



The Nile Environment

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NTEAP



Volume IV, issue 3

July – Sept 2007

Editorial

The July –September quarter was quite challenging for NTEAP. The major activity during the quarter was the resubmission exercise for the second tranche of UNDP GEF and this took substantial time of the project management unit.

The good news is that the efforts paid back and NTEAP submission for GEF grant of \$6.7 million was approved. On behalf of NTEAP I would like to thank all those who contributed in various ways in enabling the approval. We now look forward to receiving the CEO endorsement and initiating the project.

The delays in operationalization of the funds for the wetlands component was yet another hurdle that the project faced during the quarter leading to slow progress in the wetland activities.

Despite these constraints the project made progress in a number of areas including, holding the regional best practices capacity building workshop, initiating the Lake Cyohoha and Tana wetlands and water quality studies, wetlands education and awareness material development, training of wetlands officers of NBI countries and participating in the GEF 4th Biennial International Water Conference. NTEAP set up a stall at the innovation market place and participated in the website design competition.

We look forward to a more productive September-December quarter and we continue to bank on our stakeholders support for success.

Gedion Asfaw, RPM

Inside this issue:

Sudd wetland endowed with unique resources	1
NTEAP receives \$6.7m from UNDP GEF	3
NTEAP launches Best Practices documentation	4
NTEAP plants over 3m trees	5
NBI urged to increase tangible activities	6
Minister applauds NTEAP contribution	7
NBI/NTEAP participate in 4th International Water conference	8

Sudd Wetland Endowed with Unique Resources and Enormous Potential for Tourism- H.E State Minister of Environment of Sudan Says.



H.E State Minister for Environment (4th from right) with participants

H.E. Ms Teresa Siricio IRO, the State Minister for the Ministry of Environment & Physical Development, Government of National Unity (GoNU) of Sudan, has said there is a big potential for tourism in the Sudd wetlands, in South Sudan, which has to be developed. The Minister reiterated the presence of the largest wetlands in Africa called the Sudd, which ameliorates climate and has unique biodiversity.

She said the sudd has unique resources which have not been exposed to the outside world; amongst them are the culture and survival traditional strategies of the people of the Sudd. “We therefore need a management plan to be developed for the Sudd so that the various stakeholders can participate in this management”, the minister said. The management plan will be made with the full participation of the inter-ministerial committee which is the working group we are inaugurating today together with all the ten states of the Government of South Sudan, the minister went further.*continue to page 2.*

Sudd Wetland Endowed with Unique Resources and Enormous Potential for Tourism- *H.E State Minister of Environment of Sudan Says.*



Wetland: Endowed with unique resources.

She said at the moment the main resource (of Sudan) oil comes from the wetlands, but south Sudan also has biodiversity much of which is unknown. She called for research to be undertaken in the Sudd. She said south Sudan needs to open up to the world by showing what they have and demonstrate to friends and development partners that they have something to offer.

The Minister was addressing the participants at the first inter ministerial gathering of Government of South Sudan, held from 26-27th June 2007, in Juba, south Sudan.. The meeting was attended by the Governors of the ten states of Southern Sudan. The Nile transboundary Environment Action Project and the county representatives on the Regional Working-Group on Wetlands and Biodiversity used the occasion to introduce wetlands management in South Sudan. The inauguration of the Wetlands & Biodiversity Working Group for South Sudan took place at the same time.

The states endorsed the idea of establishing state level programs to enhance wetlands management

and the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism also endorsed the establishment of the Wetlands Unit in the Directorate of Environment within the Ministry and with fulltime staff that will follow up the management and coordination of Wetland activities in South Sudan. The unit will be advised by the wetlands working group in accordance with the recommendations of the Ramsar secretariat.

Present at the meeting were H. E. Major General Alfred Akwoch, Undersecretary of Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, Government of Southern Sudan and representatives of line ministries, among others.

The Major General in his introductory remarks said it was the first time the GoSS and the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism had brought stakeholders together to talk about Wetlands and biodiversity. He acknowledged that wetlands are essential for livelihoods especially for local Southern Sudanese communities and it is the responsibility of the government to safeguard them for the communities. He said wetlands provide a wide range of biodiversity such as water, fish; animal, medicinal plants but he expressed worries about their pollution and the threatened

biodiversity as a result of human activities. The Sudd is now internationally recognized as a Ramsar site or wetlands of International Importance; with this international recognition, we have to be the watchdog so that the Sudd is not polluted by human activities especially the oil, he went further. H sounded a caution to manage the Sudd according to international standards and also to ensure that it is sustainably utilized for the protection of biodiversity and water which are of transboundary significance.

The Wetlands and Biodiversity Conservation component of NTEAP has initiated inventory of wetlands in the Nile basin, Sudan wetlands management plan study and wetlands education and awareness material develop-



Wetland ecosystems: Essential resting and feeding habitat for migrating birds and animals.

ment. Training of wetlands officers of NBI countries is currently on going in Naivasha, Kenya organized by the component.

Abdelsalam, A : National Project Coordinator

Khalid Riak: WB Working Group Member

NTEAP Receives a Boost of \$6.7 Million from UNDP GEF

The Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) has received a boost of \$6.7 million from UNDP GEF. This was announced by Ms Mirey Atallah, Regional Technical Advisor, Land Degradation and International Waters, following the approval of GEF Council members and the Chief Executive Officer. The money is expected to fund the activities of NTEAP phase 2

The news was received with a lot of excitement among the project staff, NBI and the development partners as the situation had cast uncertainties on the continuation of the project activities in 2008 and beyond. According to the NTEAP project implementation plan, the

money was initially approved but it was withdrawn following a UNDP GEF activities and budget review. NTEAP had to submit a new project proposal to UNDP GEF, which was finally approved by the GEF council members at the beginning of September 2007.

The Regional Project Manager, Mr. Gedion Asfaw, has extended the gratitude of the NTEAP staff to CIDA, the GEF Council members and CEO for approving the request as well as Nile Sec, World Bank, UNOPS and all the others for their support.

The Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) is one of eight regional capacity building projects executed through the Nile Basin Initiative's (NBI) Shared Vision Pro-

gram (SVP). The project is financed through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through grants to two implementing agencies, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Bank (the agencies), as well as a grant from a multi-donor Nile Basin Trust Fund (NBTF), which is managed by the World Bank.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is one of the key contributors to the NBTF with a specific interest in the environmental dimension of the NBI's vision.

Joel Arumadri—KMS

NTEAP Made Significant Progress Towards Meeting Objectives—WB, UNDP Report

A report of a joint World Bank UNDP Mid Term Review (MTR) mission, released recently, has noted that NTEAP has made significant progress towards meeting the project's development objectives.

The main development objective of NTEAP is *"the creation of more effective basin-wide stakeholder cooperation on transboundary environmental issues by enhancing the analytical capacity for a basin-wide perspective to support the sustainable development, management, and protection of the Nile Basin water; and engaging the full spectrum of stakeholders, from local communities to national policy makers, from elementary schools to universities, from non-governmental organizations to line ministries, in the management and protection of the basin's shared resources."*

The joint World Bank/UNDP mid-term report followed an independent mid-term evaluation, which took

stock of the project's progress to date and assessed how developments in basin cooperation can be reflected in the project, among other issues. The agencies confirmed the findings of the mid term evaluation in that the project has been a leader in river basin cooperation and represented the Nile Basin Initiative when there was no other action on the ground and has been exemplary in project execution, procurement, monitoring and evaluation.

According to the belated report, a decision on the proposed extension of the NTEAP project beyond the initial closing date can only be made after it is clear whether or not the GEF Phase Two funds will be made available. It is yet to be seen how the World Bank and UNDP will address the issue of the extension in the wake now that GEF phase 2 fund has been approved. A recent report of the SVP mid term review put the closing date of the NTEAP project to end of 2008. The

independent mid term review had recommended the extension of the project life by one year, to end of 2009, as the actual project implementation took one year to start and the recommendation was approved by the NTEAP Project steering committee in their 4th project steering committee meeting in February 2007, in Khartoum. It noted that NTEAP remains highly relevant to the basin and has played a key role in sustaining cooperation while the overall SVP was initiated and outputs achieved in a satisfactory manner. As a result, the agencies supported the submission of the second phase request, which has now been approved, and the second phase is expected to take into consideration the evolving GEF strategy on international waters.

The SVP mid term review also rated NTEAP performance as fully satisfactory.

Joel Arumadri—KMS

NTEAP Launches Documentation of Best Practices



Integrated soil conservation in Rwanda:
"Shrubs grown to restore degraded hill slopes used to feed cattle".

The Nile Transboundary Environmental Project (NTEAP) of the Nile basin initiative has launched the documentation of best practices in the micro grants and schools project activities.

The main objective of documenting the best practices is to identify the innovative approaches to land and water conservation which the subsidiary Action Program (SAP), the investment program of the NBI, can up-scale or replicate and also share experiences and lessons learnt.

The activities are implemented by communities, NGOs, CBOs, school

teachers and students. The collective objective of the activities are to pilot innovative approaches to land and water conservation measures at the national level; raise awareness on the major environmental threats that face the Nile basin countries and enhance the technical cooperation among the countries.

Preliminary selection of projects at conry level was done through national consultative workshops in all the basin countries and the selected projects were presented and discussed at a regional best practices workshop held in Kigali from 15-18th August 2007, attended by all NTEAP project coordinators, Local Microgrants coordinators and one invited participants from each of the basin countries.

The purpose of the workshop was to enhance the capacities of the participants in identifying, compiling, documenting and disseminating best practices; to review the nationally selected best practice activities with the view to enhancing their quality and agreeing on the criteria for choosing best practice for documentation and provide

a platform for all participants to share experiences.

NTEAP intends to focus in 2007 and 2008 on deriving best practices from activities at the national and regional levels.

Guidelines and terms of reference have already been drawn by the NTEAP to document best practices at national level and the best practices will be compiled and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders. It is hoped that some of the activities will qualify for up scaling by the SAPs and replicated by the neighboring communities or even in other parts of the basin.

NTEAP, through its microgrants projects and learning by doing projects, under the environmental education and awareness component, has implemented a number of projects in the basin countries.

NTEAP provides a strategic framework for environmentally sustainable development of the Nile River Basin and supports basin wide environmental action linked to transboundary issues.

Joel Arumadri-KMS

Micro-grants Program in Phase II of NTEAP

With a total of 190 projects amounting to \$4.3 Million, in all the Nile Basin countries, the Micro-grants Program is moving swiftly towards attaining its intended objective which is to pilot and derive some viable options for community level actions to address Nile environmental threats. The projects focus on eight environmental threats namely, Deforestation, Soil Erosion, Silta-tion, Wetlands Degradation, Floods and Droughts, Water Weed Infestation, Water Pollution and Loss of Species and Ecosystems. In addition the Program also focuses regionally and nationally on community training, environmental awareness and

networking.

The emphasis of the Micro-grants Program in Phase II will be on Wetlands along with collaborative activities with the Efficient Water Use for Agricultural Production Project in the areas of water harvesting and small scale irrigation. The MG Program will also collaborate with the Applied Training Project in training women NGO Groups in project management and networking. As far as the SAPs are concerned, the bulk of the new projects in phase II will operate in SAP areas especially in cross border locations.

There has been a noticeable increase in demands by NGOs in the Nile Basin countries for Micro-grant Projects. While the Program with its limited funds can address only a small portion of those demands, it aspires to disseminate the findings and results of these activities to the growing numbers of NGOs and CBOs across the Nile Basin Countries. The Best Practices identification and documentation exercise that is currently in process within NTEAP will also be a catalytic factor in helping to share the success of the Micro-grant Program to a wider spectrum of stakeholders and practitioners.

Amir Baker, MGLS

Billion Tree Planting Campaign – NTEAP Plants Over 3 m Trees in 2007 Only



NTEAP Microgrants supported Tree nursery

Through its micro-grants program, World Environment Day (WED), schools projects and Nile Week tree planting campaigns, NTEAP has planted 8,200 trees in Sudan; 30,800 trees in Burundi; 730,000 in Rwanda; 562,000 in Tanzania; 11,000 in Kenya; 1,623,644 in Ethiopia and 10,000 in Egypt during 2007. Some of the countries have already entered the trees planted in the UNEP database of the trees planted and can be viewed at

www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/planted/

The Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) is one of the eight projects under the shared vision program of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). The vision of NBI is to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin resources.

The objective of NTEAP is to provide a strategic environmental framework for the management of the transboundary waters and envi-

"We have but a short time to avert damaging and economically debilitating change. The solutions are numerous and, as many economists say, affordable when compared with costs of complacency. The goods and services provided by forests are worth the billions if not trillions of dollars to the global economy. Forests are natural and economically important "sinks", sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and locking it away in trunks and branches. Globally, forest cover is at least one-third less than what it was. It is time to reverse the trends, it is time to act"

Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director

ronment challenges in the Nile river basin. The project is implemented in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Jane Kisakye– LMGC Uganda

Joel Arumadri—KMS

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a major worldwide tree planting campaign. Under the *Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign*, people, communities, business and industry, civil society organizations and governments are encouraged to [enter tree planting pledges online](#) with the objective of planting at least one billion trees worldwide during 2007.

It is time to act!

The Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP) of the Nile Basin Initiative has contributed to the campaign by planting over 3 million trees of various species in the basin countries.

Tanzania Charts NTEAP Environmental Education and Awareness Exit Strategy

In its fifth ordinary session, the National Working Group (NWG) on Environmental Education and Awareness deliberated on the course of action for exiting from NTEAP patronage as part of the wider NTEAP exit strategy. The decisions were necessitated by the fact that the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) is heading for completion and as the NBI evolves into a permanent institution. It is envisaged that the permanent institution will have an environment management unit.

During the meeting the NWG decided that, the group activities be subsumed into the plans of the National Envi-

ronmental Education and Communication Committee (NEECC). This was considered to be the most sustainable option, since the committee is a statutory government institution that has members from wide range of stakeholders from within the government and the civil society. Also about five members of the NWG are members of the NEECC. On the downside, however, it was observed that the NEECC has only met once in the past three years. One major reason is lack of resources to support it. The NWG, nonetheless, considered this as an opportunity for NTEAP to participate in revamping the operations of NEECC, by providing financial support to the NEECC as it did for NWG.

The NWG has set the timetable of activities for the transition and hand over of activities to NEECC, depending on the acceptance of the idea by the NEECC. The NWG secretary will produce a brief on NWG activities and circulate to its members by 15th October; a final version will be produced after members comments on 22nd October; a meeting between NWG chairman and NEECC chairman will be called on 25th October and a hand over meeting will be called on the third week of November 2007. The NWG coordinates environmental education and awareness activities at the national level.

Abdallah Shah– NPC Tanzania

Increase Tangible Activities in Natural Resources Management in the Basin- ED REMA Environment Management Authority (REMA) Urges NTEAP/NBI.



NTEAP Microgrants: Hill slope restoration in Rwanda.

The Executive Director of Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA) of Rwanda, Dr. Rose Mukankomeje,

who is also the NTEAP Project Steering Committee member from Rwanda, has appealed to the Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP). There is a need to implement more activities in natural

resources management, the ED said.

This was at the opening of the regional workshop on best practices documentation held during 11-14th August 2006, in Kigali, Rwanda. She said Rwanda offers several best practices and lessons on natural resources management. One of the best practices she said was the banning of the use of non-biodegradable bags in Rwanda. She high lighted the threats to the River Nile and the importance of wetlands.

Best practices from the NBI member countries and actions which will strengthen regional cooperation for better transboundary management of the natural resources in the Nile basin should be adopted and incorporated into

national priorities, the PSC member said. There is need to apply the knowledge that has been acquired and to evaluate the progress and achievements in natural resources management on a regular, basis the PSC member said. She urged NTEAP to enlist the participation of community members in best practices workshops.

The regional workshop, attended by participants from all the NBI countries, was a capacity building event intended to build the capacity of NTEAP National Project Coordinators and Local Microgrant Coordinators in identifying, compiling, documenting and disseminating best practices. UNDP and SAP projects in Rwanda participated in the training.

Joel Arumadri- KMS

NTEAP Facilitates Farmer Training in Nebbi District , Uganda.

To achieve political security, environmental Security and economic security is paramount. A Chinese philosopher once said; if you have a one days programme, cook rice; if you have a one years programme grow Rice, if you have a ten years programme, plant a tree; and if you have a programme for generations, educate the masses. This is what Nebbi District Environment Offices did. The office spearheaded a training package for today and the future generations. The farmers were trained in three main areas including soil and water conservation, forestry techniques, and management of Improved Irish Potatoes. Over 90% of the people in the district depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The training therefore touched on a crucial knowledge base. Through such training, the district hopes to achieve a socio-economic transformation of their people using their areas of expertise (agriculture). Nebbi District Environment Office through funding from NTEAP NEP's is introducing improved Irish Potato variety to the district. This initiative has given hope to the local people who are eager to cash in on the ready market in Southern Sudan, Nebbi Town and Kampala City to pull themselves out of poverty, as well as subsistence.

Over eighty (80) farmers participated in the training that drew people from either side of Nyagak and Namrwodho river banks in north western Uganda. The two rivers contribute water to the mighty River Nile. The farmers are organised in Ecosystem Management Committees, which are normally headed by a chairperson. The committees were responsible for choosing the farmers that participated in the workshop. Thirty percent (30%) of the participants were women. The farmers were encouraged to always include more women on their teams for such training because women are the best teachers and by including women on their teams, you are sure of passing knowledge to the next generation.

The project area was beset by a number of problems including: wetland encroachment and degradation, soil erosion within the riverbanks and hilly areas, degradation of vegetation, rangelands/ forests, and depletion of biodiversity, especially fish. This has lead to run off contributing to soil erosion and subsequently siltation of Namrwodho and Nyagak rivers. The project therefore set out to promote the resource sustainability of the Nile River through the restoration of Namrwodho and Nyagak river ecosystems / water catchment

areas, and enhance the livelihoods opportunities of the local community through improved food security and house hold income (contributing to the government policy of eradicating poverty).

Among the achievements over 30,000 trees have been planted so far. The water quality, according to the participants, has improved, as well as an increase in the crop yield.

The training workshop was officially opened by the Secretary for Production and Environment on behalf of the District Local Council Chairman. In a speech delivered for him, the Chairman said the district supported the Namrwodho and Nyagak river ecosystems project because of the frequent droughts in the district that led to food insecurity, and the supplementary support to the small water and electricity production programme.

NTEAP through its micogrants component and the national eligible projects funding mechanisms supports community initiatives in soil, water and forest conservation.

Stephen Kigolo- NPC Uganda

Ethiopia Water Minister Applauds NTEAP Contribution to Environmental

His Excellency Mr. Asfaw Dingamo, Minister of Water Resources has said NTEAP has made a noticeable contribution to Environmental protection and sustainable Water Resources Development in Ethiopia.

This was at a ceremony to receive training modules and materials for identification of key water quality variables and design of water quality assurance and status of water quality data management from the NTEAP Regional Project Manager, Mr. Gedion Asfaw. The documents are a product



Minister (right) Handing over the shield to the school

of the regional water quality monitoring strategy.

Present were Mr. Tefera Beyene, the Technical Advisory Committee member of Ethiopia, the National Project

Coordinator Mrs Wubua Mekonnen and the NBI Focal Person of Ethiopia

In a related event on July 23, 2007, the Minister also handed over a prize to student Hirko Gari, who came third in the NBI/NTEAP inter school regional essay competition. The Minister also handed over the NBI shield sent for Ambo high school. Hirko Gari was not able to personally attend the prize handing over ceremony held in Entebbe, Uganda during the 15th Nile COM meeting.

Wubua Mekonnen- NPC

Water Hyacinth for Handicrafts, Best Practice with a Twist



The women in Gashora, Buge-sera District, in Rwanda, are engaged in an arguably lucrative business of making handicrafts out of water hyacinth and selling to the public. Thanks to a generous grant of \$25,000 from the NTEAP Micro-grants Program. While the stock of handicrafts at the women center is piling up due to absence of a solid marketing strategy, efforts to produce bags

and baskets that could be used to replace the polythene bags would probably have paid off.

While the experience of uprooting and transforming water hyacinth into handicrafts may have proven useful, a down side to it maybe the creation of dependency on the water hyacinth to sustain production of handicrafts products. This may defeat the purpose of the project which aims at eradicating this particular invasive water weed.

The women assured a recent NTEAP mission to the area that they are aware of the problem and have already started to use other types of raw materials such as the papyrus and banana leaves to produce the handicrafts. The aim of the women group at this is stage to totally annihilate the Hyacinths from Lake Ru-

mira.

Another hope the women have is that their baskets and bags will manage to find their ways into the markets and provide consumers with a real substitute to the polythene bags.

Rwanda took a bold decision to ban the production and use of Polythene bags. This brave decision undoubtedly will have positive impacts on the quality of life in the country. The gap in demand for the product has so far been filled by paper bags which may be practical in some cases, while tedious in others, especially when dealing with the transport of edible commodities such as moist food stuff.

Amir Baker, MGLS

Intisar Salih, M&E LS

NTEAP Participates in 2007 Africa GIS Conference, the Nile RAK Applauded

Participants at the 2007 Africa GIS conference, held from 17-21st September 2007, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, have applauded the multi media (CD ROM), knowledge base on the Nile River, commonly called the Nile River Awareness kit (NRAK).

The NRAK was presented by the Knowledge Management Specialist, Mr. Joel Arumadri. Over 40

copies of the French and English versions were distributed.

AFRICAGIS 2007 is an annual event, where the African and international professionals meet to exchange experiences and learn new technologies for gathering timely and reliable information using remote sensing and GIS applications for sustainable management of the environmental and natural resources through work-

shops presentations, exhibitions and social events.

The NRAK was developed by the NTEAP with technical support from Hatfield Consultants Ltd (Vancouver, Canada), Strata 360 (Montreal Canada) and FAO (Rome, Italy). The funding was provided by the Canadian Space Agency under the Tiger Program.

Joel Arumadri- KMS

**NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
NILE TRANSBOUNDARY
ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION PROJECT**

Al Jamhuriya Street
House No. 2, Plot 15
P. O. Box 2891

Phone: 249-183-784206/26
Fax: 249-183-784248
Email: info@nilebasin.org

Visit us at:

www.nileteap.org

Editorial Committee

Gedion Asfaw, Chair

Joel Arumadri

Editor

Amir Baker, member

Intisar Salih, member

John Omwenga,

member

Maushe

Kidundo, member

Mohammed Rahim,

*layout and publishing
assistant*

NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

Initiative du Bassin du Nil

**Putting the Shared
Vision into Action**

Please send your articles / comments to
The Editor
Nile Environment at
jarumadri@nilebasin.org

NBI Participates in the GEF 4th Biennial International Water Conference.

A strong delegation consisting of Audace Ndayizeye, the Executive Director of NBI, Hamere Wondimu, the Shared Vision Program Coordinator, Saad Eldin Ibrahim, the NTEAP Steering Committee chairman, JB Collier, Operation Officer of the World Bank, Mirey Atallah, UNDP GEF, Regional Coordinator, Canisius Kanangire, ATP Regional Project Manager and Gedion Asfaw, the NTEAP Regional Project Manager, participated in the GEF 4th Biennial International Water Conference.

The conference was hailed by participants as unique in its organization and facilitation in that it offered excellent opportunities for full participation of participants in all sessions of the conference. The conversation tables and working group meetings were special occasions which allowed all participants to air their views. Janot-Reine Mendler de Suarez and Atem Ramsundersingh, the conference facilitators, did an outstanding job in leading all sessions of the conference to the satisfaction of all participants.

One of the most interesting presentations was the GEF IW indicators Jeopardy, which was facilitated by Andy Hudson, Principal Technical Advisor, UNDP International Waters. The presentation acquainted participants with GEF indicators in a lively and television program like presentation.

The NBI delegation took time off to organize side meetings to discuss NBI related issues and specific NTEAP GEF funding issues. The NTEAP RPM briefly met and had discussions with Dr Sulan Chen, the UNDP International Waters Program Specialist. The NTEAP Microgrants Lead Specialist and Dr Chen have jointly published a paper on NTEAP and SGP coordination which is posted in the IWLEARN website.

The 4th GEF IW conference was conducted



4th GEF IW conference NBI side meeting

in an African country and all GEF projects including NTEAP should have played a more proactive role and with increased visibility. Although NTEAP participated in innovation market place and the website competition, a more visible presentation of NBI achievements could have been displayed and shared at the conference. There should have been an NBI specific presenta-



Visitors from Egypt and the WB at NTEAP booth

tion at the plenary similar to that of other projects. NBI has made tremendous progress in transboundary water and environment management, enhancing cooperation between riparian countries, capacity and trust building, and results based M&E, which we should have shared with other projects. Our interventions at the plenary and working group meetings could have been stronger and we would have been in a better position to share our thinking and experience in a more confident manner.

Gedion Asfaw- RPM

Upcoming events

16-18th October 2007, NTEAP-- Training updates-ENTRO
for Water wetland and Biodiversity,
Naivasha, Kenya

11-12th October 2007, SDBS Linkages

16-18th October 2007, DSS Network-
ing meetings.

8th Nov 2007, SDBS-Forum for Net-

working with Private Sector

5-8th Nov 2007, NTEAP- Teachers Train-
ing in E-Learning (EE & A), Dar-salaam,
Tanzania