



The Nile Environment

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NTEAP



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Editorial

This first issue of the NTEAP Newsletter in 2006 focuses on water; marking of the World Water Day, March 22 and the occasion of the 4th World Water Forum held in Mexico City, March 16 to 22, 2006. Water is needed for all aspects of life; human consumption, agriculture and industrial activities. Over 160 million people, in ten countries in the Nile Basin, share the resources of river Nile and this puts into context the importance of water in the Nile Basin.

The rising demand for increasingly scarce water resources is leading to growing concerns about future access to water and threats to sustainable development. This was adequately discussed at the various sessions of the 4th World Water Forum.

In the various sessions and during informal discussions there seemed to be growing frustration among African water sector practitioners with regards to the very slow pace of implementation. Since the Mar del Plata conference in 1977, numerous mega conferences have been conducted and various strategies and action plans have been drawn. However, currently only 46% of Africa's rural population has access to "improved water supply". Of course improved water supply does not mean house connections and is very far from decent and convenient water supply systems similar to what is available for people in the developed world. Implementation was one issue which came very loud and clear at the 4th World Water Forum with respect to Africa. UN Habitat Executive Director, Ms Anna Tibajuka said it well in her address on Africa Day "the time for talking is over."

The other encouraging idea which I noticed in the discussions was the promotion of hydraulic infrastructure such as dams by international organizations. This is an opportune moment for the Nile Basin countries to focus on the promotion of environmentally sound "good dams" to enhance sustainable development in the region.

The Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP) is committed to make modest contribution towards integrated water resources management in the Nile basin through capacity building, environment education and public awareness, microgrants projects and water quality monitoring activities.

I wish you good reading.

Gedion Asfaw, RPM

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD WATER DAY 22 MARCH 2006

"We shall not finally defeat Aids, tuberculosis, malaria, or any of the other diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation and basic healthcare"

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations, 2005.



Photo: www.emag.uni-bremen.de

Today, on World Water Day, we should ask ourselves why it is that 1.2 billion people in the world still do not have access to safe drinking water. And why 2.6 billion people do not have access to adequate sanitation. This is a simply unacceptable state of affairs.

We know that we all need clean water. But how many of us realize how many lives in developing countries are blighted without it? Families cannot grow crops. Their daughters too often cannot attend school because they are walking long distances to fetch water. And their children – boys and girls – suffer poor health as a result of water-borne diseases. Six thousand people, mostly children, die every day of water-related causes. Providing clean water is the best way to reduce the death rate, of children under five.

We need to get the world back on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal of halving by 2015 the percentage of people without access to safe water. This was the purpose of the United Nations General Assembly resolution which proclaimed 2005 to 2015 the International Decade for Action on 'Water for Life'.

I call upon all those at the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City this week to do all they can to ensure that the world rises to this most pressing of challenges.

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

Water is our Common Present and Future

“In the 21st Century, water is the converging and meeting point of the world community”, president of Mexico.

The Mexican president has said World Water Forum is an opportunity for sharing experiences with stakeholders, “As Mexican citizens, we are honored by the presence of so many distinguished visitors that will share their best experiences with us during this week at the 4th World Water Forum”.

He said, water occupies a relevant space in the agendas of all nations and at least 400 million people live in regions where water is severely scarce.

To turn around this serious situation, he said, “we must deeply modify local and global water management strategies, learning from the successful actions that many communities have undertaken”.

He said all of us should share a commitment to making water a factor of peace, fairness and development amongst our peoples and nations; from the position we occupy today.

“Water is our common present and future, it is the invaluable heritage



of our children”, he said.

He pointed out that to respect and care for water today is to respect and ensure life tomorrow and that, the greatest challenges that humanity faces include responding to the world’s current need for water, foreseeing their consumption requirements, and ensuring food production without harming the environment.

In concluding his speech at the 4th World Water Forum he said, “I am convinced that, if we work shoulder to shoulder, each of us contributing his or her best, we will find creative, generous and fair solutions for the whole world”.

He pledged his commitment to consolidating a global culture of respect and protection of water.

Joel Arumadri—KMS

Adapted from
www.worldwaterforum4.org.

Ethiopia marks World Water day: Water and Culture

The World Water Day was marked in Ethiopia with various activities. The day was marked under the theme: ‘Water and Culture’, the Ministry of Water Resources said.

There were panel discussions on Millennium Development Goals, Role of Non-governmental Organizations on Water Resources Development, and Experiences from states on the Water Development Sector, among others.

The discussions were reported to have dwelt on the role of stakeholders towards the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at national and international levels.

The observance of the Day aims at raising the awareness of the public on efficient utilization and development of water, a scarce natural resource. It is also aimed at improving the participation of stakeholders on development and proper utilization of water resources.

There was an urge for the public to be committed to efficient and proper utilization of water resources so that Ethiopia would successfully attain the MDGs, with a call for development partner’s to participate in the water sector development activities and but shouldn’t leave the responsibility to government only.

Source: ENA –Addis Ababa

One Person in Three in the World Suffers Hardship and Indignity from the Problem of Water

More than one person in three in the world suffers hardship and indignity from the problem of water. This person is much more often a woman than a man. This injustice is largely unspoken and one

of the most difficult to rectify, precisely because it is above all an injustice to women. Its root cause is our negligence and our resignation in the face of inequality. Yet while over the next fifty years more

than half of mankind is threatened by “water stress”, the dream of pure water for all continues to unite humanity.

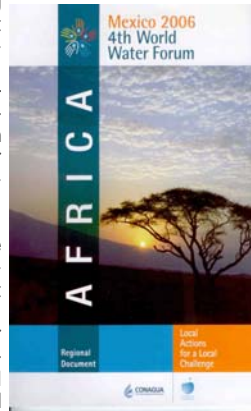
Michael Comdessus, Former MD of IMF

The 4th World Water Forum

The 4th World Water Forum took place during March 16 to 22, 2006 in Mexico City. The Nile Basin Initiative was represented by Dr Hesham Ghany, Regional Project Manager (RPM) of the Water Resources Planning and Management Project, Mr Gedion Asfaw, RPM of the Transboundary Environmental Action Project and Dr Ahmed representative of ENTRO.

Ministers of the Nile Basin countries were present at the Forum. Ministers of water affairs from Ethiopia, Egypt and Uganda chaired and led discussions at various sessions of the Forum.

Dr Hesham made a power point presentation on NBI during the session on *trans-boundary water management and regional integration in Africa*. The session was held on March 18 and was attended by ministers and delegates from many countries.



H.E. Dr Mohamoud Abu-Zeid, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt was awarded the King Hassan II Great Water Prize at the 3rd World Water Forum



The African pavilion was also officially opened by H.E Asfaw Dingamo, Minister of Water Resources of Ethiopia. The NBI used this pavilion to exhibit some NBI posters and documents.



AMCOW's chair and Nile COM member from Uganda, H.E Maria Mutagamba, chaired the African Day session. The session was presided with time.



Dr Hesham Ghany, RPM of WRPMP, made a presentation on NBI to a packed audience.

Gedion Asfaw- RPM

AMCOW ON WATER -THE MEXICO MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

AFRICAN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON WATER ,THE MEXICO MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON WATER, MARCH 17 2006

WE, members of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) gathered for the Ministerial Meeting at the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico on March 17th 2006;

BEARING IN MIND the African Water Vision and its Framework for Action adopted at the Hague conference in 2000;

RECALLING the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Lusaka, Zambia in 2001;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT our Declaration at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan on the 23d of March 2003;

CONSIDERING our decisions at the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON), especially the adopted Portfolio of priority subregional projects on water and the outcomes and recommendations adopted in December 2003 in Addis Ababa;

RECALLING the decision of the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Agriculture and Water, held in Sine in February 2004 to reactivate the existing mechanisms at the level of the water basin and establish new ones wherever appropriate in order to:

- Develop and promote water resources through support for infrastructure projects i.e. the increase in construction of dams and canals, drilling of boreholes and providing irrigation equipment;

- Exploitation of waterfalls to provide electric power and interconnect the Continent through a power grid system;

- Carry out studies on untapped water resources in areas where it is available in large quantities in order to benefit the continent in accordance with the principles of international law and the protocols concluded between the riparian States.

REITERATING our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and recalling the Declaration of the thirteenth Session of the United Nations Committee on Sustainable Development which focused on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements;

DESIRING to achieve accelerated socio-economic development and environmental sustainability at the local and regional level;

ASSERTING the need to: increase levels of investment, build human and institutional capacity, ensure good governance, enhance stakeholders participation, ensure sustainable and equitable use of water resources,

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. INTRODUCTION

We note that the water related problems of Africa interlock creating vicious reinforcing spiral. At one extreme, there is absolute poverty and at the other, there is great demand for investment in water infrastructure, human, social and institutional capacities. Herein, water can make an immense difference to Africa's development if it is managed well and used wisely. Given clear policies and strategies and real commitments to implementation, water can help to eradicate poverty, reduce water-related diseases and achieve sustainable development.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM)

i. Recognizing that cooperation between riparian states on trans-boundary water basins contributes to sustainable water management and mutual benefits, we encourage all Member States to facilitate, in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities, the development of a cooperative framework and appropriate sub-regional protocols for the shared management and use of transboundary water resources.

.....cont'd on page 8

Water Needs Cooperation and Greater Dissemination of Good Practices

Water scarcity is increasing in the region due to low rainfall, limited river flows, non-renewable



groundwater resources, and rapidly growing population. To address these issues, 400 scientists and water professionals gathered in Cairo in April 2004 launched the Arab Water Council (AWC). The AWC is a non-

governmental organization that endeavors to promote better understanding and management of the water resources in the region in a multi-disciplinary, non-political, professional and scientific manner; to disseminate knowledge, enhance sharing of experience and information for the rational and comprehensive water resources development for the benefits of the region's inhabitants.

As part of the water community worldwide, the AWC is currently preparing to represent the Middle East in sharing the successful regional experiences at the 4th World Water Forum. The consultation process allows an exchange of views and ideas on local actions for sustainable

water supply and sanitation and an agreement on how best the Region will present its successful experiences and potential local actions in the water sector to the world.

All this work, carried out by the AWC is a collaborative effort that incorporates several local, regional and international stakeholders. The target is to put water problems in the Region on the top of the international agenda, to promote more cooperation among specialists and stakeholders from inside as well as outside the Region.

There is a very long way go to meet the targets, and it is clear that, without cooperation and greater dissemination of good practice, the targets will not be met in the foreseen future.

Mohmoud Abu Zeid, President of the Arab Water Council

Enhancing Quality of Micro-grant Project Proposals

The National and Local Micro-grants Coordinators play a key role in ensuring that the project proposals submitted by NGOs and CBOs are of high quality and have a high potential of being approved by the National Steering Committees in their respective countries. To ensure this, they conduct continuous training for the potential grantees to help them in designing the proposals. The process starts with an awareness program that orients the grantees with the enormous challenges facing the Nile Basin and the vast opportunities that exist for socio-economic development.

Another important element in the proposal development process is the monitoring aspect, whereby, grantees are provided with the necessary tools and techniques that would enable them to monitor the progress towards

achieving the objectives of the projects and to capture lessons learnt from the program. The grantees are given the necessary skills to develop good monitoring indicators to capture the different outputs and to gauge how far they are from achieving the overall objective.

The training also distinguishes between the outcome and outputs as practioners as well as grantees often confuse the two. A clear understanding of each one of these result based management tools would make it easier and simpler to measure progress and re-design the project to address the overall objective.

Among the upcoming NTEAP events is a workshop, in May 2006, in Cairo, designed to help Micro Grants Coordinators and National Project Coordinators in monitoring the different mi-

cro-grant projects. The Project will roll out an M&E Training of Trainers Manual designed by the MG and M&E Lead Specialist to help the responsible NTEAP staff to train NGOS and potential grantees in the monitoring of small projects.

A key feature of the Manual is the reference experiences with ongoing projects and using them in enriching the skills of the staff/grantees, to continuously monitor these projects. As a document in progress, the manual will be enhanced and enriched on the basis of feedback received from the field. It is hoped that this event will be a first in a series of training events to enhance the monitoring capacities of the staff as well as the NGOs themselves.

Intisar Ali Salih- M&E Lead Specialist

Micro-grants: A means for Increasing the Visibility of the NBI at the National Level

The Micro-grants Program provides an excellent opportunity for the riparian countries to enhance and expand the visibility of the Nile Basin Initiative. The Program with its piloting features, provides an excellent opportunity for the community groups to show case their different projects. As the Program addresses the different environmental challenges that face the Nile Basin, it tends to reflect on the vision as well as the focus of the NBI.

The fact that there are multiple partners (Local and National Steering Committee Members, NGOs, CBOs, MGCs, Local Govt Officials) involved in the process of development and implementation of the Program provides an excellent window for the NBI to be quite visible.

More importantly, the outputs that

the program produces makes the visibility issue more apparent, since the public at large is made aware of the NBI through the outputs produced by the Program.

One of the first signs that reflect this visibility is when community groups talk to each other stating that the NBI has provided them with resources to undertake environmental activities that are beneficial to them. The awareness elements embodied in the different activities gives the necessary information on the environmental threats and the actions that are needed to address those threats. It also provides them with additional information on what the NBI is doing in other countries to address similar threat facing the Basin. The process is quite educational as some communities have had the perception that the Basin is only within their own local or

national borders.

The success of the Program is, hence, paramount to maintaining the positive image of the NBI as well as an important ingredient in ensuring its success.

Efforts will be devoted in 2006 and the upcoming years to enhance that image by developing and implementing sound micro-grant projects that communities can relate to positively. That in itself will serve as an indicator that the NBI has delivered its message and that its objectives are being realized. It will also demonstrate to the partners of the NBI, that their efforts to maintain and enhance the resources of the Nile Basin have not gone in vain.

Amir Baker Micro-Grants Lead Specialist

Nile Basin Environmental Journalists Meet in Kampala

Environmental Journalists from the Nile Basin Countries met in Kampala to map out ways of protecting the Nile and preserving its catchment areas to ensure prosperity.

Speaking to the Journalists during the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project Training of Trainers, the Executive Director of the National Environment management Authority (NEMA), Uganda, represented by Beatrice Ms Adimola, appealed to the Journalists to sensitize their respective audiences on the dangers of environmental abuse within the riparian countries.

She said the present alarm-

ing receding levels of Lake Victoria waters is partly due to poor land use practices. She urged journalists to report objectively on environmental issues for sustainable development in the respective countries.

Speaking at the same workshop, the Executive Director, Nile Basin Initia-

tive (NBI), represented by Mr. Gordon Mumbu, said poor management of the Nile Basin resources is affecting livelihoods. He said the wise use of the Nile resources is now more important than before as the catchment areas are being polluted and over exploited.

The Journalists from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Egypt and the Sudan were also taken on a working tour of Mabira natural forest, the source of the White Nile and the Bujagali Falls, for a fact finding mission of the receding water levels of Lake Victoria and to enjoy the beauty of the Nile as it starts its 6,770km long journey through the Sudan to Egypt.

Deo Habimana-Environmental Journalist, Uganda



Photo by Joel Arumadri

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN THE LAKE REGION OF TANZANIA RECEIVES US \$ 231,000 FROM NTEAP

Nine Community Based Organisations from the Lake Region of Tanzania, working in the field of environmental protection, have received a total of Tshs 321 million (231,000 USD). The money is a support for Microgrants activities from the Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP) of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

This was revealed by the Local Microgrants Coordinator Mr. Vitor Kamagenge, who hoped that the CBOs will use the money for community based environment conservation activities.

According to Mr. Kamagenge, the CBOs that benefited from the grants are Magobari and Tahea from Tarime district, Buhemba from Musoma, Tadepa from Bukoba, Kadetfu and Kadet from Mulemba and Fapoel from Ukerewe.

The Women Development Association based in Mwaza also received funding for its activities in Ukerewe Island. An NGO, Lanesco received funds for conservation activities in Magu and Bunda Districts. A total of 66 CBOs from 8 districts applied for the grants. The districts include; Bukoba, Bunda, Magu, Misungwi, Muleba, Musoma, Tarime and Ukerewe.



Community woodlot; Photo by Joel A. Burundi.

Mr. Kamagenge said the CBOs and NGOs will implement a variety of activi-

ties including tree planting, river conservation, irrigation, livelihood improvement for women, fishing and removing water hyacinth from lake Victoria. Approximately three million people living around Lake Victoria will benefit from the grants

The projects will have an implementation period of between one and one and half years, after which an evaluation will be carried out, added Mr Kamagenge.

Mr Kamagenge encouraged all NGOs which have benefited from the grants to work with other community based organisation so as to improve peoples livelihood within the lake region.

The microgrants program is funded by the GEF, UNDP.

Isaac Mbolile, Translated from Swahili by Maushe Kidundo

New Tanzanian Minister of Environment Pledges Support to NTEAP



The new Minister of Environment in the Vice President's Office of Tanzania, Prof. Mark Mwandosya, has pledged to give maximum support to the Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP). This was during a meeting held in his office on 8th March 2006, with the Director of Environment, who doubles as the NTEAP Steering Committee member for Tanzania, Mr. Eric Mugurusi, and the National Project Coordinator Mr. Abdallah Shah.

During the meeting, the Minister was briefed on the NTEAP project, its mandate, achievements and future plans. The minister was pleased to know that a transboundary environment project was in place to address

threats to sustainable development in the basin.

He was particularly happy with the Microgrants activities, which target the rural communities in environmental conservation. He said the availability of the funds will strengthen initiatives.

On environmental education and awareness, he said it was vital, as it will expand the knowledge of stakeholders on the resources of the Nile River, existing management practices and the consequences of unwise use.

He expressed interest in visiting some of the microgrant projects in the lake region that NTEAP is supporting during his familiarization tour, in his new portfolio, in the near future.

He welcomed the initiative to raise awareness of the Members of Parliament in the region on environmental

issues in the basin as it will expose them to the realities of the threats to sustainable development. He was happy to learn that Tanzania will host the first ever meeting of regional MPs on the environmental issues in the basin and promised his assistance and that of government, where required. He also urged NTEAP to make awareness on Nile environmental issues more visible.

Nine Community Based Organisations from the Lake Region of Tanzania, working in the field of environmental protection, have received a total of Tshs 321 million (231,000 USD). The money is a support for Microgrants activities from the Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP) of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

Abdallah Shah-NPC Tanzania

Conservation and Development, Where is the Balance? The Namanve Case –Uganda

A group of 18 visiting Environmental Journalists from the Nile riparian countries were stunned by the Uganda Government decision to degazette part of Namanve Forest Reserve, forming part of the extensive wetlands in the suburbs of Kampala City, for an industrial park.

Ugandan officials who briefed the pressmen revealed that there was pressure on the government from the investors for land strategically situated, serviced with adequate infrastructure and the government bowed down to the demand and cut off part of Namanve for an industrial park.

The action has dealt a blow to the conservation measures of the wetlands in Uganda, which recently hosted the RAMSAR Convention Conference.

The resistance put up by the Uganda Conservationists to protect the slicing of the wetland that hosts several fauna and flora were defeated when the National Environment Management Authority

(NEMA), the institution responsible for monitoring the environment gave the project a clean bill of health.

Reliable sources told the Journalists that Conservationists had resisted the allocation of the 891 hectares of the reserve for industrial development,; an action they said was a betrayal to conservation efforts.

“We have been put in a situation where policy conflicts ruin an environmental asset that has been natured for decades; this is totally unacceptable, much as we crave for investments,” an Environmentalist told this reporter.

However, the safety of the flora and fauna in the vast Namanve Forest along the Kampala-Jinja highway hangs in balance after decision by government to convert the wetlands into an industrial park was finally approved by NEMA.

According to an official from the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), the mitigation measures put in place after an EIA was done were found to

be appropriate and the project only awaits funding to take off anytime now. Sources say the demand by investors was looked into against many reasons advanced by Environmentalists but it was claimed that the species in the forest could be found elsewhere; therefore justifying the change in the land use.

In the view of the visiting Journalists this is a typical example of a situation of other policies conflicting with the conservation policy, and where there is no good will from government, the environmental policy will always be defeated and this in no way is peculiar to Uganda.

Wetlands have several benefits to the local community living in the surrounding areas and by converting them into other uses, the benefits are denied to the people.

Joseph Ngome, Environmental Journalist Kenya.

Sudan Receives Water Quality Monitoring Equipments

Sudan has received an assortment of water quality monitoring equipment, and chemicals for water purification .

Receiving the equipments at the NTEAP Project Management Unit was the Head of the Laboratory in the Ministry of Irrigation, Ms Nadia Shakak, witnessed by the NTEAP Lead Specialist Water Quality Monitoring, Lead Specialist Environmental Education and Awareness, and the Knowledge Management Specialist.

This is part of the agenda by the National Transboundary Environ-

ment Action Project, to improve the understanding of trans-boundary water quality issues and build capacities



Ms Shakak, (extreme right) looks on.

for monitoring and management of water quality and initiate exchange and

dissemination of information on key parameters.

Similar consignments of equipment have been received by Kenya and Egypt; the other countries are yet to receive as the procurement processes are underway.

Technical capacity to put to full use the equipments is to be done through regional and national trainings and the first regional training workshop is scheduled for 10th- 15th April 2006, in Entebbe, Uganda.

Joel Arumadri- KMS

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AFRICAN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON WATER -THE MEXICO MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON WATER

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ii. Recognizing that good governance, capacity building and financing are of the utmost importance for our efforts to succeed. In this context, we will promote integrated water resources management and encourage those countries which have not yet adopted IWRM principles in their policies and practices to do so. We also request our Development Partners to scale up their efforts to support this endeavor

3. WATER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

I. Recognizing that water is the catalyst for growth and development and the necessity to improve water security the African countries need to invest on water infrastructure up to the level where they can, in order to achieve a self sustaining auto-induced growth to eradicate poverty, and achieve sustainable development,

2 We encourage our Development Partners and International Financial Institutions to enhance their financial and technical support for the development of water infrastructure in Africa, with a view to achieve economic growth and development and in particular, food and energy security, and access to safe water supply and sanitation for all.

4. FINANCING WATER DEVELOPMENT

We note that addressing financial needs is our common responsibility and we must act to create an environment conducive to investment. We are determined to prioritize water issues and reflect them in our national development strategies and plans.

We are pleased that the African Water Facility (AWF) has been successfully established as a mechanism to support the African water resources development efforts and call on our Development Partners to materialize their commitment to support the Facility;

We are also exploring new financing mechanisms including effective public- private partnerships, while ensuring the necessary African ownership, public control and legal frameworks to protect the public interests, particularly those of the poor and the vulnerable.

iii. International donors on their part should recognize the efforts of the African countries and increase their assistance to enable the operationalization of these investment mechanisms

5. WATER DEVELOPMENT FOR FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

I. Water is essential for agricultural production and rural development in order to improve food security and eradicate poverty and contribute to environmental sustainability.

II. In view of high hydrological variability in Africa we need to increase water use efficiency in Agriculture

through appropriate measures such as demand management, reuse and other technical options to optimize agricultural production.

III. We encourage the development of appropriate catchments management techniques to control soil erosion and sedimentation, of reservoirs.

IV. We encourage the development of innovative initiatives, strategic investments, and international cooperation for the progressive improvement of agricultural water management.

6. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

i. Achieving the target established in the MDGs to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015 requires an enormous amount of investment in water supply and sanitation. In this regards we consider the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative as Framework for sustainable and improved access to water supply and sanitation to the rural population in Africa;

ii. We will redouble our collective efforts to mobilize financial and technical resources, both from the public and private sectors for water and sanitation infrastructure as well as for building gender balanced institutional, technical and managerial capacity at all levels. We also call upon our Development Partners to assist in this effort in a mutually accountable and effective manner;

iii. We will also ensure the development of an appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism for water supply and sanitation at local, basin and national levels;

iv We shall give prominence to sanitation including an extensive and intensive health and hygienic education at the community level.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

I. The African economy is vulnerable to the global climate changes caused by the green house emissions in the developed world, resulting in the growing severity of the impacts of floods and droughts and other natural disasters. This highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to risk management that includes investing on water infrastructure and establishing or strengthening disaster forecasting and timely warning systems at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

II. In this regard we will promote cooperation on the development of effective early warning system for water-related disaster prevention and mitigation with a view to reduce their negative impacts on economic development, food security and poverty eradication efforts.

III. We call upon our Development Partners to support our efforts in this regard.

Posted by Gedion Asfaw-RPM

Upcoming events

- 10-15th April 2006, Training Workshop on Water quality measurements, Entebbe, Uganda
- 29 April –6th May 2006, 14th Nile-COM/3rd NBTf-C/Nile-TAC Meetings , Bujumbura , Burundi
- 3rd May 2006, Launch of the Nile River Awareness Kit (NRAK), Bujumbura, Burundi.
- 3rd May 2006- Schools Awards Ceremony , Bujumbura, Burundi.
- 2-4th May 2006, Third MG Regional Capacity Building Workshop, Cairo, Egypt.
- 5th May, 2006, NBI Portal Training, Cairo, Egypt.
- 6th May 2006, Regional Launch of Nile River

Awareness Kit, Cairo, Egypt.

- 6-7th May, 2006, Nile River Awareness Kit (NRAK), TOT Workshop, Cairo, Egypt.
- 9th May 2006, Water Quality Orientation seminar, Cairo, Egypt.
- 10-13th May 2006, NBI Environmental Education Lecturers Network Workshop, Kenya
- 10-11th May 2006, RS for Flood Monitoring Training, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 10-12th May 2006, Regional Monitoring and Evaluation of Micro-grants Training of Trainers Workshop, Cairo, Egypt.
- 11th May, 2006, National Water Quality Monitoring and Enforcement Workshop, Cairo, Egypt.
- 13th May 2006, NRAK National Training for Uganda, Kampala

- 15th May 2006, NRAK National Training for Kenya, Nairobi.
- 16-19 May CBSI/NTEAP parliamentarian workshop, Dar es Salam
- 17-19 May Earth Observation training, Sudan
- 29 May-2 June IAEA project formulation meeting
- 5-8 June microgrants monitoring, Sudan
- 9-10 June SVP/SAP coordination meeting, Uganda
- 12-16 June regional WQM workshop, Nairobi
- 16-19 June CBSI induction workshop
- 25-30 June MG regional soil erosion workshop , EE teachers network, and WQ national workshops, macropolicies & environment planning workshop.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the NBI, its member countries or partners.