

NILE BASIN INITIATIVE (NBI)
Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP)
National Project Coordination Office- Ethiopia
Semi Annual Report
January- December 2005

1. Highlights of the reporting period

The FY 2005 period is said to be a stage where activities have transferred from such preparatory activities as project familiarization and office space setup to more of functionality in terms of equipping the NPC office, capturing baseline information (EE&A, WQM and Soil Erosion)¹, hands-on of EE&A National and Regional WG, and basin-wide Media and University Professionals Networks and WQM WG and activities has resumed. It is also a period where preparation for materializing national level activities, coordination of preparatory works for prompt resumption of Micro-grant, cross border/transboundary exchange visits of professionals from Ethiopia to Dinder Park, EE campaign using media (TV) and WED materials, selection of student for EE University Exchanges has taken place and School Program is started.

Photo: Members of one of the UNDP/SGP micro- projects CBO around Dindir Park with whom meeting was held during the visit.

Photo: Retreat Meeting at Sodere, Ethiopia

¹ The baseline for EE&A and Soil Erosion assessment draft reports were enriched by review workshops.

Moreover, the NPC Office has facilitated the conduction of the 1st Regional Retreat meeting and the 2nd NGO/CBO and governmental partners' Micro grant capacity building workshop, which took place in Ethiopia during the month of September back to back to each other.

2. Main Achievements

Highlights of main achievements of the reporting period and the status of implementation against the approved Work plan.

1. Component 1: Institutional support:

1.1 Activities Accomplished:

1. Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Regional Cooperation

- Attended FY 2005 Annual PSC and NPC meetings, and presented national plan/report in the latter meeting at the PMU in Khartoum Sudan,
- Administrative Assistance/Driver Hired
- The NPC Office quipped with office facilities, vehicle etc and managed properly,
- Contributed to quarterly newsletter twice,
- Supported the visit to Ethiopia and contributed to the Team of Consultants preparing the Nile River Awareness Kit (RAK),
- Compiled National level information and contributed to Macro and Sectoral Policies and the Environment concept paper,
- Attended regional workshop and contribute to the Strategic Environmental Framework concept paper.
- Facilitated the conduction and attended in the 1st Regional NTEAP Retreat meeting held in Ethiopia.
- National level activity consultation meeting conducted and action plan developed and implementation preparatory meetings conducted with key stakeholders, , where the Managers of the Environmental Authorities all the five regional states in the Basin have attended,

Photo: The 1st EE&A National Working Group Meeting, Feb. 24, 2005, at IBEX Hotel.

Photo: Ethiopia- Sudan Soil Erosion Assessment Report Review Meeting, Aug. 24, 2005,

Apart from enriching assessment reports proposed plans through review process, such meetings have been instrumental for an in-depth familiarization of the partners in Ethiopia regarding the NBI/NTEAP and in enhancing transboundary cooperation.

- Participated in the regional microgrants capacity building workshop (together with three representative from the government and NGOs) in Kenya,
- Participated in the NTEAP M&E workshop (together with the representative of the PSC) in Kenya,
- Closely linked with the host institution (both at federal and regional level), its other GEF projects, and other NBI projects and communicate with the PMU. This includes the series of correspondences and information exchanges conducted with the PMU and the Lead Specialists on various related activities.

2. Component 2: Community-level Land, Forests and Water Conservation:

- Attended the 1st regional capacity building workshop for NGOs, NGO networks and government staff in Nairobi, Kenya,
- Organized and attended the 2nd regional capacity building workshop for NGOs, NGO networks and government staff in Ethiopia
- Participated in the Sudanese Soil Erosion Assessment workshop together with the National consultant for Ethiopia and four professionals from the partner institutions,
- Rapid soil erosion assessment study for Ethiopia completed by a national consultant, see photo above for the review workshop.
- The national workshop to apply findings and initiate dissemination conducted,
- The LMGC hired,
- Supported the LMGC in equipping him with office furniture and vehicle,
- Participated in and contributed to the development of the Regional MG Strategy,
- Support the LMGC in the development of National Micro grants Action Plan,
- Contributed to the National Micro grants launching workshops for stakeholders.

3. Component 3: Environmental Education and awareness:

- The National EE & A baseline study conducted and the findings and recommendations thereof presented by the consultant on the 1st EE & A National Working Group (NWG) meeting and reviewed,
- Attended the 1st Regional EE&A workshop in Khartoum,
- Conducted Transboundary EE campaign (with the production and distribution of 800 eco-bags, 500 caps, 500 T-Shirts and 3000 Amharic leaflets (NBI/NTEAP/EE&A) and transmission on the TV of panel discussion on the Nile Environment as related to forestry), in connection to the Ethiopian Arbor day, July 4, 2005.
- Facilitated the preparation of three national papers for the 2nd EE Regional experience exchange workshop to plan TB actions,
- Facilitated the participation in the Regional Media Professionals Workshop of two media professionals from Ethiopia to Form Media Network. Two case studies (on TV and Radio EE programs in Ethiopia) prepared and presented.
- Translated from English to Amharic version and Printed NBI/NTEAP and EE&A brochures,
- Identified 10 schools within the basin for the delivery of schools networking services and to support TB school projects (procurement of tools & equipments)
- Proposal submitted towards supporting the devt. of materials to support EE teaching,
- Facilitated the participation of two university lecturers (from Mekele and Bahirdar University) in the 1st Regional university course preparation workshop in Tanzania,

- Call for Proposal posted in the pertinent universities and potential candidates for University Student Exchanges selected.

4. Component 4: Water Quality Monitoring:

- Facilitated the participation of the two members of the WG in the 2nd WG meeting,
- The national WQM baseline study completed by a national consultant,
- Compiled and communicate names and addresses of national consultants short listed by the Ministry of Water Resource,
- List of field equipment to conduct transboundary Nile Water Quality Monitoring prepared and submitted.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Circulated/compiled and summarized questionnaires to survey the opinion of partners towards contributing to the preparation of the baseline report and the M&E Strategy and Action Plan,
- Facilitated the visit to Ethiopia and pertinent meetings for the International Consultant Dr. Thomas J. Hopkins and the M&E LS Ms. Intisar Salih in the preparation of the baseline report and the M&E Strategy and Action Plan,
- Attended the NTEAP M&E workshop in Kenya,
- Prepared and submitted periodic (monthly and bi-annual) and special reports (such as result/impact report to the world evaluation mission) to the PMU,
- Prepared and attended regional ToT training for local NGOs, NGOs Networks and National or local M/G coordinators on Field based Monitoring
- Support the process of the World Bank evaluation of NTEAP
- Provided monthly report to the concerned timely

3. Main Challenges

The following is the list of the main challenges faced by the project during this period, including corrective measures undertaken and recommendations for improvements.

- Delayed in authorization and/or in the release of funds for NPC activities. Some of these challenges have been overcome thereby taking loans from the host institute for conducting meetings/workshop. The office running recurrent costs have been covered by the NPC own source for reimbursement by the PMU at latter stage. Moreover, the support provided by the WRPM PMU, which is newly established in Ethiopia, has started supporting the NPC and hoped will resolve most of the problems.
- Delayed implementation of the microgrant component as linked to the need for identifying an alternate host. The host institute selected and recruited LMGC in place.
- Poor linkage with other projects of the NBI, be it SVP or SAP, which may need to be revisited in the preparation of future plans. The NBI TAC is exploring for the optimum way of linking these projects at a national level.
- Lack of timely logistic support, i.e. petty cash to run office and repair vehicle, etc have impeded the effective delivery of expected services by the NPC during the period. The support provided by the WRPM PMU which is newly established in Ethiopia has started supporting the NPC and hoped will resolve most of the problems.
- Discrepancy between the planning/implementation of the project by the PMU at basin-wide level and with that of the need to incorporate them within the host country institution activity/budget planning process. It is hoped that the modality developed during the Retreat Meeting will resolve.

- Unable to attend the 2nd EE Regional experience exchange workshop to plan TB actions- due to late issuance of air ticket. In future, early booking of participants of regional workshop, with secured air ticket, is of paramount importance to be on safest side.
- Redundant review process for the approval at the national level of the WQM baseline study, which led to extremely protracted and delayed (more than 3 months) finalization of the report. Clear The full engagement of all concerned from the very beginning of studies will reduce such protraction.

4. Project Implementation Arrangements

The arrangements and facilities that are in place, including Government support and avenues for implementation of project's activities:-

- the NPC is provided with decent but small office space equipped with basic services and hence sufficient to undertake its task. As the land line telephone system of the whole host institute building is not functional, the NPC depends on a wireless telephone for its activity.
- the system of undertaking activities in consultation with and through WGs have created an increased host country ownership of and collaboration with the project,
- the participation of professionals in different regional/national level workshops is not only instrumental in promoting the overall objective/mission/vision of NBI/NTEAP but also an ideal impetus towards ensuring the realization of the appropriate avenues for sustainability of project's activities,
- the immediate engagement in and support to the national level activities, which are more focused at demonstrative type actions on ground, is hoped will increase sense of national level ownership by the Governmental partners.

5. Procurements

Reflect status of procurement and attach inventory report on items received.

- The NPC has managed to procurement of stationary costing Birr 6,210.00 as authorized on June 1, 2005 and a safe box costing Birr 2,127.50 as authorized on May 19, 2005. Moreover, the NPC has produced/procured and distribution of 800 eco-bags, 500 caps, 500 T-Shirts and 3000 Amharic leaflets (NBI/NTEAP/EE&A) with a total cost of \$5,044.00 USD under the EE&A component.
- Inventory report on items procured/received is attached.

6. Plans Ahead

The FY 2006 national plan is prepared separately based on activities carried over from 2005 plan, national eligible projects, microgrants activities. Regional activities to be implemented at national level need are prepared as guided by respective lead specialist.