

**Helping
GEF IW Projects
do business
better**

www.iwlearn.net

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**International Waters
Learning Exchange and
Resource Network**

In partnership with



THE WORLD BANK

GEF IW:LEARN SERVICES

A suite of services offered to GEF IW projects and partners to help them fulfill their mission

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

EXCHANGES/STUDY TOURS. Facilitated study tours and multi-day/week interactions among GEF IW projects and learning exchange partners address specific, pragmatic IW management challenges. Whether multi-project workshops or single-project study tours, exchanges promote peer learning and South-to-South cooperation, and often produce Experience Notes of value to other IW projects.

TARGETED TRAINING: TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS.

Development and delivery of technical workshops to address common capacity building needs for groups of GEF IW projects and their partners, with a focus on transboundary ecosystems (rivers, lakes, groundwater, Large Marine Ecosystems, coral reefs) and priority governance and management topics, including public participation, economic valuation, IWRM, payment for ecosystem services, information management and environmental flows.

OUTREACH: INFORMATION CAPTURE, SYNTHESIS, DISSEMINATION

Outreach and communications support & services help to increase awareness, scalability, replication, impact and sustainability of GEF IW investments. Production of knowledge-sharing materials includes multimedia products (traveling/online Gender & Water exhibit, LME DVD "Turning the Tide"), as well as targeted materials, including an LME Governance Manual, Public Participation Handbook and Communicating for Results Guide, as well as GEF IW Experience Notes (short case studies), and IW newsletters (Bridges and E-Bulletin).



New features of IW:LEARN website revealed

-  A dynamic look and feel.
-  Customize the layout of your homepage.
-  A more robust News Centre, Document Centre and GEF IW Project Database.
-  Navigate through pages and documents with ease using advanced filters.



Your views are important to us. Feel free to write to us on how we can improve the website and our services at unep@iwelearn.org or fill out our online feedback form at www.iwelearn.net/contact.

The Global Environment Facility's International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW:LEARN) is a partnership, implemented by the GEF agencies, to share knowledge across and build the management capacity of the international waters (IW) portfolio of projects and partners.

IW:LEARN began in 1997 as an experimental portfolio-wide knowledge management and capacity building initiative which encouraged networking, launched a Distance Masters program and organized the first GEF IW Conference (IWC).

The 2000–2003 pilot phase provided knowledge management training and on-demand technical assistance for GEF IW projects, and piloted the GEF International Waters Resource Centre, the Distance Learning Information Sharing Tool in the Benguela Current region, a virtual coastal zone management course and protected area managers network in the Red Sea region, and the second IWC.

The 2004–2008 operational phase established regional and ecosystem-based learning exchanges, organized the 3rd and 4th IWCs, and expanded www.iwlearn.net with a suite of new portfolio learning tools.

GEF IW:LEARN continues to foster South to South learning and collaboration in a participative cycle of learning exchanges, targeted training and the IWCs. A new collaborative platform will support regional learning in partnership with the Coral Triangle Initiative and the MENARID programme. New phases will address climate change adaptation, public-private partnerships, improved water governance, land and water resource systems and cross-sectoral coordination to achieve targets set by the MDGs and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

BRIEF HISTORY OF GEF IW:LEARN



REGIONAL DIALOGUE PROCESSES

To foster transboundary and South-to-South cooperation among projects and national partners within a geographic region, financial and technical assistance to GEF IW projects and partners helps convene and support regional dialogue processes. To date, GEF IW:LEARN's direct involvement has actively involved GEF IW projects in five regional dialogue processes – in the Caribbean, Africa, Eastern Europe, and two major Petersberg Process dialogues in Southeastern Europe and Africa.

SUPPORT TO GLOBAL DIALOGUES

Provision of travel support enables selected GEF IW projects to participate in IW-pertinent global policy dialogues. GEF IW representatives contribute practical experience & results and simultaneously benefit from knowledge & networking in international consultative processes such as the World Water Forum, Committee on Sustainable Development, Nitrogen Initiative, UNICPOLOS, Nairobi Work Programme, UN Water Decade, inter alia.



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP) SUPPORT

Email-based discussion forums currently serve five subsets of the GEF IW portfolio: Large Marine Ecosystems, Coral Reefs, Aquifers, Lakes and River Basins. CoPs also facilitate South-to-South networking at the regional level (e.g. Latin America and the Caribbean) and share knowledge on scientific and technical innovation such as constructed wetlands and nutrient management, inter alia. Online CoPs will be further developed as social networking platforms to include a variety of Web 2.0 knowledge-sharing tools such as wikis, blogs, social networking, and other interactive tools that stakeholders are drawn to visit and contribute to.

www.iwlearn.net/community



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: www.iwlearn.net



iwlearn.net is a content management system supporting knowledge sharing in the GEF IW portfolio. GEF IW:LEARN extends various ICT services to the GEF IW community.

Preservation of project legacy through archiving services

Online storage of project information, including datasets, reports, factsheets, GIS, maps, newsletters and other valuable information.

Document Centre

An extensive collection of Transboundary Water Management information including TDA and SAP reports, guidelines, GEF policy documents, and strategies.



Project Database



Online repository of up-to-date information on new and ongoing GEF IW projects worldwide, including project contacts and project-related outputs.

Single-point access to data and information



Through the ecoMundus network, IW:LEARN provides access to an array of geospatial and other rich content from trusted sources.

Website development and hosting

A core service provided by the IW:LEARN team to GEF IW projects.



Internet-based GIS and metadata tools

Provision of open source tools and solutions by IW:LEARN and its partner community.

Capacity building workshops

Both face-to-face and online training are provided to enable and strengthen a project's ability to apply ICT tools in project management and outreach activities.

PORTFOLIO-WIDE LEARNING: BIENNIAL GEF INTERNATIONAL WATERS CONFERENCES (IWC)

The GEF IWC is the pivotal learning event in a dynamic two-year learning cycle. Since 2000, the IWC has progressed from a portfolio-wide stock-taking exercise into a participative active learning forum. IWCs convene on average 300 participants from about 70 projects and at least 80 countries to share practical experience, apply evolving policies and procedures, address emerging priorities and improve overall project performance.



The 5th Biennial GEF International Waters Conference, hosted by the government of Australia in Cairns, North Queensland October 26 through 29, 2009, offers an exciting menu of participative learning opportunities. Pre-conference technical workshops exchange knowledge with leading Australian experts in complex basin and marine systems, dealing with resolving conflicting demands among diverse stakeholders, and coping with water scarcity and the technical as well as societal impacts of climate change.

For more information on the 5th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference, visit

www.iwlearn.net