

Nile Basin Initiative
Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project
Micro-grants Program Kenya
Annual Report 2008

1. Background Information

1.1 Program/Project Background

The Nile Transboundary Micro-grants Program aims at integrating environmental and natural resource management concerns into the development process through capacity building, more effective environmental monitoring, assessment, and planning with enhanced local participation through demonstration of projects involving full range of key stakeholders as well as policy reforms.

The Nile Transboundary Micro-grants Program supports in strengthening of institutions and development of human resources required for effective environmental management. It focuses on preventive policies and technical interventions to avoid potential damage to natural resources and curative measures to address current problems and lastly natural resource management programs for sustained use and conservation of natural resources.

1.2 Report Background

The 2008 Annual report covers the activities from the beginning of January 2008 to December 2008 with much emphasis on the design and development of wetlands conservation projects, monitoring and follow-up of funded projects, capacity building of grantees and linkages to enhance sustenance of the funded projects.

2. Project Context

2.1 External Context

This year 2008 there was more focuss on Wetlands conservation activities and linkages with the other institutions like Sio-Malaba Malakisi basin project to provide synergy to the micro-grants activities and more so to facilitate a process of possible scaling up of piloted activities. The period as well experienced the close collaboration with government departments and as well as other civil society organizations like the Kenya Nile Discourse Forum.

2.2 Internal Context

The Country Operating budget has never been received this year 2008, the host institutions didn't renew the contract, and this has forced the project office to relocate to UNICEF offices and to operate without funds for the whole year. This has serious effects on the program quality and meeting of targets, for the year.

2.3 Effects on Project Implementation

The low capacity of NGO/CBOs has made it very challenging to not only receive substandard both narrative and financial reports which take time to be revised for eventual subsequent disbursement of funds, but as well quite challenging during implementation.

Delay in disbursement process provide a cut off period during which grantees may not be implementing, thus when they receive the money then it's like they start all over again.

3. Actual Results for the Period Outputs

3.1 Impacts (if any)

The livelihood aspects of the projects has economically empowered some communities especially the fish farming groups are able to earn some income, though still erratic but has given hopes, one particular widow has been empowered as she is able to participate in gainful income generating project after one of the micro-grants project provided a house using appropriate building blocks. Other women are as well able to save on time and resources, looking for wood fuel as they have installed energy saving stoves in their kitchens.

3.2 Short- and Medium-term Outcomes

Awareness' level on environmental conservation and the reasoning behind it has increased especially to the areas that the Micro-grants projects are being implemented.

In some projects intervening on land degradation control it is encouraging to see galleys start to heal up as well as farmers reclaiming their farms.

The Micro-grants projects have enhanced regular communication and networking between communities and the Government departments affected as the project implementers collaborate with the various Government Departments.

3.3 Outputs

Output 3.3.1 Micro-grant projects put fully operational and implementation on the ground strengthened

This year 2008 three new projects were approved by the NSC two mainly on wetlands management and one on river bank protection which was funded in collaboration with the NELSAP project of Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Basin Project. Total amount of the three projects are USD 75,000. So far Micro-grants program has identified and funded 26 projects with a total amount of USD 623,954 on various thematic areas ranging from land degradation, biodiversity, international waters as well as climate change.

Outcome 3.3.2 Improved capacity of the communities of the Nile Basin to demonstrate viable approaches to integrated natural resources management across GEF focal areas:

26 community projects are on the ground being implemented according the GEF Focal areas and the respective NGO/CBOs who are implementing the activities are creating awareness and training the communities on the implementation process thus enhancing communities capacity to demonstrate viable projects.

Output 3.3.3 Capacities of NGOs and CBOs on addressing environmental threats enhanced

The Evaluation consultant was hired, carried out the evaluation exercise to eight projects and submitted her report with recommendadtions to improve the implementation of activities.

Auditing of eight micro-grants project with external auditors from price water house coopers was carried out and the weaknesses and strengths of various organizations highlighted.

Follow up was done to 16 grantees to assess their activities as well as 3 organizations that submitted their proposal for considerations to asses their capacity.

MGC attended the NTEAP Staff retreat in Mwanza Tanzania to chart way forward for the beginning of the year 2008.

Three articles on implemented project were developed and published in the NTEAP newsletter for sharing with other stakeholders.

MGC attended Lake Victoria Wetlands Stakeholders Consultative Meeting to discuss threats to the wetlands around Lake Victoria and to build networks for the conservation of the wetlands. Three micro-grants grantees also attended and one organization whose proposal on wetlands had just been approved by the NSC. The meeting was organized by the East African Wildlife Society and Kenya Wetlands Forum.

MGC attended a workshop on institutional capacity building for sustainable consumption and production of Lake Victoria Basin Resources organized by the Kenya National Cleaner Production Center funded by SIDA.

Two women representatives of grantees attended the workshop in Cairo Egypt in June 2008, together with the LMGC on Capacity building of women organization on fund raising, gender mainstreaming in environment projects as well as networking. The women formed the regional network after the workshop.

Advisory services have been provided to 16 Grantees on the financial report preparation as well as narrative reports presentations.

The World Bank Mission visited Six projects implemented by grantees, their main message was to work on linkages for the micro-grants projects to be scaled up and also anchor them to permanent institutions for sustainability.

Output 3.3.4 viable options for community level actions to address Nile environmental threats (in accordance to the relevant GEF focal areas) produced

26 Community projects are being implemented which are addressing areas like afforestation, energy saving, fish farming, appropriate construction materials, organic farming, agro-forestry technologies, wetlands conservation, biodiversity conservation, water pollution control, spring protection for safe water, river catchment protection, river bank protection, soil erosion control among other activities.

3.4 Unintended Results (if any)

Two projects have not been able to receive funds after their second disbursement thus communities who were beneficiaries are kept in the dark, as the two organizations were given adverse publicity.

4 Project Expenditures

Activity	Disburse
Grants	\$ 121,429
Disbursement on COB	\$ 00
Other authorizations (include activities not covered through COB)	\$ 00
Total	\$ 121,429

5 Recommendations and Lessons Learned

5.1 Projects with direct livelihoods activities seem to attract attention of many community members some of which may develop grudge/jealousy with the

implementing CBO and thus bring conflicts and acrimony. (Two of the fish farming projects funded have experienced direct conflict with some disgruntled community members)

5.2 Group monitoring of projects would need thorough understanding of various projects milestones and more so the specifications in design and agreement to avoid generalizing output based solely on tangible outputs.