

Original: English

IAEA/ UNDP/ GEF NUBIAN SANDSTONE AQUIFER SYSTEM (NSAS)

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



January 26-27th, 2009
Vienna, Austria



IAEA/UNDP/GEF Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System
Project steering Committee
January 26-27th, 2009
Vienna, Austria

Minutes of the Meeting

Day 1: Monday, January 26, 2009

Session 1: Opening of the Meeting and welcome Remarks:

Opening remarks by Dr. Paradeep Agerrwal on behalf of IAEA followed by introduction of and short speech from the participants. Dr. Vandermeer (UNDP/GEF) spoke about the challenges and he explained the issues to be addressed such as: like capacity building, SADA as a key word, PIR to be discussed in details with 2009 workplan and he mentioned that he worked for the Balkan project similar to the NSAS project. The project manager, Dr. Ahmed Allam reviewed the meeting agenda and the main objectives of the meeting.

Prof. Shaden Abdelgawad elected as a chairperson while Dr. Rashrash from Libya and Mr. Kheir from Sudan as the meeting rapporteurs. The Agenda of the meeting were adopted.

Session 1: Overview of the Project achievement (Ahmed Ragab Allam, PM, IAEA The presentation included the achievements of the project during the year 2008:

Component 1:

- Regional Stakeholders, casual chain and governance analysis reports were developed and approved by all counterparts' countries.
- SADA refreshment course was conducted in Egypt and Sudan last December 2008.
- Two successful National stakeholders meetings were conducted in Egypt and Sudan. The stakeholders appreciated their participation.
- Due to some security reasons, the Chadian team was invited to Vienna for the adoption of governance, stakeholders and casual chain analysis reports.
- Regional training course on isotope hydrology was conducted in Egypt. National Egyptian experts assisted in the success of the course. The participants were experienced with the conditions of Nubian Oases through a study tour (2000 km).
- Experts might be recruited if needed to help countries in processing their SADA national reports.
- Samples were collected from Sudan & Libya and sent to laboratories for isotopes analysis.

Component 2:

- SAP activities will be started after the approval of all countries on the regional SADA report.

Component 3:

- Joint authority modified the title (enhancement instead of establishment) and approved it.
- TOR for legal and institutional framework in the countries was prepared by the UNESCO legal expert.

- National experts were hired in Sudan, Chad and Libya; Egypt will recruit the legal consultant soon.

Component 4:

- Participation of the NSAS project in the IWC on managing shared aquifers in Libya.
- Many people expressed their interest in the NSAS.

Component 5:

- Progress reports for 2008 was distributed every quarter.
- PIR was discussed last year and it will be discussed in this meeting.
- Achievements report of the project was distributed (handouts).
- For SAP a consultant (Marten Bloxham) was recruited. He will visit Libya soon for stakeholders meeting.
- TDA/SADA training was conducted in Sudan for the Engineers of the MOIWR, Sudan.

Discussion, Comments and Questions:

- More elaboration on activities planned and achieved is needed and what constraints are encountered by the PM and the counterparts' countries should be clarified.
- Enquiry on whether the three issues (stakeholders, casual chain and governance analyses reports) were completed or not.
- The three reports have been completed
- Left with modeling activity, the delay is due to administrative matters.
- Most probably it will take place in March after solving the problems.
- Baseline survey will be conducted by national consultants within two months.
- By the second half of this year two components will be finished.
- Within the project document countries agreed on the risks.
- The project has to bridge between SADA and SAP.
- The stage of bridging SADA/SAP was sent to Meiry Atta Allah to inform her about the issue which will be done by the consultants (Marten Bloxham).
- For SADA the kind of problems (local and regional) are identified.
- The consultant has to integrate the SADA reports (Regional report)
- Regional view is missing.
- Some activities e.g. Egypt implemented some activities but faced problems of finance with the IAEA.
- Stakeholders' concept is new but people now are aware about this shared aquifer and if you enforce certain rules that you can not fulfill it is a problem.

Questions and comments

- About the outcome of the stakeholders meeting.
- To Abdul Malik: if there are funds to cover such activities.
- Activities are related to dates, these dates are changeable e.g. some activities are planned during holidays.
- The late response is one of the problems (stakeholders meeting was planned for last year but for Libya it will take place in this year).
- It is recommended not to change times agreed on because countries have different plans and different programmes.
- Example is for the isotope training course in Egypt, Dr Kamel Zuhdi regretted shortly before the course because of problems of visa even though the participants arrived and the course was carried out.

- The international procedures are the late arrival or no show is the responsibility of the consultant.

Session 2: Financial and Budgetary Status (Lameen Abdul-Malik)

The presentation included:

Budget status:

- Co-funders are as last year GEF (100000), IAEA (618000), UNESCO (50000) and Governments (7000000)
- Activities sponsored by SADA/SAP (GEF), ...etc
- Expenditures, training (), equipment ()..etc

In 2006:

- Technical Baseline Meeting, IAEA (May 2006): \$22,000 (IAEA)
- Project Inception Meeting, Libya (16-20 July): \$31,000 (IAEA)
- Fellowship Training in Isotope Hydrology for 3 counterparts from Chad, France (Nov 06 – Jan 07): \$19,000 (IAEA)
- SADA Expert to IAEA, Nov 06: \$2,750 (UNDP/GEF)
- SAP Expert to IAEA, Dec 06: \$4,200(UNDP/GEF)
- Provision of Equipment to Member States (IAEA): \$60,000

In 2007:

- -SADA/SAP Training, Khartoum (24-29 March): \$55,200 (UNDP/GEF)
- Project Management - Recruitment of Project Manager (Jan-Aug): \$103,000 (UNDP/GEF)
- SAP - Modelling Meeting, IAEA (21-24 Aug): \$35,000 (IAEA)
- Steering Committee Meeting, Cairo (16-18 Dec): \$19,000
- Provision of Equipment: \$79,300 (IAEA)

In 2008:

- Project Management – Salary/Expenditures of Project Manager (Jan-Dec): \$103,000 (UNDP/GEF)
- Meeting with Chad delegates at IAEA: \$12,000
- National SADA Training, Expert Services (Egypt and Sudan): (IAEA)\$12,000
- Support to Stakeholders Meeting (Egypt and Sudan): \$10,000
- Isotope Hydrology RTC, Egypt (IAEA): \$34,000
- Support to GEF Conference in Libya: (IAEA) \$3,800
- Legal Experts (Sudan): \$12,000
- Provision of Equipment to Member States (IAEA): \$63,150

In 2009:

- Legal & Institutional Meeting (Paris): \$30,000
- Modelling Training (IAEA): \$25,000
- Model Development (IAEA): \$90,000
- SADA Expert: \$28,000
- Legal Experts (Chad and Libya): \$24,000
- National SADA Meetings: \$44,000
- Project Manager Support: \$35,000

Discussion, Comments and Questions:

- From GEF budget there are no administrative matters funded.

- Explanation on relation between the UNDP office in Egypt and the project.
- In this project there is a UN agency executing the project, so the UNDP Country office do not manage the budget.
- Expenditure of 50% of the budget in 2 years and now left with 50% of the budget it means that you are not going to spend the remaining money so you have to extend the duration of the project.
- Modeling activity is it a training or workshop, because the people who will attend are not coming for training.
- There is no budget to cover the cost of the assistant modeler and he was asking whether he can use GEF funds.
- In northern Chad there are little population and no development, no data for the model.
- He requested funds to reactivate the database in Chad for modeling.
- Boundary conditions in Chad are not known.

Discussion:

- We have to be sure about data availability and reliability.
- When the project terminates the running of the model and database need money.
- IAEA can accommodate the database in its network. This can maintains the cost of maintenance of the database.
- Lutfi: The running cost is minor and it can be covered by the JA. We insist to have the database in the JA new server and it can be used by the countries.
- It is important to review the remaining activities and prepare a realistic work plan.
- The project extension should be requested because you will not be able to expend 500000 USD in the remaining period.
- The PM has to prepare short justification and GEF will check the project milestone.
- All countries should concentrate on transboundary problems so as to go to SAP.
- SADA is a scientific issue and it is easy, but SAP is a politically endorsed document and it will take long time.
- SAP will be implemented by the countries.

Session 3: Next activities – activities planned as per the PIP (Ahmed Ragab, PM)

The presentation included:

Component 1:

- SADA refreshment training in Libya and Chad.
- Stakeholders meeting in Libya and Chad
- Modeling of the NSAS
- First draft of the regional SADA report

Component 2:

- NSAS countries visions statement and SAP option report
- Capacity building for SAP development (fellowships, training courses and workshops)

Component 3:

- Legal and Institutional Framework meeting in Paris
- National assessment report
- Review of existing legal and institutional mechanisms relevant to NSAS management
- Report on regional legal and institutional mechanisms options for enhancement.
- Draft legal and institutional framework (enhancement) as agreed by NSAS countries.

Discussion, Comments and Questions:

- Who will prepare and complete the SAP report
- The PM will do in consultation with you. It is a matter of coordination. Countries contribution is important.
- The legal meeting can not be conducted in February because of visa problems.
- We have to concentrate on the conceptual model. Modelling require enough and good data. If the data is not good then there is no need to construct a model.
- SAP preparation should be by national SAP team, national consultant and then national workshop.
- Interministerial meetings should be aware and involved in the process because they are going to endorse it.
- You have to know that SAP is not a funny work, it is serious and important.

Day 2: Tuesday January 27th , 2009

Session 4:

General Discussion:

- New dates for the legal/institutional and the modeling meetings.
- The project will support the participation of three Joint Authority members in the International water Conference planned to take place in Istanbul during March 2009.
- The SADA of the NSAS project is beyond schedule. Lake Tanganyika project finished the TDA/SAP in one and half year.
- To convince GEF for project extension, good justifications should be prepared.
- Since the cost of updating and running the NARIS is very high (offers of USD74000 from Libyan firm and USD95000 from CEDARE), the allocated budget for this activity is recommended to be transferred to the JA to do the job.
- Since the Project Steering Committee is a decision maker for the project, it has the power to decide on the support from the project to the Joint Authority.
- IAEA can be able to transfer the money to one of States Members of its board, but directly to the Joint Authority is not applicable.

Overview of the PIR (Mirey Attallah):

- According to PIP of the inception meeting a PIR should be prepared as feedback to Donors.
- National counterparts' comments and signing the PIR reflect the carefulness and commitments of the countries.
- No feed back from the counterpart indicates that there is no attention from the countries towards the project.
- This PIR is until June 2008 and it reflects unsatisfactory performance in some activities.
- The level of evaluation is based on indicators and rating (giving rates to performance).
- Bottle necks within the countries are high lighted as allocation of human resources and defining the roles and responsibilities for each activity.
- Postponement of the legal/institutional meeting many times is un acceptable.
- For all the activities there should be commitments from the side of the PSC as well as UNESCO, GEF and IAEA.

- For component three we have to ask ourselves; do we need to work without UNESCO contribution?
- Capacity building for Chad should be brought to the level of the other countries.
- The PIR should reflect the risks and potential constraints e.g. if election of a governor in a region has affected the sampling campaign, this should be reported.
- Budget expenditure and cumulative imbursements should be looked after by PSC.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

The steering committee reviewed and approved all the project activities during the year 2008. To convince GEF for project extension, good justifications should be prepared. The cost of updating and running the NARIS is very high (offers of USD74000 from Libyan firm and USD95000 from CEDARE), the allocated budget for this activity is recommended to be transferred to the JA to do the job through appropriate way (Since the Project Steering Committee is a decision maker for the project, it has the power to decide on the support from the project to the Joint Authority. IAEA can be able to transfer the money to one of States Members of its board, but directly to the Joint Authority is not applicable). The respected committee recommended the following:

- Upgrading and activation of the Nubian data base NARIS will be the responsibility of the Joint Authority with some financial support from the project.
- The legal meeting should be postponed and the new dates should in consultation with UNESCO (Preferably 1:3 of next April).
- Modeling meeting will take place next early April (first week). All countries should supply all data and information required for the modeling process.
- According to the available fund, the project will support participation of three persons from Sudan, Chad and Libya in the world water forum next March.
- The project manger should introduce the cost of all activities in the work plan for year 2009. Countries should reply with their comments within one week after their receiving the modified work plan.
- Tentatively, the next steering committee will take place November 2009.

Annex I: List of Participants

Chad:

Name Mouhyddine Mahamat Saleh
Nationality Tchadienne
Position Title Director, Joint Authority member
Employer Ministere de la Peche, de l'Hydraulique Pastorale et Villageoise
Phone 00 235 995 02 63
Fax 00 235 253 30 40
Email mouhyddine.saleh@caramail.com

Name Ouassenani Haroun
Nationality Tchadienne
Position Title Chef de Division Base de donnees et SIG
Employer Ministere de la Peche, de l'Hydraulique Pastorale et Villageoise
Phone 00235 252 5176
Fax 00 235 2533040
Email ouossenani@yahoo.fr

Egypt:

Name Dr. Ahmed Rashad Khater
Nationality Egyptian
Position Title Vice Chairman of the National water Research Center (NWRC),
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI)
Employer National Water Research Center (NWRC)
Phone 002 44447354, 002 44440217
Mobile 0123154175
Fax 002 44447354
Email drkhater@nwrc-egypt.org

Name Dr. Nahed El-Sayed El-Araby
Nationality Egyptian
Position Title Director of Research Institute for GroundWater (RIGW)
Employer National Water Research Center (NWRC),
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI)
Phone 002 4218 42 83, 002 42182117
Mobile 012873328
Fax 002 42188729
Email nahedelarabi@yahoo.com

Name Dr. Shaden Abdelgawad
Nationality Egyptian
Position Title Head of national water research center
Employer RIGW, NWRC
Phone 0043 1 2600 21733
Mobile 0123306304
Fax 002 42188729
Email

Sudan:

Name Abd Alla Mohamed Kheir
Nationality Sudanese
Position Title Head of the Groundwater Basins, NPC, NSAS
Employer Min. of Irrigation & W. Resources
Phone 00249187512388
Mobile 012740123
Fax 00249183773838
Email amkheir35@hotmail.com

Name
Nationality Sudanese
Position Title Director, Groundwater Directorate
Employer Govt. Of Sudan, Min. of Irrigation & W. Resources
Phone 00249912206919
Mobile 00249183773838
Fax
Email

Libya:

Name Luffi Ali Madi
Nationality Libyan
Position Title Director of Kufra + SARIR Branch / GWA, NC RAF41,
Exc. Director of JASAD. NSAS.
Employer General Water Authority
Phone 00218 21 3600391
Other 00218 91 2189909
Fax 00218 21 3600392
Email Luffi@gwalibya.org
Gwazone5@Hotmail.com

Name Dr. Mohamed Bakhbakhi
Nationality Libyan
Position Title Joint Authority member
Employer Al Fateh University, Tripoli, Libya
Phone 00218 21 4774471
Other 00218 92 5189805
Email dr_bakhbakhi@yahoo.com

Name Dr. Salem Rashrash
Nationality Libyan
Position Title Joint Authority member
Employer Al Fateh University, Tripoli, Libya
Phone 00218 91 215 8165
Email Srashrash@Hotmail.com

IAEA:

Name Dr. Ahmed Ragab Allam
Nationality Egyptian
Position Title Project Manager
Employer IAEA
Phone 0043 1 2600 21733

Fax 0043 1 26007
Email A.ALLAM@iaea.org

Name Abdul-Maliek Lameen
Nationality Nigerian
Position Title Tech. Cooperation Department
Employer IAEA
Phone 0043 1 2600 21733
Fax 0043 1 26007
Email Abdulmalik@iaea.org

UNDP:

Name Atallan Mirey
Nationality Lebanese
Position Title Regional Coordinator
Employer UNDP/GEF
Phone 00 661 310 8985
Email MIREY.ATTALLAH@UNDP.ORG

Annex II: Meeting Agenda



IAEA/ UNDP/ GEF Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System
Project Steering Committee / Joint Authority Meeting
December 16-18th, 2007
Cairo, Egypt

Agenda

DAY 1 – December 16th (beginning at 9 30am)

Opening Session Opening of the Meeting and Welcome Remarks

- 9:30- 10:30 Welcome remarks by the Host Country
- Welcome remarks by the IAEA
 - Welcome remarks by UNDP Resident Representative or Country Director (to be confirmed by *Mohamed Bayoumi*)
 - Introduction of Participants
 - Opening remarks by Project Steering Committee (PSC) members
 - Objectives of Meeting
 - Selection of the Chairperson and Rapporteur
 - Adoption of the Agenda

Session 1: Overview of the Project Achievements

Ahmed Ragab Allam

- 10:30- 11:00 Presentation on the project standing
- Overall introduction of activities undertaken to date
 - Inputs to the project to date
 - Discussion, advice and guidance by PSC throughout the presentations of each components is encouraged and welcomed

11:00- 11:30 Coffee Break

Session 2: Overview of the PIR

Mirey Atallah/Ahmed Ragab Allam

- 11:30- 12:00 Presentation of accomplished activities under each project Components 1 through 5 (Component 3 undertaken jointly with UNESCO legal expert)
- 12:00- 13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30- 14:00 Overview of lessons learned from components' implementation and execution
- 14:00- 15:00 Views, comments and feedbacks from PSC on project activities performed to date
- 15:00- 16:00 Summary & Close for the Day

DAY 2 - December 17th

Session 3: Next Activities – Activities planned as per the PIP

Ahmed Ragab Allam

- 9:30- 10:00 Presentation and overview of current Project Implementation Plan (PIP)
- 10:00- 10:30 Immediate future PIP Activities under Components 1 through 5
- Shared Aquifer Diagnostic Analysis (SADA) related activities
 - Data and information
 - Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

- Operations of National Project Coordinators (NPCs)
 - Progress reporting and dissemination
 - Legal & institutional framework.....*Raya Marina Stephan*
 - Project management, monitoring & evaluation and related indicators *Mirey Atallah*
- 10:30- 11:00 Coffee Break
- Session 4: Financial and Budgetary Status** *Lameen Abdul-Malik*
- 11:00- 12:00 Budget status, statements and reporting
- Presentation of Budget expenditures and constraints
 - Guide lines for capturing and reporting Government Co-Financing for the project
- 12:00- 13:30 Lunch Break
- Session 5: PSC Dialogue in the frame of the project**
- 13:30- 15:30 PSC points of view, feedback, advice and guidance
- 15:30- 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00- 17:00 Final Discussions and Recommendations.
- Any matters arising
 - Other issues
- 17:00 Close for the Day

Decision Points to be reached:

- o On the approach for SADA Preparation, including but not limited to: expert(s) needed, ministries involved (foreign, environment...), decision-making bodies to consult.
- o On the legal and institutional framework: way ahead (options, possibilities, constraints, etc.)
- o On the means, times and modalities of progress reporting
- o M&E Indicators to use, under which report modality (i.e. yearly and quarterly indicators to go into the respective reports)
- o Endorsement of the modified PIP (shift of all activities for six months)

DAY 3 - December 18th

Combined Project Steering Committee & Joint Authority Meeting

Session 6: Legal and Institutional Framework Consultations

- 9.00- 9.15 Welcome remarks by JTO (Host Country) chairperson *Prof. Dr. Shaden Abdul-Gauad*
- 9:15- 10:00 Current joint Authority regulatory framework overview *Lotfi Farag*
- 10:00- 10:30 Necessary Developments and Improvements. *Raya Marina Stephan*
- 10:30- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00- 12:00 Legal consultant necessity discussions
- 12.00- 12.30 Way ahead *Raya Marina Stephen*
- 12:30- 14:00 Lunch
- 14.00- 15.00 Assessments, conclusions and decisions
- 15.00 Close of day

Objectives:

- o to review achievements and progress under each project component under the IAEA/UNDP/ GEF Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (NSAS) project;
- o to review and discuss with the Project Steering Committee (PSC) on the next activities planned, obtain from the PSC policy advise and guidance on the project implementation at the national and regional levels; and
- o to present to the PSC the budgetary and financial concerns and issues reached during project implementation.

Desired Outcome:

- o common agreement and endorsement on the next activities that have been set under the Project Implementation Plan and that are to take place during the next project stages in the following year;
- o common agreement and endorsement on the modified project implementation plan; and

- common agreement on date, place and agenda for the kick off of the meeting for Component 3: “legal/institutional framework”.

Expected Outputs:

- Meeting Report
- Updated Project Implementation Plan