

Panel Abstract

- Name of Session:** Session IX: Multicountry, National, Local, NGO, Private Sector Participation in IW Programmes Plenary
- Moderator:** Prof. Chidi Ibe, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP/UNIDO Guinea Current LME Project
- Panelists:** Dr. Chua E-Theng (PEMSEA)
Dr. Joachim Bendow (ICPDR)
Dr. Phillip Weller (WWF)
Dr. Magda Toth-Nagey (REC for C.& E. Europe)

Panel Background

Distinctive features of International Waters Programmes are that they nearly always deal with transboundary environmental and resource management concerns, embrace ecosystem wide and multi-disciplinary approaches and involve more than one country. GEF's role focuses on the promotion and consolidation of consultation, co-ordination and monitoring mechanisms and the development of institutional capacity not only at the inter-governmental level but more so between a wide range of governmental and non-governmental institutions at all levels of national administration, the private sector, non profit-making establishments, community based organisations, academia, professional groups, etc. The objective is to build coalitions to raise awareness of the value and plight of International Waters while simultaneously evolving, through joint assessments, governance systems based on participatory democracy and incorporating integrated policies and concerted strategies. The challenge is to achieve public participation that is both scientifically, technologically and culturally appropriate and targeted at the ultimate goals of restoration, protection and sustainable development of International Waters. The Session will examine through five "commissioned" presentations emphasising lessons learned, the desirability and benefits of broad multi-stakeholder involvement in International Waters Programmes and make recommendations on the adoption of the most effective and efficient approaches that can lead to palpable progress in the equitable management of trans-boundary issues.