adopted the PSC Rules of Procedures.

The PSC accepted the proposal by the NTEAP to add a new activity with regards to the formulation of a strategic environmental framework and requested the RPM to develop a concept paper on the proposed framework and share the concept paper with members and observers of the PSC for their inputs and enrichment.

The process of work plan preparation was also discussed and a process was agreed upon in which the participation of national level stakeholders was underlined. The regional framework work plan will be discussed at a national consultation meeting and each member country will submit a national action plan which will then be incorporated in the final draft annual work plan.

The second PSC was attended by the Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, Mr. Patrick Kahangeri, the SVP Coordinator, representatives of CIDA, UNDP and the world Bank, the National Project Coordinators. The proceedings of the second PSC meeting is available on our website: www.nileteap.org.

Micro-grants - Follow up on the First Regional Workshop

The Regional Micro-grant Strategy which was produced following the Regional Micro-grants Workshop was presented to the NTEAP Steering Committee Meeting at its second annual session in January 2005 in Khartoum. The RPM was given the green light by the PSC to work with the Regional Strategy and incorporate any changes into after review by the PSC.

The Regional Strategy provides guidance to Micro-grants team members in implementing the Micro-grants Program; developing National Trans-boundary Micro-grants Program Action Plans; identifying, designing and implementing trans-boundary projects; and, monitoring and evaluating the Micro-grant Program.

With the Strategy in place, the riparian countries are now ready to start preparing their national action plans. These National Action Plans provide a framework for allocating resources, including spatial and thematic priorities for grant making. The Action Plans also provide a basis for the assessment of achievements and impacts. Each national Action Plan development process includes consultations with national stakeholders as well as trans-boundary counterparts identified in coordination with the Micro-grants Lead Specialist in the PMU. This process is an important and substantive contribution to capacity building that strengthens the awareness and ability of key stakeholders to address trans-boundary environmental and sustainable livelihood concerns in an integrated manner.

It is expected that during the first two semesters of implementation of the programs, countries will focus on addressing environmental challenges common to the entire basin, but at the national level. As the capacities and confidence levels increase the countries will graduate into the more sophisticated types of cross-border activities, prior to eventually escalating the level of work to two countries or more. By the end of 2007, all countries would have developed the necessary tools to allow the communities through their NGOs to interact in confident manner across the entire basin.

Amir Baker, Microgrants Lead Specialist

Partnership - The way to go with awareness creation

INTRODUCING KENYA ORGANIZATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

By Dr. Dorcas B. Otieno, Ex. Director.

Introduction

Kenya Organisation of Environmental Education (KOE) was founded in 1997. Since then the organisation has made achievements in promoting and orienting Environmental Education towards sustainable development through participatory and interdisciplinary national, regional and international programmes. Our motto "Taking action- Safe Earth" KOEE's focus and success has been founded on practical, simple and sustainable solutions that are driven by the needs of the vulnerable groups, the youth and women.

Our Vision is to improve livelihoods and enlighten society to manages its resources in a sustainable manner. Our Mission To promote and reorient Environmental Education towards Sustainable Development through integrated and interdisciplinary national and regional programmes

The organization consists of the General Council and the Executive Committee. The General Council comprises all the officers of the organization and other representatives at the annual general meeting. The Executive Committee consists of the Executive Director who executes policy, controls and manages all projects and programs, the

Program Officer who co-ordinate all programs of the organization and the Administrative Director who is responsible for the efficient administration of the organization.

KOE PROGRAMMES

Eco-schools Kenya Programme

The project is supported by DANIDA and implemented by KOEE in collaboration with the Danish Outdoor Council on a pilot phase in Nyanza province, Lake Victoria Basin.

Eco-Schools which is promoting action learning is seen as a tool for development & poverty reduction. Poverty is prevalent in the region. Increasing population pressure and socio-economic activities in the basin have resulted into changes in land use patterns and intensity, which has caused changes in water quality, biodiversity, wetlands and fisheries.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

KOE in collaboration with UNESCO and UNEP is spearheading capacity building in the region to enable education systems to adapt, design, develop and implement ESD programmes within the framework of United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development -DESD (2005-2014).

Sustainability Watch-Kenya Network Chapter

'Sustainability Watch' is a network of CSO's in 15 countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa, which has

agreed to focus on the implementation barriers for sustainable development. The network is partially funded by DANIDA and its main goal is to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on the national level by using indicators of MDG 1, 7 and 8 analytical tools (including the linkages between environment, poverty and governance/capacity). KOEE is the Focal point of the Sustainability Watch-Kenya Network Chapter.

Some of the Key environmental actions KOEE has contributed to in the region include:

- Environmental Action Learning Capacity Development for the Eastern African Sub-region, 2001
- Eco-schools Partnerships in Africa Plan of Action, 2002
- Education for Sustainable Development Strategy for Kenya, 2005

Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) Regional Environmental Education and Awareness strategy and support material 2005

Under this initiative trans boundary partnerships and networks for EE & a practitioner within the Nile Basin have been developed; Exchange of local and national experiences on planning, implementation and evaluating EE & A activities has taken place; plans for transboundary cooperatives activities have been developed while regional capacity on the development of effective EE & A materials has been created.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Broader steps towards establishing an effective Monitoring and Evaluation Framework are being taken by the NTEAP.

To measure its effects on fostering and strengthening regional cooperation between governments and civil societies on environmental and water management issues, the project launched a data collection process which included filed visits and a simple survey. The Survey which was designed to establish a quick snap shot of the current status of regional cooperation and NGOs/NGO Networks on environment and water management issues is now being conducted

through the project's National Coordinators in eight of the NBI countries. Two missions to Uganda and Ethiopia were conducted by the Monitoring and Evaluation Lead Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation International Consultants and the respective Country NPC to meet with the NBI Secretariat, partners and officials in the NBI regional office to solicit views on current regional cooperation status and the M&E framework. The missions were very useful in giving more insight to the whole process and highlighting necessary linkages between SVP Coordination Unit in the NBI Secretariat and other related SVP projects. The timing of the missions was appropriate as the Secretariat itself is in the process of establishing the

overall Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Shared Vision Program as indicated by Ms. Hamere Windmu, the SVP Coordinator. The NTEAP M&E baseline and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will be discussed and strengthened through contributions of the high level participants to the Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop, planned by the NTEAP in Naivasha, Kenya in early April 2005. The NBI Executive Director, Mr. Patrick Kahangire along with the NTEAP Steering Committee Members of all the nine riparian countries and donor representatives will attend the Workshop.

Intisar Salih, M&E Specialist

Basin Wide Water Quality Management - The Challenges Ahead

The Basin Wide Water Quality Monitoring Component of NTEAP enters its second year of implementation with high ambitions. Last year, the Component established a Regional Water Quality Working Group and initiated Water Quality Baseline Studies, which are nearing completion. At this stage, it is important to remind ourselves of the basic objectives of the Component, which are a tall order indeed. These are:

- To initiate basin wide dialogue on water quality monitoring
- To improve the understanding of trans boundary water quality management
- To improve the capacities for water quality management
- To initiate trans boundary water quality assessment
- To initiate the exchange and dissemination of information on key water quality parameters of trans boundary and basin wide significance
- To enhance awareness on the importance of water quality monitoring
- To establish a Nile basin water quality monitoring network.

The Component will aim at building on the existing water quality management practices in the basin countries, as outlined in the Water Quality Monitoring Baseline Studies. The Baseline reports contain benchmarks on which subsequent Component activities can be evaluated. The challenge ahead, is how to ensure that the planned activities address the specific water quality monitoring needs of each of the countries taking into account the Trans boundary and basin wide perspectives.

For effective water quality management, these interventions will be made in the light of the regional challenges identified in the water quality monitoring baseline reports.

A major challenge identified in the basin is the low prioritization of water quality management issues, resulting in low and often inadequate funding for water quality monitoring programs, which are intrinsically expensive to run and maintain. Other serious hurdles are weak institutional set-ups,

poor coordination and linkages between sector actors and often not well defined and documented policies and strategies on water quality management. This may explain the weak implementation and enforcement of laws, and regulations on compliance with environmental and water quality standards and guidelines in many countries and lack of tax rebates or incentives for environmentally friendly practices, further

leading to gross environmental decline and water quality deterioration.

On the level of technical capabilities in terms of equipment and staff, the picture is not glossy. For instance, where laboratories exist, these are few and inadequately equipped to carry out comprehensive water quality testing. There is an urgent need for trained and experienced technical officers, to carry out water quality monitoring work.

There is also in some cases a lack of established routine Water Quality Assurance programs, and accredited laboratories. This greatly compromises the efficacy of the analysis results.

At the transboundary and basin-wide level, there is need to establish an integrated water quality management system through the initiation of transboundary quality assurance programs, data management and information exchange systems, and formulate agreed upon guidelines, standards and regulations, especially for the management of transboundary ecosystems.

The Component will support grassroots involvement initiatives including civil society, private sector, NGOs and CBOs interventions on environmental and water conservation and protection at the country level.

In order, therefore, to respond to some of the above challenges, the Basin Wide Water Quality Component has planned to hold three National and three Regional Workshops, and one Regional Training during this year. An assessment of the data management practices, capacity building needs, and the efficacy of quality assurance programs in each of the countries are also planned. The Component is totally committed to enhancing the national capacities for water quality monitoring and also creating awareness on the importance of water quality monitoring.

John Omwenga, Water Quality Lead Specialist

Signs of Cooperation

The presence of the heads of environmental agencies of the five regional states which constitute the Nile Basin part of Ethiopia at the EE&A national meeting and at the NTEAP national action plan preparation meeting is testimony of the firm support to the NTEAP and to the NBI process by the environment agencies of the regional governments. Both meetings resulted in producing specific activities for the EE&A component and additional eligible national level activities. The meetings were chaired by the Deputy Director of EPA, Mr. Dessalegne Mesfin

Yusuf Mohammed, NPC Ethiopia



Participants of the EE&A national meeting and national action plan preparation meeting, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

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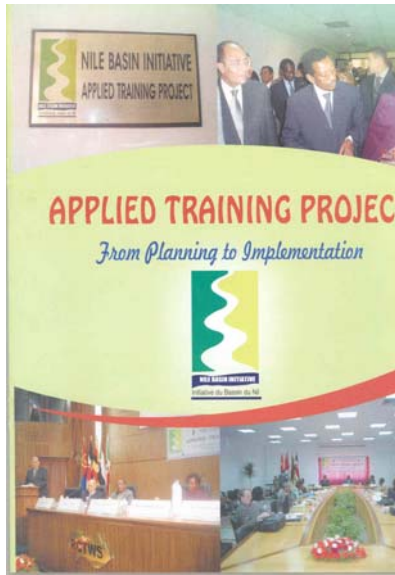
Putting the Shared
Vision into Action

SVP NEWS

Nile News Inaugurated

A Newsletter of the Nile Basin Initiative was inaugurated at the 13th Council Of Ministers meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, March 14-17 2005.

The "Nile News" in its maiden issue covered Gordon Mumbo's interview with the outgoing Nile COM Chair, Hon Martha Karua and David Grey of the World Bank. The issue also covered a message from the Executive Director, Mr. Patrick Kahangire and focused articles on the theme "moving from plan to implementation".



Applied Training Project Launched

The 20 million dollar five year Applied Training Project was officially launched on January 17 2005 by Hon. Martha Karua, Nile COM Chair and Kenyan minister of Water Resources Management and Development and Hon. Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Nile COM Member and Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation for Egypt.

The ATP first Project Steering Committee meeting was also held at the Project Management Unit(PMU) on 15-18 January 2005. The PSC approved the work plan and budget for 2005.

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Views from the second PSC meeting & Gezira Visit by PSC members & observers

