



Nile Basin Initiative
**EASTERN NILE TECHNICAL
REGIONAL OFFICE**

Annual Report

July 2014 - June 2015



Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	I
Acronyms	II
Executive summary	III
1. Background.....	1
2. Context as it affected Project implementation.....	3
3. Actual Results	4
4. Sustainability of Results.....	38
5. Program Management	38
6. Program Expenditures.....	38
7. Major Challenges & Constraints and Mitigation strategies.....	39
8. Summary and conclusion: Way forward	40

Acronyms

ENCOM	-	Easten Nile Council of Ministers
ENSAP	-	Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program
ENSAPT	-	Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program Team
ENTRO	-	Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
ENWM	-	Eastern Nile Watershed Management
GEF	-	Global Environmental Facility
GRIWC	-	Gansu Research Institute for Water Conservancy
IEE	-	Initial Environmental Examination
IWMI	-	International Water Management Institute
IWRDMP	-	Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Plan
MCA	-	Multi Criteria Analsis
MSIOA	-	Multi Sector Investment Opportunity Analysis
NBDF	-	Nile Basin Development Fund
NBTF	-	Nile Basin Trust Fund
NCORE	-	Nile Cooperation for Results
NDSU	-	National Dam Safety Unit
PAD	-	Project Appraisal Document
PAR	-	Project Appraisal Report
PFMA	-	Potential Failure Mode Analysis
RISM	-	Review and Implementation Support Mission
RTWG	-	Regional Technical Working Group
SDCU	-	Social Development and Communication Unit
SSEA	-	Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment
WRPU	-	Water Resources Planning Unit

Executive summary

This Annual Report presents ENSAP achievements during the reporting period July 2014 through June 2015, along with challenges encountered and overcome. The Report concludes by highlighting implications of the results for the future of Eastern Nile cooperation, for its program -ENSAP and for its executive arm, ENTRO and the way forward.

External environment

To-date Egypt has still frozen participation both in ENSAP and NBI. Apart from reducing ENTRO's core, country-contribution-based funding, this is also potentially prejudicing the all-inclusive image of Eastern Nile cooperation and what otherwise is a positive atmosphere. Further, this reality has adversely impacted ENTRO's effort to solicit material-technical support, goodwill and encouragement from the development partner community and overall thrown obstacles at its resource mobilization efforts. Overall, besides creating unfavorable environment, this situation has also posed serious challenges as to how ENTRO should communicate the status of EN cooperation to the outside world.

Egypt, while bypassing the avenue of basin cooperation, seems nevertheless pursuit of achievement of its Nile interests through alternative non-ENSAP/NBI i.e. bilateral and trilateral cooperation mechanisms, particularly in Eastern Nile.

On the whole, the traditional development partner community, particularly those that support NBI thru a Trust Fund or similar mechanism, seems to adopt a wait-and-see stance, in the final analysis, awaiting how and where the CFA ratification process-hence the NBI, more so ENSAP- is ending ultimately. This stance seems also to be underscored with care not to completely abandon engagement, hence continuing support for selected areas which will not arouse too much objection or controversy.

The support extended to ENTRO from the World Bank Implementation Support Team has also made valuable contribution toward the flexible implementation of planned activities in an otherwise challenging EN hydro-political context.

Internal environment

The return of Sudan to ENSAP and the NBI family, and the renewed vigor with which it has been promoting EN cooperation, along with the newly admitted Republic of South Sudan, has rehabilitated ENSAP and ENTRO, which had suffered a lot from governance and guidance vacuum for nearly three years. The ordinary and Extraordinary ENSAPT/ENCOM Meetings that took place during the year, along with the helpful decisions and guidance (e.g. pertaining to ENTRO organizational structure; adoption of dam safety and watershed management field guidelines; EN watershed management investment) ; the nearly half a million dollar additional country contribution made by the three countries, including the pledge to share among themselves Egypt's arrears back this claim.

Teamwork that has been cultivated over the years, has enabled ENTRO to exploit its in-house expertise to the maximum possible thus minimizing consultancy hiring costs. The capacity building/training activities undertaken during the reporting period, and the content production of communication materials, for example, have been undertaken by ENTRO senior staff.

Activity summary

Training and capacity building: A major activity has been intensified technical capacity building and training of National Focal Points i.e. national staff in various domains of water resources planning, management and investment preparation. Over the reporting period 24 training/capacity building workshops and seminars took place in which 826 national staff took part.

Strengthening national focal institutions

Dam Safety Units have been established in each of the three member countries as well as Focal Points for safeguards (environment, social development). Three Internship programs have been conducted. These efforts have been complemented with targeted trainings in such key areas as: GIS and Remote Sensing; design of Bench Terracing and Integrated Watershed Investment planning; Dam safety and infrastructure monitoring; water resources modeling - along with Field Guides for Dam Safety (3 Volumes) and Watershed Management (1 consolidated Volume).

EN Governance Meeting facilitation, along with taking part in NBI coordination Meetings have contributed to the sustenance of a regional-basin wide orientation. EN Exchange Visit to China to bring back critical lessons of experience in rehabilitation of damaged watersheds can be included here.

Networking, Stakeholder Involvement

Serious effort has been undertaken to strengthen ENSAP partnership with and engage a diverse set of stakeholders. EN Media has been focused at in this effort; to the extent of providing them much appreciated hands-on training on how they could help the cooperation process. ENTRO's active participation in the organization of the 2014 NBDF is also a case in point, along with Water Diplomacy Workshop which engaged key stakeholders with vested interest in the outcome of EN cooperation. Research partnership with IFPRI, IWMI, and UNESO-IHE have also been either initiated or strengthened.

WR Investment Preparation

The preparation of BASMP is underway. Consultants, after AfDB support to rebid and expedite the procurement, have been on board and have undertaken the first reconnaissance field visit and will soon hold the Inception Report Review Meeting.

Four new watershed management investment projects have been prepared and submitted to the countries (Ethiopia: Chemoga and Finchaa watersheds, total 320,476 ha; Sudan: Upper Atbara Kerib land restoration and Water Harvesting Support Gash/Kassala watersheds, total 720,780 ha).

The Eastern Nile Multi-Sectoral Investment Opportunity Analysis Study's successive phases (Scoping; Situation Analysis; Investment Opportunity Analysis) along with their corresponding Review and Consultation Workshops have been completed. The Reports of each phase have been submitted. However, Egypt, as the largest EN water user, has not taken part in any part of this study, which posed serious challenges in terms of validating the findings. All the same, this is the first serious attempt to aggregate all water investment plans in the Eastern Nile and analyze - from a holistic, sub-basin, hydrologic unit perspective - these against water availability, factoring in Climate Change and generating alternative scenarios ultimately attempting to prioritize investments on selected criteria.

Communication

Effort has been made to increase visibility of ENTRO. Corporate, advocacy, internal and Program Communication products have been prepared in various formats and disseminated. ENTRO-prepared documentary and educational films alone have registered over 20,000 web hits so far. Over 1600 downloads of Watershed Management Field Guide in less than a month has amply demonstrated the value addition of the capacity building focus. Press Releases following and

preceding major events have been provided to the media. Program communication highlighting the value addition of each project has been prepared, including the Strategic Plan, Knowledge Exchange Field Visit Reports.

Results summary: Outcomes

Planned Outcome 1: Enhanced Image of ENSAP and NBI in Eastern Nile countries

There has been improved coverage of cooperative water resources development related issues in the EN media.

The building of positive image of ENSAP, however, is premised and dependant on how much and on how frequently audiences in Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan are exposed to well crafted messages and accurate information chronicling progress and success as well as challenges of realizing the Shared Vision on the ground.

As detailed in the Main Report, a significant number of traditional communication print products (>4200) as well as new media products (3 documentaries, one webinar, two event documentaries) have been produced and accessed. The uptake of our technical products is encouraging - number of hits (>20,000) on the internet, especially from the professional water resources community, has been high. A renewed effort has been made to take advantage of social media. When the consolidation of the web-portal and web-site – now in progress - is completed, ENTRO will be in even better position to upload its studies and documents and to increase accessibility.

Concerning exploitation of National Print Media outlets a two pronged approach has been applied. One is to provide training to Eastern Nile Media professionals on how to cover EN cooperative water resources issues. The other is to encourage them to access our websites and offices and seek information before they go for print and provide them, as needed, with press releases – and plan is underway to do periodic evaluative media monitoring; to prepare a web-based FAQ, and to strengthen the link between National Focal Points and their respective national media, for example, thru featuring a predetermined number of articles. For widely reaching out to the general, non-water-professional public, however, the most suitable media are the radio and TV, whose priorities may not necessarily be in sync with ours, but all the same need to be leveraged thru enhanced TV and radio programming that focus on transboundary issues – a task that can be best handled by National Focal Points, with support from ENTRO.

Another facet of increasing ENTRO's visibility has been the networking work undertaken and participation in various events (NBDF, New Nile Conference, UNESCO-IHE, GIZ –sponsored African River Basin Organizations Experience Sharing; Study Visit to Loess Plateau of China, Regional and National Nile Day Celebrations)

Planned Outcome 2: Increased ENSAP dialogue and partnership with government, civil society, local community, private sector and development partners

ENTRO had the opportunity to engage bilaterally the French, Netherlands, Norwegian and Swiss development agencies. EN Civil society, particularly the Media and NBDF have been engaged and took part in, for example, the Media Training and Water Diplomacy workshops. Local communities have been fully consulted and participated in the identification of interventions and provided valuable inputs into project design and organization during the preparation of the four Watershed investment projects in Ethiopia and Sudan. The private sector, it is primarily international consultants and their national counterparts in Ethiopia and Sudan (BRL for the MSIOA and BAS studies; and SMEC for the watershed management investment preparation, along with their national counterpart firms) that have been engaged. Other private sector firms – particularly those that are major consumers of Nile waters – have not been engaged, and remains an outstanding task. The African Development Bank, the World Bank, German Development Agency, GIZ, have provided invaluable support, while exploratory talks have been held with the EU. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with IWMI, UNESO-IHE and is in preparation with IFPRI. These links are important to partner with research institutions with interest in the Nile and to benefit from their outputs.

While these engagements have been helpful, overall, as mentioned in the External Context section, traditional development partners which used to back ENSAP both financially and technically seem to be less forthcoming. It would therefore be paramount for ENCOM Members to up and put ENSAP issues at the forefront of their bilateral dealings with our traditional development partners.

Planned Outcome 3: Stronger Eastern Nile Institutional architecture at national level to identify, prepare and implement cooperative development Projects

All the 24 trainings, workshops, seminars and knowledge exchange visits, enumerated in the Main Report one way or the other, have engaged National Focal Points and technical staff of the three countries. Targeted and on-demand capacity buildings had focused on South Sudan Focal Points. Trainings focused on aspects related to social and environmental safeguarding both upstream and

downstream the planning process (SSEA, EIA, Conflict Management, Communication, gender mainstreaming, etc.) and technical water resources management and development related (modeling, GAMS, GIS, Remote Sensing and overall project planning and implementation. Further, NFPs have been provided with equipment. National Coordinators for Environment, Social Development have been assigned, along with those to be members of RWG for BAS project. Dam Safety Units have also been established at each National Focal Point. Field Guidelines for Watershed Management, for Dam Safety have been provided and distributed to the National Focal Points. With these arrangements, it is believed that the National Focal Points are at a much better position to plan and implement cooperative water resources development projects – than at any time.

Planned Outcome 4: Stronger Eastern Nile Institutional architecture at regional level to identify, prepare and implement cooperative development Projects

Over the years ENSAP has been privileged to assemble the best water resources and water resources-related practitioners from the region and strengthen ENTRO both in terms of manpower and technical capacity. This has been adequately demonstrated through the various ENSAP knowledge products (e.g. Toolkits, models, data, information, simulations, Climate Change related strategies) and investment preparation related documents (e.g. Watershed CRA, Irrigation and Drainage CRA, Power Trade CRA, Dam Safety Documents, JMP related studies, etc.). ENTRO has also supported the internalization of the processes through building robust partnership with four core and 16 satellite EN universities through an internship program which trained over 70 young water resources professionals about a quarter of which are women. ENTRO has also catalogued and systematized its knowledge products (e.g. geo-referencing and creating DB) to make use and access easier in the future.

While these are well in place, attrition of expertise and loss of the invaluable tacit knowledge along with it, should be a major concern.

Maintaining a roster of ex-ENTRO technical staff, such as ex-Regional Project Coordinators, keeping them regularly informed and periodically engaged (e.g. through consultancies, guest speakers on ENSAP events, etc.) could be one approach to retain, or at least, be able to access the invaluable knowledge of these experts. Maintaining robust working partnership with EN Universities, such as by outsourcing trainings for which they have been prospected, such as for dam safety, needs to be considered.

Planned Outcome 5: Increased ENSAP Cooperative Investment Projects identified and Prepared for implementation

Identification and preparation of Cooperative Water Resources Investment Projects that confer win-win benefits for all member countries, and that can serve as the building block for regional integration in the long-run, is the core business of ENTRO.

Currently the only on-going investment preparation work is the Baro-Akobo-Sobat Multipurpose Study. The EN Watershed Management Project has identified- prepared four investment-ready projects (two each for Sudan and Ethiopia), along with community consultations. These need to be entered immediately into implementation, while the overall contextual factors that underlined the study are still valid. There is the need to avoid shelving studies in which too much has been invested. Resource mobilization for the implementation of these projects should be an immediate task. Similarly, the Multi-Sectoral Investment Opportunity Analysis has been concluded, albeit without the participation of Egypt. Here too, there is the need to take this further downstream, at least in the three countries which have validated the studies. This means, there is the need for countries to make choices and decide on two or three strategic cooperative water resources projects suggested in the MSIOA and embark on downstream preparation work, if ENTRO is to sustain momentum gained so far in project preparation work. This is a pivotal decision making arena.

Planned Outcome 6: Increased Integration of Social Development and Environment in ENSAP Projects

This has been accomplished in two arenas. One has been the focus on building-know how: increasing the awareness and technical capacity of both National Focal Institutions and ENSAP Project Coordinators in fundamentals of social development and environment management issues. This has been achieved through capacity building both in upstream project preparation work – such Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SSEA), Climate Change strategies (adaptation, mitigation, climate proofing) and downstream implementation (e.g. Environment Impact Assessment, Social Impact Assessment, gender mainstreaming, natural resource based conflict-management). The other has been building show-how: inputting social and environmental considerations and issues into the project identification and preparation work. Even with serious manpower shortage, social and environmental issues have been inputted into the MSIOA study, the EN Watershed Management Study, into the Dam Safety Studies and the BAS preparation, including forthcoming communication and stakeholder involvement strategies.

Social and environment issues will remain pertinent in so long as development is to take place, more so transboundary water resources development. It is envisaged that to demonstrate the full relevance of social and environment issues, the BAS region, along with Dinder-Alitash in Blue Nile, will play an important demonstration role in showcasing the complimentary dimensions of biodiversity conservation, biosphere maintenance, ecosystems for economic development (e.g. eco-tourism) and Climate Change adaptation.

Summary and conclusion: Way forward

The raison d'être for ETRO's existence, i.e. its core business, is identification and preparation of cooperative water resources investment projects thru facilitating dialogue, confidence building and bridging gaps in water resources knowledge and expertise among countries. In short, it is investment preparation thru building a regional institution that is both technically and managerially competent.

The start has been very promising. Thru the first IDEN project, countries were enthusiastically collaborating, identifying and jointly preparing projects that confer benefits to each country, though small scale in size. Thus the EN Watershed Management Project, the EN Irrigation and Drainage Project; the EN Planning Model Project; The Flood Protection and Early Warning Project, the Ethiopia-Sudan Transmission Interconnection Project – all of them prepared cooperatively thru the participation of experts from the countries – delivered benefits i.e. investment projects (irrigation schemes, watershed management projects, transmission interconnection, etc.) and a suite of studies (Cooperative Regional Assessments in the Watershed, Irrigation and Power Trade sectors, some including pre-feasibility studies) and attendant knowledge products.

The results were so inspiring that confidence – both among EN countries and among development partners, particularly the World Bank – grew so much that it was decided to move from single-country, single-sector, small scale projects of the IDEN type, toward multi-country, multi-sector, large scale and transformational nature that would lay the cornerstone for regional integration. This briefly was how the first JMP-the Joint Multipurpose Project – was conceived and launched in 2006.

When Sudan and Egypt froze of participation in all NBI/ ENSAP activities in June 2010 – for reasons that had little to do with the JMP and more to do with the CFA - the hoped for breakthrough via JMP was frustrated. ENSAP/ENTRO then strove to move forward with the studies, but was insufficient

to solicit the required spirit of cooperation and lost momentum, though after thousands of dollars expended some useful study outputs were produced at the end of the JMP Identification studies.

During the freeze ENSAP/ENTRO was facing existential threat and had to be sustained thru a life-support system, thanks to the World Bank managed NBTF and NCORE. Indeed, with the return of Sudan to the NBI/ENSAP and the admission of South Sudan, ENSAP/ENTRO has witnessed reinvigoration. Nevertheless, Egypt is still playing a not constructive role, in that it is frustrating ENTRO's resource mobilization efforts and working toward bypassing and sidelining ENSAP/ENTRO in matters that pertain to the cooperative management and development of Eastern Nile water resources. No wonder, therefore, development partners refocus attention to NELSAP, where such hydropolitical complexities and conflicts do not exist or are minimal, and countries in any case, are vested in getting things done – i.e. identifying, preparing, implementing cooperative water resources projects.

Given this backdrop, we need to ask “Whither ENSAP” vis-à-vis its 2014-2019 strategic plan?! How can we reinvigorate ENSAP/ENTRO vis-à-vis its core mission of delivering water resources investments?!

Despite reinvigorated governance support BAS is the only investment related ENSAP study at present. Dam safety funding has come to an end, with the closure of ENCORE. So, also is the EN Watershed Management as GEF funding phases out. These two critical water infrastructure and natural resource management activities are under threat of closure.

As it stands, if planned staff hiring is implemented, there should be sufficient project preparation work to warrant that, at least in the short-run. At the same time, the attrition of senior staff is a concern in view of carrying through the adopted strategic plan. All of the foregoing circumstances require ENTRO to reconfigure its activities and prioritize and recalibrate its focus areas.

To reconcile the foregoing, sometimes conflicting demands of managing ENSAP (e.g. hiring new staff to fill vacant positions accompanied by attrition of experienced staff), it is suggested that for the short-run, until sufficient projects are at hand ready for preparation work, the Environment Specialist, the Resource Mobilization specialist hiring could be suspended, while Communication is sustained with the current junior staff as well as the water resources planner positions be sustained with the current junior Water resources planner. When and if needed, ENTRO can seek support from Nile-Sec and/or NELSAP staff in these areas.

In order to speed up and embark on effective resource mobilization, it is recommended that ENSAP focus on those areas which are current on the global development agenda; can solicit wider support and buy-in from the development partner community and others; and in any case cannot arouse any reasonable or acceptable opposition, even from those that oppose NBI/ENSAP. These areas include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Adaptation, mitigation related
- Nature conservation, biodiversity, biosphere conservation related
- Natural Resource conservation-cum-economic development, such as eco-tourism promotion related
- Water resources management related data generation (e.g. sediment monitoring; hydro-meteorological data generation, etc.)

1

Background

Program Standard Data	
Program Name	Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP)
Ongoing Projects	Eastern Nile Watershed Management (ENWM), Nile Cooperation for Results (NCORE), and Baro - Akobo - Sobat Multi-Purpose Water Resources Development Study (BASMP)
Program Partners:	Owners: The Governments of Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan Development Partners: GEF-WB, SDC, AfDB (African Water Facility, NEPAD -IPPF), NBTf (EU, CIDA, Finland, France, Norway, Germany, WB) Key Stakeholders: Communities in the EN Basin, Relevant government agencies, International Organizations, NGOs, Civil society, private sector, universities, media and others.
Program Duration	Continuous, however individual projects with varying start and closing dates (two to three-years duration on average)
Total Current Year Program Budget	July 2014 to June 2015 is USD 6.5 million
Program Goal and Objectives	
Program Goal	To develop the water resources of the Eastern Nile in sustainable and equitable way to contribute to poverty reduction and to ensure prosperity, security and peace for its entire people.
Program Objectives	Poverty reduction, Reversal of environmental degradation Promotion of economic growth, Increased regional cooperation and integration Enhanced regional peace and security

Key Milestones in the reporting period

- NBTF closed as of 31st December 2014
- BRL a consulting firm wins bid to conduct the BASMP project study, 23rd Dec 2014
- WB-GEF approved time extension of ENWM (for January-December 2015)

Report Background

This annual report covers the period July 2014-June 2015. It is prepared in line with the NBI Results-Based Reporting System, focusing on results and on the basis of the annual work plan and budget. The report includes the performance of three ENSAP projects (ENWM, BAS-MWRDS, and NCORE) and activities financed by Country Contribution. The report consists of background information, internal and external contexts of implementation, program achievements (non financial & financial), major challenges and constraints, mitigation strategies & the way forward.

2

Context as it affected Project implementation

Internal Context

Teamwork, quite well developed at ENTRO, has made significant contribution toward efficient implementation. Wherever possible, ENTRO senior staff has been preparing Regional training and capacity building modules for National Focal Points and national media, with little or no external support. These include, for example, those related to watershed management; social development; development communication; water diplomacy; natural resources based conflict management; social and environmental safeguards; strategic social and environmental assessment modules. Further, ENTRO team has been involved in developing and reviewing ToR, in hiring consultants, in reviewing draft and final documents (e.g. Watershed Field Guide, Dam Safety Guidelines, Consultancy study reports such as the 4 Multi-sectoral Investment Analysis Reports) and facilitating and providing logistical support during capacity building trainings and workshops and governance meetings.

The NCORE dam safety sub-component has focused on applied, field-level capacity building as well as awareness creation. This has been facilitated by governance and higher officials in the Ministry of Water, Electricity and Irrigation of Sudan and Ethiopia who have given permission to training participants to visit dam sites and obtain the required data and information (e.g. visit to Sennar Dam in Sudan and Koga Dam in Ethiopia).

External Context

The technical support provided by development partners was invaluable. For example, NCORE Planned milestones have been reviewed, every six months jointly with World Bank implementation support mission and ENTRO. The 4th Implementation support mission was held at ENTRO in August 2014.

The African Development Bank's (AfDB) decision and advice to retender the procurement process of BAS project study has caused delays in mobilization of the consultant and the timely launch of project implementation, thus risking meeting disbursement deadline of August 2016. At the same time, this decision has streamlined the procurement process of the main consultancy in accordance with the Bank's Rules and Procedures.

3 Actual Results

Results for the period

Short-Term Outcome 1.1: Enhanced image of ENSAP and NBI in EN countries

Building and enhancing the image of ENSAP/NBI in Eastern Nile countries poses unique communication challenges. In a sub-basin beset with complex hydro-political, legal and historical issues such as Eastern Nile is, communication in support of and about sub-basin or basin wide cooperation requires an approach that is distinct yet demanding in many respects. For one, putting basin cooperation at the forefront of the communication agenda requires media that are easily accessible to the majority of the population, who are, except perhaps for Egypt, of limited literacy and thus frequent only a limited range of media outlets, mainly the radio and TV. These media are not easily accessible to ENSAP, much less amenable for it to set and shape their agenda as regards communicating about shared waters. The other challenge is the need to communicate facts, findings and discourses emanating from cooperative project studies – mainly technical in nature – which by definition limits audiences to those that have one way or the other to do with the water sector. Thus during the reporting period effort has been made to reach various constituents of this audience segment which includes universities, researchers, scheme managers, policy makers, ex-diplomats, and media professionals. It has been relatively easier to reach this segment with the new internet based medium (ENSAP website, social media, internet postings, etc.). It is against the foregoing background that the following have been accomplished.

Corporate and Internal Communication: ENTRO has been regularly producing its quarterly *Nile-Flow* both in electronic and print formats (over 500 hard copies have been distributed, in addition to availing them on the internet and thru email listings). *Nile-Flow*, targeting readership within and outside of the NBI community, is a newsletter designed to provide both information about current

developments (e.g., “News and Events” section which reports on various activities of ENTRO), and educational (e.g. “Concept that Matter” section which educates on key transboundary water resources management themes – such as climate change; ecosystem services; biodiversity; natural resource conservation and social and environmental safeguards; policies and “Conversations” Section in which Project coordinators tell readers about the projects they are running and their broader contributions). Further such products as **Table Calendars and Planners; ENTRO New Year Greetings Cards; Pull-up and Info-graphic Posters and Banners; Staff business cards; Conference Abstracts** - all designed with Eastern Nile educational and informational content and themes – have been distributed to a range of ENNSAP partners, collaborators and audiences.

Regular events taking place in Eastern Nile countries such as *ENCOM/ENSAPT* governance meetings; annual Regional and National Nile Day Celebrations, often accompanied by street marches, sports competitions and similar attractions, have provided windows to **access national television, radio and print media and increase ENSAP visibility in all three countries**. Training workshops and seminars taking place in the capitals of EN countries, and even outside, have had similar contribution. The events have been preceded and concluded with **press releases** to national media houses.

Nile Story; Special Reports on two ENSAP Projects: ENTRO organized support to World Bank-hired international consultants who, as part of the closure of the NBTF, have been documenting the results of NBI. ENTRO organized field visits; regularly communicated, advised, commented, provided feedback and answered queries, in a bid to ensure ENSAP results are accorded proper space in the NBI documentation and dissemination. Further, ENTRO provided support (correcting numbers and facts) to Nile-Sec hired consultant who has been writing on two ENSAP Projects - Eastern Nile Watershed Management and Ethiopia-Sudan Transmission Interconnection Projects.

Advocacy Communication through Documentary Films: An important communication and visibility task of ENTRO is *educating and creating awareness* about the different facets of Eastern Nile cooperation – about the challenges, potentials, progress and prospects.

ENTRO’s first documentary film on ENSAP, Part I, **“Inheritance to our Descendants”**, which focused on the Watershed Management Project in Ethiopia, was produced with the participation of all stakeholders, including villagers, who articulated the socio-economic and environmental gains from the pilot project. The title of the film, in fact, was a translation of a statement by a peasant woman, who has been active participant and supporter of the project. Uploaded on the internet – on

Water Channel, You Tube and Facebook, the hit is over **7500** to-date, with positive comments. This was preceded by another documentary, *“Risking the River?”*, which was produced with the participation of water resources policy makers, practitioners and researchers from across the Basin and Diaspora from the region. The documentary’s central message is that without basin wide cooperation both the Nile River and the countries will be worse off, especially when the threat of Climate Change is factored in. This too has been well received, with over **8000** hits on the internet. The 2014 addition to this category has been the sequel, Part II of the Watershed Management documentary, *“Window of Hope”*, which focused on experiences in Community Watershed Project in South Sudan. Prepared following the same format as the first one, this documentary captures key watershed management challenges, especially as related to preserving key UNESCO-world heritage biosphere – the Dinder National Park and also the local, national and regional benefits ensuring from transboundary cooperative watershed management project. Along with a PP on the *JMP Stakeholder Involvement* experience and documentation of *ENTRO 10th Anniversary* and the *2nd New Nile Conference*, we have had cumulatively over **20,000** viewers/hits on the web.

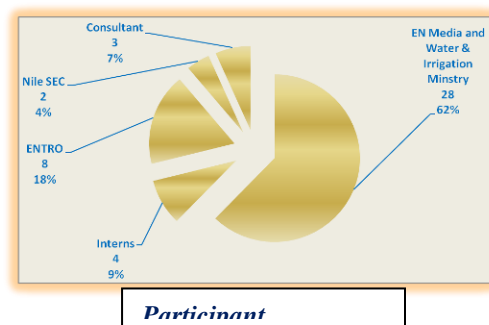
Short-term Outcome 1.2: Increased ENSAP dialogue and partnership with government, civil society, local communities, private sector and development partners

Workshop on Communication for Effective Cooperation in the Eastern Nile (22nd to 24th September 2014, Nazareth, Ethiopia)

The Social Development and Communication Unit organized, facilitated and conducted this workshop. The workshop brought together 45 media professionals from Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan along with ENTRO and Nile-Sec staff. This 3-day training workshop was designed to: (a) update media professionals about the latest progress and activities in ENSAP and NBI, which were reported by ENTRO Regional Project Coordinators and Nile-Sec WRPU Head; (b) provide hands-on training-cum-awareness to EN media professionals about how Nile Basin cooperation has been sensationalized by international media, while the EN media professionals themselves, provide very limited substantive coverage to actual cooperation happening within NB countries. The workshop was highly rated by participants.



The workshop has achieved the following short term results: Media groups and communication experts understanding of challenges and opportunities of EN cooperation enhanced; potential role of media/communication in promoting Eastern Nile cooperation and the need for media people to generate accurate, fact-based reporting appreciated; and networking/contacts among different EN media professionals established; Media professionals' access to NBI/ENTRO/Nile information created.



The 2nd New Nile Conference: "New Nile Opportunities, scientific advances towards prosperity in the Eastern Nile "8th- 9th December, 2014, Addis Ababa



The Conference built-upon the first New Nile conference of Khartoum, May 2013. The central theme is advancing the scientific frontier in adaptive and efficient water management and promotion of more productive use of the Eastern Nile waters for collective socio-economic development. This conference was conducted as part of ENTRO's long-term strategy to keep the scientific community engaged and to constantly contribute to optimizing the benefits from emerging development opportunities, while addressing the challenges that these very opportunities bring along.

The objectives the Conference included the following:

- To facilitate scientific discussion and exchange of information that will inform decision making on improved cooperation in the Eastern Nile.
- To create a platform for science and policy interface, discussion of theories, methodologies and practices already in use in the EN and critically assess what has been achieved so far.

- To advance understanding of the complex relationships among ecological, social and economic systems for the mutual well-being of the Eastern Nile basin and people in the basin
- To analyze prevailing cooperation potentials as well as tradeoffs, costs of non-cooperation and developments in the EN at various scales.

ENTRO took the lead organizing this international conference. ENTRO sought and obtained partnership and funding support from IWMI, the Netherlands Embassy (Sudan) and collaboration with UNESCO-IHE, Delft. ENTRO prepared the Call for Papers; led and coordinated the solicitation for and selection of scientific papers, setting up review



teams in IWMI, UNESCO IHE and ENTRO, organized the sub-themes and the 12 sessions; set up the opening and closing sessions; produced the Conference Abstract booklet; organized the photographic and video documentation of the proceedings; produced a press release and a web news article on the conference. The conference brought young scientists and researchers from as close as the Nile basin and Eastern Nile and as far from Australia, the US, Europe, South Africa and Asia. The conference has succeeded in bringing together international scientific community attention on Eastern Nile, while the visibility of Nile issues was accorded prominence.

Ninety-four participants attended the workshop, of which 39 were paper presenters, 4 key note speakers, 23 from NBI, Ministries, Universities, and individuals, 16 from ENTRO, and 12 Interns. In terms of gender composition, 9% were female participants.

Track II Water Diplomacy (WD) Workshop, 30th - 31st Dec 2014, Khartoum

Following a request for a follow up of the first WD Nazareth Workshop, ENTRO Social Development and Communication Unit organized and conducted the workshop.

The Objectives were to:

- Introduce the state-of-the-art (theory and practice) in Track II water diplomacy and the potential of how Water Diplomacy can help resolve current differences and disagreements in Nile Basin Cooperation, and
- Facilitate networking among Eastern Nile stakeholders to encourage exploratory deliberations, seek new avenues, engaging in joint problem solving , documenting the results (recommendations, way forward, innovative, break-thru/win-win proposals) and work out ways of disseminating them, including to relevant policy makers/negotiators to make a positive difference in negotiated outcomes. This is expected to facilitate, in the long run, emergence of epistemic community of Eastern Nile water resource professionals, policy makers, managers, researchers, thinkers etc. dedicated to the promotion of inter-riparian cooperation and sustainability of the common Nile Basin resources.

Extensive presentations were made on the potential and untapped role non-government actors could play in positively influencing (by encouraging governments in various ways, including thru positive media coverage, blogs, articles, etc.) the emergence of a negotiated (Track I) outcome, in which all parties end up as winners.



The workshop concluded with a way forward ***“Khartoum statement on Eastern Nile cooperation”*** in which participants committed themselves and pledged to support and encourage EN governments to deepen and broaden Nile cooperation and called on Egypt to rejoin the Nile basin family.

A total of 54 participants from a cross section of Eastern Nile took part, including: government, civil society, academia, media, parliamentarians, ex-diplomats, elders of the NBI. In terms of gender composition, 13% were female participants.

Multi-Sectoral Investment Opportunity Analysis (MSIOA) - Situation Analysis Report Review Workshop November 2014, Khartoum



The MSIOA Situation Analysis Review Workshop was organized to consult EN stakeholders and on the Consultants' Situation Analysis Report. The MSIOA Consultancy Team and participants worked out the methodology, identified main indicators and developed possible scenarios for scoping. ENTRO facilitated the regional workshop. The workshop verified whether the report captured opportunities and risks adequately; whether the analytic tools are appropriate and the numbers used correct; define scenarios for use in scoping studies and criteria and indicators for the MCA – factoring in country priorities – to be used in the next steps of the study to finally come out with a Regional WR investment strategy.

MSIOA Scoping Consultation Workshop February 2015, Addis Ababa

The main purpose of the workshop was to review and collect feedbacks on the two reports (Strategic Scoping and the Multi-sectoral Investment Opportunity Analysis). A panel of discussion on the deliverables, assumptions, scoping, and scenarios and on the results of the MSIOA study was conducted. Accordingly, important feedback about concerns and interests and priorities of countries were solicited and incorporated.

7th Dam Safety Workshop on Dam safety in a Trans-boundary Water Resources Context, 4th -5th December 2014, Nazareth, Ethiopia

The workshop which included participants - parliamentarians, policy makers, planners, regulators and high level experts working in the Water, Energy and Environment Ministries - from Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan had the following objectives:

- Create awareness on basic dam safety principles, dam incidents and risks associated with dam safety;
- Provide an overview of Eastern Nile regional dam safety guideline and dam safety practice assessment report ;
- Provide an overview of transboundary dam safety management - concepts of regulation, institutional arrangement, cooperation, information sharing, and participation and planning;
- Strengthen interaction and networking among participants in dam safety management; and
- Provide examples of dam-related trans-boundary water agreements, conventions, challenges and opportunities around the world and offer practical experience.



31 participants attended the workshop.

NBI Stakeholder and Communication Workshop, (Nairobi, Kenya): ENTRO took part in this workshop organized by Nile-Sec. The workshop provided training on how to promote stakeholder participation and engage and influence the media on Nile Basin issues. ENTRO (SDCU), having led the conception and write-up of the strategy, presented the NBI stakeholder engagement and communication strategy presenting it both as a social development (i.e. stakeholder participation in NBI projects, disclosures, safeguards) and communication (i.e. program messaging, influencing, advocacy, and building support) agenda.

The 2014 4th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF), November, Nairobi:



ENTRO was a member of the organizing committee of the Conference from the very start, nearly a year ahead of the event. ENTRO contributed to the conference at various stages, from theme selection, session formulation, paper selection and overall logistics and organization. SDCU head, representing ENTRO, was also a panelist in the conference, making a presentation in Session 9 on "Institutionalization of Nile Basin Cooperation". ENTRO also took part in poster presentations. ENTRO (SDCU) was tasked with putting together results from deliberations of the 12 sessions of the conference and producing a **Conference Declaration**, which was distributed to the media and posted on the NBI website

Research Partnership; collaboration, networking:

SDCU representing ENTRO, contributing to the articulation of the research agenda, partnered with UNESCO-IHE, in a project called "Accounting for Nile Waters; connecting investment in large scale irrigation to gendered reallocation of water



and labour in the EN basin". ENTRO also took part in the UNESCO-IHE Delft April 20-21, 2015 stakeholder consultation on UNESCO's 2015-2025 Strategic Directions. ENTRO also supported

graduate researchers from Eastern Nile countries (Ethiopia, Sudan), Netherlands and Italy that researched institutional, technical and programmatic facets of Eastern Nile cooperation.

Short-term Outcome 2.1: Stronger EN institutional architecture at national level to identify, prepare and implement cooperative developments

National Training on application of GIS & RS tools for watershed planning and management 14th-23rd September 2014, Medeni, Sudan

The specific objectives of the training included:

- To train key project staff and partner institutions in the application of GIS and Remote Sensing (RS) tools in planning and management of watershed projects so that they can train other staff.
- To prepare a comprehensive training manual on application of GIS and RS for immediate.



The training focused on the following:

- Basics of RS and GIS techniques; hands-on exercises on the use of GIS for land use mapping analysis,
- How to use satellite and ground observation data for land use change detection and watershed assessment and monitoring,
- Hands-on experience on catchment delineation with RS data in a given watershed, and use of GIS for catchment hydrology.

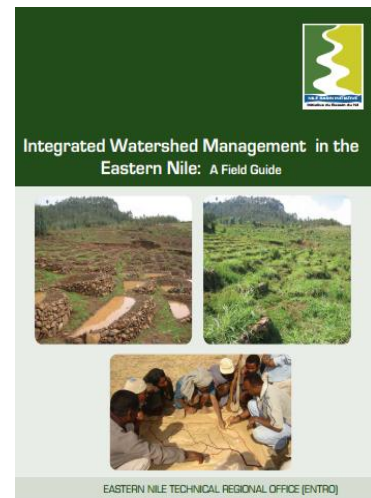
A training manual was also prepared and distributed. A total of 20 participants attended the training.

Preparation of a Field Guide to Watershed management:



The objective was providing technical assistance and training to national institutions to enable them conduct studies leading to the preparation, design, and implementation of watershed investment projects in the sub-basin. In line with this, the field guide for watershed management in the Eastern Nile will assist professionals (experts at national, provincial/regional and district/locality/woreda levels and those working with development partners) by providing both know-how and show-how i.e. practical information. The manual describes detail design, layout and construction procedures to be considered in applying biophysical soil and water conservation and water harvesting technologies for restoring and enhancing productivity of degraded watersheds.

The preparation of the guideline has been preceded by taking stock and review of the experiences of countries from within and without the region; with useful lessons drawn from decades of experiences in particularly Ethiopia. Section I of the guideline provides an introduction to principles of watershed management; with detailed planning steps. Section II elaborates technology selection suitable for specific agro-ecology and land use preferences; technical design requirements; layout and construction; cost elements and management requirements. The field guide also includes Annexes that provide detail explanations



on selected watershed management approaches and soil and water conservation technologies. The guide has been prepared in a user-friendly format.

Regional Training on Watershed Management Project Preparation (17th- 20th December 2014, Khartoum)

The overall objective of this training is to build the capacity of national institutions on concepts, principles and practices of project preparation, building on the lessons learned from implementation of on-going investment project preparation and other experiences in the region. Emphasis was given to integrating technical, environmental, social, economic, financial, and institutional consideration in the preparation.



Training themes included:

- Introduction to project cycle management: Phases in project cycle and their sequence, management tasks and management tools
- Project preparation: Logical Framework Approach (LFA) as a project planning tool; LFA processes and steps: situation analysis, stakeholder analysis and capacity assessment, problem and objective analysis, analysis of alternatives, activity planning; logical framework matrix; and implementation arrangements
- Project design and analysis tools (based on the LFA)
- Use of LFA to develop activity and resource scheduling
- Tools to assess the quality of project proposals (to identify weaknesses or gaps in project design related to relevance, feasibility and sustainability)
- Designing a Monitoring & Reporting system, and Project Evaluation

A training manual and reference materials were distributed to the participants. A total of 22 training participants (7 each from Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan and 3 from ENTRO) attended the program.

National Training on Design and Construction of Bench Terracing (22nd - 30th March 2015, Maychew, Ethiopia)

Building capacity of federal and regional experts of Ethiopia on principles and practices of bench terracing construction, with a view to turn them into TOTs, was the goal of the training. Specific objectives:

- Familiarize federal and regional experts with the best practices in bench terrace design and construction and concept of integrated mountains development and management
- Build the knowledge and skill of federal and regional experts in bench terrace design and construction
- Build the knowledge and skill of federal and regional experts in water harvesting and water lifting technologies.



The training was delivered in two major parts: Theoretical (3 days) and practical (7 days) sessions. The practical session was carried out via direct demonstration of field exercise in selected watersheds; while the theoretical part was PP.

The last day of the training was dedicated to reviews, evaluation, collective assessment and discussions of practical outputs (bench terrace construction) of each team. Each team prepared a brief report on the overall exercise.

The training targeted natural resources management professionals, who were selected by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the Regional Bureaux of Agriculture.

Trainees were provided with training manuals and reference materials. A total of 23 participants from the Federal ministry of Agriculture and seven Regional States (Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, SNNPR, Gambela, B/Gumz, and Afar) attended the training.



National Training on Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) and Nursery Establishment (21st-28th April 2015, Juba)

The training aimed at enhancing the technical capacity of project staff and partner institutions to undertake effective planning, monitoring & evaluation of IWM Projects.

The training has two parts: Theoretical (4 days) and practical (4 days) sessions. The conceptual presentation focused on: Integrated Watershed Management, Nursery Establishment, Physical soil and water conservation and Biological soil and water conservation measures. The following were the specific objectives:

- To familiarize participants with the principles and concepts of IWM, procedures to be followed during planning of IWM activities and the practices of establishing and managing nurseries,
- To equip participants with the required competences to backstop and provide technical support to farmers
- To serve as a Training of Trainers (TOT) and network professionals in the field



Field exercise was done on nursery management and operations. The training targeted community based watershed development professionals of South Sudan. A total of 13 participants selected from the Ministries of: Electricity, irrigation and water resources; environment; Agriculture and livestock; and from the University of Juba. A training manual was also distributed. The training workshops that were conducted early on have enabled participants to have adequate conceptual understanding and acquire the necessary skills in the design and management of watershed development projects and enhanced their capacity in managing watershed development activities effectively and efficiently. This was practically reflected in the satisfactory performance of fast tract projects' implementation by national institutions.



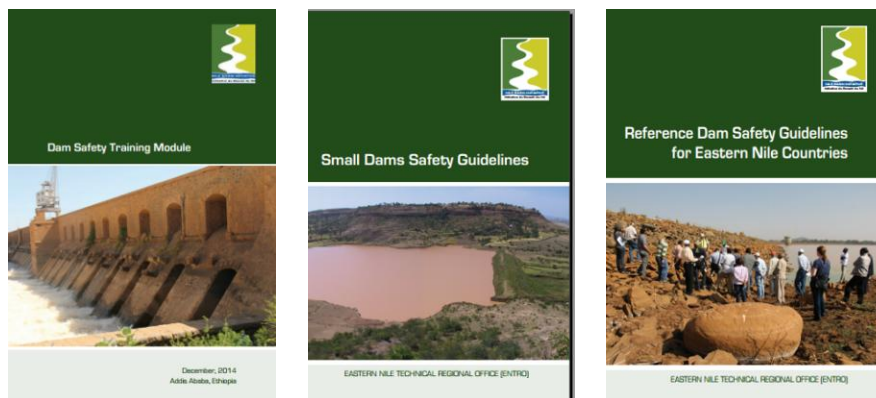
In the same way, the training workshops provided during the reporting period are expected to enhance the technical capacity of institutions involved in watershed management to undertake effective planning, implementation, monitoring & evaluation of watershed management interventions. It strengthens capacity of national institutions in participating countries in the delivery of pro-poor investments and services to promote productive and environmentally sound livelihoods with local community participation.

A total of 227 professionals from the three countries (Ethiopia, South Sudan & Sudan) attended practical oriented training in different watershed management thematic areas. Furthermore, 20 professionals from the three EN countries attended a workshop on Social and Environmental Management and Conflict Transformation.

Delegation of NPCs for BAS project:

Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan have delegated National Project Coordinators (NPCs) to work hand in hand with the regional project coordinator and ENTRO in supporting implementation BAS project study.

Production of Dam Safety Guideline and Training Module:



ENTRO produced three documents to strengthen the planning and implementation capacity of dam safety in the EN sub-basin. The documents are:

- ***Eastern Nile Reference Dam Safety Guideline*** (both for small and large trans-boundary dams)
- ***Small Dam Safety Guideline*** (focusing on national level small dams)
- ***Dam Safety Training Module.***

ENTRO governance in its 28th ordinary meeting endorsed the documents: The documents have incorporated the state-of-the art, bringing forth the latest innovations, techniques and practices around the world in application of planning, design, construction operation and safety management of dams.

4th Dam safety Training Workshop on Water Infrastructures Planning, Design and Construction Management (27th -29th October 2014, Juba)

The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of South Sudan experts on the following:

- To provide an overview of Eastern Nile *regional dam safety guideline*; dam development in transboundary water courses
- To develop human resources capabilities and create self-reliance in the ministry emphasizing on the following :
 - Preparation of prefeasibility and feasibility studies, design reports, specifications and tender document preparation and evaluation.
 - General design aspects on dams and hydropower schemes
 - Investigation methods - possibilities and limitations
 - Social and environmental dimensions of dam safety management



Twenty-five participants attended the training workshop; 8% were female.

5th Dam Safety Workshop on Dam Safety Inspection and Monitoring for Dam Operators (17th -19th November 2014, Khartoum)



The main objectives of the training workshop were to:

- Create awareness on EN dam safety practice and EN Dam safety guidelines
- Provide basic training on dam safety management principles, failure consequences and international best practices; and
- Raise the competence level and practical knowledge on dam operation, inspection, instrumentation reading and interpretation techniques, Emergency Action Plan and documentation.

Twenty three dam operators attended (6 from Ethiopia, 15 from Sudan and 2 from South Sudan). The training included site visit to Sennar dam was part of the training.

6th Dam Safety Training Workshop on EN Dam Safety Training Module Review and ToT Training, 1st - 3rd December 2014, Nazareth, Ethiopia

The objective of the Dam Safety Module Development is to strengthen the capacity of dam safety management in the Eastern Nile, specifically through the development of a short term dam **safety training module** & and through the provision of short term training.

The training module will be adopted by Eastern Nile Universities serving as serve as reference guideline and checklist in the provision of training in dam safety (including but not limited



to Ministry staff, other professionals and students). Thirty-two participants - academics, engineers and scientists from Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan attended the workshop.

Establishment of National Dam Safety Unit (NDSU):

The National Dam Safety Unit (NDSU) is a regulatory body responsible to monitor dams to avoid or mitigate conditions that endanger life or property and to enforce those laws, regulations, guidelines, and policies that direct dam owners and operators to correct deficiencies.

Thus, the Unit would be established in each country to play the role of the regulator to facilitate and monitor the implementation and ongoing development of comprehensive Dam Safety Management Programs in each country. 28th ENCOM recognized and appreciated the importance of setting up Dam Safety Units at national and regional levels to sustain the gains made so far. ENTRO has also developed a concept paper that includes proposed organizational structure of EN dam safety.

Internship Program:



The objective of the internship was used to contribute for the sustainability of EN cooperation by expanding the range of stakeholders and leveraging inter-university cooperation among the EN countries. During the reporting period the 3rd, 4th and 5th batch of internship program was undertaken.

Third batch Internship:

Fifteen interns, divided into five working groups, accomplished the following:

Dam safety group: Reviewed Eastern Nile Guideline for small dams, and other Guideline produced on Eastern Nile (EN) Dams Operation, Inspection and Maintenance

IT, GIS and Communication group: Flood Administration Tool developed, which will be used by the flood forecasting team to read time-series data generated from models, developed Flood Forecasting application, initiated irrigation web application.

Database and Data Quality group: Web portal requirement data gathered.

Water Diplomacy: A paper was prepared on EN adaptive water management, and the 2nd New Nile Conference call for paper was initiated



Flood Forecasting and Early Warning: Produced daily and weekly Forecast Report for Lake Tana Floodplains (Eta weather forecast model, combined flood forecasting models) and supported the enhancement of Lake Tana Models, produced daily and weekly Forecast Report for Blue and Main Nile System in Sudan (Sudan FEWS) and supported the enhancement of Sudan Flood Forecast Models, Developed Flood Forecast Models for BAS flood prone areas.

4th Batch Internship:

Started in October 2014, sixteen interns, working in five groups, accomplished the following:

Dam Safety group: Revisited the dam safety toolkit, enhanced and added functionality, Small /Micro dam safety assessment, prepared database for small dam in Ethiopia and Sudan, enhanced the user manual and the toolkit.

MSIOA group: Supported the MSIOA team in collecting data and providing support like updating and collecting social, environmental, economic, and water resource related data; prepared maps for the MSIOA study; prepared model input data sets with the team and ENTRO, schematized, calibrated and run Mike-Hydro model for different scenarios (which are developed by ENTRO and the MSIOA team), and supported ENTRO library in the preparation of citation for the regional Nile Basin bibliography.

Watershed Management group: Developed watershed modeling system to determine suitable sites for small dam to Fincha and Chemoga sites, and prepared user manual for the developed models.

Web Portal group: Supported: the IT component in the development of Web based Information Management System,; database administration and web application development, and designed the new structure to enhance web portal and navigation.

Water Diplomacy group: Assisted in the coordination of the second Water Diplomacy Workshop, and the Second New Nile Conference.

Interns also attended various trainings on Dam safety, remote sensing, GIS, programming, watershed management and modeling. In addition, consecutive training sessions were provided for the young professionals which include: ENTRO staff training and orientation on the Analytical tools and programs, training on developing interactive tools using Excel functionality (writing VB code, recording macros, etc), creating animated products and Arc GIS by World Bank experts, and database development and introduction to programming with C# by Web specialist consultant.

5th Batch Internship:

Recruiting young professionals (YP) for the 5th batch has been started in the mid June 2015. Due to budget limitation, four YPs who are drawn from Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan are participating currently. They have been involved in the flood forecasting and monitoring activity of 2015 flood season.

EN Universities Special Study:

ENTRO has engaged Eastern Nile universities to conduct special studies on agreed topics. The special studies contracted with Addis Ababa University and Khartoum University has been submitted on the following topics;

- Assessing ground water dynamics in the Blue Nile and Main Nile in Sudan (Khartoum University)
- Implications of Watershed Investment Scenarios on Erosion and Sediment in the Blue Nile Basin (Addis Ababa University)

Cairo University didn't submit the special study report even though the contract has been signed on the title "Climate Change and Hydrological Implications in the Eastern Nile Basin". And also, Juba University was not able to submit acceptable proposal on the selected topic area "Water Related Investment Opportunities for Livelihood Enhancement in South Sudan ". However, ENTRO organized a capacity building training for the University and ministry candidates of RSS on remote sensing and GIS.

GIS and Remote Sensing Training Workshop for South Sudan:

The five days training was given for South Sudan participants and interns on new public-domain data sets. The training aimed at building the capacity of professionals from south Sudan in the area of global data sets which will help in filling the knowledge gap that ENTRO and its stakeholder's grapple with. It is indicated



that remote sensing training is vital to contribute to the capacity building effort and filling the knowledge gap in South Sudan. In the training Topics covered were: principles of Remote Sensing (Theory); Visible and Infrared Remote Sensing (Theory and Applications); Thermal Infrared Remote Sensing (Theory and Applications); microwave Remote Sensing (Theory and Applications); Satellite Remote Sensing of Rainfall (Theory and Applications) and various spectral bands.

Introduction to General Algebraic Model for River Basin Management:

ENTRO, in collaboration with the World Bank, organized four-day training on General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS) in Addis Ababa. Trainees included previous interns who use GAMS, other users from Ministry and University and from Tana Sub Basin Authority. The training themes include the following.

1. General training on GAMS with hands on practices,
2. How to use GAMS for River Basin modelling
3. Working on the enhancement of existing tools developed using GAMS by adding a



coding technique that enhances the functionality like the ENMOS and the optimization tool developed by the Tana sub basin authority (TaSBO).

Short-term Outcome 2.2: Stronger EN institutional architecture at regional level to identify, prepare and implement cooperative developments

EN Governance Meeting:

The 29th ENSAPT and 28th ENCOM governance meetings took place in Debrezeit, Ethiopia, 10-12th February 2015. This Meeting made milestone decisions to advance EN cooperation and ENTRO. The decisions pertained to: proposed ENTRO organizational structure; proposed EN Watershed Management Investment Programs; ENTRO Financial Sustainability Plan and Resource



Mobilization; Swiss Development Cooperation Proposal on EN hydromet monitoring; adoption of Eastern Nile Watershed Management and Dam Safety Guidelines;

Resource Mobilization

Following the closing of the World Bank managed NBTF; ENTRO is facing critical shortage of fund to undertake its planned activities towards achieving ENSAP and the Strategic Plan objectives. To get over this challenge, ENTRO staff currently is exerting effort, preparing 13 concept notes on the basis of the approved 2014-2019 Strategic Plan. Further, ENTRO is exploring to supplement the foregoing with innovative project proposals that are “sellable” i.e. take as their basis globally accepted priority issues such as Climate Change, biodiversity, green economy promotion, etc.

Experience Exchange Visit to Gansu Province, China, 21st- 30th October 2014

The main purpose of organizing experience exchange visits has been to document experiences to document experiences in rehabilitation of watersheds and Rainwater Harvesting in China’s Loess plateau and draw lessons applicable to the development of integrated watershed management interventions in the Eastern Nile. The opportunity also provided EN professionals to interact with each other and their Chinese research and community hosts on key watershed management aspects of knowledge transfer.

The International study visit was intended to complement a range of capacity building activities being organized by ENTRO at regional and national levels.

18 participants drawn from the three Eastern Nile countries of Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and ENTRO attended the study visit which was held from 21st-30th October 2014. The study visit was facilitated by the Gansu Research Institute for Water Conservancy (GRIWC), People's Republic of China. A report, "What have we brought back from China?" has been prepared which summarizes the lessons the group learnt and their implications. The Report constituted one of ENTRO flagship publications and is being widely distributed both electronically and in print form.



NBI Coordination Meeting

NBI Coordination Meeting, Addis Ababa: ENTRO made presentation at the coordination meeting where he outlined accomplishments so far and planned interventions, per ENTRO strategic plan; challenges overcome and anticipated ones and the role of national institutions on uptake of accomplishments (particularly in knowledge and capacity domain) at ENSAP and NBI levels.

Knowledge Base Development: ENTRO Web Portal Enhancement

ENTRO is striving to make major improvement and enhancement of the ENTRO web portal in order to make its wealth of information and data more accessible to users. The major accomplishment was the development of centralized database that is to be used and shared by different web application in the portal. ENTRO centralized database is planned to be used by internal and external applications running in desktop browsers and mobile devices. The new applications which reside in the web portal share a single database with standard, unique and secured access that minimizes duplication. A protocol for accessing the data has been established. The enhanced web portal is designed to provide services for different applications with a unique ENTRO Application Programming Interface (API) that provides links between the application and the centralized database. The enhancement activity includes the following: Non-Spatial Central Database (NSCD), Database Admin Tool

(DAT), Application Program Interface (API), Web Based Information Management System (IMS), EN Flood Forecasting Web Application, Flood Admin Tool (FAT), and overall portal redesign and restructuring.

Collaboration and Networking with Institutions

ENTRO works with different institutions to promote collaborative research, capacity strengthening, and communication activities. The potential collaborative activities cover research for development of mutual interest in Eastern Nile region. ENTRO participated in ***“The Water-Energy-Food Nexus: global, basin and local case studies of resource use efficiency under growing natural resource scarcity”*** organized by **IFPRI** in Addis Ababa.

ENTRO seized this opportunity to promote its Knowledge products and modeling tools that can be used for the Water Energy Food nexus. This workshop led to the signing of a *memorandum of understanding (MoU) between ENTRO and IFPRI* for more collaboration. The MoU includes conducting collaborative research on Water-Energy-food nexus with university of Bonn. A research agreement to support one PhD student who is going to use ENTRO’s Knowledge tools to analyze the economic aspect of water resource system is being finalized.

Short-term Outcome 3.1 Increased ENSAP cooperative investment projects identified and prepared for implementation

Preparation of Watershed Investment Projects

ENTRO assisted EN countries to conduct project preparation for *four identified sub-watersheds from technical, environmental, social, economic, financial, and institutional perspectives*. The preparation was at the same time a capacity building process providing on the job training on preparation of similar projects and scaling up.

Studies were conducted leading to the preparation and design of investment projects for four watersheds *in Ethiopia and Sudan*. The investment projects will promote sustainable livelihoods among the communities within the watersheds. Another critical impact anticipated from the projects would be contribution to the reduction of sedimentation of downstream facilities.

The Projects identified and previously delineated include the following:

1. Integrated Watershed Management: Abbay Sub-basin, **Chemoga catchment, Ethiopia** in an area of high potential but degrading resource base.
2. Integrated Watershed Management: Abbay Sub-basin, **Fincha'a Catchment. Ethiopia** in an area of high potential but degrading resource base.
3. Restoration of **Kerib Land** along the Upper Atbara River, **Sudan**.
4. Support to Water Harvesting in the **Gash Delta, Kassala, Sudan**.



These projects are among the thirteen *land degradation hotspots in the Eastern Nile Sub-basin* identified by the Watershed Management CRA study. These are areas of increasing population pressure on a degrading natural resource base, increasing food insecurity and household inability to invest in sustainable land management s due to declining household and community natural, physical, social and human capital assets. They were prioritized based on criteria agreed by countries. Distribution of projects within the member countries was also given consideration when selecting these projects.

Basic information on the 4 new Watershed Management Investment Projects

Project Name	Hectares covered	Estimated population	Cost estimate (US\$)
1. Chemoga Integrated Watershed Management-Ethiopia	131,768	533,811	116.7 Mln
2. Fincha Integrated Watershed Management-Ethiopia	188,708	456,981	126.6 Mln
3. Restoration of Kerib Land along the Upper Atbara River-Sudan	126,043	66,614	17.7 Mln
4. Support to Water Harvesting in the Gash Delta, Kassala-Sudan	594,737	274, 978	32.3 Mln
Total	915,213 ha	1, 057,406	US\$ 293.3 Mln

A joint watershed investment preparation team comprising of national/local agency staff with ENTRO specialists and Consultants undertook the preparation of these investments. The local community was also actively participated in the study process. The preparation task was divided in

to three phases: inception, interim phase and final phase. All phases of the project preparation were completed in October and draft final reports distributed to the respective institutions for review.

In November 2014, review workshops were organized in each of the four project areas. The review workshop aimed at promoting consultations and feedback among a range of key stakeholders about the prepared watershed management projects.

The workshop has achieved the following short-term results: common understanding and commitment created among key project stakeholders about the project development setting, components, institutional arrangement, environmental and social framework and monitoring and evaluation approach of the projects.

Seventy-six participants attended the review workshop representing Government offices, Universities, target communities, NGOs, consultants and ENTRO. 11% of participants were female. Nearly 98% of participants reported satisfaction with the review workshop.

The final report, prepared in 2 Volumes, was finalized in an investment ready format, in December 2014.

NCORE Implementation Review and Support Mission

The biannual review and implementation support mission (RISM) comprising of funding agencies (World Bank and Government of Finland) and implementation agencies (Ministry of Irrigation and water resources of Sudan, and ENTRO) was carried out 24th May- 2nd June 2015. The RISM reviewed the project's overall implementation progress with particular emphasis on:

- the degree to which outputs are achieved and how these contribute towards the achievement of the project objectives,
- The degree to which actions agreed upon in the previous missions have been carried out,
- The operational effectiveness of institutional and implementation arrangements,
- Performance assessment of financial management and procurement system as well as progress in the procurement of goods and services, and
- Status of potential project risks outlined in the Project Appraisal Document (PAD)

The overall assessment of the review mission indicates that progress was **satisfactory**.

An Aide Memoire was presented at a formal meeting. The Aide Memoire summarized the findings, recommendations and next steps for consideration of all parties.

Establishment of Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) and Project Steering Committee (PSC) for BAS project:

As indicated in the project appraisal report (PAR), a multidisciplinary Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) will be formed to support in review of project deliverables (reports) in order to bring on board countries perspectives into the study. Sudan and South Sudan have already named and delegated their team to the RTWG to support the project implementation. Ethiopia is on the process of submitting its member to the RTWG.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) for BAS project is confirmed as the ENSAPT in the 28th ENSAPT meeting held in Khartoum, Sudan. The PSC is now actively supporting implementation of the Baro-Akobo-Sobat project study as planned.

Procurement of consulting firm for BAS project and commencement of the Study:

ENTRO has finalized the procurement process as advised by the African Development Bank for the recruitment of the main consultant. In a colourful ceremony, ENTRO awarded the BAS project study contract to the joint Venture of BRLI/AURECON and YERER Engineering as Sub-Consultant on 15th March 2015, Addis Ababa. The Consultant mobilized in April 2015, and undertook some exposure visits including reconnaissance data collection as well as identification of additional stakeholders and key informants for successful implementation of the study.



ENTRO and the Consultant organized the first field trip to the Ethiopian side of the sub-basin. Following this visit, Watershed team of the Consultant organized another field trip from 15th-22nd June 2015 covering watershed areas along Oromiya, the SNNP and Gambella Regional States in Ethiopia for data collection including diagnostic consultative meetings with stakeholders. This team was later followed by the Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) including water for livestock team covering some BAS project areas in Ethiopia.



Similar trips were organized for the South Sudanese side of BAS sub-basin 05- 12 May 2015, covering Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states. In South Sudan the Consultant and ENTRO team visited Torit, state administrative capital of Eastern Equatoria. The Water Supply and

Sanitation Team (WSS) including water for livestock Consultant team and ENTRO organized similar visits to South Sudan from 28th June 4th July 2015, where series of diagnostic consultative meetings were conducted. An inception report of these meetings is under way.

EN Multi-Sector Investment Opportunity Analysis study EN Multi-Sector Investment Opportunity Analysis study



The Eastern Nile Multi-Sector Investment Opportunity Analysis (EN-MSIOA) study is one of several specific studies being undertaken to achieve the general objective of the NCORE in EN. A closer look at the water resources development plans of individual countries indicates that those developments will face both positive and negative externalities which ideally require a new approach of adaptive management and sustained cooperation among the Eastern Nile riparian countries. Thus, the EN-MSIOA study is aiming to develop a regional water investment strategy for the EN region that broadly supports socio-economic development, poverty reduction, and the reversal of environmental degradation. The study is divided into four (4) main tasks, namely: Task 1: Inventory and Situation Analysis; Task 2: Strategic Scoping of EN Multi-Sectoral Investments; Task 3: Multi-Sectoral Analysis of Investment Opportunities; and Task 4: MSIOA Final Products. The deliverables and activities under the MSIOA study include the following categorized under each task.

Task 1: Inventory and Situation Analysis Task:

- The inception report of the MSIOA study has been submitted. ENTRO engaged EN stakeholders to comment on the report and the final version of the report has been submitted incorporating the comments,
- Baseline mapping of physical resources (climatic, hydrologic, geographic, socio-economic, environmental, etc...),

- The inventory and characteristics of existing water resources management and development projects and potential investment options (soft and hard investments),
- An overview of the water resources of the eastern Nile basin and the catchment characteristics of each sub-basin,
- A sectoral review aimed at providing the necessary background and identifying the various development and management projects, both existing and planned, especially those of regional significance,
- Assessment of major issues, hotspots, constraints/risks and opportunities,
- Identification of strategic economic, environmental and social issues relating to proposed investments based on project characteristics, locations, experience from similar projects, expert opinion, and rudimentary analysis,

ENTRO distributed the Situation Analysis (SA) report to different stockholders for their feedback and conducted a consultation workshop November 15-16, 2014. Methodology for the next step of the MSIOA study and identifying main indicator was also initiated during this workshop.

Task 2: Strategic Scoping of EN Multi-Sectoral Investments report:

The scoping of investments looked at the different types of interventions that may be considered and what sort of scoping criteria can be used to identify and evaluate potential interventions for inclusion in the MSIOA. Based on these criteria, a number of water resources development and management interventions under thematic and sectoral headings were briefly described and put forward for further consideration.

Task 3: Multi-Sectoral Analysis of Investment Opportunities report:

The Analytical Framework includes two core components; the EN Basin Simulation Model (ENBSM) and the Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA). The ENBSM produces both water resources-related and socio-economic outputs which can be used together with other indicators in the MCA. These were used to evaluate a total of 12 basin-wide development scenarios looking into the impacts and benefits. “MSIOA- Scoping Consultation Workshop” was conducted in Addis Ababa in February 2015.



The two deliverables (Task 2 and Task 3) were distributed to the EN stakeholders before the workshop.

Task 4: MSIOA Investment Strategy and Action Plan

The MSIOA team worked closely with ENTRO to incorporate feedbacks and update the reports and deliverables. The MSIOA Investment Strategy and Action Plan is the subject of this report. The Investment strategy is expected to guide decision-makers at the regional and national levels in deciding which projects should be excluded or included and what to be the priorities.

Sustaining and Enhancing EN Flood Season Monitoring Program



In 2014, Rainfall Forecast program provided EN Region a platform to share its information with Eastern Nile communities and to deliver a useful service. The weather situation over the Eastern Nile region was continuously monitored for potential severe weather using ETA model and other regional and global NWP models. In 2014 flood season, forecasting was conducted in the EN region with the guidance and supervision of the Senior Water Resources Planner, and support from ENTRO team, young professionals were tasked to issue a flood forecast bulletin every week for the Gambella flood plains, to undertake Lake Tana Model Forecast and operationalize Sudan FEWS. The detail activities are below.

- Daily and weekly Forecast Report for Lake Tana Floodplains (Eta weather forecast model, combined flood forecasting models) and supported the enhancement of Lake Tana Models,
- Daily and weekly Forecast Report for Blue and Main Nile System in Sudan (Sudan FEWS) and Supported the enhancement of Sudan Flood Forecast Models,
- Flood Forecasting conducted for BAS floodplains in Gambella and initiated for South Sudan,



- Supported the of the flood admin tool, flood app, etc.
- Produced report on “Flood preparedness and early Warning Seasonal Monitoring in the Eastern Nile Basin”

Short-term Outcome 3.2 Increased integration of social development and environmental dimensions in ENSAP projects

Regional Capacity Building Workshop in Social Development and Environment Management (27th-29th Dec 2014, Debrezeit, Ethiopia)

This workshop was organized for ENTRO national focal points (Sudan, RSS and Ethiopia) and also for ENTRO Regional Coordinators, some of whom are newly hired. The workshop was also organized for ENSAP social development and environment working groups. The phasing out of CBSI (2010) and NTEAP (2012) created a gap that ENTRO now plans to redress by the reconstitution of a regional social development



and environment management working group. The plan includes revitalization of the role of National Social Development Coordinators as well as nomination by the countries of National Environment Management Focal Points – at the Ministries of Water Resources and the Power Utilities. In pursuit of its plan, ENTRO organized a workshop to revitalize the regional working group. The objectives of the workshop include: Revitalization of the Regional Social Development and Environment Management Working Group, capacity building for members of the regional group, and deliberation on mandate and future plans of the regional working group. A total of 49 participants attended the training workshop, of whom, 38 were from Government offices and Universities, 1 Intern, 8 ENTRO staff, 3 consultants. 24% were female participants.

The capacity building training workshop focused on topics such as: NBI/ENSAP/ENTRO update; NB sustainability framework; NBI environment & social policy; environment audit concept and tools; ENSAP environment and social management guidance; NBI gender policy and strategy; gender audit; NBI public participation framework; climate change and

enhancing resilience; SSEA and EIA ;roles, responsibilities and future plans of regional working groups and methodologies for collection of social data.

National Capacity Building Workshop in Social Development and Environmental Management (1st- 6th Dec 2014, Juba)

Capacity building of ENTRO staff and country teams of ENSAP projects is a precondition for effective integrations of social development and environmental concerns. The social development modules covered social and gender issues in natural resource, stakeholder processes, methodologies for social and environmental assessments in project preparation, and conflict transformation emanating from natural resources use and project implementation.



The capacity building training workshop focused on four themes: the trans-boundary aspects of environmental management, the integration of social and environmental issues, approach to climate change in ENSAP projects and environmental management in the project cycle.

The objective of the training workshop was to familiarize with key NBI/ENSAP social and environmental policies and to ensure good practice in integrating social and environmental concerns and priorities into the preparation and implementation of ENSAP projects among *key stakeholders in South Sudan*.

Twent-two participants attended the workshop; 15 were from Government offices and Universities, 4 ENTRO staff, 3 consultants. 27% were female participants.

Climate Risk Assessment Study

The study has the objective to develop and operationalize analytical framework to integrate climate risk into the process of investment planning and management of the basin resources. All of the deliverables of the study were submitted and ENTRO technical team commented on the deliverables. The consultant is updating the report by incorporating the comments.

Climate Risk Assessment training workshop Dec 21-22, 2014 Khartoum

This workshop aimed to strengthen the capacities of the EN national & regional institutions on the proposed analytical framework for climate risk assessment and means for integrating adaptation and mitigation measures as part of the planning process.



ENWSM Social and Environmental Management and Conflict Transformation National Workshop, Dec 8th - 12th June 2015 Juba

Ensuring the environmental and social sustainability of watershed management and development projects in a post conflict environment and in a complex, sensitive ecological and social setting, as pertains in South Sudan, is challenging. The need to institute safeguards both upstream in the planning and downstream in the implementation phases of watershed projects is a must.



The twin goals of development and conservation cannot be realized without buy-in and support from local communities. So, safeguard policies have to provide a platform for the participation of stakeholders in project design and implementation, and have been an important instrument for building ownership among the local people. The training workshop on *Social and Environmental Management & Conflict Transformation* is prepared in response to the identified needs and based on the request of ENSAPT team leader for South Sudan.

The main objective of the workshop is to contribute in meeting Social and Environment management capacity needs reflected at two spatial levels: *project/community level and transboundary levels*. Specific workshop objectives include:

- Introduce watershed management experts to principles and concepts and practices of environmental and social safeguards and raise awareness thereof,
- Build capacity of technical experts in social-conflict proofing watershed projects,
- Introduce upstream planning for sustainability (SSEA), and
- Introduce practical cases from ENSAP and elsewhere where social and environmental issues have been integrated into project planning and implementation.

The workshop addressed the following topics: Introduction to Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SSEA); conceptual background to natural resource based conflict management; social

and environmental management of watershed projects; introduction to social and environmental safeguards; stakeholder involvement; and elements of program communication.

Twenty field technicians selected from among the technical staff working in the ministry of electricity, water resources, irrigation and dams and other relevant institutions participated in the training.

4 Sustainability of Results

Various capacity building trainings and workshops were facilitated at national level to strengthen their planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation capacity of experts in the EN which has utmost importance to identify relevant projects, lead the implementation process in the right track and also to sustain the project gains/achievements.

The active involvement of institutions, at different level, and the local community during the project study of the four watershed management investment projects has created common understanding and ownership feeling which will impact positively the sustainability of the deliverables into the next steps. The preparation of the field guide to watershed management will also enhance the planning and implementation capacity of national institutions as it provides practical guidance on planning steps and selection of appropriate technologies. All these efforts have added value to sustain the gains achieved so far.

5 Program Management

ENTRO has continued its considerable effort in coordination and management of ENSAP projects with strong team-spirit and collaboration within ENSAP projects and other crosscutting functional units. ENTRO management was closely following the implementation process of each ENSAP project. Although, it was unable to implement regional activities fully as per the planned schedule, because of the situation in the NBI, ENTRO devised alternative strategy and implemented regional activities separately at national level, as per the countries specific needs, through active involvement of national project coordinators of the EN countries. In addition, ENTRO initiated and implemented internship program with some of the EN Universities, which was successful to bring together young EN professionals to share experiences and learn from the realities that is going on in the EN associated with water resources planning and development.

6 Program Expenditures

This budget utilization report is prepared on the basis of the annual work plan & budget allocated for July 2014-June 2015. Out of the total US\$ 6.5 million annual budget for July 2014-June 2015, US\$

3.8 million (59 %) was utilized over the last twelve months ending 30th June 2015. The reasons for the variance are described in the table below.

ENSAP Annual Expenditure, July 2014-June 2015				
ENSAP /ENTRO projects with funding sources	Annual Planned Budget	Annual Actual Expenditure	% utilized	Reasons for the variance, if any
WSM -GEF	422,931	339,968	80%	
NCORE -NBTF	3,162,504	2,810,474	89%	
NCORE-CIWA	200,000	117,973	59%	The planned budget for resource mobilization hasn't been utilized
BAS -AFDB	1,619,670	117,515	7%	Delay in mobilizing the Main consultant for BAS project study (advance payment and inception report payment not effected, No stakeholders' consultation events organized).
SDC	500,500	0	0%	Project Proposal not yet agreed with SDC
CC	592,000	456,172	77%	
	6,497,605	3,842,102	59%	

7 Major Challenges & Constraints and Mitigation strategies

One of the challenges encountered during this reporting period was the procurement process of the main Consultant to undertake BAS project study, took long time because of procedural problems. This came as a result of the Bank's decision to halt the on going process and asked ENTRO to retender. ENTRO followed the Bank's advise and retendered the procurement processes to mitigate the challenge. To expedite the retendering process, it was agreed that ENTRO to revisit the already approved long list to establish a short list of six firms whose proposals were solicited. Currently, the procurement process is finalized and the consultant started the project study.

The major challenge for ENWM project was the inability to conduct the planned regional training workshops because of the freezing of regional activities. The situation has changed since January last year (with the unfreezing of Sudan and the joining of South Sudan as new member of ENTRO) and created the opportunity to initiate regional activities. However, the current interim

arrangement (undertaking capacity building activities at national level based on specific project needs with a prime objective of expediting implementation of national projects effectively and efficiently) was found effective and will continue in parallel to the regional activities.

The delayed release of NCORE supplemental fund has impacted negatively the implementation process of the project. The project staff was entered into a work pressure to accomplish the planned activities within a very limited time before the end of December 2014.

The Social Development and Communication Unit had to operate under severe manpower shortage. The Development Communication and Environment Officers position have been vacant for about three and two years, respectively. The SDCU head, in their absence, has been forced to cover their positions working overtime and weekends-a situation which was difficult to sustain. Currently, a communication consultant is onboard to assist the SDCU head.

The consultant for ENTRO web portal enhancement terminated his consultancy before finalizing the work. It was not easy for ENTRO since there was no in-house capacity with SharePoint knowledge to finalize the work. As a solution measure, ENTRO tried to make use of in-house capacity to propose a new portal structure and user interface design by consulting with ENTRO technical team and with the help of the World Bank experts.

The MSIOA study was constrained by lack of consultation and involvement of Egypt which created a gap to identify projects that would address regional significance, the short time allocated to the study compared to the huge tasks expected was also a constraint. Considering the challenges and gaps it was recommended to continue the MSIOA to enhance the quality of the study by covering selected activities. Make consultation to the countries focusing on the MCA to give weight to the various indicators; consider climate change scenarios in the analytical framework; update the scenario analysis using the indicators, work out economic analysis and prioritize projects; and update the investment action plan, investment strategic report and MSIOA report.

8 Summary and conclusion: Way forward

The raison d'être for ETRO's existence, i.e. its core business, is identification and preparation of cooperative water resources investment projects thru facilitating dialogue, confidence building and bridging gaps in water resources knowledge and expertise among countries. In short, it is investment preparation thru building a regional institution that is both technically and managerially competent.

The start has been very promising. Thru the first IDEN project, countries were enthusiastically collaborating, identifying and jointly preparing projects that confer benefits to each country, though

small scale in size. Thus the EN Watershed Management Project, the EN Irrigation and Drainage Project; the EN Planning Model Project; The Flood Protection and Early Warning Project, the Ethiopia-Sudan Transmission Interconnection Project – all of them prepared cooperatively thru the participation of experts from the countries – delivered benefits i.e. investment projects (irrigation schemes, watershed management projects, transmission interconnection, etc.) and a suite of studies (Cooperative Regional Assessments in the Watershed, Irrigation and Power Trade sectors, some including pre-feasibility studies) and attendant knowledge products.

The results were so inspiring that confidence – both among EN countries and among development partners, particularly the World Bank – grew so much that it was decided to move from single-country, single-sector, small scale projects of the IDEN type, toward multi-country, multi-sector, large scale and transformational nature that would lay the cornerstone for regional integration. This briefly was how the first JMP-the Joint Multipurpose Project – was conceived and launched in 2006.

When Sudan and Egypt froze of participation in all NBI/ ENSAP activities in June 2010 – for reasons that had little to do with the JMP and more to do with the CFA - the hoped for breakthrough via JMP was frustrated. ENSAP/ENTRO then strove to move forward with the studies, but was insufficient to solicit the required spirit of cooperation and lost momentum, though after thousands of dollars expended some useful study outputs were produced at the end of the JMP Identification studies.

During the freeze ENSAP/ENTRO was facing existential threat and had to be sustained thru a life-support system, thanks to the World Bank managed NBTf and NCore. Indeed, with the return of Sudan to the NBI/ENSAP and the admission of South Sudan, ENSAP/ENTRO has witnessed reinvigoration. Nevertheless, Egypt is still playing a not constructive role, in that it is frustrating ENTRO's resource mobilization efforts and working toward bypassing and sidelining ENSAP/ENTRO in matters that pertain to the cooperative management and development of Eastern Nile water resources. No wonder, therefore, development partners refocus attention to NELSAP, where such hydropolitical complexities and conflicts do not exist or are minimal, and countries in any case, are vested in getting things done – i.e. identifying, preparing, implementing cooperative water resources projects.

Given this backdrop, we need to ask “Whither ENSAP” vis-à-vis its 2014-2019 strategic plan?! How can we reinvigorate ENSAP/ENTRO vis-à-vis its core mission of delivering water resources investments?!

Despite reinvigorated governance support BAS is the only investment related ENSAP study at present. Dam safety funding has come to an end, with the closure of ENCORE. So, also is the EN Watershed Management as GEF funding phases out. These two critical water infrastructure and natural resource management activities are under threat of closure.

As it stands, if planned staff hiring is implemented, there should be sufficient project preparation work to warrant that, at least in the short-run. At the same time, the attrition of senior staff is a concern in view of carrying through the adopted strategic plan. All of the foregoing circumstances require ENTRO to reconfigure its activities and prioritize and recalibrate its focus areas.

To reconcile the foregoing, sometimes conflicting demands of managing ENSAP (e.g. hiring new staff to fill vacant positions accompanied by attrition of experienced staff), it is suggested that for the short-run, until sufficient projects are at hand ready for preparation work, the Environment Specialist, the Resource Mobilization specialist hiring could be suspended, while Communication is sustained with the current junior staff as well as the water resources planner positions be sustained with the current junior Water resources planner. When and if needed, ENTRO can seek support from Nile-Sec and/or NELSAP staff in these areas.

In order to speed up and embark on effective resource mobilization, it is recommended that ENSAP focus on those areas which are current on the global development agenda; can solicit wider support and buy-in from the development partner community and others; and in any case cannot arouse any reasonable or acceptable opposition, even from those that oppose NBI/ENSAP. These areas include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Climate Change Adaptation, mitigation related
- Nature conservation, biodiversity, biosphere conservation related
- Natural Resource conservation-cum-economic development, such as eco-tourism promotion related
- Water resources management related data generation (e.g. sediment monitoring; hydro-meteorological data generation, etc.)