

**Nile Basin Initiative
Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project
(NTEAP)**

National Project Coordination – Democratic Republic of Congo

**ANNUAL REPORT
2005**

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Foreword

The National Project Coordination of the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) for the Democratic Republic of Congo is pleased to present its annual report FY 2005.

This report focus on the status of implemented activities from January to October, 2005 and outlines the expected progress of the activities to be implemented from November to December, 2005.

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

The National Project Coordination wish to express its gratitude to the Project Management Unit and to the host institution for the support provided during the reporting period.

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I. Highlights of the reporting period

1. The PSC Member and NPC attended the NTEAP Second Steering Committee Meeting held in Khartoum in January, 2005 where the Annual Work Plan and the Project Budget FY 2005 were approved. In terms of staff recruitment, the Local Micro Grants Coordinator was recruited during the fourth quarter of 2005. The offices for both the NPC and the LMGC are operational.
2. Five proposals were submitted to the PMU as “national level eligible projects” for which the PSC approved additional 20% budget for 2005. Detailed project documents are under preparation and shall be submitted by November, 2005.
3. Two baseline studies were developed by national consultants: (1) the “Environmental Education and Awareness Baseline Study” and, (2) the “Water Quality Monitoring Baseline Study”. These studies were presented to the national working groups for comments prior to their submission to the PMU for approval.
4. The reporting period witnessed important visits including the mission led by the NBI Executive Director who attended the NTEAP WQ Monitoring and Enforcement National Workshop accompanied by three SVP Regional Project Managers (NTEAP, CBSI and ATP), visit by five NTEAP Lead Specialists (WQ, MG, M&E, ADM&FIN, ICT). The NPC was fully involved in the preparation and the progress of these important visits which aimed at introducing NBI and NTEAP to the national and local authorities, updating government officials on NBI and NTEAP activities, establishing necessary contacts with local stakeholders and raising awareness on the importance of the issues related to the management of transboundary environmental resources.
5. The NPC and the LMGC attended the Project’s first staff retreat successfully held in Ethiopia in September, 2005. The NPC will participate also, along with the PSC Member, in the third Project Steering Committee Meeting in Khartoum in December, 2005.
6. A draft Work Plan FY 2006 was developed in light of national priorities, the PMU Framework Plan FY 2006 and the guidelines provided by the Lead Specialists.

II. Main Achievements by component

The following results were achieved during the reporting period:

Institutional Strengthening to facilitate Regional Cooperation

The main achievements under this component include: (1) the participation of the PSC Member and the NPC in the second Project Steering Committee Meeting (January, 2005) at which the Annual Work Plan as well as the Project Annual Budget were discussed and approved, (2) submission of five proposals related to “national level eligible projects”, (3) organization of the national working group session on the Nile RAK, (4) internet connection at the NPC office, (5) the mission led by the NBI Executive Director and the visits by the NTEAP Lead Specialists in Kinshasa and Goma. The visits by the ED and the Lead Specialists have contributed to raise awareness on the Nile transboundary resources management and to update both the government officials and the local stakeholders on NBI and NTEAP activities.

Community –Level Land, Forest and Water Conservation

During the mission conducted by the Micro Grants Lead Specialist in Goma in February, 2005, potential local micro grants host institutions were identified and interviewed. Discussions with local stakeholders and other partners indicated that the NTEAP micro grants program be hosted by the UNOPS Project in Goma while building at the same time the capacities of local NGOs to take over the implementation of this program in the future.

The process leading to the recruitment of the Local Micro Grants Coordinator was completed in October, 2005. The LMGC office is established in Goma, North-Eastern DRC. The development of the National Action Plan for Micro Grants has been launched. The document shall be finalized and submitted for approval by November, 2005. Meanwhile, two project proposals are under preparation and shall be submitted for approval and for implementation by December, 2005.

In April, 2005 the NPC attended the first Regional Micro Grant Capacity Building Workshop along with three other participants from DRC. This workshop was successfully held in Nairobi / Kenya. The potential LMGC

and one NGO representative from DRC attended also the second Micro Grants Capacity Building Workshop in Addis Ababa in September, 2005.

Environmental Education and Public Awareness

The main achievements under this component include:

- Participation of the NPC, along with three national working group members, in the Regional EE&A Workshops held respectively in Khartoum in January, 2005 and in Kigali in August, 2005. Two of the main outputs of the Regional Workshops were the regional planning for the transboundary EE&A activities and the launch of the Nile environmental education practitioner network.
- The EE&A baseline study was completed and approved by the PMU.
- Two EE&A national working group meetings were successfully held in February and in May, 2005. At least one additional meeting is planned to take place by December, 2005.
- The visit of 10 selected schools for the EE&A networking activities has been launched while celebrating the World Environmental Day in June, 2005. However, school visits as well as the training related to the development of school projects are among the EE&A activities that are lagging behind the schedule. A detailed program and budget related to EE&A activities planned from July to December, 2005 had been submitted to the PMU.
- Two University Lecturers and two journalists attended the Regional Workshops held respectively in Dare-salaam / Tanzania in May, 2005 and in Nairobi / Kenya in July, 2005. Activity related to environmental education students exchange has been launched. An announcement for Master of Science students exchange scholarship has been posted for research projects on EE&A. The national working group members will meet in mid-November, 2005 to analyze the applications and select two potential candidates

- The World Environment Day activities (WED, 2005) were successfully implemented with high participation of local partners. The WED, 2005 was celebrated as part of EE&A transboundary campaign. The celebration included the following activities:

-Football tournament: 8 secondary schools participated in the competition. Three winning teams were awarded prizes.



WED, 2005-Football Tournament: Kick off by the NPC at AFYA Stadium in GOMA



One of the secondary school teams getting ready for the game....

-Poems and drawings: 8 secondary schools and 2 primary schools participated in Poems and drawing competition. Five best poems and five best drawings received awards. The following pictures show students in the classroom while drawing:



- TV and Radio exclusive reports: reports, interviews, forum.
- Community cleaning activities: carried out in Goma and Rutshuru



WED 2005 theme being explained to the Community Leaders in Rutshuru



Wheelbarrows, spades, gloves, etc...being given to the Leaders for community cleaning works in Rutshuru, within the Nile Basin.



Community at work to clean up the Birere Market Place in the city of GOMA on June 5, 2005...

-Development of EE&A materials: banners, T-shirts, songs etc. The following pictures illustrate some materials developed during the WED, 2005 celebration:



A banner posted in a rural road near GOMA...



EE&A materials: a song on Nile environmental education being recorded for TV and Radio broadcasting during the WED, 2005 celebration in Goma....

- A “Training of Trainers Workshop” on the development of EE&A materials was successfully held from July 27 to July 28 in Goma. Twenty trainers were trained in different techniques for the development of various environmental education materials. Other related activities to be carried out by December, 2005 include: (1) support to the development of EE&A materials, (2) visit to all selected schools to launch the networking activities, (3) teachers training workshop, (4) development of modules to support EE teaching in secondary schools and (5) development of school projects.

Water Quality Monitoring

On the occasion of the celebration of the World Water Day on March 23, 2005, the NPC participated in a TV forum along with representatives from other environmental institutions. The NPC focused on the NTEAP overall objectives and on the NTEAP water quality component which aims at initiating a basin wide dialogue on water quality, increasing understanding of the current state of water quality, identifying water quality management needs of different riparian countries and increasing technical capacity in the riparian countries through training and transboundary networking.

The final version of the Water Quality Baseline Study was approved by the PMU. Comments on the WQ baseline summary report drafted by the WQ International Consultant were submitted to the WQ Lead Specialist.

The National Workshop on Water Quality Monitoring and Enforcement was successfully held in Kinshasa from September 15 to September 16, 2005. Over 25 participants including scientists, lecturers, NGO representatives, staff from government institutions attended this workshop which aimed at enhancing capacity for water quality monitoring and enforcement, creating awareness on the importance of water quality issues, increasing networking between water sector actors and creating new partnerships among water sector actors. The NBI Executive Director as well as three SVP Regional Project Managers (NTEAP, ATP, CBSI) attended this workshop which was honored by the presence of the Minister of Environment, Forest and Water Resources.

(WQ Monitoring and Enforcement National Workshop: Pictures on page 12)



Monitoring and Evaluation

The main achievements under this component include the M&E Lead Specialist mission in DRC in February, 2005 and the participation of the PSC Member and the NPC in the Regional Workshop held in Naivasha / Kenya to discuss the M&E strategy and action plan.

In terms of reporting during the period January to September, 2005, the NPC managed to produce all Monthly Reports including the semi-annual report in accordance with the report format provided by the PMU.

III. Main Challenges

- One of the main challenges of the project is the high expectation raised at the national level and at the community level as well. The PSC Member and the NPC believe that the best way to overcome this challenge is to intensify contacts with local communities, local stakeholders and other partners (through field visits, information documents, training and workshops) in order to improve their understanding of the NTEAP objectives and its functioning mechanism.
- The project capacity to meet priority needs of the communities is the key to get the people living in the Nile Basin involved in the NTEAP activities.
- Minimum financial support to the NPC / LMGC is vital for the running of the national coordination office.
- Delays associated with the fund disbursement mechanism and the procurement processes have affected the implementation of project's activities at the national and local levels. More practical and realistic mechanisms should be envisaged to shorten delays.

IV. Project Implementation Arrangements

The Project host institution (Ministry of Environment, Department of Water Resources) has provided basic facilities to the NPC. Government support includes one office for the NPC, electricity, water, counseling and security.

The micro grants program is established in Goma near the Nile basin. The micro grants host institution (UNOPS Community Development Project) has provided one office for the LMGC.

V. Procurement and NPC / LMGC office management

1. Office availability:

The Ministry of Environment had provided an office in July 2004. The office space for the NPC is approximately 5 x 4 meters, which is a bit small to accommodate all office furniture. The NPC contributes for daily cleaning and security services.

Concerning the LMGC office in Goma, cost-sharing arrangements with the host institution (UNOPS Project) will be made to cover water, electricity and security expenses.

2. Office furniture and equipment:

List of furniture and equipment at the NPC Office in Kinshasa (Inventory):

#	Item	Quantity	Value in US\$	Serial Number	Delivery date	Remarks
1	NPC Desk	1	1,950	-	22/12/2004	Including 2 NPC Guest chairs
2	Guest chairs	6	600	-	22/12/2004	
3	Shelves	2	500	-	22/12/2004	
4	Filing cabinets	1	350	-	22/12/2004	
5	Lap top HP	1	1,600	55274-649-6478953-23690	22/12/2004	Including carrying case
6	Printer HP	1	525	MY42AF 10D3	22/12/2004	Printer/Fax/Copier/Scan –All in one
7	UPS	1	255	QB04352 42746	22/12/2004	

Additional equipment including 1 digital camera, 1 PC (desk top), 1 LCD projector and 1 photocopier should be provided to facilitate the work at the NPC office.

List of furniture and equipment at the LMGC Office in GOMA (Inventory):

#	Item	Quantity	Value (US\$)	Expected Delivery Date	Remarks
1	LMGC desk	1	1,450	20/10/2005	
2	Rotating chair	1	Included with above	20/10/2005	
3	Filing cabinet	1	Included with above	20/10/2005	
4	Chairs	2	Included with above	20/10/2005	
5	Visitor chairs	6	390	20/10/2005	
6	Shelves	1	250	20/10/2005	
7	Notebook with carry case	1	1,300	20/10/2005	
8	UPS 500VA	1	110	20/10/2005	
9	HP Printer All-in-one	1	350	20/10/2005	

3. NPC and LMGC Vehicles

The NPC vehicle was discharged in Pointe Noire / Congo Brazzaville in October, 2004 and has finally been delivered in Kinshasa / DRC on September 1, 2005. (Serial Number: JTEBK29J300009152)

The LMGC vehicle is expected to be delivered by November, 2005.
The recruitment of the drivers is underway.

4. Office supplies:

In March 2005, the PMU issued a local purchase order for the office stationery and consumables for six months (April to September, 2005).

Item	Unit	Quantity requested and supplied	Cost (US\$)
Printing papers A4	Ream	18	70.2
Envelops A4	Piece	120	21.6
Envelops medium size	Piece	240	9.6
Ball pen	Box of 12	1	0.7
Writing pads A4	Piece	12	26.4
Stapler pins	Box	4	0.8
Paper clips	Box	4	2.4
Box files	Piece	10	22.0
Flat files	Piece	24	2.4
Printer cartridge	Piece	2	70.0
Diskettes	Box of 10	1	5.0
Compact disk	Box of 5	1	15.0
Flash disk	Piece	1	65.0

The NPC office stationeries were delivered on April 1, 2005. The LMGC office stationeries are expected to be procured and delivered in November, 2005.

5. Office running costs

No funds have been made available for operating costs. I suggest that the UNOPS Mine Action Project imprest account in Kinshasa and the UNOPS Project imprest account in Goma be used to transfer petty cash to the NPC and LMGC.

6. Communication:

Telephone communication with the PMU and local stakeholders is one of the major constraints. The NPC and the LMGC use their personal mobile phone to communicate.

7. Working with UNOPS Project MACC and with the UNDP country Office

Most of the payments have been successfully made through UNOPS Project MACC in Kinshasa. Working with the UNDP country office requires a lot of patience because of the delays in issuing payment authorizations.

VI. Main constraints

The NPC has made substantial efforts to implement the work plan on schedule. Support from the Regional Project Manager and the Lead Specialists has been very much appreciated. However, there is a need to improve communication mechanism and to shorten the disbursement and procurement delays for a better performance.

The lack of funds (petty cash) to meet daily office running expenses has been one of the main constraints. Estimates for monthly fuel consumption and services for the NPC vehicle has been sent to the PMU but nothing has been disbursed to date.

The Nile basin being far away from the NPC office, there is a need to allocate appropriate resources to the NPC to visit the basin on a regular basis.

VII. Plans Ahead

Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Regional Cooperation

- Strengthen collaboration with other NBI Projects at the national level
- Contribute to the conduct of macro and sectoral policies and the environment
- Contribute to the implementation of the Nile RAK project

Community-Level Land, Forest and Water Conservation

- Full implementation of the National Micro Grants Action Plan
- Institutional Arrangements established with the selected host institution
- Local Micro Grants Steering Committee formed
- At least two projects implemented

Environmental Education and Public Awareness

- Modules to support EE teaching in secondary schools developed
- EE practitioners network fully operational
- Three national WG meetings held
- At least two school projects implemented

Water Quality Monitoring

- Laboratory equipments provided and operational

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monthly and Semi-Annual Reports submitted
- Field Visits Reports submitted
- Various Reports submitted as requested