



The Nile Environment

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NTEAP



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April–June 2006

Editorial

The April-June quarter was action packed with series of workshops, both regional and national, preparations and participation in the NBI Council of Ministers (Nile COM) meeting, preparations for the World Environment Day (WED) etc .

A remarkable achievement during the quarter was the roll out of the Beta version of the interactive, multimedia awareness CD ROM containing information on the environmental and natural resources management in the Nile basin. This is a key output in fulfilling the NTEAP knowledge management objective of providing project participants and other key stakeholders across the basin with improved access to relevant environmental and natural resources management information. The beta version, presented to the Nile COM and Nile Technical Advisory Committee members in Bujumbura, and to a regional forum in Cairo, in addition to national level presentations, is expected to be finalized and launched by November 2006.

With regard to the WED celebrations, NTEAP joined the basin countries and the rest of the world in celebrating WED. The focus for NTEAP was the involvement of the youth in reflecting on the environmental issues impacting the environment and the natural resources in the basin. The youth participated in various conservation and awareness raising activities in most of the basin countries.

A related event during the quarter was the prize awards by the Nile COM to the winners of the regional competition for students from the basin countries during the Nile COM meeting in Burundi, on 3rd May 2006. Nine students from the basin countries received awards .The competitions are going to become an annual event.

I wish you good reading.

Gedion Asfaw, RPM

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NBI Council of Ministers Applaud the Nile River Awareness Kit

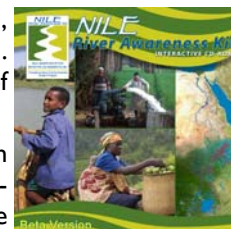
The Nile River Awareness Kit (NRAK), an interactive multimedia CD ROM, containing information on the ecology, livelihoods, governance and environmental management in the Nile River basin, has been applauded by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Council of Ministers (Nile COM). A beta

version of the information tool was presented to the Joint Nile COM and the Nile Basin Trust Fund Committee by the Regional Project Manager of the Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP), Mr. Gedion Asfaw and the representatives of Hatfield Consultants , at the 20th Meeting of the Nile COM, on 3rd May 2006, in Bujumbura, Burundi. The Nile COM which serves as the highest decision making body of the NBI were very pleased with the CD ROM.

The presentation to the Nile COM was preceded by one to the NBI Technical Advisory Committee (Nile TAC), which paved way for the presentation to the Nile COM. The Nile TAC supports the Nile COM and is composed of two senior officials from each member country.

The NRAK is a tool designed for environmental education and awareness, produced in partnership by the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and a project team, led by Hatfield Consultants Ltd, and funded by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). The goal of the Nile RAK project is to ensure the sustainable management and use of the environmental and natural resources within the Nile Basin and to support the objective of the NTEAP to address transboundary environmental issues, through an improved understanding of the relationship between water resources and the environment by the stakeholders.

A regional presentation of the CD ROM, officiated by His Excellency Hon. Maged George, Minister of State for the Environment, was done in Cairo, Egypt, on 5th May 2006, followed by national presentations in Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya. Presentations in other countries will follow suit. The purpose of the national presentations was to obtain comments from stakeholders to finalise the CD ROM and to orient trainers to train others.



Cover of NRAK CD ROM

NRAK Regional Presentation

The NRAK regional presentation took place on 6th May 2006, in Cairo, Egypt, at Pyramisa Hotel. The objective of the presentation was to raise awareness at a regional level on the CD ROM and offer opportunity for a relatively larger audience to view the beta version of the CD and obtain comments for finalizing the education and awareness tool. The regional presentation was officiated by H.E the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs of Egypt, Hon. Eng. Maged George (third right) and the Guest of Honour was His Excellency Hon. Mahmoud Abou Zeid, the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, represented by Dr. Tarek Ahmed Abdallah.

The environment minister said the NRAK CD ROM produced by NTEAP will contribute greatly in fulfilling the information requirements for sustainable management of the resources and the environment in the Nile basin and bring into the knowledge of the public and the decision makers the pressures and trends in the environment and on the natural resources, so as to stimulate actions to address the negative

trends.

In a speech read for him by Dr. Tarek Ahmed Abdallah, the Guest of honour informed the audience that the Nile COM meeting was going on in Bujum-



Left to Right: Mr. Denis Auger (CSA), Dr. Tarek A. Abdallah (MWRI, Egypt), Hon. Eng. Maged George (Min. of State for Env. Affairs), Mr. Gedion Asfaw (RPM, NTEAP), Mr. Tom Bouvin (Hatfield)

bura, Burundi, to finalize the cooperate framework that will associate the 10 riparian countries and bring about institutional legitimacy to all NBI activities, allowing implementation in full of the projects under the NBI umbrella. He said the aim of sustainable development is to emphasize development of the people, for the people and by people, rather than considering people as passive recipients of basic services or welfare.

Turning to the NRAK CD ROM, he said the Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project; one among 7 other projects of the NBI has produced a valuable tool, the Nile River Awareness Kit (NRAK), as a result of a cooperative partnership between NTEAP and Hatfield Consultants, with financial support from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). He paid tribute for all the contributions that enabled the production of the CD ROM.

He was pleased to note that the development of the CD was based on interactive consultations with stakeholders and with an aim of increasing stakeholder knowledge regarding transboundary management of water and the environment. He reiterated that promotion of human performance depends to a large extent on the amount of knowledge available.

Joel Arumadri- KMS

National NRAK Presentations in Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya



NRAK in Ethiopia

The national presentations generated a lot of excitement and participants were amazed with the wealth and the audio visual presentation of the information



NRAK in Uganda

contained in the CD ROM. In Ethiopia the Steering Committee Member (PSC) sent a representative to participate, in Uganda the Environmental Management Institut



NRAK in Kenya

tion was represented by 3 participants, and in Kenya the PSC member attended and NBI Executive Director addressed the participants.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION:- Growth of Deserts Leads to Poverty

The purpose of World Environment Day is to focus world wide attention on the importance of the environment and stimulate attention and action. The theme for this year is "Don't Desert Drylands"

The United Nations used World Environment Day on Monday 6th June 2006 to warn that the growth of deserts was a growing obstacle to ending poverty and a threat to peace. To mark the day environmentalists participated in various activities including tree planting, essay competitions, cleaning cities, drama, etc.

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, whose largely desert country was officially hosting the campaign, urged the adoption of a World Charter on Deserts to help achieve the Millennium Goal of halving poverty by 2015.

According to the the United Nations,

almost a quarter of the world's land surface is already desert, and the share is growing. "Across the planet, poverty, unsustainable land management and climate change are turning drylands into deserts, and desertification in turn exacerbates and leads to poverty," UN Secre-



tary-General Kofi Annan said.

United Nations figures indicate that land degradation causes an estimated loss of \$42 billion a year from agricultural production, without counting

human suffering from famine, and that many of the world's crop-growing regions are drylands, which cover 41 per cent of the planet's land surface and are home to 2 billion people. "It is estimated that between 10 and 20 per cent of drylands are already degraded," said Annan. Although deserts are harsh environments, it is rich in species of fauna and flora.

WED can be celebrated in a many ways. The Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP) organized various activities in collaboration with relevant institutions in the basin countries to mark the day, focusing on the involvement of the youth in the WED celebrations.

NTEAP is one of the projects under the Nile Basin Initiative mandated to address high priority transboundary environmental issues in the Nile River basin.

Joel Arumadri- KMS

NTEAP Celebrates World Environment Day

The Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) joined the rest of the world in celebrating the World Environment Day by participating in the National activities in the countries of the Nile Basin, focusing on the involvement of school children in the activities..

WED in Uganda

In Uganda the national celebrations were held in one of the relatively dry districts, Kumi, which has a relatively low vegetation cover. The occasion was marked with a number of activities including; tree planting in Kumi town, cleaning and drama depicting, the theme for the year "Protect Drylands against Desertification"

The Guest of honour was the Minister of Water and Environment Hon. Maria Mutagamba, accompanied by the Ministers State for Water Hon. Jennifer Namuyangu and the Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Jessica Eriyo.

The Guest of Honor gave out the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) School Awards to two schools, Budo

and Namagunga senior secondary schools. Three students who emerged winners in the school competitions that were organized by NTEAP under the theme: 'Protecting the Nile River for Future Generations' also received



Hon. Maria Mutagamba (MWE) at the NTEAP stall

prizes

NTEAP exhibition, displaying awareness and education materials, set up by the Local Microgrants Coordinator, Jane Kisakye, received a certificate from the guest of hon-

our.

Several dignitaries attended including the Nile Basin Initiative Technical Advisory Committee Member.

Around Kampala city, school children mobilised by the Co-Chairperson of NTEAP's Environmental Education and Awareness National Working Group, carried out cleaning activities.

The City Minister for Health and Environment, Local Councilors and the District Environment Officer for Kampala all participated in the clean up exercise.

By Jane Kisakye and Apophia Atukunda



School Children collecting rubbish

NTEAP World Environment Day Celebrations Cont'd

WED in Rwanda

In Rwanda two districts were selected for WED activities; Nyagatare, and Bugesera bordering Burundi for transboundary celebrations. The event was characterised by various activities including rehabilitation of terraces; transplanting of tree seedlings from seed beds to pots, tree planting, followed by speeches emphasising the role of the local population in protecting the environment; and combating desertification specifically.

In Nyagatare the guest of honour, Minister of Land, Environment, Forestry, Water and Mines (MINITERE) Hon. Christophe Bazivamu stressed the importance of appropriate farming practices and sustainable use of the natural resources for improved livelihoods and planted trees in Bihinga primary and secondary schools. SOPEM Rukomo secondary school in Nyagatare district was given



Heap of water hyacinth

seeds of *Moringa*, *Senna spectabilis*, *Jacaranda*, *Cederella serata*, *Senna siamea* and *Callitris* for planting.

In Bugesera, at Bihangara primary school, the guest of honour, the Minister of State for Environment Hon. Mrs. Patricia Haja-bakiga, handed out seeds of *Moringa*, *Senna spectabilis*, *Jacaranda*, *Cederella serata*, *Senna siamea* and *Callitris*,

in addition to polythene tubes to establish a tree nursery. Awareness materials including T-shirts were distributed to schools. The event was jointly sponsored by MINITERE, Rwanda Environment Management Authority and



Children collecting water hyacinth

the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP). UNDP Rwanda provided the school with 2 (two) 8m³ capacity water storage tanks, gutters and



Guest of honour watering a seedling

pipes for a school rainwater harvesting project.

By Emmanuel Muligirwa

WED in Kenya and Tanzania:

Students from the two countries Share WED Celebrations

In Kenya and Tanzania, this year's WED celebration was a week long event, jointly celebrated by students from the two countries; with activities for two days on the Tanzanian side and another two days on the Kenyan side, before joining the community for a joint celebration at the common Tanzania-Kenya border. The theme of the WED was adapted to the environmental threat in the region, which

is deforestation. Tobacco is the main cash crop in the area and the curing process uses a lot of wood for fuel, leading to the destruction of tree cover in the district and resulting into soil erosion.

Tree planting was the main activity in the celebrations, though students participated in clean up activities and discussions on environmental problems affecting the two countries. The students visited a bio

gas project in Transmara, to demonstrate alternative energy sources that can be used to reduce the use of wood fuel. The local border communities from the two countries shared views on addressing their common environmental problems and it was an opportunity for them to interact and socialise.

Lily Kissaka– NPC Kenya

NTEAP World Environment Day Celebrations Cont'd

WED in Egypt and Sudan

This year, Egypt and Sudan will jointly celebrate WED. The celebrations are to be cross-border, where the two countries are to celebrate jointly at Aswan on the Egyptian side and Halfa on the Sudanese side of the common boarder, as a first step towards initiating transboundary environmental management between Sudan and Egypt.

A series of activities, creating awareness of the Nile as a transboundary resource, shared by 10 countries are planned. A 'Friends of the Nile Group' is to be formed

comprising of 12 Egyptians and 12 Sudanese, to conduct an extended celebration in Halfa in North of Sudan and the same group will cross the borders to celebrate in Aswan, South of Egypt

Most activities will focus on awareness raising, targeting a wide audience. The selection of the Egyptian members of the Friends of the Nile Group is being done through a quiz broadcast on the Radio. The quiz was broadcasted over a period of ten consecutive days during the period 22- 31 May 2006, where each day a topic of relevance to NBI/NTEAP and the WED was discussed, followed by questions which the audience re-

sponded to. The topics and questions were designed to stimulate people to look for more information in secondary sources, thus making them to know more about the Nile basin. Winners will be selected to form the friends of the Nile Group.

With a nation-wide coverage of the radio, it is estimated that this information was relayed to an audience of at least 3 million persons in Egypt. The WED celebrations are scheduled for 3rd quarter of the year. H.E. the Egyptian Consul in Halfa will participate in the celebrations.

By Ithar Khalil and Khaled Bayoumi

WED in Ethiopia

This year's WED celebration took place in Yaya Gulele Wereda (District), which falls in the Oromia Region of the Nile Basin, typically a dry land. The event was jointly organized by the NTEAP, Oromia Regional States Environment Office, NGOs and the multi-lateral agencies including UNEP, in collaboration with Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

The NTEAP provided financial support worth \$4,867.00 for awareness posters, T-shirts, Caps, eco-bags, production of 20-30 minutes documentary film, organizing

Fetal High School and Fetal Primary Schools, and environmental reference books for 4 other schools.

Activities included tree planting, singing, drama, speeches, soil conservation activities etc.

The WED ceremony was at-

tives of the government.

By Yesuf Abdalla- NPC

WED in DR CONGO

The WED in DR Congo marked the launch of "two weeks intensive environmental activities", that started on June 5, 2006. The day was marked with tree planting, awareness songs and speeches.

The Honorable Minister of Environment, Wildlife Conservation, Forest and Water Resources and representatives of relevant institutions, including NTEAP, addressed the gathering. The NTEAP National Project Coordinator made a presentation on the "The role of environmental education in combating desertification".

Despite its environmental and natural resources endowment, the Democratic Republic of Congo is facing desertification threats in Kivu and Ituri Districts, within the Nile Basin.

Joseph Afata- NPC



Award of tree nursery implements



Awareness songs by students



Tree planting

drama and songs in Oromifa and Amharic languages and tree nursery implements, as an award to

tended by the local and school communities and representa-

Nile Basin Council of Ministers Give Environmental Awards to Basin Students

Nine school children from the Nile Basin countries have received awards from the Nile Transboundary Action Project (NTEAP) for winning the 2005 environmental competition. The regional winners received their awards and prizes during the 20th Nile Council of Ministers meeting in Bujumbura, on 3rd May 2006.

In a pompous and glamorous event, that visibly excited the Nile-Council of Ministers, the Nile-Technical Advisory Committee and the development partners, the regional winners, clad in Nile Basin T-shirts, received their prizes from the Ministers at the awards ceremony.

The Nile Transboundary Action Project initiated schools awards programme with the aim of increasing awareness of Nile basin environmental threats and cooperation among secondary school students of the Nile basin riparian countries. The Scheme, whose objectives include; increasing environmental awareness among students, promoting and encouraging students' par-

ticipation in environmental issues on the Nile, fostering cooperation and



Ministers shake hands with winner before receiving the award

linkages among students from the Nile basin, and rewarding students taking positive environmental actions, will become an annual event. The award is also aimed at increasing NBI visibility and raising awareness of Nile basin threats and possible solutions.

The theme of for the 2005 awards was "*Protecting the River Nile for future Generation*" and the entries were in three categories: - essays,

photography and art. Approximately 1500 students responded to the advert, which was made through a brochure; and of these, 950 wrote essays, 500 submitted art work and 100 presented photos. Evaluations were done through committees, both at National and regional levels. The National Environmental Education and Awareness Working Group members evaluated entries at the national level, although in some countries the evaluation was subcontracted to specialists on essay, art and photography. The first three national winners in each category (art, essay and photography) qualified to compete at the regional level and the regional level winners qualified for the awards.

The Nile basin School Awards scheme has generated a lot of interest among students and other stakeholders. The scheme will become a national event in the calendar of NTEAP. The theme for 2006 is "*Improving the quality and quantity of water in the Nile River*".

By Maushe Kidundo -EE & A

Iglal Elamin of Medani Secondary School, Sudan, Winner of the NTEAP Regional Prize for Schools in Art Work - *Abdelslaam- NPC Sudan*



Iglal Elamin in senior one, in Wadi Medani Secondary School in Gezira State, in Sudan, has won the 2005 Regional Prize for Schools in Art. She received the award during the 20th NBI Council of Ministers Meeting, on 3rd May, 2006, in Bujumbura Burundi. The competition was organized by the Nile Transboundary

Environment Action Project (NTEAP), of the Nile Basin Initiative. The theme of for the 2005 awards was "*Protecting the River Nile for future Generation*" and the entries were in three categories: - essays, photography and art.

Iglal's father, the school teacher Mr Yasin Elamin, and the School Director, Ms Samia, said she was always topping the class and enjoys reading in her free time. In her art work she reflected possible sources of pollution and threats to the Nile environment. The work was an indication of her

deep understanding of the threats to the Nile environment. According to Iglal, she learnt a lot from her trip to Burundi and that it was an opportunity for her to see the tributaries of the Nile and the lakes in the basin.

What impressed her most during her trip to Burundi was to see people from the Nile basin countries, and in particular Ministers working together and appreciating the role school children play in environmental awareness for protecting the Nile

NBI GETS NEW ED: NTEAP Thanks Patrick, Welcomes Audace



It's your turn Audace! , Patrick (Right), seems to be telling Audace at the Handover Ceremony on 6/6/06 in Entebbe, Uganda.

The 20th Nile-COM meeting held in Bujumbura at the beginning

invaluable support and guidance dur-

of May 2006, appointed Mr. Audace Ndayizeye, from Burundi, as the new Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat. Mr Ndayizeye assumed office on 1st June, 2006.

NTEAP wishes to congratulate Mr. Ndayizeye and wish him success in his new assignment and at the same time thank the out going ED Mr. Patrick Kahangire for his

ing his tenure of office. Patrick has contributed tremendously to the achievements, so far, towards the realization of the NBI Vision. He was instrumental in the development of the NRAK CD ROM. Mr. Kahangire is now a Senior Adviser to the Executive Director. We wish Patrick the best of luck in his current and future assignments.

We welcome Audace and wish him a successful two year tenure as the ED of NBI. Audace is a former National Project Coordinator of NTEAP for Burundi and has acquired full understanding of NBI. NTEAP looks forward to his full support to the success of NTEAP.

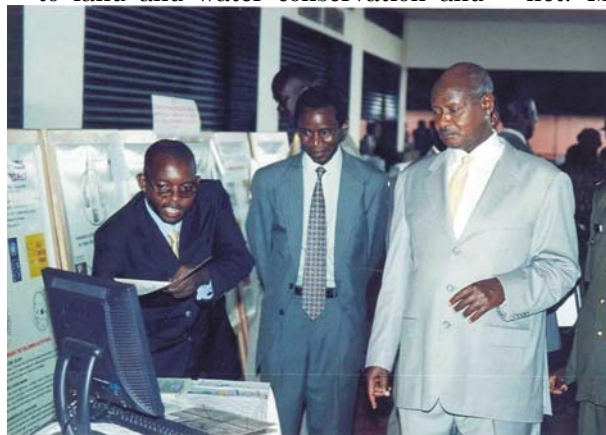
Gedion Asfaw, RPM

NTEAP Supported Project Scoops Presidential Award

The *Networks and Information Exchange Project*, a project partially supported by the NTEAP, under the micro grants component, has been awarded a certificate by H.E the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, in recognition for the outstanding achievements in Information Technology for sustainable development. The coordinator, Mr. Green Mugerwa received the certificate at the 2005/6 Presidential Science Awards Ceremony, held at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Uganda, on Friday 26th May, 2006.

The *Networks and Information Exchange Project* received a grant worth US \$ 25,000 (Dollars twenty-five thousand only) from Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), in October 2005, and is getting technical support from the UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program (GEF SGP). The purpose of the project is the establishment and strength-

ening of networks among environmental/development NGOs and promoting exchange and use of information, especially through internet and newsletter. The NTEAP gives financial support for local level approaches to land and water conservation and



H.E Yoweri Museveni (Right), the President of the Republic of Uganda, views Knowledge exchange website, as demonstrated by Mr Green Mugerwa

NGO networking.

The project has contributed to demystifying and facilitating the use of internet for socio-economic development through creation and manage-

ment of www.lotsbusinesslinks website, with graphically displayed business information. It has trained leaders of 30 CBO/NGOs in the West Nile Region of Uganda in the use of internet. More than 80% of these leaders had never touched a computer before although they have access to internet cafes in the towns. They were overwhelmed by the amount of information that one can get on the internet and pleasantly surprised at how easy it is to access the information after they had been trained.

The emphasis was placed on accessing information about technologies on soil and water management/conservation in relation to the River Nile, which is of relevance to one of the opponents of NTEAP.

Jane Kisakye- LMGC Uganda

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Post Conflict National Plan for Environmental Management in Sudan in Offing

The Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), in consultation with the federal line ministries, has developed a project proposal for preparing a National Plan for Environmental Management (NPEM) for post conflict Sudan. The approach is based on bringing together institutions concerned with environment and natural resources management from both Government of National Unity (GoNU) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS). The project profile prepared was approved for financing by the Nile Transboundry En-



Coordinator North -
Izzat Mirghani Taha



Coordinator South -
Susan Jackson

vironment Action Project (NTEAP), under the national eligible projects window. The United Nations Environment Program, the European Commission and the GoNU have also funded the initiative. Two National Coordinators (NC), from north and south, were appointed to work under the HCENR to coordinate at both levels of governments.

The project secretariat is composed of the two NC's in addition to a number of senior national consultants, who are mandated to organize relevant activities,

draft and finalize the NPEM. The NPEM has also an Advisory Committee (AC) that meets every other week to provide technical guidance to the process. The AC includes representatives of donors, NTEAP, as well as other relevant institutions from Government of National Unity and representative from GoSS.

A workshop to map out the process, discuss major environmental issues and provide broad recommendations for addressing the identified issues is planned for 18th -22nd July 2006, in Khartoum, Sudan, and it will bring together experts from the federal and state governments, civil society and development partners

Areas for discussion will include status of the natural resources base and built up environment, identification of issues and constraints, institutional issues, including policy, legal and organizational issues, and international commitments. The output of the first national workshop will provide a basic situation analysis document and a framework for formulation of the environment management plan.

The Secretariat shall then embark on consolidating the output of the first workshop and formulation of a national plan for environmental management, to be endorsed by policy makers and environment experts in a second national workshop.

By :Susan A J and Izzat Mirghani

Upcoming events

20-28th June 2006, SDBS Steering Committee Meeting, Entebbe, Uganda.

25-29th June 2006, Global Course on IWRM, Cairo, Egypt.

5-7th July 2006, CBSI Steering Committee Meeting, Entebbe, Uganda.

5th July 2006 -ATP Sub-regional IWRM Global Course in Kigali for Burundi, D.R. Congo and Rwanda (in French)

9-13th, July 2006, NTEAP World Bank Supervision Mission, Khartoum, Sudan.

10-12th July 2006, EWUAP Steering Committee Meeting, Nairobi.

9th July 2006- ATP Diploma Course in Water Resources Engineering (3 months) with HRI (Egypt)

17-19th July 2006- CBSI Parliamentarians awareness workshop, Entebbe, Uganda

26-29th July 2006, M&E Management Workshop, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.

6-10th Aug 2006- Nile-COM Extra ordinary meeting.

20-26th Aug 2006- World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden.

24-25th July 2006, Extra Ordinary Steering Committee for the WRPM, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.