



commission for environmental impact assessment

Mrs Maresa Oosterman
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Rwanda

your reference	your letter of	our reference
-	29 March 2006	066-090 RP/Jz
subject	direct dial	Utrecht,
Advice on Screening for SEA for Lake	+ 31 30 234 76 54	19 September 2007
Levels in the Nile Equatorial Lake Region		
- East Africa		

Dear Mrs Maresa Oosterman,

By letter dated 29 March 2006, you requested the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (hereafter 'the Commission') to advise on screening for the need for an SEA for strategy development to address possible problems with water levels of the Nile Equatorial Lakes in East Africa. It is my pleasure to submit herewith the requested advice.

You formulated your request in relation to expected lower lake levels due to structural water deficiencies, which might be attributed to changes of the climate in the region. Main conclusion in the attached advice is that at this moment not sufficient information is available to make reliable statements on how climate change will influence future water availability and lake levels. For this, more knowledge and long term data should become available on regional hydrology and meteorology. Also, available climate models need to be made more region specific.

However, notwithstanding this conclusion, on the basis of expert judgement it would seem plausible that expected changes in land use and population pressure may lead to serious water problems in the region. To anticipate these problems, it would be extremely valuable if the affected countries would jointly develop a strategy for water management. For such a strategy SEA may be an effective instrument to integrate environmental knowledge in the strategy development. A precondition for both strategy development and SEA would be an attitude of transparency and data sharing by all countries involved.

The Commission would appreciate to be kept informed about the use that is made of this advice.

Yours sincerely,

Klaas Jan Beek
Chairman of the Working Group for SEA for Lake Levels East Africa, working title.

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