

**Nile Basin Initiative
Nile Trans boundary Environmental Action Project**

**DRAFT PROCEDURES FOR WATER QUALITY
DAT SHARING**

Date Oct. 2007

NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

Initiative du Bassin du Nil

(DRAFT 0)

Proposed procedures for water Quality Data Sharing:

1. Definitions

Water Quality
Water quality data
Water quality monitoring
Water quality surveillance
Transboundary water quality monitoring

2. Preamble:

Agreeing that water quality data is of paramount importance in the management of rivers and lakes as they are recipients of inputs from activities in the river basin.

Agreeing that water quality determines the effective uses of the water for its different uses and demands

Cognizant that rivers and lakes are prone to pollution from activities upstream and even on the water body itself,

Acknowledging that transboundary water quality monitoring is the most effective way of monitoring a transboundary river, and

That transboundary water quality data collected from transboundary sampling stations is only useful if it can be safely stored and shared by member countries for overall decision making, for use in models and DSS systems to develop and describe different development scenarios;

Hereby agree as member countries of the NBI on procedures for data collection, storage, analysis, sharing and dissemination as outlined below:

3. Justification:

- Agreed 44 TB surface water stations
- Roadmap for global NB data and information sharing agreed on and endorsed by TAC members in meeting of June 2007 in Entebbe, Uganda, Minute-----
- Regional Water Quality Data-base template, established in NTEAP PMU, but has no data
- Some TBWQMS are functional national stations with long historical data sets and are operational
- WQ data needed together with discharge (flow) data in order to calculate mass loadings of pollutants

4. Procedure for data collection

Countries will use known and accepted standard methods of water sampling and testing; including the NBI WQ Operational Manuals that were derived and developed from

methods currently in use in the NB. The collected data shall be reported in the agreed reporting forms.

5. Procedures for data storage

Countries depending on their ability and capacity to generate data, will manage water quality and related data, according to reliable and acceptable practices, bearing in mind that WQ data at any one point in space and time is a snapshot that cannot be replicated.

6. Procedure for data retrieval and submission to NTEAP PMU

Countries will act and will remain the primary source and custodian of all the WQ data for the TB stations within their territory. However by this agreement, TB data from the TB stations will be submitted on a quarterly basis to the NTEAP PMU, for storage and use in the overall monitoring of the Nile River.

7. Procedure for data storage at PMU

Data will be stored in the NTEAP PMU data base. The PMU will set up a Data and Information management committee, which will review or the data requests made from users.

8. Procedure for data sharing with other riparian countries

By written request mainly for record purposes, TB WQ data will be shared by other Nile riparians. However such exclusive use of the data will have to be reviewed at the PMU before sharing

9. Procedures for data sharing with other data sites

Procedures for data sharing with other data sites will be worked out and will be subject to review from time to time

10. Procedures for data sharing with universities and research Institutions

This institutions if from within the basin will be referred to the countries for their data needs, except for a study which transboundary or basin-wide in nature. For universities outside the basin, and for consultants, specials rules will have to be drawn and as much as possible will be re-directed to the countries of data origin

11. Procedures for data sharing with the DSS unit of WRMP

The ultimate aim of water quality data collection is to pass it over to the DSS to be used for water quality regional management. These proposed draft rules and procedures of Water Quality Data sharing will therefore be annexed to the proposed NBI Data and Information protocol.

12. Data ownership and exclusivity

The NBI belongs to the Nile riparian countries. The data generated by the individual countries, although exclusively the property of the respective countries, ultimately, by agreement will belong to the NBI. However the exclusive use and sharing of the data generated by the countries will have to be strictly governed by these rules

13. Cost of data generation and fees for data use

Many countries charge a small data generation fees, as a form of sustaining water quality monitoring and data generation. Initially, countries will not be expected to sell data to NTEAP/NBI. However financial mechanisms of supporting countries to generate data will be explored and put in place for sustainability.

14. Roles and Responsibilities of the NBI, the DSS and the NB countries in Data management