

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

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
(Bujumbura, 17-18 FEBRUARY 2006)

1. Opening Ceremony

The meeting convened in the Conference Room of Hotel Source du Nil in Bujumbura, Burundi.

On behalf of H.E. Mrs. Odette Kayitesi, Minister of Land Management, Tourism and Environment for Burundi, Mr. Appolinaire Nzeyimana, Chief of Cabinet, welcomed the delegates in Burundi and delivered an opening statement on behalf of the host country. Mr. Giuseppe Cirillo, Head of the Delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, delivered a statement on behalf of the Government of Italy. Mr. Mustafa Soares Cassama, FAO Representative in Burundi, 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, the Donor, and FAO were present. The list of participants is attached as Annex B.

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

Ambassador Stanislas Nakaha, Second PSC Member of Burundi, was appointed as Chairperson. The meeting expressed its appreciation for the accomplishments of the outgoing Chair, Mr. Nsubuga Senfuma, National Coordinator of Uganda, during his three-year tenure. The outgoing chair commended both the Donor and the executing agency for their support for the ongoing project.

The rapporteur was provided by the project.

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

3. Remarks by the Delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy

Ms. Maria Pia Rizzo, member of the Delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, expressed her appreciation to all delegates for their commitment to the success of the project. She stressed the importance of project activities at national level. She further informed the meeting that Italy is supporting an International Forum on the Nile, organized by the Landau Network, in the second half of 2006 with possible participation of PSC members.

4. Matters Arising from PSC1

The CTA briefed the meeting on the actions taken on the specific issues raised by PSC1, as presented in Annex D.

The PSC reiterated the need for dissemination of project results to a wider range of stakeholders. It was agreed that the project would form a task force to develop a strategic plan for dissemination of project products and achievements. This group should include a communication expert. Cooperation will be sought with the Shared Vision Program (SVP) "Confidence Building and Stakeholder Involvement" (CBSI) project.

5. Progress Report for the Period March 2005 to February 2006

The CTA presented a general report on progress and achievements of the project in the period March 2005 to February 2006. The project progress report is attached as Annex E.

The report emphasized the capacity building activities as well as the emerging close cooperation with a number of SVP projects. The report further highlighted the involvement of the FAO AGLW - Water Service - in the development of the methodologies for the agricultural water use survey and productivity case studies.

The meeting noted the progress made in the reporting period and in particular the efforts undertaken to mainstream the project in the NBI. The PSC stressed the importance of continued close coordination and cooperation with the other projects and programs under the NBI.

6. Project Progress Reports by the National Coordinators

The National Coordinators presented their reports indicating the activities, achievements, and constraints during the last twelve-month period. Activities were related to the operation of the monitoring network, establishment of the geo-referenced database, data base quality control efforts, and the development of national blue water and MODIS vegetation index posters. The reports noted the timelines of the regional workshop on negotiation skills for sharing transboundary resources and international water law.

The reports provided recommendations for additional training in various areas, and for the need to involve agronomists in the basin wide agricultural water use survey. The reports also raised various issues related to the operation of the FPIs, and office facilities and equipment.

The CTA was requested to prepare a format that summarizes the national progress reports in a number of key indicators. The summary report will be distributed to all parties concerned one month prior to each PSC meeting. It was understood that this report does not replace the national progress report.

The progress reports are attached as Annex F.

7. Progress Report on the Basin Wide Survey of Water Use in Irrigated and Rainfed Agriculture

The CTA presented the progress made in the development and implementation of the basin wide survey of 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 in the Nile basin. It will build on the methodology developed for the FAO Aquastat program, and make use of the AFRICOVER land cover layer. The survey will be integrated with the productivity study (Case Study 2), the IWRM study (Case Study 3), and the development of demand scenarios for agricultural produce (Case Study 6).

The meeting discussed the proposed methodology and noted the progress made.

8. Progress Report on the Agricultural Productivity Study

Mr. Pasquale Steduto, Chief AGLW, presented the methodology developed for the case study on the analysis and improvement of agricultural water productivity. In this study, water productivity is perceived as a function of climate, management, and technology. The developed methodology will down-scale national agricultural production databases to sub-national level, and make use of representative farming systems for rainfed and irrigated agriculture. Mr. Steduto highlighted the potential for cooperation with the SVP "Efficient Water Use for Agricultural Production" project and the NELSAP "Regional Agriculture" project. He further emphasized the linkages with the water use survey, and advised to conduct both activities in parallel.

The presentation is attached as Annex G.

The PSC reviewed and discussed the proposed methodology. In view of the scope of the intended work, it directed the project to start implementing the survey and productivity study as soon as possible.

9. Briefing on Nile Basin Initiative Activities

On behalf of the Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat, Mr. Musa Mohamed, National Coordinator for Ethiopia, briefed the meeting on the recent developments and progress of the NBI Program. The PSC was informed that all SVP projects are now operational. A detailed presentation was provided on the activities and progress of the various projects under the Shared Vision Program (SVP), ENSAP, and NELSAP. The presentation is attached as Annex H.

10. Detailed Workplan for the Period March 2006 to February 2007

The CTA presented an itemized workplan for the next twelve -month period.

Activities in the coming year will focus on the agricultural water use survey, the agricultural productivity case study, and the development of demand scenarios for agricultural produce for the year 2030. Other planned activities include training on the Nile DST and further database development. Dissemination of project results to a wider range of stakeholders will have special attention.

The meeting expressed concern on the large number and broad scope of activities in the coming year and the associated difficulties for proper coordination among them. It noted that the need for timely implementation of project activities should be balanced with the need for capacity building at the national focal point institutions. It was agreed that the

focal point institutions would program national activities in accordance to the national capacity, without compromising the completion of the foreseen project outputs.

In order to involve the national legal specialist early on in the project, the preparation of a concept note on case study 4 regarding legal issues and indigenous law will be brought forward. The concept note will be completed in this reporting period and forwarded to the national focal point institutions.

The workplan was endorsed and is attached as Annex I.

11. Development of Demand Scenarios for Agricultural Produce: Case Study 6

The CTA presented a concept note on the development of demand scenarios for agricultural produce in the Nile basin for the year 2030. This activity will result in a set of Nile specific scenarios describing possible futures in terms of population growth, urbanization rate, income development, the development of commercial agriculture, and other drivers of agricultural demand. The scenarios will be used as input for analyzing agricultural development in the year 2030.

The meeting endorsed the concept note and the proposal to allocate case study 6 to the development of demand scenarios for agricultural produce for 2030. The concept note is attached as Annex J.

12. Case Study on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Mr. Pasquale Steduto, Chief AGLW, presented a concept note on the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) case study. The IWRM study will address the issue of water allocation efficiency at community level, expressed in terms of economical, social, and environmental benefits and values. The methodology will be based on the farming system approach generally adopted by FAO.

The PSC discussed the concept note and clarifications were provided on the issues raised. It was agreed that the initial focus of this study would be on the conceptualization of all aspects of IWRM. This would be accomplished through a regional training workshop, followed by national workshops to disseminate the acquired knowledge to the national level. Field surveys and implementation of case study analysis for selected farming systems would be implemented upon completion of the water use survey and productivity case study.

The meeting endorsed the concept note, which is attached as Annex K.

13. Detailed Budget for the Period March 2006 to February 2007

The CTA presented the detailed budget proposal for the period March 2006 to February 2007. The PSC discussed the budget and requested clarifications on a number of issues. At the request of the PSC, funds were allocated for national workshops on IWRM principles and negotiation skills.

The meeting endorsed the budget, which is attached as Annex L.

14. 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 PSC endorsed the report and stressed the importance of coordination to avoid duplication and capture synergies. The CTA was instructed to continue exploring possibilities for further cooperation with all NBI activities.

15. Any Other Business

The PSC recognized the importance of involving national universities and technical institutions in the implementation of project activities to strengthen sustainability, dissemination, and visibility. In particular, the meeting would encourage the participation of students in the hands-on implementation of case studies, database development, and other project activities.

The PSC expressed its appreciation for the regional workshop on negotiation skills for sharing transboundary water resources and international water law. After considering the value of the training, it recommended extending it to the members of the negotiation committee on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework, and other concerned policy makers from the Nile basin states. The PSC Chairperson will forward this recommendation to the NBI Secretariat. In case of a positive reaction to this recommendation, FAO expressed its willingness to explore means for additional resources for funding such possible training.

The PSC considered participation of PSC members to the World Water Forum. After considering the substantial costs involved, it decided not to proceed with this endeavor.

No further issues were raised.

16. Dates and Venue of the Next Meeting

The PSC meeting will be organized in the second half of February 2007. The PSC accepted the offer from Egypt to host the next PSC 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

Ambassador Stanislas Nakaha, Chairperson of the PSC

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy
Directorate General for Development Cooperation

..... Date

Mr. Giuseppe Cirillo

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

..... Date

Mr. P. Steduto, Chief AGLW

- Annex A: Opening Statements
- Annex B: List of Participants
- Annex C: Adopted Agenda
- Annex D: Follow-Up Action PSC1
- Annex E: Project Progress Report for the Period March 2005 to February 2006
- Annex F: National Project Progress Reports
- Annex G: Presentation on Water Productivity Case Study
- Annex H: Presentation on Progress of NBI
- Annex I: Detailed Workplan
- Annex J: Concept Note on Demand Scenarios for Agricultural Produce
- Annex K: Concept Note on IWRM Case Study
- Annex L: Detailed budget