



The Nile Environment

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NTEAP



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October-December 2005

Editorial

This is the last issue of NTEAP Newsletter in 2005. The focus during the quarter was on the preparations for the 3rd NTEAP Steering committee meeting. The Steering Committee is an annual event which brings together steering Committee Members from all participating Nile basin countries, Donors, Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat, National Project Coordinators, and the Project Management Unit, to review progress during the year at hand, discuss constraints, agree on the activities for the following year and approve the budget.

The NTEAP Work plan and Budget for the year 2006 was approved. The work plan is a continuation of and builds on the activities initiated during 2004 and 2005.

Other activities in the quarter included the holding of the regional water quality monitoring workshop in Entebbe, orientation and field based training for Micro-grants Coordinators, in Uganda, and NBI IT Specialists meeting in Entebbe.

Significant achievements in the quarter included the roll out of the first batch of Micro-grants for Egypt, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda; the four countries approved a total of twenty nine projects amounting to US Dollars \$564,177, the development of the 1st version of the Nile RAK CD, which was also presented to the Steering Committee meeting, and the development of the NBI Portal and NTEAP sub portals.

Being the last issue, highlights of NTEAP achievements during the year 2005 have been presented in the Newsletter for the benefit of our stakeholders

I take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders for their cooperation which substantially contributed to the remarkable achievements of 2005 and I look forward to a continued cooperation and collaboration during 2006.

I wish all of you a merry Christmas and Prosperous New year.

Gedion Asfaw, RPM

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NTEAP 3RD STEERING COMMITTEE MEEETING 12-14th DECEMBER 2005



Participants of the 3rd NTEAP Steering Committee Meeting

The Minister of State for Environment and Physical Development, of the Republic of Sudan, Ms Theresa Sieircio Iron, has applauded the transboundary initiative for the management of the environment in the River Nile basin. She noted that the initiative was of special importance to Sudan, as it is bordered by six of the riparian countries, and environmental issues constitute a big challenge to the development efforts in post conflict Sudan.

This was stated at the opening of the 3rd Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP) Steering Committee meeting, from 12th—14th December 2005, at Grand Villa Hotel, in Khartoum. She said the meeting was of special significance to Sudan and the region at large, as it followed the big event of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Representing the Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative, Ms. Hamere Wondimu, the Senior Program Officer of the NBI and SVP Coordinator, thanked the Donors, the Steering Committee, the Project Management Staff and other Stakeholders, for their contributions towards the achievements of 2005 and appealed to them to double their efforts in the coming year.

Dr Saadeldin Ibrahim, the Chairman Steering Committee, in his statement of welcome, stressed the need for the peoples of the Nile basin to continue working together to address the transboundary environmental concerns of the region.

The Regional Project Manager, Mr. Gideon Asfaw, outlined the key achievements of NTEAP in 2005, signaling the move from planning to implementation; including the launching of over 30 community based microgrants projects in four NBI countries, fully functional PMU offices, working groups, and Project Steering Committee. He said cooperation and collaboration among NBI countries had increased, citing cooperation in water quality monitoring as an example.

Highlights of NTEAP achievements in the year 2005

Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Regional Cooperation



Gedion Asfaw, Regional Project Manager

- The 2nd PSC and NPC meetings of 10-13 January 2005 were successfully conducted.
- Recruitment of core staff completed.
- Concept papers on “macropolicies and environment” and “strategic environmental framework” were developed and distributed for comments to relevant individuals.
- Three issues of news letter produced and distributed. The translation of the NTEAP Newsletter to local languages was initiated, starting with Arabic, Kiswahili and Amharic.
- Nile River Awareness Kit (NRAK)



Joel Arumadri, Knowledge Management Specialist

consultations with Stakeholders completed and a preliminary version of the interactive, multi media CD ROM, Nile River Awareness Kit developed.

- PMU library established.
- NBI/NTEAP portal established.
- NBI corporate email service for NTEAP staff and MSN messenger launched.
- NTEAP website redesign and French version process initiated



Intisar Salih, Lead Specialist, Monitoring & evaluation

- Produced the Monitoring and Evaluation strategy and

Action Plan, Regional Baseline Report for all components and conducted a Regional Workshop on M&E to discuss the draft M&E strategy and Action Plan.

- Annual and semi annual reports for the NTEAP produced and shared with all partners.

Community-Level Land, Forest and Water Conservation



Amir Baker, Lead Specialist, Micro-grants

- Recruitment of the Microgrant Coordinators was completed. An agreement that governs the services of host NGOs was developed in Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania.
- Two Regional Capacity Building Workshops conducted, in Kenya and Ethiopia, in April and September respectively.
- The Soil Erosion Studies were completed in Ethiopia and Sudan. Two National Workshops to review the studies were held in both countries.
- Five National Stakeholders Workshops were conducted in five countries namely; Kenya, Egypt, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The National Action Plans for the five countries approved by the PMU.
- Approval of thirty Micro grants Projects, signature of MOAs and disbursement of funds for Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda took place.

Environmental Education and Awareness (EE&A)

- Transboundary campaigns in the form of World Environment Day (WED) were celebrated in seven countries



Maushe Kidundo, Lead Specialist, EE & A

[Burundi, Congo DR, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Sudan],

- The EE&A National working groups were strengthened through coordination of frequent meetings to plan, implement and monitor EE&A activities.
- EE&A materials were developed, printed and disseminated both at national and regional level. National EE materials development workshops were held in Burundi, Congo DR, Egypt, Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania.
- Nile basin Environmental journalists' network was formed through a regional workshop held in July in Kenya. Two journalists from each 9 basin countries participated.
- A total of 80 schools (10 schools per country) have been selected to form the Nile basin schools network. Rwanda is yet to select 10 schools. Both schools awards scheme and school baseline information was initiated.
- A network of Nile Basin EE University lecturers was formed in collaboration with ATP in May in Tanzania.
- EE masters students University exchange programme was uninitiated

Water Quality Monitoring (WQM)



John Omwenga, Lead Specialist, WQM

- Established and operationalized Regional Water Quality Working Groups,
- Consolidated 9 National Baseline water quality monitoring reports into one Regional Nile Basin Water Quality Monitoring Baseline Report,
- Held 2 Regional Workshops of the Water Quality Working Group, in Bujumbura, Burundi and in Entebbe, Uganda,

NTEAP 2005 achievements continued.

- Held 3 National Water Quality Monitoring and Enforcement Workshops, in Mwanza-Tanzania, Kinshasa-DRC and Bujumbura-Burundi,
- Identified laboratories and designated them as Nile Basin focal laboratories. Others have been identified and designated as reference regional laboratories to assist those laboratories that are not well equipped,
- Transboundary sampling stations

have been selected, which will form part of the larger Basin wide Nile Basin Water Quality Monitoring network.



Ronald Okuonzi, Finance & Procurement Specialist.

B u d g e t I m p l e m e n t a t i o n

The total budget approved for

2005 was U.S.

\$5,425,089 including the 20% additional budget approved by the PSC for 'national level eligible projects'.

The 2005 total expenditures amounted to U.S. \$3,350,502 which is 61.8% of the annual budget.

Joel Arumadri - KMS

Basin Wide Water Quality Monitoring Moves from Planning to Action.

Transboundary actions aimed at achieving uniform monitoring of the Nile River system, agreed upon by Nile basin countries, are already being implemented. The actions; which included criteria for selection of transboundary water quality monitoring stations, designation of NTEAP focal laboratories in each of the NBI countries, and identification of Nile Basin reference regional laboratories, have been initiated.

The criteria used to identify transboundary sampling stations were; type and number of activities taking place on the catchment or sub-basin, drainage pattern, movement patterns of fluxes or pollutants, significance of selected station, and accessibility. Transboundary sampling stations for Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania have been identified and the other countries are to follow suit.

There are 5 transboundary water quality monitoring stations selected in Uganda, 7 in Kenya, 3 in Tanzania, 2 Egypt, 3 Sudan, 4 Ethiopia, 3 DR

Congo, 4 Rwanda and 4 in Burundi

Ministry of Water Resources Laboratory, Entebbe; Uganda, Central Water Quality Testing Unit, Cairo, Egypt and the High Dam Laboratories, Aswan; Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Laboratory, Kisumu, Kenya; and Ministry of Water and Livestock Development, Mwanza, Tanzania, have been selected as regional reference laboratories to undertake more advanced tests which may not be done in other countries.

The acquisition of laboratory equipment to support water quality monitoring activities in the countries is underway and at different stages of procurement. Equipment for Kenya has already been delivered.

Transboundary monitoring of water quality is expected to be on quarterly basis and the parameters to be monitored include; heavy metals, toxic substances, pesticide residues, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total Sus-

pending Solids, Total Dissolved Solids, conductivity, nutrients (Phosphorus, Nitrogen), fecal coliforms, oil and grease, and conductivity; the presence of which

*"Globally, 4000 children die daily from water-borne diseases like diarrhea, malaria and typhoid."
- UNICEF's state of the worlds children 2005 Report*

(depending on the level) are indicators of water contamination.

Clean water is essential for the wellbeing of the humans and a critical natural resource for sustainable development.

According to a water quality monitoring baseline study report, the Nile basin is experiencing siltation and pollution from domestic and industrial waste water/ agricultural products such as pesticides and fertilizers

John Omwenga- WQM LS

Third World Environmental Education Congress 2-6 October 2005

The World Environmental Education Congress took place at the Centre Congressi Lingotto in Torino, Italy. Close to two thousand people attended, and Africa was the guest of honour. The theme, "Educational paths towards sustainability", was supported by 12 sub-sessions. The Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP) participated in this event and was represented

by the Lead Specialist, Environmental Education and Awareness Mr. Maushe Kidundo. He presented a paper focusing on the use of Networks for implementation of transboundary activities. The conference was addressed by Michael Gorbachev, as the president of Green Cross International.

The next congress will be hosted by the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) from 2 – 6 July 2007 in Durban, South Africa. The theme and registration forms are available on the EEASA website: www.eeasa.org.za

Maushe Kindundo- LS, EE & A

Roll out of the First Batch of Micro-grants

The last quarter of 2005 witnessed the roll out of the first batch of Micro-grants for Egypt, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The four countries approved a total of twenty nine projects amounting to US Dollars \$564,177. The nature of the projects, ranged from simple planning grants to projects that address transboundary threats, at national and cross border locations. The significant number of projects approved by the four countries in one quarter of the year reflects the genuine commitment of the stakeholders towards the program. It also indicates that the Program has started moving with a healthy start.

The approved projects are characterized by their reliance on capacity building and advocacy as the main entry points towards addressing the transboundary environmental threats. As the year 2006 unfolds, the Micro-grants Program is ex-

pected to move boldly into new challenging grounds both at the operational and thematic levels.

In addition, four more countries; Burundi, D.R.C, Ethiopia and Rwanda will have their National Action Plans finalized by the end of January 2006. Kenya, which had its National Action Plan approved last year and did not manage to approve projects in 2005, will hold its National Steering Committee Meeting in February, to review project proposals and hopefully have them approved.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan has paved the way for the Micro-Grants Program to initiate the process of establishing a Local Micro-grants Coordinator's Office in Juba and developing an Action Plan for the South, which will be incorporated as an amendment to Sudan's National Action Plan.

Collaboration with the Nile SAPs is expected to be realized in 2006 on the basis of discussions already held at various levels including the participation of the Micro-grants Coordinators of Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, in a Regional Workshop on Watershed Management, organized by Easter Nile Technical Research Office (ENTRO) in Bahr Dar, Ethiopia in early December 2005.

The first roll out of projects in 2005 reflected the importance and feasibility of collaboration with project management units (PMUs), which played significant roles in releasing funds to Grantees in Sudan and Uganda. It is expected that the role of other PMUs in other riparian countries will become even more crucial in disbursements and financial services with time.

Amir Baker-Micro-grants LS

NBI and NTEAP Participate in the 11th World Lakes Conference

The 11th World Lakes Conference, hosted for the 1st time in Africa, took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 30th October to 4th November 2005. The principal objective of the Conference was to bring together



diverse groups of people and organizations dealing with lakes to provide a rich forum for exchange of knowledge and experiences on the management of lakes in general and African lakes in particular. It was

opened by the Hon. Minister for Water and Irrigation, Kenya, Ms Martha Karua.

NBI and NTEAP participated in the conference and a whole afternoon was devoted to presentations from the NBI. The Executive Director gave a presentation on the NBI challenges and Opportunities, an overview of the Lake Edward and Albert Fisheries Project, presented by the Project Manager, the Challenges of Trans boundary Water Quality Management, by J. Omwenga from NTEAP and the Hydrology of the Aswan Dam, by the Dam Engineer.

UNEP, NBI, Ministry of Water and Irrigation Kenya, the Nairobi City Council, Davis and Shirliff dealers in pipes and water conveyance and

treatment products, were among those that participated in an exhibition during the conference and NBI stall attracted overwhelming demand for their publications.



The Conference reviewed progress about on going lake basin management initiatives as well as future goals for lake management.

John Omwenga- WQM LS

Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) to be Taught in African Universities

The UNEP and UNESCO are spearheading the mainstreaming of Environment and Sustainability thinking into University Education in Africa. A meeting (11 -14 October 2005) in Nairobi, Kenya discussed the strategies to interact with higher education managers and regulators; development of a framework for an introductory course and resource kit and a draft training plan and programme for higher education educators.

A follow-up meeting (22-25 November

2005) was held in Howick, South Africa and hosted by South African Development Community Regional Environmental Education Programme (SADC REEP). The outcomes of this meeting were a 30 hours - 3 modules training and a resource kit for lecturers and university managers. The training is designed to kick start universities in incorporating ESD in learning. An award scheme was also introduced as a means of accelerating incorporation.

NTEAP was invited to the second meeting by virtue of having an exist-

ing Environmental Education Lecturers Network. The partnership has yielded results, as the network members will be the first group in Africa to be trained. Other partners in this initiative include *Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnerships* (GHESP) *Enviroic Foundation International* (EFI), Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), *Global Virtual University* (GVU).

Maushe Kidundo- EE & A Lead Specialist

National Level Coordination of NBI Projects in Sudan commences.

The coordination of Shared Vision Projects (SVP) and Subsidiary Action Programs (SAP) in Sudan has commenced. This is being spear headed by NBI Technical Advisory Committee Member (TAC) for Sudan, through the National Technical Body at the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources.

An office premises has been designated for the coordination Unit

within the irrigation Ministry, and to date, two meetings have been held to plan the coordination. Both meetings, one held on 27th September 2005 and the other on 28th December 2005 reviewed the status of implementation of the various SVP and SAPs in the region at large, and Sudan in particular, as a basis for national level planning.

The meetings were Chaired by Dr.

Salah Yesuf. Dr. Salah Elshazi of Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement (CBSI) presented the status of the project, while Dr. Osman Eltom, Lead Specialist Water Resources Planning and Management (WRPM) Project made a presentation on the WRPM project.

Abdeslaam A.A-NPC Sudan

Niger Basin Authority Visits the NBI

A team from the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) visited the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat from 15th -16th Nov 2005. The visit of the team was a culmination of initial talks held between Eng. Ousmane Diallo, the Shared Vision Coordinator and Regional Coordinator of the Niger Basin Authority and Mr. Gedion Asfaw, the Regional Project Manger of the NTEAP, at the International Waters Conference, in Brazil.

The visit of the NBA Team is a realization of the kind of exchange visits that should occur between managers and professionals of the

different River Basins in Africa, a recommendation made at the Brazil International Waters Conference.



The Meeting took place at the Nile basin Secretariat, in Entebbe, and was chaired by Ms. Hamere Won-

dimu, the Senior Program Officer and the SVP Coordinator, NBI .

The meeting noted that all river basins have similar management problems, and that inter basin visits would be very beneficial in exchanging notes.

Agreed at the meeting were regular joint visits to learn from each other, exploration of areas of joint capacity building, sharing of calendar of events and participation in each others events, sharing of expertise and information, among others.

John Omwenga- WQM LS

Lake Victoria, the Source Of the White Nile Threatened With Shrinkage

Desperate communities living on Islands on Lake Victoria have appealed to the Ugandan Parliament for help over its dropping water levels. They are concerned about the increasing navigation and docking constraints on their boats and ferries—reports the daily Monitor, a Ugandan Newsletter of 6/1/06.



Experts are said to have warned that Lake Victoria levels have dropped between one and two meters recently. A drop in water levels leads to recession of the shoreline with dire consequences on marine life.

Fish stocks dwindle because the receding shoreline separates the wetlands, where they breed, from the lake where they live.

Domestic and industrial water supply could also be affected and incidence of water borne diseases like bilharzias could also increase.

Experts are said to have warned that three to four meters drop in the water level could lead to complete failure of electricity generation from the dams on the lake.

Therefore efforts to save the lake need to be intensified, focusing on proper management of its environment, ecosystem, and human activities around it.

Increased evaporation due to global warming, drought, and flower farms are said to be partly responsible for the drop in water levels.

In a related story in the same daily, the Uganda government is said to be considering closing one of the power stations in Jinja, Uganda, due to the low level of water in lake Victoria. This was disclosed by the Minister of Water Lands and Environment, Major General Kahinda Otafiire, in a weekly press review on 6/1/06, according to the paper.

It is reported that a report entitled “Study on Water Management of Lake Victoria”, released last December said the water had dropped by two meters.

The report is said to have blamed the continued falling water levels on over leasing of water to generate electricity at the two existing dams, Kiira and Nalubale (formerly Owen falls dam) in Jinja in Uganda.

The report is also said to have predicted 42% decrease in energy generation with the persistence of drought.

In a related story, a local Newspaper, Mwanza Environmental Newsletter (MEN), in its issue of May 2005, also reported an estimated 4000 tons of phosphorous being discharged into Lake Victoria annually, besides an unspecified amount of nitrogen. The nutrients are said to be coming from the Lake basin, industrial effluents, urban waste and algae. The nutrients are drained in liquid form out of the lake in many ways, including through the White Nile. Research findings indicate that there is a steady rise in the amount of nutrients, resulting into algal growths in some areas, particularly close to the shores.

Siltation is said to be an additional threat taking place along the shores and the river mouth, affecting approximately one square millimeter of the water body per year. Water hyacinth infestation has also altered the ecology of the lake.

The drop in the level of Lake Victoria

and the deterioration of the water quality have environmental implications of both local and trans-boundary nature.

Lake Victoria, according to research carried out by the Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (LVEMP), is the world's second largest water body covering an area of 69,500 square kilometers, with 3,450 kilometer long shore and a basin area stretching 258,700 square kilometers, with an average depth of 40metres. The basin is said to have a population of 30million, with an annual growth rate of



3.5% and shared by Kenya (6%), Tanzania (5%) and Uganda (43%).

The lake is an important resource in the East African sub region and the entire Nile basin with a huge stock of fresh water fishes. It is a source of water for domestic and industrial use as well as home to highly valuable fish species which provide protein for both internal and external markets. Annual fish catch are reported to be at approximately 400,000-500,000 tons, worth US \$ 3-4 billion. It also provides transport besides being a tourist attraction, and a source of hydroelectric power.

Joel Arumadri— LS, KMS

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NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

Initiative du Bassin du Nil

**Putting the Shared
Vision into Action**

Bamboo to Revive Critical Wetland, Showcase of Successful Wetland Conservation in Uganda.

The Wetlands Inspection Division, the institution responsible for the management of Wetlands in Uganda and Uganda Prisons Services, have begun cultivating bamboo at Murchison Bay prison, at the shores of Lake Victoria, to help clean up the heavily polluted Nakivubo swamp, located at the margins of Lake Victoria, and a recipient of the effluents from Kampala City- reports the New Vision, a Ugandan Daily of 28th November 2005.

The idea to cultivate bamboo is said to have been mooted by the World Agro forestry Centre (ICRAF). The bamboo will also help the poor urban communities earn an income.

The "mother garden" is expected to act as a centre of multiplication of the large species of bamboo before it can be expanded into the swamp, Levand Tumuryomurugyendo, ICRAF's biological diversity expert, is reported to have said bamboo is a good filter because it removes wastes from water. It is said to be applied in China to clean the polluted water and also a raw material for handicrafts, herbal soap and charcoal.

A report entitled "Bamboo for eco-sanitation in wetlands and income generation around Lake Victoria, said to have been presented in the exhibition of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands at Speke Resort Munyonyo, in Uganda, claims that China earns more than \$600m annually from the export of bamboo products. China's bamboo industry is estimated at \$12b.

Massive encroachment on the swamp has

exposed Lake Victoria to danger. Despite the contribution of Lake Victoria ecosystem towards the well being and livelihoods of more than 30 million people of the three east African countries, the lake is currently described as the "dying lake." This is because of pollution described by the ICRAF report as eutrophication and sedimentation.

These are consequences of increased nutrient inputs originating from agricultural activities, industrial effluents and domestic wastewater discharged in the degraded wetlands, according to the ICRAF report.

Natural filtration by the reeds and papyrus has been hampered by destruction of the wetlands through drainage for agriculture, industries and residential premises.

The ICRAF report says bamboo could be a superior land use system to the vegetables that are reportedly health hazards due to accumulation of heavy metals. Bamboo is a promising alternative because it absorbs nutrients that cause pollution. Bamboo growing at Murchison Prison is said to have started towards the end of last year with over 200 plants of bamboo imported from Kenya.

Ramsar meeting is said to have picked Nakivubo swamp as one of the wetlands that were to showcase the successful story of wetland conservation in Uganda.

The researchers are also looking at the aspects of water uptake by bamboo since it grows very fast.

Joel Arumadri- Knowledge Management

Upcoming events/News Flush

Events:

- 9th Special Session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum, 7-9th February 2006, Dubai, UAE .
- WRPM Regional workshop and 2nd meeting of the Water Policy Task Force, Addis Ababa ,Ethiopia 16,17 January 2006,
- WRPM Project Launch, Addis Ababa ,Ethiopia 18 January 2006
- WRPM 1st Steering Committee meeting , Addis Ababa ,Ethiopia, 19,20 January 2006

News Flush:

- SVP coordination conducted a Work plan meeting from 21st - 23rd November, at which RPMs of SVP Projects discussed and developed coordination matrix for implementation of their 2006 Work plan. The SVP coordination meetings are to be held 3 times a year, in April, October and November.
- The NBI in collaboration with NeWater of the Netherlands held a three day workshop which discussed the effect of climatic change in the Nile Basin
- The Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement (CBSI) Project organised a four dayworkshop for media houses in the Nile Basin, which culminated in establishing Nile Media Network.
- 4th World Water Forum, Mexico, Nov 16-22, 2006

- First batch of 29 Micro-grants for Egypt, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda launched
- 3rd NTEAP steering Committee held (Dec 13-14 2005)
- NTEAP Information Sub portal launched
- Kenya procures water quality measuring equipment
- First Version of Nile RAK CD presented to NTEAP PSC and NPC's

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