

Nile Basin Initiative

Nile Transboundary Environmental action Project



JANUARY –DECEMBER 2008

EGYPT

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBO	Community Based Organisation
CBSI	Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement
CDA	Community Development Association
EEA	Environmental Education and Awareness
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LMGC	Local Micro Grants Coordinator
MG	Microgrants
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NEP	National eligible project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMGC	National Micro grants coordinator
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NRAK	Nile River Awareness Kit
NTEAP	Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project
NWS	Nile Water Sector- Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
PMU	Project Management Unit
RPM	Regional Project Manager
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WG	Working Group
WQ	Water Quality

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Project Background

The project has been on the ground since July 2004. Its main stakeholders have been the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and the Nile Water Sector in the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. Other partners were the Ministry of Education and its schools, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Higher Education, other sectors and departments in the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation as well as NGOs.

1.2 Report Background

This report covers the project implementation at the national level during the period January-December 2008. It highlights the achievements and outputs per component as well as the constraints, recommendations and lessons learned during the period.

2 PROJECT CONTEXT AS IT AFFECTED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

2.1. EXTERNAL CONTEXT

Apart from delays in receiving of funds through the ATP PMU, there have been no external conditions of significant impact on the project.

It is to be mentioned that the loss of one of the WQ WG members in early November has been very tragic and demoralizing.

2.2. INTERNAL CONTEXT

The increased complications and requirements for payment requests has significantly increased the work load. Delays in issuance of Pos by the PMU has also delayed many activities, necessitating the postponement of some of them to early 2009.

The need for Arabic translation of the material to be used in workshops and trainings has delayed some trainings.

Actual Results

During this period, the following was achieved:

Outcome 1: Strengthened Institutions for Regional Cooperation:

- Participation in NTEAP 5TH PSC in Tanzania
- Linkages with other NBI projects strengthened through participation in NBI national coordination meeting
- NTEAP results –based monitoring regional training hosted
- Participation in National workshop on Climate Change Adaptations
- 2 NEPS initiated and implementation started
- Participatory Monitoring visit organized
- Preparations for Nile Day initiated in cooperation with NBI national Office and other NBI projects
- Participation in Entro regional training on Conflict management, environmental management and result Based Monitoring
- Participation in Nile Development Forum in Khartoum in the period 17-19 November
- Finalized the Macro-sectoral Policies study

Outcome 2:

- Attended the 3rd. regional NTEAP staff retreat in Mwanza (27-28 January,2008)
- Final report of the MG evaluation for 10 MG projects has been completed & submitted to the PMU after covering comments.
- Some of the MG handicraft products has been presented in the regional exhibition during the PSC meeting in Mwanza / Tanzania (Jan.2008).
- Coordinated with AOYE (NBD) to Evaluate 5 MG projects as one of the NBI / NBD engagement activities.
- Attended the 2nd. NBI national office coordination meeting for all NBI project , meeting was taken place in 2 days in Cairo (24-25 March,2008).
- Assisted NPC to carry out NTEAP survey questionnaires (for the MG component & stakeholders)
- MG auditing has been carried out for 8 MG projects in Aswan & Qena (18 – 22 May,2008)
- Carried out a consultative meeting for the cross-boarder projects attended by 2 CDAs from Aswan / Egypt and one CDA from Wadi Halfa/Sudan as well as the NMGC of Sudan and one member from the MG NSC in Sudan.
- Attended the regional TOT workshop for women NGOs (Cairo,5-8 June,2008).
- 3 new projects have been approved , one is a cross-boarder , and other is supporting a regional women NGOs network and the third is an in-country MG project.
- Attend workshop has been organized by the NBD/NDF , workshop was organized by the AOYE and hosted by Qena local Discourse Forum (30th. July,2008)
- Carried out a national women NGOs workshop next 5-7 Oct. 2008 in Aswan for 20 participants
- From 1st. January 2008 Up to end of Nov.,2008, a total amount of 125,526 US\$ has been transferred to the assignment CDAs

Outcome 3:

- School Awards facilitated
- National WG workshop facilitated
- Nile week undertaken in Aswan , Menia and Fayoum.
- Awareness materials developed for use in Nile Week
- University Module translated into Arabic and disseminated to 24 Universities nationwide
- 2 new school projects proposals developed
- Teachers TOT undertaken
- Process for developing a documentary to feature NTEAP work in Egypt as part of rejuvenating the media network started

Outcome 4: enhanced capacity for conservation and management of wetlands and biodiversity

- Regional Working Group member replaced
- national working group established
- 2 candidates nominated for international training in Kenya in August 2008
- Experts identified and Group of Experts formed for baseline study
- Baseline study draft produced
- Wetlands strategy discussed by National working group
- Process for declaration of Saloga and Gazal protectorate as a Ramsar site initiated

Outcome 5: Increased capacity and awareness on Water Quality Monitoring in the NB countries**Outputs:**

- 2 Participants trained on water quality monitoring regionally
- Egyptian WG member used as resource person in the regional training
- 1 person nominated for biological monitoring

- Followed-up on the requirements for the operationalization of the transboundary monitoring stations

Outputs & Activities	Performance Indicators and Targets	Planned achievements	Actual Achievements	Variance and steering measures
Outcome 1.1 Institutions strengthened to facilitate regional collaboration	1. Water quality monitoring data exchange agreement to be annexed to the NBI information sharing protocol formulated and approved by the WQM WG. 2. Recommendations on environmental functions of the NBI permanent institution formulated and submitted for approval.			
Output 1.1.1 National coordination office established and managed	National office established & functioning	national office established & functioning	national office established & functioning	
Output 1.1.2 Knowledge management and communication tools produced	1. Quarterly newspapers published in Arabic and English 2. IT infrastructure at the national office established and functioning.	1 issue published in English and Arabic. Attempts to raise funds for the .Arabic version of the NRAK initiated	1 issue of the newsletter published in Arabic and English Fundraising efforts to guarantee funds for production of the Arabic version of NRAK CD ROM initiated Contributions to NTEAP newsletters	

Outputs & Activities	Performance Indicators and Targets	Planned achievements	Actual Achievements	Variance and steering measures
			made on a regular basis Arabic version of newsletter disseminated nationally	
Output 1.1.5. Transboundary studies of macro & sector policies & environment completed	Initiation of study as per the recommendations of the regional planning workshop	Identify participants and mode of implementation of desk studies	Study completed in Egypt	
Output 1.1.6. M&E system in place	Monthly, quarterly, semi annual, annual, field visits , surveys and review reports produced and disseminated to respective partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly quarterly, semi annual reports produced • MTR report disseminated nationally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly quarterly, semi annual reports produced • 	
Activity 1.5.5 Compile best Practices into a report	1 national Best Practices report produced	Undertake national best practices consultative meeting Produce report of best practices selected nationally	4 best practices documented in Egypt	
Outcome 1.2 Environmental education improved and public awareness				

Outputs & Activities	Performance Indicators and Targets	Planned achievements	Actual Achievements	Variance and steering measures
enhanced				
Output 1.2.1 Public awareness on Nile environmental threats enhanced in NB countries	4.Awareness raised about one Environment threat	Preparations for World Environment day celebrations initiated development of awareness materials carried out	World Environment week celebrations undertaken as planned development of awareness materials carried out Awareness raised on at least 1 threat.	The celebration was conducted in July to avoid clashes with end- of year exams in Egypt
Output 1.2.2. Networks of secondary schools for projects based learning established and functioning in NB countries	1 Environmental modules developed and offered to teachers in 10 countries 2.school projects implemented in at least 2 school	Initiate 1 school project	Ideas for projects discussed 2 new project proposals developed	
Output 1.2.3. Networking established among universities and other research institutions	1. Course developed approved by EE lecturers' Network members	Consultant hired to develop a course and teaching materials	Consultant was hired by PMU. The module translated and disseminated to 24 universities nationwide	Workshop was cancelled due to very week expression of interest received from universities

Outputs & Activities	Performance Indicators and Targets	Planned achievements	Actual Achievements	Variance and steering measures
Outcome 2.1 Improved capacity of the communities of the Nile Basin to demonstrate viable approaches to land , forest , and water management	3 pilots identified for up scaling and 10 identified for replication during the project lifetime	No projects are yet identified for up scaling nor for replication	To have one project identified for up scaling and three for replication.	
Output 2.1.1 TB Micro-grant program established in 9 NB countries	\$ 5.2 Million in grants disbursed in 9 countries	\$1.5 Million worth of grants disbursed in all countries	To disburse a total of \$2.6 Million in all 9 countries	
Output 2.1.2 Soil erosion microgrants studies completed	At least 3 soil erosion mitigation MG documented as best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 20 projects addressing land degradation issues are under implementation with five addressing soil erosion related issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have ten soil erosion mitigation projects approved. Identification of best practices among projects being implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Output 2.1.3 regional & national workshops in	8 regional & 50 national CB workshops conducted	Five regional workshops and 32 national and local workshops were conducted in all the	To have one regional workshop and ten national workshops.	

Outputs & Activities	Performance Indicators and Targets	Planned achievements	Actual Achievements	Variance and steering measures
technical and organizational skills conducted in 9 countries		nine countries		
Outcome 2.2 Enhanced capacity for conservation and management of wetlands and their biodiversity				
Output 2.2.1 Wetlands network established	A regional working group established	Regional WG members nominated Participants participating in regional inauguration of WG	1. Regional WG member replaced New WG member oriented on work done & needed	
Output 2.2.2. Wetlands training programs developed according to needs	X number of training programs developed for the Working groups, experts and communities	Train experts on the material developed by the PMU	4 officers trained regionally	
Output 2.2.4 Pilot initiatives in support of capacity building	3 identified sites for rapid assessment and development of management plans	To identify site and interventions to be undertaken		

Outputs & Activities	Performance Indicators and Targets	Planned achievements	Actual Achievements	Variance and steering measures
and management completed				
Output 2.3.2 Awareness on WQ issues increased in NBC at all levels	Awareness materials produced & disseminated and 2 national workshops for awareness raising conducted in each NBC	Initiate the process of WQ Awareness materials development	Awareness material developed for use in Nile week	
Output 2.3.4 Water quality monitoring pilot sites selected	44 TB sampling stations selected and agreed upon by WQWG members	Regular sampling and testing from the TB sampling stations of Egypt initiated	Not yet	WB mission concluded the infeasibility of starting the sampling at this stage

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Some institutional arrangements are in place at the national level to help in the implementation. These include:

The Project Focal Point in EEAA.

A focal point has been nominated by EEAA to help coordinate activities within the organization and latter on ensure sustainability after NTEAP ends.

The National Steering Committee for National Eligible Projects. A committee composed of the NPC, the LMGC and EEAA chief executive officer (the NTEAP Project Steering committee member) has been formed to look into and approve national eligible projects.

- The Local Steering Committee for the Micro grants (LSC)

This LSC consists of 8 member (2 members of the GEF/SGP NSC – Head of EEAA regional Branch Office of Upper Egypt – Head of Aswan Environmental Management Unit – Head of Aswan Social affaires directorate – Head of Aswan NGOs regional Federation – head of Aswan Environmental Union Federation – General coordinator of Egyptian Swiss Development Fund in Aswan as a funding agency. The main responsibilities of the LSC is to review project proposals submitted to the MG program to ensure that they meet NTEAP MG eligible & selection criteria – provide the needed technical support to applied CDAs – ensure that the project proposals that will be submitted to the NSC comply with the MGP criteria, in addition to assisting the MG program in the monitoring & follow up implementing of MG projects.

National Steering Committee (NSC) for Micro Grants. This committee of the MG program is the same NSC of GEF/SGP which was functioned effective from 1992. It consists of 18 members representing Academic institutions – Governmental & non-Governmental departments – UNDP – Donors – technical experts. The main role of the committee is to give the final approval for the MG projects to be funded, in addition to provide technical assistance to the funded CDAs through regular monitoring visits to the project sites.

The National Working Group for Environmental Education and Awareness. A national working group composed of representatives of organizations working in EE&A has been formed to steer the activities of the component. It is comprised of members from EEAA, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Irrigation and NGOs

In addition to the above, other management issues for the MG include:

- Involving social affaires departments at Governorate – district – village level in all of our process (approvals – transfer MG disbursements – keeping records – follow up from social affaires on the CDAs procedures).
- As the irrigation departments in both Governorates (Aswan & Qena) are very supportive, the CDAs used their engineers to help during design of project proposals (in covering the technical issues).

- Regular support has been provided from both NMGC & NPC that reflect positively on the performance of the MG program in Egypt..

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During the monitoring visit



MG workshop 5-8 June 2008, Cairo



Auditing in progress



Play in Nile Week in Menia



Groups at work in Nile Week in Aswan

5. PROJECT EXPENDITURES

a) NPC office

Component	Activity	Authorization				Petty Cash Disbursement in US\$
		Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$	
EEA	Refereeing School Awards work			603	549	
WB	National WG meeting			580	419	
WB	National WG meeting				STILL UNDER CALCULATION	
WB	Baseline study meeting				STILL UNDER CALCULATION	
EEA	Teachers TOT				STILL UNDER CALCULATION	
EEAA	Nile Week				STILL UNDER CALCULATION	
EE&A	National WG WORKSGOP			1642	STILL UNDER CALCULATION	

B) MG OFFICE

Semi-Annual Financial Report (January – Nov., 2008)

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants	- March,2008 (4 th . & final payment for EL Shiekh Essa CDA)	- April,2008.	2,094	2,094
	- April,2008 (3 rd . payment for Gezeret Aswan Bahary CDA)	- June,2008	4,430	4,430
	- May,2008 (4 th . & final payment for EL Mahrousa CDA)	- June,2008	1,548	1,548
	- March,2008(4 th . & final payment for Nage EL Amiea Women CDA)	- June,2008	174	174
	- June,2008 (4 th . & final payment for Awlad Amro CDA)	- April,2008	998	998
	- Jan. 2008(3 rd . payment for Dakadek CDA)	- Jan.2008	3,750	3,750
	- March,2008 (3 rd . payment for EL Edwa CDA)	- April,2008	2,488	2,488
	- Jan.2008(3 rd . payment for Qena EUF)	- Jan.2008	7,500	7,500
	- May,2008(3 rd . payment for Wadi abady CDA)	- Nov.,2008	5,000	5,000
	- Feb.2008(3 rd . payment for Nage EL Awary CDA)	- March,2008	1,500	1,500
	- April,2008(3 rd . payment for EL Monera EL Hadesa CDA)	- June,2008	1,500	1,500
	- March,2008 (3 rd . payment for EL Shabat EL Moslemat in Naqada)	- April,2008	1,500	1,500
	- Jan. 2008 (3 rd . payment for Dandara CDA)	- Jan.,2008	1,500	1,500
	- May,2008(3 rd . & final payment for Abu Bakr EL Sedek CDA)			
	- Jan.2008 (3 rd . payment for Kofor Komombo CDA)			

	- Jan.2008(3 rd Payment for Maneha CDA)	- June,2008	2,500	2,500
	- April,2008(2 nd . payment for Abasiea CDA)	- Jan.,2008	1,500	1,500
	- Jan.2008 (2 nd . payment for Gharb Sohail Qebly CDA)	- Feb.,2008	1,500	1,500
	- March,2008(3 rd . payment for Gharb Sohail Qebly CDA)	- June,2008	10,000	10,000
	- Nov.,2008 (4 th . payment for EL Edwa CDA)	- Jan.2008	8,300	8,300
	- Nov.2008(4 th . payment for Qena EUF)	- April,2008	1,245	1,245
	- Oct.,2008(4 th . payment for EL Monera EL Hadesa CDA)	- Nov.2008	1,244	1,244
	- Oct. 2008 (4 th . payment for Dandara CDA)	- Nov.2008	2,500	2,500
	- Nov.,2008(3 rd . payment for Abasiea CDA)	- Nov.2008	1,000	1,000
	- Oct.2008(2 nd . Payment for Garf Hussien CDA)	- Nov.2008	1,000	1,000
	- Nov.2008(2 nd . Payment for Youth association for Development & Environment – Beni Suief)	- Nov.2008	1,500	1,500
	- EL Mostakbal Association for Development & Env. Protection in Kom EL Amir / Edfu – Aswan	- Nov.2008	11,250	11,250
		- Nov.2008	2,000	2,000
		- Nov.2008	11,250	11,250
Disbursement on COB	- April,2008 (12 th . Payment)	- May,2008	3,911	3,911
	- July,2008 (13 th . Payment)	- July,2008	3,729	3,729
Other	-	-	-	-

authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)				
Total				

* Exchange rate: 1US\$ = 5.30 Egyptian Pounds

6. CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

It has been noticed that there has been considerable complications introduced to the fund request and transfer processes, causing strong delays and increases in workloads. There has been considerable delays in issuance of PO in the NTEAP PMU and then receipt of funds from the ATP PMU.

There has been considerable increases in prices of raw materials. In addition, the US\$ exchange rate decreased the transferred payments thus by the end of each implemented MG project , the total transferred amount will less than the approved local currency budget.

The language issue remains to be an obstacle where EE&A activities are to be implemented or when awareness materials are to be disseminated to the public.

The very busy time schedules of our partners- especially working group members- remains to be an impeding element in the implementation of activities.

The low level of understanding among CDAs / NGOs regarding to the concept of transboundary benefits has been impeding. To overcome this, the LMGC takes the chances of all events which he attends to orient people on the benefits of transboundary sharing benefits , and we and & all NB countries will benefit.

- Delays of receipt of payments to MG proponents has caused delays.
- The repetition in ideas of submitted project proposals as the CDAs submitted proposals to solve the problems faced by the communities- which ain most cases the same everywhere in Aswan and Qena. The LSC tried to select innovative and integrated ideas.
- Limited funding of the MG fund, while some Environmental problems need more than US\$ 25,000 as a MG contribution. This forces the CDAs to deal with part of the problem. It is recommend increasing the maximum of the MG size to US\$ 50,000.
- Long distance between Aswan & Cairo makes the time to get the final approval for MG projects too long (especially we have LSC in Aswan & NSC in Cairo), where a lot of time is wasted in logistical arrangements.

- Project proposals are delivered to the MG program in the National language (Arabic) ,so we need to translate the project documents to English, then translate English documents into Arabic again (to be understood by the CDAs members. In addition , there is a very high load of work for monitoring activities for on-going projects.

7. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Perhaps it would be time worthy if a mission is fielded to the 9 countries to see where each country has delays in its fund transfer mechanism.

A way to over come the busy schedules of our senior partners might be to assign less senior persons to be members of the WGs.

It is recommended to hire a new Secretary/translator or program assistant member to facilitate the LMGC in technical & Administrative issues.

It is also advisable to establish a simple system for transfer disbursements to CDAs to save time.

Finally, loading the Arabic version of NTEAP information's on the Nile basin website is recommended as only English & French have been downloaded.