

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

ANNUAL REPORT

(Year 2008)

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NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

Initiative du Bassin du Nil

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Project Background

The Rwanda NTEAP activities have been under implementation since July 2005 and Microgrants component in November 2005. The project activities are mainly carried out in partnership with the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (Host institution for the NPC) and UNDP (host institution for the Microgrants Coordinator). Other key stakeholders include the Ministry of lands and environment (MINETERE) and Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), Ministry of energy (MINIRENA), Ministry of local governments (MINALOC) and other various local non-governmental organizations. The project has realized various achievements including establishment of NEPS, school projects and community based microgrant projects.

1.2 Report Background

The national annual report for Rwanda NBI-NTEAP for year 2008 covers all project activities carried out in Rwanda during the year (from January to November 08) including those planned to be carried out in the month of December 08.

2 PROJECT CONTEXT AS IT AFFECTED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

2.1. EXTERNAL CONTEXT

There have no significant external factors that affected the progress of the project expect some delays in the disbursements. Continual collaboration with the partner organisations and stakeholders including the working groups have enabled some the project be able to attain progress in some areas.

2.2. INTERNAL CONTEXT

The process of procurement and preparation of POs has been of some hindrance in carrying out project duties especially for car maintenance and fuel purchase.

3.0 RESULTS

During this period, the following results were achieved:

Output 1: Strengthened Institutions for Regional Cooperation:

The following activities were carried out under this output:

- Made a follow up on NEPs implementation
- Followed up on the Macro policies studies
- Followed up on the documentation of best practices consultancy.
- Participated in the staff retreat and PSC meeting.

- Reviewed the final draft of the environmental consultant that conducted the documentation of the best practices.
- Hosted and facilitated the international consultant preparing the Education for Sustainable Development strategy under the NEP to provide technical assistance to REMA.
- Reviewed and submitted the final draft of the media consultant report on the documentation of the best practices.
- Continued with the implementation of three national eligible projects namely: 1) Technical Assistance for Environmental Education Institutional Support and Outreach Unit – Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA); 2) Environment Protection and Energy Protection and Conservation through the construction of improved hearths, tree planting and digging of anti erosive ditches in the sectors of Nyagatare, Rukomo and Karangazi in Nyagatare District; and 3) Project for the promotion, protection, conservation and understanding of the environment in Kayonza District, Eastern Province.
- Conducted a study on the impact of macro policies on environment management. The study focused on the impacts of macro and sectoral policies on soil erosion and required policy interventions and reforms.
- Conducted national planning consultative meetings to establish national activities to be incorporated into planned project activities for 2008.
- Commemorated a Nile day in Nyamagabe districts with the collaboration of the ministry of Natural Resources and other NBI projects in Rwanda.
- Conducted a consultancy to prepare an Education for Sustainable Development strategy for Rwanda. The consultancy is part of the NEP to support and strengthen REMA in EE delivery. The consultant met with public and private sector officials and civil society organisation involved in environment management. An inception report was prepared and it showed preliminary finding of the baseline and needs assessment. The education unit in REMA was involved in the preparation of the logical framework and project implementation plan before the finalisation of the strategy.

Output 2: Community Level, land, forest and water conservation

The Community level land, forest and water conservation is intended to support community-driven interventions to address transboundary environmental threats on a local scale. It is under this component that microgrant activities operate, and the following are specific activities carried out during the year under the microgrants component:

- Preparation of 2008 workplan and budget was done and submitted to PMU
- Participated in the NTEAP retreat in Mwanza (27-28 January, 2008) and involved in planning for the sustainability of NTEAP activities after the closure of the project
- Participated in the Nile Day celebrations which were nationally held on 22/Feb/2008 at Kamegere in Nyamagabe district, Southern province. As part of the Nile Day celebrations, the LMGC was assigned by the Nile Day preparation committee, to hold a one hour radio interview on community based Nile transboundary environmental activities supported by the Microgrants program in Rwanda. The

Radio interview was successfully done on 21st February, 08 (from 18Hrs to 19Hrs local time) with a local popular radio the “Contact FM”

- Organized and conducted field visits for final monitoring of 8 projects due for close out and done in eight sites. The visit done by the LMGC took about two weeks beginning 10th March 08 to 28th March 2008. The microgrant projects visited for close out are those started in June 2006 and run by the grantees: RECOR, ADENYA, PELUM Rwanda, MGCU, RDO, AVODI, SOCAMAF and RISD. Field observation reports done by the LMGC and submitted to PMU.
- Six new microgrant proposals from NGOs were reviewed for submission to the NSC members. The NSC was convened on 18 April 2008 for review of the submitted proposals. One out of six proposals submitted was approved but other proposals were not found eligible for implementation.
- The audit team of two officers from Price Water House Coopers – Nairobi stated their audit of microgrant activities on 30th April and completed on 10 May, 2008. Seven microgrant projects were audited and field visits were done to those projects to check project implementation.
- Field visits were made to Burera to check a project site as par NSC recommendations and the findings were submitted to the 2nd part of the NSC meeting held on 30th May, 2008.
- Copies of the reviewed proposals were prepared and submitted to the NSC members for the 2nd part of NSC meeting held on 30th May, 2008. The 2nd part of NSC meeting was convened on 30th May 2008 for review of the submitted proposals. Two proposals were approved but subject to incorporation of the comments made by the NSC members.
- 8 projects were closed this year including those run by RHEPI, ASSEPAGEL, BAMBOREZE (Bamboo), CAE, SAFER RWANDA, PARVA, ASSODEI and ARAMA.
- A consultant to translate the women ToT document from English to French was recruited and the translation was done and training subsequently conducted using the translated English-French document.
- The training of 25 participants including 2 men and 23 women representatives of NGOs was successfully done from 28-31 October 2008. The NTEAP PSC member Dr. Rose Mukankomeje participated in both opening and closing ceremony of the women capacity building workshop. Two trainers (Agnes Mujawayezu and Christine Muhongerwa) were the two women from Rwanda who participated in the Cairo ToT workshop in June 2008.
- There was a visit to Rwanda by a World Bank official Ms Astrid and visited two microgrant project sites of ASOFERWA at Nyamata – Bugesera (Alternative energy project- closed) and at Jari, Gasabo district (AVODI- Integrated soil erosion control).

Output 3: Environmental Education and Public Awareness

- Followed up on school projects implementation.
- Followed up on school awards scheme
- Conducted the National Teachers training on e-learning.
- Followed up on school projects implementation.

- Prepared consultation meetings for the EE&A strategy consultant.
- Conducted the workshop to establish the National Environment Education forum. The workshop led to the formulation of an autonomous forum of environment NGOs with improving EE&A as one of its key objectives and functions. The forum has already acquired a legal status and is preparing the official launch and activity plan for 2009.
- Prepared and conducted consultation meetings for the EE&A strategy consultant with various partners – under the NEP to provide technical assistance to the host institution.
- Made preparation for the National environment week with the host institution.

OUTPUT No 4: Enhanced capacity for conservation and management of wetlands and biodiversity

Facilitated and hosted the wetlands and biodiversity and the water quality leads specialists mission in Rwanda. The mission included a field trip to L. Cyohoha south to establish activities that could be implemented in collaboration with the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Programme (NELSAP). The mission also visited the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit prior to the field visits.

Participated in inaugural regional wetlands and biodiversity working group workshop in which the following were accomplished:

- Prepared and made a presentation on the status of W&B management in Rwanda
- Prepared and made a presentation on proposed activities at national level

This was the case because the nominated working group members were not present and the NPC was the only participant from Rwanda.

Held meeting with a local NGO (ENVIROTECH) on the possibilities of joint activities in creating a wetland experts' forum that will be co-financed by Wetland International. This was an effort to involve the civil society in the campaign to demonstrate the importance of wetlands and biodiversity and to increase the role of the private sector in the environmental conservation.

Conducted the inaugural Wetlands & Biodiversity national working group meeting that involved several resources persons in the fields of biodiversity and wetlands management in the country. The working group was established in order to advise on the implementation of the component activities and to customise these initiatives for the Rwandan situation.

Facilitated and hosted the inception workshop on the L. Cyohoha studies. The participants included local administration officials; consultants; practitioners in W&B conservation from public and private institutions; and the NPC of Burundi. The workshop was the initial step to the socio economic and ecological studies to be conducted in the L. Cyohoha south sub basin.

This exercise was followed by the actual studies and later a stakeholder workshop to validate and review the studies' results. The stakeholder workshop was attended by members from both the Rwanda and Burundi side of the Cyohoha lake basin.

The participants included the lead specialists for the wetlands and biodiversity conservation and water quality monitoring components; local government officials in the sub-basin from Rwanda and Burundi; and members of the NWGs from both countries.

Output 5: Increased capacity and awareness on Water Quality Monitoring

- Conducted a National Water Quality Monitoring and Enforcement workshop. The workshop was attended by practitioners in the water sector.
- Procured water quality monitoring laboratory equipment for the National University of Rwanda laboratory. The equipment is used for water quality control and monitoring by the national working group members in the designated laboratory.
- In addition to the above equipment water quality monitoring kits were procured for local communities and schools.
- Conducted national consultancies; one on the development of training manuals and materials, and the other on the status of data management.
- Technicians from the national university of Rwanda laboratory trained in water quality and biological monitoring techniques.
- Printed and distributed four water quality monitoring manuals.
- Conducted a meeting for phasing out of the water quality monitoring component: The meeting was held on 30th, October 2008. There were 8 participants including the Lead specialist for water quality monitoring.

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The NTEAP project management is run in two parts. The National coordination unit based at REMA as a hosting institution and the microgrants office based at UNDP where it is coordinated. The project coordination went well up to October 2008 when the National Project Coordinator resigned and until now there has been no replacement. The Microgrants Coordinator is partly helping to coordinate the project while awaiting recruitment of the NPC.

As regards to the management of the Microgrants there have been no problems in the management and coordination of the project as projects were monitored according to plan and there has been a smooth collaboration between the GEF small grants program. However, there has been no memorandum of agreement signed between UNOPS and UNDP for UNDP to host the microgrants coordinator.

Fund disbursements went well almost throughout the year except in the last months (Septemebr, October and November) when we started to note mishaps. We hope in the following year there will be improvement in effecting disbursements.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

1) NATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR

ACTIVITY/Projects	BUDGET (US\$)	DISBURSEMENT (US\$)	BALANCE (US\$)
6 School Projects	12,000	12,000	0
Student Award	864	0	864
NEP 1	38,359	34,468	3,891
NEP 2	28,800	290	28,510
NEP 3	14,651	3,633	11,018
TOTAL	94,674	50,391	44,283

2) MICROGRANTS OFFICE

January 08

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants	11/12/2007	14/Dec/2007	58,883	58,883
Disbursement on COB	January, 2007	February, 2007	17,250	1,217
Other authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)	14 January, 2007	17 January, 2007	668	668
Sub-total 1			76,801	60,768

March, 08

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Disbursement on COB	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)	Nil	17.03.08	3,440	3,440
Sub-total 2			3,440	3,440

April, 08

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants	09/04/2008	15/April/2008	38,049	38,049
Disbursement on COB	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other authorizations	Nil	Nil	Nil	

(include activities not covered through COB)				
Sub-total 3			38,049	38,049

May, 08

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Disbursement on COB	May 19, 2008	May 19, 2008	666	666
Other authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Sub-Total 4			666	666

June, 08

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Disbursement on COB	June 6, 08	June 6, 08	3,573	3,573
Other authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)		29 May, 2008	1,286	1,286
Sub-total 5			5,159	5,159

Remarks: Disbursement on COB include the petty cash (US 300 and car tires and fuel USD 3,573); other authorizations include DSA for Cairo ToT workshop for three Rwanda participants

July 08

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants	July 10, 2008	July 28, 2008	12,431	12,431
Disbursement on COB	June 30, 08	July, 08	264	264
Other authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)				
Sub-total 6			12,695	12,695

August, 08

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants	Aug 08	Aug 08	12,331	12,331
Disbursement on COB				
Other authorizations				

(include activities not covered through COB)				
Sub-total 7			12,331	12,331

Sept, 08

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants	Sept 08	Sept 08	59,033	59,033
Disbursement on COB				
Other authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)				
Sub-total 8			59,033	59,033

Note: The Microgrant payment combines first tranche for OPEDSA and RECOR amounting to US\$ 24,752 and third tranche for 7 closed projects amounting to US\$ 34,281)

Oct, 08

Activity	Authorizations			
	Date of request	Date of receipt	Amount in US\$	Disbursement in US\$
Grants				
Disbursement on COB				
Other authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)	Oct 2008	Oct 2008	5,237	5,237
Sub-total 9			5,237	5,237

Note: Other authorization is the amount covering the women national workshop held from 28-31 October 2008 at Hilltop hotel, Kigali

DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY (2008)

Activity	Authorizations (US\$)	Disbursements (US\$)
GRANTS	180,727	180,727
COB	19,466	5,720
Other authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)	10,631	10,631
GRAND TOTAL	210,824	197,078

6. CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

- The challenges encountered is the assured plan of the institutions both at national and local level to maintain the started, on-going and closed projects.
- It is not clear yet how NTEAP will be hosted as REMA now has been absorbed in a newly formed Rwanda Development Board.
- The Microgrants Coordination office at UNDP is still doubtful as there has been no memorandum of agreement signed between UNOPS and UNDP.
- The long process of procurement and approval of payments has belatedly hampered implementation of activities. A smooth approach must be revised.

7. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The key lessons learned at the level of project coordination are drawn based on the status of the three National Environmental projects. In each project we assess the impact and anticipated sustainability.

NEP1: Environment Protection and Energy Protection and Conservation through the construction of improved hearths, tree planting and digging of anti erosive ditches in the sectors of Nyagatare, Rukomo and Karangazi in Nyagatare District **Impact:** The district is committed to closely following project implementation and it is anticipated that the project will contribute in improving the understanding of the management of environmental threats. **Sustainability:** The proponent will use the district youth council members to ensure that most of the trees planted survive and will continue disseminating information on the construction and use of improved stoves

NEP2. Technical Assistance for Environmental Education Institutional Support and Outreach Unit – Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)
Impact: The proposed activities if successfully realized will assist REMA in fulfilling its mandate in raising awareness of environmental issues throughout the country.
Sustainability: The project is divided into two phase. The first is the consultancy that will deliver the outputs described above; and the second phase which use REMA funds is the implementation of the training programmes, outreach activities and other recommendations after project completion.

NEP 3. Project for the promotion, protection, conservation and understanding of the environment in Kayonza District, Eastern Province

Impact: The project will facilitate the students to involve the local communities. The local communities will receive tree seedlings and adopt the practices on-going at the schools. **Sustainability:** It is anticipated that students will replicate some of the project activities in their homes and interest the rest of the community to plant trees and protect the environment in their homesteads.

Microgrants

About 87% of the microgrant projects have now been closed in Rwanda. It has been observed that even after closing of the projects the beneficiaries and other community members are continuing to carry over with the activities with support of the local government leaders as partly for environmental protection and income generation. This goes well with the sustainability plan of microgrant project.

8. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION EFFECTS

Assepapel (Cross border Project with Burundi) – Delivery of dairy cows through microgrant support as part of integrated soil erosion control



Burundi and Rwandans join together at cross-border microgrant activity



ASSEPAGEL facilitates delivery of dairy cows for integrated soil erosion control

PARVA (Burera District)



A microgrant modern bee keeping project run by PARVA



PARVA supports tree and napier grass planting across mount Muhabura for soil erosion control

RHEPI



RHEPI through microgrants demonstrates rain water harvesting at Kagitumba (cross-border project with Uganda)



RHEPI demonstrates drip water irrigation for sustainable agriculture and environmental protection

Women capacity building (Training of women NGOs)



Women training held at Hilltop hotel (28-31 October) in Kigali, Rwanda. NTEAP PSC member (centre) participated in both opening and closing of the workshop



PSC member after issuing certificates to the workshop participants

ANNEX

ASSETS INVENTORY

NPC Office Rwanda

The office furniture has been left in the NPC office provided by the host institution where there will be easily accessed by the next NPC. The smaller and easy to move office equipment will be submitted to the LMGC office awaiting further instruction from the PMU. Assets will be submitted to the LMGC basing on the following justifications which are still subject to the RPM's final decision:

- The LMGC has taken over the continuation of NTEAP activities and will in the end be responsible in the hand over of assets to the next NPC or at project closure
- The LMGC is the remaining NTEAP employee and is the logical custodian of NTEAP assets in Rwanda.
- Some of the equipment such as the GPS is shared between the NPC and LMGC.

Item Description	Make/model	Serial Number	Status of equipment
Executive Office Desk	160cm plus a drawer		Good
Executive Chair	High back leather chair		Good
Computer table			Good
2 Visitors chairs	Black Chairs with metallic arms		Good
3 Metallic shelves	Four level shelves		Good
2 Filing cabinets	RIGID - Metallic filing cabinets with 4 drawers		Good
Conference table	Four sitter table with four chairs		Good
Laptop including carrying case	Hp Compaq nc6120	CNU52619CX	Non functioning
Laptop including carrying case	Hp pavilion dv6700	CNF8085HJ7	Good
Flash disk	My FLASH - 1 GB		Good

Flash disk	TWIN Mos – 250 MB		Good
Telephone handset	Alcatel		Good
CDMA fixed wireless telephone	ZTE WP806A	6970F16F	Good
Printer HP	Hp PSC 1210	MY51HG31WQ	Good
Digital Camera	SONY Cybershot 7.2 mega pixels	2580652	Good
CDMA IX -EVDO wireless data card	ZTE MY39	69DCAD24	Good
GPS unit	GARMIN Legend CX		Good
Project vehicle	Toyota L/Cruiser	Engine No. 5L5517800 Chassis No. JTEBK29J700009333	Good

ii) PROJECT ASSETS – LMGC Office

Purchase Date	Tag number	Description	Make/model	Serial Number	Location	Status of equipment	Purchase Price RwF
2005	UN309RA	Vehicle	Toyota Pick-Up double cabin		UNDP-Kigali	Good	
28/Dec/2005	NBI/NTEAP-RW-001	1 Desk	Office desk 180 CM beech + Drawer and L Shape		UNDP-Kigali	Good	300,000
28/Dec/2005	NBI/NTEAP-RW-002	1 Chair	High back leather chair black on wheels		UNDP - Kigali	Good	260,000
28/Dec/2005	NBI/NTEAP-RW-003	6 visitors & conference table chairs	Chairs with metallic arms		UNDP-Kigali	Good	300,000
28/Dec/2005	NBI/NTEAP-RW-004	2 Filing cabinets	Filing four drawer grey		UNDP – Kigali	Good	360,000
28/Dec/2005	NBI/NTEAP-RW-005	1 Conference table	Round conference table beech		UNDP – Kigali	Good	250,000
6/Jan/2006	NBI/NTEAP-RW-006	1 Laptop Computer	Laptop Compaq nx6110	S/N CNU5191JXK	UNDP – Kigali	Good	1,175,000
6/Jan/2006	NBI/NTEAP-RW-007	1 Printer	All in one printer HP 2163	S/N SMY4C2G62F2	UNDP – Kigali	Good	300,000
5/April/2006	NBI/NTEAP-RW-008	1 Cabinet	High Glass cabinet		UNDP – Kigali	Good	285,000
3/April/2006	NBI/NTEAP-RW-009	1 Camera	Digital Camera (Sony – Cybershot 7.2 megapixels)	2629622 FC	UNDP – Kigali	Good	412,700
4/June/2006	NBI/NTEAP-RW-0010	1 Telephone set(FWT terminal)	Easy Call Handset WP 806	ESN 6970D656	UNDP - Kigali	Good	184,000

