



Nile Basin Discourse

Shared Waters, Shared Opportunities In the Eastern Nile Watershed Management Project



Waters from the Ethiopian highlands spill and travel to Sudan and Egypt. The watershed project in Ethiopia encompasses components that monitor water quality which benefits downstream users.



High cost is incurred by downstream from the maintenance of water infrastructure due to siltation and sedimentation incurred from severe upstream erosion. Gully Rehabilitation in the Ethiopian watershed project site, to reduce sedimentation loads in the river systems

In the context of increasing population pressure, high climatic variability and rising water stress and scarcity the need for better land and water management is essential towards meeting national and regional developmental goals as well as reducing regional poverty and vulnerability.

Environment degradation and protection of the Nile's watershed is a regional issue that needs to be addressed collectively as the livelihoods of millions of people residing in the Eastern Nile sub-region depends on it. The Eastern Nile Basin is affected by soil erosion which has caused loss of soil fertility and as such decrease in agricultural productivity and rise in food insecurity. Sedimentation, also caused by soil erosion, has led to damaging hydro-electric turbines, irrigation pumps, high cost in water purification, loss of agricultural production and river bed aggradations, reducing dams/reservoir capacity and life span.

The Eastern Nile Watershed Management project is a cooperative program for the trans-boundary watershed management. It is implemented by the Nile Basin Initiative as part of the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) in Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt. The project objective is reversal of land degradation, promoting sustainable livelihoods to reduce regional poverty and render regional shared benefits through coordinated management and utilization of the Eastern Nile watersheds.

Land Degradation Types	Affected Country	Cost incurred
Erosion of sheet, gully, kerib, river bank	Sudan	31 million
Sedimentation- dredging, weeding, dredging turbine intake	Sudan	14 million
Nutrient breaches and fertility loss (severe soil erosion)	Ethiopia	221 million

Improving the community's livelihoods and Strengthening household resilience to combat poverty

The overall framework of integrated watershed management is addressing the basic developmental needs of the Eastern Nile community residing along the watershed and enhancing their productivity and diversify their livelihood means to result in the sustainable management of the natural resources of the area which renders impact at the sub basin level which in turn contributes to regional benefits.



Public water point scheme in Ethiopia avails water to approximately 200 people; water point is constructed and managed by the community.



Women fisheries in Sudan engaged in harvesting and commercial fish trading



Non-farm Income Generating Activity- Beehive management and honey production in Ethiopia

Livelihood Approach to Integrated Watershed Management is an approach that requires the quality engagement of those affected by the project in the design, planning, implementation and management stages.

The project framework is based upon a broad framework that acknowledges poverty as a cause and result of land degradation. Poverty is highly prevalent in the rural population of the Eastern Nile Basin whose primary livelihood source is agricultural. However, other aspects of livelihood such as access to market, health education, basic services, livelihood skills and training needs to also be incorporated and addressed alongside environmental interventions to reduce the incidence of poverty and enhance the productivity.

Some of the livelihood interventions in the project include:

- ◆ Development of small scale enterprises
- ◆ Non-farm income generation and small and micro enterprise development
- ◆ Improving regional market linkages via experience exchange, physical construction of feeder roads to promote regional trade and economical integration
- ◆ Provision of farmer training centers, vocational training, market intelligence
- ◆ Supporting women entrepreneurs through micro credit access at community level
- ◆ Diversifying the source of income and livelihood of the community.

Footnotes:

1. Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. August 2008 "Watershed Management in the Eastern Nile Basin- Challenges and Opportunities"
2. Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office, December 2007. "Integrated Watershed Management, Fast-Track Project, Project Implementation Plan- Ethiopia and Sudan"

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