

Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project

Nile Transboundary Microgrants Program - Tanzania,

Annual Progress Report

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1. Background Information

1.1 Program/Project Background

Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project NTEAP is one of the seven capacity building projects implemented by Nile Basin Initiative in a Shared Vision program. The project has five years lifetime period supported by Nile Basin Initiative. The Project is implemented in nine countries within the Nile Basin and in Tanzania it operates within three regions and nine districts of Tanzania namely Kagera (Bukoba Rural, Misenyi and Muleba), Mara (Bunda, Musoma Rural and Tarime) and Mwanza (Magu, Missungwi and Ukerewe) respectively. The program started its implementation in Tanzania in February 2005 and it was officially launched in July 2005 in Mwanza Tanzania.

Nile Transboundary Microgrants Program is a major activity within the Community Level Land, Forest and Water Conservation Component of the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP). The main objective of the Microgrants Program is to support Community driven interventions addressing Transboundary environmental challenges on a local scale and those contributing towards poverty reduction. It is hosted by ECOVIC Tanzania Chapter and operates from Mwanza City, in Tanzania.

1.2 Report Background

This is the fourth Annual Report for the Microgrants Program in Tanzania. The report has been organized basing on the three major components of the program which are Program Management, Capacity Building and Grants Management components respectively. The first part of this report gives the general introduction of the MGP in Tanzania, whereas sections two to five gives the accounts of the accomplishments against the planned activities in respective components.

2. Actual Results for the Period Outputs

2.1 Program Management

The objective of this component is to ensure effective program implementation, active coordination and networking with other programs. Also to ensure that program progress and challenges are communicated through the official channels.

Accomplishments

The following are the achievements realized in the period between January – December 2008 under Program Management component:

i) Procurement of office stationeries and supplies

The MGP facilitated the procurement of various stationeries and supplies to make its implementation smooth. The following are some of the equipment procured by the Program:

- Photocopy papers,
- Printer cartridges,
- Office stationeries and supplies,

- Motor vehicle fuel

ii) Prepare Monthly/Quarterly Progress Reports

Four Quarterly and eleven Monthly Progress reports were prepared and submitted to relevant bodies in the period between January and December 2008. The reports were prepared to give feedback to the program stakeholders on the program progress and challenges facing the program implementation. In the progress reports the following topics were covered:

- Work accomplished against planned in one particular month and quarter,
- Work expected during the next month and quarter
- Challenges/ unforeseen conditions that affected the implementation of the program,

iii) Prepared Annual Work Plan

Year 2008 Annual Implementation Plan and budget were prepared and submitted to the PMU for compilation together in the NTEAP Annual Work plan. The work plan covered all the proposed activities for the whole year 2007.

iv) Facilitated printing of 1500 MGP brochures

The Microgrants Program facilitated printing of 1500 pieces of brochures. The brochures summarized most of the relevant information regarding the MGP. Some of the brochures were distributed to stakeholders and some are retained for future distribution and use. The recipient of the brochures commended on the importance of the information brochures contained.

v) Facilitated Host NGO to sign Hosting Contract

The National Microgrants Host Organization ECOVIC Tanzania was facilitated by the LMGC to sign another contract extension to host the Microgrants Program activities in Tanzania up to December 2008. The signed contract was sent to UNOPS headquarters for perusal and utilization.

vi) Facilitate cross border study/exposure visits to NGOs and Community members

Two projects in Kagera Region (Kassambya Gugumaji Group and Obuhangwa Group conducted exposure visits to Uganda Groups respectively) in Uganda they studied how projects are being implemented and agreed to implement the best practices they acquired.

2.2 Capacity Building

The objective of this component is to ensure that the capacity of grantees in proposal development, projects identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is enhanced. It also ensures that grantees in need of capacity building in specific areas are promptly attended or directed to the respective resource organizations.

Accomplishments

i) Conducted supportive supervision visits to grantees

- The LMGC conducted regular supportive supervisions to assist the on going projects in a number of issues including quality and timely reporting and monitoring and evaluation matters.

- The LMGC also participated in the PSC members' joint projects monitoring mission in collaboration with the NPCs and the PMU staff. The joint monitoring mission was conducted for one day after the PSC meeting whereby one team visited Ukerewe district and the second team visited projects in Magu and Mwanza city respectively.
- The LMGC participated in the conduction of Joint NTEAP Project Monitoring Visits which involved the PSC member, NPC, Host Organization and other working group members respectively. The visit was conducted for one week in August 2008 and covered two regions of the Lake Zone namely Mwanza and Mara regions respectively. The visited projects were the microgrants, the NEPs and School Projects respectively in the above mentioned areas. The monitoring team also appraised one NEP project in Bunda district which will be funded in year 2008.

ii) Facilitated grantees to request funding disbursements

The LMGC facilitated the old and new grantees to process and request funding disbursements from UNOPS. The requested funding disbursements this year were quickly processed minimizing the usual complaints from the grantees. Most of the grantees planned activities were implemented as planned.

iii) Facilitate capacity building to the newly approved projects

The LMGC combined this training with the pre award training for new microgrants projects respectively. Three newly approved projects in the end of year 2007 and three selected on going projects attended the training. A three days training was organized by the MGP in April 08 for 12 (3F and 9M) participants. The participants were facilitated on the project cycle management, introduced to NBI/NTEAP and the MGP; other issues included MOU terms and conditions, key issues in monitoring and evaluation, Financial Management and Financial Reporting, Reviewing quarterly reports and reporting requirements..

iv) Facilitate one National M&E/Auditing capacity building workshop

One national audit was facilitated by the PMU and conducted by the international auditors from Pricewater House Coopers in Nairobi. The audit exercise covered 9 out of 28 projects sampled and exerted to the auditors for their scrutiny. The audit covered some graduated projects and middle aged projects respectively. The draft audit report was submitted to us and audit responses were also prepared and submitted.

v) Participate in the regional and national capacity building workshops,

The LMGC participated in the Regional Women NGOs Capacity Building Workshop in Cairo, Egypt. During the workshop participants were facilitated on gender issues, project design and monitoring and networking. A women regional network was formed after the workshop. Tanzania was represented by three participants who latter organized a similar training in the country.

The LMGC participated in the preparation and facilitation of national Women NGO Capacity Building Workshop in Mwanza, Tanzania. The workshop was conducted in September 2008 whereby 22 participants represented their organizations in the workshop. Two women who participated in the regional workshop in Cairo were the lead facilitators of the workshop. During

the workshop participants were trained on gender issues, networking, financial management and project planning and management respectively.

vi) Facilitate End of Year Evaluation and audit

The LMGC in collaboration with the PMU facilitated conduction of the microgrants project evaluation. The evaluation exercise covered 13 out of 28 projects in eight districts where the microgrants program is operational. The evaluation also covered graduated projects, middle aged and new projects respectively. The final evaluation report has been finalized and submitted.

2.3 Microgrants Management

The objective of this component is to ensure that MGP information, conditions, eligibility criteria, selection criteria and screening process are prepared and disseminated. Also to ensure that fund disbursement is done timely and that grantees financial reports are timely submitted, Microgrants are managed in a transparent manner and that there is accountability.

Accomplishments

i) Receive and review grantees Monthly Progress and Financial Reports

Quarterly progress and financial reports were received from all on going projects. Received reports were reviewed and feedbacks given to the grantee respectively.

ii) Receive, review and forward fund disbursement requests to PMU

Funding disbursement requests from all the on going projects were processed and sent to Khartoum for approvals. All the requested funds were paid through the RPTP PMU. In year 2008 alone US\$ 149,696.0 have been so far paid to grantees leading the total grant disbursed to date to reach US\$ 593,739 out of US\$ 642,735 committed by NTEAP.

iii) Facilitate signing of Memorandum of Agreements (MOA)

One memorandum of agreement for the Ngara Jatropa Foundation was signed between UNOPS and the proponent to implement a project in Ngara district, in Kagera region.

iv) Facilitate projects graduation ceremonies

The microgrants program facilitated graduation of three old projects in the fourth quarter, thus leading the total graduated projects to date to sixteen projects. The graduated projects included:

- i) Lake Nyanza Environmental and Sanitation Organization (**LANESO**) with a project named 'Control of Water hyacinth in Speke Gulf Project' which was operational in Magu district, Mwanza region.
- ii) Kagera Community Development Trust, (**KADET**) with a project named 'Environmental Rehabilitation of Ngono River Source in Muleba District' which was operational in Muleba district, Kagera region.
- iii) Kagera Development and Credit Revolving Trust Fund, (**KADETFU**) with a project named 'Community Involvement in Sustainable Agro-Ecosystem Management and Utilization of Natural Resources in the Lake Victoria Basin in Kagera Region' which was operational in Muleba and Bukoba districts respectively.

- iv) Mwanza Women Development Association (**MWDA**) with a project named 'Environmental Conservation and Protection through Women Empowering in Ukerewe District' operational in Ukerewe district in Mwanza region.
- v) Tanzania Development and AIDS Prevention (**TADEPA**) with a project named 'Reduction of women workload through sustainable water supply, sanitary environment and afforestation' operational in Bukoba rural district.
- vi) Mogabiri Farm Extension Center (**MFEC**) with a project named 'Mara River Conservation Project'
- vii) Family Poverty Elimination Program (**FAPOEL**) with a project named 'Artificial Mass Production of Cat Fish (*Clarias gariepinus*) for long-line fishery in Lake Victoria'
- viii) Buhemba Rural Agricultural Center (**BRAC**) with a project named 'Support of Community Environmental Initiatives to land degradation along side Mara River in Musoma Rural district'
- ix) Tanzania Home Economics Association (**TAHEA**) with a project named 'Conservation of Chereche Irrigation Dam catchment area'
- x) Solar Light for the Communities of Africa – Tanzania (**SOLCAT**) with a project named 'Integrated Environmental Conservation through Awareness Creation on Solar Energy and Community Capacity Building',
- xi) Mutukula Development Association (**MDA**) with a project named 'Strengthening The Capacity Of Nsunga Ward Communities To Conserve The Minziro Forests, Bukoba Rural District
- xii) Obuhangwa Group with a project named 'Involving Kyaka Community in the Conservation of Kagera River Basin Project, Bukoba Rural District
- xiii) Upendo Community Organization (**UPENDO**) with a project named 'Magu Health and Environmental Rescue Project, Magu District
- xiv) Village Sharing Agency (**VISA NGO**) with a project named 'Environmental Conservation of Rubana River Catchment Area Project, Bunda District
- xv) Victoria Film Entertainment and Support for AIDS Control – (**VIFESA**) with a project named 'Promotion of community involvement in protecting the environment of the surrounding area and the waters of Lake Victoria'
- xvi) Mkombozi Misasi Social Group (**MMISO**) with a project named 'Promotion of Local Intervention for Sustainable Land Management in Misasi Ward'