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Investing in International Waters Knowledge Management

Over 120 nations partner through roughly 75 GEF projects to sustain their shared freshwater and marine ecosystems. Many such projects address similar challenges and objectives. Thus, partners can benefit from organized capture and transfer of such International Waters (IW) knowledge among stakeholders and across projects.

The GEF encourages projects to actively invest in knowledge management (KM), with technical support as needed from the GEF IW:LEARN project. Since 1998, IW:LEARN has trained and assisted over 200 professionals globally to develop KM for their IW projects and organizations. For example, the **MesoAmerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS)** project created a GIS-based Regional Environmental Information System for the second largest coral reef system in the world. IW:LEARN's Southeast Asia Regional Learning Center (SEA RLC) is also assisting the **South China Sea (SCS)** project to establish its own Web-based KM system. It includes a regional GIS to track status of "hot spots" (e.g., pollution sources) and "sensitive areas" (e.g., mangroves).

IW:LEARN collaborated with the OAS to create a

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Diving in for Coral Reef Learning



Lining all inhabited continents and countless islands, coral reefs are a global treasure. They are among the most biologically diverse and remarkably beautiful

ecosystems anywhere on Earth. Yet 24% of the world's reefs are under imminent risk of collapse through human pressures, according to the 2004 Status of Coral Reefs of the World. A further 26% are under a longer-term threat of collapse. Widespread coral death and destruction is already occurring faster than we can easily act to prevent it. How? Why?

What we can do to save these imperiled marine paradises?

The GEF has supported dozens of regional projects whose objectives include sustaining these fragile coral reefs. From the South China Sea to the Red Sea to the Caribbean Meso-American Barrier Reef, GEF-supported partnerships have independently searched for understanding and solutions to this drastic deterioration. Several new GEF initiatives aim to expedite discovery and diffusion of coral reef wisdom across these regions through (1) targeted research, (2) learning from existing coral management experience and (3) sharing new experiences among coral managers around the world.

(1) The World Bank-implemented **Coral Reef Targeted Research Project for Capacity Building and Management Program (CRTR)** is filling critical information gaps for coral reef ecosystems, and linking the findings to strengthen coral management. Its network of over 70 international scientists represents more than 40 institutions globally. The University of

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IW:LEARN aims to strengthen International Waters Management (IWM) by facilitating structured learning and information sharing among stakeholders.

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African GEF IW Projects Assemble

At the 3rd GEF IW Conference in Salvador last year, African participants asked IW:LEARN for help: The continent's many river, lake, groundwater and LME projects seek more opportunities to share knowledge and exchange practical experiences. The NEPAD Coastal and Marine Secretariat's Ali Mohammed has also emphasized the need to promote upstream/downstream synergy and coordination among African countries participating in IW projects.



To address this need, the World Bank Institute and IW:LEARN are delighted to introduce a series of structured learning workshops among projects in Africa, facilitated by the German capacity building organization, InWEnt. Hosted by UNEP in Nairobi, the first workshop will focus on the interface between integrated water resource management (IWRM) in catchment basins and coastal zones throughout Africa. GEF IW project managers and their partners will examine potential means and benefits of establishing stronger linkages between IWRM and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) at the provincial, national and transboundary scales. Based on projects' feedback, InWEnt and IW:LEARN will schedule the next workshop next year.

IW:LEARN will complement InWEnt efforts with other capacity building activities in for IW projects: IUCN-WANI will offer a workshop on Economic Valuation and Decision-Making for African freshwater projects

New GEF Project: Marine Electronic Highway

How can GEF partners reduce user costs and environmental damage of marine navigation through congested waterways? Approved on June 13th by the World Bank Board of Directors, the newest GEF IW project, the **Marine Electronic Highway (MEH) Demonstration Project** aims to help Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and large commercial ship owners that use the Straits of Malacca and Singapore collectively decide whether or not to establish a MEH for the entire length of the seaway. While many GEF projects contain stress reduction components, this project aims to reduce its potential.

In the early 1990's, the MEH technology was piloted in the St. Lawrence Seaway to great fanfare. The highway consists of significant investment in electronic links between shore-based marine information and communication infrastructure and the corresponding navigational and communication facilities aboard transiting ships. An MEH also includes extensive use of electronic navigation charts. All of these systems are designed to interface with existing marine environmental management systems.

About one thousand kilometers long, the Straits host the passage of over two hundred large ships everyday. They are the shortest passage between the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, yet fraught with significant navigational challenges. Those pose risks to shipping, endangering the Straits, valuable not just for navigation and but also their coastal and marine ecosystems. A recent economic valuation of the natural resources at risk identified more than fifty endangered species of marine coral and fish and valued the benefits of the Straits at US\$5 billion.

With a GEF allocation of US\$17 million, the new MEH project comprises five components, including:

- ◆ MEH System Design, Coordination and Operation
- ◆ MEH System Development
- ◆ Ship-board Equipment and Communications
- ◆ Marine Environment Protection
- ◆ Information Dissemination, Evaluation and Scale-Up Plan

The MEH project information document states that, "The foundation for this technology already exists in the Straits and the littoral states are committed to its installation, however the cost to them of developing and operating it, and the uncertainty of whether they

Water Catalyzes Cooperation in Southeastern Europe

How can water be a catalyst for broader international cooperation? A joint initiative of Germany, Greece and the World Bank, addresses the question through the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process. In 1998, the German government launched the Petersberg process, as a global vehicle to convene politicians and experts on transboundary river basin and lake management. Petersberg Phase II merges current developments and highlights options for future cooperation in transboundary water management and is closely linked inter alia to the Athens Declaration Process. The 2003 Athens Declaration then introduced a framework for cooperation on capacity building and knowledge sharing on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in the transboundary basins in southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean. The resulting IWRM plans are supposed to be modeled on the 2002 Johannesburg WSSD targets.

With technical and administrative assistance provided by the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med), GEF IW:LEARN is co-financing a number of ongoing initiatives and activities in the Southeastern European (SEE) region to support the Process:

- ◆ Building a regional community of practice engaged through a series of roundtables and capacity building workshops organized with the Process partners.
- ◆ The Transboundary Waters Information Exchange Network for Southeastern Europe (TWIEN-SEE), a website to support the community.

These activities aim to foster cross-fertilization between key people working with regional organizations, basin commissions and joint water management bodies in SEE. The initiative also creates forums for the introduction of human resources and experiences from outside the region.

In December 2005, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment hosted some 60 participants from ministries, international organizations, development agencies and local NGOs assembled in Berlin for the first roundtable on IWRM in the SEE region. Their recommendations included:

- ◆ Continue to provide a dialogue forum to identify common ideas and challenges;
- ◆ Support measures to obtain and enhance the political, economic and environmental benefits from cooperation;
- ◆ Increase the visibility of success stories and

Athens-Petersberg continued on page 4

Experience Note: Methodology to Select Demonstration Projects

Those at the outset of selecting demonstration sites for their International Waters projects may wish to adapt the recent approach of GEF project, “**Addressing Land Based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean**” (WIO-LaB). In his recent International Waters Experience Note, Project Manager Peter Scheren shares WIO-LaB’s experience in picking demonstration projects, including general criteria adopted by the project. Selection criteria for demonstration projects included:

- ◆ Global, regional and subregional manifested environmental benefits,
- ◆ Specificity to identified hot spots,
- ◆ Multiple theme focus,
- ◆ Participatory nature,
- ◆ An integrated and strategic programmatic approach,
- ◆ Integration of capacity building needs,
- ◆ Maximal utilization of regional expertise,
- ◆ High potential for replication and sustainability,
- ◆ Promotion of experiences and lessons-learned sharing,
- ◆ Clear performance criteria and
- ◆ Indications of local funding and co-financing.

Once criteria were established, the essential challenge in this process was to ensure that both relevant national-level actors and international technical experts were involved in the design and review process.

The project management unit (PMU) initiated the selection process by inviting the national focal points to solicit and identify demonstration projects in their respective countries. Each received detailed instructions for proposal development and eligibility criteria. After national level screening, the PMU evaluated each proposal for relevance and eligibility. Targeting priority themes of municipal wastewater treatment and physical alteration and destruction of habitats, international task forces then reviewed and ranked the remaining proposals. The PMU then helped further refine and vet proposals in order to develop a short list. A panel of technical experts, in turn, further reduced the list. Following this broadly inclusive process, ultimate selection was then made by the project’s Steering Committee.

Projects were ranked and selected through a transparent (non-weighted) multi-criteria analysis, based on the above criteria, with thematic and

WIO-LaB Experience Note continued on page 5

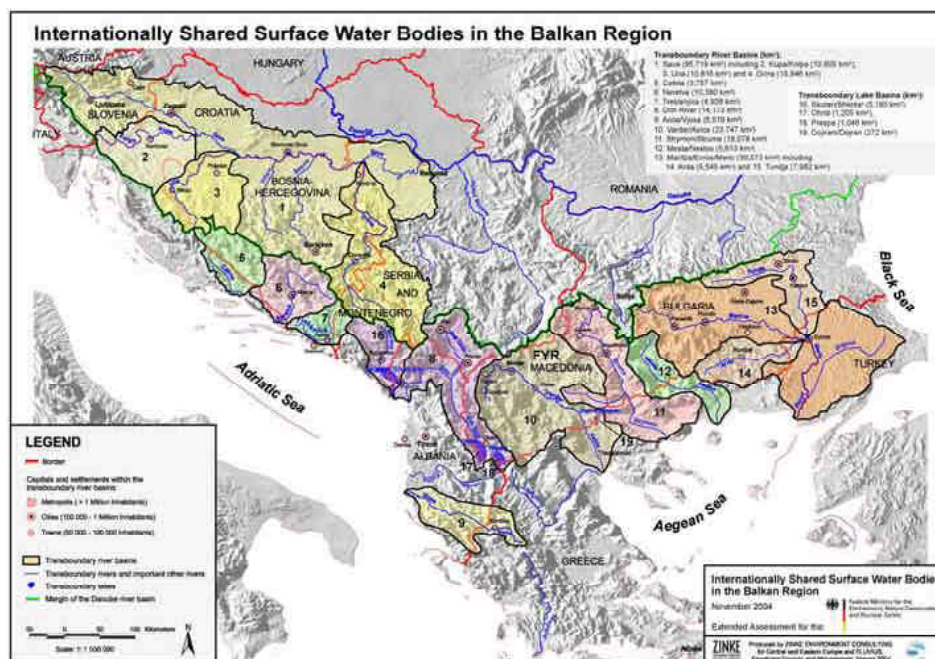
Athens-Petersberg continued from page 3

◆ Focus on a set of key areas to conduct activities at an increasingly local level to facilitate more participation.

Upcoming activities include a regional roundtable on integrated lake basin management in Ohrid, Macedonia (12-15 October), and a regional workshop on transboundary multipurpose water management in the Sava river basin (mid-November). In 2007, a third roundtable will explore groundwater linkages to surface and marine water systems. These activities are enriched with study tours and site visits, commissioned studies including regional assessments on various aspects of IWRM and targeted activities supporting education.

are supporting the strengthening of the recently formed Sava River Basin commission. Participants from GEF and other projects in the region have shared their initiatives and been exchanged experiences. The Process is also serving as a means to inform and attract donors to support transboundary water resources management in the region. The Athens-Petersberg process is demonstrating that water can indeed be a catalyst for cooperation.

For more information on the Athens-Petersberg process please contact Mish Hamid (+1.202.518.2054 or mish@iwlearn.org) or Dimitris Faloutsos of GWP-Med (secretariat@gwpmed.org). TWIEN-SEE's website is www.watersee.net.



“Emerging issues and problems of multi-purpose transboundary of water resources management present new challenges to policy makers, public and private sector managers, technical specialists and the public. We need to identify and to create synergies among different uses, including hydropower, navigation, flood management, emergency management, aquatic ecosystems and the broader environment,” says Fritz Holzwarth, of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and President of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine.

The Athens-Petersberg Process is already catalyzing enhanced cooperation. Regional partners, including the UNDP-GEF Danube / Black Sea Regional Project,

Africa workshop continued from page 2

in Ouagadougou this year. That workshop will be particularly helpful to GEF IW projects in the formulation and implementation of Strategic Action Programs (SAP)'s. In addition, the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) will deliver a regional workshop on public participation for African IW projects in 2007.

The GEF is indebted to InWEnt's Thomas Petermann for sponsoring African project participation in InWEnt's recent facilitation training. After using CD ROM based

distance learning to prepare, GEF representatives met peers in Johannesburg to hone their communication, facilitation and mediation skills. The organizers specifically recognized “the charming and committed lady Mme. Hajanirina Razafindrainibe from Madagascar” a member of the Aghulas-Somali Current LME project steering committee. Following this training, she looks forward to sharing her newly advanced facilitation skills with peers at upcoming GEF IW:LEARN activities in Africa.

For more information regarding on InWEnt or the IWRM-ICZM workshop, please visit www.inwent.org or contact Thomas Petermann (thomas.petermann@inwent.org). For details on any of IW:LEARN activities in Africa, please contact Janot Mendler (janot@iwlearn.org) or info@iwlearn.org.

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geographical balance also considered. The methodology is described in detail in the experience note.

Some advantages of the WIO-LaB approach include:

- ◆ Engagement of regional stakeholders,
- ◆ Process transparency, and
- ◆ Step-wise development of demonstration projects.

Weaknesses in this system do exist however; such as:

- ◆ An elaborate and time-consuming process,
- ◆ Political consideration of proposals,
- ◆ “Internal” or Task Force and Focal Point identification of projects, as opposed to tenders in national media and potential for bias among the national focal points.

The WIO-LaB project benefits enormously from its placement politically and physically within the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. As Mr. Scheren note describes, the project’s “key stakeholders are those related closely to the Convention. Among others, the national focal points of the Convention are at the same time the focal points for the WIO-LaB project.” This also greatly facilitated the process for development and selection of demonstration projects. Acknowledging this added boon, WIO-LaB’s consultative approach to picking demonstrations should still be readily transferable to other International Waters contexts.

For more information on this Experience Note or the WIO-LaB project please contact Peter Scheren (peter.scheren@unep.org). To read or submit a note please visit (www.iwlearn.net/experience).

Call for Exchange Proposals

IW:LEARN continues to welcome proposals for inter-project stakeholder exchange missions. For more information on the program and to download applications, please visit www.iwlearn.net/exchange.

Gender and Water in Africa

The Africa phase of the Gender and Water regional traveling exhibit will launch in Cape Town, South Africa, this September. Sponsors include GEF IW:LEARN, the Gender & Water Alliance (GWA) and the University of the Western Cape (UWC). The exhibit continues a tour started in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region in 2005, since replicated by the South Pacific International Waters Project (IWP).

After opening at the 3rd GEF IW Conference in Bahia in June 2005, the LAC exhibit expanded from ten to about two dozen panels, depicting gender and water stories collected and illustrated by GWA members in Mexico, Central and South America. The resulting GEF-GWA traveling expo was featured during the “Conferencia sobre Agua” and a regional GPA meeting in Mexico, the 5th Inter-American Dialog on Water in Jamaica, and

other events in Bolivia, Columbia, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. The First Lady of Panama also supported an event featuring the exhibit in her country. Several copies of the gender and water expo now circulate the LAC region, most recently at the Itaipu Eco-Museum in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, and touring six universities in Argentina.

With additional funding from IISD and Environment Canada, national coordinators from Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Papua New Guinea created new panels highlighting IWP gender and water messages in their local public awareness and participation campaigns. The South Pacific panels were included in a Gender-Water-Climate expo featured at the 11th Climate Change Conference of Parties in Canada, the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands in France, and the 4th World Water Forum in

Gender Water Africa continued on page 8



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Queensland has coordinated implementation of five-year work programs for CRTR's six thematic working groups:

- ◆ Coral Bleaching and local ecological factors
- ◆ Coral Disease
- ◆ Coral Reef Connectivity
- ◆ Coral Reef Restoration and Remediation
- ◆ Remote Sensing and
- ◆ Modeling and Decision Support

(2) The goal of the new UNEP-implemented project, **Knowledge Base for Lessons Learned and Best Practices in the Management of Coral Reefs**, is to help national institutions to learn from previous GEF coral projects' experience to create and deliver effective coral management projects. The WorldFish Center, renowned for its clearinghouse of coral management, ReefBase.org, is leading this project's efforts to:

- ◆ Extract lessons from experiences of completed coral management projects
- ◆ Establish guidelines and toolkits for disseminating good practices in coral management, project development and implementation
- ◆ Disseminate this information widely
- ◆ Promote access to this knowledgebase through enhancements to ReefBase.org

(3) WorldFish Center is also collaborating with the GEF IW:LEARN project to deliver a series of three annual experience sharing events among GEF-supported coral reef management projects. Drawing inputs from the aforementioned projects, this IW:LEARN activity will first convene with a small peer-to-peer event focusing on Coral Reef Ecosystem Health immediately before the 3rd The International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS-3) in October (see Upcoming Events, page 7). Thereafter, this new coral reef learning track will continue at the 4th GEF IW Conference in 200, then at the International Coral Reef Symposium.

At ITMEMS-3, IW:LEARN, CRTR and others will co-sponsor a session on information and knowledge management for coastal and marine ecosystems. UNDP GEF is also organizing a session there on financing for marine protected areas (MPAs).

In sum, GEF and its partners will provide a variegated set of projects, activities and events to serve the learning needs of coral reef managers in 2006-2008.



*Blast fishing damages the Danahon Reef in the Philippines.
Photo by Thomas Heeger, courtesy ReefBase.*

The GEF Secretariat hopes that projects and their national counterparts are able to benefit from these opportunities to improve coral reef learning and knowledge transfer. May this common experience help us to save our planet's remarkable coral reefs.

For more information on the CRTR, please visit www.gefcoral.org or contact Melanie King (M.King@cms.uq.edu.au). The ReefBase site is on-line at <http://www.reefbase.org/>, while IW:LEARN's coral learning activity plan is posted to http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/pns/learning/b2-3coral. For more information on either initiative, please contact WorldFish Center's Mark Tupper (m.tupper@cgiar.org or telephone +60.(0)4.626.1606).

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can recover those costs, has deterred them from making the investment. An external catalyst is needed to bring about the new institutional arrangements between national governments, the International Maritime Organization and the ship operators that are needed to make the system work." The MEH project will demonstrate the highway on a critical three-hundred kilometer stretch of the Straits. The indicator of the project's success is that key stakeholders agree to scale-up the expected success to benefit the entire length of the straits.

For more information on the MEH project, please contact Melissa Fossberg (+1.202.458.4145 or mfossberg@worldbank.org) or TTL Sally Burningham (sburningham@worldbank.org). For more information, please visit the project website and search Marine Electronic Highway: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

Upcoming Events

29 Aug. 2006 - 30 Aug. 2006

THIRD GEF ASSEMBLY

Cape Town, South Africa

www.gefweb.org/participants/Assembly/3rd_Assembly/3rd_assembly.html

26 Sep. 2006 - 28 Sep. 2006

3rd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Bochum, Germany

www.conventus.de/water

12 Oct. 2006 - 15. Oct. 2006

TRANSBOUNDARY SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE EVENT ON INTEGRATED SHARED LAKE BASIN MANAGEMENT - ATHENS/PETERSPERG PROCESS

Ohrid, Macedonia

www.watersee.net

16 Oct. 2006 - 18 Oct. 2006

III APHW CONFERENCE ON WISE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Bangkok, Thailand

www.thirdaphw.org

16 Oct. 2006 - 20 Oct. 2006

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL MARINE ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

Cozumel, Mexico

www.itmems.org

16 Oct. 2006 - 20 Oct. 2006

SECOND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEETING OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Beijing, China

www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/igr/igr2/

14 Nov. 2007 - 17 Nov. 2007

THIRD FORUM OF THE GOOS REGIONAL ALLIANCES

Cape Town, South Africa

www.ioc-goos.org

06 Dec. 2006 - 09 Dec. 2006

IW:LEARN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP

Montevideo, Uruguay

12 Dec. 2006 - 16 Dec. 2006

EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS

Haikou City, Hainan Province, China

www.eascongress.way.to

KM in the Portfolio continued from page 1

system to track contact information, agreements and progress among over 100 affiliates of the **San Juan River Basin (SJR)** project. Facing similar challenges, the **La Plata River Basin (FREPLATA)** project then adapted this tool to meet its KM needs.

Projects have also applied KM to improve learning and information sharing among their stakeholders, such through a CD-ROM course on integrated coast management that IW:LEARN helped to develop for the **Red Sea (PERSGA)**. The GEF's **DLIST-Benguela (DLIST)** project works to ensure that "anyone interested in coastal development can meet, talk, exchange information, and learn about how to use and manage our natural resources in a sustainable manner."

IW:LEARN partners have also facilitated KM across projects: SEA-RLC manages a roster of IW experts and consultants for regional GEF projects. UNDP has launched a WaterWiki for Europe and CIS personnel to share useful information, such as a Communications Planning Guide written by and for IW projects. The agency also plans to launch a Virtual Water Knowledge Fair in November 2006. With GWP-Mediterranean, IW:LEARN is supporting IW knowledge sharing across Southeastern Europe, through both face-to-face and electronic media (TWIEN SEE). A similar blending of "real" and "virtual" KM approaches has assisted IW in Latin American (the IWRN-affiliated **DeltaAmerica** project), lake basin management (WLMI) and for coral reefs (see p. 1).

"For GEF projects, KM is not just a technological product," notes IW:LEARN Director Dann Sklarew, "KM is an ongoing process of matching peoples' needs with 'know how.'" With this in mind, IW:LEARN's own Web site, iwlearn.net, and outreach materials help projects discover kindred projects, pertinent information and experiences, then identify and contact peers for further insight.

Face-to-face events, like the IW:LEARN's biennial GEF International Waters Conferences and workshops, provide venues for impromptu discovery and capturing of knowledge from across the GEF IW portfolio. Among upcoming events (p. 7), IW:LEARN is also co-sponsoring sessions on KM for water management at the GEF Assembly and at ITMEMS. IW:LEARN is also organizing a multi-day workshop to help IW projects develop KM-friendly Web sites (see newsletter insert).

For more information on GEF and IW:LEARN's KM activities, please contact IW:LEARN (info@iwlearn.org or +1 202 518-2054).



2006 IW:LEARN ACTIVITIES PLANNED

IW EVENTS

- ◆ Strengthening Transboundary Water Resources Management Among GEF IW projects in Africa Workshop (October in Nairobi, Kenya; with INWENT, WBI, GWP and UNEP)
- ◆ Athens-Petersberg II Process - Southeastern European Lakes Management Roundtable (October in Ohrid, FYR Macedonia; with GWP-Med, World Bank, Greek and German governments)
- ◆ Economic Valuation and Watershed Decision-making Training Workshop (October in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; with IUCN-WANI, WBI, EIER, GWP-Africa)
- ◆ Coral Ecosystem Health Workshop (October in Cozumel, Mexico; with World Fish Center and World Bank)
- ◆ Information Management Workshop (November in Nairobi, Kenya)
- ◆ Public Participation in Latin America IW Projects Workshop (December in Montevideo, Uruguay; with ELI, OAS and UNESCO)

IW OUTREACH

- ◆ Premiere LME documentary
- ◆ Publish at least twelve IW Experience Notes
- ◆ Launch traveling Gender and Water Expo in Africa
- ◆ Continue to develop iwlearn.net

IW EXCHANGES

- ◆ Conduct two to four inter-project exchanges

2006 3RD QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

RECENT IWL PUBLICATIONS

- ✓ LME Governance and Socioeconomics Handbook
www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/pns/learning/b2-2lme/riworkshop
- ✓ Communications Planning Guide for International Waters Projects - Communicating for Results
www.iwlearn.net/exchange
- ✓ Draft TDA/SAP Practitioner Guide in Southeast Asia, iwsea.org/information/TDA_SAP/

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News from the IW Community

The online Meta-Database tool developed with the South China Sea Project has now been packaged as a Template and is available for use by other projects and organisations. The Meta-Database template can be downloaded with a manual for installing and customising from the SEA-RLC website (<http://iwsea.org/IT/metadatabase/>).

Gender Water Africa continued from page 5

Mexico.

Now, IW:LEARN and GWA are helping the UWC team to bring the Gender and Water Exhibit to Africa. Mary Hames, head of UWC's Gender Equity Unit, points out that, "one of our major projects is the involvement of women and land and water of course is an essential part of it." UWC's Integrated Water Resources Management Programme also has vast knowledge and experience with regard to water, gender and women's issues. Thus, UWC is eager to coordinate and co-host the development of a traveling exhibition. GWA members in GEF IW project areas will gather material for "story panels" and to organize outreach events. With UWC coordination, the expo will help raise awareness and promote gender mainstreaming in all aspects of water resource management in Africa.

For information on how to participate please contact Janot Mendler (janot@iwlearn.org)

Call for Articles and Letters to the Editor

IW:Bridges depends on article and letter submissions from the GEF IW community. Send article proposals and announcements to mish@iwlearn.org. We are particularly interested in stories of lessons learned, challenges overcome, and milestones in IW project implementation.

