

Project GCP/INT/945/ITA
“Information Products for Nile Basin Water Resources Management”

MINUTES OF THE SECOND PROJECT TRIPARTITE REVIEW
(Nairobi, 12 December 2007)

1. Organization of Work

Mr. Peterson Njiru, Chairman of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), was appointed as Chairperson while the rapporteur was provided by the project.

The Chairperson assumed that the mandate and purpose of the project Tri-Partite Review (TPR) meeting had been sufficiently discussed during PSC4, which was accepted by the meeting.

The agenda was discussed and adopted and is attached as Annex A.

2. Matters Arising from TRP1

No matters were raised.

3. Evaluation of Project Progress and Achievements to date

Project progress and relevance are reflected in the minutes of PSC4, which are attached as Annex B. The Tripartite Review recognized the need for extending the project up to December 2008 – without budgetary implications for the Donor.

A statement was made by the participating countries that, among other issues, 1) expressed sincere appreciation to the Donor and FAO for their support to the Nile process in the last 12 years, 2) confirmed the relevance of the project outputs and activities, both for the Nile process as well as for national water resources planning and management issues, and 3) noted the importance of the ongoing agricultural productivity study and the assessment of basin wide agricultural development options.

The statement also requested to explore possibilities for extending the project beyond the new termination date of 31 December 2008.

The statement further reiterated the commitment of the national project steering committee members to contact their Ministers, TAC members, and other relevant officers, on the continued relevance of the project and the justification of the requested extension of the project.

The statement is attached as Annex C.

4. The Scope for Positioning the Project Outputs Beyond the Project

The meeting discussed the relevance of leveraging project outputs through the various projects and programs implemented under the umbrella of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

The PSC members were recommended to encourage their Ministers, and in turn the Nile COM, to 1) promote measures for disseminating and internalizing project

outputs, and 2) explore how the NBI program could support, and contribute to, a possible extension of the project beyond 2008.

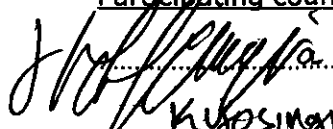
5. Any Other Business

No issues were raised.

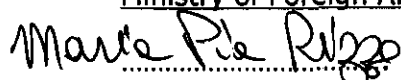
6. Adoption of TPR Report and Closure

The minutes were presented, discussed in detail, and adopted. The Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

Participating countries

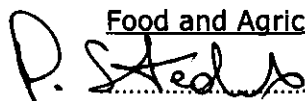
Date 12/12/07.
Kufosingwa W. Fred,
Mr. Peterson Njiru, Chairperson of the PSC

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy

Date 12/12/2002

Ms. Maria Pia Rizzo
Directorate General for Development Cooperation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Date 12/12/07

Mr. P. Steduto, Chief NRLW

Project GCP/INT/945/ITA
'Information Products for Nile Basin Water Resources Management'

Second Tripartite Review
(Nairobi, 12 December 2007)

Annotated Agenda

1. Organization of Work (9:00 – 9:30)

The representative of FAO will recall the objectives and tasks entrusted to the TPR. The parties will raise the issues they wish to discuss. The draft agenda will be amended and approved, including items for discussion obtained from PSC4.

2. Matters Arising from TRP1 (9:30 – 9:45)

The meeting will review the follow-up actions and matters arising from TPR1, if any.

3. Evaluation of Project Progress and Achievements to date (9:45 – 11:00)

On the basis of the PSC meeting, the following aspects will be examined:

- Relevance of project outputs and achievements.
- Required change, if any, in focus and emphasis of project outputs.
- Required change, if any, in project implementation schedule.

The meeting will advise the recipient governments, the Donor, and FAO on the necessary adjustment in project setup, if appropriate.

Coffee Break (11:00 – 11:30)

4. The Scope for Positioning the Project Outputs Beyond the Project (11:30 – 12:30)

The meeting will seek advice from the parties on how the project outputs can be projected beyond the life of the project, through the NBI and other related initiatives.

5. Any Other Business (12:30 – 13:00)

Lunch Break (13:00 – 14:15)

6. Adoption of TPR Report and Closure (14:15 – 15:15)

Project GCP/INT/945/ITA
“Information Products for Nile Basin Water Resources Management”

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
(Nairobi, 10-11 December 2007)

1. Opening Ceremony

The meeting convened in the Hemingway Room of the Sarova Stanley Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

On behalf of Eng Mahboub Maalim, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for Kenya, Mr. John Rao Nyaoro, Senior Deputy Director of Water, welcomed the delegates in Kenya and delivered an opening statement. Ms Maria Pia Rizzo, Multilateral Office of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy, delivered a statement on behalf of the Government of Italy. Dr. Augusta Abate, Assistant FAO Representative in Kenya, presented a statement on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The statements are attached as Annex A.

Representatives of all participating countries except Burundi were present. The meeting was also attended by delegations of the Donor and FAO. The list of participants is attached as Annex B.

2. Appointment of Chairperson and Rapporteur, and Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Peterson Njiru, project National Coordinator in Kenya, was appointed as Chairperson while the rapporteur was provided by the project.

The draft agenda was considered and approved. The adopted agenda is attached as Annex C.

3. Matters Arising from PSC3

The CTA briefed the meeting on the actions taken on the specific issues raised by PSC3, as presented in Annex D.

In view of the obvious synergies, the steering committee reiterated the importance of close linkages between the project and the SVP Efficient Water Use for Agricultural Production (EWUAP) project. The CTA was asked to explore if the two projects could cooperate in the implementation of the ongoing Farming System analysis.

The CTA briefed the meeting on the use of the Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) under high sediment conditions. The representative from Sudan requested the project to provide additional 600 kHz ADCP to the country.

4. History and Achievements of Italian Cooperation Program in the Nile Basin

The CTA presented an overview of the history and achievements of the support by the Italian Cooperation to the Nile process in the last 12 years. The overarching aim

of the program has been to create a common knowledge base and an equal level of human, technical, and institutional capacity in all Nile riparian states. This is perceived as a prerequisite for joint and equitable management of the common Nile resource.

A concise overview was provided of the actual and substantial outputs from the three consecutive basin-wide projects supported by the Italian Cooperation since 1996.

The Nile Riparian States expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of Italy for its strong commitment to the development of the Nile Basin and for its generous contribution of over US\$ 16 million since 1996.

5. General Progress Report for the Period May – December 2007

The CTA presented a general report on progress and achievements of the project in the period May to December 2007. The project progress report is attached as Annex E.

The report indicated that overall project progress to date is estimated at some 69% of the total expected outputs. Progress in the reporting period was 14%. In particular the outputs related to immediate objective 1 are in advanced state of completion.

The report emphasized the work related to developing the “Food for Thought” scenario set, the basin wide agricultural production database, and the irrigation layer. The meeting noted that the scope of the “Food for Thought” scenario exercise has expanded far beyond its original scope.

Although good progress is made in Immediate Objective 2, a number of important issues are outstanding. While output 2.2 “Using a farming system analysis to assess the realistic potential for improving agricultural productivity” is ongoing and making acceptable progress, output 2.5 “Exploring basin-wide agricultural development options” has not yet started.

The meeting discussed the progress made and noted that project implementation is mostly on track with some delays. The meeting emphasized the importance of the outstanding outputs 2.2 and 2.5 as input for assessing trade-offs and benefits of basin wide development scenarios in the Nile basin.

6. Progress of the Basin Wide Survey of Current and Projected Water Use in Rainfed and Irrigated Agriculture in the Nile Basin

The CTA presented a detailed report on the progress made in developing and implementing the basin wide survey of current and future water use in irrigated and rainfed agriculture. He highlighted the aim of the study to provide decision makers with a thorough assessment of the linkage between agriculture and water at Nile basin scale.

The meeting discussed the compilation of the agricultural production database at district level, as well as the Land-Cover to Land-Use conversion.

The CTA was instructed to add irrigation and drainage infrastructure into the irrigation database, and to compare the final layer with the FAO GMIA 4 global map of irrigated areas and the map prepared by IWMI

7. Status and Progress of the “Food for Thought” Scenario Set

A detailed presentation was made on the progress and status of the “Food for Thought” scenario set. It emphasized the comprehensive and inclusive scenario development process, and indicated that “Food for Thought” has become a vehicle for jointly analyzing the impact of rural development and agricultural trade on the Nile issues.

“Food for Thought” has proven useful for refocusing the Nile issues to a broader perspective and for jointly discovering areas for enlarging common ground.

The meeting stressed the importance of the exercise and indicated a need to disseminate the results to a much broader audience.

Separate presentations were made on 1) the impact of climate change on the Nile Basin - by Mr. Jacob Burke, and 2) biofuels: current status and prospects, by the CTA.

The meeting discussed the issues and noted the progress made with appreciation.

8. Briefing on Nile Basin Initiative Activities

On behalf of the Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat (Nile SEC), Mr. Tom Waako, Program Officer of the SVP Coordination Project, briefed the meeting on the recent developments and progress of the NBI Program, in particular those related to the activities and outputs of the project. He stressed the importance of the capacity building component included in the various NBI programs.

Questions were raised regarding the status of the Rusumo Hydro power project, the NELSAP agriculture project, and the access to the Nile SEC virtual library. The meeting further discussed the importance of enhanced cooperation with the SVP EWUAP project. Mr. Waako indicated that because SVP EWUAP has more emphasis on water, while FAO Nile has a focus on agriculture issues, likelihood of duplication is minimal.

9. Detailed Workplan for the Period January – December 2008

Although originally the project was scheduled to terminate by 31 May 2008, a no-cost extension was agreed of seven months. The new end date for the project is December 2008.

The CTA presented an itemized workplan for the period January to December 2008.

He stressed the importance of a thorough and concentrated approach to organize, package, and document all information, data sets, and analysis produced by the project so as to ensure its future use.

The workplan further proposed to focus the remaining project work on completing the baseline survey, the analysis of potential productivity increase, and the agricultural demand scenarios. A vision for future agricultural development in the Nile Basin will be elaborated in a concise document. The meeting emphasized the importance to disseminate project outputs as a package.

The proposed workplan assumes normal project field activities up to 31 May 2008, followed by a consolidation phase up to 31 December 2008. A project evaluation will be conducted at least three months prior to the project termination date. A final meeting will be organized in December 2008 to show case all project outputs and products.

The meeting discussed the workplan and clarifications were provided on the issues raised. It was agreed to maintain national coordination units to ensure proper linkage between the project office and the respective national focal point institutions up to the end of the project.

The meeting specifically noted the following:

- A number of activities presented in the workplan may not being finished by December 2008;
- A number of activities outlined do not have a budget, yet are essential;
- A number of activities outlined are desk work, yet need a full process to obtain quality insights and gain legitimacy;
- A number of activities need more time and consolidation;
- Activities implemented by the project are more "on the ground" and of direct relevance to the respective focal point institutions than those implemented by the NBI SVP;
- Output 2.2 regarding the agricultural productivity study is essential but may not be fully completed, while output 2.5 – related to the basin wide agricultural development options – is vital but may only be carried out to a limited extent;
- Disseminating project outputs – including the scenarios - need more time and attention;
- Preparing audio-visual material for disseminating the "Food for Thought" scenario set is vital;
- Consultants may be required to customize the scenario set at national level lest governments might feel criticized on governance issues;
- Groundwater monitoring needs to be included;
- National coordinators may assist on scenario dissemination.

The workplan was endorsed in principle, and is attached as Annex F. However the project management will optimize the workplan and budget with the aim of responding to these specific PSC requests, notably outputs 2.2 and 2.5. In addition, FAO will explore how its regular program can support the additional priorities indicated by the meeting.

Based on the above, the participating countries indicated the need for an extension of the current project. The following justification was provided:

- Most activities implemented by FAO Nile are not covered under the NBI SVP or SAP, and do need consolidation;

- The NBI SVP and SAP do not engage in database development, yet this is a vital activity for water resources assessment, planning, and management, both at national and Nile Basin level;
- The project should complete all activities as per its original project document and workplan;
- The Nile Countries will benefit from the fast expertise and experience at FAO, as well as through cross-fertilization since the organization is active in many parts of the globe.

The participating countries issued the following statement: "The Nile States are committed to the project and the steering committee members will contact their Ministers, TAC members, and other relevant officers, on the continued relevance of the project and the justification of the requested extension of the project."

The CTA was instructed to prepare and circulate a detailed overview of project progress on a 3-monthly basis.

10. Dissemination of Food for Thought Scenario Set

The CTA presented a proposal for disseminating the "Food for Thought" scenario set. He emphasized that dissemination and use are integral parts of a scenario exercise, and essential for creating alignment of views and collective insights. Various events for using the scenario set were proposed. However, it should be noted that no budget provisions were made for such events.

The presentation further indicated the importance of producing audio-visual material for disseminating "Food for Thought" to a wider audience. With a video, communicating the scenarios no longer relies on a few key individuals. The current setup is limiting the dissemination and use of the product. No budget provision for producing a video was made.

The meeting reviewed the proposal and stressed the importance to work together with the SVP Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement (CBSI) project, and other potential partners.

11. Dissemination of Project Outputs

A proposal for disseminating project outputs was presented to the meeting. It stressed the importance of disseminating the various products as one package. FAO will provide professional design for the package as additional input.

Disseminating data sets is subject to approval from the Nile TAC. The project office will consult the national coordinators as appropriate on this issue.

The meeting noted that FAO has standing agreements with the respective Agricultural Ministries in the Nile riparians regarding dissemination of agricultural data and information.

The meeting discussed the issue and endorsed the proposal.

12. Detailed Budget for the Period January to December 2008

The CTA presented the detailed budget proposal for the period January to December 2008. The PSC discussed the budget and requested clarifications on a number of issues.

The meeting endorsed the budget in principle, which is attached as Annex G. However, as noted under item 9 some optimization may be necessary and will accordingly be reflected in the mandatory budget revision prepared by FAO.

13. Coordination and Collaboration with the other NBI Projects

The CTA presented a report on the activities undertaken in the reporting period to ensure adequate coordination and cooperation with the other projects and programs under the umbrella of the Nile Basin Initiative.

The meeting discussed the report and emphasized the role of the National Coordinators to adequately inform the national members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile TAC) on the activities and progress of the project.

14. Issues to Be Raised by the Tri Partite Review

The CTA presented the mandate and purpose of the project Tri Partite Review (TPR) meeting. Aim of this forum is to discuss project issues of strategic nature related to continued relevance, focus, implementation schedule, and available resources.

PSC members discussed the issue and resolved to organize a consultative meeting to discuss the agenda of the Second Tripartite Review Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 12 December 2007.

15. Any Other Business

The members received the sad news of the decease of Mr. Faustine Masanja, the second PSC member for Tanzania, who was with us up to last Thursday, 7 December 2007. We acknowledge with high appreciation his great contribution to the project. We wish courage and strength to his country and his family.

16. Dates and Venue of the Next Meeting

The final project meeting will be organized by end 2008. The PSC accepted the offer from Uganda to host the meeting.

17. Adoption of the Minutes and Closure of the Meeting

The minutes were presented, discussed in detail, and adopted. The Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

Participating countries

.....Date

Mr. Peterson Njiru, Chairperson of the PSC

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy

..... Date

Ms. Maria Pia Rizzo
Directorate General for Development Cooperation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

..... Date

Mr. P. Steduto, Chief NRLW

**STATEMENT OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AT THE
SECOND TRIPARTITE MEETING OF PROJECT GCP/INT/945/ITA,
NAIROBI, KENYA, 12 DECEMBER 2007**

Vote of thanks

On behalf of the steering committee and on my own behalf, I do express sincere thanks to the Italian Cooperation and FAO-Rome for supporting the project.

It is needful to also express thanks to the CTA of the Project and the entire staff of the project management unit for the good work and tireless effort put in to have the project reach its current state.

Thanks, also goes to my colleagues, members of the Project Steering Committee for the fruitful deliberations for the last couple of days.

Observation

Please, be informed that for the last 12 years, what we have achieved by cooperation with the Italian Government and FAO is quite enormous and important and the outputs speak for themselves.

We, members of the steering committee, noted the following:

- A number of activities presented in the workplan may not being finished by December 2008;
- A number of activities outlined do not have a budget, yet are essential;
- A number of activities outlined are desk work, yet need a full process to obtain quality insights and gain legitimacy;
- A number of activities need more time and consolidation;
- Activities implemented by the project are more “on the ground” and of direct relevance to the respective focal point institutions than those implemented by the NBI SVP;
- Output 2.2 regarding the agricultural productivity study is essential but may not be fully completed, while output 2.5 – related to the basin wide agricultural development options – is vital but may only be carried out to a limited extent;
- Disseminating project outputs – including the scenarios - need more time and attention;
- Preparing audio-visual material for disseminating the “Food for Thought” scenario set is vital;

- Consultants may be required to customize the scenario set at national level lest governments might feel criticized on governance issues;
- Groundwater monitoring needs to be included;
- National coordinators may assist on scenario dissemination.

Commitment by countries

The participating countries are committed to the project and the steering committee members will contact their Ministers, TAC members, and other relevant officers, on the continued relevance of the project and the justification of the below requested extension of the project.

Humble Request

Finally the members request the Italian Cooperation and FAO Rome to consider providing another project phase/extension.