

## **Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP)**

### **Regional Microgrants Workshop – Khartoum, Sudan – December 6-9, 2004**

#### **Report on Workshop**

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#### **Introduction**

A regional Microgrants workshop was held in Khartoum, Sudan, December 6-9, 2004. This workshop brought together for the first time many of the of the NTEAP Microgrants team members, together with the NTEAP Regional Project Manager and Lead Specialists.

This report summarizes the workshop goals, objectives, assignments for group discussions, and recommendations. The itinerary and list of participants are documented separately.

Evaluations completed by the participants before leaving on the last day confirmed that the workshop had successfully achieved its main objectives. The workshop laid the foundations for the preparation of a Regional Microgrants Strategy that was adopted formally by the NTEAP in January 2005.

#### **Overall Goals**

1. To contribute to building a common sense of purpose and the foundations for productive cooperation among the Microgrants team and its partners
2. To review the steps needed to operationalize Microgrants
3. To increase familiarity with the purpose and content of the Microgrants Operational Manual
4. To contribute to the formulation of the Nile Transboundary Microgrants Strategy and to plan the preparation of National Microgrants Action Plans
5. To address any other concerns and issues raised by the participants

#### **Specific Objectives**

1. To contribute to building a common sense of purpose and the foundations for productive cooperation among the Microgrants operational team: the NTEAP Project

Management Unit, the key national NTEAP staff and partners, the GEF Small Grants Programme partners and UNOPS staff.

2. To build awareness and understanding among the Microgrants team of the:
  - NTEAP Micro Grants Component in the context of the NTEAP and the NBI
  - GEF Small Grants Programme as a key partner of the NTEAP Microgrants Component
  - UNOPS Small Grants Cluster's role and responsibilities within the NTEAP
3. To build appreciation of the lessons applicable to the NTEAP Microgrants Component from the philosophy, approach and experiences of the GEF Small Grants Programme, including the COMPACT initiative
4. To explore potential synergies between the NTEAP Microgrants Component and the other NTEAP components
5. To increase familiarity with and appreciation of the purpose and content of the Microgrants Operational Manual
6. To review the role of host NGOs within the Microgrants Component.
7. To review the steps needed to operationalize the Microgrants Component
8. To contribute to the formulation of the initial Nile Transboundary Microgrants Strategy, including a review of :
  - Strategic priorities
  - The definition of 'transboundary' Microgrant projects
  - The identification and planning process for transboundary Microgrant projects
  - The measurement and sustainability of impacts
  - The roles and responsibilities of the Microgrants team members
9. To plan the preparation of National Microgrants Action Plans
10. To address any other concerns and issues raised by the participants

### **Working Group Assignments (1)**

1. Please give your suggestions for improving the draft outline of the Nile Transboundary Microgrants Strategy? Please include bullet points for key issues that you would like the Strategy to address.
2. What do you consider the most promising areas (or sectors or themes) for transboundary cooperation involving two or more countries supported by Nile Microgrants?

3. How can these ideas be developed and operationalized as viable projects? What resources or other forms of support should be provided?

### **Working Group Assignments (2)**

1. Please make suggestions for (a) the content, or (b) preparation process for the National Transboundary Microgrants Program Action Plans that are not already covered on pages 11-12 and 56-57 of the Microgrants Operational Manual.
2. Identify any issues for further discussion related to the preparation of the National Transboundary Microgrants Program Action Plans.
3. What steps are needed to begin the process of identifying and operationalizing multi-country transboundary (including cross-border) Microgrant projects? Who should do what to get this started? [Some groups started to respond to this question in the earlier working groups; this time please try to develop more detailed suggestions].

### **Recommendations**

1. Consideration should be given to translating National Microgrant Strategies (or simplified versions) into local languages. Consideration should also be given to translating Memoranda of Understanding with grantees into local languages.
2. The Regional Microgrants Strategy should reflect the suggestions of the workshop participants.
3. National Microgrant Action Plans should be prepared by April 1, 2005.
4. Microgrant-supported projects should include community contributions in cash or kind.
5. All Microgrant-supported projects should mainstream gender concerns. At least 10% of Microgrant funding should go to women's CBOs or NGOs. National Steering Committee's can increase this percentage.
6. Geographic clusters of Microgrants should be reviewed on a country to country basis.
7. Three types of Microgrant projects are recognized (*all* must address transboundary issues):
  - Single Country (Type I)
  - Two or More Countries – Cross-border (Type II)
  - Two or more countries – not Cross-border (Type III)

Type I should be the initial emphasis of non-SGP countries while they gain experience. Over time, these countries should move towards having 50% of their portfolios as Types II or III.

Countries should pay particular attention to exploring the possibility of Type III projects involving the other NTEAP components, i.e., Environmental Education and Water Quality.

	<b>Common transboundary issues</b>	<b>Crossborder / Transfrontier</b>
<b>Single country</b> <b>Maximum</b> <b>50%</b>	<b>Type 1</b> projects (like SGP)	
<b>Multiple country</b> <b>Minimum</b> <b>50%</b>	<b>Type 3</b> projects (lessons learned, exchange of experiences, jointly developing new technologies, twinning, transborder associations etc.)	<b>Type 2</b> projects (directly in border areas – with parallel or joint implementation)

8. The respective roles of NGOs and CBOs should be articulated clearly in National Microgrant Action Plans (e.g., direct implementers vs. intermediates).
9. There needs to be a strong emphasis on communicating results and impacts, i.e., “telling the stories” of project achievements in qualitative as well as quantitative terms.
10. Every effort should be made to bring all of the NTEAP countries into the Microgrants program by the end of 2005.