

**Nile Basin Initiative
Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project
(NTEAP)
Micro-grants Program
Sudan**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2006**

**Khartoum – Sudan
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Foreword

The Micro-grants Program of the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) - for the Republic of Sudan have the pleasure to present the annual report FY 2006.

This report focus on the status of implemented activities from January to November, 2006 and outlines the expected progress of the activities to be implemented on December, 2006.

The current report shows the level of implementation of substantive project activities by component, procurement status and inventory of the NMGC assets, the main constraints encountered and corrective actions taken or envisaged.

The National Micro-grants Coordinator wishes to express her gratitude to the Project Management Unit and to the host institution and all partners for the support provided during the reporting period.

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1. Background

The objective of the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) is to provide a strategic environmental framework for the management of the transboundary waters and environment challenges in the Nile River Basin. The project will improve the understanding of the relationship of water resources development and the environment in the Basin, and provide a forum to discuss development paths for the Nile with a wide range of stakeholders. The environmental framework established by the project will also promote: (a) enhanced basin-wide cooperation and environmental awareness essential to the successful implementation of the Agenda for Environmental Action in the Nile Basin through the NBI's SVP, SAPs and other programs, and (b) a basin-wide institution, the NBI, with substantially enhanced environmental management capacities. Moreover, the Project will encourage more effective basin wide stakeholder cooperation on Transboundary environmental issues by supporting the implementation of the actions prioritized by the Transboundary Environmental Analysis Document in the following areas/components:

- ❖ Institutional Strengthening to facilitate regional cooperation;
- ❖ Community-Level Land, Forests and Water Conservation;
- ❖ Environmental Education and Awareness;
- ❖ Wetlands and Biodiversity Conservation;
- ❖ Basin Wide Water Quality Monitoring

The project, which is executed by UNOPS and has budget of \$43.6 Million dollars, will be implemented by the World Bank and UNDP, over an implementation period of five years.

The second component, which is the Community-Level Land, Forests, and Water Conservation Component, will support pilot activities in geographical and thematic areas of transboundary significance. It will demonstrate the feasibility of local level approaches to land and water conservation, watershed management including mitigation action for erosion, non-point source pollution, invasive waterweeds, environmental awareness and NGO networking

The main outputs for the Community-Level Land, Forests and Water Conservation are:

- Enhanced basin-wide capabilities and cooperation;
- Improved understanding of transboundary soil erosion;
- Nile Trans-boundary Micro-grant program to support local-level land, forest and water conservation initiatives.

1.1 Project Strategy

Micro-grants program –Sudan will focus on enhancing capacities and abilities for NGOs, NGO networks and government staff in technical and administrative transboundary issues related to water conservation and land management.

The program will also focus on carrying out transboundary rapid assessment studies for soil erosion with the view of developing a solid baseline and an understanding of the current state of the soil erosion.

Finally, it will attempt, through pilot activities, to develop new techniques and methodologies for conserving the environment around the basin. The pilots will not only help in introducing new tools for conserving the basin, but they will also help in informing policy decisions and capturing best practices for more wider dissemination. The project will employ national, international experts to carry out the surveys, as well as national and regional experts to conduct the training. Building on the experience of the Small Grants Program, the National Micro-grant Coordinators will spearhead the process of pilot community initiatives through the micro-grant funds and will utilize the national steering committee structure to provide guidance and oversight, using the Regional Micro-grant Strategy and the Micro-grant Manual as solid policy and implementation instruments.



1.2 Report back ground

The reporting period comprise of activities done through January to November 2006, where the National Micro-grant Coordinator involved in achieving, facilitating and conducting them.

The reporting period includes all the Workshops either for awareness raising or capacity building for the NGOs/CBOs. The workshops were conducted by the NMGC in association and coordination with the Host NGO/ NBI other projects and under the supervision of the MGLS. It also includes meetings group discussions and field visits conducted.

2. Project Context:

2.1. Internal Context:

2.1.1 Contract:

The National Micro-grants Coordinator- (NMGC) and the MGP driver - Sudan signed the renewed contract with UNOPS on the 31st December 2005.

2.1.2 Fixed Assets:

Meeting chairs and a desk for the MG counterpart from the Host NGO, were purchased and delivered to the NMGC's office at Hosting NGO (SECS).

2.1.3 Work Plan & Budget:

- Prepared the Annual MGP work plan Jan-Dec 2007
- Prepared MG budget details and requirements after consultation and discussions with NPC ,MGLS/Host NGO , and awaiting the approval of the RPM and authorization from UNOPS to affect MGP activities of 2007.

2.1.4 MGP- South Sudan

- LMGC nominated and contract is signed
- LSC is identified and written approval is received from members.
- Office is established and well equipped with all need furniture and equipments.
- MGP vehicle is purchased and delivered to Juba and well received by the LMGC.
- Driver is selected and contracted.
- LAP is under review

2.2. External Context

2.2.1 NSC:

- The NSC is composed of voluntary members from the NGO sector, academic and scientific institutions, other civil society organizations, UNDP, the Nile-TAC and a representative of the national environment agency and other representatives of the Sudan government. A majority of members were from the non-governmental sector
- Assisted in selection and screening of project proposals and approval of eligible projects for Micro-grants funds, assisted in monitoring of the on-going projects and in awareness raising activities.

2.2.2 Hosting NGO

Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS):

- The Host NGO provides all facilities and services required by the contract
- Coordination and cooperation between the Host NGO's members, expertise and branches facilitate the MGP activities
- As a result of the Capacity assessment of the hosting NGO with MGLS, a capacity building workshop was conducted to the 17 of the NGO staff.



2.2.3 Stakeholders:

All activities of Micro-grants program as part of the NAP have taken into consideration participation of all these stakeholders and partners:

- ✓ Ministry of Environment & Physical Development
- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture
- ✓ Ministry of Irrigation
- ✓ State and non-state Organizations concerned with environment.
- ✓ The Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources
- ✓ National Forestry Corporation
- ✓ Wild life Conservation General Administration
- ✓ Universities and Institutes of Environmental Studies
- ✓ Ministry of Social Affairs
- ✓ Ministry of Science & Technology
- ✓ The Farmers and Pastoralists Union
- ✓ Others

2.2.4 Coordination with other NBI projects:

NMGC attended and participated in Discussion Group works, workshops and meetings, in and out side the country that covering different areas facilitated by other NBI projects and components i.e. the Confidence Building & Stakeholder Involvement Project, Water Shed Management Project and Eastern Nile Joint Multipurpose Program meetings..ect.

3. Actual Result from the Project Implementation:

3.1 National Workshops

| Date | Number of participants | | Activity | Objectives | Venue |
|----------|------------------------|------|--|--|---|
| | Female | Male | | | |
| 21/02/06 | 14 | 3 | TOT workshop and training program for the SECS's active volunteers | to provide volunteers with considerable volume of information and data about the MGP and its objectives, so they will assist to disseminate through their work in the field and with SECS' branches | SECS Conference Room |
| 28/03/06 | 6 | 14 | Capacity building Training Workshops in Dongula | Working with NGOs/CBOs on: Introduction to the Micro-grants program objectives, thematic areas, areas of the geographical focus and on project proposals writing procedures and eligibility criteria | National Assembly conference Room – Dongula- Northern State |
| 04/04/06 | 3 | 61 | Capacity building Training Workshops in Wadi Halfa | Working with NGOs/CBOs on: Introduction to the Micro-grants program objectives, thematic areas, areas of the geographical focus and on project proposals | Administrative Unit , conference room – Wadi Halfa – Northern State |



| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|--|---|---|
| | | | | writing procedures and eligibility criteria | |
| 15-20/04/06 | 10 | 9 | Capacity Building Workshop for the Host NGO (SECS) staff | The main areas covered are Project Management, Project financial management and communication skills “reports attached “ | SECS conference Hall |
| 20/06/06 | 5 | 22 | Discussion group (NRAK) | Expertise and professional with different and diversified field of expertise to discuss the NRAK awareness kit. The expected outcomes report is submitted to the PMU | SECS conference Hall |
| 10/07/06 | 5 | 18 | The TOT Monitoring and Evaluation of the Micro-grants Projects' Manual - Discussion Group | To facilitate the process of testing the TOT manual of M&E for MG projects before starting wide application of the Manual to training beneficiaries of the MGP. | Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS) – The Host NGO – Conference Hall |
| 30/07/06 | 29 | 0 | Strengthening or helping to establish national and transboundary networks of Women NGOs working on environment and sustainable development | Develop a structure/program to enhance the capacities of women CBOs/NGOs in proposal development, management, environmental awareness and other relevant areas. Provide guidance and help to establish local environmental related CBOs/NGOs and providing them with legal structures and financial mobilization capacities; | Conference Room PMU- Premises Khartoum |
| 29-31/09/06 | 14 | 18 | Monitoring & Evaluation workshop for enhancing the capacity of local partners in Gedarif State | To provide the trainees from NGOs/CBOs and partners with an overview of the Micro-grants Program, the different institutional and guiding instruments as well as the operational tools that need to be in place to effectively implement the Program and sustain it. In addition, the workshop sessions dwell into the concepts and definitions of M&E and relates them to the Micro-grants Program with specific emphasis on the developing M&E plans, participatory monitoring, | Mary Jois conference hall in Gedarif city Gedarif State |



| | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|---|--|---|
| | | | | <p>evaluation and dissemination of lessons learned</p> <p>It also aims at enabling participants understand the tools and techniques of effective monitoring and evaluation that would facilitate success of MGs projects</p> | |
| 9-10/10/06 | 28 | 8 | Monitoring & Evaluation workshop for enhancing the capacity of local partners in River Nile State | <p>To provide the trainees from NGOs/CBOs and partners with an overview of the Micro-grants Program, the different institutional and guiding instruments as well as the operational tools that need to be in place to effectively implement the Program and sustain it. In addition, the workshop sessions dwell into the concepts and definitions of M&E and relates them to the Micro-grants Program with specific emphasis on the developing M&E plans, participatory monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of lessons learned</p> <p>It also aims at enabling participants understand the tools and techniques of effective monitoring and evaluation that would facilitate success of MGs projects</p> | conference hall Forestry Administration – Ed Damar-River Nile State |
| 7-9/11/06 | 42 | 58 | Environmental Awareness Raising Workshop- The role of the student in mobilizing the communities | <p>By the end of the workshop participants will be :</p> <p>*) Well aware about NBI/NTEAP and its objectives as a regional project that seeks to develop the water resources of the Nile Basin in a sustainable and equitable way to ensure prosperity, security, and peace for all its peoples.</p> <p>*) Able to address needs to support community level initiatives to conserve</p> | Conference hall- University of Shendi-Shendi |



| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | the Nile Basin environment s program *) Acquire a good knowledge about Supporting local ownership and encourages community buy-in in environmental challenges | |
| Total 10workshops | 250 | 211 | | | |

3.2. Field Visits:

3.2.1. Mission to Juba

A panel composed of the representative of the TAC member, the GOSS representative, NSC chairperson, the NPC and the NMGC, is held to interview the three selected candidates for the post of the LMGC in Juba; Courtesy meeting for the Minister of Environment GOSS and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Water Resources is paid. Meeting UNOPS representative is conducted.

Mission Objectives:

- To interview the four selected candidates for the post of the LMGC-Juba and to report to the MG LS on the interview procedures and results.
- Courtesy meeting to the senior officials in relevant institution to the program
- Meeting UNOPS representative to discuss the Host of the LMGC in their offices.
- Meet –if available – reliable CBO or NGO in Juba.

3.2.2. Mission to Dongula –Wadi Halfa

We have attended 6 meetings with local authorities in Dongula and in Wadi Halfa and conducted two training capacity building workshops for NGOs/CBOs in both cities. Conducted field visits to some on going projects in both areas..

Mission Objectives:

- To brief relevant authorities and concerned CBOs/NGOs on the objectives and methodologies of the Micro-grants program in each Dongula and Wadi Halfa State.
- To organize capacity building and training workshops for the local CBOs/NGOs for explaining the procedures required to be followed in application for the Micro-grants program
- To train potential applicants (CBOs/NGOs) on the preparation of the Micro-grants project proposals and project cycle management.
- To conduct some field visits to access likely projects locations and explore locally available resources, and organizational capacities of the existing NGOs/CBOs



3.2.3. Monitoring visits to Bandighaio Administrative Unit, Doka locality of Gedarif State- Dinder Basin Area

A monitoring field visit was conducted between the periods 28- 30 June 2006 ,to follow-up on the implementation 4 on going projects to monitor the proposed activities and to monitor to what extend activities have been implemented according to the project plan.



3.2.4. Monitoring visits to Lower Atbara – River Nile State

A monitoring field visit is conducted for 4 of Lower Atbara's on gonging projects on the 19-21 September, headed by the M&E lead specialists and one of the NSC member and Host NGO and the NMGC the objective of the mission is to:

- Undertake monitoring of four Micro-grant projects in Lower Atbara focal area.



- Meet with officials, NGOs, communities and other relevant partners to discuss implementation and monitoring issues.



3.3 Regional Workshops

3.3.1 Training to attend the meeting of the PSC member, SGP NC, LMGC, NSC member and UNDP–And to coordinate with the LMGC for future activities

NMGC have attended meeting of the PSC member, SGP NC, LMGC, NSC member, MG LS and the UNDP, at the UNDP offices in Nairobi. NMGC have also attended a meeting with MG LS, NPS Kenya and LMGC Kenya. A meeting with National Council of NGOs' Director in Kenya was held as well NSC retreat meeting and joint the field visits to some of SGP's projects in Nyreae areas, was attended.

Review of Kenya's experience in linkages between LMGC and the NMGC and the NPC in lieu of experience to be adopted for the South Sudan.

Review of the LSC mechanism as an avenue for local ownership and better understanding of the local development challenges and local NGO environment and capacities, taking into account that Sudan will adopt the same for the South.

Review Kenya's experience in setting up of the LSC mechanism

Discuss Transboundary project proposals mechanisms with the LMGC, on the basis of lack of experience of NGOs in Sudan in transboundary work. And review the cross-border development and management process

To gain some knowledge about the experience of the SGP – in the region. To learn from its SGP activates and develop a working relationship .To learn about its benefits and impact in order to be replicated in the Micro-grants program in Sudan.

To meet members of the NSC of the SGP to learn about the process of Project appraisal & approval.



3.3.2 Capacity Building Workshop -MG

Participated in the CBW in Cairo 4th May – 12th May., where attended the Launch of the Nile RAK, the Training of Trainers on the RAK, the portal training, the Finance and Administration Workshop, the MG M&E TOT Workshop, the MG Capacity Building Workshop, the WQ Regional Training and the WQ National Workshop

3.3.3 Soil erosion

Attend and participated on the Soil Erosion and Watershed Management Training Workshops in Addis Ababa – 3rd -7th September 2006. The workshop objectives were mainly:



- To conduct a field visit to sites in which some interventions has taken place towards attempting to control soil erosion. To examine successful previous mitigation efforts/activities being undertaken and to identify stakeholders (NGOs and government institutions) that would have stake on implementing mitigation measures
- To get better understanding of mitigation efforts/activities, which could be funded through the Micro-grants program, recommended by the Soil Erosion Consultants.
- To meet NGOs and GOs representatives during the workshop, to identify mutual issues that will strengthen the Micro-grants portfolio.
- To discuss possibilities of implementation /replication of their experience mutually with the local Micro-grants coordinator-Ethiopia.
- Formulation of replicable mitigation interventions for the hotspots to help in arresting the deteriorating situation and improve the livelihood of vulnerable communities.
- To identify cross-border activities between Ethiopia Egypt and Sudan together with the NPC and the LMGC- Ethiopia/Egypt.



3.3.4 M&E

Attended and participated on Regional M&E Workshop on Monitoring of Micro-grants on the 8th September 2006

3.4 Fund Disbursements:

- Called for MG project proposals in Lower Atbrar River and Dinder areas and Wadi Halfa
- Received project proposals from CBOs in Lower Atbrar River and Dinder areas and Wadi halfa
- Held a meeting with a sub-committee composed of members from NSC to filter project proposals received.
- Prepared and distributed summary of projects proposals that meet the MG criteria according to the decision of the two sub-committees meetings.
- Held final meetings to approve project proposals with NSC March and July 2006.
- 40 project proposals were received 11 were approved as they found sound and viable; 1 planning grants approved, 6 were sent for reformulation and another 22 were rejected as theirs concepts do not meet MG objectives and goals.
- Wrote letters to the CBOs and NGOs about NSC decisions regarding the project proposals, informed the PMU.
- MOAs were signed with proponent, and two installments disbursed



- Total committed of Micro-grants for the years 2006 reached **US\$ 277,500** – plus a total of **US\$ 100,736** that has been carried forward from year 2005, total disbursements during year 2006 reached **US\$ 162,695** up to October 2006.

3.5 MG Documents Translation:

- Finalized the translation of the M&E TOT Manual of the MGP Projects with the assistance of the NSC member Dr. Kafeel and the LMGC – Egypt

3.6 Promotion of MG:

- Prepared an article for “AL aYam “daily newspapers, published on the 7th of February 2006 issue No. 8418 , about MG program in the Dinder Basin its on-going activities and future vision.
- An article in “Al Sudani” newspapers was written on the 1st August about the capacity building workshop held in Gedarif city for the NGOs and CBOs in association with Babiker Badri Women Society.
- Participated on the Tree day celebration, River Nile State , and
- Disseminated guidelines and informational materials to CBOs & NGOs about Micro-grants Program through local media, Radio, TV and newspapers.

4. Main Challenges

- ❖ The local communities’ capacities are very weak, and most of the CBOs lack legal status
- ❖ The slow response of UNOPS towards any financial requirements “authorizations “
- ❖ Number of the NSC member who attends the MG meeting is decreasing in each meeting held, as they request for incentives to attend such meetings.
- ❖ The difficulties in monitoring on-going projects due to the vast areas in Sudan, plus the high cost of managing the MGP vehicle
- ❖ Micro-grants strategy states that 50% of the Micro-grants fund should be utilized on Cross-border and Transboundary projects, the instability in most of the borders of Sudan plus the tribal conflicts over resources , the language barrier and difficulties of transportation are the real challenges that the program will face next year.
- ❖ Improvement of project design, implementation and M&E are also areas which needed high attention.
- ❖ Establishment of comprehensive partnership between NGOs, CBOs, government officials, local authorities and private sector, required concerted effort of all of the actors and will take time to achieve the desired partnership.
- ❖ The lack of appropriate mechanisms for exchange of information and experiences amongst the community was identified as a major constraint and a crucial question.

5. Lessons Learnt:

- The Micro-grants program encouraged the participation of women and specifically allocates more than 25% of the micro-grants projects portfolio to women’s group and women’s NGOs. This emphasized the focusing on gender issues and empowerment of women as part of the mainstream agenda of the program.
- Technical assistance has gone far beyond providing assistance in proposal writing and project implementation which was provided by a well organized national NGO given a planning grant to assist many CBOs . It took another approach by the NSC members through providing and



disseminating information about new technologies that are less expensive, easy to implement and maintain, and at the same time able to solve major local environmental problems which also have an impact on the Nile Basin environment.

- Projects of traditional nature (income generation, employment, food security, fuel energy, water, infrastructure and technical information and literacy classes) are more of interest to most of NGOs/CBOs than sophisticated projects. This may preclude opportunities in coming up with innovative and non traditional projects
- The budgetary ceiling of **US\$25,000** was found to be inadequate to develop, implement and manage new and innovative projects.

6. Conclusion

Given the nature of the project and the multitude of partners involved, I do believe that the achievements to date have been successful. The focus of the last month in the year will be on:

- Disburse the due installments to the beneficiaries..
- Submit the reformulated project proposals plus the new received ones, to the NSC for approval
- Assist in building capacities of CBOs and NGOs in Halfa to assist them to work their way out of poverty and to conserve their natural resources, and to assist them in MG project proposals.
- Prepare environment awareness raising materials (flyers, posters, pamphlets...ect) for year 2006.
- Prepare field visit program with the Local MGC – South to, to identify legible NGOs
- Participate in the exchange visit of the NSC to Egypt.