



The Nile Environment

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NTEAP



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October-December 2004

Editorial

This is the last issue in 2004. The NTEAP has attempted to keep our readers abreast of progress and events related to NBI. The last quarter of 2004 saw the conduct of important meetings. In November the Prince of Orange visited the NBI headquarters and held a meeting with the Nile Council of Ministers.

The first water quality monitoring regional meeting was conducted in Cairo from December 20 to 22 2004. The meeting was attended by 18 Nile water quality monitoring working group members, two government nominated water quality experts from each of the NBI countries. The meeting discussed on the status of water quality monitoring in the respective countries, and plans for the next year. The meeting was honored by the presence of H.E Hon. Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation and H.E. Hon. Eng. Maged George, Minister of Environment along with the TAC and steering committee member of NTEAP.

The Environment Education and Awareness component successfully conducted national workshops in the eight NBI countries (except Rwanda) and established national working groups. The microgrants regional workshop was conducted in Khartoum, Sudan from December 6 to 9 2004 which discussed and drafted the regional microgrants strategy.

The organization of these workshops needed careful planning and coordination. All of the workshops have achieved their intended objectives.

Besides the project related workshops the staff of NTEAP have also participated at other national and international workshops. There is no doubt that these meetings have improved the visibility of the NBI and NTEAP.

This issue of our newsletter provides highlights of the workshops held in the last quarter of 2004.
Gedion Asfaw, RPM

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Prince of Orange Visits NBI

Prince of Orange Visits NBI The Prince of Orange, Crown Prince Willem Alexander of the Netherlands, a world renowned water Ambassador visited the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat on Friday 5th November, 2004. He was received at the Secretariat by the Nile Council of Ministers led by the Chairperson, Hon. Martha Karua, Minister of Water Resources for Kenya. The Prince was impressed by the progress made and wished the NBI success. The Prince was accompanied by H.E. Yoka Brandt, the Netherlands Ambassador to Uganda and other officials from the Netherlands Government. (see NBI Press Release at www.nilebasin.org for the full coverage of the news).



Environmental Security Workshop



An international workshop on environmental security in Eastern Africa took place from 14 to 15 October 2004 in Kampala, Uganda. H.E Hon. Colonel Kahinda Otafire, Minister of Water, Lands and Environment made the official opening statement at the workshop, here seen flanked by Executive Directors of Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability and Partnership for African Environmental Sustainability along with H.E the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Uganda, The Executive Director of NEMA of Uganda, USAID and other officials. The RPM of NTEAP presented a paper on environmental security in the Nile Basin.

Micro-grants - First regional Workshop

The PMU in Khartoum hosted the First Regional Micro-Grants Workshop. Participants in the Workshop included the Small Grants Programme (SGP) National Coordinators who also coordinate the Micro-Grants Programme in their respective countries (Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania). In addition, the newly recruited SGP Coordinator for Rwanda and the National Micro-Grant Coordinator for Sudan were also present. The participants list also included the newly recruited Local Micro-Grants Coordinators for Egypt, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia were represented by their respective NTEAP National Project Coordinators. The resource people for the Workshop were Mr. Marco van der Ree of UNOPS, New York, Ms. Astrid Hillers from the World Bank and Mr. Michael Wells a free lance consultant.

The main objective of the Workshop was to develop the outline of Regional Micro-Grants Strategy as well as to agree on the framework for the National Action Plans. The Workshop

was enriched by presentations made by the SGP National Coordinators on their respective field experiences as well as highlighting some of the best practices and lessons learned from those experiences.



The newly recruited national and local coordinators also provided their own insights on the Micro-Grants Programme through illustrations of experiences that they have acquired from previous work done in their countries. The

RPM and Lead Specialists were also instrumental in providing the participants with guidance related to the integration of the different project components into the Micro-Grants Program. The RPM in both his opening and closing remarks stressed the importance of deriving best practices from the field activities as well as establishing linkages with other components and NBI Programmes. He also emphasized the importance of team work. Presentations on creating synergies with the Environmental Education & Awareness component as well as the Water Quality Component were made. In addition, the M&E Lead Specialist presented the approach that should be taken in monitoring the Micro grants at the local, national, and regional levels.

The Regional Workshop laid the foundation for the regional Micro-grant strategy, which when finalized will provide the important input to guide in the development of the national action plans.

Amir Baker, Micro grants Lead Specialist

Partnership - The way to go with awareness creation

The Nile basin is home to about 160 million people, of these majority live in rural areas and depend directly on land and water resources for shelter, income and energy. Six of the ten Nile basin countries are among the world's poorest with a GDP of less than US\$250. Such grinding poverty in combination with very rapid population growth has put enormous pressure on the natural resources and ecological systems on which economic development is based.

Environmental education and awareness is one of the tools which is being used to stimulate sustainable economic growth as an efforts to reduce poverty in the basin. Change of behavior which leads into action is almost personal. This coupled with the many threats facing the Nile requires a consolidated effort from all stakeholders and more so EE&A practitioners from the entire basin. This re-

quires partnership and networking.

How then does one ensure that strong linkages and partnership are not only formed but also sustainable? In order to answer this question, the NTEAP—EE&A component embarked in a process of identification of interested partners and establishing links.

'Participation ensures ownership'

The process of establishing partnership was through formation of national working groups. The working groups will play a coordination and supervisory role in each country while formulating and steering the implementation of EE&A activities from all practitioners within the country.

The coordination and establishment of linkages role of the working group is the engine of partnership. While linking one practitioner or one project to another, synergies will be developed, have focused and powerful campaigns which will reach wider audience.

To make sure that a diversity of issues, ideas, and skills, the working group members were carefully selected. Although there were small variations between countries, the members included media, private sector, relevant government ministries, Universities and the civil societies. In some cases communities were also included. As the working groups meets to deliberate on issues, more lessons will be learnt on how best EE&A could change peoples lives for the better.

Maushe Kidundo, Environmental Education Lead Specialist

Monitoring and Evaluation

A session was devoted during the First Regional Micro-Grants Workshop to the issue of the Monitoring and evaluation of the Micro-Grants. The presentations and subsequent discussions that followed focused on the approach that would be undertaken to monitor and evaluate the micro-grant activities. Building on the model adopted by the Global Small Grants Program (SGP), the approach would be to monitor activities at the local, national as well as regional levels. The discussion was enriched through sharing of accumulated experiences of the SGP Coordinators with the workshop participants. The participatory nature of the process was very much emphasized. Moreover, the need to plan and integrate the M&E activities within

the overall process, including provision of resources and time was considered as a critical issue as these were major constraints in most of the cases.

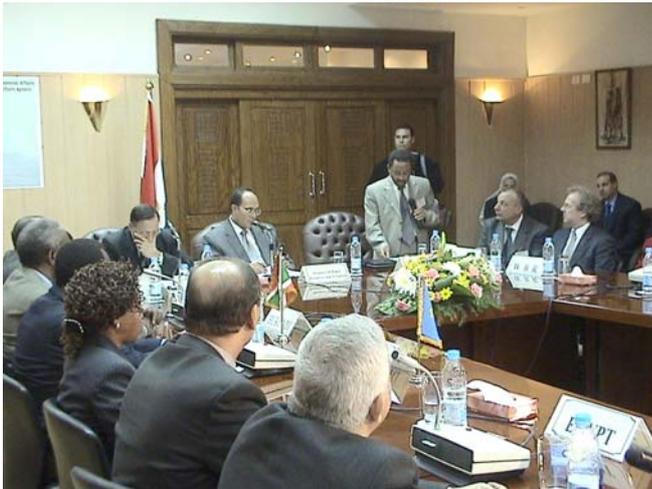
M&E framework that would be developed for the Micro-Grants will be part and parcel of the overall M&E Framework that is developed for the entire Project. Important outputs generated from the M&E work would be the lessons learned and best practices. Those outputs will be disseminated through different mechanisms, including the periodic NTEAP Newsletter, the web-site, workshops and meetings as well as through publications and brochures. The dissemination approach will constitute an important element of the communications and outreach strategy that will

be developed by the NTEAP for all of its components.

The yearly independent evaluation exercises that would be conducted for the Micro-grants was also discussed at the Micro-Grants Workshop. The objective of these country level yearly reviews/evaluations is to ensure that the activities funded through micro-grants are addressing the intended need and that community involvement is present. Moreover, the evaluations are intended to highlight if corrective measures need to be undertaken including re-modifying the design.

Intisar Salih, Monitoring and Evaluation Lead Specialist

Basin-wide Water Quality Monitoring- First Regional Workshop



From the 20th to 22nd of December 2004, the Regional Water Quality Working Group (RWQWG), which is a technical committee of water quality experts from the Nile basin countries, had its inaugural meeting at the Nile water Sector, Naser City, Cairo, Egypt. The group comprised of two senior technical officers nominated by their governments, mainly from the ministries of water and environment from Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The main focus

of the inaugural meeting was to examine the challenges facing water quality management in the region, especially in view of the increase in pollution loads into receiving water bodies. Such challenges include low prioritization of water quality management issues, lack of or poorly equipped laboratories, few trained and experienced personnel. In addition, there is a lack of common agreed upon methods of sampling, testing and data interpretation. There is also a need to establish transboundary sampling stations for the whole basin.

The RWQWG met under the auspices of the NTEAP, whose water quality component has the objective of enhancing water quality monitoring capabilities of the Nile Basin countries, as well as initiating dialogue and creating awareness on the importance of effective water quality management. The meeting in Cairo was graced by the presence of H. E. Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, Minister for Water Resources & Irrigation, Egypt and H.E. Eng. Maged George, Minister of State of Environment, Egypt. The Regional Project Manager of NTEAP, Mr. Gedion Asfaw expressed his gratitude to both Ministers for their presence and stated that their presence is a living testimony to the commitment of the Government of Egypt to the objectives of the NBI.

The two ministers and the Regional Project Manager are seen here inaugurating the Regional Water Quality Working Group during the official opening session of the workshop.

John Omwenga, WOLS-NTEAP Water Quality Component

Twining Arrangements – NGOs-CBOs

Grassroot Institutions at the community level are normally represented through Community Based Organizations (CBOs). CBOs articulate the interests of the communities and voice their views. A major distinction between CBOs and NGOs is that ,NGOs in most cases have the capacity to implement development related activities, as they are able to mobilize technical and financial resources much easier than CBOs. The ability of CBOs to attract funding and carry out development work is further curtailed by the fact that CBOs are, normally, not legally registered within the

countries that they operate in.

It is thus important to identify a formula that would allow the CBOs to operate well, in the Nile riparian countries, taking into account the major handicaps that they face. An excellent model which has been applied elsewhere is to create a twinning arrangement between a CBO and an NGO. This mutually beneficial arrangement would allow the CBO to benefit from the legal status of the NGO allowing its work to be recognized and validated. It would also provide the CBO with the opportunity to enhance its capacity through working

closely and learning from the NGO. The NGO would also benefit by building a partnership at the grassroot level which would facilitate its work as well as allow it to attract additional funding.

As part of the capacity building work directed towards fragile CBOs, the Micro-Grant sub-component will encourage such community level partnerships building on the successful models generated elsewhere.

Amir Baker, Microgrants Lead Specialist

Readers corner

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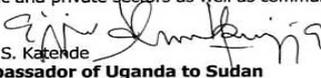
18 November 2004

The Chairperson of the Editorial Committee,
The Nile Environment
Khartoum.

Dear Sir,

I received and read the first issue of the quarterly Newsletter of the Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP). I was happy to note the steadfastness the riparian countries have embarked on to address environmental issues of the Nile and its basin.

The message that will always need to be underpinned is that the sustainable utilization of the Nile and its basin is a partnership involving governments, the public and private sectors as well as communities.


Mull S. Katende
Ambassador of Uganda to Sudan

Within the framework of strengthening relations among the Nile Basin countries, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently in dialogue with the basin countries to discuss means of activating cooperation among the countries at all levels. In this respect, Egypt is hosting a series of meetings for promotion of trade under the COMESA during the months of November and December 2004 and January 2005.

Ithar Khalil, NTEAP National Project Coordinator, Egypt

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NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

Initiative du Bassin du Nil

**Putting the
Shared Vision into
Action**

SVP NEWS



The SVP Coordination Project of Nile SEC organized a two week procurement training at its headquarters in which SVP project managers and finance and procurement specialists and Nile SEC staff participated. The training was given by Mr. Subash Dhingra who did an excellent job. The Executive Director, Mr. Patrick Kahangire is seen here with the participants after the certificate awarding ceremony.



The NTEAP welcomes Mr. Gordon Mumbo (*left*), RPM of Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement Project ; Dr. Canisius Kanangire (*center*), RPM of Applied Training Project and Mr. Ernest Kgoro (*right*), Finance/ Procurement Specialist of the Applied Training Project.

NTEAP Progress Report 2004

The Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) has successfully accomplished most of the activities as planned in the approved work plan for 2004. The World Bank Mission of November 2004 noted in its aid memoir "the significant positive progress made towards implementing the first year work plan as well as the necessary planning for 2005".

The major achievements of 2004 include the following:

- All project start up activities including office renovation, furnishing , equipping, international and local staff recruitment, recruitment of national project coordinators in 8 of the NBI countries, procurement of project vehicles and office equipment, setting up of imprest account, financial and administrative systems, publishing of 3 issues of project newsletters, establishing and managing a project website were successfully conducted and finalized;
- The Community-level land, forest and water conservation component conducted the first regional microgrants workshop, finalized the microgrants strategy and operational manual, recruited local microgrant coordinators for Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and a national microgrant coordinator for Sudan.
- The Environment Education and Awareness component established EE&A working groups in 8 of the NBI countries, produced and disseminated EE&A materials , initial EE&A reviews were also commissioned in 8 of the NBI countries;
- The Basin-wide Water quality Monitoring component established a regional working group composed of two members from each of the NBI countries, commissioned national baseline studies in all of the NBI countries, prepared a draft training module;

The project has produced and submitted to relevant bodies monthly, quarterly reports and has developed project progress tracking matrix. It is in the process of developing a monitoring and evaluation strategy and action plan which will commence after the finalization of the baselines studies which are currently underway. Successful working visits to most of the NBI countries were also conducted by the staff of the NTEAP during 2004. We look forward for a more productive year in 2005.

Gedion Asfaw, Regional Project Manager